

Church of St. Matthew

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



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December 2, 2018

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FACEBOOK: 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 December 2, 2018

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

[1b]/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

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



GREATER THAN ITS PARTS

Fr. Bob

I think most of us are familiar with the phrase “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” It was first used by Aristotle in his written work *Metaphysics*. Down through history, it is likely that other people used the same phrase with their work. A structural engineer may use the phrase to explain how the plumbing, heating, and electricity work together to make a home. An artist may use the phrase to describe how some pieces of a landscape are used and others are left out to paint a beautiful picture. On this First Sunday of Advent, let’s look at a few of the different parts whose sum will contribute to the whole that we hope to celebrate on Christmas.

First, it is important to consider the content of the Advent gospel readings. On the First Sunday of Advent, the gospel reading focuses on the end times and Jesus preaching about the coming of the “Day of the Lord.” On the Second Sunday of Advent, the gospel reading focuses on the preaching and ministry of John the Baptist as the forerunner of Jesus. John is the one who came to “Prepare the Way of the Lord.” On the Third Sunday of Advent, (Gaudete Sunday) the gospel reading continues to focus on John the Baptist, while the first and second readings encourage us to be joyful because of the increasing closeness of the incarnation and our salvation. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the gospel reading is about the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. But we hear only Elizabeth speaking. Mary’s proclamation “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,” is not heard. Perhaps, this is an opportunity for us to quietly but quickly contemplate what we have heard about the end times, about the call and ministry of John the Baptist, and about Elizabeth’s response to Mary before we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Today the first Advent candle surrounded by a circle of evergreen is lit. Evergreens symbolize immortality. The circle, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of our soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. While the four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, they each represent one thousand years that add up to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and good works we do. The rose candle is lit on Gaudete Sunday, when our Advent journey is half-way through. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope that were needed by the Israelites for Christ’s first coming into the world and our anticipation of Jesus coming at the end of the world. The Season of Advent has many parts. Hopefully, we will find on Christmas day that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & PARISH NEEDS

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Isaiah 6:8

Mary Leibl,
Volunteer Coordinator

We need volunteers to continue the work of serving our parish and community. Currently we have 5 continuing opportunities.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Need Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), Registered Nurses (RNs) EMTs and Physicians who would be willing to volunteer on the first weekend of the month, after Saturday & Sunday Masses. Blood pressure cuffs will be provided; volunteers are asked to bring their own stethoscopes.



MUSICIANS



In need of Choir members, Cantors & Instrumentalists. The choir sings for Sunday 10:00 am Mass and practices on alternate weeks September-May. Choir practice is 9:00 am. Cantors and instrumentalists are needed for any of the weekend Masses.

SUBSTITUTE PARISH CENTER RECEPTIONISTS

Need volunteers to be on call and fill in when needed. Duties include answering phone and greeting visitors. Hours are: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm & 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Need teachers and teen helpers to assist with Children’s Liturgy of the Word. This liturgy is offered during the school year at the Sunday 10:00 am Mass.

FAITH FORMATION

Need **Teaching Assistant** for 1st grade Classroom. Capable to step in as substitute teacher on occasion if needed. Will need to complete VIRTUS training, criminal background check & sign code of conduct.

Looking for **Hospitality Coordinators**: Will plan & organize food, drinks, service, set-up, and clean-up at 5-6 events in December, February, March & April. Recruit helpers & contributors. Need to enjoy being around kids. Best if 2 people who work well together share the coordinating job.

I invite anyone who could help with these volunteer opportunities to contact me through the parish office or email me at mleibl@st-matts.org

News and Events

CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW WINTER WEATHER POLICY

During the winter months, the Church of St. Matthew Parish Center is closed whenever the St. Paul Public Schools are closed. Cancellation of Parish Center events and activities will appear on WCCO (Channel 4). Independent organizations using the Church of St. Matthew buildings should be contacted directly for their open or closed status



DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS



As we enter the busiest time of the year, reserve some time to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season. **Decorating will take place on December 23rd**, immediately after the 10:00 am Mass. If you go to the Saturday Mass, consider returning on Sunday to help prepare the church for the

Christmas celebration. This will also be a good opportunity for Faith Formation students to earn Service Hours. **Many volunteers will make for less work!!**

COMMUNITY OF SAINT NEWS

It is one of our favorite times of the year as we begin to prepare for the arrival of Jesus! At Community of Saints, we have the privilege of acknowledging Advent Season and will spend these next few weeks preparing for the birth of Jesus through prayer services, acts of servant leadership, and regular religious education lessons and activities.

This year's main act of service will once again focus on "Isaac's Blessing Bags". Isaac Garcia is a seventh grader at COS and began his mission a year ago to help support people without a home. His "Blessing Bags" are filled with toiletries, packaged food, and warm weather wear. If anyone is interested in donating to this amazing cause, please contact the school, or drop off items in the school office. Thank you!

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 11 18 and 25, 2018

Volunteer Service

Hours in prayer 18
Hours in service 15

Parish		School	\$ 360.50
Envelopes/Cash	\$ 6,642	Camp. For	
Electronic Giving	\$ 2,256	Human Devel.	\$ 300.00
Vigil Lights	\$ 108	Total	\$ 650.50
Fuel	\$ 427	Thank You	
Mass Intention	\$ 7		
Rent	\$ 450		
Stamps	\$ 21		
All Souls Day	\$ 5		
Stole Fee	\$ 950		
Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000		
Bells	\$ 30		
Coffee Sunday	\$ 29		

Total \$ 15,925
Thank You

THE BELLS OF SAINT MATTHEW



The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on December 1st in memory of Tom Steinbrenner.

