



St. Matthew's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



HE WENT UP THE
MOUNTAIN AND BEGAN
TO TEACH.

— MATTHEW 5:1 —

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI

February 1, 2026

Fourth 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

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege — and the burden — of walking closely with him during that time.

He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: **“Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad” (Matthew 5:11-12).** Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike — more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

— *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

In about 2 ½ weeks, Lent will begin. Five weeks after that, we will celebrate Holy Week and Easter season. During this time, we often need more liturgical ministers.

Processional Cross: The processional cross will be carried during the Easter season, at the beginning and again at the end of Mass. The Mass will begin with the priest processing to the sanctuary. This procession will be led by an individual carrying the processional cross. At the end of Mass, someone carries the cross out in front of the celebrant.

Lectors: We are in need of more parishioners to serve as lectors at the Saturday 4:00 pm Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers: During the Easter season, we will offer both the wine and the Eucharist. We will need more volunteers to distribute Communion at those Masses. Eucharistic ministers must have already received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Please take some time to pray on this. If you feel that you would like to serve your parish as a lector, Eucharistic minister or if you would like to process with the cross at the beginning and end of each Mass, contact Mary Leibl at mleibl@st-matts.org.

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
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

Neighborism

It's been rough in the Twin Cities lately, and I'm not just talking about the bitter cold. With regard to the recent deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, I wonder how you're feeling.

Last Saturday at 7:00 p.m., I joined neighbors for a candlelight vigil. Despite the cold, we had a dozen people gathered on our street corner. I enjoyed meeting new people and sharing neighborhood stories, while also reflecting on Alex Pretti's death earlier in the day. We wrapped up by singing, "This Little Light of Mine."

As is often said, it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.

I'm still trying to figure out how else I can respond to current circumstances. Prayer certainly comes to mind. I'm glad to pray for Renee Good and Alex Pretti. That's easy. I also pray for members of our local police, National Guard, and ICE. (I'm reminded of a Fr. Steve Adrian homily at the beginning of Lent a few years back. He asked us to think of someone who opposed or troubled us . . . then said, OK, that's who I want you to pray for this Lent. It was hard then. It's still hard. But--everyone is a child of God.)

I know I'm not the only person thinking about all this. At our January Parish Council meeting, we had an extended discussion about current circumstances. We noted that many members of our community are helping to collect and distribute food, organizing neighborhood watches, and getting kids to school. (See also this week's insert.)

It is better to work with neighbors on behalf of the common good, than to try to do everything by ourselves. Call it "neighborism".

Let's continue to share our feelings and thoughts during these rough times. Let's continue to seek ways to express God's love in the world.

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 Confirmation Classes: Faith Formation students in Grades K to 11 have class in person on February 4 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 in-person class on February 4 from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. In addition to classes in the Parish Center, the Faith Formation and sacrament preparation program now offers a Zoom option for current registered students to attend class on February 4 and subsequent weeks. Parents and guardians, see your email for the link, meeting ID, and passcode to have your student join his or her classroom from home.

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!

Coffee Sunday

Our next Coffee Sunday is **February 8 after the Sunday 10:15 AM Mass** hosted by the Men's Club. Come down to the Social Hall and visit with your fellow parishioners. We hope to see you there!

Rosary Society Meeting - Preparing for Lent

The Rosary Society of St. Matthew will meet on **Tuesday, February 10, from 12:30 to 2 p.m.** in the lower level of the Parish Center. Refreshments will be served at 12:30 p.m. and our program, Preparing for Lent, begins at 1:00 p.m. **Guest speaker is Deacon Luis Rubi of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. All members of the St. Matthew Parish Community are invited.**

Ash Wednesday, February 18

**Communion Service - 7:00 AM
Mass - 7:00 PM**



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 February 1, 2026

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

Monday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 31

4:00 PM +Hank Goers
+Charles Ketchmark

Sunday, February 1

10:15 AM +Fr. Steve Adrian

Saturday, February 7

4:00 PM +Don Giesel
+Leo Kegler & Kevin Kleman
+Dorothy Robinette

Sunday, February 8

10:15 AM +Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Lori Ann Dvorak Simonson

Calendar of Events

Monday - Friday, February 2-6

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

Monday, February 2

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

Tuesday, February 3

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
4:30 PM Finance Council Meeting
6:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 4

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
12:00PM Liturgy Committee Meeting
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM Faith Formation
6:45 PM - 7:50 PM Catholic School Students Confirmation Class #5

Thursday, February 5

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

Friday, February 6

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
6:30 PM St. Matthew Community Band

Saturday, February 7

10:00 AM *Commonweal* Discussion Group
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions
4:00 PM Mass

Sunday, February 8

10:15 AM Mass
After Mass Coffee Sunday
6:30 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.*

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