



Church of St. Matthew

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



©LPI

December 10, 2023 Second 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

In many homes, the festive decorating for Christmas is underway. A tree festooned with lights, baubles and tinsel bathes the living room in soft magical light. As a child, I delighted in falling asleep in the light of the tree.

It is time to prepare the Christmas crèche. The crèche invites us to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became one of us to encounter every woman and man. The crèche depicts this mystery of His great love for us so that we might become one with Him.

Coming into the world, the Son of God was laid in the place where animals feed. Hay became the first bed of the One who would reveal himself as “the bread come down from heaven” (Jn 6:41).

The Franciscan Sources describe in detail what took place in December 1223. Fifteen days before Christmas, Saint Francis of Assisi asked a local man to help him realize his desire “to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, with an ox and ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay.”

The man began immediately to prepare all that Francis asked. On December 25, people brought flowers and torches to light up the night. When Francis arrived, he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey standing by.

The priest then solemnly celebrated the Eucharist in this cave, showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist. On that Christmas there were no statues; the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present.

This December 25th, 2023 marks the 800th anniversary of the first crèche of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Let us observe this anniversary by taking some time to reflect on the mystery of God’s mercy in the birth of His Son.

Fr. Steve Adrian

THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATTHEW



The Bells of St. Matthew will ring on December 12, 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

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.

Knitting Club: There has been a request to form a Knitting and/or Crocheting Club. Those who enjoy doing needlework, while visiting with others, are invited to take part in this hobby. A perfect opportunity to make articles for personal use or to donate to others. Perhaps prepare articles to put into Isaac’s Blessing Bags next year. If you are interested in taking part in this activity, call the parish office at 651-224-9793. Men are welcome to join. In fact, it was a male parishioner who suggested this activity!

Thank You: To all who attended the **Preparing for Home seminar**. A vast amount of important information about funeral planning, wills, trusts, etc. was shared. A special thanks to the members of the **Men’s Club** who prepared a delicious breakfast for those attending. We also thank **Fr. Steve** for his discussion of funeral ceremonies and how they have evolved over the years as well as how the generosity of parishioners, through their wills and trust funds, has helped to educate students at the former St. Matthew Parish School and now at Community of Saints Catholic School. A special thanks to **Linda Rivera**, our parish funeral coordinator, who spoke about the funeral planning process at St. Matthews. That, along with information from **lawyers and financial planners** offered important information for those planning ahead.

Thank You: To **Mary, Bob and Tom**, who decorated the church for the Advent Season. Not only Mary’s talent in beautifying the sanctuary but also **Bob** and **Tom** for climbing into the space above the ceiling to hook up the large Advent wreath hanging above the center aisle!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org

Parish Administrator's Note

It's Complicated . . .

. . . to prepare for heaven. That was my main takeaway from our November 30 seminar, aptly titled "Preparing for Heaven: Stewardship of Life. Stewardship of Legacy."

Over the course of the morning, speakers repeatedly emphasized the importance of planning ahead. Doing so is one of the greatest gifts we can give our loved ones.

Linda Rivera, our parish funeral coordinator, said that she's happy to meet with people. Planning is much easier in advance, compared to planning while grieving. Among other things, Linda can help you identify a funeral home, explain who does what, and assist with readings and music for your funeral. Along with a funeral home, she can advise you when it comes to burial options.

Lawyer Sam Nelson talked to us about *Catholic* estate planning, comparing it to a road map. Which direction will you take when it comes to a medical directive? A will or a trust? Power of attorney? Beneficiaries for your funds and assets? Charitable bequests?

Liz Boo Neuberger from the Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota (CCF) spoke about a planning team for your legacy. Members could include an estate planning attorney, your family, a financial planner, and a philanthropic advisor—and me, as I learned. Yes, several speakers said it's a good idea to let me know if you're planning a bequest to the parish. I confess I hadn't thought of that much before, but it makes sense for someone in my position to be aware of your plans.

Fr. Steve spoke of being grateful as a "virtue of an older person." As Catholics, we share in rich sacramental experiences. Let us be thankful for them. Let us share our faith and our approach to charity with our children. It's a gift we can give them.

I'm grateful to our parish volunteers who prepared a great breakfast to kick off the morning. Thank you, Bob, Tom, Becky, Tim and Tony. I'm grateful as well for our guests from CCF, which provided seminar resources. They helped decomplicate things.

If you'd like to know more about any of the topics, let me know.

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

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



REMEMBER
in your prayers

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., 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.*

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Classes: On Wednesday, December 13, Faith Formation students in grades K to 10 have their last class before the Christmas holiday break. 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. Parents are invited to come to the big back conference room inside the Parish Center at 7:30 PM for an Advent celebration.

News and Events

No Coffee Sunday in December

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

St. Matthew Youth Group Meeting

The next St. Matthew Youth Group meeting is **Sunday, December 17 from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM** in the Social Hall. Come help fill Isaac's Blessing Bags while meeting new friends. See the insert for more information.

Blood Pressure Check

The next blood pressure check will take place next weekend, **December 16 and 17** after Mass.



Neighborhood House Collection

Next 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 November, St. Matthew donated **115 pounds** of food. On behalf of Neighborhood House and the people it serves, thank you for your generosity!



Grief Support Group Meeting

The next Grief Support Group meeting is **Thursday, December 21 at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Center. Email Mary Leibl (mleibl@st-matts.org) with any questions.

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 10, 2023

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

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 9

4:15 PM Mass
+Gerry Jenniges
+Mary Ann Roscoe

Sunday, December 10

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

Monday, December 11

8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, December 12

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, December 13

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, December 14

8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, December 15

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, December 16

4:15 PM Mass
+Jim Ensign
+Gerry Jenniges
+Dorinda Martineau
+Gordon Scaramuzzo

Sunday, December 17

10:15 AM Mass
+Cecilia Roloff
+Mary Ann Roscoe
+Nathan Stevens

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 11 - Friday, December 15

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

Monday, December 11

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

Tuesday, December 12

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
1:30 PM Rosary Society Meeting
6:30 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting

Wednesday, December 13

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

Thursday, December 14

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

Friday, December 15

Saturday, December 16

4:15 PM Mass

Sunday, December 17

10:15 AM Mass
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Youth Group Meeting
2:00 PM Communal Reconciliation Service

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