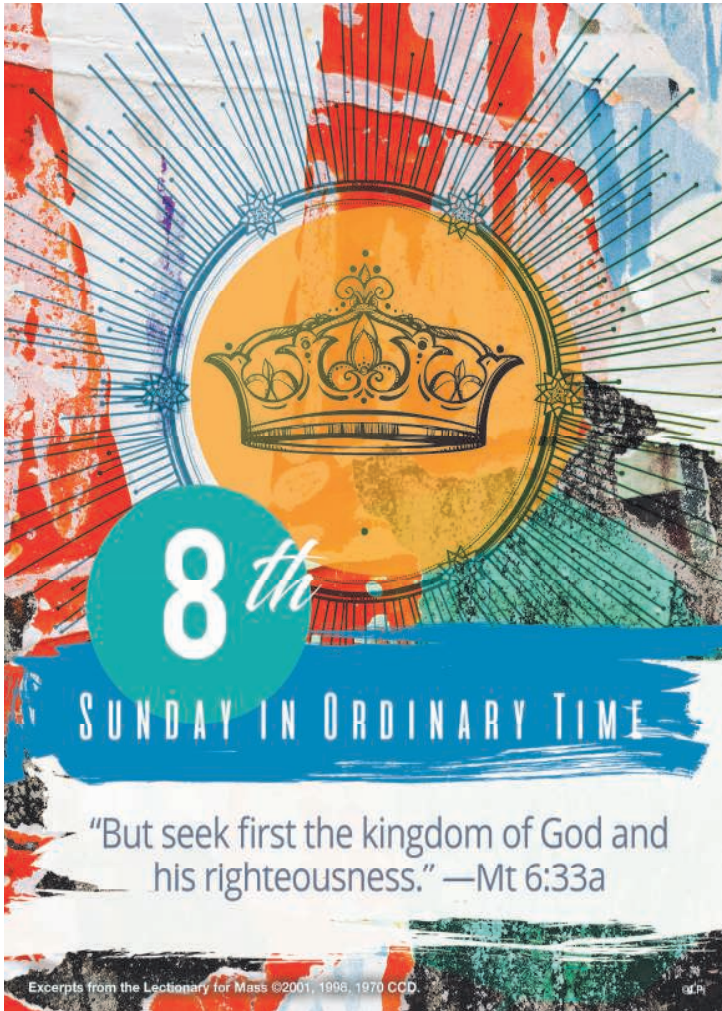


# Church of St. Matthew

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



### **Parish Staff**

**All emails are @st-matts.org**

Rev. Robert Kelly, OP, Parochial Administrator  
frbobkellyop

Deacon John Murphy

Deacon Gregg Sroder

Sister Anne Becker, Pastoral Ministry  
srannebecker

Cindy Hoffman, Parish Bookkeeper  
choffman

Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry

jillkilzer

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer  
skowal

John Riehle, Administrator

jriehle

Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary

lrivera

**Church** - 510 Hall Avenue

**Parish Center** - 490 Hall Avenue  
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**651-224-9793**

**Fax 651.222.2688**

**Website: st-matts.org**

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew](http://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 26, 2017**

Sunday: Is 49:14-15/Ps 62:2-3, 6-9/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34

Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23/Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

## THE FIRST WORD



At the beginning of Lent, in our Christian tradition, the word "Alleluia" is banished from our prayers, hymns, and gospel acclamation. Pope Alexander II started the practice of exiling the "A" word during Lent in the fifth century. In the thirteenth century, the French Bishop William Duranti wrote in his *Commentaries on the Divine Office*: "We part from the 'Alleluia' as from a beloved friend, whom we embrace many times and kiss on the mouth, head and hand, before we leave them."

In some French churches the custom of saying goodbye to the "Alleluia" developed further. On the Saturday before Ash Wednesday, choir members carried a coffin with the word "Alleluia" written on a piece of parchment inside. They marched down the center aisle of the church, out the front door, and down the road until they reached the cemetery. There they sprinkled the coffin with holy water, incensed it, and buried it. On Easter Saturday, the coffin was dug up and carried back into the church where the Alleluia was resurrected and proclaimed before the reading of gospel on Easter Sunday morning.

