



Church of St. Matthew

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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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

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. *Items received after 10:00 a.m. will appear in the following week'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 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm
Sunday 9:00 am - 9:45 am
and by appointment

Prayer Line

Hope 651.457.0228 Cathy 651.455.5473

Readings for the Week of March 19, 2017

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

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

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:3-4, 18-21ab/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Oil, Light, and Healing!



Next week on the Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 25-26) the scripture readings draw our attention to oil, light, and healing. In the first reading from the first book of Samuel, the prophet Samuel uses oil to anoint David the King of Israel. It was likely that Samuel anointed David with olive oil, a valuable commodity in the ancient world. Olive oil was an important part of a healthy diet and it was used as an ointment when treating wounds. Oil was used as liniment before an athletic competition and as a refreshing lotion after a bath. Oil was a sign of energy and joy and most importantly it was a sign of sacredness. Kings, priests, and prophets were anointed with oil as we are anointed at our baptism.

In the second reading from the letter to the Ephesians, Paul is contrasting darkness with light. Paul is drawing from the Book of Genesis where it is said that in the beginning there was darkness. The first action of God in creation was to create light and God saw that it was good. In the Hebrew tradition, lit candles and burning oil lamps were used to show the presence of God who inhabited the Holy of Holies as a cloud of light, called the *Shekinah*. The word in Hebrew is feminine and is used to signify the indwelling or divine presence of God. Paul is emphasizing that light is given to us who participate in the life of God through Jesus. Receiving a lit candle at our baptism, we are entrusted with the light and called to pass the light on to others.

In the reading from the Gospel of John, we hear about the healing of a man who is blind from birth. This is no small detail. The man did not lose his sight and then get it back. He did not have sight in the first place. He had never seen light, darkness, shadows, colors, reflections, the world where he lived, and the people with whom he lived. From the beginning, he was in darkness. He did not know why Jesus put clay on his eyes. Undoubtedly, he must have wondered why Jesus sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam. We know that the gospel of John is very symbolic; a miracle is not a sign and a sign is not just a healing. When Jesus gives broken bodies wholeness he is foreshadowing his own resurrection as well as the resurrection of the lives he heals.

With readings about oil as a symbol of sacredness, light as the presence of God, and, healing as experiencing resurrection, I am encouraged to offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick during Mass on March 25th and 26th. Our Church invites all who are ill, who will undergo surgery, or who are elderly, even if not seriously ill, to receive the sacrament.

The purpose of the sacrament is to call upon the healing power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit to help us bear the mystery of our suffering and illness, to give us courage and spiritual strength, and to recover our physical and spiritual health. When death is approaching, the sacrament unites us to Jesus in our passage from this life to eternal life. Because the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can be repeated if a person recovers after being sick and then is sick again, or if during the same illness a person becomes more ill, and because people are not able to attend a Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, it will be available every other month at week-end celebrations of the Eucharist.

During the Third week of Lent, I encourage all of us to reflect on why God's healing presence is needed in our lives.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

During the season of Lent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place in the bridal room. When the candle is lit, Fr. Bob is available. Please close the door securely after entering and leave the door open when leaving for the next person.

GOOD NEWS!

We have reached 63% of our CSA Goal with more people participating to make this possible. Large contributions are not necessary but a large number of contributors are. THANK YOU!

CHAIRS AND LIGHTS

Thank you for the generous donations towards the chairs and lights.

CALLING ALL GRANDPARENTS - COME EXPERIENCE GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE FOR YOU!

Wednesday, 9am-10:30 am, April 19- June 28, 2017

A ten-week series for Catholic grandparents will be offered at The Church of St. Joseph, 13900 Biscayne Ave. W. Rosemount, MN 55068. Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told is a breathtaking journey combining history, Scripture, prophecy, and the lives of the saints to show God's merciful love for you. In ten captivating episodes, acclaimed author and popular speaker Fr. Michael Gaitly, MIC, shows how amazing historical events of the past 500 years connect to reveal the deeply personal spiritual reality of God's merciful love- culminating, *now*, in our lifetime.

Program Cost: \$25-includes guidebook. \$30/couple if share 1 guidebook. Scholarships are available. Registration forms are available at the parish office and on the parish website <http://www.stjosephcommunity.org/> Registration deadline is April 10. Questions contact: Kim Doyle [651-332-2266](tel:651-332-2266).

News and Events

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.



