



St. Matthew's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



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April 6, 2025 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

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

Facebook www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

YouTube www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Friday

Closed

Gospel Meditation

“The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle” (John 8:3). Why do they make her stand in the middle? Why not expose her on the periphery? The reason is something that affects us practically every day.

The center is what stabilizes a community’s identity. We humans tend to center ourselves around an accused and condemned victim — though we rarely admit it. This renews our fragile communities and our power as those who weaponize the accusation. This is effective because it is often a victim who represents something truly dangerous for the group. In this case, adultery stands for the breakdown of a community and those within it, because it forces questions like: who is my father? Whose child is this? Is this child one of us, or that of an outsider? The accusers place the adulteress in the center because their community, like most, is built around turning an enemy into a victim.

Once you understand this, you’ll see it almost anywhere humans group together (families, politics, workplaces, sports, schools, etc.). The good news is Jesus exposes this dynamic by deftly pointing out the sin-infected hearts of everyone besides the woman. They all leave, symbolizing the breakdown of the old order, and she is **“left alone before him.”** A new community has begun, structured around the merciful love of Christ.

What is in your center? What is in the center of our parish and family communities? Strive to center on Christ’s forgiveness, and we experience the new, lasting community we call the Church.

— *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

Holy Thursday: After the Holy Thursday service, we will need strong men and teens to help move furniture out of the sanctuary. The sanctuary needs to be empty for Good Friday.

Office Receptionist: We would like a volunteer to work in the reception area on Thursday mornings. The hours would be 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. You may choose to volunteer for the whole four hours or any duration of time that works for your schedule. Duties would include answering phones and taking messages as well as putting the inserts into the weekly bulletins. Occasionally, join a team of volunteers to prepare parish-wide mailings. If interested, call the Parish Office at 651-224-9793.

Thank You: To members of the Men’s Club, Rosary Society, Scouts and Youth Group who help with the weekly Fish Frys. Also to all parishioners and friends of the parish who attend and contribute to the success of the weekly meals!

Thank You: To the Rosary Society who have volunteered to lead “Mary’s Way of the Cross” on Tuesday, April 8th at 12:30 pm. Come and experience the Way of the Cross through the eyes of Jesus’ mother!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit April 5-11, 2025 in memory of **Dolores Rodriguez’s Birthday.**

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

What Are You Reading?

I recently had an engaging conversation with a couple of first-timers to our Fish Fry. (They acclaimed it as excellent; always good to hear.)

Our conversation focused mainly on St. Matt's uncommon structure as a volunteer parish. It then veered into political territory when I gave our guests "Red Cards". Those are small cards with basic constitutional rights and advice. We keep them on hand, given the current push by the federal government to deport people. (Feel free to take one or more from the table in the back of the church, or in the Parish Center.)

Our guests asked questions about the cards as we discussed immigration and recent deportation actions. One of those questions was, "What are you reading?"

I took the question at face value and mentioned the *New York Times* and *The Atlantic*. I was surprised to hear those publications characterized as "left", as in left-wing. We continued a civil conversation and I added a reference to *Commonweal*—not a magazine they were familiar with. (I like *Commonweal* for its Catholic approach to the news, and I hope they take a look at it.)

I've been thinking about the conversation ever since. Some reflections:

- I wish I'd responded to the "What are you reading" question with "The Bible." Scripture is clear and consistent that we treat everyone with love and respect, including resident aliens. I read the Bible daily, usually in a monthly publication called *Give Us This Day*. (It's published by St. John's Abbey in Collegeville. I recommend it for your consideration.)
- What we read influences our thinking, attitudes and behavior.
- Much of what we read on the internet is valuable. Much of it is not—to the point of being harmful. Unfortunately, many people use the internet as a "justification machine". That is, they bolster their thinking by searching only for supporting material online. I think that's self-limiting.

I look for articles that inform me. Some support my thinking. Some challenge me. That's good. I learn more by being open to diverse points of view.

How about you? What are you reading?

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 Resume

Faith Formation students in Grades K to 7 have class on Wednesday, April 9, from 6:30 to 7:45 PM in the St. Matthew Parish Center. Congratulations to our Faith Formation students in grades 8 to 10 who are receiving the sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral on April 6 and thus do not have more classes this school year.

News and Events

Community of Saints Catholic School Collection

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

Monthly Scripture Study - Gospel of Luke

St. Matthew is offering a monthly Scripture Study, centering on the Gospel of Luke. The next meeting is on **Tuesday, April 8 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM in the Parish Center Community Room** (first floor). Let Zach Czaia know if you're planning to come, or if you have any questions at zczaia@hotmail.com.

Palm Sunday Procession

To commence our Holy Week celebration, we will have a Palm Procession beginning in the Social Hall on both **Palm Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13**. All are invited to begin Mass in the Social Hall and join our procession around and through the Church. Please plan to arrive 10-15 minutes early if you would like to join the procession. Those who are not comfortable with processing may pick up their palms in Church, as usual.

No Children's Liturgy of the Word

There will not be Children's Liturgy of the Word on Palm Sunday, April 13 and Easter Sunday, April 20. It will resume on Sunday, April 27.

No Crafting Group on Holy Thursday

The Crafting Group will not meet on Holy Thursday, April 17.



**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	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 6, 2025

Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11 Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14—23:56 or 23:1-49

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 5

4:15 PM +Fr. Steve Adrian
+John Leibl

Sunday, April 6

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

Saturday, April 12

4:15 PM +Agnes C. and Gordon B. Roscoe
+Robert A. and Jeanne M. Stadt

Sunday, April 13

10:15 AM +Fr. Steve Adrian

Calendar of Events

Monday - Thursday, April 7 - 10

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

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

Monday, April 7

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

Tuesday, April 8

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:30 PM Stations of the Cross
After Stations Rosary Society Meeting
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Scripture Study - Gospel of Luke

Wednesday, April 9

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Confessions
6:30 pm - 8:00 PM Faith Formation
8:00 PM Men's Club Meeting

Thursday, April 10

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Finance Council Meeting
6:00 PM Crafting Group

Friday, April 11

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, April 12

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

Sunday, April 13

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.*

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