



St. Matthew's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD.

— JOHN 1:29 —

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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January 18, 2026 **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Times

- **Saturday, 4:00 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

It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: "Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34). That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something — or Someone — we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness — carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church — has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

— *Father John Muir*

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Prayer Requests

Donald Baier, Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Alesia Brown, Norma Cahill, Alan Christensen, Tony Elizondo, 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

Mass Time Change: Why is our Saturday Mass time changing?? Years ago, when we had MANY more parishioners, Mass times didn't change. This is true! Before 1968, when the original church was destroyed by fire, Mass times rarely changed. We had many more parishioners. (We had over 1,000 students in our school!) There were three priests living in the rectory and saying Mass in our church and 24 SSND nuns living in the convent. There was the "upper church" and also the chapel in the lower level of the church. Masses in the upper (main) church were at 6:00 am, 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am and 12:15 pm. Masses in the chapel were at 8:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am and 11:00 am. There really was no hour to put another Mass!

Then in April 1968, the church was destroyed by fire. Many meetings took place to plan the "new church". After the new church opened in May 1970, the parish was smaller. During the building of the new church, many parishioners went to nearby parishes. They became comfortable and active in their "adopted" parishes. Others didn't like the "modern" look of the new church and chose to go to Assumption church. (If you were never in the "old St. Matthew church", go to the Assumption church. Very similar!) Then there were the chairs! It became a "controversy"! Pews or chairs"? Parish leadership decided to let the people vote. There were many opinions, but eventually chairs won out!

As a parish, we have "grown into" our "new" church. We like the ability to move things around and host symphony concerts etc. Our parish has always been able to adapt to changes. We will adapt to the new Mass time, too. For many years, we did have a 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday. Then Fr. Steve began saying Mass at 3:00 pm on Saturday afternoons at Cerenity. It was difficult for him to say that Mass and still get to St. Matthews for the 4:00 pm Mass. Mass was then moved to 4:15 pm on Saturday.

So, if you have always attended the Saturday 4:15 pm Mass, come for 4:00 pm! You will still see the people you enjoy visiting with each week. You will also be able to get to a restaurant 15 minutes earlier. Beat the crowd! If you attend the Sunday 10:15 am Mass, nothing changes for you!

***WE ARE NOT ONLY A VOLUNTEER PARISH,
BUT ALSO AN ADAPTABLE PARISH!***

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

Parish Administrator's Note

The Power of Conversation

How good are you at listening? How about talking?

I was thinking about talking and listening this past week, as I reviewed our recent *Commonweal* magazine discussion (on Saturday, January 3). We discussed an article from the November issue, "Qualities Without Men".*

The article was actually a review of two recent books, *The Crisis of Culture: Identity Politics and the Empire of Norms and Immediacy: Or, The Style of Too Late Capitalism*. (I'm a fan of *Commonweal's* reviews, as I usually lack the time to read an entire book.)

Our group's discussion guidelines help us focus our conversation, by attending to four levels:

- (Level 1) Factual clarity. What do the words in the article mean? What do the historical and theological references mean?
- (2) How do we feel about the article? What appeals to us? What do we struggle with? You might call this the "heart" level.
- (3) What do we think about the article? This is more of a "head" or analytical level. What might we do with the article's ideas or insights?
- (4) Given all of the above, what will we do with the article?

We had a great discussion, if I say so myself. Near the end of our time together, Marty suggested talk as an antidote to some of the concerns brought up in the article. Those concerns included a devaluing of the inner life, the internet revolution, and the "individualist and hedonist revolution of the 1960s."

These are big concerns. I submit that good talking and listening are powerful ways to address them. I've found the "Focused Conversation" method—as the four levels are called—a great way to promote connection, understanding, and problem solving. I used the method extensively in my career in education, as a teacher and as an administrator. (To learn more about the method, feel free to email or talk to me.)

*I put a few copies of the article in the back of church, free to anyone who's interested.

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

Faith Formation and Sacrament Classes: Faith Formation students in Grades K to 11 who attend public school have class on January 21 in the Parish Center. Grades K to 7 start at 6:30 pm and Grades 8 to 11 start at 6:45 pm. Community of Saints 8th graders preparing for Confirmation also have class on January 21 from 6:45 to 7:50 pm. The evening of January 28, only students preparing for First Communion plus their parents have class, and we meet at 6:30 pm in church on January 28, not in the Parish Center. The January 28 group includes both the weekly Faith Formation students preparing for First Communion and Community of Saints and other Catholic school students seeking First Communion through St Matthew.

News and Events

Safety & Security – Save the Date

We're convening a new task force at St. Matt's at **6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 10**. This Safety and Security task force will be charged with examining all aspects of safety & security for our campus. One goal is an up-to-date Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

We have some measures in place, but I'm aware of growing concerns—particularly since the Annunciation tragedy last August.

If you'd like to help with this effort, please let me know. Several volunteers have already come forward. I anticipate developing a core group while also welcoming occasional attendees who can share particular information and ideas.

Phil Grant

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

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 January 18, 2026

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21

Next Sunday: Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 17

4:00 PM +Don Leibl
+Deceased Members of Rosary Society

Sunday, January 18

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

Saturday, January 24

4:00 PM +Bill Brengman
+Helen Leibl
+Pam, Lucille and Robert Stickler, Sr.

Sunday, January 25

10:15 AM +Deceased Members of Our Parish

Calendar of Events

Tuesday - Friday, January 20 - 23

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

St. Matthew Loaves and Fishes Meal Site closed on Monday, January 19.

Monday, January 19

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

Tuesday, January 20

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

Wednesday, January 21

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

Thursday, January 22

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:00PM Craft Group
6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

Friday, January 23

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

Saturday, January 24

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

Sunday, January 25

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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