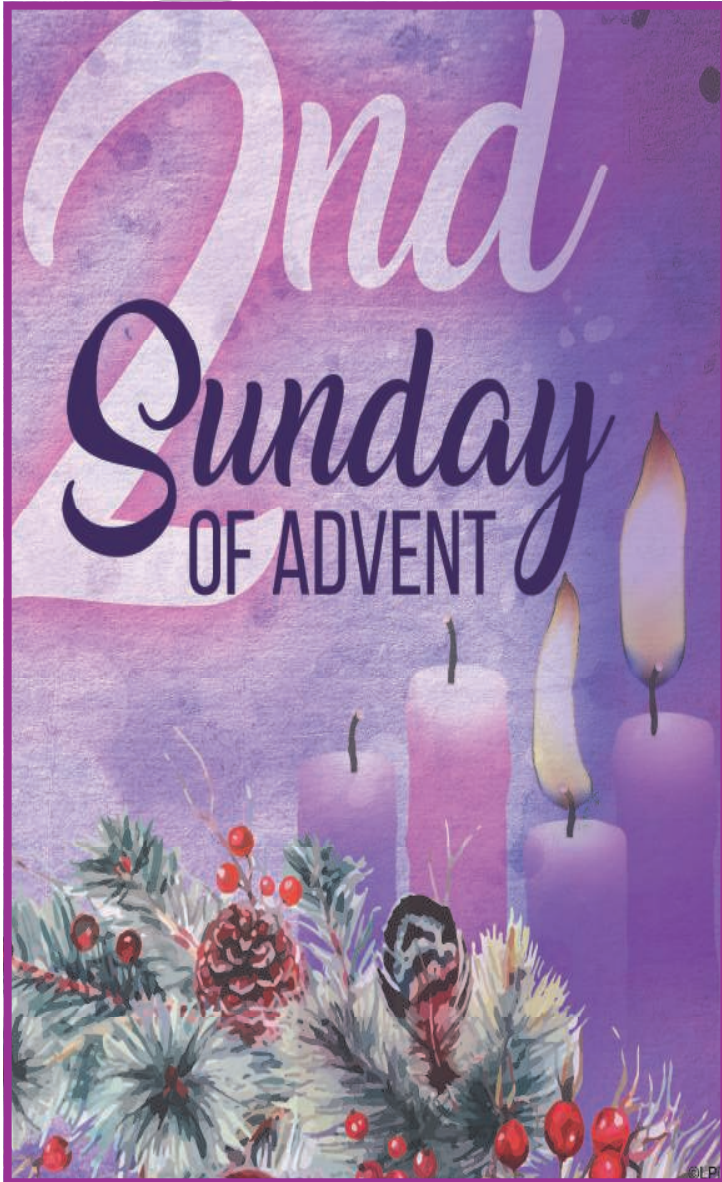




Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

December 10, 2017

Detroit, Michigan



2017 Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Announcing the Winners

The Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Drawing was held last Sunday, December 3rd; it was a great success, and friends and families again put forth an extra-ordinary effort. The gross proceeds totaled \$28,960, not including \$140 in donations.

This amount was divided: with half in the amount of \$14,480 being awarded to the parish, and balance of \$14,480 divided among the winners. Three winners were awarded their prizes in accordance with the rules of the State of Michigan Charitable Gaming Commission. These lucky winners are to be congratulated.

1st Prize: \$8,688.00 to Charles Williams of New Haven, friend of Bryan Jones

2nd Prize: \$4,054.40 to Laurie Paxton Striebel, of Eastpointe, parishioner

3rd Prize: \$1,737.60 to Phil and Sheri Allor, of Grosse Pointe, friends of Patrick and Kim Lusch

Sellers' Drawing Winner: \$200 to Father Duane, of Detroit, Pastor, St. Matthew Church, sold to Dennis Malaney

We are grateful for the generosity of parish members, friends, and businesses for donating consolation prizes so many others could also be winners.

Our thanks go to Patrick Lusch, and Debbie and Joe Nieddu, for collecting returns and assigning additional tickets after the 4:30 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses. Thanks to Lynn Jacob and Dick Goll for manning the breakfast table and handling the hungry crowd.

