



Christmas Choir

Join the St. Matt's Choir on Christmas Eve Mass!

December 24, 4:15 PM
Caroling to start at 3:45 PM
Call Time: 3:00 PM

Rehearsal Dates (Tuesdays):

**December 16
December 23**

7:00 - 9:00 PM



**Retirement Fund for Religious
December 13 and 14, 2025**

For 174 of our 175 years as an Archdiocese, we have been blessed with the presence of religious. The annual Retirement Fund for Religious is one way to support those who have given a lifetime. These Religious Sisters and Brothers and Religious Order Priests have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay.

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious helps enable many religious communities to meet their pressing retirement needs for the essential care, medicine and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Your contributions also support newer religious communities with their retirement planning.

In 2025, the faithful of our archdiocese donated \$474,939 to the fund. A testament to how much we love our consecrated religious! We thank you for your past generosity and ask that when the collection takes place the weekend of December 13 and 14, 2025, that you may give generously in gratitude for our religious sisters and brothers and religious order priests. Donations may be given directly to your parish for them to forward onto the archdiocese. Find more information at **retiredreligious.org**.

To contribute, specially marked envelopes are available in the back of the church. **Make checks out to the Church of St. Matthew with "RFR" in the memo line.**

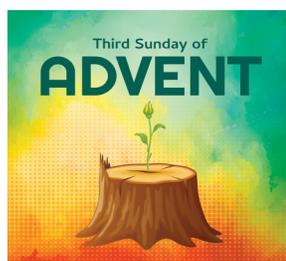
Join us as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child with the sacred tradition of the **Jesse Tree**.

Each week ornaments will be placed on our Jesse Tree in the Sanctuary at Church. Printouts of the ornaments will be available in the back of Church for you to take home.

Adorn a tree in your home with these beautiful ornaments illustrating our sacred stories; From the creation of the world to the birth of the Savior, together we will unwrap the symbols, stories, and lessons that will bring the true meaning of Christmas to life.

This weekends ornaments include:

- Day 14 - Solomon Builds a Temple (Kings 5:5)
- Day 15 - Esther (Esther 4:14)
- Day 16 - Isaiah's First Prophecy (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- Day 17 - Isaiah's Second Prophecy (Isaiah 11:6-9)
- Day 18 - Jonah and the Whale (Jonah 3:1-5)
- Day 19: Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6:22)
- Day 20: Prophecy of a Savior (Micah 5:3-5)



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed, worked at, and purchased items at our Rosary Society Christmas Bake Sale, Boutique, and Craft Fair on Saturday and Sunday.

-St. Matt's Rosary Society

Baptism Preparation Meeting (age 6 and younger)

Baptism preparation meetings for parents and guardians with children aged six or younger for baptism are scheduled for:

- **Saturday, January 10 at 10:00 AM**

Registration is required, at least one week in advance. To register — or for more information — please contact **Cristina Czaia (cczaia@st-matts.org)** or call the Parish Office (651-224-9793).

Thank You!

St. Matthew would like to thank **the Ahern family** and **the Evergreen Industries** for their donation of Christmas wreaths and garlands. These beautiful greeneries fill our worship space during the Advent and Christmas seasons!



Vatican Unveiled

January 10-February 1, 2026
Mall of America, Bloomington

In celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Catholic Church in Minnesota, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is hosting Vatican Unveiled, an exhibit of the largest collection of papal artifacts outside of Rome.

Father Richard Kunst, a priest of the Diocese of Duluth, serves as curator of the exhibit. Father Kunst has a deep knowledge of the items and a passion for telling their stories. Find more information at archspm.org/vaticanunveiled.

Gifted and Belonging Meeting

Gifted and Belonging will hold their next meeting at St. Matthew **this Sunday, December 14 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM** in the Social Hall. This month's theme is **Advent and Christmas Celebration!** Bring Christmas cookies or treats to share and your voice to sing Christmas Carols!!

Gifted and Belonging aims to provide Catholic fellowship for young adults with disabilities, seen and unseen. The group invites you to get together to share a brief time of prayer and reflection followed by games and social activities. For more information, visit www.giftedbelonging.com/

December 7th Volunteer Column Correction

Mea Culpa! When I read the volunteer column I wrote last week, re: Pearl Harbor, I immediately noticed that I had written Pearl Harbor had been attacked on December 7, **1942**. Suddenly, I felt the earth shake and heard a rumbling sound in the distance. For nine years, I was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. I believe that every one of my former teachers was turning over in her grave! Of course, they had taught us that Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, **1941!** I even remember an episode of "The Waltons" that described the fear Americans felt on that day. My apologies to you, and to all of my former teachers, for not proofreading the column.

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator



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