



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

Last Rehearsal on
Tuesday,
December 23
7:00 - 9:00 PM



Candle Safety – Christmas Eve Mass

At this year's Christmas Eve Mass, we will darken the church and light candles during the service. This will enhance our celebration of Jesus's birth and His role in bringing light to the world.

For everyone's safety—and to minimize cleanup—please follow these guidelines.

- Keep candles upright, so wax doesn't spill onto the carpet. It is difficult to remove wax from our carpet.
- Parents, you are responsible for your children's use of candles.
- We invite participation by as many worshippers as possible. Accordingly, children seven or older may hold a lighted candle if their parents permit.
- Children under seven may hold an unlighted candle if their parents permit.

Thank you for your understanding and participation.

Phil Grant

Church Doors & Security

Here's how we currently balance safety and hospitality:

- The main door (#1) is customarily unlocked 30-40 minutes before Mass begins. It remains unlocked during Mass. Ushers or other volunteers are inside, ready to welcome worshippers.
- The Social Hall door (#5) is unlocked about 30 minutes before Mass begins, so that people can access the elevator. It is locked after Mass begins.
- The Robie Street door (#6) is unlocked about 30 minutes before Mass begins. It is locked after Mass begins.

I plan to convene a campus-wide task force to examine our safety and security protocols—probably in February. Given the concerns at some of our sister parishes, we want to make sure we have a good balance between security and hospitality.

If interested in being part of the safety and security task force, please let me know. Thanks!

Phil Grant

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 9th, 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 8th**, to let us know you're coming. Still come, if you haven't called.



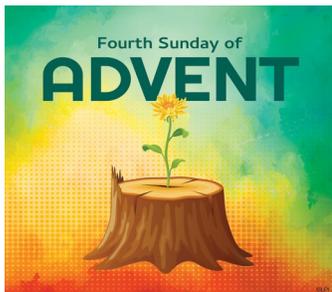
Join us as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child with the sacred tradition of the **Jesse Tree**.

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 21 - John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-6)
- Day 22 - God Chooses Mary (Luke 1:30-33)
- Day 23 - Mary & Joseph go to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-5)
- Day 24 - Jesus is born (Luke 2:8-14)
- Day 25 - Wise Men Bring Gifts to Jesus (Matthew 2:11)



December Scripture Study Canceled

There will be no Scripture Study meeting on Tuesday, December 23.

It will resume on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the Parish Center. Thank you!

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 **Angela Rakow (arakow@st-matts.org)** or call the Parish Office (651-224-9793).

ATTENTION: St. Matt's Classes of 1970 and 1971

We are having a combined 50th Class Reunion. Due to Covid, ours were cancelled but now it's our time. Please watch for further info in the church bulletin and COS Good News Newsletter. Thank you!

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.

