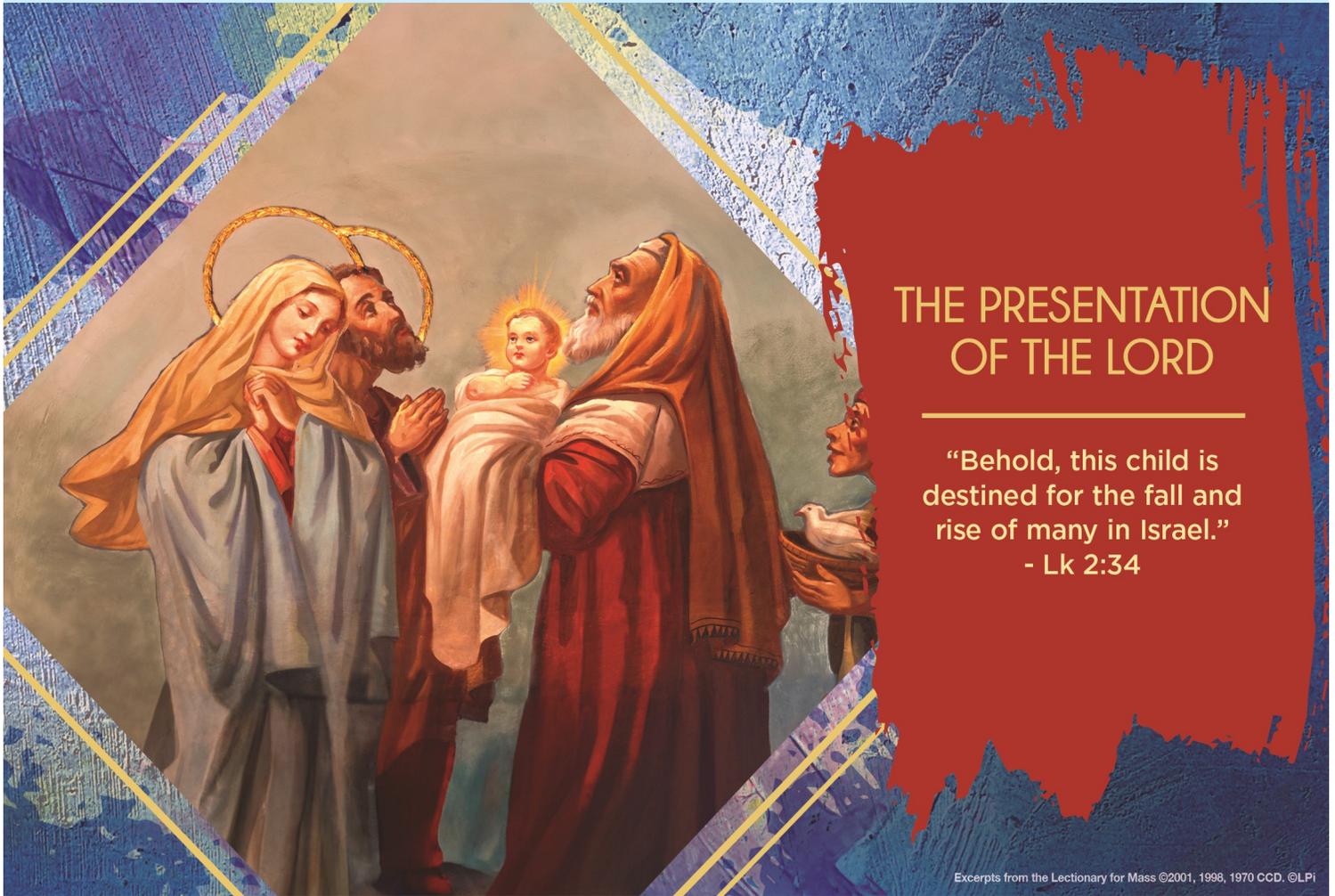




Church of St. Matthew

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



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel.”
- Lk 2:34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

February 2, 2025 **The Presentation of the Lord**

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

Parish Center (Mailing Address)

510 Hall Avenue
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

Gospel Meditation

What is the secret to sharing in God's power to overcome our difficulties? Mary teaches us this in the prophecy of her pierced heart. This Sunday, the old man Simeon prophesies that when her son faces opposition, Mary's soul will be pierced by a sword. The seemingly pointless agony of a mother helplessly watching her son be mocked, tortured, killed and then cruelly desecrated in death by a spear — somehow this piercing of her heart releases a power by which **“the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed”** (Luke 2:35). What to make of this?

Whatever problems we currently face, the deepest threat is finally that evil thoughts are hidden in the human heart: hatred, envy, pride, lust, greed and so on. Behind every tyrant's injustice, for example, is a heart unpierced by love. Evil hides in our hearts. Mary's pierced heart, and its suffering love for her son, reveals and scatters these evil thoughts, and replaces them with love, forgiveness, generosity and peace.

This week, I invite us to ponder Mary's pierced heart. Her heart is quietly at work for us in the Church and world, exposing our evil thoughts and making a path for her son's divine love. This is how she gently cooperates in our salvation. Closed hearts are our biggest problem; love-pierced hearts are the ultimate power to overcome every difficulty.

— *Father John Muir*

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Prayer Requests

Jeremiah Baker, Jeff Blomgren, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Philip Heitzinger, Sean Kane, Ken Kasheimer, Bernie Klein, Janette Koegel, Diane McFarland, Geriann Raway, John Saldivar, Doris Schillinger, and Richard Smith.

