



St. Matthew's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF

Lent

©LPi

February 22, 2026 **First Sunday of Lent**

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

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: "**Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil**" (Matthew 4:1). The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— Father John Muir

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Prayer Requests

Donald Baier, Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Alesia Brown, Norma Cahill, 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

Parish Center Reception Desk: We are looking for volunteers who are willing to work at the Parish Center reception desk. Currently, we need a volunteer on **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays**. Duties include greeting visitors, answering telephones and light office work. Our office hours are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, but you can volunteer hours that work for your schedule. If you are interested in serving your parish in this way, please call the Parish Center (651-224-9793).

Liturgical Ministry: For more information on how to get involved in Liturgy at St. Matt's, please contact **Mary Leibl** at mleibl@st-matts.org or **Cristina Czaia** at cczaia@st-matts.org. You can also speak to a greeter or sacristan before or after Mass. Scheduling is based on your availability. Training is provided.

Thank You: By now you should have received the Lenten mailing, including the *Little Black Book*. We would like to thank the volunteers who gathered to put together the mailing with these books: **Alice, Kathy, Karen, Rose, Chuck** and **Chris M.** The mailing also included a sheet for Easter Flower donations. You can list on this sheet names of people who are being remembered with these donations.

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

Community: Support and Recovery

Last Tuesday, community members gathered to share concerns in a supportive setting. We convened the meeting in light of current circumstances, notably the federal government's immigration crackdown. Called "Metro Surge", the crackdown led to approximately 3,000 federal agents coming to Minnesota.

(More recently, it's been reported that most agents are being withdrawn from our state. If indeed we return to pre-Metro Surge levels, that would leave 100-150 agents in the state.)

The actions of some of those 3,000 agents have greatly affected members of our community. I'm aware of workers fearful of going to work, parents fearful of leaving their homes, and children fearful of going to school.

I'm also aware of community members driving people to work, taking food to their homes, and escorting children to school. We now have a temporary, informal food shelf in our parish office.

I support these efforts. I'm glad we hosted the meeting. It's important to process feelings, to listen to others, and to listen to ourselves.

Because I write these bulletin columns in advance, I can't yet report on Tuesday's meeting. What I can say is that I'm grateful to community members who've stepped up to help out in the wake of two major events in our Archdiocese.

The first was last August's tragic shooting at Annunciation Church and School in Minneapolis. That has led to our starting a group to develop an Emergency Operations Plan. We made a good start, identifying short- and medium-term opportunities to improve safety and security on our campus.

The second major event, of course, was Metro Surge. I expect that as that draws down, we'll shift community efforts to recovery.

Let's pray this Lent for God's grace in those efforts. Let's appreciate our community's support for members, friends, and neighbors.

*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 Classes: Faith Formation students in grades K to 11 have class in person on February 25 in the Parish Center. Grades K to 7 start at 6:30 PM and grades 8 to 11 start at 6:45 PM. Note that next week, the evening of March 4 will be an opportunity for students, parents, and siblings to go to confession with Father Dolan or Father Rasmussen. Students preparing for First Communion who did not make their First Reconciliation in December should plan to make their First Reconciliation on March 4.

News and Events

Parish Mailing

We recently sent out our Lenten mailing. If you have not received it, please notify Angela in the parish office (651-224-9793 or arakow@st-matts.org). We want to make sure everyone's contact information is up to date.



Monthly Scripture Study

St. Matthew's monthly Scripture Study is on **Tuesday, February 24 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM in the Parish Center Community Room**. It focuses 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. COS Collection

Community of Saints Catholic School Collection

Next weekend is our monthly second collection in support of Community of Saints Regional Catholic School. Thank you for your generous support!

Ham Bingo

Men's Club is hosting its annual Ham Bingo on **Saturday, March 14**. See the insert for more information.

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 22, 2026

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 21

4:00 PM +Charles Ketchmark
+Don Leibl

Sunday, February 22

10:15 AM +Deceased Rosary Society Members

Saturday, February 28

4:00 PM +Arthur Geis
+Pam, Lucille and Robert Stickler, Sr.

Sunday, March 1

10:15 AM +Don Giesel
+Jimmel Padaong

Calendar of Events

Monday - Thursday, February 22 - 26

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

St. Matthew Loaves and Fishes Meal Site closed on Fridays during Lent.

Monday, February 23

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

Tuesday, February 24

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:00 PM Stations of the Cross
5:30 PM Scripture Study

Wednesday, February 25

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

Thursday, February 26

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:00PM Craft Group
6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

Friday, February 27

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Fish Fry
5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 28

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

Sunday, March 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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