



Church of St. Matthew

A Catholic community that is a visible expression of God's love



December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Liturgy Schedule

Masses

Saturday 4:15 PM
Sunday 10:15 AM (*online Mass is on hiatus*)

Reconciliation

1st & 3rd Sunday (after Mass) 11:00 AM
2nd & 4th Saturday (after Mass) 5:00 PM

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

Church 510 Hall Avenue
Parish Center (Mailing Address) 490 Hall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone (651) 224-9793
Fax (651) 222-2688
Website www.st-matts.org
Facebook www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew
YouTube www.youtube.com/churchofstmatthew
Twitter twitter.com/stmattswestside

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Friday Closed

Reflection from Father Steve

The earliest record we have of the observance of Advent comes from the 5th century. Just as the season of Lent was the preparation for the Easter Feast, so the season of Advent was the preparation time for the Feast of Christmas.

In both Old Testament times and in the history of the Church, more often than not, agricultural civic events were taken over and imbued with a religious significance.

In northern Europe, the season of Advent began on the feast of Saint Martin of Tours, November 11th. The harvest was in, and weather was turning cold. It was time to take the livestock to slaughter. The produce was stored in barns and meat was either smoked, to preserve it for many months, or eaten rather quickly, lest it spoil. Thus, this period before the Christmas Feast became a time of feasting.

The Church "baptized" this annual harvest observance and instituted the practice of spending a few weeks in prayer anticipating the coming Feast of the Birth of the Savior.

In southern Europe, with a much warmer climate, the time of harvest and taking livestock to market occurred in early December. Here Advent began on the Feast of Saint Nicholas, December 6th.

By 1,000 AD, the observance of Advent, as we know it, was firmly established.

The annual observance of sacred times associated with the Incarnation, Death and Resurrection of Jesus have become standard practice in Christian communities – Lent in preparation for Easter and Advent in preparation for Christmas.

Rather than being caught up in the commercial enterprises of the pre-Christmas time, Advent can be a time to be quiet and reflective; a time to ponder the gratuitousness of a God who chooses to enter fully the human world with all its strengths and weaknesses.

Fr. Steve Adrian

THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATTHEW



The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on December 8, 2023 for the **Living and Deceased Rosary Society Members**.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ~ Isaiah 6:8

Money Counter Needed: We are looking for a volunteer to join the collection money counters. You would count the weekend collections after the Sunday 10:15 AM Mass, twice each month. **Training will be provided.** If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, call the parish office at **651-224-9793**.

Library Ministry: We are in the process of organizing a parish library. This library will be in the SE corner of the main church. We already have a large number of books that are being cataloged and prepared to go onto the shelves that are being donated. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help people select books to read, check books in and out and keep the shelves neat. This ministry would take place before and after weekend Masses. If you enjoy books and would like to help others who also like to read, please contact the parish office for more information.

Thank You: To those who attended the first Grief Support Group. This group meets the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be **Thursday, December 21 at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Center.

Thank You: By now everyone has received the Advent/Christmas parish mailing. We thank **Rose, Chuck, Chris M., Anita, Kathy, Chris W., Mary and Angela**, who gathered the materials, stuffed the envelopes and delivered to the post office.

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



Jeremiah Baker, Jerry & Louise Breidel, Sue & William Brown, Rey Del Angel, Rita Eckert, Elaine Goldberg, Carolina Gomez, The Karas Family, Kendrick Morrison, Pablo Munoz, Pam Perkovich, Marie Scanlan, Doris Schillinger, Mary Lou Shields, Larry Smith, James Stanger, Sr., Dorothy Stearns, and Patricia Weisman.

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 Administrator's Note

Be Careful Out There!

Our insurance company, Catholic Mutual, has a regular reminder for all parishes and schools each fall: be careful while walking, driving, or doing anything outside. Cold weather is here.

To summarize: do the "Penguin Shuffle" while walking. That is, take smaller steps and watch your center of gravity. We do everything we can to clear snow from our steps, sidewalks and parking lot, but everyone should still be careful.

Catholic Mutual also advises us to make sure our buildings are prepared for winter. Thanks to Steve K., volunteers, and Englund Roofing, our school and Parish Center buildings are in better shape than they were last winter. Church roof leaks are still a concern. We continue to work with the company that put on the new roof in 2019.

Cameras

I'm happy to report that we're now only a few weeks away from being able to put Masses online again. That's because our security cameras are in the midst of being installed. As part of that project, two cameras in the church will be used for online Masses. They can also be used for other events. It's a great win-win: improved security, and a way to reach out to those who aren't with us in person at Mass.

I'm grateful to everyone who participated in last year's and this year's November Giving Thanks fundraisers. Those proceeds are funding the cameras and a door access control system for the Parish Center's Door #1 (the main door).