Tim Fitzgerald coordinated with Majestic Café for the breakfast that was provided by them for all to enjoy. Jennifer Khalifah and "her girls" pitched in to help with the beverage service. The church auditorium was transformed into a welcoming space for the event by Tim and Karen Fitzgerald, Beverly Goll, and Debbie Nieddu. We especially appreciate Tim Duffy who provided the sound system and the accompanying holiday music.

Of course, we cannot forget those of you who bought or sold the 50/50 Gold'n Harvest Raffle tickets. Your efforts truly made this fundraiser another great success! It was a moment to celebrate!

*With gratitude to all,
Co-Chairs, Bill Zuerblis and Marilyn Lynn*

Reconciliation

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SAVE THE DATE

St. Matthew Parish

Communal Penance Service

~ Sacrament of Reconciliation ~

Monday, December 18, 7:00 p.m.

Readings for the Week of December 10, 2017

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
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/ Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/ Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



Second Sunday of Advent

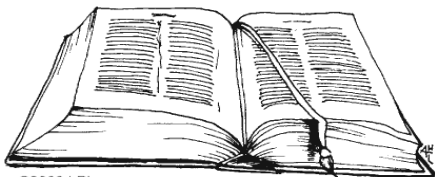
"People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him." John the Baptist commanded quite a crowd. What was the attraction? Was it his unusual appearance-clothed in camel's hair?

Perhaps it was his bizarre eating habits-feeding on locusts and wild honey. Or maybe people were captivated by the Baptist's remarkable humility in the face of such huge popularity-"I am not worthy."

Unlike our modern fascination with standing in the presence of superstars, the crowds who flocked to John weren't looking for a thrill. They weren't lining up for autographs. They were lining up for baptism. And they were acknowledging their sins at the same time. John was proclaiming "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." And people came because they were longing to experience the freedom of that forgiveness.

John called them to conversion. To convert means to turn, in this case to turn away from sin. And the crowds were anxious to do so in order to "prepare the way of the Lord." For these first-century Jews, the imminent approach of the Messiah came with a call for conversion and they took this call very seriously.

Now, for us, as twenty-first century Christians, the Church, like John the Baptist, calls us to prepare and repent during this season of Advent. Will we take the call seriously? Will we examine the areas of our lives that need to change? Will we pray for God's help to overcome our habitual sin and to make choices based on generosity instead of selfishness? Now is the time to heed the message. Now is the time to "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."



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A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today's Gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift which makes a difference. Give forgiveness.



Second Week of Advent Prayer

Each night of the second week, the eldest child (or one other one selected by the gathering) lights the first and second purple candle. Both candles burn during the evening meal as before. The Father or Leader prays:

O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Your only begotten Son that through His coming, we may be made worthy to serve You with pure minds. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Lucy's Day, December 13

Her feast day in the 1600's was commonly thought to be the shortest day of the year as expressed in the literature of that time. This timing, and her name meaning light, is a factor in a particular devotion to St. Lucy in Scandinavian countries, where young girls dress as the saint in honor of her feast. A special devotion is present in the Italian regions of Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Trentino-Alto Adige, and Sicily.

The feast is a Catholic-celebrated holiday with roots that can be traced to Sicily. On December 13, it is celebrated with large traditional feasts of home-made pastas and various other Italian dishes, and a special dessert of wheat in hot chocolate milk. The large grains of soft wheat are representative of her eyes and are a treat only to be indulged in once a year.

Lucy vowed as a young girl to give her life to the service of Christ and remain a virgin. Because Lucy refused to marry a pagan bridegroom, he betrayed her to the local governor. She was tortured and finally martyred. Before her death, her eyes were put out; but, as legend has it, they were restored prior to her execution. It is this widely held legend that calls St. Lucy to be the patron of those who are blind and suffering eye diseases.

St. Lucy, you did not hide your light under a basket, but let it shine for the whole world, for all the centuries to see.

We may not suffer torture in our lives the way you did, but we are still called to let the light of our Christianity illuminate our daily lives.

Please help us have the courage to bring our Christianity into our work, our recreation, our relationships, our conversation, and every corner of our day. Amen.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

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 ~

This weekend, parishes across the Archdiocese of Detroit are taking up a special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This annual collection will benefit some 32,000 aging Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests in religious orders.

