



Church of St. Matthew

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



December 17, 2023
Third 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

As appeared in the Pioneer Press in 1951:

"The good city of St. Paul became the *Christmas City* of the nation.

Christmas is not just a "day" in St. Paul. Nor is it merely a week or the traditional twelve days. Early in November, store windows begin to display Christmas 'suggestions'. Christmas tree ornaments appear on the counters of 'dime' stores. The familiar tinkle of the Salvation Army bells is heard on the street corners downtown.

About the tenth of November, Santa Claus arrives in St. Paul and is paraded through the loop by the Mayor and other city officials, attended by Boy Scouts and high school bands. And St. Paul city firemen begin their annual self-assigned task of repairing and repainting broken and discarded toys for distribution among the underprivileged boys and girls of the city.

Christmas in St. Paul is a giant Christmas tree in Victory Square or Rice Park, a tree so huge that it takes more than 1,000 bulbs to light it. It is the streets festooned with red and green garlands. It is the happy faces of children as they jam the store aisles in search for a present for mom and dad. It is the Mayor of the city giving a party for 7,000 children in the city auditorium, with a gift for each child. It is members of the Civic Opera caroling in hospitals and homes for the aged. It is the Knights of Columbus distributing gifts at the orphanages. It is mistletoe dances and high school cantatas and Sunday school parties. And on Christmas Eve, it is the hush of candlelight services and Midnight Mass."

Fr. Steve Adrian



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.*

Volunteer Opportunities and Parish Needs

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

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!

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 the **Ahern Family** who again this year donated the beautiful Advent wreath which hangs from the ceiling in our church. This family has faithfully donated the Christmas greens for many years. Their generosity is greatly appreciated!

Thank You: To members of the **Rosary Society** who served refreshments after the St. Paul Civic Symphony concert. Also, we thank the volunteers who put the church chairs back in place after both the Saturday symphony practice and the Sunday performance.

Thank You: To **Plaza TV & Appliance** who again donated the large boxes used to collect donations for Isaac's Blessing Bags!

Thank You: To the **Boy Scouts** who sponsored and prepared pancakes and sausages for Breakfast with Santa! We also thank **Rosary Society members, Al and Kathy Schowalter, and Chris Wilfahrt** who operated various booths during the breakfast!

WE ARE A VOLUNTEER PARISH!

Mary Leibl
Volunteer Coordinator
mleibl@st-matts.org



Parish Administrator's Note

Community Conversation #4 (11.28.23)

We recently had another good meeting with West Side friends and neighbors. This one was held at Humboldt High School. It was great to hear from HHS students, staff and parents—as well as to tour the building.

For example, I learned that Humboldt has an agriculture program, with licensed ag teachers. Urban farming, anyone? Who knew?

I also met some very impressive JROTC students. They welcomed us at the front door, guided us to the cafeteria, served supper, and spoke about their program, classes and plans.

This meeting certainly focused on Humboldt, though we also heard from the principal at Riverview. A central theme of her talk—and the Humboldt folks—is the need for sustained attention to our West Side youth. *(I'm glad that we at St. Matt's have formed a Youth Group. Details elsewhere in our bulletins and inserts.)*

Indeed, a focus on youth has been a consistent theme of all of our Community Conversations, ever since we began last May. You might recall that we began these conversations as a way to listen to our neighbors. We wanted—still want—to know more about local needs and resources. What better way to do that than to listen?

As we were setting up last week, a student saw my nametag and noticed I'm from St. Matt's. "Is this a religious event?" he asked? I said, "No, it's a community event. St. Matt's is sponsoring it, since we're a part of the West Side."

My Catholic take on all this is that we're following the example of Pope Francis's approach to listening to others throughout the world. As he's pointed out, our church has too often featured powerful people talking down to others—rather than listening. Fr. Steve's preached on this idea as well. Communication works better when it's two-way, not one way.

I see a lot of parallels between these Community Conversations and our St. Matt's internal conversations. The processes are similar: develop relationships, break bread together, and listen. Work together to identify needs and resources; make plans for the future.

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

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

THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATTHEW



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.

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Break: There is NO CLASS for Faith Formation students in grades K to 10 on December 20, December 27, and January 3. Gospel Weekly lessons for those three weeks were sent home with students on December 13 so that families can review the material over the break. Wednesday evening classes resume on January 10 in the Parish Center.

News and Events

St. Matthew Youth Group Meeting

The next Youth Group meeting is this **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 this weekend, **December 16 and 17** after Mass.



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

Choir

Choir for Christmas Eve service has begun. There is one remaining rehearsal - **Wednesday, December 20 from 7:30 - 8:30 PM** in the Sanctuary. I hope you will come and sing with us.



-CHOIR PRACTICE-

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 17, 2023

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

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 18

8:00 AM Cancelled

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 AM Cancelled

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 AM Cancelled

Thursday, December 21

8:00 AM Cancelled

Friday, December 22

8:00 AM Cancelled

Saturday, December 23

4:15 PM Mass
+Roger Goldberg
+Carol Dvorak Johnson

Sunday, December 24

10:15 AM Mass
+Deceased Members of Our Parish
4:15 PM Christmas Vigil Mass
+Arthur Geis
+Leo Kegler
+Kevin Kleman

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 18 - Friday, December 22

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

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM St. Mary's Clinic
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Confessions
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, December 21

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Open
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Grief Support Group
7:00 PM AA Meeting

Friday, December 22

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Parish Office Closed
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Confessions

Saturday, December 23

4:15 PM Mass (4th Sunday of Advent)
5:00 PM Confessions after Mass

Sunday, December 24

10:15 AM Mass (4th Sunday of Advent)
11:00 AM Confessions after Mass
4:15 PM Christmas Vigil Mass

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