

Church of St. Matthew

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



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December 8, 2024
Second 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

Facebook www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

YouTube www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew

Twitter twitter.com/stmattswestside

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Friday

Closed

Reflection from Father Steve

Fr. Steve Adrian wrote his bulletin reflections in advance. This is the second to last reflection he wrote before his passing. His last reflection will be published on December 15, 2024.

December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (a feast celebrated continuously since early in the 5th century) and also the 56th anniversary of my ordination—December 8, 1968.

Family and friends, teachers and colleagues, classmates and parish members gathered for the ordination. Archbishop Leo C. Byrne was the ordaining bishop. There are no pictures of the event; at least I have never see a picture. The pictures I have are the snapshots I carry in my memory and imagination.

The opportunity to be a pastor was all that I wanted out of life. A priest can be a teacher, an administrator, a diocesan bureaucrat, etc.

A pastor is called to lead a local worshipping community and to live with and for that community, to cast one's lot with a community. He is to become an active member of that community and tie into the fullness of the community's life.

That is the reason I have rejected every suggestion that I move to a different parish or ministry.

Bishop Ken Povish, a former bishop of the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota, told me earlier that particular week he had attended his paperboy's birthday party. Over the years, I have held that image as a statement of what it is for a pastor to become part of a community.

Most often, a pastor is called to a community that has a long history of living the Gospel life. The first job of a pastor is to learn the faith of the community—after all, he is called to foster that gift of faith. He is to join with the people of that community to live out that local expression of the faith of the Gospel.

A pastor is to lead more by example than by word. The pastor is not always the one who walks before the flock, nor is he always the one who lags behind and encourages the slowpokes. Most often, the pastor is to walk side by side, shoulder to shoulder with the community.

As Jesus found his place among those who were poor and neglected, so the pastor is to seek out those on the edge, calm their fears and acknowledge their value.

Once I was asked by an agnostic Jew, "Adrian, are you still a priest?" I answered, "Being a pastor is the best thing to be."

Once again, this December 8th, I give thanks for the gifts that have come to me.

*Father Steve Adrian
Pastor Emeritus*

Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ~ Isaiah 6:8

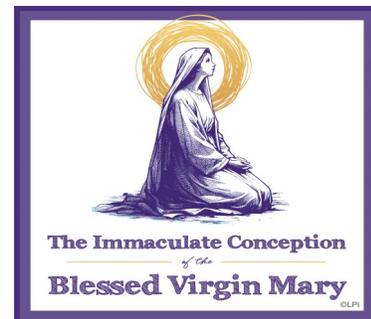
Lectors: We now have two lectors serving at each Mass. One lector will read the welcome and the first reading. The second reader, at the entrance procession, will process to the sanctuary carrying the Lectionary. The second lector will read the second reading and the Prayers of the Faithful. **Lectors must be at least in 7th grade.** If interested, contact the Parish Center at 651-224-9793 or Mary at mleibl@st-matts.org.

Cross Bearers: The processional cross is now carried into the sanctuary at the beginning of each Mass. We are looking for volunteers to carry the cross - men, women and students. As long as you are physically able to carry the cross, your participation would be welcome. If interested, please call the Parish Center at 651-224-9793 or contact Mary at mleibl@st-matts.org. You may also talk to a greeter before Mass and let them know you are available.

Thank You: To all who donated items to fill Isaac's Blessing Bags. Again, the large boxes were overflowing with items. We also want to thank members of the Youth Group who helped sort and pack the items for delivery!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

*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

Institutional Matters

It's time for an update from the institutional church.

That is to say, I recently attended another APBA meeting. (APBA stands for Association of Parish Business Administrators, my professional association.) I generally enjoy the meetings, as I like to ask questions of knowledgeable colleagues, learn what I can, and offer support to new administrators.

You see, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis doesn't do all that much to support new administrators. The Arch has some required trainings, focused mostly on ensuring compliance with canon law and civil law. Those trainings, along with Arch policies, reflect institutional values: structured order, roles and practices.

Trainings are important, but far from sufficient when taking on a new job. And there's a lot to learn when you're a new parish administrator. I'm still learning things here at St. Matt's, even after three years. My previous administrative experience helps, and I benefit from an engaged, supportive community with great volunteers.

By contrast, some of my new colleagues are clearly overwhelmed. I compare their situation to standing in a batting cage with multiple pitching machines turned on high.

We have an uncommon, distinctive parish setup in our St. Matt's community. In large part, that's because we don't have a resident pastor. Fr. Thomas, like Fr. Steve before him, is our *sacramental minister*. He has no administrative responsibilities. I handle most of those, or delegate them to others. And I'm our main liaison to the Archdiocese.

With regard to official Archdiocesan matters, we're the responsibility of Fr. Antony Skaria, our *parochial administrator*. For the most part, he's busy with his pastoral assignment at St. John Vianney in South St. Paul. That's why you or we? don't see him often. Of course, we keep him informed with regard to financial matters, hiring, and other major items.

Have a great week!

Phil Grant, Administrator
Safe Environment Coordinator
pgrant@st-matts.org
651-224-9793



See the insert for additional news and events happening at the Church of Saint Matthew.

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.

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation and Confirmation Classes

Faith Formation students have class this Wednesday, December 11, in the St. Matthew Parish Center. Grades K to 5 meet from 6:30 to 7:45 PM, and Grades 6 to 10 meet from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. Confirmation candidates from Community of Saints Regional Catholic School also meet for class on December 11 in the St. Matthew Parish Center 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 First Reconciliation service on Saturday, December 14, 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. We will finish by 11:15 AM.

News and Events

Rosary Society December 10th Meeting

All women of the community are invited to the December 10th Rosary Society meeting, which will be held from **12:30 to 2:00 pm** in the lower level of the Parish Center. Join us as we share family traditions and memories as we get ready for the Rosary Society's Christmas Bake Sale, Boutique and Craft Fair which will be held **Saturday and Sunday, December 14th and 15th.**

No Coffee Sunday in December

There is no Coffee Sunday in December. It will return on January 12, 2025.

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 8, 2024

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 7

4:15 PM Mass
+James Lannon
+Lee F. Maruska
+Robert B. and Stephen J. Roscoe

Sunday, December 8

10:15 AM Mass
+Leona Jenniges
+Nanette Sobaski

Saturday, December 14

4:15 PM Mass
+Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Dorinda Martineau
+Mary Ann Roscoe

Sunday, December 15

10:15 AM Mass
+Nancy Maloney
+Arthur Minus

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 9 - Friday, December 13

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

Monday, December 9

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Mobile Dental Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

Tuesday, December 10

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Rosary Society Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:45 PM Faith Formation
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Practice
7:00 PM Men's Club Auction

Thursday, December 12

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

Friday, December 13

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

Saturday, December 14

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM ECFL Training
10:00 AM First Reconciliation Service
12:30 PM - 5:30 PM Christmas Boutique, Bake Sale & Craft Fair
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions
4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, December 15

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Breakfast with Santa
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Christmas Boutique, Bake Sale & Craft Fair
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.*

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