



Church of St. Matthew

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



BLESSED.

LUKE 6:20

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI

February 16, 2025 **Sixth 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

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

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Friday

Closed

Gospel Meditation

I craved four things as a teenager: success in sports, food, fun and the attention of popular people. However, I noticed that as I acquired them, I was more unsatisfied than before. So, I'd strive even more energetically, achieve more, and the sense of emptiness was greater still. These four things started to feel like burdens or even curses. Soon after, I encountered Christ in my high school youth group. Experiencing his love was totally different than anything those four things previously produced. It produced a lasting happiness.

Jesus utters a kind of four-fold curse in this week's Gospel of Saint Luke's "woes": **"Woe to you who are rich...who are filled now...who laugh now...who are well-spoken of"** (cf. Luke 6:24-26). How marvelous that these correspond perfectly to the four things that obsessed my teenage soul: riches, food, laughter and good reputation. The "woes" the Lord speaks are warnings: when those things are the *purpose* of your life, you'll be miserable. He is saying, "You'll be happy, or blessed, in the measure that these things do not determine the shape of our lives, and the kingdom of God does."

To some degree, we're all spiritual teenagers, addicted to one or more of those four "woes." How splendid that the Lord wants his to bless us — that is, to satisfy us, make us laugh with joy, and in the kingdom of God, offer us what will truly satisfy us. But first let's admit what is causing our "woes."

— *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 March. **Monday dates are March 3, 10, 17, and 24. Tuesday dates are March 4, 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.

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 to our younger members realize that they too can have a role in the Mass. You may call the Parish Center for more information or speak to a sacristan or greeter at your Mass.

Thank You: To the following parishioners who distribute the Eucharist to residents at Serenity. The following take turns visiting residents who are unable to attend Mass and bring Communion to them. We thank: **Maggie Lee, Joe Stevens, Josie Mike, Kathleen Thompson and Shelly McMonigal.** If anyone feels a calling to this ministry, please call the Parish Office: 651-224-9793.

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

Connections, Joy, Laughter

On a recent day off from work, I was online "having coffee" with friends from around the country. In the midst of talking about what's going on nationally, my friend Betsy from Wisconsin mentioned the importance of (social) **connections**.

Her comment came as we shared concerns about the current anti-immigrant language and actions coming out of Washington, D.C. None of us like what we're witnessing. I shared our preliminary steps here at St. Matt's, e.g., acquiring Red Cards, going to meetings, sharing information, and organizing. *More on this topic coming soon.*

Betsy's on to something. I know my social connections really help me feel better, give me energy, and motivate me to do things. And I'm glad I have St. Matt's as a place to connect.

Speaking of connections at St. Matt's, I had a great time last weekend at our "First Friday" community band gathering. Members are starting to ask when we're going to play for an event here. OK! Stay tuned! *Our next band gathering is March 7 at 6:30 p.m. Ask me for details.*

As for **joy**, I was struck by my friend Jay's comment a few days ago. He said he's finding joy in the beauty of sunlight on fresh snow, among other things he's previously overlooked. "I know it sounds weirdly religious to feel such joy," as he put it, adding, "I don't know why it's happening to me now. I'm just grateful."

I'm thinking, God's gift of grace.

There's a Mark Twain quote that seems to be everywhere these days: "The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is **laughter**." Lucky for me, I work at St. Matt's, and our office staff and volunteers enjoy a lot of laughter as we work together.

To laughter as a tool (a term I prefer to "weapon"), I'd add **connections**, everyday **joy**, and God's **grace**. My life is easier with God at its center. God's grace is super abundant and readily available in our faith community.

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, Reconciliation Service

On Wednesday, February 19, all Faith Formation public school students in grades K to 10 should report to class in the Parish Center. Younger students will stay in the Parish Center for the evening and have class, and older students will go with their teachers to the church at 7:00 pm for a Reconciliation service and individual confessions with Father Kommers and Father Rasmussen. Parents are welcome to join us in church for the Reconciliation service and to go to confession if they choose after students are finished.

News and Events

Neighborhood House Collection

This weekend is the monthly Neighborhood House collection. There will be a basket by the main entrance for you to place your non-perishable or monetary donation. On behalf of Neighborhood House and the people it serves, thank you for your generosity!

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 next meeting is on **February 18 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.

You're Invited!

The Saint Paul Deanery Council of Catholic Women is holding it's quarterly meeting at Saint Matt's on **Thursday, February 20th in the Social Hall**. Registration, morning refreshments and socialization start at 8:15 am, the business meeting starts at 9:00 am and the program starts at 10:00 am, followed by Noon Mass and lunch. Casa Guadalupana is the program, and they will be including an update on the impact of mass deportation and what parishes and individuals can do to support our immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers. Cost for the day is \$18. The Rosary Society will cover half of that cost for Rosary Society members. **Please RSVP by Monday, February 17th by calling: 651-261-2534, or emailing: jrnrs7@aol.com.** All women of the parish are invited to this meeting and program.

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 16, 2025

Sunday: Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6, (40:5a)/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:22-26

Thursday: Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23/Mk 8:27-33

Friday: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 8:34—9:1

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 15

4:15 PM +Nancy Maloney

Sunday, February 16

10:15 AM +Joseph Savard

Saturday, February 22

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

Sunday, February 23

10:15 AM +Lee F. Maruska

Calendar of Events

Monday - Friday, February 17 - 21

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

Monday, February 17

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

Tuesday, February 18

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

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Scripture Study - Gospel of Luke

Wednesday, February 19

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, February 20

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM Saint Paul Deanery Council of Catholic Women Quarterly Meeting

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

6:00 PM Crafting Group

Friday, February 21

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

Saturday, February 22

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions

4:15 PM Mass

After Mass Youth Group

Sunday, February 23

10:15 AM Mass

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Gifted and Belonging Meeting

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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