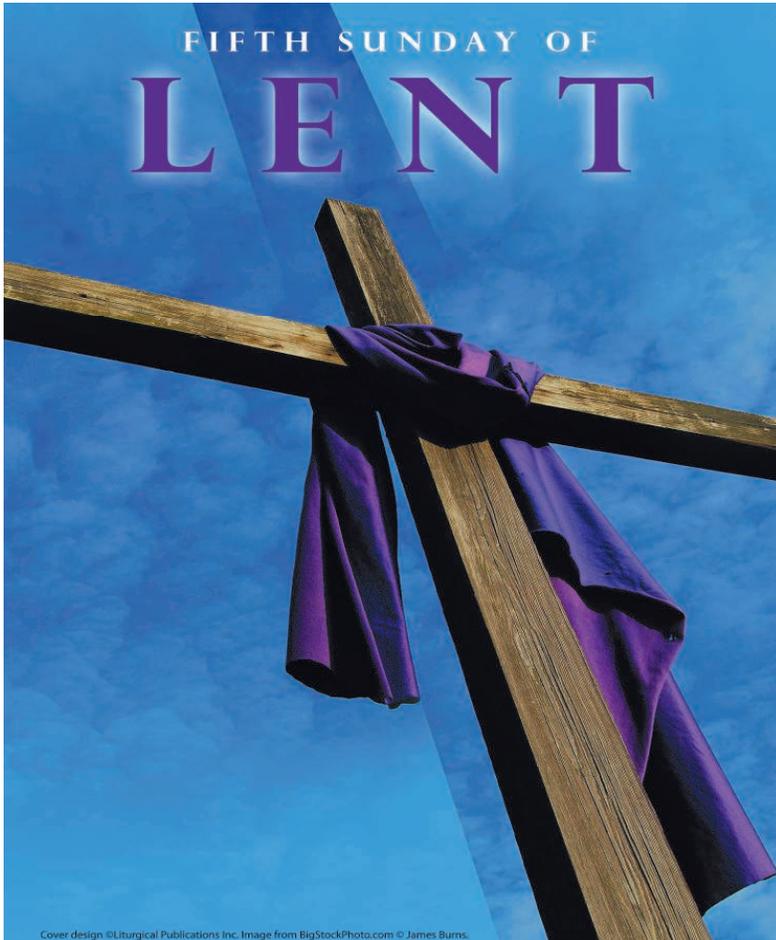


# Church of St. Matthew

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



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**March 18, 2018**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

### **Parish Staff**

**All emails are**  
**@st-matts.org**

Rev. Robert Kelly, OP, Parochial Administrator  
frbobbkellyop  
Deacon John Murphy  
Deacon Gregg Sroder  
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**Parish Center** - 490 Hall Avenue  
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**Fax 651.222.2688**

**Website: st-matts.org**

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew)

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **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. *Items received after 10:00 a.m. will appear in the following week's bulletin.*

### **Readings for the Week of March 18, 2018**

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3: 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

### **Liturgy Schedule**

**Monday, Wednesday & Friday** 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday** - 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday** - 10:00 a.m.

### **Reconciliation**

**Saturday** 3:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

and by appointment

### **Prayer Line**

**Hope 651.457.0228 Cathy 651.455.5473**

## UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT



As we look beyond the potholes in our asphalt roads, the snow piled along our concrete sidewalks, the snow shovels quietly resting on our front porches, and adjust to daylight savings time, we can hope for signs of new life and new growth that come with spring. Soon grass seed will be spread between houses and sidewalks. Corn seed will be sown between barns and field fences. Flower seeds will be planted in gardens and window boxes. There is new hope that seeds planted will produce beautiful lawns, abundant crops, and colorful, fragrant flowers.

I believe Jesus had a similar hope of new life and new growth in the gospel passage we heard today. The story begins with Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem by the apostles and the followers of Jesus with shouts of “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!” In addition, some Greeks were present and they asked Philip and Andrew, apostles with Greek names, if they could see Jesus.

Because Jesus knows that there are foreigners present, he changes his vocabulary to reach out and touch their hearts. Jesus refers to himself as the “Son of Man.” He does not speak about himself as “the Son of David.” He does not abruptly dismiss the Greeks with the words that he was sent to save only the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Jesus no longer says that he will be crucified, a Roman punishment reserved for common criminals. He says that he will be glorified.

Some scripture scholars believe that it was the Greeks, who are present only in the gospel of John, who inspired Jesus to use the “grain of wheat analogy”. This is because wheat did not grow well in Greece. Barley and emmer, the kind of wheat that did grow, did not make good bread. Broths, porridges, and mashes were made with these crops. The cities of Greece had to import wheat for bread from Sicily, North Africa, and the northern Black Sea coast. For Jesus to use the analogy of wheat falling to the earth and producing much fruit after it died made agricultural sense to the Jewish people but for the Greeks it was good news that salvation was not only for the people of Israel but for them as well.

The faithful apostles, the following believers, and the inquiring Greeks all knew about the work involved when it comes to growing wheat. Not the work done by the farmer but the transforming work done by the seed. In this one moment of teaching, Jesus challenged all who heard him to be open to change, to be willing to change, to bring about change, out of love for one another.

