31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy. - Lk 19:5-6

Reflection from Father Steve

Day of the Dead, also known as Dia de Muertos in Spanish, is a Mexican holiday where beloved family members that have died come to visit the living and reunite with loved ones. Although it may be perceived as a somber holiday, it’s actually a grand celebration with music, food and vibrant decorations. Each year, families set up “family altars” with their family members’ photos, flowers, favorite foods and most cherished personal items.

This feast celebrating family ancestors, the observance of The Day of the Dead, goes back to Pre-Columbian times – 3,000 years ago. In the fifteen century the Church sought to merge this cultural tradition and it has come to be celebrated in conjunction with the celebration of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, November 1st and 2nd.

On All Saints’ Day we celebrate the lives of that “cloud of witnesses” which have gone before us and who have left us an example of discipleship we can follow.

The Feast of All Souls’ is a kind of “Memorial Day”; a day in which we remember with gratitude and thanksgiving the people who have gone before us – family and friends.

Mass on Tuesday, November 1st, All Saints’ Day is at 7:00 pm.
Mass on Wednesday, November 2nd, All Soul’s Day is at 7:00 pm.

Father Steve Adrian

Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

PRAYER LINE: We are seeking a volunteer to monitor the Parish Prayer Line. In this role, your phone number would be published, without your name, in the parish bulletin under Prayer Line. People will call, asking to have the names of people in need of prayers placed on the Prayer Line. You will then call volunteers who have offered their time to pray for those requests. Having an answering system will be helpful. If willing to volunteer, please contact Mary Leibl or the parish office.

FUNERAL MINISTRY: We are looking for three to four volunteers to form a second team of Funeral Ministers. Some of the duties are: open church to meet the funeral directors when they arrive on the day of the service; offer hospitality to families and guests; be sure that everything needed for funeral service is in proper place; help the readers and gift bearers to feel comfortable in their roles; and see to it that the church is returned to normal set-up after the funeral. Training will be provided. If you are interested in serving in this important ministry, contact Mary Leibl or the parish office.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS: To Bury the Dead is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Helping to serve luncheons, to family and friends of the deceased, after a funeral is part of that Corporal Work of Mercy. A team of volunteers gather after each funeral to serve lunch to those attending the funeral. This group of parishioners could use more volunteers to help set up, serve food, and clean up after the luncheon. Would you be able to offer some time to help in this needed ministry? If so, please contact Mary at mleibl@st-matts.org or call the parish office and leave your name and phone number.

THANK YOU: To the 101 people who attended the Saturday 4:15 PM Mass and 93 who attended the Sunday 10:15 AM Mass. Thank You to Fr. Adrian, who through his homilies helps us to see how the readings pertain to our own lives. To Mary who served as the lector on Saturday and Ginny on Sunday. To Jeanne who read the announcements on Saturday and Andy on Sunday. Thank you to Ellen, Karen, Tom and Tim who served as eucharistic ministers on Saturday; Joanne, Becky and Joe on Sunday. To cantor Linda on Saturday and Andy on Sunday. Thank you to pianists Bryan on Saturday and Jill on Sunday. Thank you to trumpeter Phil on Sunday. To ushers Tom, Kevin, Doris and Tim on Saturday; Al and Steve on Sunday. Thank you to Anita and Kathy who brought up the gifts on Saturday and Lawrence and Jermaine on Sunday. Thanks to our sacristans Mary on Saturday; Ginny and Joanne on Sunday. Thank you Saturday greeters – Tom, Doris and Tim.

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org
DATA, DATA, DATA
Have you ever heard the saying, that to a person with a hammer, everything looks like a nail? I sometimes feel that way with regard to requests for data. That is, to a person with a computer, everything looks like data. Such is our modern world.

For example, we fill out a Parish Survey every October. We send that data to the Archdiocese. Much of it is compiled and sent on to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Part of the survey asks for basic contact info, such as staff members. Another part asks for counts of Mass attendees during the month of October.

For me, one of the most interesting sections asked for numbers. Here are some of ours:
- Registered Parishioners: 1285*
- Registered Households: 549*
- Baptisms during the past year: 29
- First Eucharist: 24
- Confirmations: 24
- Marriages: 1
- Funerals: 33

*I take these numbers with a few grains of salt. Some of our active community members aren’t registered. In addition, some registered folks are no longer active here. Please notify us if change addresses or parishes.

I was pleased to see that we’ve had dozens of recipients of one or more sacraments of initiation this past year, i.e., Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. They lead to opportunities to engage with new members and families, offering hospitality and support.

By the way, other reports due this time of year include the Annual Parish Financial Report (APFR) we submit to the Archdiocese. I’m grateful to our accounting people at PASC (Parish Accounting Service Center), who take care of that report for us.

There’s also an annual Representation Letter, confirming to the Archbishop that we provide an annual Financial Report to parishioners, that we have a Finance Council that meets regularly, and that we discuss our budget and monthly financial reports.

Thank you for your support, and have a great week!

