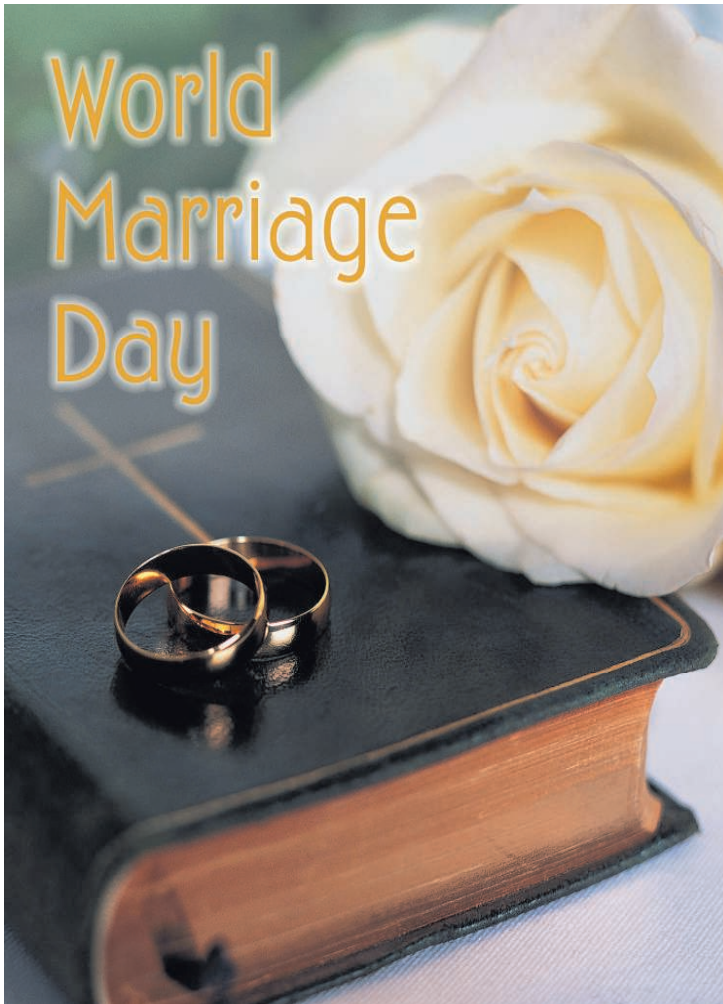




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A Catholic community that is a visible expression of God's love



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All emails are @st-matts.org

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frbobbkellyop

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Deacon Gregg Sroder

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srannebecker

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choffman

Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
jillkilzer

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
skowal

John Riehle, Administrator
jriehle

Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary
lrivera

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651-224-9793

Fax 651.222.2688

Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

Sacraments

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

Bulletin

Announcements are due on Monday by 10:00 a.m. for the next Sunday's bulletin.

Liturgy Schedule

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 8:00 am

Thursday - 9:30 am at Community of Saints School

Saturday - 4:00 pm

Sunday - 10:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday

3:00 pm - 3:40 pm and by appointment

Readings for the Week of February 12, 2017

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-15, 18-19/Mk 8:22-26

Thursday: Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23/Mk 8:27-33

Friday: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-15/Mk 8:34--9:1

Saturday: Heb 11:1-7/Ps 145:2-5, 10-11/Mk 9:2-13

Next Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Fullfilling The Law of Love



For our Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist, the Sermon on the Mount from the gospel of Matthew is divided into six passages and proclaimed from the 4th to the 9th Sundays in Ordinary Time. Today we hear the third part of the Sermon that follows the beatitudes that we heard two weeks ago and the metaphors of salt and light that we heard last week. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, the writer of Matthew's gospel presents Jesus not as a teacher but as a giver of the law. This is important, because Matthew's gospel was written for Jewish Christians. For the Jewish people, the law was a sign of God's permanent covenant with them. In the Ark of the Covenant, their ancestors carried the tablets of stone on which the Ten Commandments were inscribed. When the Ark was carried into the Jordan River, the water separated allowing the Jewish nation to pass through. The city of Jericho was taken with no more than a shout after the Ark of Covenant was carried for seven days around its wall. The law given to Moses by God was the covenant upon which the Jewish nation was built. It was sacred even for the Jewish Christians. For Jesus to disregard the law would turn believers away. For Jesus to expand the law would strengthen their relationship with God.

