



# St. Matthew's

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



### **December 7, 2025** **Second Sunday of Advent**

#### **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

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “**locusts and wild honey**” (Mark 1:6). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

— *Father John Muir*

©LPi

## Prayer Requests

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

## Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

This weekend, some Americans will remember December 7, 1942. That day doesn’t mean as much today as it did when I was growing up. In the 1940’s and 50’s, even in the 70’s and 80’s, the news programs on December 7<sup>th</sup> always showed film of the attack on Pearl Harbor and a wreath being dropped into the harbor where the ship, The Arizona, had been sunk, killing everyone on board. Some of our classmates had uncles or fathers who served at Pearl Harbor on that day. On December 7, 1942, United States citizens were preparing for Christmas celebrations. In movie theaters, the movie was stopped and an announcement made that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. People immediately left the theater. Holiday preparations came to a halt. Many families realized that they might soon have family members heading off to war. This year, let us remember all those who have lost their lives in the defense of our country. Also, pray for the families who have lost loved ones who were protecting our country.

**Decorating for Christmas:** This is a busy time of the year. There is much to do to prepare for the Christmas feast, both in our homes and in our church. We will be decorating for the Christmas season on **December 21<sup>st</sup>, after the 10:15 AM Mass**. We would appreciate help from Youth Club members and Confirmation class in putting up decorations and bringing statues from the chapel sacristy. We also welcome the help of anyone willing to help hang the ornaments on the trees. Let us rejoice and enjoy the preparation of the Christmas season!

**Thank You:** To all who took part in the planning of our Liturgical New Year’s Eve Party. This was our celebration to welcome the new liturgical year and to thank all our volunteers who help us to succeed as a “**Volunteer Parish**”!

**WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!**

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

### 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

### Institutional Matters

Every so often, I like to write about *institutional* aspects of our church. Institutional aspects are necessary, useful, and unavoidable. For many people, however, they're less engaging than *community* aspects of our church.

I'm often prompted to reflect on institutional matters after I've attended an APBA meeting, which I did on November 20. (APBA stands for Association of Parish Business Administrators, my professional association.) I enjoy the meetings, as I like to connect with colleagues, learn what I can, and offer support to new administrators.

I appreciate the APBA, because the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis offers only limited support for new parish administrators. The Archdiocese has some required trainings, focused mostly on ensuring compliance with *civil* law and *canon* law (= *church* law). Those trainings, along with Archdiocesan policies, reflect institutional values such as clearly defined roles, practices, and organizational structures.

The trainings are important, but far from sufficient when taking on a new job. And there's a lot to learn when you're a new parish administrator. I'm still learning things here at St. Matt's, even after four years. Fortunately, I benefit from an engaged, supportive St. Matt's community, with great volunteers.

By contrast, some of my new colleagues are clearly overwhelmed. I compare their situation to standing in a batting cage with multiple pitching machines turned on high.

On the community level here at St. Matt's, we have an unusual setup. In large part, that's because we don't have a resident pastor. Fr. Thomas, like Fr. Steve before him, is our *sacramental minister*. He's free from administrative responsibilities. I handle those, ably assisted by our superb staff. In addition, I'm our main liaison to the Archdiocese.

With regard to official Archdiocesan matters, we're the responsibility of Fr. Antony Skaria, our *parochial administrator*. For the most part, he's busy with his pastoral assignment at St. John Vianney in South St. Paul. That's why we don't see him much. Of course, we keep him informed with regard to financial matters, hiring, and other major items.

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



### The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit November 29-December 5, in memory of **George Sticha**, for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing.

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on Monday, December 8 for the **Rosary Society Members**.

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on Friday, December 12 for the **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.

## Faith Formation News

**Faith Formation This Week:** On Wednesday evening, December 10, Faith Formation and Confirmation students have class in the St Matthew Parish Center. Students in Grades K to 7 meet from 6:30 to 7:45 PM, and Confirmation candidates—public school students and Catholic school students—in Grades 8 to 11 meet from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. Faith Formation parents, note December 17 on your calendar for our Advent Mass in church that we ask families to attend together.

**First Reconciliation Service:** Faith Formation and Community of Saints students in Grades 2 and up who are baptized and have registered to receive First Communion with St Matthew are invited to our First Reconciliation service on Saturday, **December 13, at 10:00 AM** in church. At least one family member should attend with the student. Family members are welcome to go to confession after the children have made their First Reconciliation.

## News and Events

### Community of Saints Regional Catholic School Collection

This weekend is our monthly second collection in support of Community of Saints Catholic School. Thank you for your continued generous support!

### Community Band and *Commonweal* Group

St. Matthew Community Band and *Commonweal* group will not meet in December. Both will resume meeting in January 2026.

### No Coffee Sunday in December

There is no Coffee Sunday in December. It will return on January 11, 2026.

## 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 December 7, 2025

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, December 6

4:15 PM +Leo Kegler  
+Kevin Kleman  
+Dorothy Williams

### Sunday, December 7

10:15 AM +Fr. Steve Adrian  
+Eileen Norton

### Saturday, December 13

4:15 PM +Arthur Geis  
+Carol Dvorak Johnson  
+Lori Ann Dvorak Simonson

### Sunday, December 14

10:15 AM +Deceased Rosary Society Members

## Calendar of Events

### Monday - Friday, December 8-12

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

### Monday, December 8

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

### Tuesday, December 9

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, December 10

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic  
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM Faith Formation  
6:45 PM - 7:50 PM Confirmation Class for Catholic School Students  
8:00 PM Men's Club Auction

### Thursday, December 11

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
6:30 PM Crafting Group

### Friday, December 12

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

### Saturday, December 13

10:00 AM First Reconciliation Service  
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions  
4:15 PM Mass

### Sunday, December 14

10:15 AM Mass  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Gifted and Belonging Meeting

### 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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