



# St. Matthew's

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF

Lent

©LPi

### **March 8, 2026** **Third 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](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

Recently I received a note from a teenager I met years ago. He wrote, "Dear Father Muir, you probably do not remember me, but I wanted to thank you for your inspiring and humorous homilies at the parish. They helped me appreciate the beauty of Catholicism, which I have now embraced in a personal way." That small note moved me more than he probably imagined. I had no idea my words had taken root in him. I was simply sowing seeds — week by week, Mass by Mass. Someone else — his parents, a youth minister, or God Himself — was doing the deeper work. Now this young man is joyfully reaping a harvest of faith.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman whose life had been full of searching and disappointment. By the end of their encounter, she becomes a bold and joyful evangelist. Then Jesus turns to his disciples and says something easily overlooked: "**One sows and another reaps**" (John 4:37). He is helping them — and us — understand how evangelization works. Often, the one who sows the seeds of faith is not the one who sees the fruit.

This Lent, ask yourself: Are you in a sowing phase or a reaping phase? If you are sowing — raising children, praying for someone, mentoring — be patient. Your work matters. If you are reaping — seeing someone come alive in faith — be grateful. You are standing on sacred ground, tilled and watered by others.

**Lenten challenge:** Thank someone who once sowed faith into your life. And keep sowing, even when the harvest is unseen.

— 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*

**Liturgical Ministry:** We need more liturgical ministers including lectors, Eucharistic ministers, greeters and someone to carry the processional cross during the Easter season. Eucharistic ministers must have already received the sacrament of Confirmation. 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.

**Stations of the Cross:** Join us for the Stations of the Cross during this Lent. Each week, we have two opportunities: Tuesdays at 12:30 PM and Fridays at 5:30 PM.

**Thank You:** We thank **Fr. Rassmussen** and **Fr. Dolan** for offering Mass with us while Fr. Kommers enjoys a restful vacation.

**Thank You:** To **Mary Bejblik** who takes care of changing the banners and altar cloths for each liturgical season or special feast day. She also sees to it that all banners and altar cloths are cleaned when needed!

**WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!**

Mary Leibl  
Volunteer Coordinator  
mleibl@st-matts.org



### The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on Sunday, March 8 in memory of **John Sperl Sr.** on the anniversary of his passing.

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on Wednesday, March 11 in memory of **Michael Giefer.**

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on Saturday, March 14 in memory of **Jeff Blomgren.**

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 & Laundry

"After ecstasy comes the laundry."

So spoke Fr. Terry in his homily last week, as he reflected on the Transfiguration. Peter, James and John were on the mountaintop with Jesus, basking in His glory. . . and then they had to come down from the mountaintop, to return to everyday life.

I don't know about you, but I find that I have a lot more laundry—and other, everyday tasks—than ecstasy in my life. There have been awesome moments, to be sure. I've had some wonderful religious experiences, usually brought on by prayer, music, and/or art.

As I reflected further on Fr. Terry's homily, I realized that most of my peak religious experiences have occurred in community settings. I'm thinking especially of parish communities over the years. Maybe that's because I've had community companions to climb the mountain with, or go on retreat with, or worship with.

I like to write about community, because I think it's critical in our lives—not just for peak moments. Rather, community offers us opportunities for profound human connection. In our distracting, chaotic era, real connection is more important than ever.

We're now in the season of Lent—and that means weekly Friday Fish Fries. I'm grateful to our Men's Club and friends, for our Fish Fries offer a great way to experience community. We gather to share stories, eat good food, and maintain connections with friends and neighbors.

In Lent, Catholics are called to three traditional practices: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. I like Pope Leo's recent message, which expands on these practices. Our pope asks us to refrain from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. "Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities."

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 Classes, Confirmation Class:** On March 11, Faith Formation students in grades K to 7 have class in the Parish Center from 6:30 to 7:45 PM. Weekly students in grades 8, 9, and 11 have class from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. Community of Saints 8th graders preparing for Confirmation with St Matthew also attend class on March 11 from 6:45 to 7:50 PM.

## News and Events

### Coffee Sunday

This Sunday is our monthly Coffee Sunday **after the 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!



### Rosary Society Meeting on March 10

The Rosary Society of St. Matthew will lead Mary's Way of the Cross at **12:30 PM on Tuesday, March 10**. We will gather in the Church at **12:15 PM** prior to the start of Mary's Way of the Cross. Our meeting will begin after the stations in the Social Hall. All women of the community are invited to the meeting. This month we will continue preparations for our Spring Tea scheduled for April 11. You do not need to be a member of the Rosary Society to participate in the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

### How to Help Those Affected by ICE

Many families in our neighborhood are struggling to make their March rent because they have not worked in some time due to the ICE surge and raids. If you would like to help by donating money, you can go to this website: [www.standwithminnesota.com/](http://www.standwithminnesota.com/) for a list of local organizations seeking donations.

You can also go to West Side Community Organization's website [www.wSCO.org](http://www.wSCO.org) or email them [info@wSCO.org](mailto:info@wSCO.org) or call them **(651) 293-1708** and donate to WSCO. WSCO has started a fund to help West Siders make their March rent payment; see <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/west-side-citizens-organization/west-side-rent-assistance>.

## 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 8, 2026

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

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/  
Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, March 7

4:00 PM †Aurora Hernandez  
†Greg Thompson

### Sunday, March 8

10:15 AM †Jeff Blomgren  
†AnnaMarie Karas

### Saturday, March 14

4:00 PM †Bill Brengman  
†Adam Paul Roscoe  
†Mary Ann Roscoe

### Sunday, March 15

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

## Calendar of Events

### Monday - Thursday, March 9-12

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

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

### Monday, March 9

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM St. Mary's Dental Clinic  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

### Tuesday, March 10

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

### Wednesday, March 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  
6:45 PM - 7:50 PM Catholic School Students Confirmation Class  
8:00 PM Men's Club Meeting

### Thursday, March 12

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

### Friday, March 13

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, March 14

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Confessions  
4:00 PM Mass  
5:00 PM Ham Bingo

### Sunday, March 15

10:15 AM Mass  
2:00 PM Communal Reconciliation Service

### 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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