

Church of St. Matthew

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



He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not, '

September 27, 2020

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordered Time

Liturgy Schedule

Masses

In person 4:15 pm Saturday
Streamed 10:15 am Sunday

Reconciliation

2nd and 4th Saturday of the month
following 4:15 pm Mass

Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing of the sick
Please call the parish office for each

Prayer Line 651.457.0228

Readings for the week of September 27, 2020

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [6a]/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

Monday: Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7 [6]/Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5 [1]/Jn 1:47-51

Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15 [3]/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Jb 19:21-27/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14 [13]/Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4ab, 4c-6, 10-11 [11]/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 [135]/Lk 10:17-24

Stewardship Bulletin Reflection

Today's readings challenge the modern-day disciple to imitate more fully both the actions and attitudes of Christ. This is, after all, the point of our stewardship way of life.

St. Paul encapsulates the actions and attitudes we must strive for in the Second Reading, from the Letter to the Philippians. "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." In other words, Paul continues, "Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." Whether we are at work or school or within our own homes, our actions should be focused on others first in imitation of Christ, Who is always perfectly focused on others.

But there is another reason for seeing others as more important than ourselves, a reason that will help us to become better stewards. It is the recognition that the "others" in my life — whether my spouse and children, my next-door neighbor, or even the co-worker that gets on my last nerve — all these others are gifts from God, to be treasured and nurtured for God's glory.

And just in case this seems like a bit too much to ask of us, St. Paul gives us another reminder about the Savior we are imitating as we embrace this attitude towards others. "Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave... he humbled Himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Unimaginable humility.

We should not be overwhelmed by this high bar, however. Our God is a loving and patient Father. He embraces every faltering step we take in imitation of His Son. Jesus demonstrates this comforting truth through the parable He tells in today's Gospel from Matthew. It is the story of two sons whose father instructs them to go out and work in his vineyard that day. The second son gives the right answer, right away: "Yes, sir." But he does not follow through. Despite the lip service, he has failed to follow his father's will.

The first son just can't seem to get on board with his father's command. He responds, "I will not." At least he is honest! And this honest, less-than-perfect response should be consoling to us Christian stewards. Haven't we all felt this way at times when God's will for us seems to be just too hard? We can be honest with God at these times. He knows already, after all. But when we stayed engaged in a real relationship with Him, even if it's just to say, "I don't think I can, Lord," He will supply us with just the grace we need to change our minds and do what He is asking us to do.

We are called to a high and holy standard — living as Christ's disciples every day and with every person the Lord places in our path. But we can move towards this goal in "baby steps." We can even take a step backward from time to time because our Father is merciful and kind. What matters is that we keep baby-stepping along, assured of the grace we need to more closely imitate the actions and attitudes of Christ. This is the beauty of the stewardship way of life.

The Catholic Steward

Cover art provided by Catholic Studies Program at St. Louis University : Camille Pissarro, The Gardener: Old Peasant with Cabbage, 1883-1895



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

FAITH FORMATION

St. Matthew's Faith Formation program needs volunteers to teach students in younger grades and needs two volunteers at the front desk. Time commitment is Wednesday evenings from mid-September until early May. We are seeking volunteers at least 16 years of age. Additionally, substitute teachers are needed. Even if you could only volunteer occasionally, we could still use your help! To find out more, please email Faith Formation director Janelle Rohr at Janelle@st-matts.org or call or text 651-242-6004

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

THANK YOU!

We are a Volunteer Parish!! The future of our parish depends on our dedicated volunteers.

THANK YOU to the 64 parishioners who attended our Public Mass last Saturday. As we continue to film that Mass for those who wish to attend the **Sunday Mass online**, we thank our celebrant **Fr. Adrian** who offers Mass for us and through the words of his homily gives us strength & hope as we live through these trying days. To **John** who assists where needed and makes sure everyone & everything is where it needs to be. To our pianist **Jill** and our cantor **Linda** who provided the beautiful music. To **Ellen & Joe** who presented the readings, and to **Becky & Dave** who did the readings for the Sunday online Mass. To our Eucharistic Ministers **Karen & Mike**. We thank our sacristans/ server **Ginny & Mary**. Thank you to our ushers **Tim & Tom** & doorman **Mike**. We are all especially grateful to **Alan!!** He came forward last March and offered to film all our services. He then edits the production and puts it out on the web for all to view! He makes it possible for us to come together and worship as a parish, during an exceedingly difficult time. If you were not able to join the service as it happened, you can watch the Mass on the st-matts.org. **Website/Facebook page** or on **YouTube**.