It's On the List (Facilities)

Speaking of roofs and cameras: we have a running list of facilities projects and tasks. I'm looking forward to updating it, given how much we've accomplished this past year.

The main list is a multi-page spreadsheet that follows a template Catholic Mutual provided. Both our Facilities Committee and our Finance Committee use the spreadsheet to help plan our main projects. We also have informal lists that help us manage smaller tasks.

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

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

Congratulations to Father Steve Adrian on His 55th Anniversary of Priesthood!

The Church of St. Matthew community is grateful to Fr. Steve Adrian for his many years of ministry as our Pastor and Sacramental Minister.

We pray for the Lord's grace and blessings on Fr. Steve as he continues his priestly ministry.

Congratulations, Fr. Steve!



Faith Formation News

Faith Formation, Confirmation Classes: On Wednesday, December 6, Faith Formation students in grades K to 10 have class in the St. Matthew Parish Center. Grades K to 5 have class from 6:30 to 7:45 PM, and grades 6 to 10 have class from 6:45 to 7:50 PM. Grades 8 to 10+ have Confirmation class, and Community of Saints 8th graders who are registered for the sacrament with St. Matthew should attend class on December 6, in addition to the Faith Formation Confirmation candidates.

First Reconciliation Service: Faith Formation and Community of Saints students who are already baptized and are registered to make their First Communion next spring should come to our First Reconciliation Service on Saturday, December 9, at 10:00 AM, in the church. Families should attend with their students. Each student will have an individual one-on-one confession with Father Adrian. Any family member who would like to go to confession may do so after the children finish. Questions? Email janelle@st-matts.org or text 651-242-6004.

News and Events

Parish Mailing

We recently sent out our Advent mailing. If you have not received it, please notify Angela in the parish office (651-224-9793 or arakow@st-matts.org). We want to make sure everyone's address is up to date.



No Coffee Sunday in December

There is no Coffee Sunday in December. It will return on January 14, 2024.

Community of Saints School Collection

This weekend is our monthly second collection in support of Community of Saints Catholic School. Thank you for your continued generous support!



See the bulletin insert for more news and events happening at the Church of St. Matthew.

Parish Leadership

Rev. Steve Adrian, Sacramental Minister

Rev. Antony Skaria, Parochial Administrator

Phil Grant, Pastoral Administrator/Safe Environment Coordinator
pgrant@st-matts.org

Angela Rakow, Administrative Assistant
arakow@st-matts.org

Cristina Czaia, Director of Music and Liturgy
cczaia@st-matts.org

Mary Leibl, Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

Linda Rivera, Funeral Coordinator
lrivera@st-matts.org

Janelle Rohr, Faith Formation
janelle@st-matts.org

Accounts Payable & Receivable
accountspayable@st-matts.org

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
skowal@st-matts.org

Mario Medina Gonzalez, Maintenance

Scott Hertzog, Custodian

Jair Aguilar Vasquez, Custodian
jair@st-matts.org

John Del Vecchio, Parish Trustee
jdelvecchio@st-matts.org

Karen Thompson, Parish Trustee
kthompson@st-matts.org

Parish Council Members

Jerald Dosch	Tara Perron
Kathy Goldenstein	Ellen Schneider
Maggie Lee	Katie Shetka
Anthony Minus	Phil Grant, Ex Officio

Finance Council Members

Alan Christensen	Becky Montgomery
John Del Vecchio	Tony Postiglione
Richard Dunn	Karen Thompson
Jackie Lackner	Phil Grant, Ex Officio

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 3, 2023

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 2

4:15 PM Mass
+John and Carol Murphy
+Lisa Norton
+Shirley Smith

Sunday, December 3

10:15 AM Mass
+Carol Dvorak Johnson
+Leonard and Betty Johnson
+Shirley Johnson Sulat

Monday, December 4

8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, December 6

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, December 7

6:00 PM Mass

Friday, December 8

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, December 9

4:15 PM Mass
+Gerry Jenniges
+John and Judy Kelly
+Mary Ann Roscoe

Sunday, December 10

10:15 AM Mass
+Lisa Norton
+Shirley Smith
Living and Deceased Rosary Society Members

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 4 - Friday, December 8

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Loaves & Fishes
Meals are available as to-go or dine-in.

Monday, December 4

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 5

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Liturgy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 6

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:30 PM Faith Formation
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Choir Practice
7:30 PM Men's Club Board Meeting

Thursday, December 7

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
4:30 PM Finance Council Meeting
6:00 PM Mass - Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Friday, December 8

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM St. Mary's Diabetes Prevention Meeting

Saturday, December 9

10:00 AM First Reconciliation Service
1:00 PM - 5:30 PM Rosary Society Christmas Boutique and Craft & Bake Sale
4:15 PM Mass
5:00 PM Confessions

Sunday, December 10

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Rosary Society Christmas Boutique and Crate & Bake Sale
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Breakfast with Santa
10:15 AM Mass