



# St. Matthew's

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



### ***December 14, 2025*** ***Third 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

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: **“What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?” (Matthew 11:7).** He’s not just describing the crowd’s mis-aimed pursuit. He’s naming our tendency to chase after what’s flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can’t satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn’t a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

— *Father John Muir*

©LPi

## Prayer Requests

**Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Alesia Brown, Alan Christensen 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*

**Christmas Decorating:** 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 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:** Recently, parishioners received our annual Advent mailing. We thank the following who helped prepare the mailing and deliver it to the post office: **Alice, Angela, Anita, Chris M., Chris W. Chuck, Kathy, Rose, and Phil.**

**Thank You: WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH.** These words end every weekly column. Over the past eight years, we have proven how a parish can thrive when parishioners volunteer to offer their services in many different ways. The weekend of November 29/30 was the beginning of the new liturgical year. On Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, for the second year in a row, everyone who has volunteered in any way to serve the parish, was invited, with their families, to our **Liturgical New Years Eve Party**. Those attending enjoyed a meal catered by Chin Chin’s on Smith Avenue. We had music, dancing and a “ball drop”. Yet, what people enjoyed the most, was socializing with their fellow volunteers. Their dedication to volunteerism is the backbone of our parish! Their children, who also attended, are our future volunteers! If you would like to be a part of our success as a parish, watch this column for volunteer opportunities. Then next year, watch this column for information regarding the 2026 Liturgical New Years Eve Party! **THANK YOU!!**

**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

### Legacy

I am writing this column the day after Fr. Michael Joncas visited St. Matt's. We invited him to reflect on Fr. Steve Adrian's legacy. Fr. Mike also reflected on the legacy of Vatican II. As a bonus, he reflected on his half century of composing music for worship.

Let's review. Fr. Steve served as pastor here for decades, retiring as pastor in 2012. He returned in 2019 as sacramental minister. In the spring of 2024, his health declined, he lost his voice, and he died on December 1, 2024. His funeral was on December 21, 2024. Fr. Mike was the homilist.

Fr. Mike spoke of Fr. Steve's many influences—on Fr. Mike himself, St. Matt's, the West Side, and beyond. Fr. Steve deployed his deep knowledge of liturgy, Scripture and theology to form this community into one focused on Catholic social teaching. He was particularly attentive to the poor.

Fr. Steve was himself profoundly influenced by the teachings of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). He regularly preached on it, reminding us of those teachings. With him, we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its four annual sessions. (Here's a coincidence: December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1965, was the last day of the Council. Fr. Steve was ordained on December 8th, 1968.)

At several points in Fr. Mike's talk, he walked over to the piano and led us in singing some of his best-known songs, such as "On Eagle's Wings." Quite the highlight!

*Know that we are compiling Fr. Steve's bulletin reflections from 2021-2024 into a booklet to be published in 2026. If interested, please pre-order through our parish office. We plan to give the book away, not sell it. We will accept donations, however.*

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

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.



### Christmas Eve Mass

Wednesday, December 24 – 4:15 pm

### Christmas Day Mass

Thursday, December 25 – 10:15 am

### The Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 27 – 4:15 pm

Sunday, December 28 – 10:15 am

## Faith Formation News

**Faith Formation Advent Mass:** On Wednesday evening, December 17, Faith Formation students, parents/guardians, family, and catechists will gather in church for Mass at 6:45 pm with our presider, Father Dolan. This Mass takes the place of regular Wednesday evening class time in the Parish Center. All parishioners are invited to join us for the Mass. Note that there are no Faith Formation classes on December 24 and December 31 due to the Christmas and New Year's breaks.

## News and Events

### No Coffee Sunday in December

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

### Neighborhood House Collection

Next weekend is the monthly Neighborhood House collection. There will be a basket by the main entrance for you to place your non-perishable or monetary donation. During the month of November, St. Matthew donated **103 pounds** of food. On behalf of Neighborhood House and the people it serves, thank you for your generosity!

### Monthly Scripture Study

St. Matthew's monthly Scripture Study is on **Tuesday, December 23 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).

## 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 14, 2025

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

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt  
21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/  
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-  
17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-  
25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom  
1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

## Mass Intentions

### 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

### Saturday, December 20

4:15 PM +Don Leibl  
+Pam, Lucille, and Robert Stickler, Sr.

### Sunday, December 21

10:15 AM +Adam Paul Roscoe  
+Mary Ann Roscoe

## Calendar of Events

### Monday - Friday, December 15 - 19

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

### Monday, December 15

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

### Tuesday, December 16

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

### Wednesday, December 17

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic  
5:30 PM - 6:45 PM Baptism Preparation Meeting (Age 7-13)  
7:00 PM Faith Formation Advent Mass  
7:00 PM - 8:15 PM Baptism Preparation Meeting (Age 14-17)

### Thursday, December 18

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

### Friday, December 19

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

### Saturday, December 20

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

### Sunday, December 21

10:15 AM Mass

### 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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