THANK YOU to **Joe Stevens, Dave Faust, Jane Wilson, Ginny Roethler & Kathy Goldenstein** who take the Eucharist from Saturday Mass and visit parishioners who are currently unable to attend Mass.

Do you have family, neighbors or friends who are unable to attend Mass? If you would like to take communion to them in their homes, call the Parish Center or see a Sacristan before Mass. If you do not have a pyx one will be provided.

News and Events

Saint Matthew's motto-to be the Good Samaritan on the banks of the Mississippi.

BEFORE ATTENDING MASS, STOP, THINK, CONSIDER

While Saint Matthew welcomes all to our parish, we want to have a safe environment for everyone. Before attending Mass, please consider the following questions and if you answer "yes", please do not attend Mass in person, but rather follow us on our website.

1. In the past 14 days have you or any one you know been exposed to Covid-19?
2. Are you or any one you know experiencing any of the following symptoms you cannot attribute to another condition; fever, chills, new cough, new sore throat, new headache, new loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches or new shortness of breath?
3. **For everyone's safety and health, masks are required.**

CHANGES FOR IN-PERSON MASS ATTENDANCE

1. The long-handled collection baskets that were ordered many months ago have arrived—finally. The ushers will take up the collections [both for the parish and special collections] at the usual times of the Mass. There will NOT be a basket near the entrance.
2. Everyone coming will be asked to record their name and telephone number on a sign-in sheet. The only—but important—reason for this is the use of that information for contact tracing. [To date we have not had any cases of COVID-19 connected to attendance at Mass. There is no guarantee that our 'clean record' will continue.]

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS September 20, 2020

Volunteer Service

Hours in prayer 42
Hours in service 26

Parish

Envelopes/Cash \$ 944
Electronic Giving \$ 1,343
Holyday \$ 0
PayPal \$ 30
Fall Festival \$ 100
Fuel \$ 0
Bells \$ 0
Masses \$ 32
Rent \$ 0
Vigil Lights \$ 12
Sanctuary Lamps \$ 0

School \$ 477
Holy Land \$ 50
Neighborhood \$ 115
House \$ 100
Total \$ 742

Thank You!

PayPal QR Code

simply scan with your phone to make an electronic stewardship offering.

Total \$2,461
Thank You!



THE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF ST. MATT'S

The sanctuary lamp will be lit September 26 - October 2 in memory of Rose Patton.

Contact Linda Rivera at lriviera@st-matts.org or 651.224.9793 by 1:00 pm Monday-Thursday if you would like to schedule a day to ring the bells, or a week to lite the sanctuary lamp for your special memory or event.

FUND RAISING

Perhaps it was obvious, but parish leadership decided not to have a "usual fall festival" this year. Also, St. Matt's is not going to have a "fix it dinner" either. Still, there are some projects that need funding. The funds raised in 2018 at those events helped to fund the new ramp into Church. It is now so functional and hospitable.

The funds raised in 2019 at those events helped fund the redoing of the social hall bathrooms. That is the first "re-do" since their installation 50 years ago. When that project was launched the need for an ADA compliant bathroom was evident. It would have been prohibitive to change all the plumbing in the current bathrooms to make that space ADA compliant. Instead, parish leaders looked at alternatives: one of them is to remodel 70 sq ft of the kitchen store room and make a single bathroom there. The access will be a door on the opposite side of the hall from the current bathrooms. The funds to be raised in 2020 will help with this remodeling project.

The pastoral council members have agreed to a "calendar raffle" as a fundraiser. More details will be coming: for each \$20 ticket you purchase you will give 30 chances to win... one for each day in November. Deadline for purchase will be October 25.

VOTING

Absentee voting began on Friday, September 18. Now is the time to request an absentee ballot if you wish to cast your vote from home. The website is MNVOTES.ORG. You can find out everything that is needed to vote. Remember, you do not need a reason in order to vote an absentee ballot. Simply ask for one. [And the earlier you ask the easier it will be to cast your vote for many national and local races and return the ballot so that it will be counted.] Please remember that in order to retain our tax-exempt status there can be no endorsement of particular candidates. We will continue to plead with all parishioners to become informed and be involved by casting votes on November 3. Remember the "down ballot" offices and issues.

