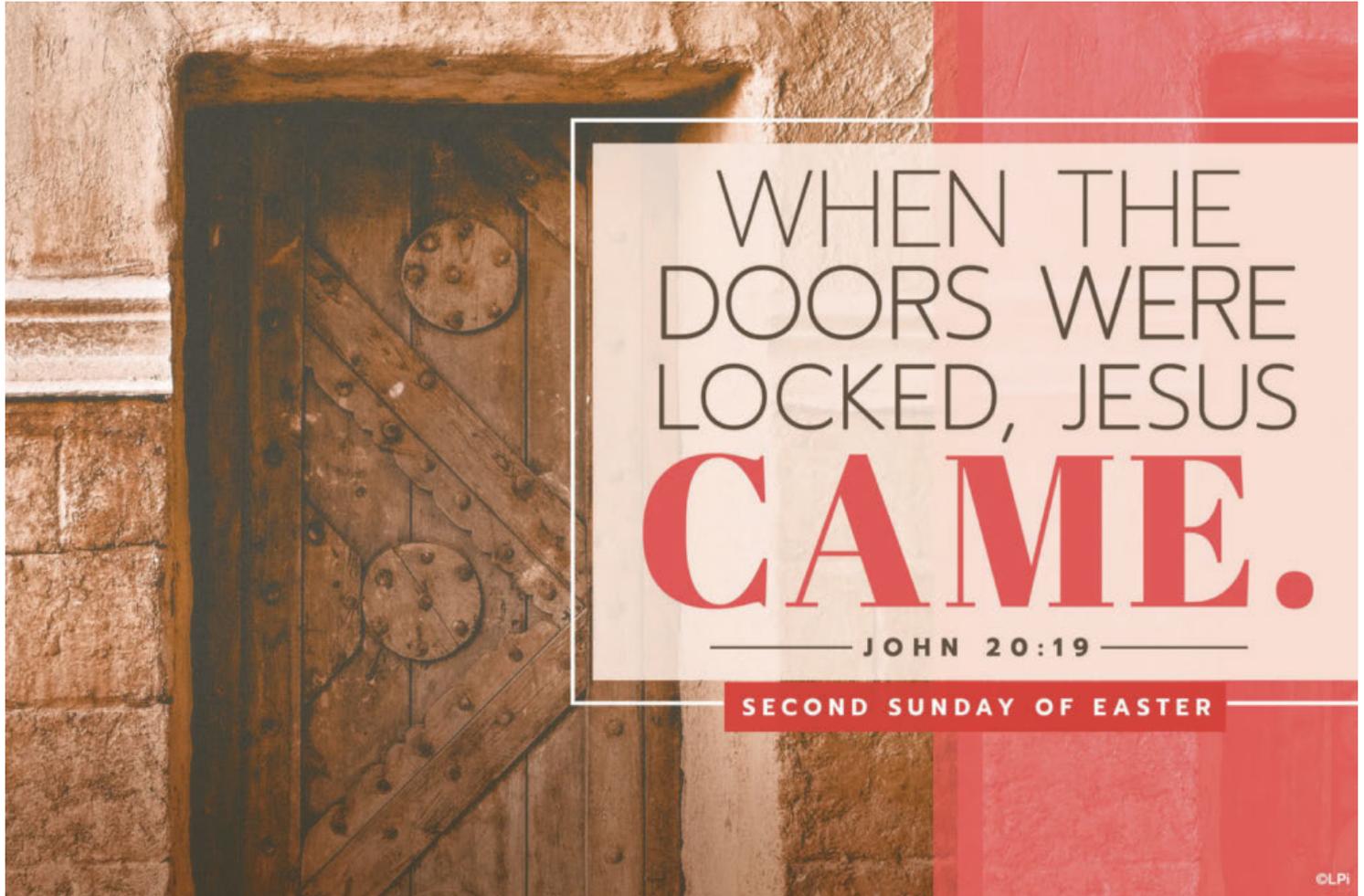




# St. Matthew's

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

*St. Matthew's Catholic Community exists in the world as a visible expression of God's love.*



