



St. Matthew's

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF

Lent

©LPi

March 1, 2026 **Second 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

When I sit down to answer emails or write a Gospel reflection or return a phone call, I sometimes wonder: Does any of this humdrum work matter? Maybe you ask the same thing about your daily labor. Today's Gospel, the Transfiguration, offers a surprising answer.

Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain. There, **“his face shone like the sun face and his clothes become white as light” (Matthew 17:2)**. That detail regarding his clothes is worth considering.

We know Jesus' body is inseparably united to the divine nature. But his clothing? That's something made by human hands. It's an artifact. And yet it shines with the same uncreated light. What does this detail mean? The early Church noted that Adam and Eve's first act after the Fall was to make clothing. This clothing symbolizes all human labor that supports our dignity. In Jesus' glorified garments, we see not just the redemption of our body, but of human effort to protect and uplift human dignity.

Parents, your family is your work. Baristas, plumbers, nurses, accountants — your labor, your emails, your phone calls, your spreadsheets — can all become radiant when offered to God in love. The question isn't just do I believe in Jesus' glory, but do I believe he can share it with the work of my hands?

Lenten Challenge: Identify the “artifact” you are making to uplift the dignity of others: your job, your home, your relationships. Consciously bring it to the Lord this Sunday at Mass. Offer it to share in His glory. It will begin to shine.

— *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

Thank You: To **Cristina and the Liturgy Committee** who decorated our church for the Lenten Services. Lent was often referred to as Going to the Dessert – to prepare for Holy Week and the Glory of Easter. You will notice that the Holy Water Fonts are empty and covered. A visual reminder of the waiting period we have entered. Mentally count off the weeks until there will again be Holy Water in the fonts.

Thank You: Former President Obama was recently asked his opinion of Operation Metro Surge in Minnesota. As ICE entered our communities, he said citizens pushed back on the operation because “This is not the America we believe in!” He mentioned that people organized by buying groceries for people afraid to leave their homes and accompanying children to school. **He was describing our parish!** We had people bringing food to the Parish Center for those who were afraid to go shopping. We had volunteers walking children to their bus stops in the morning, and meeting the bus after school, so the child would feel safe. We had volunteers on campus to help all who came to our buildings, for whatever reason, so they would know they were among friends. I once had an SSND teacher at St. Matthew school, who, when there was a choice to be made, would often say, “What would Jesus do?” St. Matthew parishioners have answered that same question by our actions during “Operation Metro Surge”.

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER AND A CARING 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

Concerns, Self Care, & Next Steps

In his homily last weekend, Fr. Thomas emphasized the importance of accepting responsibility for our actions. We shouldn't blame others for what we do. After Mass, he and I talked about the desirability of reaching out to others for help, as well as accepting help.

With those ideas in mind, here are the summary notes from our community conversation on Tuesday, February 17. Responses are not in any particular order, nor do they include everything discussed at each table.

- 1. With regard to the recent events in our community, what are your concerns? What concerns you the most?*
 - Fears for children and community
 - Needs: for food, housing, money, work
 - Healing from broken trust
 - Shut-ins
 - Quantum STEAM Academy and Casa Guadalupeana
 - Drones
 - Who is in charge?
 - Legal help
 - Church safety
- 2. How are you caring for your spiritual and mental health during this time? What inspires you or gives you hope?*
 - Spring weather
 - Manage the information overload
 - Help the helpers
 - St. Matt's Community
 - Don't forget your neighbors; get out to meet them
 - Faith Formation program
 - Local police
 - Church leaders
 - Prayer
 - Family
- 3. What do you think our collective response/actions should be? What next steps might you take personally?*
 - St. Matt's temporary food shelf; how can we donate Fish Fry meals to people (and invite them to eat with us)?
 - Host activities. Include children/teens who need a safe place
 - Promote resources; livestream Mass
 - Contact legislators; each make five calls
 - Mission ministry for our neighbors

I'm grateful to all who attended. Special thanks to Gloria Deziel for facilitating the meeting. Let's use these notes to guide our personal and collective next steps. More to follow.

*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 Confessions Evening: On March 4, Faith Formation students should go to class in the Parish Center as usual, grades K to 7 arriving by 6:30 PM and grades 8 to 11 arriving by 6:45 PM. The church will have two priests to hear confessions that evening. Students will go to church in classroom groups for confession that evening, returning to their Parish Center classroom after they have finished. Parents are welcome to be in church during this time, too, and they may go to confession. Any student preparing for First Communion who did not come to the First Reconciliation service on December 13 should go to confession the evening of March 4.

News and Events

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!

Coffee Sunday

Our next Coffee Sunday is **March 8 after the Sunday 10:15 AM Mass** hosted by the St. Matthew Faith Formation. Come down to the Social Hall and visit with your fellow parishioners. We hope to see you there!

2026 Catholic Services Appeal

This year's Catholic Services Appeal focuses on:

- o Educating in Faith
- o Helping Those in Need
- o Discipleship and Evangelization

In the back of the church, you will see donation cards and a QR code. Both give you access to the 2026 Catholic Services Appeal website. You can also fill out the pledge card and return it in the collection. Make checks payable to Catholic Services Appeal. Thank you for your generous support.



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 March 1, 2026

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

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 28

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

Sunday, March 1

10:15 AM †Don Giesel
†Jimmel Padaong

Saturday, March 7

4:00 PM †Aurora Hernandez
†Greg Thompson

Sunday, March 8

10:15 AM †Jeff Blomgren
†AnnaMarie Karas

Calendar of Events

Monday - Thursday, March 2-5

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

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

Monday, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:30 PM Stations of the Cross
4:30 PM Finance Council Meeting
6:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 4

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Health Clinic
12:00 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting
6:30 PM - 7:45 PM Faith Formation

Thursday, March 5

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

Friday, March 6

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
4:30 PM - 7:30 PM Fish Fry
5:30 PM Stations of the Cross
6:30 PM St. Matthew Community Band

Saturday, March 7

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

Sunday, March 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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