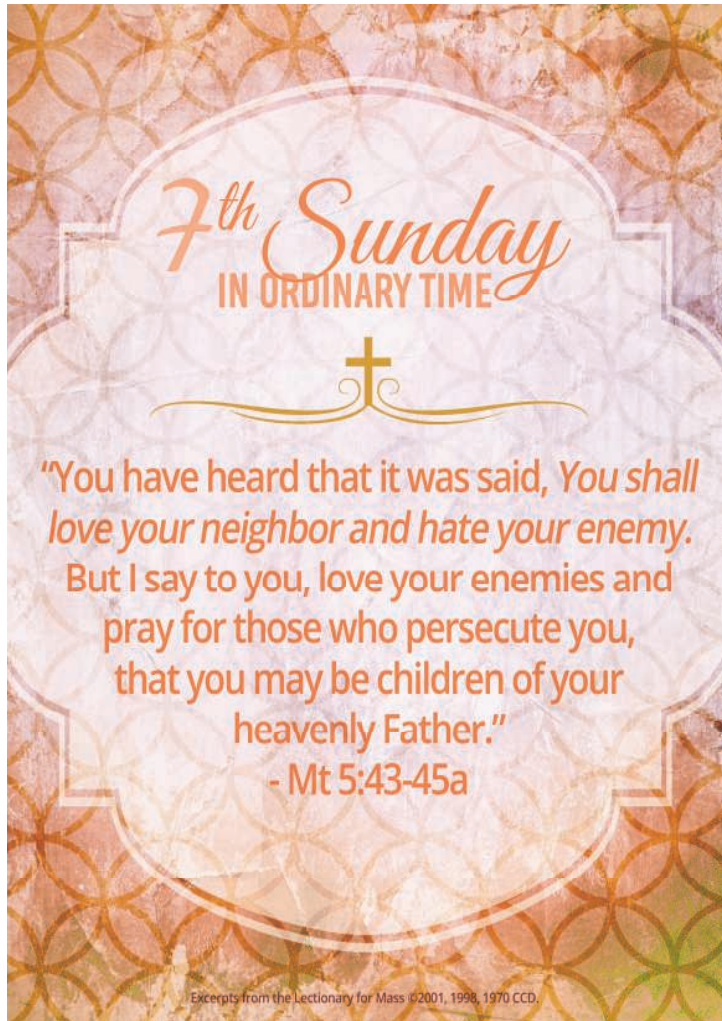


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All emails are @st-matts.org

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frbobkellyop

Deacon John Murphy

Deacon Gregg Sroder

Sister Anne Becker, Pastoral Ministry
srannebecker

Cindy Hoffman, Parish Bookkeeper
choffman

Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry

jillkilzer

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
skowal

John Riehle, Administrator

jriehle

Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary

lrivera

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St. Paul, MN 55107

651-224-9793

Fax 651.222.2688

Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

Sacraments

Please contact the Parish Office regarding baptism, marriage, first communion and confirmation information.

Bulletin

Announcements are due on Monday by 10:00 a.m. for the next Sunday's bulletin.

Readings for the Week of February 19, 2017

Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6/Mt 16:13-19

Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35/Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-18/Mk 10:13-16

Next Sunday: Is 49:14-15/Ps 62:2-3, 6-9/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34

Liturgy Schedule

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 8:00 am

Thursday - 9:30 am at Community of Saints School

Saturday - 4:00 pm

Sunday - 10:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday

3:00 pm - 3:40 pm and by appointment

THE BEAUTY OF LENT



Believe it or not during the next few weeks, the world around us will begin to change. The days will grow longer if not warmer. When it snows, the snow will not stick around as long as it did in December and January. We will wash our cars a little less often to remove the road salt. We will begin thinking about what seeds and flowers we will plant in our gardens instead of thinking about where we are going to pile the snow that has fallen on our driveways and sidewalks. Hopefully, the air will begin to feel a little more like spring and a little less like winter. In much the same way, the symbols of ashes and purple and somberness that mark our celebration on Ash Wednesday will be changed in six weeks by the light, the warmth, and flowers of the Easter celebration.

Like springtime, Lent should be a time for transformation—for change... for becoming the people God has called us to be. It is a time, as the prophet Joel tells us for "rending our hearts, not our garments" and returning to God. The ashes blessed and given out should be quiet symbols of something much deeper... much more powerful... much more lasting going on within us. Viewing Lent as a change in nature and a change in us suggests a strategy for how we should journey through Lent.

First, we begin with an assessment of what kind of a person we want to become or in other words, what virtues do we wish to plant and cultivate in order to become our better selves. Second, we try to name the obstacles that keep us from practicing the virtues that will make us better people. This isn't hard to do because the virtues we want to practice are the opposites of the vices that we often do practice. Third, we use our imaginations to find new ways of starting new habits, of practicing virtue, of living life as our better selves.

Years ago when I taught Christian morality in a Catholic high school a moral theology textbook I was using from St. Mary's Press, Winona, MN put it this way:

- Plant an act; reap a habit
- Plant a habit; reap a virtue or a vice
- Plant a virtue or a vice; reap a character
- Plant a character; reap a destiny

And so a person who wants to overcome self-centeredness might pay someone else an honest compliment each day. A person who would like to be less tense and easier going might meditate fifteen minutes a day. A person who wants to get more out of Sunday Mass might read the Scripture passages ahead of time. With this approach to Lent with conversion in mind, we can imagine some unusual ways of becoming our better selves: getting more sleep; reading more novels; calling to mind our accomplishments; getting more exercise; admitting to ourselves that we can no longer do something; asking for help; saying "no" instead of "yes." The point is this: during Lent we need to recognize who we are by our baptismal promises, what obstacles or vice needs to be removed, and imagine how it can be removed so that we can be filled with the life giving Spirit of God and become our better selves.

