



St. Matthew's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



GO AND TAKE
THE LOWEST
PLACE.

— LUKE 14:10 —

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI

August 31, 2025
22nd 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

Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: **“When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table” (Luke 14:10).** This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

— *Father John Muir*

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Prayer Requests

Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Johnny Edwards, Johanna (VandenBosch) Gallagher, Philip Heitzinger, Joan Johnson, 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

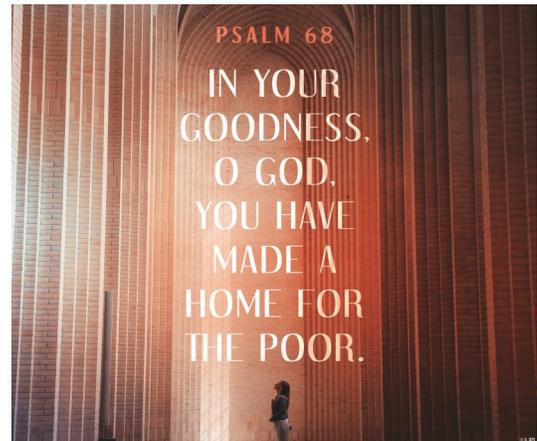
Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” ~ Isaiah 6:8

Processional Cross: Beginning the first weekend in September, we will begin Mass with a procession. We are looking for volunteers to carry the processional cross. Women, men, Confirmation candidates etc. are all welcome to carry the cross in the opening procession. If you are willing to take part in this part of the Mass, please contact Mary at mleibl@st-matts.org and leave your name, contact information and which Mass you prefer. You may also speak to a sacristan or greeter when attending Mass.

Thank You: To the many parishioners, and friends and relatives of parishioners, who gathered in the Social Hall for 12 days, to clean strawberries for a booth at the State Fair. We had 30 to 40 volunteers gather each day to clean the berries. We will recognize each volunteer individually in a future bulletin.

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



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.

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

Festival of Rights

I recently had the pleasure of participating in Beautiful Laundrette's 4th Annual Festival of Rights. Owner Laurel and her assistant Katrina organized a wonderful event.

Hundreds of people visited dozens of tables hosted by a wide variety of non-profits. Some promoted voting, such as the League of Women Voters. Some promoted immigrants' rights. There were several groups that provide legal resources, especially to Spanish speakers.

At least three tables featured resources that help people who've left prison and want to rejoin regular society. One specialized in helping these folks find and keep jobs. Another was more research oriented.

The third table in this group hosted representatives from AVP, the Alternatives to Violence Project. AVP's Program Coordinator, Susan, wondered if we'd like some free workshops on related topics—such as **de-escalation training**. (Well, yes, thank you, Susan! Let's get it on our parish calendar and invite many people to attend. I can think of few topics that are more timely!)

What else? Well, there were quite a few health and wellness groups present. There were also various other community groups, including GAP School, Riverview, and Neighborhood House.

As far as I know, St. Matt's Catholic Community was the only church represented. Ralph and I shared information about our parish community, programs and ministries.

Sharing our table was Latisha, Director of Volunteers and Outreach for Loaves & Fishes, one of our major ministry partners. She was there to inform people about the free meals they provide every Monday through Friday, from 5-6 p.m. in our Social Hall. She also promoted volunteering with Loaves & Fishes. They're always looking for volunteers.

It's remarkable that a local laundromat runs programs like this. They serve our West Side neighborhood, strengthen our community, and promote the common good.

Sound a lot like what Jesus calls us to do?

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

Public School Family Registration for Faith Formation, First Communion, Confirmation:

Families with students in Grades K-10 attending public schools or attending non-Catholic private 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/, in the back of church, 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; indicate what sacraments you are seeking on the registration form. Return the completed registration form via email to janelle@st-matts.org. Mark your calendars for September 24, the first evening of classes held in the Parish Center starting at 6:30 pm. Parents, plan to attend a parent meeting in church at 6:50 pm that evening.

Community of Saints Sacrament Registration Now Open: Community of Saints (COS) Regional Catholic School families who would like their students to receive sacraments with the Church of St. Matthew are invited to register by completing the form at www.st-matts.org/faith-formation/. Email the completed form to janelle@st-matts.org. COS 8th graders may be signed up for the sacrament of Confirmation, and their first class evening is October 22. COS students in Grades 2 and above who would like to make their First Communion and First Reconciliation this school year may sign up using the same form, and their first class evening is November 12. Watch the school newsletter for more details. If your student is not yet baptized, see www.st-matts.org/sacraments and complete a separate registration form for baptism. The completed baptism registration form should be emailed to arakow@st-matts.org.

News and Events

Parish Office Closure

The parish office is closed on Monday, September 1, 2025.



Rosary Society September Meeting

All women of Saint Matt's community are invited to the **September 9th** Rosary Society meeting, which is **12:30 to 2:00 pm** in the lower level of the Parish Center. During the meeting we will reconnect with one another, enjoy refreshments and discuss some new fun activities for the coming year. Your ideas and input are welcome as we make plans for our upcoming program year. You do not need to be a member of the Rosary Society to attend this meeting.

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 31, 2025

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

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11

Friday: Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-3

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 30

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

Sunday, August 31

10:15 AM +Mary Ann Kosel

Saturday, September 6

4:15 PM +Fr. Steve Adrian

Sunday, September 7

10:15 AM +Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Lori Ann Dvorak Simonson
+Dorothy Williams

Calendar of Events

Tuesday - Friday, September 2 - 5

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

St. Matthew Loaves and Fishes Meal Site closed on Monday, September 1, 2025.

Monday, September 1

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

Tuesday, September 2

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 3

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, September 4

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

Friday, September 5

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

Saturday, September 6

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

Sunday, September 7

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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