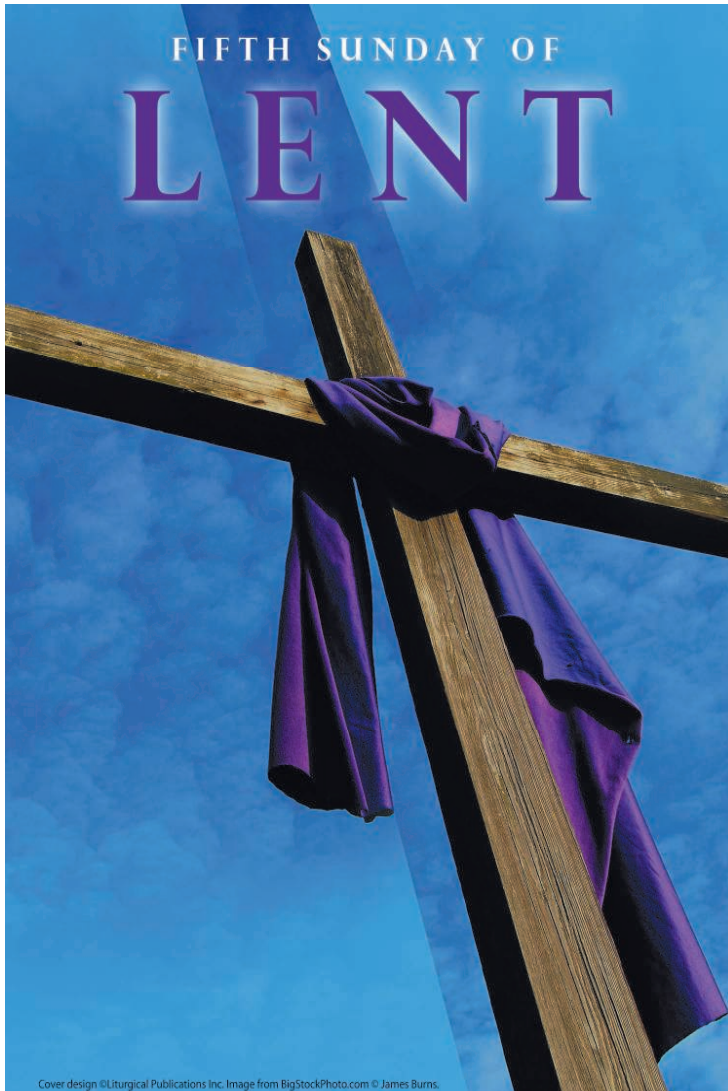


Church of St. Matthew

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frbobkellyop

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srannebecker

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jillkilzer

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Fax 651.222.2688

Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 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 April 2, 2017

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

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-21/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52-56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-7/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14--27:66 or 27:11-54

WE ARE INVITED!



Almost all of us have received one or more invitations in our lives. Invitations come in different sizes, different shapes, and for different occasions. There are invitations for birthday parties, for bridal showers, for twenty-fifth wedding anniversaries, for dinner parties, for graduation ceremonies, and for any kind of party. There are even electronic invitations with dancing animals, talking heads, and singing choirs that come via our e-mail. The purpose of an invitation is to gather a group of people together to celebrate life by remembering a specific occurrence in life. Life which has already occurred, like a twenty fifth wedding anniversary, or life that will occur, like a baby shower. And as we all know, we can either accept an invitation or we can refuse an invitation.

Today's gospel story is an invitation which we may want to refuse but which we have to accept. Jesus gives us the invitation when he says, "Lazarus, come out!" Out of his love, Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb to continue the friendship that he had with Jesus before his death. Most of us probably think that Lazarus was overjoyed to be restored back to life by Jesus. But in his play called "Calvary," William Butler Yeats offers us a different point of view.

After being freed from the burial cloths that bound him, an annoyed and ungrateful Lazarus is portrayed as complaining to Jesus. "For four whole days I had been dead and I was lying still in an old comfortable cave when you came ... and dragged me back into the light." To say the least, Lazarus did not want to be raised from the dead. Life was too much for him. He wanted to withdraw to the peace of living life no more. But Jesus would have none of this for Lazarus. Nor will Jesus give us the opportunity to withdraw from life with all its conflicts.

Conflict is a healthy but not an easy part of life. It's through conflict that change emerges. Through conflict we discover our essential concerns and values. We learn about ourselves and others as well as learning about how people and things function. Conflict gives us the opportunity to go deeper into the heart of our life and our humanity. So the aim is not to remove conflict from our lives and at the same time not to go about seeking conflict. I think we would all agree that conflict doesn't have much trouble finding us.

The life of Jesus was a life of conflict and he didn't try to avoid it. He embraced the opportunity of seeking a social and religious revolution in the face of Roman occupation and social upheaval. Jesus lived in a world where there was heavy taxation, loss of land, movement to cities, and the ever-present and hostile Roman legions that had the support of some religious authorities. Jesus was one man, with a small band of followers, taking on an empire and a well-established traditional religious culture. A person could not have experienced more conflict in a short life than Jesus did. It was because of what he stood for, a radical social equality and power to the poorest, that Jesus gave his life.

Part of this unsteady social-religious environment included a conflict between what happens after death. The Sadducees believed that nothing happens. When you are dead you are dead. The only thing that survives is what you leave behind in the number of children, owned property, and memories. The Pharisees, most of the people at the time, as well as Mary, Martha, and Lazarus believed in the general resurrection. The general resurrection was when a deceased person was restored to the condition of the present life at the end of time. What we might call "future resuscitation". No wonder, Lazarus would want to stay dead in a cave.