HAM BINGO

Mark your calendar, tell your friends, it's just around the corner - St. Matthew's Annual Ham Bingo!! Saturday, April 1st beginning at 4:00 pm. We will have food, fun and of course BINGO for all ages.



EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to make a contribution to the Easter Flower Fund there are forms on the table at the back of church next to the Statue of St. Matthew. It is a lovely way to remember a deceased loved one. Or perhaps to honor someone who is living in your life, to show how much you care. You can mail your contribution to the parish center or drop into the collection basket. Thank you for your generosity.



MUSIC AND LITURGY NOTES

LIFT YOUR VOICES AND TO SHARE YOUR LOVE OF LITURGY and your musical talent with the St. Matthew community. Choir practices are held on SUNDAY mornings at 9AM during Lent and on alternate weeks during Ordinary Time. All voices are needed, especially altos and sopranos. Keyboard players, guitarists, string and wind players are most welcome. For more information: jillkilzer@st-matts.org.



FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

On Wednesday, March 22, Father Kelly will celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation with Faith Formation students and families, starting at 6:30 PM. Students and adults are invited to go to confession this evening. Younger students will have class in the Parish Center. On March 29 there is a Confirmation-specific class for students in grades 8 and older and a regular class night for all other grades. On April 5, there is NO Faith Formation class—we are off for spring break.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 18

4:00 pm Patrick Stevens†

Sunday, March 19

10:00 am Our Parish

Ted & Connie Rivera†

Linda Owens†

Leona Jenniges, Healing

Monday, March 20

8:00 am Geriann Raway, Thanksgiving

Wednesday, March 22

8:00 am David Andrews†

Friday, March 24

8:00 am Rudy Saucedo, Jr.†

Saturday, March 25

4:00 pm Pamela Stickler† Lucille Stickler†

Robert Stickler, Sr.†

Sunday, March 26

10:00 am Our Parish

Art Geis†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 18

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, March 19

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday Social Hall

Monday Mar. 20– Thurs. Mar. 23

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

Monday, March 20

12:00 - 5:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic

Tuesday, March 21

Wednesday, March 22

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

6:30 pm Faith Formation with Confession

Thursday, March 23

9:30 am COS School Mass at COS

4:30 pm Finance Meeting Parish Center

6:00 pm Parish Council Mtg. Parish Center

Friday, March 24

4:00 pm Stations of the Cross

4:30 - 7:30 Fish Fry

Saturday, March 25

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, March 26

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday Social Hall

2-7:00 pm COS Taco Feed

Catholic Service Appeal. Have you made your pledge or contribution for 2017

Please help us reach our goal of \$16,257. To date our paid and pledged amount is \$10,232. Of that \$8,082 has been paid. We are very much in reach of our goal! Remember 25% of the reached goal is returned to St. Matthew's!

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS (Mar. 12)

| Parish | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|
| Plate | \$787 | Faith Formation | \$200 |
| Envelopes | \$2,158 | Food Shelf | \$10 |
| Electronic Giving | \$187 | Arch Assess. | \$157 |
| Vigil Lights | \$26 | COS School | \$15 |
| Easter flowers | \$730 | Chairs & lights | \$700 |
| Total | \$4,970 | Thank you! | |

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Children's Corner - Word Search

LENTEN WORD SEARCH

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| C | P | R | Y | B | G | A | E | L | M | F | X | Y | F | N | ABSTAIN |
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| Y | A | D | S | E | N | D | E | W | H | S | A | J | A | I | FOBTY DAYS |
| U | F | N | K | T | O | C | Q | N | P | T | F | D | Y | C | GOOD FRIDAY |
| T | N | E | L | O | Y | J | P | N | T | R | Y | O | S | U | HOLY THURSDAY |
| D | U | P | G | D | A | L | W | U | I | A | A | L | T | R | LENT |
| P | A | L | M | S | U | N | D | A | Y | A | N | Y | O | C | PALM SUNDAY |
| L | J | E | C | I | F | I | R | C | A | S | T | C | E | H | PRAYER |
| Y | U | C | Q | S | P | H | D | F | W | V | X | S | E | R | REPENTANCE |
| Y | N | I | J | A | K | V | R | U | Z | L | V | N | B | L | SACRIFICE |
| J | Q | V | U | Z | T | R | I | D | U | U | M | E | L | A | TRIDUUM |

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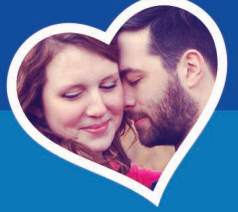
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