Remember a loved one, celebrate an anniversary or birthday, announce an engagement. Call Linda Rivera at the Parish Office to schedule a date.

THE POWER OF PRAYER



You can request prayers for yourself, family and friends by calling St. Matthew's Prayer Line 651.457.0228. You can request prayers for healing, family unhappiness, help to find a job, addiction to name a few. All requests are confidential.

FALL FESTIVAL & FIX-IT FUND RAISER RESULTS

It is wonderful to finally share with you the good news that the Fall Festival raised \$16,000. With the hands of volunteer, friends of the parish, and supporting businesses we are able to continue to repair and/or replace items that are growing older.

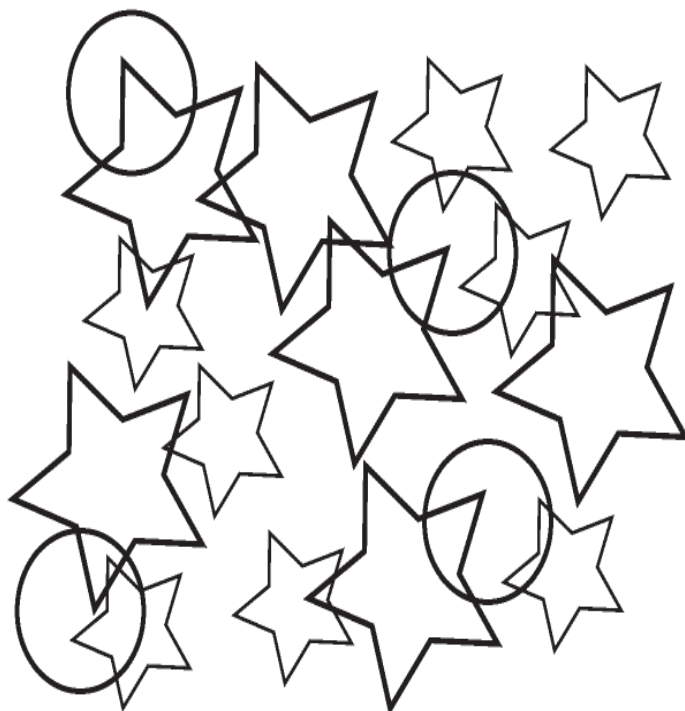
The Fix-it Fund Raiser raised matched \$4,000 qualifying us to receive additional funds from the Catholic Order of Foresters. Thank-you to all who made this fund raiser possible.

Fr. Bob, OP



Puzzle

Jesus is the star of life. How many stars can you count?



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FR. STEVE ADRIAN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On Saturday, December 8, 2018 Father Steve will celebrate the 4:00 p.m. Mass in honor of his 50th anniversary to the priesthood. Following the Mass parishioners of Saint Matthew's can join Father Steve at back of the church where "Tea and Crumpets" will be served.

Come celebrate Father Steve's amazing years of service to Our Lord, to St. Matthew's and the Catholic education of the children of our community.

COFFEE SUNDAY

You are invited to the Social Hall most Sundays following 10:00 am Mass for coffee, donuts and other tasty treats. **All are welcome to attend.**



We are looking for families, friends or groups to host a Coffee Sunday, if you are interested contact Becky Montgomery at montgomery_bec@hotmail.com, she will let you know what Sundays are still open and how it all works.

SCRIP NEWS:

SuperAmerica has changed over to Speedway. As a result, your SuperAmerica gift cards will not work. To get them refunded, please call 800-428-4016, Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm.



Going forward, we will have Speedway gift cards available after our next scrip purchase. Speedway cards offer the same discount as SuperAmerica. Every \$25 purchased from the scrip program provides another \$1.00 to St. Matthew's.

Are you giving gifts cards to friends, families or employees this holiday season? Checkout the extensive list of retailers available through the Scrip program. Convenient shopping and St. Matthew's will benefit at no cost to you. **Start your Christmas shopping now, don't wait until the last minute. If we don't have it on hand, it can be ordered for you and received in a few days time.**

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**Steve & Thomas Stremski
State Farm Insurance
1560 Livingston Avenue
West Saint Paul MN 55118
651.457.6348**

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 1

4:00 pm David Andrews†

Sunday, December 2

10:00 am Our Parish

Jack & Carol Heitzinger†

Monday, December 3

8:00 am Dorothy Linn†

Wednesday, December 5

8:00 am Claudette Borgan, Special Intention

Friday, December 7

8:00 am Wallace Borgan †

Saturday, December 8, - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00 pm Katie Rosas†

Sunday, December 9

10:00 am Our Parish

Brian Ahern†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 1

4:00 pm Mass

5:00 Blood Pressure Screening

Sunday, December 2

9:00 am Choir Practice CH

10:00 am Mass with Children's Liturgy of the Word

11:00 Blood Pressure Screening

11:00 am Coffee Sunday

Monday-Friday December 3 - 7

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

Monday, December 3

8:00 am Mass

12:00 – 5:00 pm St. Mary's Clinic

Tuesday, December 4

Wednesday, December 5

8:00 am Mass

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

6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes CH/PC

7:30 pm Men's Club Board Meeting SH

Thursday, December 6

9:10 am School Mass COS

Friday, December 7

8:00 am Mass

Saturday, December 8 - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00 pm Mass

5:00 pm Fr. Adrian's 50th Ordination Celebration

Light Refreshment in the Church for All

5:00 pm Prepaid Dinner in the Social Hall

Sunday, December 9

9:00 am Choir Practice CH

10:00 am Mass with Children's Liturgy of the Word

11:00 am Coffee Sunday

Community means everything.
That's why we're proud to be here to help life go right!™



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