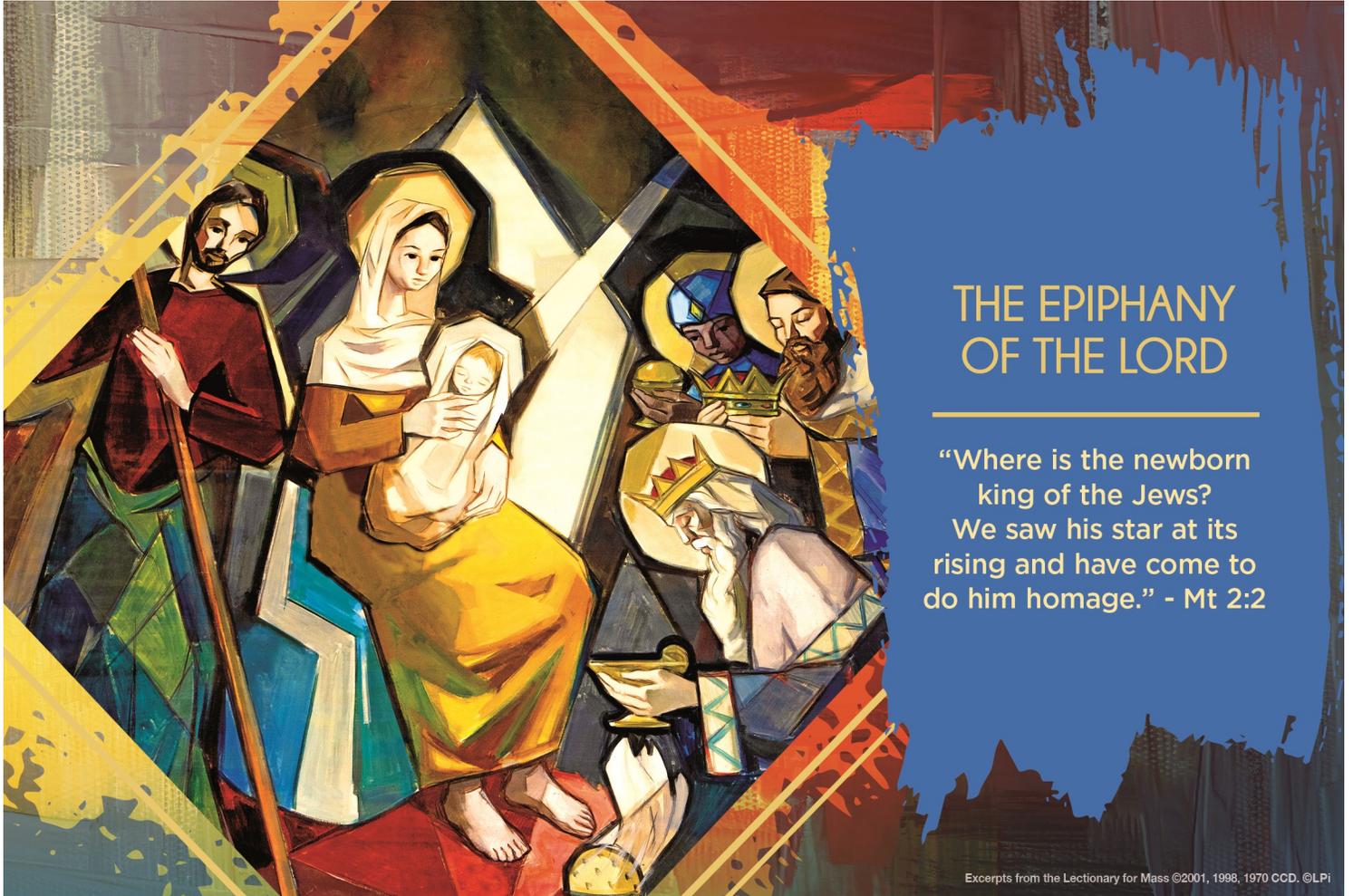




# St. Matthew's

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“Where is the newborn  
king of the Jews?  
We saw his star at its  
rising and have come to  
do him homage.” - Mt 2:2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 COD. ©LPI

### **January 4, 2026** **The Epiphany of the Lord**

#### **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 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

— *Father John Muir*

©LPi

## Prayer Requests

**Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Alesia Brown, 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.*

*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***

**Decorations:** The Baptism of the Lord (next Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>) marks the end of the Christmas season! Immediately after the 10:15 AM Mass, we will begin taking down and putting away all the Christmas decorations. We invite anyone who is able, to join us in putting away Christmas!

