



St. Matthew's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



September 14, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy *What About Bob?* Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr Marvin for break-through "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness – rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to "exalt the cross." If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us.

— Father John Muir

©LPi

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.

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

Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

Processional Cross: Throughout the month of September, as well as during Advent, Mass will begin with the priest processing to the sanctuary. This procession will be led by an individual carrying the processional cross. If you would like to volunteer to lead the procession at the beginning of Mass, and carry the processional cross, please contact Mary Leibl at mleibl@st-matts.org.

Thank You: To the **65+** parishioners and friends who gathered for 12 days to clean strawberries for the Strawberries and Crème booth at the Minnesota State Fair. These wonderful people gathered at 8:00 am to clean hundreds of pounds of berries. In doing so, they not only enjoyed fellowship with other parishioners and "friends of the parish" but also earned almost \$5,000 for our parish. We also want to thank **Alice Baier**, our new office receptionist, who also came and helped to clean strawberries! Special thanks to **Paul, Chris, Jackie, Anthony, Izzy, Karen, Alice, Becky, Jan, and Mary**, who met the "berry truck" at 5:30 am, unloaded the berries, opened the boxes and got the berries washed in the kitchen sinks. The owner of the booth has already shown an interest in having us return for the 2026 Minnesota State Fair. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, August 27 – Labor Day, September 7, 2026.**

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

So Many Leaks

My training as a school principal 25 years ago included this approach to prioritizing among the many tasks facing any administrator:

Priority A – Critical. Take care of these first. For example, the roof is leaking.

Priority B – Important. Discuss relative importance, work on as many as you can after dealing with Priority A items.

Priority C – Would be nice. It's hard to get to many of these, since there's never enough time and money.

Good advice. I've used these decision-making guidelines many times over the years.

Which brings us to our situation at St. Matt's, where roof leaks are all too common. That is, we've had a critical item on our plate since before I arrived in 2021.

We have made progress. We replaced the school's flat roof and the two low roofs on the Parish Center in 2023. Those leaks have ended, as far as we can tell.

In 2024, we made progress with the church roof. After years of our complaining, the company finally realized that someone cut corners in 2019. Their team "completed the contract" for the church roof. That's good, because a next step with the church roof is to replace the skylights. Ours are original (1970) and have occasionally leaked.

We recently confirmed that one of the leaks in the school building is from the stage roof. That was also replaced in 2019, by the same company that did the church roof. The company is sending a crew to complete that stage roof work. (It involves making sure the flashing is wrapped properly.)

Meanwhile, as part of the recent school leak investigation, we discovered that another leak in the school gym stems from windows that need caulking. Good to know. Now we can address that problem.

The third leak remains groundwater incursion into the northwest corner of the school building. That's a more complicated project. It awaits additional engineering analysis.

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

Registration for Faith Formation, First Communion, Confirmation: Families with students in Grades K-10, 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 page 2 of 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. Public school students start on September 24 and attend weekly. Community of Saints students start in October and November and attend monthly, and are encouraged to register now.

Catechetical Sunday: St. Matthew catechists and youth leaders will be recognized on **Saturday, September 20, and Sunday, September 21**, during Mass. Thanks to these volunteers for serving our parish children and families. Please pray for a faith-filled school year of learning and growing for all involved in early childhood education, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Faith Formation (religious education/CCD), and Youth Group.

News and Events

Children's Liturgy of the Word - Adult Volunteers Needed

In-person Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) returns on **Sunday, September 21!**

We are in need of adult volunteers to help with Children's Liturgy of the Word. CLW takes place each Sunday during the 10:15 AM Mass. The children are taken to the chapel for a short lesson which is based around the readings for that weekend and may consist of story-telling, coloring or a similar activity. The volunteer will assist the CLW teacher and help conduct the class when needed. **Training will be provided.** Call the Parish Center at 651-224-9793 if interested in this volunteer opportunity.

Neighborhood House Collection

Next weekend is the monthly Neighborhood House collection. There will be a basket by the main entrance of the church for you to place your non-perishable or monetary donation. On behalf of Neighborhood House and the people it serves, thank you for your generosity!

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 September 14, 2025

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 13

4:15 PM +Bill Brengman
+Arthur Geis

Sunday, September 14

10:15 AM +Sister Anne Becker, SSND
+James Stanger, Sr.

Saturday, September 20

4:15 PM +Don Leibl
+Mary Ellen Wegner

Sunday, September 21

10:15 AM +Michael Giefer
+Donald Giesel

Calendar of Events

Monday - Friday, September 15 - 19

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

Monday, September 15

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM St. Mary's Dental Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

Tuesday, September 16

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

Wednesday, September 17

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

Thursday, September 18

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

Friday, September 19

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

Saturday, September 20

10:00 AM Baptism Preparation Meeting
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions
4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, September 21

10:15 AM Mass
11:15 AM - 1:30 PM Celebrate St. Matt's Event

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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