



Church of St. Matthew

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



FILL THE
JARS WITH
WATER.

— JOHN 2:7 —

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI

January 19, 2025 **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

A friend invited me to an invitation-only wine-tasting event. There were over two hundred varieties of wine. Having no idea how to approach such a massive selection, I wandered aimlessly among the tables, sipping this and that. At the end of the evening my friend asked if I had tried some of the exceptionally expensive wines. I hadn't. "The really good stuff disappears first," he said. "My man, you missed out on some amazing vino." I was so disappointed. I wasted my chance for amazing once-in-a-lifetime wine. The wine I tasted was, well, *blah*.

Don't we often feel a similar disappointment in life? I missed this or that opportunity. If only I had known. Optimism sputters and fades. The glory days are gone. The chances, it seems, for the really great things in life come and go so quickly. Then they are gone forever. The good stuff goes first. Then life is just *blah*.

Not so with the Lord Jesus. In Jesus' miracle at the wedding at Cana, the steward of the feast says, "**Everyone serves good wine first, and then...an inferior one**" (John 2:10). That's the natural downward progression of life. The good stuff disappears quickly. But he says of the groom (who symbolizes Jesus), "**But you have kept the good wine until now.**" This is the ever-improving trajectory of the realm of God's grace. With Jesus, the "good wine" of divine love, hope and peace gets better as our journey of faith progresses. Where are your greatest disappointments? Don't give in to the lie that the really good stuff is gone. Tell Jesus you've run out. Then learn how to taste *that* amazingly good wine, because he saves the best until now.

— 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

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.

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.

Thank You: To our Confirmation students and their families who helped to take down and store away the Christmas decorations. We thank **Ingrid Andrade, Maya Galvan Gomez, Laila Gomez, Kaily Decena and her dad Marco, Neelia Ledesma, Josh Maloney, Mason Mata, dad Pedro, mom Oly and brother Pedro, Ariana Bostic, Mihyanna Wilson, Domonic Smith, Brielle Muhammed, and Sean Finnegan**. We also thank **Mary and Bob, Dave and Mooreen, Kathy and Al, Cristina, Janelle, Karen and Mary** who helped to return the sanctuary to "Ordinary Time"! **It is just 7 weeks until Lent!**

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

How's Your Social Life?

"Self-imposed solitude might just be the most important social fact of the 21st century in America." (Derek Thompson, "The Anti-Social Century", in the February issue of *The Atlantic*).

That quote really caught my attention. In it, Thompson summed up a concerning trend. Many people have reduced their out-of-home socializing over the past couple of decades. Rather than go out to eat, or to a movie, or to church, or whatever—people might stay home to eat, watch television, or scroll on their phones.

I'm not saying that home, television, or phones are intrinsically bad. I enjoy my downtime; I find my phone useful. It's more that modern technology has made it easy to reduce the social connections so common in the 20th Century.

Pop quiz: when was the last time you went out to eat with friends? Saw a play, movie or concert in person—with friends, not at home?

I'm glad that St. Matt's offers social opportunities. For example, there seems to be more and more socializing after Mass. That's a healthy trend!

Here's a plug for additional social events at St. Matt's: next weekend (Jan. 25-26), we're hosting "Soup and Stories" after the Saturday 4:15 p.m. Mass, and again after the Sunday 10:15 a.m. Mass. *See the insert for details.*

We have other social opportunities, such as Coffee Sundays, Lenten Fish Fries, and Bingo; Parish Council, Finance Council, Rosary Society, Men's Club, Youth Group, the craft group, music and liturgy, office volunteers, and more.

If you're interested in an activity not listed, what is it? Let me know, or talk to a Parish Council member this weekend.

I believe that God so loved the world that God sent Jesus to us, in person. I suppose God could have waited a couple of thousand years and sent an email, or a YouTube link. I'm glad that God didn't. Humans are social creatures. I think it's good to worship together—and to socialize with others.

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 Sanctuary Lamp will be lit January 18-24, 2025 in memory of **Louise 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 Late January

On Wednesday, January 22, only Faith Formation students in grades 2 to 7 who are preparing for First Communion have class, and these students plus their parents should report to the church that evening, not to the Parish Center (see the First Communion Class notice below for details). All other Faith Formation students, those NOT preparing for First Communion, do NOT have class on January 22. The following week, Wednesday, January 29, all Faith Formation public school students in grades K to 10 have class in the Parish Center.

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 in the First Communion program. 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

Parish Office Closure

The parish office is closed on Monday, January 20, 2025.



Soup and Stories: Remembering Fr. Steve Adrian

All are welcome to share stories of Fr. Steve Adrian after both Masses on the weekend of January 25-26. 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**. See the insert for more information.

No Baptism Preparation Meetings in February-April

There are no baptisms during Lent. Therefore, there will not be Baptism Preparation Meetings during the months of February, March and April. Please contact Cristina Czaia at czaia@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 January 19, 2025

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

Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk
16:15-18

Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 (see
Jn 6:63c)/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Mass Intentions

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

Saturday, January 25

4:15 PM +Helen Leibl
+Pam, Lucille, and Robert Stickler, Sr.

Sunday, January 26

10:15 AM +Robert A. and Jeanne M. Stadt

Calendar of Events

Tuesday - Friday, January 21-24

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

Loaves and Fishes Meal Site is closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Monday, January 20

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

Tuesday, January 21

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM St. Mary's Mobile Dental Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Scripture Study - Gospel of Luke

Wednesday, January 22

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

Thursday, January 23

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

Friday, January 24

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

Saturday, January 25

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions
4:15 PM Mass
After Mass Soup and Stories: Remembering Fr.
Steve Adrian

Sunday, January 26

10:15 AM Mass
After Mass Soup and Stories: Remembering Fr.
Steve Adrian

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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