



# Church of St. Matthew

*A Catholic community that is a visible expression of God's love*



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**December 22, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### **Liturgy Schedule**

#### **Masses**

- Saturday at 4:15 PM
- Sunday at 10:15 AM (*online Mass is on hiatus*)

#### **Reconciliation**

- Saturdays 3:00 - 3:30 PM
- Sundays after Mass upon request or by appointment, by calling the parish office

**Please contact the parish office regarding Baptism, Matrimony, First Communion, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick.**

#### **Church**

510 Hall Avenue

#### **Parish Center (Mailing Address)**

490 Hall Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55107

**Telephone** (651) 224-9793

**Fax** (651) 222-2688

**Website** [www.st-matts.org](http://www.st-matts.org)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew)

**YouTube** [www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew](http://www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew)

**Twitter** [twitter.com/stmattswestside](http://twitter.com/stmattswestside)

#### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Friday

Closed

## Gospel Meditation

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that **“there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord”** (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges: 1) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.”

— *Father John Muir*

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## Prayer Requests

**Jeremiah Baker, Jeff Blomgren, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Holly Casillas, Sue Derringer, Philip Heitzinger, Sean Kane, Michael Karas, The Karas Family, Ken Kasheimer, Bernie Klein, Janette Koegel, Floro Luque, Diane McFarland, John Saldivar, Doris Schillinger, Richard Smith, and Thomas & Kasi Wright.**

*A name will remain on the prayer list for two months after which time it will be removed unless you ask to keep the name on the list. Please contact the parish office (651-224-9793) or email Angela (arakow@st-matts.org) to keep the list current.*

*We kindly ask you to obtain the individual’s permission for bulletin publication and inclusion in the weekend Prayers of the Faithful.*

*We are strong as a community praying together.*

## Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

***Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” ~ Isaiah 6:8***

**Mass Ministry:** At each Mass, we ask for volunteers to carry the processional cross at the beginning and the end of Mass. Also, two people to bring forward the bread and wine at the offertory. If you would like to have an opportunity to take a more active part in the liturgy, please speak to a sacristan, greeter or usher before Mass.

**Thank You:** To all who helped to decorate our church for the Advent season. To **Cristina** who has brought new ideas to the environment and new music to the services. To our **Liturgy Committee** who, fueled by Cristina’s energy, discuss the holiday worship and what changes can be brought to the environment. To **the Ahern family** who donates the beautiful Advent wreath that hangs from the ceiling. To **Bob, Tom and Tony** who miraculously get that wreath in place each year. To **Mary B.** who takes care of the banners, greenery and the Advent candles in the sanctuary. To **Donis** who faithfully waters all of our plants and greenery! All of these individuals are a blessing to our parish!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL OUR PARISH VOLUNTEERS!**

*Mary Leibl  
Volunteer Coordinator  
mleibl@st-matts.org*



### St. Matthew Welcomes All to Our Parish!

New to the area, joining us for the first time or coming home again? Consider registering with our parish. You can download the registration form from our website or contact Angela (arakow@st-matts.org) in the parish office.



## Parish Administrator's Note

### Funeral, Advent, Christmas

Many thanks to all who helped with Fr. Steve Adrian's funeral on Saturday, December 21. It was truly a celebration of the life of our long-time pastor, mentor and friend.

How we can continue to honor Fr. Steve's life and legacy? Suggestions:

- **Pray**—for Fr. Steve and his family, our St. Matt's parish community, our West Side friends and neighbors, and Community of Saints (COS) Regional Catholic School.
- **Work**—for social justice, peace, and the common good.
- **Contribute**—stories, photos, and remembrances of Fr. Steve. We expect to share some at Soup & Story celebrations of his life. One celebration will be after the Saturday 4:15 p.m. Mass on January 25, and another after the Sunday 10:15 a.m. Mass on January 26. Details to follow.
- **Support**—St. Matt's Catholic Church and Community of Saints Regional Catholic School. Both benefit from the time, treasure and talent you can give.

This weekend is the fourth Sunday of Advent. I have such mixed feelings in these last days before Christmas. I'm happy to celebrate the anniversary of the coming of our Lord. I'm glad to see friends and family. I'm also sad at the loss of Fr. Steve, though grateful to have known him these past few years.

I will miss his bulletin reflections. This is the first weekend in years that doesn't have one from him. (He wrote in advance, so we published two final reflections from him *after* he passed.)

Know that we are compiling his reflections from the past three years into a booklet to be published next year. If interested, please pre-order through our parish office.

A note to all who might be reading this column on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, especially visitors: welcome! Thank you for worshiping with us! Merry Christmas!

*Phil Grant, Administrator*  
Safe Environment Coordinator  
[pgrant@st-matts.org](mailto:pgrant@st-matts.org)  
651-224-9793



The parish office is closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26, 2024.



