



Parish Staff

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Church - 510 Hall Avenue
Parish Center - 490 Hall Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55107
651-224-9793
Fax 651.222.2688
Website: st-matts.org
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 23, 2018
 Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-18 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
 Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
 Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
 Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Friday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

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



Fr. Bob

WHO WE ARE BECOMING

As Christmas Day approaches the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus as well as the nativity story itself are depicted in crèche scenes, television programs, school plays, Christmas cards, sacred hymns, and popular songs. But there is much, much more to the stories of Christmas than what immediately meets our eyes and ears.

In the gospel story for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Mary and Elizabeth meet and visit without the presence of any male characters other than their unborn infants. Given the rare occurrence of "women only" stories in the scriptures, it is all the more significant that the writer of Luke's gospel begins the first two chapters of the gospel with Mary going to see Elizabeth and ends the last chapter with women going to the tomb on Easter morning. We are given a version of Jesus' life from a woman's perspective. So what do Mary and Elizabeth tell us through their visit?

Elizabeth was an elderly woman beyond childbearing age. She was married to Zachariah an elderly man who represented the masculine, conventional, priestly tradition of Judaism. Being struck silent when he found out his wife would bear a child means that the old beliefs of Judaism rooted in a biased patriarchal society were being challenged. Elderly Elizabeth did not regret her pregnancy but rejoiced in the birth of her son. She represents the open, trusting, qualities of women. When Elizabeth names their child "John" and Zachariah agrees, conventional Judaism receives an abrupt wake-up call that changes are taking place.

Mary was a young woman just at the childbearing age. Through her and the power of the Holy Spirit God was entering the world not only with a new message but also in a completely new way. Through Mary, God was visiting the people and the divine message that is proclaimed throughout history is being developed.

So from the city, Mary travels to visit Elizabeth in the country. Mary, from the younger generation meets Elizabeth, the matriarch of the clan. Because of her age, Elizabeth should have been the one to receive Mary's extended greeting. Instead the tables are turned. Elizabeth, from the old yet respected religion, gives Mary, from the new and upcoming religion, an extended greeting. "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Through the figure of Elizabeth, the writer of Luke's gospel challenges the old tradition in a time that honored an ancient approach to God. Through the figure of Mary, a new relationship with God is being started. For the writer of Luke's gospel, the time of conventional Judaism had past and the time of an up and coming Christianity had begun.

As Advent comes to an end, we celebrate Christmas Day, and look forward to the New Year, the story of Jesus Christ, Mary, and Elizabeth invites us to treasure who we have been, who we are, but most importantly who we are becoming. We too are part of the story.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!



Mary Leibl,

Volunteer Coordinator

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

OUR WISH TO ALL OUR PARISH VOLUNTEERS



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



We are decorating for Christmas after the 10:00 am Mass, this Sunday, December 23rd, please stay to help. If you attend Saturday Mass, perhaps you would consider coming in on Sunday morning at 11:00 am to lend a hand. Many hands, make light work.

TO OUR PARISH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Father Bob and parish staff of the Church of Saint Matthew's wish you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Christmas, filled with the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

FATHER ADRIAN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Many THANK YOUs are in order:
 --to all who came to worship at the 4:00pm Mass on December 8. The singing and the praying were wonderful!
 --to St Matt's liturgical and musical ministers.
 --to the Rosary Society for providing and serving the food and drink after the Mass.
 --to the Men's Club for providing the wine and the bar service during the dinner that followed.
 --to the cooks who did a spectacular job with fruit-stuffed pork loin; dressing; mashed potatoes; mixed vegetables; cole slaw; rolls and butter; and apple cobbler. They were: Stephen Mike, Greg Seitz, Sr., Greg Arrigoni, John DelVecchio, and Dorothy Schletty Harmon.
 --to those who served and bussed the meal: Ana and Tiffany Rivera Prescott, Will and Katie Estlie, Anna and Alexei DelVecchio, Sergio and Maia Sierra, Tiffany Monita, Max Karas, and Allie Reding.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS December 9, 2018

Total Updated Next Week

Volunteer Service

Hours in prayer	18	School	\$ 150
Hours in service	35	Religious Retire.	\$ 552

Parish		Total	\$ 702
Envelopes/Cash	\$ 4,918	Thank You	
Electronic Giving	\$ 1,219		
Vigil Lights	\$ 26		
Fuel	\$		
Rent	\$ 4,400		
Holy Day	\$ 45		
Memorials	\$		
Rosary/CCW Pymt	\$ 67		
Flowers	\$ 495		
Coffee Sunday	\$ 0		

Total \$ 7,210
 Thank You

THE BELLS OF SAINT MATTHEW



The Bells of Saint Matthew will ring on December 23rd in memory of **Mae Gonsowski**. On December 24th the bells will ring in memory of **Bob Knops** and **Jody Huisman**. The bells will ring on December 28th to celebrate **Aaron Andrew's** birthday.

