



# Church of St. Matthew

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



**A GOOD  
MEASURE,  
PACKED TOGETHER,  
SHAKEN DOWN.**

— LUKE 6:38 —

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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## **February 23, 2025 Seventh 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](http://www.st-matts.org)

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew)

**YouTube** [www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew](http://www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew)

#### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Friday

Closed

## Gospel Meditation

One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan. I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled "Stick Season," he sings of his hope to "cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad." This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual "inheritance" from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darknesses.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, "**Be merciful just as your Father is merciful**" (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect *that* perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of God's life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating whatever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance.

— *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 to 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 **Angela Woodworth** who has volunteered to work as a receptionist when needed. She will also help with parish mailings and other projects.

***WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!***

*Mary Leibl*  
Volunteer Coordinator  
[mleibl@st-matts.org](mailto:mleibl@st-matts.org)



### **The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew**

The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit February 22-28, 2025 in memory of **Pam Stickler**.

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on Monday, February 24, 2025 for the **Living and Deceased Rosary Society Members**.

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on Thursday, February 27, 2025 in honor of **Donna Roethler**.

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on Friday, February 28, 2025 in memory of **Pam Stickler**.

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.

## Parish Administrator's Note

### APP Report

We recently had a visit from the **Archdiocesan Parish Planning (APP)** group. Team members Steve Karel and Phil Paquette have checked in with me regularly since I began here in 2021. Both have a strong background in parish planning and finance.

The primary purpose of their visit was to see how we're responding to our long-time pastor Fr. Steve Adrian's death December 1. That gave Karen Thompson (trustee) and me a chance to tell our December story. Recall that in the space of three weeks, this community and its friends organized a beautiful celebration of Fr. Steve's life.

We also shared Fr. Steve stories we gathered at our "Soup and Stories" events on the weekend of January 25 and 26.

Steve and Phil asked about finances. We said that we continue to pay all our bills. We're able to do that because of your steady support (thank you!), along with rental income from our school building tenant, Quantum STEAM Academy (QSA).

Speaking of QSA, we're in the midst of finalizing a lease extension for the current year, ending June 20, 2025. For a number of reasons, we were unable to finalize it last year.

QSA has informed us that they want to stay here for at least another year, with possible extensions beyond that. Those negotiations have begun.

One of the things Karen and I heard from Steve and Phil was that the Archdiocese really values St. Matt's service to our parish and West Side communities. That is to say, we're not only a Catholic faith community, we're also a neighborhood institution.

Fr. Steve's leadership contributed greatly to those overlapping realities of faith community and service organization. He valued the Eucharist, worship and contemplation. He also valued care for all, particularly the least among us.

Let us continue to honor his legacy: All are welcome to worship here. All are invited to service.

Have a great week! Thank you for your support!

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

## 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.



## Faith Formation News

### Faith Formation Classes

On Wednesday, February 26, Faith Formation public school students in grades K to 10 have class in the Parish Center. Grades K to 5 start at 6:30 PM and grades 6 to 10 start at 6:45 PM. Parents, please note March 5 on your calendars. Families attend the Ash Wednesday service in church on March 5, arriving at the church by 6:45 PM; parents and students come for the March 5 service.

## News and Events

### AED and Hands Only CPR Training - Saturday, March 15 at 9:00 AM

The Mendota Heights Fire Department will host an AED and Hands Only CPR Training event for St. Matthew's and other local parishes on Saturday, March 15 at 9:00 AM. The training will take place at the **Mendota Heights Fire Station (2121 Dodd Road)**. There is no fee but registration is required. Please call the parish office to register. **Registrations will be accepted until Wednesday, March 5.** All are welcome.

### Life Celebrations Blessing

As a community of faith, we are often asked to pray for those in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. Our prayers can comfort and strengthen each other. We can also be a source of support during the highlights of life: birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other accomplishments or milestones.

On the last weekend of each month, we will acknowledge any celebrations people want to share. Members can stand or wave to receive a blessing and the congregation's well-wishes. This is just one more way to build a sense of connection in our St. Matt's community.

*From St. Matthew Liturgy Committee*



**Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

**Ash and Communion Service - 7:00 AM**

**Ash and Communion Service - 7:00 PM**

## 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 23, 2025**

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

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175/Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18/Mk 10:13-16

Next Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

## Mass Intentions

### **Saturday, February 22**

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

### **Sunday, February 23**

10:15 AM +Lee F. Maruska

### **Saturday, February 22**

4:15 PM +George Beran  
+George Lackner

### **Sunday, February 23**

10:15 AM +Agnes C. and Gordon B. Roscoe  
+Robert A. and Jeanne M. Stadt

## Calendar of Events

### **Monday - Friday, February 24 - 28**

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

### **Monday, February 24**

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

### **Tuesday, February 25**

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

### **Wednesday, February 26**

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 27**

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

### **Friday, February 28**

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

### **Saturday, March 1**

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

### **Sunday, March 2**

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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