<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liturgy Schedule</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Parish Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masses</td>
<td>510 Hall Avenue</td>
<td>490 Hall Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 4:15 PM (in-person)</td>
<td>(Mailing Address)</td>
<td>(Mailing Address)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 10:15 AM (Saturday Mass</td>
<td>Telephone (651) 224-9793</td>
<td>Telephone (651) 222-2688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>available for viewing online)</td>
<td>Fax (651) 222-2688</td>
<td>Fax (651) 222-2688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
<td>Prayer Line (651) 424-6677</td>
<td>Prayer Line (651) 424-6677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} &amp; 4\textsuperscript{th} Saturday and 1\textsuperscript{st} &amp; 3\textsuperscript{rd} Sunday of the month following Mass</td>
<td>Website <a href="http://www.st-matts.org">www.st-matts.org</a></td>
<td>Website <a href="http://www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew">www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please contact the parish office regarding Baptism, Matrimony, First Communion, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick</td>
<td>Facebook <a href="http://www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew">www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew</a></td>
<td>YouTube <a href="http://www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew">www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Twitter twitter.com/stmattswestside</td>
<td>Twitter twitter.com/stmattswestside</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

December 25, 2022
The Nativity of the Lord
Years ago when people talked of simple living and ecology they championed “Small Is Beautiful”. In some ways the Feast and Season of Christmas celebrates God’s dwelling among us in the small and the beautiful — in a condition a busy and commercial driven world at best disregards and at worst doesn’t even see.

How to celebrate the immensity and at the same time the smallness of this Divine Mystery — the mystery of Emmanuel, “God with us”? The Christmas Event is not something to grasp intellectually — you can’t get your mind around it. This mystery is to be experienced; and the experience often is reflected in the creative work of artists: music, sculpture, poetry, film, novels and dramas, etc.

Find the mystery in an expression that works for you.

When I was in my junior and senior year at the college seminary it was the practice that students go to confession if not weekly, then every two weeks. Priests from neighboring parishes and institutions came on Tuesday afternoon to serve as confessors and spiritual directors to the seminarians. I was assigned to go to confession at the confessional on the first floor of Loras Residence. The priest confessor was the Headmaster of Saint Thomas Academy, Father John Roach — later to become our Archbishop. At the beginning of Advent 1962, he urged me to read Mr. Blue, by Miles Connolly. It is the story of a simple, loving, counter-cultural man who lives graciously, gives whatever he has to others and ultimately saves the life of another by offering his own. Father Roach told me that Mr. Blue was a ‘Christ-figure” and that the story is an unexpected insight into the Divine Mystery of the Christmas Feast. He assured me that he read the story every year and found it always inspiring.

I received that advice 60 years ago, the fall of 1962. For the past 60 years part of my preparation for the Christmas Season each year has been to read Mr. Blue.

I encourage you to find a creative piece of human wonder and imagination that speaks to you of the Divine Mystery.

Christmas expresses the longing hunger for God, and so it is with joy that I wish you and yours a blessed and gracious Christmas.

Father Steve Adrian

---

**Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs**

**Reflection from Father Steve**

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.

**MONEY COUNTER:** We need a volunteer to help count the collection on the last two Sundays of each month. You would work on a team of four volunteers. If you are interested, please call the parish office or email Mary Leibl.

**THANK YOU:** To all our Faith Formation Students and Parishioners who helped decorate the Sanctuary and the Church for the Christmas feast.

**THANK YOU:** To Linda, Ann, Chris M, Chris W, Elaine and Patty who weekly work at the reception desk answering phones and helping with any office duties that need to be done.

**THANK YOU:** To all who contributed to Isaac’s Blessing Bags. In doing so you brought Christmas joy to those in need!

**OUR WISH TO ALL OUR PARISH VOLUNTEERS**

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

---

**THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATT’S**

The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on December 27, 2022 in memory of Paul (Parky) Rodriguez.

If you would like to schedule a day to ring the bells or a week to light the sanctuary lamp for your special memory, person or event, please contact the parish office at (651) 224-9793 by 1:00 PM Monday – Thursday.
Parish Administrator’s Note

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Welcome, one and all, to St. Matt’s for Christmas 2022. We’re glad you’re here, celebrating Christ’s birth with us!

Christmas is a season that involves the giving of gifts. I’ve often been reminded of that lately, every time I see the many gifts this community has given to Isaac’s Blessing Bags.