Phil Grant
pgrant@st-matts.org
(651) 224-9793

News and Events

TURKEY BINGO
The Men’s Club is hosting Turkey Bingo on Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 5:15 PM in the Social Hall. There will be 12 bingo games for turkeys (cash for multiple winners), 3 cash games and raffle for leftover turkeys. Food, beer and wine will be available for purchase. All ages are welcome if accompanied with an adult.

THANKSGIVING DINNER FROM CASPER’S OF EAGAN
The wonderful tradition of free Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings will continue this year! Meals will be will be available for pick up on Thankgiving Day, November 24th at the Church of Saint Joseph parking lot, 1154 Seminole Avenue, West Saint Paul. There are two time slots for pick up: 10:30 AM -11:00 AM or 2:00 PM-3:00 PM. More information can be found in the insert including how to reserve your ticket.

ISAAC’S BLESSING BAGS
Isaac Garcia, a junior at Cretin-Derham Hall, will once again be collecting donations for Isaac’s Blessing Bags. The donations are accepted through December 1, 2022. See the insert for a list of items to donate and a letter from Isaac.

Faith Formation News

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES: Public school students in grades K-10 who are registered for Faith Formation have class on Wednesday, November 2, the Feast of All Souls, in the Parish Center. Grades K to 7 start at 6:30 PM and Grades 8 to 10 start at 6:45 PM. Community of Saints 8th graders will join the Confirmation students (grades 8 to 10) on November 2.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION: On Sunday, October 30, at the 10:15 AM Mass, St. Matthew welcomes Faith Formation families with students in grades 8 to 10 AND Community of Saints 8th graders who are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. Families, please stay after Mass for a short meeting in church. Additionally, Confirmation students (public school and COS) have class on Wednesday, November 2, from 6:45 PM to 7:50 PM in the Parish Center at 490 Hall Avenue.

FIRST COMMUNION-FIRST RECONCILIATION MEETING: Families with students who attend public school or Catholic school who are seeking First Communion are invited to a meeting on Wednesday, November 16, from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM, in St. Matthew Church, 510 Hall Avenue. Public school students seeking First Communion should be already registered for and attending weekly Faith Formation classes at St. Matthew (classes started in September). Community of Saints Catholic School students register using a different form and they may register at the meeting that evening if they have not already registered. Attendance at this meeting is required for the child seeking First Communion AND for at least one parent (both parents are welcome to attend, if possible). Questions? Email janelle@st-matts.org or call or text 651-242-6004. ¿Habla español? Text Myrna, 651-285-8112.

Parish Administrator’s Note

All Saints’ Day Mass
Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM

All Soul’s Day Mass
Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Readings for the week of October 30, 2022

Sunday: Wis 11:22—12:2/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14/2
Thes 1:11—2:2/Lk 19:1-10
Monday: Phil 2:1-4/Ps 131:1bde, 2, 3/Lk 14:12-14
Tuesday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/1 Jn 3:1-3/ Mt 5:1-12a
Wednesday: Wis 4:7-14/Ps 25:6, and 7b, 17-18, 20-21/Rom 5:17-21/Mt 11:25-30
Thursday: Phil 3:3-8a/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 15:1-10
Friday: Phil 3:17—4:1/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 16:1-8
Saturday: Phil 4:10-19/Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8 a and 9/Lk 16:9-15
Next Sunday: 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14/Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15 [15b]/2
Thes 2:16—3:5/Lk 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38

Parish Council Members

Zach Czaia Anthony Minus
Jerald Dosch Janelle Rohr
Kathy Goldenstein Ellen Schneider
Maggie Lee Linda Sellars
Phil Grant, Ex Officio

Finance Council Members

Alan Christensen John Sekevitch
John Del Vecchio Joe Stevens
Bernie Klein Karen Thompson
Jackie Lackner Phil Grant, Ex Officio
Becky Montgomery

Parish Leadership

Rev. Steve Adrian, Sacramental Minister
sadrian@st-matts.org
Rev. Antony Skaria, Parochial Administrator
frantony@sjvssp.org
Phil Grant, Pastoral Administrator/Safe Environment Coordinator
pgrant@st-matts.org
Angela Rakow, Administrative Assistant
arakow@st-matts.org
Accounts Payable & Receivable
accountspayable@st-matts.org
Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
jkilzer@st-matts.org
Mary Leibl, Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org
Linda Rivera, Funeral Coordinator
lrivera@st-matts.org
Janelle Rohr, Faith Formation
jdrohr@pro-matts.org
Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
skowal@st-matts.org
Scott Hertzog, Janitor

Reyes Ledesma, Janitor
John Del Vecchio, Parish Trustee
jdelvecchio@st-matts.org
Karen Thompson, Parish Trustee
kthompson@st-matts.org

Announcements are due on Monday by 10:00 AM for the next Sunday’s bulletin. Items should be sent to Angela Rakow at arakow@st-matts.org. Items received after 10:00 AM will appear in the following week’s bulletin.

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