But Jesus brings to our world a new understanding of the resurrection. "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if they die, will live, and everyone who believes in me will never die." By these words Jesus not only tells the world that we not only receive a new and permanent form of life upon our death but that God is with us in this life when conflict is all around us and perhaps choking us to death.

I don't know about you, but I need faith in a resurrection that will strengthen me each day and give me hope in the present conflicts of life. I need faith in a resurrection that gives me courage to witness for what is right and to work for the coming of God's reign of peace in a world filled with terrorism and civil war. I need a God who walks with me through each challenge and every sorrow, every lonely valley and every high mountain. I need a living savior who will meet me each day, as if for the first time, with the gift of his spirit and the presence of his grace.

Almost all of us have received one or more invitations in our lives. Invitations come in different sizes, different shapes, and for different occasions. Today's gospel story is an invitation which we may want to refuse but which we must accept.

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.



COMMUNITY DINNER

You are invited to the 4pm Mass on Saturday, April 8, to celebrate the blessing of our Confirmation candidates. Afterwards, please join us for a community dinner in the Social Hall to meet our Confirmation candidate's families. Free will offerings will be 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 BREAK

St. Matthew Faith Formation students do *not* have class on Wednesday, April 5, because of spring break. Class resumes April 12. Parents and guardians, mark your calendars for April 19, when the last regular Faith Formation class will be celebrated. Please plan to join your students that evening for a service with treats afterward.

SUPPORT ST. MATT'S SCRIP PROGRAM

We all need to buy weekly groceries and gas for our cars, why not support our Scrip program by purchasing Cub, Walmart, Holiday and other gift cards for your weekly shopping needs. Planning a night out for dinner...we have card for that. Stop by the Scrip Table after Mass today and do a little shopping!

A MEN'S CLUB TRADITION

It has been a long standing tradition for the members of St. Matthew's Men's Club to join the St. Matthew choir and cantors for the Easter Sunday liturgy. Let's keep that tradition going! Men's Club members please arrive no later than 9am on Easter Sunday morning to warm up. Looking forward to seeing you and hearing you. A special thank you to the St. Matthew's Men's Club for the many things they do to support our parish and our outreach services.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS (Mar. 26)

Parish			
Plate	\$722	Faith Formation	\$50
Envelopes	\$2,190	COS School	\$50
Electronic Giving	\$187	Global Solidarity	\$104
Vigil Lights	\$25	Hall Rental	\$1,000
Coffee Sunday	\$35	Initial Envelopes	\$2
Stole Fee	\$100		
Easter flowers	\$190		
Total	\$4,418	Thank you!	

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 1
4:00 pm Patracinio & Leonarda Padilla†

Sunday, April 2
10:00 am Our Parish
Ron Hallgren†

Monday, April 3
8:00 am Frank & Helen Moosbugger†

Wednesday, April 5
8:00 am Asia & Stevie Vasquez
Special Intentions

Friday, April 7
8:00 am Rudy Saucedo, Jr.†

Saturday, April 8
4:00 pm Joseph Karas Sr.†
Joseph Karas Jr.†

Sunday, April 9
10:00 am Our Parish
Art Fischer†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 1
1:00 p.m. Liturgy Meeting Parish Center
4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, April 2
9:00 am Choir Practice
10:00 am Mass
11:00 am Coffee Sunday Social Hall

Monday April 3 – Thurs. April
5:00-6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes Social Hall

Monday, April 3
12:00 - 5:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic

Tuesday, April 4
Wednesday, April 5
8:00 am – 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC
NO Faith Formation
7:30 p.m. Men's Club Board Meeting SH

Thursday, April 6
9:30 am Mass at COS

Friday, April 7
4:00 pm Stations of the Cross
4:30 - 7:30 Fish Fry

Saturday, April 8
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Emmanuel Comun.
4:00 pm Mass/Conf. Students Blessing
5:00 p.m. Community Dinner SH

Sunday, April 9
9:00 am Choir Practice
10:00 am Mass
11:00 am Coffee Sunday Social Hall

Children's Corner

Rosary Word Search

S	A	L	P	Y	R	E	C	I	T	E	I	F	M	L
T	D	Z	B	A	P	T	I	S	M	V	N	P	R	U
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O	Q	I	U	P	B	D	E	C	A	D	E	A	O	I
M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	M	A	R	Y	R	S	I	N
I	G	I	T	Y	I	G	H	J	L	N	C	C	T	O
N	L	T	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	A	E	E	P	U
I	O	A	J	O	Y	F	U	L	K	T	S	N	M	S
C	R	T	Z	C	B	N	W	M	R	I	S	S	U	T
O	I	I	U	P	R	A	Y	E	R	S	I	I	S	Y
L	O	O	K	P	J	H	F	G	D	S	O	O	S	A
X	U	N	O	I	T	A	I	C	N	U	N	A	Z	
C	S	O	R	R	O	W	F	U	L	V	N	B	M	P
I	W	O	C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	Q
B	L	E	S	S	E	E	V	I	R	G	I	N	R	T

Word List

ANNUNCIATION	GLORIOUS	MYSTERY
ASCENSION	INTERCESSION	PRAY
ASSUMPTION	JOYFUL	RECITE
BAPTISM	KINGDOM	ROSARY
BLESSED VIRGIN	LITANY	SORROWFUL
CRUCIFIXION	LUMINOUS	ST DOMINIC
DECADE	MARY	VISITATION

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