ASSESSMENTS

Like all churches we are tax-exempt. However, we are not assessment exempt. We have just paid the assessments for storm sewer, lighting, and sweeping for our properties--\$4,034.34 for the year.

CORRECTION

In my page about **Special Dates for our Parish Community**, I typed one sentence incorrectly (last week's bulletin insert). The sentence about the space should read: ***The space itself, though very nice, always feels incomplete WITHOUT worshippers.*** I apologize for my inaccuracy. John Riehle

Parish Leadership

All emails are @st-matts.org

Rev. Steve Adrian, Sacramental Minister
sadrian

John DelVecchio, Parish Trustee
jdelvecchio

Scott Hertzog, Janitor

Kevin Jack, website & social media webmaster
kevinjack

Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry
jillkilzer

Bernie Klein, Accounts Payable & Receivable
bklein

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer
skowal

Reyes Ledesma, Janitor

Mary Leibl, Volunteer Coordinator
Mleibl

Rev. Biju Mathew, Parochial Administrator
frbijum@gmail.com

John Riehle, Pastoral Administrator
jriehle

Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary
lrivera

Janelle Rohr, Faith Formation
jdrohr@pro-ns.net

Karen Thompson, Parish Trustee
kthompson

Parish Pastoral Council

parishcouncil

Members:

Alan Christensen

Janelle Rohr

Suzanne Clarke

Linda Sellars

Jerald Dosch

Joanne Smith

Jackie Lackner

Barbara Strom

Tiffany Rivera-Prescott

John Riehle, Ex Officio

Finance Council Members

John DelVecchio

Joe Stevens

Bernie Klein

John Riehle

Becky Montgomery

Joanne Smith

John Sekevitch

Karen Thompson

Church - 510 Hall Avenue

Parish Center - 490 Hall Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone 651.224.9793

Fax 651.222.2688

Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

YouTube: youtube.com/stmattswestside

Twitter: twitter.com/stmattswestside

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Closed on Friday

Sacraments

Please contact the Parish Office regarding Baptism, Marriage, First Communion and Confirmation information.

Bulletin

Announcements are due on **Monday by 10:00 am** for the next Sunday's bulletin. *Items received after 10:00 am will appear in the following week's bulletin.*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 26

4:15 pm Arthur Geis†
Michael Vasquez, Special Intention

Sunday, September 27

10:15 am Our Parish
MaryAnn Kosel†
James & Helen Stevens†

Monday, September 28

8:00 am Cancelled

Tuesday, September

8:00 am Cancelled

Friday, September 25

8:00 am Cancelled

Saturday, October 3

4:15 pm Hope & Joseph Savard, Special Intention
60th Wedding Anniversary

Sunday, October 4

10:15 am Our Parish
Pearl Bejblik†

Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 26 Priesthood Sunday

10:00 am AA Meeting Parish Center

11:00 am Harmony GTCYS Social Hall

Sunday September 27 Priesthood Sunday

10:15 am Mass Streamed

Monday, September 28 - Friday October 2

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes **Meals Are Being Served As Take-Out Only At This Time**

Monday, September 28

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Parish Office Open

St. Mary's Clinic Cancelled

Tuesday, September 29

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Parish Office Open

5:00 pm GYCYS Church

Wednesday, September 30

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Parish Office Open

St. Mary's Clinic - by appointment only

6:30 pm Faith Formation Begins Parish Center

Thursday, October 1

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Parish Office Open

Friday, October 2

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, October 3

10:00 am AA Meeting Parish Center

11:00 am Harmony GTCYS Social Hall

5:30 pm Wedding Church

6:00 pm Reception Social Hall

Sunday October 4

10:15 am Mass Streamed

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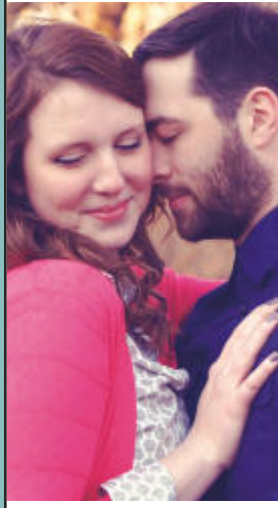
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La Clínica McDonough Homes Clinic
153 Cesar Chavez St., St. Paul 1544 Timberlake Rd., St. Paul

East Side Family Clinic (servicios médicos y dentales) West Side Dental Clinic
895 E. 7th Street, St. Paul 478 S. Robert St., St. Paul

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Lláme al 651-602-7500