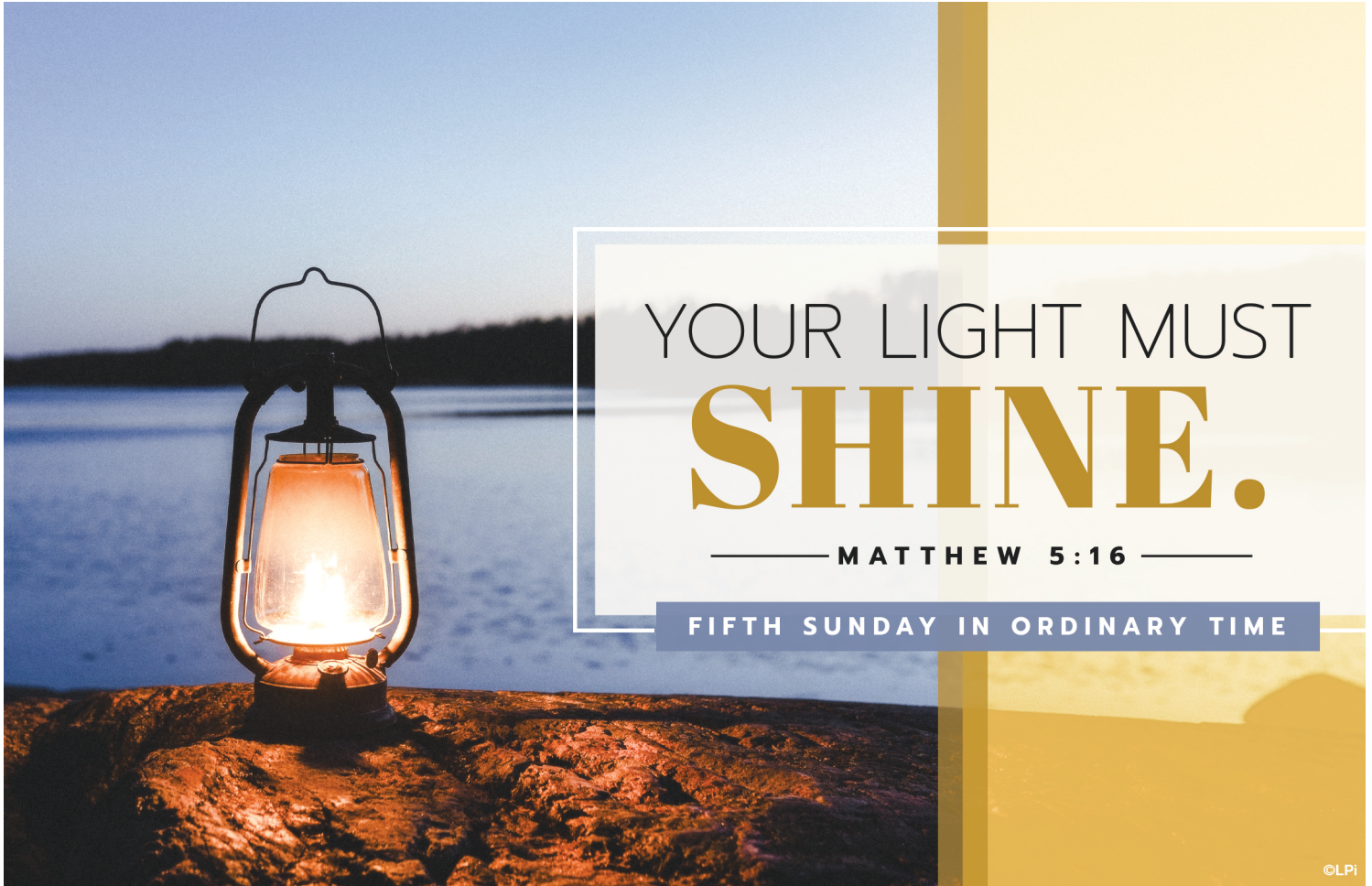




# St. Matthew's

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



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### **February 8, 2026**

### ***Fifth 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](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

I recently learned why zebras have stripes. Scientists used to think it was for camouflage, but new research suggests something more interesting: the stripes help zebras blend in with one another. When a predator looks at a herd, the overlapping stripes make it hard to single out one animal. But if a researcher spray-paints a dot on just one zebra, predators lock on it and eventually attack. The lesson? In the wild, blending in is protection. Standing out can be dangerous.

Human beings are not so different. Most of us would rather blend in than stand out, especially when it comes to our faith. We know that giving bold witness to Jesus — through our words, values, or public choices — can make us targets for criticism, isolation, or judgment. That's why Jesus' words in today's Gospel are so challenging: **"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14).**

A city on a hill draws attention. It also draws fire. But that's part of the cost of discipleship. Jesus doesn't call us to be tribal or boastful. He calls us to stand in the open with humble confidence, so that people might see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. Today, let's ask for the courage not just to believe in Christ, but to be seen believing in him.

— *Father John Muir*

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## Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

**Who is interested in joining a group that would bring fellowship and pastoral care to our parishioners?**

For many years, we had volunteers who went out on Monday mornings to take the Eucharist to our homebound parishioners. They visited with these parishioners, listened to them and shared news of the parish.