**April 27, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)**

**Mass Times**

- 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**

**Parish Office** (*Mailing Address*)

510 Hall Avenue  
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

It's common for Catholics to hear the question, "Why do I have to go to a priest to have my sins forgiven?" I've never liked that question because not only is it clunky (confession is the ordinary way for the pardoning of serious sins, not lesser ones). But it misses the larger context: the wonderful origins of the sacrament itself. And this context is deeply Jewish.

Ancient Jews associated forgiveness of sins with priests offering sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple. It was a solemn, public, and tangible way to access God's mercy. So when the risen Jesus breathes on the Apostles and says, "**Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained**" (John 20:23), the upshot is remarkable: he is the new temple and his Apostles are the new priests. Jerusalem is no longer the place to find forgiveness from sin. Jesus' body, the Church, is.

So why should we go to the Sacrament of Confession? For the same reason ancient Jews went to the temple in Jerusalem: to experience the intimacy, joy, and life-giving power of God's eternal forgiveness.

— Father John Muir

©LPi

## Prayer Requests

**Jeremiah Baker, Jeff Blomgren, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Johnny Edwards, Philip Heitzinger, Sean Kane, Ken Kasheimer, Bernie Klein, Janette Koegel, Diane McFarland, Geriann Raway, 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.*

### 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.



## Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

*Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ~ Isaiah 6:8*

**Thank You:** We were fortunate to offer two opportunities to attend the Stations of the Cross this year - "**Mary's Way of the Cross**" on Tuesdays, and the **Traditional Way of the Cross** on Fridays. We thank **Kathy** and **Mary** who led Stations on Tuesdays and **Izzy** and **Anthony** who led this devotion on Fridays. We also thank the many people who attended these devotions each week.

**Thank You:** Two weeks ago, we observed Holy Week and celebrated Easter Sunday. We are still hearing comments regarding how beautiful and moving the services were for those who attended. We are fortunate to have **Fr. Kommers** and **Cristina Czaia** working together to plan such memorable services, from the "donkey" entering the church on Palm Sunday to the Alleluias of Easter! We want to recognize those who took part in the planning, decorating and ministering at the services: **Bob Bejblik, Mary Bejblik, Zach Czaia, Tim Dalzell, Miles Dunn, Rita Eckert, Kathy Goldenstein, Scott Goldenstein, Laila Gomez, Steve Grundei, Paul Heitzinger, Mike Huberty, Tom Kabesh, Tom Kegler, Sr. Adaire Lassonde, Maggie Lee, Mary Leibl, Leon-Puente Family, Jeanne Maanum, Josie Mike, Steve Mike, Anthony Minus, Becky Montgomery, Jessi Orme, Nico Orme, Simon Orme, John Riehle, Linda Rivera, Ginny Roethler, Janelle Rohr, Scanlon Family, Ellen Schneider, Al Schowalter, Kathy Schowalter, Dominic Smith, Joanne Smith, Suzanne Snyder, Dave Sunday, Mooreen Sunday, Chris Sorenson, Joe Stevens, Sullivan Family, Karen Thompson, Kathleen Thompson, Chris Wilfahrt, Mijhanna Wilson, Phil Grant, Cristina Czaia, and Fr. Thomas Kommers.**

**Thank You:** To the members of the St. Matthew choir: **Jeanne Zimmer, Linda Sellars, Shelly McMonigal, Pete Zimmer, Andy Schreiber, John Riehle, Anthony Minus, Phil Grant (Piano), Rose Karas (Flute & Clarinet), Chris Stevens (Guitar) and Cristina Czaia (Director).** Their music brought added emotions from the lights going out on Holy Thursday to the "Good Thief" on the cross who said, "Jesus, Remember me..." on Good Friday, the climax of the Easter fire and lights coming back on Holy Saturday and the Alleluias of Easter!

