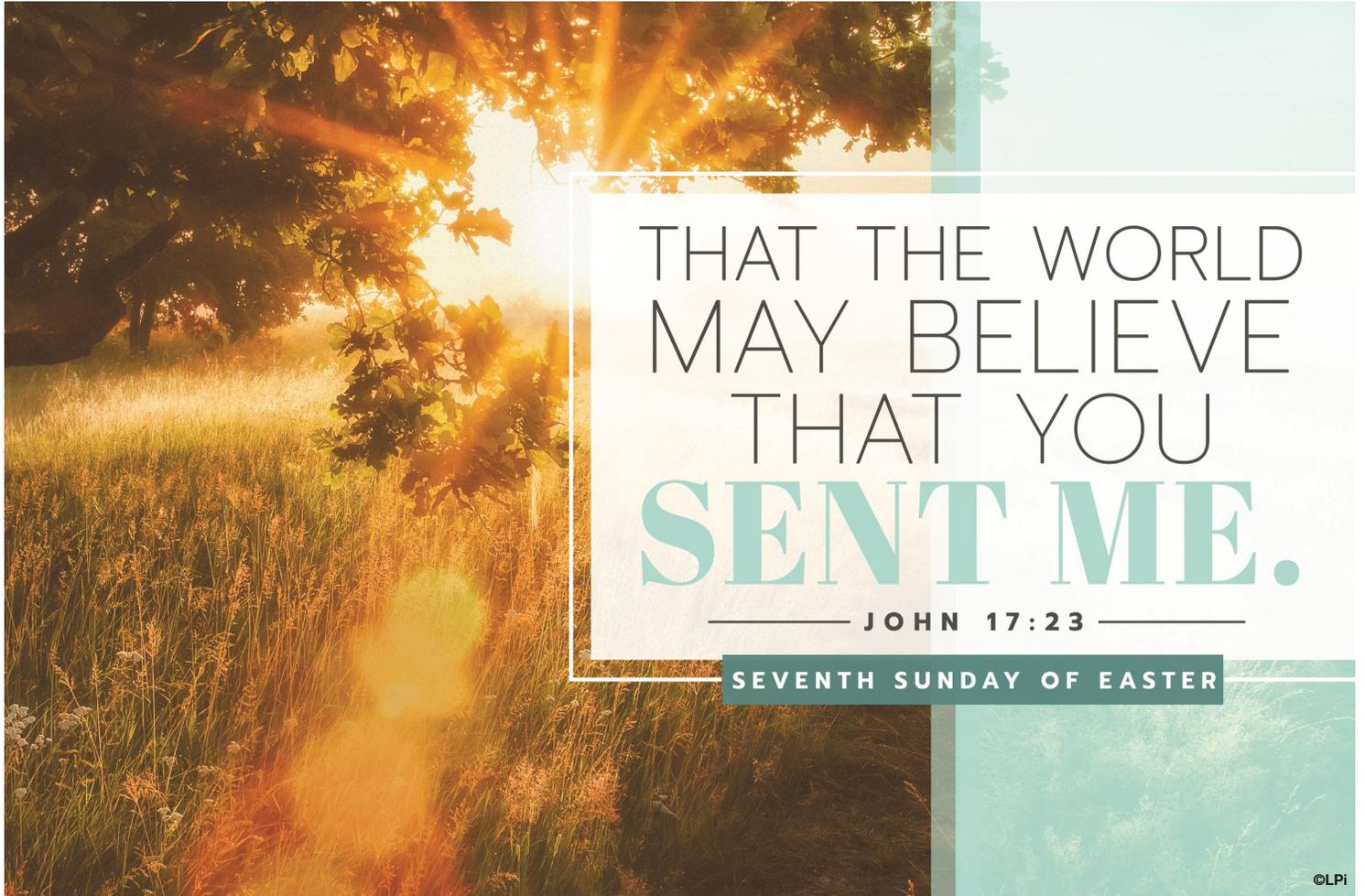




# St. Matthew's

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



THAT THE WORLD  
MAY BELIEVE  
THAT YOU  
**SENT ME.**

— JOHN 17:23 —

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

©LPI

### **June 1, 2025**

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

#### **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

The famous 20th century St. Padre Pio said once that he would wait outside the gates of heaven until the people in his life had entered. I'm not sure that I, or frankly many people I know, would say that and mean it. Yet that is precisely the kind of attitude we see in Jesus as he prays for us in the Gospel today. Having celebrated the Ascension of the Lord just a few days ago, we now hear the Son of God at the Last Supper pray to his Father **"that they may be brought to perfection as one"** (John 17:23). What does this mean for us?

I'd wager that we are not surprised that Jesus wants to make us perfect — that is, happy, whole, and healed. The shocker is that he desires this for us collectively and not just individually. Perfection is a team sport. We need each other to be perfect. Jesus is like a mother longing for her adult children to learn how to be in loving support of one another. He wants the perfection of his disciples to be not some individualistic plan of moral uprightness, but a loving communion of brothers and sisters.

Let's apply this practically. Do I see my participation at Mass as something I do merely for my own peace and edification, or as something I do with and for the people around me? Do I see my ongoing need for forgiveness as something that simply makes me feel better, or as a task that heals those around me, too? Is my dearest hope to individually get to heaven when I die, or is it to be part of the great procession of souls, together marching towards the heavenly Jerusalem? Do I want to be in heaven with people I currently find difficult? How would my life change if I did?

