



St. Matthew's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

HAVE SEEN
A GREAT
LIGHT.

— MATTHEW 4:16 —

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI

January 25, 2026

Third 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

I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: "Go to the seminary." There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, "Lord, if that's from you, let me find great joy in it." Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today's Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, "Come after me" (Matthew 4:19). And immediately they leave their nets and follow. There's no explanation, no hesitation ... just movement. Why? As St. John says, "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us" (1 John 4:10). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus' call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him.

— *Father John Muir*

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Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ~ Isaiah 6:8

For many years, we had a woman living in this parish who loved serving God and also serving the people of this parish. She began her work here as a first grade teacher. She was dedicated to the people of this parish. A day came when she decided it was time to retire from teaching and take on a new "mission". She loved our parish, and when she retired from teaching, she asked her SSND superiors if she could remain at St. Matthews. Not as a teacher in the school, but as a parish minister to the people of our parish. They agreed and Sr. Ann Becker became the Pastoral Minister for St. Matthews parish!

She went from first grade teacher, serving 6-7 year olds, to ministering to the elderly of our parish. Age never slowed her down. If ever a parishioner asked for her to visit, or to bring them the Eucharist, she would make that visit as soon as possible! When St. Matthew school closed, it was Sr. Anne who led volunteers to clean out that school. They held a successful "garage sale" of many of the items in the school. When people would ask her how she was still able to accomplish all she did, if the job wasn't some times "overwhelming", her answer would be "What would Jesus do?" She came into the church one Easter Monday. I was crawling on the floor with steam iron and brown paper bag trying to get the wax out of the carpet. (On Holy Saturday, when candles were lit at the service, people had extinguished their candles and placed them on the carpet allowing the liquid wax to flow out onto the carpet.) She asked me what I was doing and I grumbled that people had put their candles down before the wax had hardened. I was trying to get the wax out of the carpet. Sr. Anne shook her head and said, "Mary, what would Jesus do!?"

We are a Volunteer Parish! We are looking for more volunteers who could come in to answer phones when one of our receptionists is unavailable. We could use more lectors to serve at Masses. The volunteers who serve funeral luncheons could also use more volunteers. If you can help in one of these services, please call the Parish Center 651-224-9793 and leave your contact information. In the words of Sister Anne Becker SSND:

"What Would Jesus Do!"

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

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.

Parish Administrator's Note

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

Ever since the tragedy at Annunciation School and Church last August, parishes throughout the Archdiocese have begun creating or updating their EOPs. The goal is to provide safe environments everywhere, while also being prepared to respond to potential crises.

Here at St. Matt's, we're convening an initial meeting of a **Safety & Security Task Force** at 6pm on **Tuesday, February 10**. The agenda's still under development, as this is a new thing for us. I expect several questions to be on the agenda:

- What is happening in our neighborhood?
- What are people's concerns?
- What opportunities do we have to improve safety and security here?
- What are our priorities?
- Who's willing to help, and in which capacities?
- What are our immediate, mid-term, and long-term next steps?
- When will we meet again?

Volunteers are already stepping up to help form our task force and develop our EOP. If you can help, please let Angela and me know.

With regard to crises, here's what Archbishop Hebda recently wrote:

We continue to be at a time in this country when we need to lower the temperature of rhetoric, stop fear-filled speculation and start seeing all people as created in the image and likeness of God. That is as true for our immigrant sisters and brothers as it is for our elected officials and those who are responsible for enforcing our laws. I echo today the repeated call of the U.S. Catholic bishops that we come together as a nation and pass meaningful immigration reform that does justice to all parties. The longer we refuse to grapple with this issue in the political arena, the more divisive and violent it becomes.

It is only by working together — with God's help — that we will have peace in our communities, state and world.

Thank you for your support. 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

Only First Communion Students This Week: Faith Formation students and Community of Saints and other Catholic school students in Grades 2 through 9 who are preparing to make their First Communion this spring have class in church on Wednesday, January 28, from 6:30 to 7:45 PM. Parents/guardians of those First Communion students also attend class on January 28 from 6:30 to 7:45 PM in St Matthew church. Faith Formation students in Grades K and 1 do NOT have class on January 28, and students in Grades 3 to 11 who have already made their First Communion do NOT have class that evening, either.

News and Events

Monthly Scripture Study

St. Matthew's monthly Scripture Study is on **Tuesday, January 27 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.

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). If you'd like to help with this effort, please let Phil Grant know.

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 | Delfina Reynolds |
| Terry Grundtner | Ellen Schneider |
| Maggie Lee | 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 25, 2026

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 Monday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 24

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

Sunday, January 25

10:15 AM +Jimmel Padaong
+Jason Padaong

Saturday, January 31

4:00 PM +Charles Ketchmark

Sunday, February 1

10:15 AM +Fr. Steve Adrian

Calendar of Events

Monday - Friday, January 26-30

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

Monday, January 26

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

Tuesday, January 27

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
5:300 PM - 7:00 PM Scripture Study

Wednesday, January 28

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM First Communion Class

Thursday, January 29

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

Friday, January 30

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

Saturday, January 31

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

Sunday, February 1

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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