But what about us who live in the twenty-first century in Minnesota? During the season of Lent should we bury the Alleluia? I think to avoid confusion when celebrating the Eucharist and praying together in common, we should follow the liturgical guidelines of our Church. But I don't think we should banish or bury the Alleluia. After all, the season of Lent is a period of great soul-searching. We should take the Alleluia from our lips and place it within our hearts for contemplation and for encouragement. We should ask ourselves what it means to celebrate Easter by our preparing for Easter.

According to Barbara Johnson, author of *Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy*, "We are an Easter people living in a Good Friday World." If you read the newspapers, watch the news, or listen to the radio, it becomes obvious that almost every day seems like Good Friday. There are civil wars causing the injury and death of innocent victims in the Middle East and in Africa. Closer to home, there are immigrants and refugees uncertain about deportation. Prescription medications are increasing in cost and there are more people who suffer from stress. Knowing the difference between real news and fake news is like tossing a coin. It is agonizing, whether it's a world crisis or whether it's our own crisis. It makes no sense to think about a loving God.

I read a story that happened in Russia many years ago. It seems a railroad worker accidentally locked himself in a refrigerator car. He was unable to escape or to attract attention, so he resigned himself to his fate. He felt his body becoming numb, and took out a pencil and recorded the story of his approaching death. He scribbled on the walls of the railroad car: I am becoming colder ... still colder. I am slowly freezing ... half asleep—these may be my last words.

When the car was opened, the man was found dead, but the temperature of the car was 56 degrees Fahrenheit. Officials found that the refrigeration mechanism was out of order, and there was plenty of fresh air available. There was no physical reason that they could find for the man to die. It was concluded that he died because he believed that he would die. As living persons, what we believe to be true affects us to the core of our being; it shapes us and makes us who we are.

Easter is the celebration of the promise of hope. Easter is the assurance of new life, flowing forth from within the very heart of the universe. The promise that after darkness there is light and that within the deepest catastrophes of life are new possibilities. During the season of Lent, we contemplate the "A" word for the sake of asking ourselves what one thing or maybe two things in our world and in our own lives need the joy of resurrection. And we believe that during the season of Lent, through the grace of God, we will rise on Easter Sunday. **ALLELUIA!**

### 2017 ARCHDIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE

March 18 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Doors open at 7 a.m. for Adoration and Confession)

Anderson Fieldhouse, University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul

Join men of all ages and walks of life from around the Archdiocese for a morning filled with faith and fellowship. Archbishop Hebda will speak on *Lessons from Saint Joseph, the Ultimate Watchman*. The conference includes: Mass, breakfast, dynamic speakers, and a Eucharistic procession around the UST campus. Cost: \$25 per adult; \$10 per student (up to high school senior). Special group discount: Order 5 tickets for the price of 4! Please pre-register at [archspm.org/Events](http://archspm.org/Events).

Questions? Contact Enzo Randazzo at [randazzov@archspm.org](mailto:randazzov@archspm.org) or [651-291-4483](tel:651-291-4483).

# News and Events

## CHURCH BELLS

March 1           Katie Hofacker  
 March 16        Becca Lackner

## ANNUAL FISH FRY

Come join us for our 28th Annual "All You Care To Eat" Fish Fry. Every Friday beginning March, 3rd, through Good Friday, April 14th. Serving time is 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. We have baked or fried fish, baked potato, veggie and coleslaw, beverage and dessert. A children's non-fish option is also available. \$11 Adults, \$10 Seniors (65+), \$6 children (under 12, under 5 years free). Treat mom to a night out, come visit with friends and neighbors and enjoy St. Matt's fabulous Fish Fry.



