



# 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 22, 2026** **Fifth 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

A friend of mine wrote an imaginative reflection on the raising of Lazarus that caught me off guard. She proposed that when Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, the man was not joyful but angry and annoyed. After so much suffering, maybe death felt like a release. He had finally escaped the pain. And then, suddenly, Jesus' voice cuts through the silence: **"Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43)** The light stings his eyes. The pain returns. And now he is dragged back into a world that had broken him.

It startled me at first, but the more I sat with it, the more it made sense. Sometimes, people do not want to be raised. Not at first. Think of those in the grip of addiction, despair, or numbness. The tomb can feel safer than the risk of living again. Yet Jesus, moved by the grief and faith of others (Martha, Mary, the community) calls the dead man out. Lazarus obeys. But he is still bound, head to foot. Jesus says to the bystanders, **"Untie him and let him go" (John 11:44)**.

That is often how healing happens: slowly, reluctantly. Not just by a personal decision, but through the love and persistence of others. Resurrection is not always euphoric. It may begin in protest and confusion and only later turn to gratitude and freedom. But Christ's voice breaks through, anyway.

**Lenten challenge:** Who in your life needs to be called back to life? Pray for them. If that person is you, listen for the voice. It is calling even now.

— *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:** With rain, ice and snow during last weekend (as well as all winter), we are very fortunate to have dedicated staff who keep our sidewalks and parking lot clear for our employees, residents, parishioners and guests. Thank you to **Paul**, who keeps all of the sidewalks on our campus clear of snow. Thank you to **Steve** who plows our parking lot whenever needed. These men make our visits to any building on our campus safe. After last weekend, bring on the lawn mowing!

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

*Mary Leibl*  
Volunteer Coordinator  
[mleibl@st-matts.org](mailto:mleibl@st-matts.org)



### **The Sounds and Sights of Saint Matthew**

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on Wednesday, March 25 for **Rosary Society Members**.

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

### Employment Law Day

I recently attended the Archdiocese's annual Employment Law Day. Several different lawyers gave talks on a variety of topics. Some were quite good. I learned useful things, and my attendance each year contributes to a discount on our insurance.

This year's topics included:

- An update on employment law at the state and federal levels
- A look at the intersection of worker compensation and employment law
- What we need to know about worker compensation claims
- Artificial intelligence (AI)
- Personnel files and records retention
- Volunteers vs. Employees

For me, the most interesting presentation was on *Artificial Intelligence: Useful Tool or Real Problem*. (Spoiler alert: it's both.) In that regard, I noted the following:

- There are many models, such as ChatGPT, Claude, Llama, Grok, and others
- Most are large language models (LLMs)
- There's a "black box" issue, i.e., no ability to know how it got its answers
- The models are **trained** on massive amounts of data, then **tuned** with specific data, Q&A, and human feedback
- One problem is simply the pace of change. It's rapid in the field of AI, by contrast with "the speed of church". I'm finding it difficult to keep up, and I know I'm not alone.

From a Catholic perspective, AI can be a good thing. An official statement from the Vatican says, "Technological progress is part of God's plan for creation. . . . Like any product of human creativity, AI can be directed toward positive or negative ends."

Some of those negative ends include confidentiality risks, employment risks, accuracy risks, incorrect legal citations, flattery, and recording/transcription risks.

To minimize risks, we are developing our own AI policies. As we do so, we'll keep in mind that AI can't replace human judgment and discernment. AI can't replace personal relationships. And AI can't replace pastoral care.

Let me know if you'd like to know more. 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

**No Faith Formation Classes This Week:** Faith Formation students do NOT have class this Wednesday, March 25, due to spring break. Confirmation candidates should complete service projects this month and make sure their sponsor knows of the upcoming April 11 blessing Mass at St Matthew and the April 18 Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Weekly Faith Formation classes for grades K to 9 resume in the Parish Center on April 1.

## News and Events

### 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).


### St. Matt's Class Reunion

St Matt's Combined 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion for the Class of 1970 and 1971 will be held on **Saturday, October 24, 2026**.

**4:00 pm** - Mass

**5:00 pm** - Tour of the school, followed by dinner and social time directly after in the Social Hall

Please start rounding up your memorabilia. There will be a table for display.



**Stations**  
OF THE CROSS

**Stations of the Cross**  
Tuesdays during Lent – 12:30 pm  
(*Mary's Way of the Cross*)

Fridays during Lent – 5:30 pm  
(*Family Stations of the Cross*)

## 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 22, 2026

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

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

## Mass Intentions

### 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

### Saturday, March 28

4:00 PM †Leo Kegler and Kevin Kleman  
†Charles Ketchmark

### Sunday, March 29

10:15 AM †Arthur Geis  
†Harry Selken

## Calendar of Events

### Monday - Thursday, March 23-26

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

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

### Monday, March 23

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

### Tuesday, March 24

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
12:30 PM Stations of the Cross  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Scripture Study

### Wednesday, March 25

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

### Thursday, March 26

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open  
6:00PM Craft Group  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Parish Council Meeting  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, March 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, March 28

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

### Sunday, March 29

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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