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.

Baby Jesus Word Search

Christmas is a very joyous holiday for Christians all around the world. This holiday marks the celebration of the birth of God's son Jesus. It is celebrated by attending church and the giving of gifts to others, just as God gave us the gift of his Son, Jesus.

Directions:

Find all the words in the word list. Words are hidden in straight lines, going frontwards, backwards and diagonally.



Word List

ANGEL
 BABY
 BETHLEHEM
 BIRTH
 DONKEY
 GIFT
 GLORY
 GOD
 HEAVEN
 HOLY
 INNKEEPER
 JESUS
 JOSEPH
 KING
 MANGER
 MARY
 MERCY
 PEACE
 REST
 SAVIOUR
 SHEPHERDS
 SON
 STAR
 VIRGIN
 WISE MEN

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Office will be closed on **Monday, December 24th** and **Tuesday, December 25th** in celebration of the Nativity of the Lord.

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:

Last chance to pick up gift cards for Christmas; shop with Scrip without waiting in long lines.



Are you giving gifts cards to friends, families or employees this Christmas 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.

Every \$25 purchased from the scrip program provides another \$1.00 to St. Matthew's

NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME

Are you new to the neighborhood or new to the parish? Would you like to become a registered member of the Church of Saint Matthew? Perhaps you have never "officially" registered and would like to do so. You will find registration forms on the Care Notes Wall located at the southeast corner of the church, go to the parish website for a form, or call Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary for a form.

Please, come join the Saint Matthew's parish family and community. All are welcome here!

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 22

4:00 pm Pam, Robert Sr., & Lucille Stickler†

Sunday, December 23

10:00 am Our Parish
Raymond Galep†

Monday, December 24

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

Tuesday, December 25

10:00 am Madeline Perron†

Wednesday, December 26

8:00 am Aaron Andrew, Special Intention

Friday, December 28

8:00 am Arthur Geis†

Saturday, December 29

4:00 pm Marina Galep†

Sunday, December 23

10:00 am Our Parish
Rose Karas†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 22

4:00 pm Mass **Sunday, December 23**

9:00 am Choir Practice CH

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

11:00 am Church Decorating of Christmas

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve

Parish Office Closed No St. Mary's Clinic

4:00 pm Mass

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day

Parish Office Closed

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

Wednesday, December 26

8:00 am Mass

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

NO Faith Formation Classes

Thursday, December 27

NO 9:10 am School Mass COS

Friday, December 28

8:00 am Mass

Saturday, December 29

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 30 The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

9:00 am Choir Practice CH

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

Monday, December 31 New Year's Eve

Parish Office Closing at 1:00 pm

8:00 am Mass

Tuesday, January 1 New Year's Day


Feast of the Solemnity of Mary

Parish Office Closed, St. Mary's Clinic Closed


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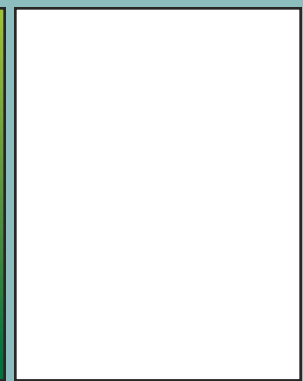
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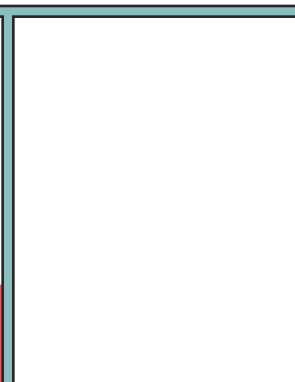
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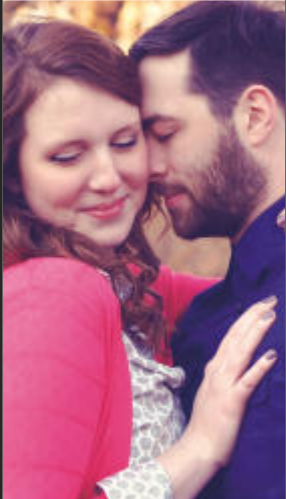


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