## OUR CONDOLENCES

The church and staff of St. Matthew's extend our sincerest condolences to the families of Edwin Kruger and Richard Gilberg. Mr. Kruger died on February 10, 2017 and his Funeral Mass was on February 15, 2017. Mr. Gilberg died on February 14, 2017 and his Funeral Mass was on February 21, 2017. Please remember their loving families in your prayers. May Mr. Kruger and Mr. Gilberg and all the faithful departed rest in God's peace and love.

## FAITH FORMATION ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Faith Formation students and families will celebrate the start of Lent with the celebration of Mass and the distribution of ashes on **Ash Wednesday, March 1, at 7 p.m.** in the Church of St. Matthew. Parishioners and community members are welcome to join us for this Ash Wednesday celebration. *Please bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the food shelf to help start our Lenten almsgiving. Please keep the food item with you until you are invited to bring them forward at Offertory time. In addition, Rice Bowls from Catholic Relief Services will be available in the back of church for families who would like to participate in Operation Rice Bowl.*



## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, February 25**  
 4:00 pm John & Cecilia Stevens†  
**Sunday, February 26**  
 10:00 am Our Parish  
           Ron Hallgren†  
**Monday, February 27**  
 8:00 am Milton & Josephine White†  
**Wednesday, March 1**  
 8:00 am Leona Jenniges, Healing  
 7:00 pm Faith Formation Students and Families  
**Friday, March 3**  
 8:00 am Marge Blenkush, Healing  
**Saturday, March 4**  
 4:00 pm Tom Tschida†  
**Sunday, March 5**  
 10:00 am Our Parish  
           Raymond J. Galep†

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

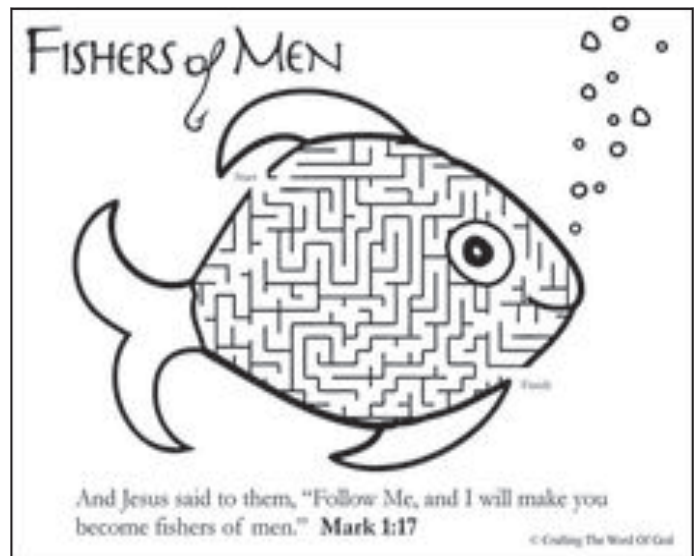
**Saturday, February 25**  
 4:00 pm Mass  
**Sunday, February 26**  
 10:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Coffee Sunday Social Hall  
**Monday Feb. 27– Thurs. Mar. 2**  
 5:00-6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes Social Hall  
**Monday, February 27**  
 12:00 - 5:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic  
**Tuesday, February 28**  
**Wednesday, March 1**  
 8:00 am Ash Wednesday Mass  
 8:00 am – 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC  
 9:30 am COS Mass at COS  
 6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes  
 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Mass  
 7:30 pm Men's Club Board Meeting SH  
**Thursday, March 2**  
 9:30 am Mass at COS  
**Friday, March 3**  
 4:00 pm Stations of the Cross  
 4:30 - 7:30 Fish Fry  
**Saturday, March 4**  
 4:00 pm Mass  
 5:00 pm Girl Scout Cookie Sales After Mass  
**Sunday, March 5**  
 10:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Coffee Sunday Social Hall  
 11:00 pm Girl Scout Cookie Sales After Mass

## Children's Corner - In and Out

## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT February 19, 2017

Parish Family		Extended Family	
Basket	\$651	Alumni & Friends	\$0
Envelopes	\$2,106	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Vigil Lights	\$24		
Bells	\$20		
Mass Stipend	\$247		
Fuel	\$532		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,567</b>		

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