



Church of St. Matthew

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



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star.
- Mt 2:10

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

January 5, 2025 **The Epiphany 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

Have you ever wondered *why* the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew's Gospel tells us, "**Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh**" (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their "treasures"? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

Isn't that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi's gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with "gold" (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

— *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, Floro Luque, 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

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 all who volunteered in many ways to help plan Fr. Steve's visitation, vigil and funeral. Members of the **Funeral Planning Committee** who formulated the logistics of a funeral that would welcome such a great number of mourners. To **Joe Nasseff of Joseph's Grill** and **Drake Bank** who allowed funeral goers to use their parking lots and ride the shuttles to and from church. The staff at Joseph's Grill welcomed members of the clergy to dine after the funeral Mass. Thank you to members of our **Rosary Society, Men's Club, and Liturgy Committee** who helped in so many ways to offer hospitality to the family and visitors. Thank you to **Liturgical Ministers** who read, sang and served Eucharist at the funeral Mass. To **Cristina, Richard and Phil** who worked out all the details to make sure the funeral Mass can be livestreamed. Thank you to the volunteers who prepared and served lunch at **Community of Saints Regional Catholic School.**

Thank You: To the **Men's Club** for putting up the manger scene in front yard of Casa. A tradition of nearly 100 years!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



Funeral Mass for **Fr. Steve Adrian** was held at St. Matthew on Saturday, December 21, 2024.

Please remember Fr. Steve and his family in your prayers.

Parish Administrator's Note

2024 Moments (in reverse order)

When I sat down to write this week's column, various moments from 2024 kept popping into my head:

- On the 4th Sunday of Advent, Fr. Thomas preached on Mary and Elizabeth meeting each other. He noted that this is a good way to experience God—in ordinary moments, not just spectacular moments. Case in point: during his homily, while talking about Mary, Elizabeth, and the baby Jesus, one of our St. Matt's infants was providing background music.
- At Fr. Steve's funeral, I marveled at how so many things came together for a wonderful celebration of his life and our faith. Among those things was our new system to put Masses online. We'd been working on the system for months—and with Fr. Steve's death on December 1, we knew we had an important deadline to meet. Thanks to many people in the parish and our vendor partners, we made it. We streamed the funeral and there's a recording on our website.
- Our Liturgical New Year's celebration on November 29. It was a great party, and a good way to appreciate our many volunteers.
- Replacing our main electric panel in June, another culminating moment after a year's preparation and fundraising.
- Fr. Thomas Kommers' stepping in on short notice as Sacramental Minister, to replace Fr. Steve when he lost his voice and had to step back. We were blessed with priestly continuity for Holy Week and ever since.
- Fr. Steve going to the Emergency Room. Learning that his lung had collapsed, and he'd lost his voice. Then there was the additional shock of discovering he had cancer.

Big moments linger in memory. There were also many wonderful, ordinary moments as well. Throughout 2024, I was blessed to meet people, learn their names, and hear their stories. I look forward to more experiences of God in 2025, in moments great and small.

Have a great week! Happy New Year!

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 Resume, Confirmation Class

Faith Formation students in grades K to 10 have class on January 8 in the Parish Center. Grades K to 5 start at 6:30 PM and grades 6 to 10+ start at 6:45 PM. Confirmation candidates from Community of Saints (8th graders) also have class on January 8 in the Parish Center from 6:45 to 7:50 PM.

News and Events

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!

Coffee Sunday

Our next Coffee Sunday is **January 12 after the Sunday 10:15 AM Mass**. Come down to the Social Hall and visit with your fellow parishioners. We hope to see you there!

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) or call the Parish Office (651-224-9793).

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.

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 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 5, 2025

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

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next 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

Mass Intentions

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

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

Calendar of Events

Monday - Friday, January 6-10

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

Monday, January 6

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

Tuesday, January 7

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

Wednesday, January 8

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
8:00 PM Men's Club Meeting

Thursday, January 9

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
4:30 PM Finance Council Meeting
6:30 PM Crafting Group
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Friday, January 10

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

Saturday, January 11

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

Sunday, January 12

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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