



Church of St. Matthew

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



THE HOLY GHOST
DESCENDED LIKE
A DOVE.

— LUKE 3:21 —

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

©LPI

January 12, 2025 **The Baptism 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

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

Gospel Meditation

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words '**You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased**' (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with *me*? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself — or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love — until those words find a home in your heart.

— *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, Diane McFarland, Geriann Raway, 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

Offertory Gifts: At each Mass, we would like two members of the congregation to carry forward the offertory gifts. Families are welcome to come forward together. This is a good chance for our younger members realize they too can have a role in the Mass. Call the Parish Center for more information or speak to a sacristan or greeter at your Mass.

Crossbearer: The entrance procession now is led by a volunteer carrying the processional cross. Youth (age 12 and older) and adults (male and female) are invited to join this ministry. If you would like to carry the cross at weekend Masses, call the Parish Center and leave your name and contact info. You may also talk to the sacristan at the weekend Masses.

Lectors: We now have two lectors serving at each Mass. One lector will read the welcome and the first reading. The second lector will process to the sanctuary carrying the lectionary and placing it on the ambo. 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 for further information.

Thank You: To our Confirmation students and their families who helped to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Season! We thank: **Ingrid Andrade, Ariana Bostic, Aleisha Cortez, Kaily Decena, Kellen Finnegan, Maya Galvan Gomez, Laila Gomez, Iliana Garcia Hernandez, Neelia Ledesma, Josh Maloney, Francisco Martinez, Mason Mata, Viviana Pabon, Ava Pheil, the Sullivan Family (Lily and Nora), and the Anderson Family (Michelle and Leo).**

The perimeter candles were put out by the **Renteria family: Cesar and Emilio and their parents, Maria and Jose.**

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

Compliments (post December 21)

"Phil, I have never been to a better organized funeral. The army of gracious volunteers were ready with assistance at every turn. The liturgy was exquisite. It was such an honor to be there." (*one of several emails*)

That was just one of the many complimentary emails I received after Fr. Steve's funeral last month.

Emails highlight our gracious, talented, and committed volunteers. We say we're a volunteer parish—and we took volunteerism to another level for Fr. Steve's funeral.

I also heard many compliments in the course of events. Recall that we welcomed Fr. Steve's casket on Friday at 3:00 p.m. Then there were hours of viewing, followed by Vespers at 7:00 p.m. The vigil continued all night, ending at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. That gave us time to set up for the visitation that began at 9:30 a.m., and then the funeral at 11:00 a.m. Afterwards, there was a luncheon at Community of Saints (COS) Regional Catholic School.

That "army" of volunteers was approximately 75 persons in all. Thank you to everyone who helped! Special thanks to planning committee members:

- **Karen Thompson**, lead organizer
- **Tom Smith, Mark Reding, and Dave Longbehn**, traffic control & police reserves
- **Joe Nassef, Steve and Josie Mike**, parking and shuttle service
- **Tony Moran and Maggie Lee**, luncheon at COS
- **Kathy Goldenstein and Mooreen Sunday**, liturgy leads
- Additional members of Fr. Steve's funeral liturgy committee: **Mary Bejblik, Jeanne Maanum, Kathy Schowalter, and Christine Wilfahrt**
- **Joel Bolen**, livestreaming coordinator

We also thank our small and mighty staff: **Cristina Czaia**, Music and Liturgy Director; **Mary Leibl**, Volunteer Coordinator; **Angela Rakow**, Administrative Assistant; and maintenance staff--**Steve, Jair and Paul**.

Working together, volunteers and staff did phenomenal work. I know I'm grateful to have been part of the preparation for, planning of, and celebration of Fr. Steve's life and legacy. It was an amazing experience. *See also this week's insert for info about **Soup & Stories, January 25-26**.*

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

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on Monday, January 13, 2025 in memory of **Jerry Schillinger's 93rd Birthday**.

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on Monday, January 13, 2025 for **Virgil and Donna Roethler's Anniversary**.

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

Faith Formation students in grades K to 10 who attend public schools have class on **Wednesday, January 15**, 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. Note that the following week, January 22, only students preparing for First Communion have class.

First Communion Class and Parent Meeting

On **Wednesday, January 22**, students preparing for First Communion and their parents will meet in church at St. Matthew from 6:30 to 7:45 PM. Please arrive between 6:15 and 6:25 PM to allow time for check-in. Childcare WILL be offered in the Social Hall for younger children not preparing for First Communion. Faith Formation families with a student preparing for First Communion need to attend. Community of Saints families with a student preparing for First Communion also need to come this evening of January 22.

News and Events

Contribution Statements

If you would like an annual contribution statement for 2024, call the parish office. We send these statements out upon request. (According to the IRS, it is the donor's responsibility to ask for such statements.)

Regardless of how you contribute, thank you! We could not sustain our service to our community without your generous support.

Monthly Scripture Study - Gospel of Luke

St. Matthew is offering a monthly Scripture Study, centering on the Gospel of Luke, facilitated by Zach Czaia. The fourth meeting is on **Tuesday, January 21 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM in the Parish Center Community Room** (first floor).

You do not have to have attended the prior meetings to join. Let Zach know if you're planning to come, or if you have any questions at zczaia@hotmail.com.

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 January 12, 2025

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 11

4:15 PM +Arthur Geis
+Nancy Maloney
+Parky and Louise Rodriguez

Sunday, January 12

10:15 AM +Robert B. and Stephen J. Roscoe

Saturday, January 18

4:15 PM +Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Don Leibl
+Mary Ann Roscoe

Sunday, January 19

10:15 AM +Dan D. Roscoe
+Sam S. Roscoe

Calendar of Events

Monday - Friday, January 13-17

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

Monday, January 13

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

Tuesday, January 14

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

Wednesday, January 15

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
5:00 PM Baptism Preparation Meeting
6:30 PM Faith Formation

Thursday, January 16

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

Friday, January 17

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

Saturday, January 18

10:30 AM Baptism Preparation Meeting
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions
4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, January 19

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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