



St. Matthew's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



STRIVE

TO ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE.

— LUKE 13:24 —

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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August 24, 2025 **21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Times

- **Saturday, 4:15 PM**
- **Sunday, 10:15 AM**

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

I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.

When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "**Strive to enter through the narrow gate**" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!"

Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; *hypomone* in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going!

— Father John Muir

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Prayer Requests

Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Johnny Edwards, Johanna (VandenBosch) Gallagher, Philip Heitzinger, Sean Kane, Bernie Klein, Nicole Liskiewicz, Tom Maloney, Miguel Martinez, Diane McFarland, Stephen Mike, Geriann Raway, Linda Rivera, and Doris Schillinger.

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

Strawberries: We have already completed four days of cleaning strawberries! That means you have eight more opportunities to come to the Social Hall and help earn money for our parish. Cleaning begins each morning by 8:00 am. The last day to clean berries will be Sunday, August 31st. It involves only a few hours each morning. The more help we have the sooner the task is completed each day! Our volunteers not only enjoy helping to earn money for our parish, but even more, the socialization that takes place during the berry cleaning. Please, reserve some time to volunteer for this project! Pope Leo XIV, after spending a couple weeks in the church encouraging everyone to help with strawberry cleaning, has now moved to the Social Hall. He certainly will not complain if you would like to have your picture taken with him!

Thank You: Although the weather doesn't always cooperate, we are good at "punting". Thank you to all who made the decision and helped get "Mass in the Park" moved to "Mass in the Church/Picnic in the Social Hall!"

Thank You: To all who signed cards and added messages to Sister Anne Becker's family. Thank you to **Shelley** who took those cards to Shakopee for Sr. Anne's funeral. You can find information on Sister Anne's passing on the News page of our parish website at www.st-matts.org/blog

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on Monday, August 25 in memory of **Dan Richardson**.

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.

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 Rakow (arakow@st-matts.org).



Parish Administrator's Note

Your Attention, Please

"It's a truism that what has your attention is automatically important to you at that moment, and competition for attention is relentless. Essayist E.B. White wrote, 'I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it difficult to plan the day.'" (Source: Peter Leschak's essay in the *Minnesota Star Tribune*, August 17, 2025)

Leschak gave me a lot to think about. To start with, I'm mindful that Jesus saved the world—quite the improvement! He also enjoyed the world. Recall how He enjoyed time and meals with friends.

Next. When I arise in the morning, I think about what I can do to improve the world, at least my part. When I check my work email, I often see that the Archdiocese, colleagues, tenants, and St. Matt's staff and parishioners want my attention. I only have so much time, so I must choose which to respond to, and when. There's always more than I can possibly manage in any given day. (Consider this an apology for not always responding immediately when you email me!)

I do think about how I can enjoy the world, which is why my Danebod summer camp experiences, music, theater, and friends are important to me. (All work and no play make Phil a dull boy.) Last weekend, for example, I enjoyed a porch concert in Northfield with old friends.

I also attended the Guthrie Theater's production of *Cabaret*, the well-known 1960s musical about Germany in the 1930s. Great production; sad story. By the end of the musical (spoiler alert!), two love stories have ended unhappily and the Nazis are taking over.

I've learned that this particular production leaned into current issues. That is, it artistically showed what can happen when some people (e.g., Nazis) treat other people (e.g., Jews, LGBTQ+, and others) as inferior. I can think of nothing that is further from the Gospel message: everyone is a child of God, deserving of love and humane treatment.

Thank you for your support, and have a great week!

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

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation, First Communion, Confirmation Registration Now Open: Families with students in Grades K-10 attending public schools, please register your children for Wednesday evening Faith Formation classes for the 2025-2026 school year. The registration form is available at www.st-matts.org/faith-formation/ and at the Parish Center front desk.

This is also the time to sign up children to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation in winter and spring 2026; indicate what sacraments you are seeking on the registration form. Students are prepared for those sacraments during the Wednesday evening classes, which run from September 24 through April 29. Return the completed registration form via email to janelle@st-matts.org or bring it the first evening of class.

Community of Saints (COS) Regional Catholic School parents can sign up their children at the sacraments table at the COS Back to School Night on August 28.

News and Events

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, September 20 at 10:00 AM**
- **Saturday, October 18 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) or call the Parish Office (651-224-9793).



Funeral Mass for **Jeff Blomgren** was held at St. Matthew on Friday, August 15 2025.

Funeral Mass for **Michael Giefer** was held at St. Matthew on Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

Funeral Mass for **Sister Anne Becker, SSND** was held at Windermere Chapel on Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

Please remember Jeff, Michael, Sister Anne and their families in your prayers.

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	Tara Perron
Isaac Garcia	Katie Quinlan
Terry Grundtner	Delfina Reynolds
Maggie Lee	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 August 24, 2025

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mk 6:17-29

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 23

4:15 PM +Eileen Norton
+Mary Ann Roscoe

Sunday, August 24

10:15 AM +Arthur Geis
+Mary Lou Shields

Saturday, August 30

4:15 PM +Margaret Mortenson
+Pam, Lucille, and Robert Stickler, Sr.

Sunday, August 31

10:15 AM +Mary Ann Kosel

Calendar of Events

Monday - Friday, August 25-29

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

Monday, August 25

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Strawberry Cleaning
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

Tuesday, August 26

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Strawberry Cleaning
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

Wednesday, August 27

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Strawberry Cleaning
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic

Thursday, August 28

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Strawberry Cleaning
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:00 PM Crafting Group
6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

Friday, August 29

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Strawberry Cleaning
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed

Saturday, August 30

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Strawberry Cleaning
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions
4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, August 31

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Strawberry Cleaning
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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