

CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016



Parish Staff

Rev. Robert Kelly, OP, Parochial Administrator
Deacon John Murphy
Deacon Gregg Sroder
Sister Anne Becker, Pastoral Ministry
Cindy Hoffman, Parish Bookkeeper
Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary

Liturgy Schedule

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 8:00 am
Tuesday 8:00 am Word & Communion Service
Thursday - 9:30 am at Community of Saints School
Saturday - 4:00 pm
Sunday - 10:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm and by appointment

Sacraments

Please contact the Parish Office regarding baptism, marriage, first communion or confirmation information.

Prayer Line

651.457.0228
651.455.5473

Parish Center Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

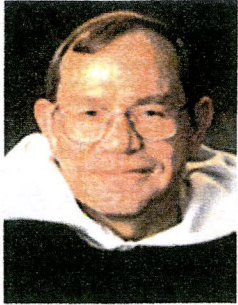
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Website: st-matts.org

Readings for the Week of December 4, 2016

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

From Father Bob

ADVENT----OUR PILGRIMAGE TO GOD!



I am the fourth of nine children. My father is deceased and my mother lives in our family home in Ft. Collins, Colorado. My four sisters and four brothers all live in Colorado except for two, a sister in Virginia and a brother in Idaho. I have too many nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews to keep track of.

In the Kelly family, my mother was the one who taught my sisters, brothers, and me how to drive a car. Living in Colorado, four of the driving skills that my mother insisted we all learn were: 1) to drive with a standard shift, 2). to drive in deep snow, 3). to drive on narrow and steep mountain roads, and 4). to drive on narrow and steep mountain roads that were covered with snow. The consequences of the training we received under these different conditions is the fact that neither myself nor any of my siblings, to the best of my knowledge, have ever had an accident due to snow, mountain roads, or the two of them combined. I believe the key to my mother's driver's training was not little proverbs like, "Don't drive too fast!" "Turn in the direction you are sliding!" or "Pump your brakes to stop on ice!" but rather her instructions to look both near and far to see what was close at hand and what was far ahead.

During Advent we are on a pilgrimage to God. The scripture readings call us, like our Jewish ancestors, to contemplate the different ways that we can see God both near and far. We, like them, are pilgrims on a journey seeking the meaning of life in the face of God. In today's world of convenient and high speed travel, we need to make a distinction between being pilgrims and being tourists. Pilgrims invest themselves in their journey and are affected by their journey. They are not anxious like tourists who pick and choose their day's activities from the brochures they have received and the pleasures that are promised. Pilgrims perceive the internal dimensions of their journey and are affected both by their journey as well as arriving at their destination. Tourists are pleased with the low cost of their round trip ticket and find more enjoyment in their photographs and postcards instead of their experience of travel itself. Along the route, pilgrims form a community and find that the experience of the community is an essential part of their journey. Tourists travel alone with concern for their luggage and assigned seat.

No author writes more intelligibly of pilgrims and pilgrimage than the Englishman Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400). In *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer's 30-odd pilgrims traveling from London to Canterbury Cathedral around 1390 have a tour guide, seemingly to keep the peace among them. But Chaucer's contemplative insight told him that the dramatic and sacred essence of group travel lay in the diversity of the pilgrims. Almost immediately the Mayor and the Miller have words with each other. The Minister manages to alienate everyone except his significant other. The Wife of Bath taunts the Friar and Cleric and the Sheriff and Friar engage in rude gossip. Pilgrimage brings Chaucer's group together, and traveling together reveals their fallible human nature.

To look for God both near and far during the season of Advent requires that we accept our fallible human nature and we say no to the infallible human nature offered and promoted by advertisers and merchandisers. To look for God both near and far means taking the time to reflect back over our childhood, our teenage years, our college experience, our single and/or our married lives, the birth of our children, our child rearing, and the deaths of our family members and friends. In the preface to *Picturing God* Ann Ulanov writes,

It is scandalous to many that an infinite God should move into the trivial world of the human psyche to speak. Better to put God at a safe distance in pulpits, in political ideologies, in obscure biblical texts. We resist God touching us intimately in dreams, myths, in our bodies, in our social groupings, in all our little worlds. Yet depth psychology drives this fact home: that God does touch us in the flesh, in the least of our moments as well as in the largest, in all our private and shared experiences.

During this Advent and the days afterwards as we journey together on our pilgrimage may we look both near and far for God who always waits to be seen by each and every one of us.