We know that Jesus used a number of different ways to teach the people he encountered. He told parables to reach his followers at a variety of levels. He also taught through his exhortations. He would gather all those who came to hear him, or sometimes just a select few, and teach them important truths about a variety of things. Jesus also taught spontaneously as we heard in the passage today. But the most powerful teaching done by Jesus was the lessons he taught by his example. In other words, Jesus made a point of living according to the will of God.

In his *Spiritual Exercises*, Ignatius of Loyola calls God’s will the deepest desire of our hearts that God plants in us. Jim Manney unpacks this for us: “Desire is a key way that God’s voice is heard in our lives,” writes Fr. Jim Martin, SJ. He’s not talking about selfish wants, such the desire for a flashy car or a lavish vacation. He means deep desires—the desires that draw us to God and to a meaningful vocation in life: Desire is a primary way that God leads people to discover who they are and what they are meant to do. On the most obvious level, a man and a woman feel sexual, emotional and spiritual desire for one another, and in this way discover their vocations to be married. A person feels an attraction to being a doctor, or a lawyer, or a teacher, and so discovers his or her “vocation. . . .”

The deep longings of our hearts are our holy desires. Not only desires for physical healing, but also the desires for change, for growth, for a fuller life. Our deepest desires, those desires that lead us to become who we are, are God’s desires for us. They are ways that God speaks to you directly” (<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/5653/our-deepest-desires>).

With this Ignatian understanding of God’s will, we are a grain of wheat falling to the ground to produce much fruit.

# News and Events

## WE WELCOME INTO OUR COMMUNITY

James, P. Scanlan, Richard Norton as well as Cynthia Morales and her children Kameron and Kashlon. We are so pleased to have you as members of our parish family.

## EASTER AND ENVIRONMENT



If you would like to may a donation in memory of a loved one or in honor of some one you have until next Sunday, March 25th to do so. Please you the insert the was in previous bulletins or pick on up from the table at the back of church.

Contributions are used to purchase the beautiful Easter plants that decorate our worship space for Easter Sunday and the Easter season.

## FIRST COMMUNION DRESSES AVAILABLE

The Silent Auction Committee has been given two new First Communion Dresses. Since this is the time of year when girls need these dresses we are making them available for purchase now. The new dresses are one size 7 and one size 10. We are asking \$30.00 for each. There is also a size 12 vintage dress if someone is in need of a dress. If you are interested in seeing the dresses please contact the parish office. All proceeds go to St. Matthew's Church.

## ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL SPORTS TROPHIES

Did you play a sport at St. Matthew's School during the 60's to the school's closing? We have at the parish center many, many sports trophies that we want to re-unite with anyone who would like to have one. We have them organized by decade for easy viewing. Stop by the office see what is available or call Linda Rivera and she can email you a list what we have. Anything left by the end of May will be recycled, so please come claim your sports trophy!!



## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, March 17 Feast of St. Patrick**

4:00 pm Vern Achman†

**Sunday, March 18**

10:00 am Our Parish

Ronald Crawford†

**Monday, March 19 Feast of St. Joseph**

8:00 am Rose, Joseph Sr. & Joseph Jr, Karas†

**Wednesday, March 21**

8:00 am David Andrews†

**Friday, March 23**

8:00 am Gerry Garvey†

**Saturday, March 24**

4:00 pm Art Fischer†

**Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday**

10:00 am Our Parish

Gayle Stelter†

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, March 17 Feast of St. Patrick**

4:00 pm Mass Food Collection Weekend

**Sunday, March 18 Food Collection Weekend**

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday

**Monday, March 19 Feast of St. Joseph**

8:00 am Mass

**Monday, March 19-Thursday, March 22**

12:00 - 5:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC

5:00 - 6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes SH

**Tuesday, March 20**

**Wednesday, March 21**

No St. Mary's Clinic Today

6:30 pm Faith Formation

**Thursday, March 22**

9:30 am Mass COS

4:30-6:30 pm Parish Council/Finance Mtg. PC

7:00 pm Chrism Mass St. Paul Cathedral

**Friday, March 23**

8:00 am Mass

**4:00 pm Stations of the Cross C**

**4:30 - 7:30 Fish Fry SH**

**Saturday, March 24**

10:00 am Confirmation St. Paul Cathedral

4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday**

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday

Children's Corner



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday of Lent at 4:00 p.m.

## WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 03-11-2018

Parish		School	\$ 70
Envelopes/Cash	\$ 3,180	Global Solidarity	\$ 122
Electronic Giving	\$ 1,096		
Vigil Lights	\$ 31		
Fuel	\$ 25		
Mass Intentions	\$ 91		
Easter Flowers	\$ 190		
Rent	\$ 5,850		
Coffee Sunday	\$ 46		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,509</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 192</b>
Thank You		Thank You	

## PLEASE REMEMBER

*The Church of St. Matthew in a charitable will, trust, or gift annuity.*

Fill in the correct word

## Our Father

Our \_\_\_\_\_ Who art in heaven, \_\_\_\_\_  
 be Thy Name. Thy \_\_\_\_\_ come. Thy will be  
 done, on earth as it is in \_\_\_\_\_ Give us this day  
 our daily \_\_\_\_\_ and forgive us our  
 \_\_\_\_\_ as we \_\_\_\_\_ those who  
 trespass \_\_\_\_\_ us. And \_\_\_\_\_ us not  
 into temptation, but \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amen.

Father,

deliver

bread,

forgive

Kingdom

against

Heaven,

trespasses,

Hallowed

evil,

lead

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