



# St. Matthew's

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

# ARE YOU NOT THE CHRIST?

— LUKE 23:39 —

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

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**November 23, 2025**

### ***Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe***

#### **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](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

Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering — it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd expect sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside him sees through the suffering and says, "**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom**" (Luke 23:42). That word — *remember* — literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of his Body. And Jesus says, "**Today you will be with me in paradise.**"

He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, "**You will be with me.**"

That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love.

What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with him — paradise begins even today.

— *Father John Muir*

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## Prayer Requests

**Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Kevin Fleming, Jr., Philip Heitzinger, Joan Johnson, Sean Kane, Bernie Klein, Tom Maloney, 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***

In March of 2017, our then pastor, Fr. Bob Kelly, suggested that we become a Volunteer Parish. Partly a "fiscal idea", but also he felt that by having volunteers take on many of the jobs being done at the parish, those volunteers would feel an "ownership" in the parish. We immediately began our "experiment". An explanation was included in the next weekly bulletin, along with a list of "volunteer opportunities". The first volunteers to come forward were Tim Dalzell and Greg Lothenbach. They met with Fr. Bob and prioritized what needed to be done in the parish. Together, they decided that painting needed to be our first priority. The outside doors throughout the parish were peeling badly. It seemed like a huge job for two people to take on. Two days later, I received an email from a youth minister in Iowa. His youth group traditionally goes to parishes throughout the upper Midwest volunteering to help where needed. He asked if we had any jobs in the parish where his youth group could volunteer. (God does work in mysterious ways!) They arrived on a Monday and by Thursday afternoon, all the painting on the parish campus was completed.

A young woman in the parish volunteered to come every Thursday and vacuum and dust the church and chapel. Volunteers came forward to weekly take home the towels and purificators to be washed and ironed. We have volunteers who offered to shovel snow and cut the grass. Twice a year, volunteers gathered on a Saturday morning to do a spring or fall church cleaning. Donis took charge of the flowers and plants in the church; Chris tended the outside gardens. Often, we didn't even have to put out a request for a volunteer. A person would come forward and mention something they felt needed to be looked after. We could see how "Parish Ownership" was becoming the norm.

We truly are a "Volunteer Parish". Again, this year we want to thank all volunteers with an appreciation event. November 29 and 30 is the last weekend of this liturgical year. We will be having a "**Liturgical New Year's Eve Party**" on **Friday, November 28 at 5:00 PM**. See the bulletin insert for more details. Plan to join us as we ring in "Liturgical Year A"!

***WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!***

*Mary Leibl  
Volunteer Coordinator  
mleibl@st-matts.org*

### Communal Reconciliation Service

Communal Reconciliation Service will be on **Sunday, November 30 at 2:00 PM** in the church.



## Parish Administrator's Note

### Leadership and Volunteers

What comes to mind when you hear the word, "leadership"? It's a common word, but what does it really mean?

When I was first asked what it meant—in an educational leadership course many years ago—I responded with something like, "Uh, the stuff that leaders do?"

(Lame answer, Phil. Even my grade school self knew that it wasn't a good idea to use a word to define the same word.)

Until that course, I hadn't thought deeply about the word *leadership*. That course enlarged my understanding of leadership: what does it mean, what is its value, what is its purpose, who's involved, what does it look like, and what are some useful leadership skills?

Today, I often define leadership as the things **anyone can do in an organization to support its mission**. I frame discussions with questions. First of all, what are you and your organization trying to do? Second, how are you going to accomplish those goals? Third, how much time, energy, talent and treasure are you willing to contribute?

**Leadership** was a big part of a Parish Council retreat last Saturday, November 15. Our Council chose to focus its retreat on youth and families in our faith community. In support of that strategic focus, many volunteers were invited to participate in a two-hour discussion about youth engagement.

I'm grateful to the volunteers who came: Karen, Nick, Ellen, Terry, Isaac, Tara, Valerie, Autumn, Becky, Kathy, Michelle, Elayna, Ralph, Delfina, Jessi, Maggie, Amanda, Olga, and Anthony. Staff members Cristina and I also participated. Together, we participated in acts of leadership. That is, everyone contributed energy, information and ideas regarding our youth programs. We asked what's going well, and why? What else could we do? What are our goals, direction, and next steps? Who can do what?

Look for more on our youth programs soon.

It's not a coincidence that St. Matt's Catholic Community has so many people contributing to leadership in various ways. We are, after all, a volunteer parish.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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

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## 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](mailto:arakow@st-matts.org)).



## Faith Formation News

**NO Faith Formation Classes This Week:** There are no Faith Formation classes on Wednesday evening, November 26, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular weekly classes resume December 3 in the Parish Center.

## News and Events

### Liturgical Ministers Training - This Weekend after Mass

There will be a **Lector Training** after Mass on **Saturday, November 22**. If you are a lector, please plan to attend this 30-minute overview.

There will be a **Eucharistic Minister Training** after Mass on **Sunday November 23**. If you are a Eucharistic Minister, please plan to attend this 30-minute overview.

### Children at the Altar - November 23, 10:15 AM Mass

This Sunday, children are invited to stand around the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children if that would be helpful.

### Monthly Scripture Study

St. Matthew's monthly Scripture Study is on **Tuesday, November 25 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM in the Parish Center Community Room** (first floor).

It will focus on reading and discussing the Gospel readings for the upcoming Sunday Masses and celebrations. Facilitated by Zach Czaia, the Scripture Study will be on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Let Zach know if you're planning to come, or if you have any questions at [zczaia@hotmail.com](mailto:zczaia@hotmail.com).



### The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on Monday, November 24 for **Rosary Society Members**.

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	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 November 23, 2025

Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/  
Lk 23:35-43

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64,  
65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk  
21:20-28

Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36

Next Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom  
13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, November 22

4:15 PM +James Stanger, Sr.  
+Pam, Lucille, and Robert Stickler, Sr.

### Sunday, November 23

10:15 AM +Jolanda Bungue  
+Joseph Savard  
+Mary Lou Shields

### Saturday, November 29

4:15 PM +Donald Giesel  
+Charles Ketchmark

### Sunday, November 30

10:15 AM +Arthur Geis  
+Jim Russell

## Calendar of Events

### Monday - Wednesday, November 24-26

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

**Loaves and Fishes Meal Site closed on Thursday,  
November 27 and Friday, November 28.**

### Monday, November 24

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM ECFFF

### Tuesday, November 25

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
5:30 PM Scripture Study

### Wednesday, November 26

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

### Thursday, November 27

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

### Friday, November 28

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed  
5:00 PM Volunteer Appreciation: Liturgical New  
Year's Eve Party

### Saturday, November 29

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

### Sunday, November 30

10:15 AM Mass  
2:00 PM Communal Reconciliation Service

### 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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