St. Matthews News

Church Bells

The St. Matthew's church bells will ring on the following days in honor of:

December 3 **John & Jeanne Murphy Anniversary**

December 8 **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Christmas Tea, Bake Sale & Boutique

Saturday, December 10th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Enjoy Christmas Tea with Friends . Stock up on Christmas Goodies. Sponsored by Saint Matthew's Rosary Society.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

St. Matthew's Men's Club along with St. Michael's Boy Scouts will once again host "Breakfast with Santa" on December 11, 2016 at St. Matthew's. The Rosary/CCW will also have wonderful baked goodies for sale. Plan to attend with your children or grandchildren. **Breakfast will be served from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**



Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass

Celebrate this feast with our Faith Formation students on Wednesday, December 7, at 7 pm. We will be collecting winter clothes and small personal care items (travel size shampoo, bars of soap, toothbrushes, etc.) at the Mass as part of our Advent service project. Please bring items you would like to donate for the needy with you to the 7 pm Mass. **In addition to the Wednesday evening Mass, there is a school Mass on December 8 at 9:30 am at Community of Saints (in St. Michael Church) that all are welcome to attend. Everyone is welcome to attend each of these Masses.**

Christmas Flowers

If you wish to make a contribution to our Christmas Flower Fund you have until December 16th to do so. You can make a donation in memory or in honor of someone you love. You will find donation forms on the table by the St. Matthew statue. Your contributions help us to purchase our beautiful decorations that decorate our church for Christmas.

Weekly Contributions Report November 26, 2016

Plate	\$ 213	Envelopes	\$1,505
Vigil Lights	\$ 25	Funeral	\$50
Fuel	\$28	Total	\$1821

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 3

4:00 pm Our Parish
Kayann (Lubrant) Larsen†

Sunday, December 4

10:00 am Our Parish
Rudy Saucedo, Jr.†

Monday, December 5

8:00 am Art Geis†

Wednesday, December 7

8:00 am Paul Maslow†

Friday, December 9

8:00 am Claudette Borgan,
Special Intention

Saturday, December 10

4:00 pm Our Parish
David Andrews†

Sunday, December 11

10:00 am Our Parish
Ted & Connie Rivera†

Calendar Of Events

Saturday, December 3

Sunday, December 4

Monday Dec. 5—Fri. Dec. 9

5:00-6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes

Monday, December 5

Noon – 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic

Tuesday, December 6

Wednesday, December 7

8:00 am – 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic

6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes

with 7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Mass (all welcome)

Men's Club Board Meeting 8:00 pm SH

Thursday December 8

9:30 am COS Mass at St. Michael

Parish Council Meeting 6:00 pm PC

Friday, December 9

Saturday, December 10

Christmas Tea, Bake Sale and Boutique

1:00 – 4:00 pm SH

Sunday, December 11

Breakfast with Santa and Bake Sale

9:00 am to 1:00 pm SH

Christmas Environment volunteers

Our worship space will be decorated for Christmas on December 18, after the 10 AM Mass. Many hands and hearts are welcome. This is a good opportunity for all ages and abilities to work together. This is a good service project for Confirmation Candidates. A sign-up sheet can be found at the back of church.

The Christmas environment will be taken down on Sunday, January 8 after the 10 AM Mass. A sign-up sheet will be available.at the back of church.

For more information, call or email Sr. Anne Becker srabeck@juno.com 651-341-2968.

St. Matthew's Music Ministry

Singers and instrumentalists are needed for our Advent, Christmas seasons and beyond.

If you like to sing or play an instrument, please consider becoming a part of the music ministry at St. Matthew's. Musicians of all ages and abilities are welcome. All voices, keyboardists, guitarists, string and wind players are needed. Now that St. Matthew's is adding a Sunday Mass, there is interest in once again forming a choir at St. Matthews.

Please share your gifts! Call or email Jill Kilzer jill.kilzer@icloud.com 952-431--4468.

Ordinary Time Environment Volunteers

The Christmas environment will be taken down on Sunday, January 8 after the 10 AM Mass. Many hands and hearts are welcome. This is a good opportunity for all ages and abilities to work together. This is a good service project for Confirmation Candidates.

A sign-up sheet can be found at the back of church.

For more information, call or email Sr. Anne Becker srabeck@juno.com 651-341-2968.

Sunday, December 11, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and coffee. The cost is \$5.00 for children (5-12 yrs. under 5 free with paid adult) and \$8.00 for adults.

Mom, dads, grandparents, bring the little ones for a great breakfast. Then have a photo taken with Santa!!

Saint Matthew's Social Hall— 510 Hall Ave. St. Paul MN 55107



Shop at the Holiday Bake Sale too. Stock up on delicious home baked goodies for family and friends.

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