### The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on Friday, December 27, 2024 in memory of **Park**

#### Rodriguez.

If you would like to schedule a day to ring the bells or a week to light the sanctuary lamp for your special memory, person or event, please contact the parish office at 651-224-9793 by 1:00 PM, Monday – Thursday.

## Faith Formation News

### Faith Formation Holiday Break

Faith Formation students do NOT have class this Wednesday, December 25, or next Wednesday, January 1. Faith Formation classes resume on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, in the St. Matthew Parish Center.

## News and Events

### Crafting Group

There is NO Crafting Group on Thursday, December 26, 2024.

### Baptism Preparation (Age 6 and younger)

*The next meetings are on:*

- **Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM**
- **Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 10:30 AM**

Preparation meetings are required for parents and guardians with children aged six or younger.

**Registration is required, at least one week in advance.** To register — or for more information — please contact **Cristina Czaia** ([cczaia@st-matts.org](mailto:cczaia@st-matts.org)) or call the Parish Office (651-224-9793).

## 2024 Advent and Christmas Schedule

### Private Confessions

Saturdays • 3:00 to 3:30 pm  
Sundays • after the 10:15 am Mass

### Christmas Story and Carols

Tuesday, December 24 • 3:45 pm

### Christmas Eve Mass

Tuesday, December 24 • 4:15 pm

### Christmas Day Mass

Wednesday, December 25 • 10:15 am

### The Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 28 • 4:15 pm  
Sunday, December 29 • 10:15 am

### Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 • 10:15 am

## Parish Leadership

Rev. Antony Skaria, Parochial Administrator

Rev. Thomas M. Kommers, Sacramental Minister

Phil Grant, Pastoral Administrator/Safe Environment Coordinator  
pgrant@st-matts.org

Cristina Czaia, Director of Music and Liturgy  
cczaia@st-matts.org

Angela Rakow, Administrative Assistant  
arakow@st-matts.org

Mary Leibl, Volunteer Coordinator  
mleibl@st-matts.org

Janelle Rohr, Faith Formation  
janelle@st-matts.org

Accounts Payable & Receivable  
accountspayable@st-matts.org

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer  
skowal@st-matts.org

Scott Hertzog, Custodian

Jair Aguilar Vasquez, Custodian  
jair@st-matts.org

John Del Vecchio, Parish Trustee  
jdelvecchio@st-matts.org

Karen Thompson, Parish Trustee  
kthompson@st-matts.org

## Parish Council Members

Ralph Brown	Maggie Lee
Isaac Garcia	Tara Perron
Kathy Goldenstein	Ellen Schneider
Terry Grundtner	Katie Shetka
Phil Grant, Ex Officio	

## Finance Council Members

John Del Vecchio	Becky Montgomery
Richard Dunn	Tony Postiglione
Jackie Lackner	Karen Thompson
Phil Grant, Ex Officio	

### **Readings for the week of December 22, 2024**

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/  
Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk  
1:57-66

Tuesday: *Morning*: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-  
5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: *Vigil*: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Night*: Is 9:1-6/Ps  
96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 *Dawn*: Is  
62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 *Day*: Is 52:7-  
10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-  
14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc  
and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see  
5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

## Mass Intentions

### **Saturday, December 21**

4:15 PM +James Fee  
+Arthur Geis  
+Don Leibl

### **Sunday, December 22**

10:15 AM +Fr. Steve Adrian

### **Tuesday, December 24**

4:15 PM +Leo Kegler  
+Kevin Kleman

### **Wednesday, December 25**

10:15 AM +Bill Brengman

### **Saturday, December 28**

4:15 PM +Dan D. Roscoe  
+Sam S. Roscoe  
+Pam, Lucille, and Robert Stickler, Sr.

### **Sunday, December 29**

10:15 AM +Carol Dvorak Johnson  
+Mary Ann Roscoe

## Calendar of Events

### **Monday, December 23, Thursday-Friday, December 26-27**

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Loaves & Fishes

***Loaves and Fishes Meal Site at St. Matthew is closed on  
Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 and 25.***

### **Monday, December 23**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

### **Tuesday, December 24**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
4:15 PM Mass

### **Wednesday, December 25**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed  
10:15 AM Mass

### **Thursday, December 26**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed  
7:00 PM AA Meeting

### **Friday, December 27**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed

### **Saturday, December 28**

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions  
4:15 PM Mass

### **Sunday, December 29**

10:15 AM Mass

### **Bulletin**

Announcements are due on **Monday by 10:00 AM** for the next Sunday's bulletin. Items should be sent to Angela Rakow at arakow@st-matts.org. *Items received after 10:00 AM will appear in the following week's bulletin.*

### **Support Our Advertisers**

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