

Church of St. Matthew - Bulletin Insert

November 19, 2023
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 23 – 9:00 am

Our Lady of Guadalupe Traveling Rosary

Monday, November 27 - 1:00 pm

Preparing for Heaven Seminar

Thursday, November 30 - 9:00 am

Last Day to Participate in Isaac's Blessing Bags

Friday, December 1

Saint Paul Civic Symphony Concert

Sunday, December 3 – 3:00 pm

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Vigil, Thursday, December 7 – 6:00 pm

Christmas Bake & Craft Sale and Boutique

Saturday, December 9 – 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 10 – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 10 – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Men's Club Auction

Wednesday, December 13 – 7:00 pm

Communal Reconciliation Service

Sunday, December 17 – 2:00 pm

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 – 4:15 pm

Sunday, December 24 – 10:15 am

Christmas Eve

Vigil, Sunday, December 24 – 4:15 pm

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25 – 10:15 am

The Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30 – 4:15 pm

Sunday, December 31 – 10:15 am

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024 – 10:15 am

ISAAC'S BLESSING BAGS

Greetings,

Fall is finally here! I hope everyone gets a chance to walk outside and enjoy the colorful leaves. My family and I are already getting ready to accept donations. Last Holiday season was a record breaker for Isaac's Blessing Bags. We hand delivered over 250 bags!

I couldn't have done it without the heartfelt donations that were donated by St. Matthew's Parishioners and families. I delivered all over the Twin Cities. It was important to me that people had warm clothing and warm food. So my mom and I made Wild Rice Soup for so many people downtown Saint Paul and Minneapolis. They were extremely grateful! I share all of this with you in hopes we can recreate this compassion and giving again this year!

*We plan to accept donations until **December 1st**. I sincerely thank each and every one of you for your ongoing support!*

*Many blessings,
Isaac Garcia & IBB Team*

List of needs 2023

Gently used clothing
Warm Socks (highly needed)
Warm Coats (all sizes)
Hats
Warm Gloves
Hand Sanitizer
Toothpaste
Deodorant
Body Wash
Shampoo & Conditioner

Place your donations in large bins by the main entrance. Thank you!

 **DONATIONS** ©LPI

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GIVING THANKS IN NOVEMBER FUNDRAISER WINNERS

- November 10 - Tom & Pat Rolowicz (\$50)
- November 11 - Marjorie Arnold (\$50)
- November 12 - Marjorie Arnold (\$100)
- November 13 - Joanne Leibl (\$75)
- November 14 - Dennis & Rose King (\$25)
- November 15 - Rosemary Penner (\$75)
- November 16 - Ann Contreras (\$75)

Congratulations to all the winners! Watch the bulletin for next set of winners.

Thanks to all who participated in our fourth annual Giving Thanks in November Fundraiser!

PREPARING FOR HEAVEN NOV. 30 SEMINAR DETAILS

Fr. Steve invites you to a free morning seminar on November 30. It will be co-hosted by St. Matthew and the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) of Minnesota.

Please register with Angela in the parish office no later than this Wednesday, November 22. We need a count for food and materials. Thank you.

As Catholics, we have a sacred responsibility to prepare for our journey home to heaven. This seminar, called "Preparing for Heaven", is designed to help you and your loved ones plan for the future. Topics include:

- The Gift of Pre-Planning: Funeral Liturgy, Cemetery and Burial
- Creating a Catholic Estate Plan
- Creating a Legacy Through Charitable Giving
- St. Matt's Educational Endowment Fund
- Life Eternal with the Sacraments

The seminar begins with breakfast in the Social Hall at 9:00 a.m. The program starts at 9:30 and concludes with Mass at 11:30 a.m.

Phil Grant

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION - Nov. 28

All are welcome to join in our next West Side Community Conversation on **Tuesday evening, November 28**. This will be our fourth such meeting. Once again, we'll gather as members of the West Side community to listen to other members. As Fr. Steve has reminded us more than once, it is important to listen!

As I've listened to the stories of others in our community, I'm learning much about local history and possible futures. It's also good just to connect with neighbors, for mutual support and friendship.