**Funeral Ministry:** The Church of St. Matthew invites you to be a part of a compassionate ministry providing hospitality to grieving families. You are needed to help set up and serve post-funeral luncheons to families and their guests. If you can help, please call the parish office at 651-224-9793.

**Greeters:** St. Matthews seeks additional Greeters to extend a warm welcome to those arriving for Mass. Your friendly smile and enthusiasm for the Church of St. Matthew parish are all that's needed. To help, contact [mleibl@st-matts.org](mailto:mleibl@st-matts.org) or the parish office.

**Thank You:** To **Paul, Jair** and **Steve** who have kept our sidewalks and parking lot clear of snow and safe for walking and driving!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*Mary Leibl*  
Volunteer Coordinator  
[mleibl@st-matts.org](mailto:mleibl@st-matts.org)



### 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 Administrator's Note

### Our Worship, Together

It's central to our faith to worship together, which is why I was delighted to see so many people at Masses during the Christmas season! I like the feeling of solidarity with fellow believers. We're strengthened by everyone's presence.

It's a great help that our church building was wonderfully beautiful during the past few weeks. Many thanks to all those who decorated the church for the Christmas season, including **Mary** and **Bob Bejblik**, **Mary Leibl**, **Karen Thompson**, and **volunteers from our parish Faith Formation program, coordinated by Janelle Rohr and Dave Sunday.**

### Looking back at 2025

- At the global level, we have a new Pope! It seems that Leo XIV is following in Pope Francis's footsteps. That is, he's promoting engagement among all parts of and levels in our worldwide church. That reflects the thinking of the Second Vatican Council, which called for increased engagement with and by the laity.
- Locally, the Archdiocese has begun a multi-year campaign called, "Lord, Renew Your Church." We'll learn more in the next few months.
- Very locally: we're a volunteer parish, led almost entirely by lay people. We're fortunate at St. Matt's to have many volunteers engaged in multiple ministries, councils and projects. Let us pray that even more volunteers come forward in 2026. (Maybe you're one of them?)
- It's far easier to see in hindsight what the Holy Spirit is doing among us. Still, I feel like there's an emerging pattern, a pattern that emphasizes a form of church with extensive lay leadership. That's an opportunity. It's also a challenge.

Big moments linger in memory. There were also many wonderful, ordinary moments as well. Throughout 2025, I was blessed to meet people, learn their names, and hear their stories. I look forward to more experiences of God in 2026, in moments great and small.

A Merry end to your Christmas season, and Happy New Year!

*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 Classes Resume:** Faith Formation students in Grades K to 11 have class on January 7 in the Parish Center. Grades K to 7 start at 6:30 PM and Grades 8 to 11 start at 6:45 PM. Note that Confirmation candidates and parents are asked to attend Mass at 10:15 AM on Sunday, January 11. All families are welcome at every St Matthew weekend Mass.

## News and Events

### Community of Saints Catholic School Collection

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

### Save the Date: Women's Social Hour

All adult women of the parish are invited to our second **Women's Social Hour on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm** in the Parish Center's main floor meeting room. Come for all or part of it. Enjoy the refreshments and socialize with women you know and women you have not yet met. If you can, and to help us with planning, please call the front office (651-224-9793) by **noon, Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup>**, to let us know you're coming. Still come, if you haven't called.

### Coffee Sunday Returns

Our next Coffee Sunday is **January 11 after the Sunday 10:15 AM Mass**, hosted by the Parish Council. Come down to the Social Hall and visit with your fellow parishioners. We hope to see you there!

### Contribution Statements

If you would like an annual contribution statement for 2025, call the parish office. We send these statements out upon request. (According to the IRS, it is the donor's responsibility to ask for such statements.)

Regardless of how you contribute, thank you! We could not sustain our service to our community without your generous support.

## 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 4, 2026

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 3, 2026

4:15 PM Fr. Steve Adrian  
+Michael Giefer

### Sunday, January 4

10:15 AM +Deceased Members of Our Parish

### Saturday, January 10

4:15 PM +Deceased Members of Our Parish

### Sunday, January 11

10:15 AM +Donald Giesel

## Calendar of Events

### Monday - Friday, January 5 - 9

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

### Monday, January 5

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

### Tuesday, January 6

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
6:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, January 7

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic  
12:00 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting  
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM Faith Formation  
7:30 PM Men's Club Board Meeting

### Thursday, January 8

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

### Friday, January 9

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Women's Social Hour hosted by the Rosary Society

### Saturday, January 10

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

### Sunday, January 11

10:15 AM Mass  
After Mass Coffee Sunday  
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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