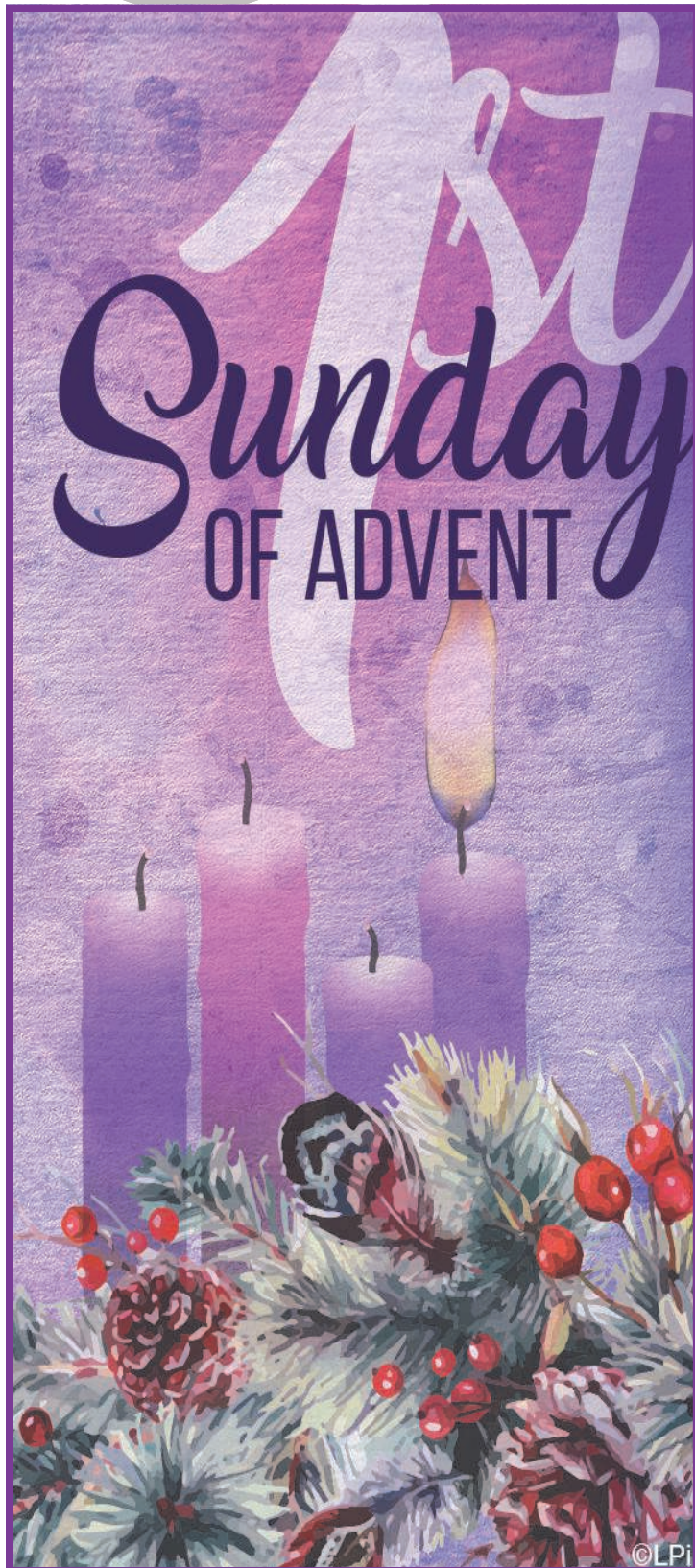




Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

December 3, 2017

Detroit, Michigan



St. Matthew Catholic Church

**15th Annual
Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle**

**Drawing this Sunday
December 3, 2017 at noon**

**Three Top Raffle Prizes!
plus more Sur(prizes)!**

**Parish Breakfast by
The Majestic Café of Detroit**
Serving such delectables as
sweet rolls, bagels, muffins,
eggs, breakfast meats, fruit,
jams & jellies, coffee, juice, and
other breakfast specialties!

**Adults: \$7
Young adults, 12 to 18: \$4
Kids under 12 eat free!
What a deal!**

**Bring your returns,
buy more tickets!
Share this special time
with family and friends.
Consolation prizes awarded for
those who stay for the fun!**

***Feast of the Immaculate Conception
and Holy Day of Obligation
Friday, December 8, 2017
Masses at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.***

Readings for the Week of December 3, 2017

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
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: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [1a]/Eph 1:3-
6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf.
Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
[8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



First Sunday in Advent

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." On this First Sunday of Advent, Jesus gives us a wakeup call. This is no time for slumber. Now is the time to be on our toes, alert, attentive, ready. But for what? For the coming of "the Lord of the house."