The writer of Matthew's Gospel has Jesus reinterpret and redirect the law in a very interesting way. Jesus first quotes the Mosaic Law reassuring his listeners of his respect for the law. Then he says, "But I say to you...." The phrase "But I say to you...." were words that would be spoken only by the giver of the law. When Jesus says the phrase, "But I say to you...." after quoting the Mosaic Law, he is telling his listeners that he was the giver of the old law and that he is the giver of the new law. As Moses received the law of the old covenant from God on Mount Sinai, they receive the law of the new covenant from Jesus on the mount. Some of the religious authorities saw this as blasphemy. Some of the common people saw it as the fulfillment of an ancient promise.

From the passage we heard today, how are we to understand what Jesus did by reinterpreting and redirecting the law God had given to Moses to the law Jesus gives us? First, we need to recognize that there is an outward expression of the law and an internal spirit of the law.

An outward expression is to obey the law either to gain favor with God or to avoid punishment from God. Either way, the expression is the same and the intentions, to gain favor or to avoid punishment, are self-centered. In the first reading today from the Book of Sirach, we hear words that sound like a parent instructing his or her child about the outward expression of goodness. "If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you. . . Before you are life and death, good and evil, whichever you choose shall be given you."

But Jesus did not speak to children he spoke to adults. In the second reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, we are told that God is offering us the Spirit who "scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God"! As adults, we are called to live the internal spirit of the law.

In his *Summa Contra Gentiles*, the Dominican theologian-philosopher Thomas Aquinas describes the internal spirit of the law as love. In the new covenant, Jesus teaches that love seeks the union of the beloved with the lover. We love insofar as we seek to bring alive in our beloved the best of what is alive in us. True lovers seek to share the best of what is alive in them: their thoughts, affections, emotions, memories, dreams, and their very being. The intent of love is the transformation of the beloved into the image and likeness of the lover. This is true of human love. It is also true of divine love. These are thought provoking words during the short time before Valentine's Day. I believe a story would be helpful in understanding Jesus not abolishing the old law but reinterpreting and redirecting it into the new law with love as its internal spirit.

"A young man was caught and taken to court because he had stolen a loaf of bread. When the judge questioned the man, he found out that the man had a family and no job. He had tried to find work and finally, to feed his family, he had stolen a loaf of bread. Although recognizing the extenuating circumstances, the judge said, "I'm sorry, but the law can make no exceptions. You stole, and therefore I have to punish you. I order you to pay a fine of ten dollars." He then continued, "But I will pay the fine myself." He reached into his robe, pulled out a ten-dollar bill and handed it to the court clerk. As soon as the clerk took the money, the judge said, "Now I want to remit the fine." The clerk then handed the money to the young man. "Furthermore, I instruct the bailiff to pass around your hat to everyone in this courtroom. I am fining everyone here ten dollars for living in a city where a person has to steal in order to feed his family." The fines were collected and the hat was returned to its owner."

News and Events

CHURCH BELLS

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

February 19 Peter Rivera
February 22 Jerry Smith†

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

The next ministry schedule will cover 3-1 to 5-28. Please let Jan Lackner know your availability to serve by the end of this week. You may contact Jan at jml3242@aol.com. Now that we have two Masses additional ministers are needed. Are there ministers from St. Michael who would like to minister at St. Matthew? Call either Jan Lackner, or Linda Rivera at the parish office if you are interested in becoming a minister. No experience is necessary, training is provided. **Young people, please come join us!!**

Altar Servers - We need children - grades 4 on up, experienced or not!! We will train you. Are there any children from COS who serve at Thursday Mass? We also welcome children from our Faith Formation Program. Please call Jan or Linda to sign up.

