



# Church of St. Matthew

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



• THE HOLY FAMILY •

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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**December 29, 2024**  
**The Holy Family**

### 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

As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, “Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us.” I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God’s grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary “**after three days found him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers...**” (Luke 2:46). We don’t know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: “**Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.**” The three days of his absence foreshadow his death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their family was becoming a place where death and resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss — just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God’s presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, he will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when he is found, it will be stronger than ever before.

— *Father John Muir*

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Fr. Kommers,  
Fr. Skaria,  
Phil Grant,  
St. Matthew trustees,  
council members,  
staff and volunteers  
wish everyone  
a blessed new year.

*\*Due to early bulletin submission, some items may appear in later issues.*

## 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 everyone who offered their time, expertise, resources, and prayers for Fr. Steve Adrian’s funeral last Saturday. It was a wonderful celebration of life of our longtime pastor and mentor.

**Thank You:** To the **Ahern Family** for donating the garland for the church and the large wreath. We thank members of the **Liturgy Committee, parishioners** and **Faith Formation students** who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

*Mary Leibl*  
Volunteer Coordinator  
[mleibl@st-matts.org](mailto:mleibl@st-matts.org)

## 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](mailto: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.*

## 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](mailto:arakow@st-matts.org)) in the parish office.



## Parish Administrator's Note

### Rejoice!

Rejoice, be glad, and give thanks! Our Lord *is* come. That's unusual grammar, but it points to a religious reality. God came in person two thousand years ago. God *continues* to come into our lives.

That reality leads us to say again, Merry Christmas! According to our religious calendar, we're in the Christmas season until January 12, the Baptism of Our Lord. (After that, we're in Ordinary Time until Lent.) I don't know what music the malls are now playing; we'll sing our Christmas songs for two more weeks.

Our community's Christmas joy is tempered by the loss of our long-time pastor, Fr. Steve Adrian. As one parishioner said to me, it's been a very poignant time. Indeed.

Fr. Steve's funeral is now behind us, but his stories are still with us. You're invited to share your Fr. Steve stories at two "Soup and Story" gatherings we're hosting next month. (Fr. Steve really liked soup.) One gathering will be after the 4:15 p.m. Mass on January 25; the other will be after the 10:15 a.m. Mass on January 26. All are welcome.

Here's an additional opportunity: feel free to write up your memories of Fr. Steve and send them to Angela in our office. We're thinking you or someone else could read them aloud on January 25-26—and perhaps we'll be able to gather them into a memory booklet.

You can also send photos to Angela ([arakow@st-matts.org](mailto:arakow@st-matts.org)).

### Stewardship

Special thanks for your generosity during the Christmas season. Our Christmas collections are a boost to our budget, helping us to continue feeding the poor, sheltering the homeless, ministering to the sick, and more.

Please note that if you want your contributions to St. Matt's to be counted in 2024, we must receive them by Tuesday, December 31. (Our office will be open until 1:00 p.m. on the 31<sup>st</sup>.) Any contributions received on Wednesday, January 1 (or later), will be recorded as 2025 contributions. Either way, thank you for your support!

Have a great week! Happy New Year!

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

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Catholic Studies Centre at Saint Louis Stewardship Reflections & Coverart



## The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on Wednesday, January 1, 2025 for **Living and Deceased Rosary Society Members**.

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, January 1. Faith Formation classes resume on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, in the St. Matthew Parish Center. Note the Community of Saints Confirmation candidates have class on Wednesday, January 8, from 6:45 to 7:50 pm.

### First Reconciliation Service

Faith Formation and Community of Saints students in grades 2 and up who have registered to receive First Communion with St Matt's are invited to our **rescheduled First Reconciliation service on Saturday, January 4, at 10:00 am in church**. At least one family member should attend with the student. Family members are welcome to go to confession after the children have made their First Reconciliation.

## News and Events

### Parish Office Closure

The parish office is closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.



### Community of Saints Catholic School Collection

Next weekend is our monthly second collection in support of Community of Saints Regional Catholic School. Thank you for your generous support!

### Baptism Preparation Meeting (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).

## 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 29, 2024***

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

Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

## Mass Intentions

### **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

### **Wednesday, January 1**

10:15 AM +Bill Brengman  
+Lee F. Maruska

### **Saturday, January 4**

4:15 PM +George Lackner

### **Sunday, January 5**

10:15 AM +Agnes C. and Gordon B. Roscoe  
+Robert A. and Jeanne M. Stadt

## Calendar of Events

### **Monday-Tuesday, December 30-31, Thursday-Friday, January 2-3, 2025**

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

***Loaves and Fishes Meal Site at St. Matthew is closed on Wednesday, January 1.***

### **Monday, December 30**

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

### **Tuesday, December 31**

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

### **Wednesday, January 1**

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

### **Thursday, January 2**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
6:30 PM Crafting Group  
7:00 PM AA Meeting

### **Friday, January 3**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM St. Matthew Community Band

### **Saturday, January 4**

10:00 AM First Reconciliation Service  
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions  
4:15 PM Mass

### **Sunday, January 5**

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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