**Thank You:** To the **Community of Saints 8<sup>th</sup> graders** for preparing the salt packets that were distributed over the Easter weekend.

**WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!**

*Mary Leibl*  
Volunteer Coordinator  
mleibl@st-matts.org

## Parish Administrator's Note

### Happy Easter Season!

Christ is risen, alleluia! This is a joyful time in our church's liturgical calendar!

My joy has been tempered by my sadness at the recent passing of Pope Francis. I know I join you in grieving his loss, while also having faith he is now in the arms of our loving God.

One of my favorite things about Pope Francis was that he exemplified a church that loves its neighbors. He constantly wrote and spoke about the importance of care for everyone, especially immigrants. He visibly expressed God's love by visiting the poor, the imprisoned, and other marginalized people.

In so doing, he was following Scripture, as well as the teachings of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). That Council moved our church away from fears of the modern world to embracing the modern world.

I am glad to be part of St. Matt's, a Catholic community that loves its neighbors. I'm aware that some Christian churches (including some Catholic ones) have more of a "fear the world" mentality. That saddens me. Jesus said to fear not: He is with us.

### Commonweal Study Group

Our *Commonweal* magazine study group recently discussed an article titled, "Make Room for the Heart." That article was about Pope Francis's final encyclical, *Dilixit nos*. (In English, that translates to "He loved us.")

In his encyclical (= papal letter), Francis joined two things: (a) personal religious devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; and (b) social and political justice. As the article put it, *Dilixit nos* "can be read as an impassioned call for Catholics to draw on the 'human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ' to build a diverse, united, and resilient global Church."

May all of us draw heartfelt strength and courage from Pope Francis in this season of joy.

*Our next Commonweal study group meeting is at 10:00 next Saturday, May 3. For details, see the insert.*

Have a great week! Thank you for your support!

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



## Faith Formation News

### Faith Formation End-of-School-Year Celebration

Faith Formation families with students in Grades K to 10 are invited to a prayer service followed by bingo in church on Wednesday, April 30, from 6:30 to 7:45 pm. There will be prizes for those who have a winning bingo card, and we will have refreshments. Please join us and thank your students' teachers for sharing their faith and time with the program this school year.

### First Communion Practice

Students preparing for First Communion who are registered with our St. Matthew school year program have practice on Wednesday, May 7, from 6:30 to 7:45 pm. At least one parent also needs to attend that evening with his/her student. This includes students in our weekly Faith Formation program and Community of Saints students who signed up to make their First Communion at the Church of St Matthew. First Communion Masses are on May 10, 11, and 18.

## News and Events

### Community of Saints Catholic School Collection

Next weekend is our monthly second collection in support of Community of Saints Regional Catholic School. Thank you for your generous support!



### The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on Monday, April 28, 2025 for the **Living and Deceased Rosary Society Members**.

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 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	Katie Quinlan
Terry Grundtner	Ellen Schneider
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 April 27, 2025**

Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Next Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, April 26

4:15 PM +AnnaMarie Karas  
+Nancy Maloney

### Sunday, April 27

10:15 AM +Maurie Grundei

### Saturday, May 3

4:15 PM +Fr. Steve Adrian  
+George Lackner

### Sunday, May 4

10:15 AM +Lee F. Maruska  
+Robert B. and Stephen J. Roscoe

## Calendar of Events

### Monday - Friday, April 28 - May 2

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

### Monday, April 28

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

### Tuesday, April 29

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

### Wednesday, April 30

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic  
6:30 pm - 8:00 PM Faith Formation

### Thursday, May 1

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

### Friday, May 2

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM St. Matthew Community Band

### Saturday, May 3

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Commonweal Discussion Group  
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions  
4:15 PM Mass

### Sunday, May 4

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](mailto: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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