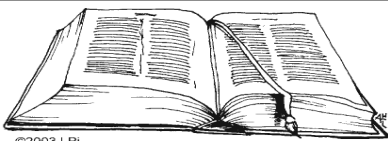
During Advent, the Church does her best to help us get ready for the second coming of Christ.

We don't know precisely when he will return, but we know that he will. And the fact is, even if it doesn't happen in our lifetime, each and every one of us will still have to face the Lord at an unknown hour—namely, the hour of our death.

So let us be prepared! Let us be on the watch for anything that would threaten this most important of all encounters. We want to recognize the Lord as a friend and master, so that on seeing him we don't cower in fear at his awesome power and strength. Instead, we hope to rejoice in finally being able to behold him face-to-face. This of course is the result of a healthy and holy relationship with Christ.

To nurture such a relationship this Advent season the Church urges us to recommit to a life of prayer, worthy reception of the sacraments, and a commitment to following God's loving laws through a life of virtue. With these priorities in order, we can wait for the second coming with joyful anticipation, just as we joyfully await the celebration of Christmas.

During these weeks as we prepare our homes for the festive holiday season, may we also set aside some time and effort to prepare our hearts. Then, not only will we appreciate the yuletide wonders around us, but we can also look forward to the eternal wonders that lie in store.



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A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's Gospel tells us to "be watchful." This comes natural to families. Parents are watchful of their children's health, grades, and friends. Children are watchful of parental moods. Today's Gospel encourages us to use this ability to see God acting in the innocence, tenderness, love, and forgiveness of your family. "Be watchful," the Lord is already with you.



The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is a great tradition to implement in all homes. Classrooms, and organizations during the Advent Season. There are prayers to accompany the lighting of the Advent Wreath candles. These weekly prayers take only a few minutes but help us focus on dedicating ourselves to Christ during the season of preparation. Obscure in origin it is believed that the Advent Wreath may have had its beginnings in the pagan fire wheel. In Christian symbolism, the wheel or wreath stands for eternity. Its use is especially fitting during Advent, the season of the anticipation of the coming of our Lord. Children love the beauty of the simple traditional ceremony. Lighting candles on an Advent Wreath is a simple way to start a tradition of family worship in the home. Those who participate will cherish the experience all their lives.

The Advent Wreath Ceremony

The ceremony is simple. It starts at the evening meal on the Saturday before the first Sunday in Advent with the blessing of the wreath. The head of the household is the one designated to say the prayers following while various members of the family light the candles. If the group is not a family a leader is selected to say the prayers and others appointed to light the candles.

Blessing of the Wreath

*O God, by Whose word all things are sanctified,
pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath,
and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts
for the coming of Christ and may receive from You
abundant graces.*

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The First Week Prayer

Each night of the first week, the first purple candle is lit by the youngest child of the household (or one other selected by the gathering) and is left burning during the meal.

*Lord, stir up Your might, we beg You, and come that
by Your protection, we may deserve to be rescued
from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved
by Your deliverance.*

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Sunday, December 3, following 10 am Mass - 50/50 Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Drawing and Parish Breakfast

Friday, December 8, 9 am and 7 pm Masses - Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Saturday, December 9, and Sunday, December 10, 4:30 pm and 10 am Masses, respectively - Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Monday, December 18, 2 pm - Mass at St. Anne's Convalescent Center

Monday, December 18, 7 pm - Parish Communal Penance Service

Retirement Fund for Religious ~ for those who have given a lifetime ~

Many Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests serve for years in our Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes, but receive little or no pay. After having given a lifetime, they often face a shortage in retirement savings during their senior years. Hundreds of religious orders struggle to provide for their older members.

Parishes across the Archdiocese of Detroit will take up a special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend, December 9 and 10. Contributions will help provide funding for medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Please prayerfully consider contributing generously to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection at Mass next weekend.

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree for children's toys will be up in the church next Sunday ready for Christmas. Please take a tag and make Christmas a little more special for a child in need. These gifts benefit the families that St. Vincent de Paul has helped during this past year. The individual tags include whether the child is a boy or girl and their age. Please donate toys appropriate for the age level stated on the tag. Suggestions: pull toys, plush toys, games, coloring books and crayons, puzzles, balls, sports equipment, dolls, trucks, and cars. (non-violent toys only, please!). Return all toys by December 16th, the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

Put toys in bags, boxes, or some type of covering (no wrapping paper). If you would like to purchase a gift card for a child ages from 13 to 16, that would be much appreciated. **PLEASE ATTACH TAGS TO GIFTS.**

Your generosity in the past has always been an inspiration as you remember those that are less fortunate among us!



CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Black Catholic Ministry - "Hearing His Call," an Advent Afternoon of Prayer and Reflection featuring Deacon Hubert Sanders, will be held at the Father Solanus Casey Center on Saturday, December 9.

Thanks to your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal, the Black Catholic Ministry Office is able to ensure the Archdiocese of Detroit meets the needs of African American Catholics through worship, education, and community services like this. The office also focuses on evangelization and the certification of lay ministers, as well as serves as a resource for other archdiocesan offices.

For more information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, please go to www.aod.org.

St. Ann's Convalescent Center

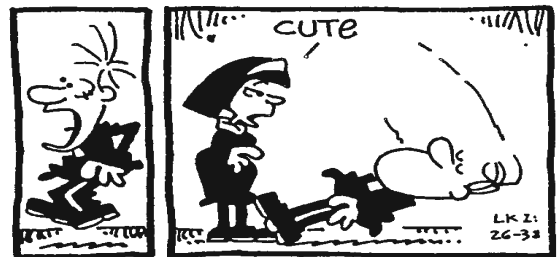
This is the time to put your cash/check donation in the present-box on Mary's altar for the residents of St. Anne's Convalescent Center. Your donation will provide a "gift for the house" to be enjoyed by all the residents of St. Anne's.

*Thank you for your thoughtfulness
and generosity to the shut-ins
of our community...*

Solanus Casey Center Advent Series

During this time of preparation for the birth of Jesus, we invite you to reflect on the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity with the Solanus Casey Center, held every Wednesday during Advent. We will begin with a noon Mass followed by a simple soup lunch and reflection. (\$3 suggested donation is appreciated.) Please RSVP at www.SolanusCenter.org or call 313-579-2100.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

6021 Whittier, Detroit 48224-2637
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Bryan Jones ~ *Members at Large*
Sharon & Jerry Mielke ~ *VPC Representatives*

PARISH ORGANIZATION

Dennis Costello ~ *St. Vincent de Paul / Christian Service*
Dan McBride ~ *St. Vincent de Paul / Christian Service*

WEEKEND/WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	4:30 p.m.
Sunday	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	9:00 a.m.
Reconciliation	By Appointment
Holydays	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.

In your prayers...

Please remember those in our parish and in our families who are sick or in need of our prayers.

Chuck Schuster	Sr. Judy Seefeld, OP
Bienvenido Fajardo	Rev. Robert Allman
Lolita Dorado	Nanette Ferreria
Rita Moroni	Dorothy Kurrie
Albert Fajardo	Anthony Mastronardi
Virginia Fajardo	Eduardo Fajardo
Madeline O'Neill	Kathy Bush
Regina Butler	Peggy Bates
Kurt Beghuyn	Glenda Johnson
Rose Colombo	Daniel Adams
Laura Bush-Terry	John Allman
Sebastiano Stellino	Robert Stark
Allen McKee	Stephanie Smith
Teresita Covacha	
Janet Law	
Joe Escorial	
Richard Gargulinski	
Joe Petrylka	
Roger Sharpe	
Bob Spansky	

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

EUCCHARISTIC

MINISTERS

LECTORS

SERVERS

Immaculate Conception, Friday, December 8, 2017; 9 a.m.
Patti Adams
Janet Law

Marie Vortkamp

Immaculate Conception, Friday, December 8, 2017; 7 p.m.
Marilyn Lynn
Beverly Goll

William Zuerblis

Mary Pocius
Julia Zuerblis

Saturday, December 9, 2017; 4:30 p.m.

Janet Bielman
Janet Law
Marie Vortkamp

Patrick Lusch

Ian Campbell
Lauren Gross

Sunday, December 10, 2017; 10:00 a.m.

Marilyn Lynn
Patti Adams
Beverly Goll
Veronica Obianwu
Greg Redman
Jean Solomon
Kristen Stark

Bryan Jones

Kiley Dulapa
Mary Pocius
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 2nd - Vigil: First Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. - Laura Bush-Terry, The People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - Laura Bush-Terry, The Reyes Family, Ofelia Vivo,
Judy Stark, Casimir Kleinsmith

Monday, December 4th - St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Tuesday, December 5th -

9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

Wednesday, December 6th - St. Nicholas, Bishop

9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

Thursday, December 7th - St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday, December 8th - Immaculate Conception

9:00 a.m. - For the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

7:00 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Saturday, December 9th - Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. - Sr. Karen Eklund, IHM, Deacon Bill Johr

Sunday, December 10th - Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - John C. Sasinowski, Judy Stark, Armando Costello,
Gloria Pocius

DAILY

ADVENT CHALLENGE

Spend time reflecting on what obstacle, large or small, has been preventing you from saying yes to God in some aspect of your life.



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