



St. Matthew's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



November 30, 2025 **First 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

Facebook www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

YouTube www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Friday

Closed

Gospel Meditation

A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing — someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive.

That's much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn't start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation.

Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos *will* come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief — not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue.

Christ presents himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And he invites us to join him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance.

This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he.

— *Father John Muir*

©LPi

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.

Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

Many people have family traditions that have been practiced since their childhood and now take place in their own families. It may be what meal to serve on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. It may be whether gifts are opened on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or who might be on the guest list for the holidays. Perhaps as you continue the traditions you have practiced since childhood with your family, add a new tradition, beginning in the first weekend of Advent! As a family, process in with the new Advent candle. Or volunteer for one of the other three weekends. It doesn't have to be a family. Friends could process in together. A beautiful way to begin preparation for the Christmas season!

If you, or members of your family, would like to take part in this "age-old tradition", talk to a sacristan or greeter at Mass. You could also call the parish office and leave a contact number.

Just as the Christmas tree always looks lovelier when the entire family helps with decorating, the sanctuary looks more beautiful knowing that many parishioners helped with the decorating. The Advent wreath would be a great place to begin the "Feast"! A member of the Liturgy Committee will return your call. Become the beginning of a "Parish Tradition"!

Thank You: To **Cristina** and **Kathy G.** who constructed the Ofrenda Altar. We also want to thank **Mary B.** who helped gather supplies and **Kathy S.** who helped with the candles. Thank you to the **Youth Club** who did a magnificent job of decorating the Ofrenda! Cristina described the Ofrenda as symbolizing the connection between the living and the dead, and that death is not the end. One Sunday evening, as I was waiting for a meeting to end so I could lock up the Social Hall, I went up into the church. I took time to really take a good look at the Ofrenda. As I looked at the pictures on the Ofrenda, memories flooded back. Pictures of people I had known since when their children were my classmates. Some of the pictures were of former classmates and close friends. Some were relatives. I remembered times when we were together. Conversations we had as fellow students in the school. Wise words from a brother. Hopefully there will be an Ofrenda Altar next year too. If so, take time to really look at the pictures. Savor the memories! Remember how many of the people in those pictures touched your life in some way. Thank you, Cristina, for introducing this "German Parish" to the Ofrenda Altar!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

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

Parish Administrator's Note

Have a Blessed Advent

Happy *Liturgical* New Year! I say that because the season of Advent is the beginning of our church year.

I look forward to Advent each year, because we get to sing special Advent hymns—great hymns full of anticipation and longing. I also like Advent's gradual build up to the full glory of Christmas, as opposed to skipping straight from Thanksgiving to December 24-25.

Preparing for Heaven (PFH)

It's complicated to prepare for heaven. That was my main takeaway from a seminar we hosted a couple of years ago. As we look towards the end of 2025, PFH is on my mind.

The PFH speakers emphasized the importance of planning ahead. It's easier than planning while grieving. Advance planning is one of the greatest gifts we can give our loved ones. Some things to consider:

- Our music and liturgy director, Cristina Czaia, can help you with **funeral** planning.
- Catholic **estate** planning. Think of it as a road map. Which direction will you take when it comes to a medical directive? A will or a trust? Power of attorney? Beneficiaries for your funds and assets? Charitable bequests?
- Who's on your **planning team**? Members could include an estate planning attorney, your family, a financial planner, and a philanthropic advisor. *Note: please let me know if you're planning a bequest to the parish.*

At the PFH seminar, Fr. Steve Adrian spoke of being grateful as a "virtue of an older person." As I get older, I understand that more. I try to maintain an attitude of gratitude for the many blessings in my life.

As Catholics, we're blessed with rich sacramental experiences. I'm grateful for them. They help us share our faith with our children. Let us also share our approach to charity with our children. It's another gift we can give them.

Have a great week!

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

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).



Faith Formation News

Faith Formation This Week: On Wednesday evening, December 3, Faith Formation weekly students have class in the St Matthew Parish Center. Students in Grades K to 7 meet from 6:30 to 7:45 PM, and weekly students in Grades 8 to 11 meet from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. Community of Saints 8th grade families, note that your students have their monthly Confirmation class on December 10. Faith Formation parents, note December 17 on your calendar for our Advent Mass that we ask families to attend together.

News and Events

Rosary Society December Meeting DATE CHANGE

The date of the December Rosary Society meeting has been changed to **Tuesday, December 2nd**. All women of the community are invited to the meeting, which will be from **12:30 to 2:00 PM** in the lower level of the Parish Center. This month we will be sharing Christmas traditions and memories, and finalizing the plans for our December 6th and 7th Christmas Bake Sale, Boutique and Craft Fair. Christmas themed refreshments will be served. You do not need to be a member to participate in the meeting.

Isaac's Blessing Bags - One More Week!

Last day to bring your donation is **Sunday, December 7**. See the insert for list of items needed.

Reflections on Fr. Steve Adrian's Legacy:

Guest Speaker - Fr. Michael Joncas

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

6:30 PM

Church of Saint Matthew

490 Hall Avenue

Saint Paul, MN 55107

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
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Accounts Payable & Receivable
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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 30, 2025

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

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 29

4:15 PM +Donald Giesel
+Charles Ketchmark

Sunday, November 30

10:15 AM +Arthur Geis
+Jim Russell

Saturday, December 6

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

Sunday, December 7

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

Calendar of Events

Monday - Friday, December 1-5

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

Monday, December 1

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

Tuesday, December 2

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:00 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Rosary Society Meeting
6:30 PM Reflections on Fr. Steve Adrian's
Legacy: Guest Speaker - Fr. Michael
Joncas

Wednesday, December 3

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
6:30 PM Faith Formation
7:30 PM Men's Club Board Meeting

Thursday, December 4

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
4:30 PM Finance Council Meeting

Friday, December 5

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

Saturday, December 6

11:00 AM - 5:30 PM Bake Sale, Boutique and Craft Fair
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions
4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, December 7

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Breakfast with Santa
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Bake Sale, Boutique and Craft Fair
10:15 AM Mass
11:15 AM - 1:00 PM Youth Club
3:00 PM Saint Paul Civic Symphony Concert

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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