



Church of St. Matthew

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All emails are @st-matts.org

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frbobkellyop

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srannebecker

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choffman

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jillkilzer

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jriehle

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lrivera

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Parish Center - 490 Hall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55107

651-224-9793

Fax 651.222.2688

Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 pm.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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 26, 2017

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

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-15, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

LENTEN CONTRASTS



On March 25th we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. The gospel reading for the feast day (Luke 1:26-38) retells the good news of a woman named Mary being asked by an angel named Gabriel to become the mother of the promised Messiah. This day is quite a contrast to the somber days of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we give up saying the "Alleluia." We limit the kind and amount of music we sing for our liturgical celebrations. Church sanctuaries are without decorations. Purple vestments are worn. And we devote ourselves to almsgiving, prayer, and repentance.

Mary is also a contrast. On one hand, she is described in superhuman terms being called the "Mother of God" in the Western Church and "God-bearer" in the Eastern Church. We believe in dogmas about the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption declaring Mary was conceived without original sin and that she was taken bodily into heaven. But on the other hand, Mary is described in humble words. She is called a "handmaid of the Lord." She is described as a meek person in hymns like "Sing of Mary" and "Holy Mary, Mother Mild." And she is placed in the care of Joseph her husband and John the beloved disciple.

Scripture tells us that Mary is sensible. Imagine the fear Mary experienced when the Angel Gabriel came to her. She must have suspected that something strange was happening because from her Hebrew culture and practices she was taught that only men had religious experiences. The appearance of the angel was strange enough, but his announcement was outrageous: "You will conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus." But Mary assesses the situation and while she is inclined to accept the offer, she knows that something just didn't add up. Being a sensible person, Mary asks a clarifying question: "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

Scripture tells us that Mary is prophetic. Immediately following the Annunciation, Mary packs her bags and sets out on a mission. She visits her cousin Elizabeth who also is expecting a child. On this occasion, she speaks the words that we call the "Magnificat" which is a hymn calling for justice and liberation. In proclaiming the words, Mary is describing the future ministry of Jesus who will confirm her prophecy when he later preaches in the synagogue of Nazareth, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor."

Scripture tells us that Mary is strong. Because we have been conditioned to see Mary as a meek person, the adjective "strong" doesn't seem to fit her. But Mary's answer "Let it be done to me," is not humble obedience to God's will, but a powerful "Yes" to God's plan. Even with the risk of being accused of adultery with the penalty of being stoned to death, Mary answers God with an unqualified "Yes!"

God empowers Mary. Her "Yes" to God means that she will surrender her control. Instead of living out the life she knew and was comfortable with, she places her trust in God. And here another contrast occurs. The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is not primarily about Mary. It is about the marvelous things God has and is doing for the world through people who, like Mary, are empty enough to be filled with God's grace. Mary serves as an oasis in the middle of Lent where we can stop and find an example of how the power of God works in each of us through the different surprises of life that we experience. With God's grace, Mary gave birth to the savior. With God's grace, we give birth to the good news of salvation.

PASTORAL CENTER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning April 3, the Pastoral Center will be open from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

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.

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.



News and Events

IN SYMPATHY

The parishioners and staff of St. Matthew's extend our condolences to the families of John M. Scherbel, Timothy L. Osbourne, Jr. and Vernon Achman. John died on March 3rd and his funeral Mass was on March 10th. Tim, Jr. died on March 6th and his funeral Mass was on March 10th. Vernon died on March 15th and his funeral Mass was on March 20th. Please remember them in your prayers. May John, Tim and Vernon and all the faithful departed rest in God's peace and love.

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.



COMMUNITY DINNER

Join us for Mass on Saturday, April 8, to see our Confirmation candidates blessed. Then please come to the Social Hall after the service for a community dinner. Confirmation families will come to the dinner and have a brief meeting during the meal. Everyone else in church that afternoon is also welcome to come to the dinner; there is no charge for the meal and free will offerings are accepted. If you would like to help with the dinner—either before or after Mass on April 8—please contact Faith Formation coordinator Janelle Rohr, jdrohr@pro-ns.net or 651-457-3522.

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Wednesday, March 29, is a Confirmation-specific class for students in grades 8 and up and a regular class night for all other grades. We do not have class on April 5 due to spring break. Class resumes April 12, and on April 19, we will celebrate the last regular Faith Formation class during the 2016-2017 school year. Parents and guardians are welcome to join us on April 19 for the celebration.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS (Mar. 19)

Parish			
Plate	\$448	Faith Formation	\$120
Envelopes	\$2,295	Food Shelf	\$20
Electronic Giving	\$187	Global Solidarity	\$50
Vigil Lights	\$29	COS School	\$50
Coffee Sunday	\$94	Arch. Assess.	\$105
Stole Fee	\$300	Chairs & lights	\$100
Easter flowers	\$400		
Total	\$3,981	Thank you!	

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 25

4:00 pm Pamela Stickler† Lucille Stickler†
Robert Stickler, Sr.†

Sunday, March 26

10:00 am Our Parish
Art Geis†

Monday, March 27

8:00 am Roberta Grady
Special Intention

Wednesday, March 29

8:00 am Wallace Borgan†

Friday, March 31

8:00 am Michael & Mary Martinez†

Saturday, April 1

4:00 pm Patracinio & Leonarda Padilla†

Sunday, April 2

10:00 am Our Parish
Ron Hallgren†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monday Mar. 27– Thurs. Mar. 30

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

Monday, March 27

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

Tuesday, March 28

Wednesday, March 29

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

6:30 pm Faith Formation with Confession

Thursday, March 30

9:30 am COS School Mass at COS

Friday, March 31

4:00 pm Stations of the Cross

4:30 - 7:30 Fish Fry

Saturday, April 1

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, April 2

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday Social Hall

Children's Corner - Word Search

March Saints and Feast Days Word Search



*Directions: Search only for the parts of the saints names or feast days that are in bold print.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| St. Katharine Drexel | St. Felicity | St. Joseph |
| St. Casimir | St. John of God | St. Cyril of Jerusalem |
| St. Perpetua | St. Patrick | The Annunciation of the Lord |

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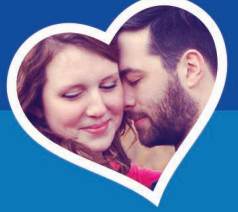
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