There’s another type of gift I notice every time we gather for worship: your presence, here in church or online. It is good to be together. Thanks (?) to the pandemic, I’ve grown to appreciate togetherness ever more.

One more thought on gifts: I see St. Matt’s as a gift to the West Side and beyond. Our community members, working together, greatly enrich this area. As we look towards 2023, let’s maintain our tradition of being a visible expression of God’s love.

STEWARDSHIP
Special thanks for your generosity today. Our Christmas collections are a boost to our budget, helping us to continue feeding the poor, sheltering the homeless, ministering to the sick, and more.

Please note that if you want your contributions to St. Matt’s to be counted in 2022, we must receive them by next Saturday, December 31. Any contributions received on Sunday, January 1 (or later), will be recorded as 2023 contributions. Either way, thank you for your support!

NEW HYMNAL BOOKPLATES
It’s still possible to honor people in your life by dedicating a new hymnal. You can do that with a special nameplate we put inside the front cover. The recommended donation is $20, which is used to defray the cost of the hymnals. Non-nameplate hymnal donations are also gratefully accepted. Call the office for details.

Merry Christmas! May there be peace in your family, in our nation, and the world.

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

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Vigil, New Year’s Eve, Saturday, December 31 – 4:15 pm
New Year’s Day, Sunday, January 1 – 10:15 am

The Epiphany of the Lord
Vigil, Saturday, January 7, 2023 - 4:15 pm
Sunday, January 8, 2023 - 10:15 am

Faith Formation News

FAITH FORMATION CHRISTMAS BREAK: Students in grades K to 10 are on break from Faith Formation. There is NO class on December 28 or January 4. Classes resume on January 11. The next Confirmation class that Community of Saints 8th graders attend (as well as Faith Formation students in grades 8 to 10) is on January 18. The next First Communion parent meeting and class for both Faith Formation students and Community of Saints students registered for First Communion is on January 25.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Eleven Faith Formation students in grades 2 to 9 and fourteen Community of Saints students in grades 2 to 7 made their First Reconciliation with Father Steve Adrian on Saturday, December 10. Please pray for these students who are preparing for First Communion in 2023.

Due to early bulletin submission, some items may appear in later issues.


If you have a loved one you would like to add to this list, please call the parish office, provide us with your name and the name of your loved one. We are strong as a community praying together.
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
jillkilzer@st-matts.org
Mary Leibl, Volunteer Coordinator
mileibl@st-matts.org
Linda Rivera, Funeral Coordinator
lrivera@st-matts.org
Janelle Rohr, Faith Formation
jdrohr@pro-net
Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
skowal@st-matts.org
Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
jillkilzer@st-matts.org
Parish Council Members
Zach Czaia
Jerald Dosch
Kathy Goldenstein
Maggie Lee
Phil Grant, Ex Officio
Parish Council Members
Anthony Minus
Janelle Rohr
Ellen Schneider
Linda Sellars
Finance Council Members
Alan Christensen
John Del Vecchio
Bernie Klein
Jackie Lackner
Becky Montgomery
Finance Council Members
John Sekevitch
Joe Stevens
Karen Thompson
Phil Grant, Ex Officio
Finance Council Members

Bulletin
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.

Readings for the week of December 25, 2022
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-25
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 24
4:15 PM Mass
Our Parish
+Leo Kegler
+Kevin Kleman
+Pam, Lucille and Robert Stickler Sr.

Sunday, December 25
10:15 AM Mass
Our Parish
+William Brengman
+Dorothy and Sam Robinette
+Jim and Greg Thompson

Monday, December 26
8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, December 27
8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, December 28
8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, December 29
8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, December 30
8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, December 31
4:15 PM Mass
Our Parish
+Roger Goldberg
+Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Paul (Parky) Rodriguez

Sunday, January 1
10:15 PM Mass
Our Parish

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 26 - Thursday, December 29
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Loaves & Fishes
Meals are available as to-go or dine-in.

No meal service on Friday, December 30.

Monday, December 26
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 27
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

Wednesday, December 28
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary’s Clinic
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Parish Office Open

Thursday, December 29
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Friday, December 30

Saturday, December 31
4:15 PM Mass (in-person) - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Sunday, January 1
10:15 AM Mass (in-person) - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
10:15 AM Saturday Mass available online

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