



# Church of St. Matthew

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



**A GOOD  
TREE DOES NOT  
BEAR ROTTEN FRUIT.**

— LUKE 6:43 —

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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## **March 2, 2025** ***Eighth 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 the things that older pastors and younger priests occasionally quarrel about is the proper balance between work and prayer. I know one pastor who complains that his younger associate ignores the people and the parish because he wants to spend more time in prayer. And the young priest complains that the pastor gives him too much work to do and no time to pray. The Lord's words this Sunday speak into this tension with an image that can help us find a proper balance between life and prayer.

Jesus says, "**For every tree is known by its fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles**" (Luke 6:44). When we are deeply rooted and cultivating our relationship with Jesus, we are going to bear the fruit of that love in our lives. No fruit, no good prayer. How do we know that we are praying well? We are experiencing concrete fruits of love for others in our lives.

Someone who prays well will, sooner or later, burst forth the "figs" and "grapes" of acts of love. But without concrete commitment to deeds of selfless service to others, our prayer time is as useless as thorn bushes and brambles. Let's recommit ourselves to be men and women of prayer *and* service. And hopefully the pastors will help their associates to pray *and* serve fruitfully...with minimal quarreling.

— *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*

**Processional Cross:** Beginning in Lent, we will again begin Mass with the processional cross and Book of Gospels being carried in the opening procession. If you are able to carry the processional cross at the beginning of Mass, contact **Mary at 651-224-9793**, or speak to a sacristan at Mass. Let us know at which Mass you would be available.

**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:** Last week, parishioners received our annual Lenten mailing. We thank the following who helped prepare the mailing and deliver it to the post office: **Chris M., Kathy, Karen, Josie, Rose, Chuck, Chris W., Mary, Angela, and Phil.**

**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 March 1-7, 2025 in memory of **Esther Snaza**.

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on Thursday, March 6, 2025 in memory of **Esther Snaza**.

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

### Another Column on Vatican II

I recently witnessed (online) a celebration of life for one of my hometown priests, Fr. Jerry Holtzman.

As a boy in Mitchell, S.D., during the 1960s, I took brilliant, high-quality priest/pastors for granted. Fr. Jerry was one such. He had multiple master's degrees and was fluent in French, German and Thai.

His obituary characterized him as "a fervent believer in the reforms of Vatican II." That's the short name for the Second Vatican Council, which had multiple sessions from 1962-1965. (They were held at the Vatican in Rome. Councils are named after their location. Vatican I happened in 1869-1870.)

Fr. Jerry's obituary reminded of Fr. Steve Adrian, our own brilliant, high-quality pastor who died recently. Recall how often Fr. Steve referred to Vatican II in his columns and homilies. He was a seminarian during the Council, and its many reforms energized him and an entire generation of clergy, religious and lay people.

I think that energy reflected a pent-up need for our church to come to terms with the modern world. As the Council's convener, Pope John XXIII said, we need to pay attention to "the signs of the times." The Council did pay attention, and it ushered in many reforms. They include these teachings, among many others:

- All church members, ordained **and lay Catholics alike**, have major roles to play in the life of our church.
- Masses can be in English, and therefore more intelligible to English speakers.
- There's value in other religious traditions. That's why one of the Council documents, *Gaudium et Spes* (*Joy and Hope*), was addressed to **all persons of good will**—not just Catholics.

The Second Vatican Council's final Mass was on December 8, 1965, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Fr. Steve was ordained on December 8, 1968.

Throughout 2025, let us reflect on Fr. Steve's life and legacy. Let us also celebrate Vatican II's profound teachings. Let us continue to learn from them. *To be continued . . .*

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 at Mass This Week

On Wednesday, March 5, all Faith Formation students will attend Mass in church, and students will sit with their parents/guardians. Families should come to church by 6:45 PM and check-in with their children's teachers. Students whose parents cannot attend will sit with their Faith Formation teacher for the Ash Wednesday Mass. If your student has a role at Mass, however, then she or he will come earlier per instructions parents will receive via email by March 3.

## News and Events

### You're Invited!

The Saint Paul Deanery Council of Catholic Women rescheduled its February quarterly meeting to **Thursday, March 6th**, at Saint Matt's in the Social Hall. Check-in, 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 Guadalupe 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, March 3** by calling: **651-261-2534** or emailing: **jrnrs7@aol.com**. All women of the parish are invited to this meeting and program.

### St. Matthew's 36th Annual Fish Fry

The annual dine-in with table service or curbside-to-go Lenten Fish Fry will return on **March 7 through April 18, 2025 from 4:30 to 7:30 PM** in the St. Matthew Social Hall. See the flyer for more information.



**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 March 2, 2025**

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

Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

## Mass Intentions

### **Saturday, March 1**

4:15 PM +George Beran  
+George Lackner

### **Sunday, March 2**

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

### **Saturday, March 8**

4:15 PM +Lee F. Maruska  
+Robert B. and Stephen J. Roscoe

### **Sunday, March 9**

10:15 AM +Aurora Hernandez

## Calendar of Events

### **Monday - Thursday, March 3 - 6**

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

**Loaves and Fishes at St. Matthew closed on Fridays during Lent.**

### **Monday, March 3**

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

### **Tuesday, March 4**

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

### **Wednesday, March 5**

7:00 AM Ash and Communion Service  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
7:00 PM Ash and Communion Service  
7:30 PM Men's Club Board Meeting

### **Thursday, March 6**

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM St. Paul Deanery Council of Catholic Women Meeting  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
6:00 PM Crafting Group

### **Friday, March 7**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed  
4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Fish Fry  
5:30 PM Stations of the Cross  
6:30 PM St. Matthew Community Band

### **Saturday, March 8**

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

### **Sunday, March 9**

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.*

### **Support Our Advertisers**

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