



# 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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### **March 15, 2026** **Fourth 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

If you are like me, it's easy to fixate on our shadows: failures, guilt, shame. Especially when we suffer, it is easy to want to blame ourselves or others. In this week's Gospel, Jesus' disciples ask about the blind man, "**Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?**" (John 9:2) They, like us, focus on blame. But Jesus sees the entire situation differently: "**Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.**" He does not deny sin, but he sees deeper — through the light of mercy, not the lens of judgment. The scene hinges on Jesus' strange claim: "**I am the light of the world**" (John 9:5). He sees things differently than everyone. They see shadows and light. He is the light.

Thought experiment: imagine you are the sun looking at everything on the earth. What do you see? Everything. What do you *not* see? Shadows. Everything is illuminated. If you see it, it is illuminated. For the light, nothing is dark.

Because he is the light, Jesus sees us in the glow of his redemptive love. Even our sin becomes a place where his glory can shine. The man's healing is not just about sight — it is about seeing as Christ sees. Lent is not a season of staring into darkness. It is a time to step into the light — to let Christ's gaze reframe how we see ourselves and one another.

**Lenten challenge:** Spend 10 quiet minutes this week asking Jesus to show you how he sees you. Not through shame or fear, but through the light of his mercy.

— 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 (mleibl@st-matts.org)** or **Cristina Czaia (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:** To all who help families prepare for a funeral in our parish. **Angela** is usually the first person to have contact with the family. She makes sure the church is available on the day the family would like to have the funeral and we have a celebrant available for that day. She will alert the funeral luncheon volunteers and funeral sacristans so they are ready to help. The family will meet with **Fr. Thomas, Cristina and Angela** who assist the family in choosing readings, songs and minister to the family. **Angela** will let **Mary** know how to prepare the church space for a particular funeral. On the day of the funeral, funeral sacristans arrive around 8:30 AM to receive the family, floral deliveries and assist those who are taking part in the funeral as liturgical ministers. We thank our funeral sacristans: **Marge, Sandy, Terry, Mooreen, Mary and Karen.**

I have been a funeral sacristan for a few years. A member of my family was buried from our parish this past week. I experienced firsthand how valuable and helpful **Cristina** is as she prepares the family for the funeral of a loved one. I also saw how the sacristans make a very difficult day easier as they guide the family through the service. Lastly, we cannot forget the volunteers who serve the funeral luncheons. Taking that burden off of the family is a great gift. If you feel you would like to volunteer for this ministry, call Angela at the Parish Center and she will have someone contact you.

**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

### Strategic Facilities Plan

What do you think our priorities should be for maintaining and/or improving our church building and Parish Center?

That was the central question at our March 3 Facilities Committee meeting. Members came up with many ideas, big and small.

Among the biggest: the church HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) system. We've done some work on the system over the past few years, including a heat exchanger (\$18,000) just last year. That work has been helpful, but there's more to be done. We plan to bring in experts to assess the system, make recommendations, and submit bids.

When it comes to HVAC, I'm wondering. Will 2026 be the year we shift from pneumatic controls to digital controls? That shift might help save us money, as well as contribute to people's comfort.

Other church building ideas included floor repair work in the Social Hall, a sound system upgrade, and safety/security improvements.

As for our Parish Center building, there was interest in safety/security improvements, the heating system, and renovation of the public rooms in the basement.

(We haven't forgotten our school building. In fact, our entire February meeting was devoted to planning for work in that building. Improvements there are part of the current lease negotiations with Quantum STEAM Academy, our charter school tenant.)

Taken together, these recent Facilities Committee meetings have really contributed to our parish's Strategic Facilities Plan (SFP). It's still under development—and it will always be, I'm sure. Having a current SFP definitely helps us make best use of our collective time, talent and treasure.

You can help. Feel free to send your ideas for improvements to me or anyone on the Facilities Committee.

Thank you for your support. 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:** On March 18, 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 in the Parish Center from 6:45 to 7:50 PM on Wednesday evening. Note that next week, March 25, Faith Formation students do NOT have class due to spring break. Weekly classes resume on April 1.

## News and Events


### Neighborhood House Collection

This weekend is the monthly Neighborhood House collection. There will be a basket by the main entrance for you to place your non-perishable or monetary donation. On behalf of Neighborhood House and the people it serves, thank you for your generosity!

### Monthly Scripture Study

St. Matthew's monthly Scripture Study is on **Tuesday, March 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](mailto:zczaia@hotmail.com).



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|  | <b>Stations of the Cross</b><br>Tuesdays during Lent – 12:30 pm<br>( <i>Mary's Way of the Cross</i> ) |
|  | Fraturdays during Lent – 5:30 pm<br>( <i>Family Stations of the Cross</i> )                           |

## 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 15, 2026

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

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

## Mass Intentions

### 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

### Saturday, March 21

4:00 PM †Don Leibl  
†Pam, Lucille, and Robert Stickler, Sr.

### Sunday, March 22

10:15 AM †Carol Grundei  
†Deceased Rosary Society Members

## Calendar of Events

### Monday - Thursday, March 16-19

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

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

### Monday, March 16

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

### Tuesday, March 17

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

### Wednesday, March 18

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  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, March 19

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

### Friday, March 20

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 21

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

### Sunday, March 22

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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