Most senior religious served a lifetime in our Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes for little or no pay, without access to pensions or retirement plans, so have little retirement savings. Their religious communities struggle to care for them while also continuing important ministries to faithful in dioceses throughout the country and world.

Contributions to the Retirement Fund for Religious will help provide medications, nursing care, and more for our elderly religious. Please prayerfully consider giving generously during today's special collection.

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree for children's toys and clothing is now up in the church and 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 and clothing gifts by December 17th, the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

Put the articles 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



Hispanic Ministries - On December 9, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared to a simple native Mexican near Mexico City. St. Juan Diego's feast day is this Saturday, and is followed by the feast day for Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tuesday, December 12.

Archbishop Allen Vigneron will celebrate Mass at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral this Monday, December 11, in honor of these important feasts to our Hispanic Catholic community. The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with the Rosary and dancers before Archbishop Vigneron celebrates Mass at 7 p.m. Flowers for Our Lady are welcomed.

Gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal help fund Hispanic Ministries through the Department of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Schools.

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...*



*"Those whose hearts are pure
are the temples of the Holy Spirit" ~ St. Lucy*



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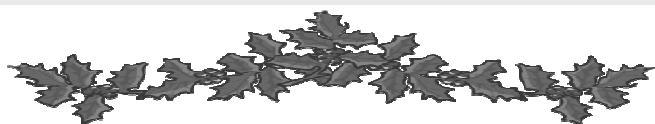
RECONCILIATION SERVICE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017 ~ 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017
CHRISTMAS EVE MASS ~ 10:00 PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ~ 10:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY ~ 10:00AM

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018
NEW YEAR'S DAY
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
10:00 AM



ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*
Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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Denise Balogh ~ *Bookkeeper*

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Bill Zuerblis ~ *Financial Council Chair*
Dennis Costello ~ *Evangelization Chair*
Patrick Lusch ~ *Member at Large / Webmaster*
Patricia Camazzola-Godoshian, John Dunstone,
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
Bienvenido Fajardo
Lolita Dorado
Rita Moroni
Albert Fajardo
Virginia Fajardo
Madeline O'Neill
Regina Butler
Kurt Beghuyn
Rose Colombo
Laura Bush-Terry
Sebastiano Stellino
Allen McKee
Teresita Covacha
Janet Law
Joe Escorial
Richard Gargulinski
Joe Petrylka
Roger Sharpe
Sr. Judy Seefeld, OP

Rev. Robert Allman
Nanette Ferreria
Dorothy Kurrie
Anthony Mastronardi
Eduardo Fajardo
Kathy Bush
Peggy Bates
Glenda Johnson
Daniel Adams
John Allman
Robert Stark
Stephanie Smith
Alice Mocerri
Emma Langan

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

LECTORS

SERVERS

Saturday, December 16, 2017, 4:30 p.m.
Janet Bielman
Marie Vortkamp

Liz Smith

Ian Campbell

Sunday, December 17, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
Marilyn Lynn
Dorothy Brooks
Beverly Goll
Linda Holster
Michael Holster
Debra Nieddu
Joseph Nieddu

Liz Foley-Dunstone

Mary E. Dunstone

Lauren Gross

Mary Pocius

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 9th - Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent
4:30 p.m. - Sr. Karen Eklund, IHM, Deacon Bill Johr, William and Sylvia Law

Sunday, December 10th - 2nd Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. - John Sasinowski, Judy Stark, Armando Costella, Gloria Pocius

Monday, December 11th - St. Damasus I, Pope

Tuesday, December 12th - Our Lady of Guadalupe
9:00 a.m. - Edward Petzer (6th Anniv)

Wednesday, December 13th - St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

Thursday, December 14th - St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Friday, December 15th -

9:00 a.m. - For the Missionaries Serving around the World

Saturday, December 16th - Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, December 17th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Joseph Chinnici, Lincoln Chrysler

DAILY

ADVENT CHALLENGE

In the next few days,
determine to spend some
extra time with someone who
needs you. It could be a son or
daughter, a parent, a friend,
or a co-worker.



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