

CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016



Parish Staff

Rev. Robert Kelly, OP, Parochial Administrator
Deacon John Murphy
Deacon Gregg Sroder
Sister Anne Becker, Pastoral Ministry
Cindy Hoffman, Parish Bookkeeper
Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary

Liturgy Schedule

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 8:00 am

Tuesday 8:00 am Word & Communion Service

Thursday - 9:30 am at Community of Saints School

Saturday - 4:00 pm

Sunday - 10:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm and by appointment

Sacraments

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

Prayer Line

651.457.0228

651.455.5473

Parish Center Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Address: 490 Hall Avenue

St. Paul MN 55107

651-224-9793
Fax 651.227.2688
510 Hall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55107
Website: st-matts.org

Readings for the Week of December 11, 2016

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30/Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67/Jn 5:33-36

Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72/Mt 1:1-17

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

OUR JOY IN GOD



One Sunday morning as Mark Twain and a companion were walking home from church, they saw a flash of lightening, heard a loud rumble of thunder, and rain began to pour down. As the two companions hurried to find shelter, Twain's friend asked, "Do you think it will ever stop?" "It always has!" replied Twain.

Twain's response is an example of seeing things as they are. Rather than focusing only on life's hardships and difficulties optimistic people like Twain are able to have a perspective on life that helps them to cope sensibly as challenging circumstances arise.

The third Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word which means to rejoice, to be filled with joy. It is not an adjective describing a single, isolated feeling which we usually experience when we hear good news, celebrate a birthday, have a good game of golf or hold a winning lottery ticket. It is a verb expressing what exists at the center of our being and what continuously develops to fill the core of our bones. It is a vital to our faith although we often overlook it or refuse to acknowledge it.

After all, "Are we having fun yet?" is not a question we usually think about with either the Church or our Christian's lives. This is because most of us think that religion in general, and Christianity in particular, is "serious" business. After all, we are dealing with "life and death" issues, the salvation of our souls, and the uncertainty of what God really wants from us.

Here is a list of random words that came to my mind when I think about religion: duty, obligation, responsibility, requirements, accountability, sin, guilt, shame, judgment, punishment, death, sorrow, repentance, patience, endurance, doom, trial, testing, mourning, fasting, and asceticism. But I think I often forget the words that ought to be included when I think about religion: resurrection, joy, peace, goodness, gentleness, kindness, love, encouragement, redemption, compassion, understanding, forgiveness, and eternal rest.

All of these words, both heavy and well as up lifting, can be found in the scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures the Israelites rejoiced when they were delivered from bondage, completed one of God's work projects, overcame physical and human hurdles, and received relief from extended periods of trials and temptations.

In the Christian Scriptures Jesus encouraged his followers to rejoice not because they have followed the rules of washing their hands and feet, and appropriately cleaning their pots and pans but because they invited sinners, tax collectors, the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame to fill the empty seats at their dining room tables. He encourages them to rejoice because the reign of God is here and now.

On the Third Sunday of Advent, our rejoicing is most often symbolized by lighting a rose colored candle on the Advent wreath—a candle whose flame tries to express the warmth and passion which begins in the depths of our souls where the seed of rejoicing lives and develops.

On this Third Sunday of Advent we are challenged to realize that, our joy in God cannot be ignored or hidden away. The joy developing within us must be expressed in what we say and do. It is this joy that has us sending Christmas cards, purchasing gifts, decorating our homes, baking cookies, singing in choirs, and going to Christmas parties.

We all understand that the joyful celebrations we may experience in this life are random and short lived, and merely a foretaste of what is yet to come. The biggest joyful celebration is reserved for those who make the transition from this life to the next through death. I don't know about you, but I, by the Grace of God, believe we will all be at that heavenly party! Not because we worry about the rain pouring down around us but because we know the rain will end. It always does.

St. Matthews News

Church Bells

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

- December 12 **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**
- December 19 **In Memory of Mary Gagnon**
- December 23 **Joseph Karas, Sr.**
- December 24 **Joseph Karas, Jr.**

Religious Retirement

DID YOU KNOW? 349 School Sisters of Notre Dame have served St. Matthew's from 1887 to the present. (Some are former Sisters) These Sisters have given a total of 1,622 years of SSND ministry here.

Fifty-one women from St. Matthew's have become SSND's. The latest is Sr. Carmelle Malerich. Please support our dedicated religious sisters and brothers by giving to the Religious Retirement Fund. Envelopes can be found in each pew or on the table at the back of church. Thank you to all who have already given so generously.

Christmas At Saint Matthew

If you wish to make a contribution to our Christmas Flower Fund you have until **December 16th** to do so. You can make a donation in memory or in honor of someone you love. You will find donation forms on the table by the St. Matthew statue. Your contributions help us to purchase our beautiful decorations that decorate our church for Christmas.

Our worship space will be decorated for Christmas on December 18th, after the 10:00 am Mass. Many hands and hearts are welcome. This is a good opportunity for Confirmation candidates for service hours. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome to come help. Please contact **Sr. Anne Becker at srabeck@juno.com or 651.341.2968**

Singers and instrumentalists are needed for our Advent, Christmas season and beyond. Now that there is Sunday Mass again it would also be wonderful to have Sunday choir too!! If you are interested you can contact **Jill Kilzer at jill.kilzer@icloud.com or 952.431.4468.**

Weekly Contributions Report December 4, 2016

Parish Family		Extended Family	
Basket	\$1,430	Human Development	\$2
Envelopes	\$3,674	World Mission	\$25
Vigil Lights	\$ 20	Religious Retirement	\$202
Fuel	\$22	Total	\$229
Donation	\$116		
Christmas Flowers	\$130		
Holyday Contributions	\$3,025		
Faith Formation	\$100		
Fix It Dinner	\$3,890		
Total	\$12, 407		

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 10

4:00 pm Our Parish
David Andrews†

Sunday, December 11

10:00 am Our Parish
Ted & Connie Rivera†

Monday, December 12

8:00 am No Mass because of Funeral
at Noon

Wednesday, December 14

8:00 am Margaret & Marlyn Swanson†

Friday, December 14

8:00 am Michael & Mary Martinez†

Saturday, December 17

4:00 pm Our Parish
Tom Tschida†

Sunday, December 18

10:00 am Our Parish
Rachel Snaza†

Calendar Of Events

Saturday, December 10

1:00 am-4:00 pm Christmas Tea, Bake Sale & Boutique SH

Sunday, December 11

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Breakfast with Santa & Bake Sale

Monday Dec. 12—Fri. Dec. 16

5:00-6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes

Monday, December 12

Noon – 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic

Tuesday, December 13

9:00 am Alumni & Friends St. Michael's PC

Wednesday, December 14

8:00 am – 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic

6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes

7:30 pm Men's Club Meeting/Auction SH

Thursday December 16

9:30 am COS Mass at St. Michael

Friday, December 16

Saturday, December 17

Sunday, December 18

11:00 am Coffee Sunday following
10:00am Mass SH



This Sunday,
December 11, 2016
9:00 am to 1:00 p.m.
in the Social Hall
Please come join
family, friends and neighbors
for this fun holiday event.
Pancakes and Santa Too!!!

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