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

Receptionist: We need a volunteer to work at the Parish Center reception desk on Mondays and Tuesdays in February and March. **Monday dates are February 10, 17, 24 and March 3, 10, 17, 24. Tuesday dates are March 11, 18, and 25.** Hours are 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. You may choose to volunteer for the whole four hours or any duration of time that works for your schedule. Duties are mainly to greet visitors to the Parish Center and to answer the phone at the reception desk. Anyone able to be of assistance on one or all of these days, please contact the Parish Center at 651-224-9793.

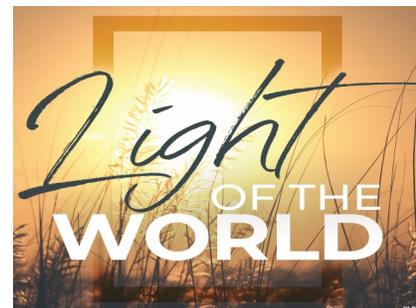
Greeter: We are in need of a volunteer to serve as a greeter at the **Saturday 4:15 pm Mass**. Duties include welcoming those attending the Mass and offering a hymnal, worship aid and a bulletin. An excellent opportunity for a Confirmation candidate to serve the parish! Any student or adult who may be interested in serving the parish in this way may contact the Parish Center at 651-224-9793 or speak to a greeter or sacristan at the Saturday 4:15 pm Mass.

Thank You: To **Donis** and **Mary B.** who keep the plants and flowers in the church watered and looking beautiful.

Thank You: To those volunteers who vacuum the church carpet. Especially during preparation for a funeral.

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

The Common Good

"Your true character is most accurately measured by how you treat those who can do nothing for you."
Mother Theresa

I recently ran across this quote, and it got me to thinking about recent federal government actions, particularly those regarding immigration.

Pope Francis was blunt, calling Trump's plans for mass deportation a "disgrace".

We need hope, courage and organization to counter such a disgrace. Let us draw on Scripture, our faith, and the preaching of Fr. Steve and Fr. Thomas to give us hope and courage.

As for organizing, our Parish Council has begun discussing ways our faith community can collaborate with other churches and organizations. The goal is to uphold Gospel values of care for the poor and oppressed. If you'd like to help, let our office know.

One of our first steps was to send postcards of support to the Episcopal bishop of Washington, D.C., the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde. Perhaps you heard her courageous preaching on mercy, at the National Cathedral's interfaith service on January 21. We're supporting her. Others are attacking her, for promoting mercy and kindness!

Our Catholic tradition emphasizes solidarity: acting together for the common good. I'm glad that our Catholic bishops have been speaking up on this important issue. Here's what Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago said recently:

"While we wish the new administration success in promoting the common good, the reports being circulated of planned mass deportations targeting the Chicago area are not only profoundly disturbing but also wound us deeply. . . ."

Cupich acknowledged that governments have the responsibility to defend their borders, but strongly affirmed, "we also are committed to defending the rights of all people, and protecting their human dignity."

Let us promote the common good, however we can. Let's defend people's rights, protect their dignity, and Make America Kind Again.

Have a great week! Thank you for your support!

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



The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

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 Classes This Week

On Wednesday, February 5, all Faith Formation public school students in grades K to 10 have class in the Parish Center. Grades K to 5 are in class from 6:30 to 7:45 PM, and Grades 6 to 10 are in class from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. Community of Saints 8th graders preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation also have class on February 5 from 6:45 to 7:50 PM in the Parish Center.

News and Events

Coffee Sunday

Our next Coffee Sunday is **February 9 after the Sunday 10:15 AM Mass** hosted by the Men's Club. Come down to the Social Hall and visit with your fellow parishioners. We hope to see you there!



Community of Saints Catholic School Collection

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

Ministry Schedule

The next ministry schedule will be written on Monday, February 24. This schedule will begin on the weekend of March 8 and 9 and run through Memorial Day, Monday, May 26.

Holy Week is in mid-April. As in the past, Holy Week, April 13 - 20, will be a separate schedule, to be written at a later date.

Please send your availability for March 8 and 9 through Memorial Day, excluding Holy Week, to mleibl@st-matts.org by **Wednesday, February 19**. Also, let us know which days you are not available. Thank you for your continued service to St. Matthew's Parish!

No Baptism Preparation Meetings in February-April

There will not be Baptism Preparation Meetings during the months of February, March and April. Please contact Cristina Czaia at cczaia@st-matts.org for any questions.

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 February 2, 2025

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11//Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 1

4:15 PM +Byron Larocque
+Dorinda Martineau

Sunday, February 2

10:15 AM +Agnes C. and Gordon B. Roscoe

Saturday, February 8

4:15 PM +Robert B. and Stephen J. Roscoe
+Mary Lou Shields

Sunday, February 9

10:15 AM +Eileen Norton

Calendar of Events

Monday - Friday, February 3-7

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

Monday, February 3

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

Tuesday, February 4

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:00 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting
5:30 PM Facilities Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 5

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:30 PM Faith Formation
7:00 PM Choir Practice
7:30 PM Men's Club Board Meeting

Thursday, February 6

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:00 PM Crafting Group

Friday, February 7

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

Saturday, February 8

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

Sunday, February 9

10:15 AM Mass
After Mass Coffee Sunday

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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