The session on the 28th will be held at Humboldt High School. Plans are for supper at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m., and adjourning at 8:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Phil Grant

WANTED - Crafters, Artists and Sewers

We are looking for crafters, artists and sewers for the Rosary Society Bake Sale, Boutique and, new this year, Craft Sale. The event will be Saturday, December 9 from 1:00 to 5:30 pm, in Saint Matt's Social Hall. For just \$25, you can have a table to sell your goods. There will be some limited tables available for Sunday, December 10 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, also for \$25, during Breakfast with Santa. For more information, please contact **Becky Montgomery** or the parish office.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Interested in volunteering? St. Mary's Health Clinics is in need of RN's and Spanish interpreters.

Please contact Chris at **651-287-7701** or visit the website for a volunteer application: <https://www.stmaryshealthclinics.org/>

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CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Please be generous in this week's special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Through this collection, you support programs that address the root causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty project. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/cchd.

To contribute, specially marked envelopes are available in the back of the church. Make checks out to the Church of St. Matthew with "CCHD" in the memo line.

SAINT PAUL CIVIC SYMPHONY CONCERT

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 3:00 PM
Church of Saint Matthew

Saint Paul Civic Symphony presents **Songs from the Heart.**

Vaughan Williams
Five Variants of "Dives and Lazarus"

Hindemith
"Der Schwanendreher"
Hyobi Sim, viola soloist

Tchaikovsky
Symphony No. 4 in f minor

And as always, the concert is free of charge!

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE COLLECTION

This weekend is the monthly Neighborhood House collection. There will be a basket by the main entrance for you to place your non-perishable or monetary donation.

During the month of October, St. Matthew donated 73 pounds of food. On behalf of Neighborhood House and the people it serves, thank you for your generosity!



GIFTED AND BELONGING MEETING

Gifted and Belonging (GAB), a Catholic social club for young adults with disabilities seen and unseen, is having their next meeting on **November 26, 6:00 - 8:00 PM** at the Church of St. Matthew Social Hall. This month's theme is Thanksgiving Pie Contest.

GAB welcomes all young adults to get together to share a time of prayer and reflection followed by games and social activities.

For more information, contact Megan at giftedandbelonging@gmail.com.

FREE BUS RIDES

Metro Transit bus #62, which runs on the north side of the St. Matthew campus, is a free bus from now until December 2024.

From the bus stop at the northwest corner of the Humboldt Avenue and Winifred Street intersection, the #62 bus goes west on Winifred Street south along Smith Avenue, and ends at Signal Hills shopping center.

From the stop directly in front of St. Matthew School on Winifred Street, the bus goes north into downtown and then runs along Rice Street and ends in Little Canada.

The #62 bus runs once an hour by St. Matthew on Saturdays and Sundays and runs more frequently on weekdays. For the bus schedule and a complete route map, see <https://www.metrotransit.org/route/62>



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REFLECTIONS ON LITURGY

In last week's bulletin I wrote about hospitality and discovering the gifts of your neighbors. This week's scripture readings spoke loudly to me of the need to hone one's own gifts.

God has given all of us gifts and it is important that we create practices in our lives that help us to become better at using those gifts. Becoming better at using God's gifts is hard and sometimes scary work. But as Jesus says in John's Gospel, "a woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world." (Jn 16:21) So it is as we 'birth' our own new selves and practices. And in this Sunday's Gospel message, the master tells his servants to build off the gifts that he gives them, and the first two go and have clear ideas how to grow that money. The third has no idea what to do and is paralyzed by fear of failure. He buries the gifts.

Dancer Yoann Bourgeois captures the way in which we learn and grow in his beautiful staircase choreography. If you haven't seen it, it's worth watching online. He climbs up several stairs easily, then falls into a trampoline which propels him back onto the staircase where he makes progress only to fall again. We grow confident in "Peace and Security," like the reading from 1 Thessalonians, climbing the stairs when things go well, and then, BAM! disaster hits. We fall back off the staircase. The trick, I am learning, is not to fear the fall.

Brene Brown became famous for her Ted Talk on shame and the fear of failure. I've rewatched it a few

times myself this past week. She quotes Theodore Roosevelt's famous "Man in the Arena" speech.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly."

In order to use our gifts well we are called to become comfortable with failure. Richard Rohr believes that you no longer learn spiritually through success after age thirty. As he puts it in his book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, "I have prayed for years for one good humiliation a day, and then, I must watch my reaction to it." This is how learning happens.

So, this week I encourage you to go out and fail at something, and then celebrate your failure. You did it! I personally have a lot to learn in my new role as your liturgy director. I promise to not bury what you give me, but will make every attempt to multiply it. I humbly ask, be patient with me as I work to fall upward in humble service.

Cristina Czaia
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