ST. MATTHEW'S MEN'S CLUB FABULOUS FISH FRY

Mark your calendar, Lenten Fish Fries begin on Friday, March, 3rd. Serving time will be 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

WEEKLY BULLETIN TO THE HOMEBOUND

Do you know someone who can no longer attend weekly Mass and would like to receive a bulletin? Please call Linda Rivera at the parish office and a bulletin will be sent to them each week.

OUR LADY OF PEACE HOME

Our annual collection for Our Lady of Peace Home, Hospice, and Home Care will be held the weekend of 2/25-26. The Home was founded in 1941 by a Dominican order and is now owned by a Franciscan order. It serves the care of terminally ill adults and children with **no fees**. It is financed by donations and Medicare. The enclosed flyer suggests needed donations. Rosary members will be at the doors to collect monetary donations. Checks should be made out to "Our Lady of Peace Home".

Thank you for your generosity in responding to this corporal work of mercy. Their motto is "Care for the body and comfort for the soul"

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT February 11, 2017

Parish Family		Extended Family	
Basket	\$951	Alumni & Friends	\$0
Envelopes	\$3,310	Total	\$0
Vigil Lights	\$22		
Fuel	\$5		
Bells	\$15		
Initial Envelopes	\$2		
Emmanuel Comm.	\$210		
Total	\$4,515		

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 11

4:00 pm David Andrews†

Sunday, February 12

10:00 am Our Parish
Marina T. Galep†

Monday, February 13

8:00 am Pat Charles†

Wednesday, February 15

8:00 am Living & Deceased
Rosary/CCW Members

Friday, February 17

8:00 am Pat Charles†

Saturday, February 18

4:00 pm Raymond J. Galep†

Sunday, February 19

10:00 am Our Parish
Joseph Karas Jr.† &
Joseph Karas Sr.†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 11

4:00 pm Mass—CSA Kick Off

Sunday, February 12

10:00 am Mass CSA Kick Off
11:00 am Coffee following Mass Social Hall

Monday Feb. 13- Fri. Feb 17

5:00-6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes Social Hall

Monday, February 13

Noon - 5:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC

Tuesday, February 14

Valentine's Day

9:00 am Alumni Meeting St. Michael's PC
6:30 pm Rosary/CCW Meeting Social Hall

Wednesday, February 15

8:00 am - 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC

6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes PC

Thursday, February 16

9:30 am COS Mass at St. Michael

Friday, February 17

Saturday, February 18

4:00 pm Mass

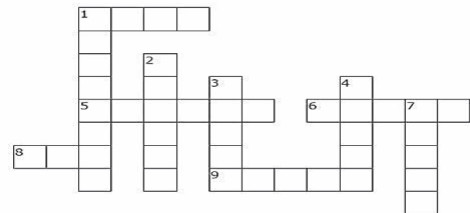
Sunday, February 19

10:00 am Mass
11:00 am Coffee following Mass Social Hall

Children's Corner Crossword Puzzle

Don't Miss Church!

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" John 20:19 (NIV)
Based on John 20:19-31



ACROSS

- An entrance into a building or room
- The disciple who would not believe without seeing
- To be in a state of pleasure or delight
- Breaking a religious or moral law
- The body parts at the end of the arms

DOWN

- Unwilling to believe that something is true
- Not open
- To believe in something for which there is no proof
- A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
- Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war

NAILS	PEACE	DOOR	DOUBTING	HAPPY
THOMAS	CLOSED	SIN	HANDS	FAITH

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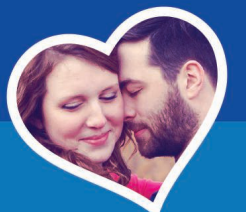

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