— *Father John Muir*

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## Prayer Requests

**Jeremiah Baker, Jeff Blomgren, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Johnny Edwards, Philip Heitzinger, Sean Kane, Bernie Klein, , 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.*

## Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

**Greeter:** We are in need of a greet at the **Saturday 4:15 pm Mass**. Duties include welcoming those attending the Mass and offering a hymnal, worship aid and a bulletin. 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. You may call the Parish Center for more information or speak to a sacristan or greeter at your Mass.

**Confirmation Students:** Will you or a member of your family be a Confirmation candidate next year? It is not too early to begin working on "Service Hours" needed for Confirmation. The two requests above would be opportunities to get a start on your preparation for Confirmation. If you attend a school that requires "Service Hours" as a requirement for graduation, think about volunteering some time to serve your parish. If interested, you may email Mary at [mleibl@st-matts.org](mailto:mleibl@st-matts.org), or call the Parish Center.

**Thank You:** We thank **Fr. Kommers** who came forward at a very difficult time for our parish, as we were adjusting to Fr. Steve no longer being able to serve as our Sacramental Minister. Fr. Thomas has made this an easy transition for all in our parish. He is also celebrating the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination! **CONGRATULATIONS, FR. THOMAS!**

**WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!**

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

### **Congratulations to Father Thomas M. Kommers on His 45th Anniversary of Priesthood!**

The Church of St. Matthew community is grateful to Fr. Thomas M. Kommers for his ministry as our Sacramental Minister.

We pray for the Lord's grace and blessings on Fr. Thomas as he continues his priestly ministry.

Congratulations, Fr. Thomas!



## Parish Administrator's Note

### Security (Continued from last week)

What do you do when you meet someone new at St. Matt's?

That was my starter question last week, when I wrote about our parish as a "Third Place" for people to meet, connect, converse, and build relationships. By a huge margin, that's what most of our encounters will be like.

Our parish has a reputation for hospitality, and we are also mindful of the importance of our security. What happens if we meet a person who seems like they might have a mental health issue? How do we balance hospitality and security?

I recommended these steps last week:

- When you meet someone, ask for their name.
- Listen for stories.
- Acknowledge their dignity.

Here are additional steps you might use:

- "Tell me more", when people are sharing their stories.
- Try to find out what persons want. "How can we help you?"
- Assess their degree of distress. If they're at "Level 1", they may simply want a friendly ear. They might want a referral for more specialized help, e.g., food, housing, counseling. You can generally tell if a person is at Level 1, because they're likely to be responsive to your questions and directions.
- If a person isn't responsive to your questions or directions, they may be at "Level 2". That is to say, extremely distressed or in full crisis. In this case, attentive listening often backfires. Indeed, it might just fuel the flames of their distress. See what happens with directive language: "Can you take a breath? . . . Walk over here? . . . Meet with our administrator?" At this point, it's important to stay in a space where others can see and/or hear you. Stay calm and seek assistance from staff or other parishioners.

If possible, let me know of your encounters. We're working to increase our capacity to help.

Please--keep in mind that persons with mental illness are no more likely to be violent than anyone else in the general population.

Have a great week! Thank you for your support!

*Phil Grant, Administrator*  
*Safe Environment Coordinator*  
[pgrant@st-matts.org](mailto:pgrant@st-matts.org)  
651-224-9793

*\*Due to early bulletin submission, some items may appear in later issues.*

## Next Weekend is Pentecost!

And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. - Acts 2:2-4

**Pentecost** in Greek means "**fiftieth**", commemorating the fiftieth day after Easter, the week after we've just celebrated Jesus' ascension into heaven, when the Holy Spirit comes down upon the Apostles in tongues of fire. Each year in Rome, thousands of red rose pedals are dropped from the oculus of the Pantheon on Pentecost to remind Mass goers of the fire of the Holy Spirit. That is why we use red for this special celebration. We won't have rose pedals falling from our skylight but do remember to wear red to honor this special celebration next weekend!

*Cristina Czaia*  
*Director of Music and Liturgy*

## 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!

**Rosary in Cherokee Park** will be happening once again this summer, hosted by the Rosary Society. Join us on Tuesday, June 10th, at 10:00 am at the large Picnic Pavilion as we pray the Rosary together. Other dates are July 8th and August 12th, also at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

### Baptism Preparation Meeting - age 6 and younger

Preparation meetings are required for parents and guardians with children aged six or younger for baptism. The next meeting is on:

- **Saturday, June 21 at 10:00 AM**

**Registration is required, at least one week in advance.** To register — or for more information — please contact **Cristina Czaia** ([cczaia@st-matts.org](mailto:cczaia@st-matts.org)) or call the Parish Office (651-224-9793).



### The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

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 June 1, 2025

Sunday: Acts 7:55-60/Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20/Jn 17:20-26

Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday: *Vigil*: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 *Extended Vigil*: Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 *Day*: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, May 31

4:15 PM +Dorinda Martineau  
+Marian Wolters

### Sunday, June 1

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

### Saturday, June 7

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

### Sunday, June 8

10:15 AM +Fr. Steve Adrian  
+Mary Lou Shields

## Calendar of Events

### Monday - Friday, June 2-6

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

### Monday, June 2

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

### Tuesday, June 3

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

### Wednesday, June 4

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic  
7:30 PM Men's Club Board Meeting

### Thursday, June 5

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

### Friday, June 6

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

### Saturday, June 7

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

### Sunday, June 8

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.*

### Support Our Advertisers

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