December 11, 2022

Liturgy Schedule

Masses
Saturday 4:15 PM (in-person)
Sunday 10:15 AM (in-person)
Sunday 10:15 AM (Saturday Mass available for viewing online)

Reconciliation
2nd & 4th Saturday and 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month following Mass

Please contact the parish office regarding Baptism, Matrimony, First Communion, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick

Church Schedule

Church 510 Hall Avenue
Parish Center 490 Hall Avenue
(Mailing Address) St. Paul, MN 55107
TelephoneNumber (651) 224-9793
FaxNumber (651) 222-2688
Prayer LineNumber (651) 424-6677
Website www.st-matts.org
Facebook www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew
YouTube www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew
Twitter twitter.com/stmattswestside

Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday Closed
Reflection from Father Steve

Next Sunday, December 18th at 2:00 PM we will celebrate our annual Advent Communal Reconciliation. This service is offered twice a year, once now before Christmas and in the spring of the year before Easter. Also each day from December 19th through Friday, December 23rd Private Confessions will be available in the Chapel.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the Sacrament of God’s mercy and compassion. Sins are not the focus of our attention; our eyes are focused on God, a gracious and merciful God who seeks to draw ever closer to us.

Sometimes people talk about “their search for God”. In reality the story of salvation is the story of God's relentless searching for each of us. We are “found” when we allow God to embrace us, as the father in the story of The Wayward Son embraces his son returning home. Francis Thompson reflected on this truth in his poem, The Hound of Heaven.

Pope Francis reminds us that the center of God’s relationship with human beings is mercy. The Old Testament Jews recognized this in first attributing to God gracious and generous mercy (hesed). The first of the names of God in the Koran is “God the merciful”. In the story of Israel’s wandering in the desert God would sometimes appear to Moses in the cloud that hung over the meeting tent. The shelf on top of the Ark of the Covenant was known as “The Mercy Seat”—the place where God is found.

Pope Francis is fond of making verbs out of nouns. Take the noun “mercy” and use it as a verb “to mercy”. God mercies us in Sacramental celebrations.

Invite your family and friends to join you at Communal Reconciliation as well as at Private Confession.

**Communal Reconciliation**
Sunday, December 18, 2:00 pm

**Private Confessions in the Chapel**
Monday, December 19, 4:00 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, December 20, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, December 21, 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Thursday, December 22, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Friday, December 23, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Father Steve Adrian

Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

*Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” ~ Isaiah 6:8*

**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 **Mary** and **Bob** who decorated the Church and Chapel for the Advent season.

**THANK YOU:** To **Tom** who picked up and delivered the large wreath and greens for our Advent and Christmas season.

**WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!**

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

Faith Formation News

**FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**
Students in grades 1 to 10 have class on Wednesday, December 14, 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 registered for Confirmation with St. Matthew will join class that evening from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. This is the last class before the Christmas and New Year’s break.

**CONFIRMATION SACRAMENT UPDATE**
Faith Formation students in grades 8 to 10 and Community of Saints 8th graders have class on Wednesday, December 14, in the Parish Center from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. Students are to attend Mass at St. Matthew the next weekend, also. After the 10:15 AM Sunday, December 18, Mass, Confirmation candidates can stay an extra hour to decorate the church for Christmas. Helping with decorating counts as a service project.
Parish Administrator’s Note

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RETIRED RELIGIOUS

Our second collection today supports religious sisters, brothers and order priests. They devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please use the special envelopes for this collection. Make checks out to the Church of St. Matthew and put “Religious Retirement Fund” in the memo line.

You may also contribute to the Religious Retirement Fund next weekend, if you prefer. Either way, thank you for your generosity.

CALLING ALL GEN-Z-ERS

What do we call the generation of people aged 25-45 or so? I admit I don’t know.

However, if you are in this age group, know that plans are being made to provide you with more opportunities to connect here at St. Matt’s. I believe food will be involved. To learn more, call Zach Czaia at 651-399-6570. You may also email the office and we’ll pass your contact info on to Zach. (We do not share your info without permission.)

NEW HYMNALS

I hope that by the time you read this, our new hymnals will have arrived. The publisher (GIA) recently notified us of production delays.

So . . . we wait. Seems kind of appropriate for the Advent season, right?

If you would like to honor people in your life by dedicating a new hymnal to them, you can do that with a special nameplate we put inside the front cover. The recommended donation is $20, which will be used to defray the cost of the hymnals. Non-nameplate hymnal donations are also gratefully accepted. Call the office for details.

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

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

ST. MATTHEW WELCOMES ALL TO OUR PARISH!

New to the area, joining us for the first time or coming home again? Please contact Angela Rakow at arakow@st-matts.org to become a member. It would be great to have you join our parish family!

News and Events

ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

All adult women are invited to the next Rosary Society meeting, which will be held Tuesday, December 13 from 1:30 - 3:00 PM. Come, enjoy the company of one another, refreshments, and Christmas cheer! The meeting will be held in the lower level of the Parish Center; you can enter the lower level from the parking lot. You do not need to be a member to attend meetings.

ST. MATTHEW’S MARANATHA CHOIR

Join us for music and fellowship! This choir will meet on select Wednesday nights to prepare music for some of the liturgies of the Advent and Christmas season. All voices and instrumentalist are welcome.

Rehearsals
December 14, 7:15 PM
December 21, 7:15 PM

Singing at Mass
Gaudete Sunday, December 11
Christmas Eve, December 24
Epiphany Sunday, January 8

GIFTED AND BELONGING MEETING AT ST. MATTHEW

Gifted and Belonging, a Catholic Fellowship for young adults with disabilities, seen and unseen, invites you to join GAB for our Annual Advent Celebration, December 18, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, hosted at St. Matthew's Parish, 510 Hall Avenue, Saint Paul. Bring an Advent or Christmas Craft to work on and Christmas cookies to share. For more information contact Megan at giftedandbelonging@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER

From November 25 through December 17, 2022, Boy Scouts Troop 95 and 288 will be selling Christmas trees and wreaths at Cub Foods in West St. Paul. The times are weekends, 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM and weekdays, 4:00 to 8:00 PM. 100% of the profits will support the camping adventures of the scouts of Troop 95 and 288 from South St. Paul, West St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights.

PARISH MAILING

We recently sent out our Advent mailing. If you have not received it, please notify Angela in the parish office. We want to make sure everyone’s address is up to date.

Due to early bulletin submission, some items may appear in later issues.
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 pgrant@st-matts.org
Angela Rakow, Administrative Assistant arakow@st-matts.org
Accounts Payable & Receivable accountspayable@st-matts.org
Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry jkillzer@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-nets.org
Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer skowal@st-matts.org
Mario Medina Gonzalez, Maintenance John Del Vecchio, Parish Trustee jdelvecchio@st-matts.org
Karen Thompson, Parish Trustee kthompson@st-matts.org

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

Announcements

Next Sunday: Is 7:10
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8
Friday: Is 56:1

Thursday: Is 54:1  Mt 21:28
Wednesday: Is 45:6c
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/ Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
Advertisers on the back of this bulletin pay for this weekly bulletin. Thank them by using their services and products.