Sister Anne also made it her ministry to visit the elderly and homebound. She too would offer fellowship and the Eucharist.

St. Matthew's would like to offer pastoral care to our parishioner who are not able to join us at Mass in person. To do so, we need volunteer(s) to help organize this pastoral care ministry.

**If you are interested in serving the homebound of our parish, many whom were once themselves dedicated volunteers, please contact the Parish Center and leave your name and contact information.**

***WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!***

*Mary Leibl  
Volunteer Coordinator  
mleibl@st-matts.org*

## Prayer Requests

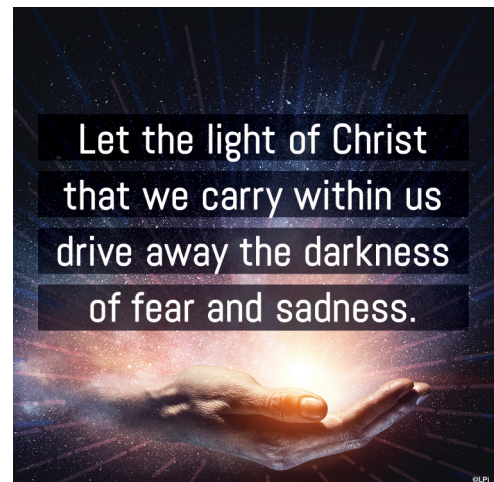
**Donald Baier, Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Alesia Brown, Norma Cahill, Alan Christensen, Tony Elizondo, Kevin Fleming, Jr., Philip Heitzinger, Joan Johnson, Sean Kane, Bernie Klein, Don Luna, Tom Maloney, Diane McFarland, Stephen Mike, Geriann Raway, Linda Rivera, and Doris Schillinger.**

*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.*

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## 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

### Safety & Security

This **Tuesday, February 10**, St. Matt's is convening an initial meeting of a Safety and Security Task Force. We will begin at 6:00 pm in our Social Hall. (All are welcome.) I expect to wrap up this initial meeting by 7:30 pm. Planning committee members will likely stay for another 20-30 minutes.

As I wrote in my column for the weekend of January 24-25 (available on our website), our goal is to develop an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). All parishes in our Archdiocese are engaged in a similar process, triggered by the tragedy at Annunciation Parish and School last August.

### What we will do on February 10<sup>th</sup>

- Respond to questions I listed a couple of weeks ago. See this week's insert for that list.
- Provide initial training on de-escalation tactics.
- Identify some next steps.
- Take notes and report back to our community.

### What we will not do on February 10<sup>th</sup>

- Answer all questions fully.
- Finish our EOP.
- Spend much time on a parish response to federal immigration agents' actions in the Twin Cities.

Because the feds' actions are such an important topic, we have scheduled a *separate* meeting for the following **Tuesday, February 17**. That meeting will also begin at 6:00 pm in our Social Hall. All are welcome.

A main purpose of the February 17 meeting is to provide an opportunity for people to express their feelings and be listened to. I expect some community organizing to occur as well, similar to what we've already begun doing, e.g., creating a Temporary Informal Food Shelf (TIFS) in our parish office, helping people get to work and children to school, and supporting increased neighborhood watchfulness.

We have many opportunities to work with each other and on our own. The two meetings thus far planned will focus on working together. As for things we can do on our own, let's recall the old saying, "Pray as if everything depends on God; act as if everything depends on you."

Have a great week!

*Phil Grant, Administrator*  
*Safe Environment Coordinator*  
[pgrant@st-matts.org](mailto: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](mailto:arakow@st-matts.org)).



## Faith Formation

**Faith Formation Classes:** Faith Formation students in Grades K to 11 have class in person on February 11 in the Parish Center. Grades K to 7 start at 6:30 PM and grades 8 to 11 start at 6:45 PM. Families, note that next week, the February 18 class will be replaced with Ash Wednesday Mass in the church. Plan to attend the Mass and to arrive by 6:45 PM.

## News and Events

### 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 12:00 to 2:00 PM** in the lower level of the Parish Center. This month's program, Preparing for Lent, begins at 1:00 p.m. All members of the St. Matthew Parish Community are invited. See the insert for more information.

### Temporary Informal Food Shelf

We have set up a Temporary Informal Food Shelf in our Parish Office. Generous donors have already contributed more than \$1,000 in food. Volunteers are distributing this food to neighbors in need.

This is in addition to our monthly food collection for Neighborhood House, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month.

If you would like to contribute and/or help distribute the food, please let the office know. Thank you!

## 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 8, 2026

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

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

## Mass Intentions

### 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

### Saturday, February 14

4:00 PM +Bill Brengman  
+Dorinda Martineau  
+Joseph Savard

### Sunday, February 15

10:15 AM +Adam Paul Roscoe  
+Mary Ann Roscoe

## Calendar of Events

### Monday - Friday, February 9 - 13

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

### Monday, February 9

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

### Tuesday, February 10

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Rosary Society Meeting  
6:00 PM Safety and Security Task Force

### Wednesday, February 11

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 Faith Formation  
8:00 PM Men's Club Meeting

### Thursday, February 12

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

### Friday, February 13

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

### Saturday, February 14

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

### Sunday, February 15

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](mailto:arakow@st-matts.org). *Items received after 10:00 AM will appear in the following week's bulletin.*

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