



Church of St. Matthew

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF

Lent

©LPi

March 9, 2025
First Sunday of Lent

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

One of the most fascinating moments in American history is when George Washington could have become the king of the newly liberated United States and didn't. At the height of his power and fame, on Dec. 23, 1783, he resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief, and went home. The astonished King of England remarked that in doing so, Washington was "the greatest man in the world." Greatness is often defined by what we could do but don't. Greatness is measured by the temptations we overcome.

Jesus' greatness is revealed in his victory over temptations, too. The three offered him by the devil contain, we might say, all potential possible temptations: food, power and fame. They correspond to the triple human needs of body, soul and spirit. In overcoming these three, he says "no" in essence to every and even the greatest temptation. We see that every desire of his humanity — body, soul and spirit — is perfectly united to God, to love. This is a power available to each member of his body. It is the path to true greatness. How can we, who so easily fall into even small temptations, find the power to overcome large ones? By entering into the great dynamics of Jesus' temptations.

Lenten challenge: This first week of Lent, list some concrete ways you can overcome temptations that correspond with your desires. For example, you may give up snacks between meals, choose not to participate in an activity of which you are an expert, and decide to reduce social media posting by 50%. It may not seem like much, but by saying "no" to the tyranny of food, power, and fame (in this example), you'll discover true greatness.

— *Father John Muir*

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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: The Ash Wednesday liturgy and environment was beautiful! Thank you to **Fr. Kommers, Cristina, Mary Bejblik** and the **Liturgy Committee** who designed the environment decor and helped to make the liturgy beautiful and meaningful.

Thank You: To First Communion candidate **Aniyah** and her mom, **Paula**, who brought forward the Offertory Gifts at the 4:15 pm Mass last weekend. A beautiful way to prepare for Aniyah's upcoming First Communion!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

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.



The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit March 8-14, 2025 in memory of **Augustine 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.

Parish Administrator's Note

Keeping the Windows Open

I named this column after the *Commonweal* magazine article by E. J. Dionne that our Commonweal group recently discussed. We chose Dionne's article in part because of the subtitle: "*The Enduring power of the liberal Catholic virtues.*"

One of the key points in the article came from Michael Walzer's book, *The Struggle for a Decent Politics: On "Liberal" as an Adjective*. That really stood out for me, as I'm aware that "liberalism" has become a controversial term for some people.

By contrast, Walzer argues that liberalism "determines not who we are, but how we are who we are."

And how are we to be? Dionne quotes Walzer in this respect:

- open-minded, generous and tolerant (even if we don't always pull this off)
- not dogmatic, not fanatics, and opposed to every kind of bigotry and cruelty
- able to live with ambiguity

I like that list. I see in it attitudes I regularly encounter here at St. Matt's. (I don't think it's a coincidence that *Commonweal* was one of Fr. Steve Adrian's favorite magazines.)

Dionne's article recounted the excitement felt by Catholics in the 1960s, as the reforms of Vatican II changed many of our practices. The Council embraced an attitude of open-mindedness towards the modern world.

Pope John XXIII, who called the Council to begin in 1962, was often quoted as saying something to the effect that it's time "to throw open the windows of the Church and let the fresh air of the spirit blow through."

Dionne concluded by saying that "*Commonweal* has kept the faith by keeping the windows open." I daresay that St. Matt's Catholic Community also values "open windows" and an openness to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Our next Commonweal group discussion is on Saturday, April 5. We start at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center Community Room. All are welcome.

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 This Week

On Wednesday, March 12, Faith Formation students preparing for First Communion have class in the church building from 6:30 to 7:45 PM. Community of Saints students registered for First Communion at St. Matthew also have class in church. For half the class the First Communion students will be in church, and, for the other half, they will be in the Social Hall. Parents or older siblings are welcome to join First Communion students in the Social Hall to help with coloring. Faith Formation students in grades 8, 9, and 10 have class in the Parish Center on March 12. Those Faith Formation students who are not preparing for a sacrament this spring do not have class on March 12.

News and Events

Coffee Sunday

This Sunday, March 9, is Coffee Sunday. Come down to the Social Hall after the 10:15 AM Mass and visit with your fellow parishioners. We hope to see you there!

Rosary Society March 11th Meeting

All women of the community are invited to the **Tuesday, March 11th** Rosary Society meeting, which will be held from **12:25 to 2:00 pm**. We will **meet in the Church at 12:25 pm** and lead the Stations of the Cross using Mary's Way of the Cross. Afterwards, we will go to the Parish Center lower level meeting room for our meeting, socializing and Saint Patrick's Day refreshments.

Lenten Friday Afternoons - Volunteers Needed

Looking for opportunities to get together with others? Come and join Rosary Society members and others as we prepare the condiments and desserts for the famous Saint Matt's Lenten Fish Fry. We begin at **1:00 pm in the Social Hall**, and meet every Friday during Lent, **March 7 through April 18**. Come to help and socialize with others as we work together to make the Fish Fry a success. And as a bonus, volunteers get half off their Fish Fry meal!



All Tuesdays during Lent – 12:30 pm
Fridays during Lent – 5:30 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 9, 2025

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

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-
8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/Phil
3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/Lk 9:28b-3

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 8

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

Sunday, March 9

10:15 AM +Fr. Steve Adrian
+Aurora Hernandez

Saturday, March 15

4:15 PM +Arthur Geis
+Don Leibl

Sunday, March 16

10:15 AM +Dorothy Williams

Calendar of Events

Monday - Thursday, March 10-13

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

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

Monday, March 10

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

Tuesday, March 11

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:30 PM Stations of the Cross
After Stations Rosary Society Meeting
6:30 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting

Wednesday, March 12

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, March 13

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

Friday, March 14

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Fish Fry
5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 15

9:00 AM AED and Hands only CPR Training
(Mendota Heights Fire Station)
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions
4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, March 16

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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