In accepting ashes on Ash Wednesday, we acknowledge the fact that we are sinners and that we are less than faithful to our baptismal name of Christian. But in accepting the ashes we also accept the challenge to become, as Paul writes to the Corinthians "the very holiness of God."

A concert pianist was told by an admirer how beautifully she handled the notes of a particular piece of music. The pianist responded, "The notes I play are like all other pianists; the beauty is in the pause between the notes."

In the bulletin this weekend you will find a Lenten Calendar for the Church of St. Matthew. It is easy to read; easy to place on the refrigerator door; easy to check for the different ways we will celebrate Lent to prepare for Easter. The season of Lent that we begin on March 1 is a time for pausing in the busyness of our everyday lives, to realize the beauty we have been given in Baptism. Unfortunately, we often view Lent as a time for not doing and avoiding, instead of as a time for doing, for becoming. Lent is the season for making our lives all that God intends for them to be. Let us together take the time this Lent to pause-to rediscover the beauty of who we are and imagine what we need do to reveal our beauty to a world sadly in need of beauty.

News and Events

CHURCH BELLS

The St. Matthew's church bells will ring on the following days in honor of:

February 19	Peter Rivera
February 22	Jerry Smith†
	Tom Tschida†
	Johnny Murphy

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

We welcome to our parish family Anna Raquel Pliego Brostrom, Layla Reyna Pliego Brostrom, and Isabella Kelly Pliego Brostrom, who were baptized on Saturday, February 11, 2017. The girls are the daughters of Rachel Brostrom and Paul Burgos Pliego; they were baptized by Deacon John Murphy. May God bless them abundantly as they grow to know and love his Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

STEWARDSHIP - ANOTHER OPTION FOR GIVING

Electronic Giving might be the answer for Stewardship for your household. With some simple arrangements, your donation can be transferred from your bank account to the church bank account at BankCherokee.

Thanks to those who give in this manner: five on a weekly basis; three on a semi-monthly basis; and 20 on a monthly basis. **Please contact John Riehle at the parish center to make those arrangements.**

FAITH FORMATION ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Faith Formation students and families will celebrate the start of Lent with the celebration of Mass and the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday, March 1, at 7 PM in the Church of St. Matthew. Parishioners and community members are welcome to join us for this Ash Wednesday celebration. Please bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the food shelf to help start our Lenten almsgiving. Please keep the food item with you until you are invited to bring them forward at Offertory time. Additionally, rice bowls from Catholic Relief Services will be available in the back of church for families who would like to participate in Operation Rice Bowl.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT February 12, 2017

Parish Family		Extended Family	
Basket	\$892	Alumni & Friends	\$0
Envelopes	\$1,886	Total	\$0
Vigil Lights	\$21		
Bells	\$20		
Mass Stipend	\$121		
Total	\$2,700		

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 18

4:00 pm Joseph Karas, Sr. †
Joseph Karas, Jr. †

Sunday, February 19

10:00 am Our Parish
Peter Rivera, Special Intention

Monday, February 20

8:00 am Karen Brouillard †

Wednesday, February 22

8:00 am David Andrews †

Friday, February 24

8:00 am Art Geis †

Saturday, February 25

4:00 pm John & Cecilia Stevens †

Sunday, February 26

10:00 am Our Parish
Ron Hallgren †

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 18

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, February 19

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee following Mass Social Hall

Monday Feb. 20- Fri. Feb 24

5:00-6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes Social Hall

Monday, February 20

No Clinic Today

Tuesday, February 21

9:00 am Alumni Meeting St. Michael's PC

Wednesday, February 22

8:00 am – 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC

6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes &

Confirmation Class Grades 8+ PC

Thursday, February 23

9:30 am COS Mass at St. Michael

Friday, February 24

Saturday, February 25

Our Lady Peace Collection Today

4:00 pm Mass

5:00 pm Mardi Gras Dinner & Dance

5:00 pm Girl Scout Cookie Sales After Mass

Sunday, February 26

Our Lady Peace Collection Today

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee following Mass Social Hall

11:00 pm Girl Scout Cookie Sales After Mass

Children's Corner Word Search

D	J	U	J	A	R	P	S	D	G
E	U	N	U	D	E	A	P	I	L
C	D	W	S	V	S	R	E	S	S
I	G	I	T	E	P	A	E	H	J
S	E	L	I	R	E	B	D	O	J
I	U	L	C	S	C	L	I	N	P
O	N	I	E	A	T	E	L	E	P
N	P	N	P	R	A	Y	Y	S	A
J	K	G	H	Y	F	A	I	T	H
E	D	A	J	W	I	D	O	W	X

parable	pray	judge
widow	decision	adversary
unwilling	respect	dishonest
justice	speedily	faith

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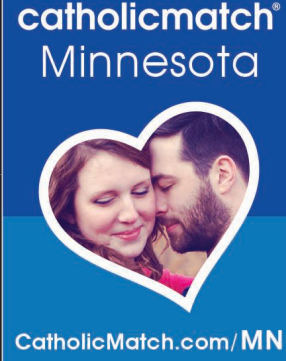
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