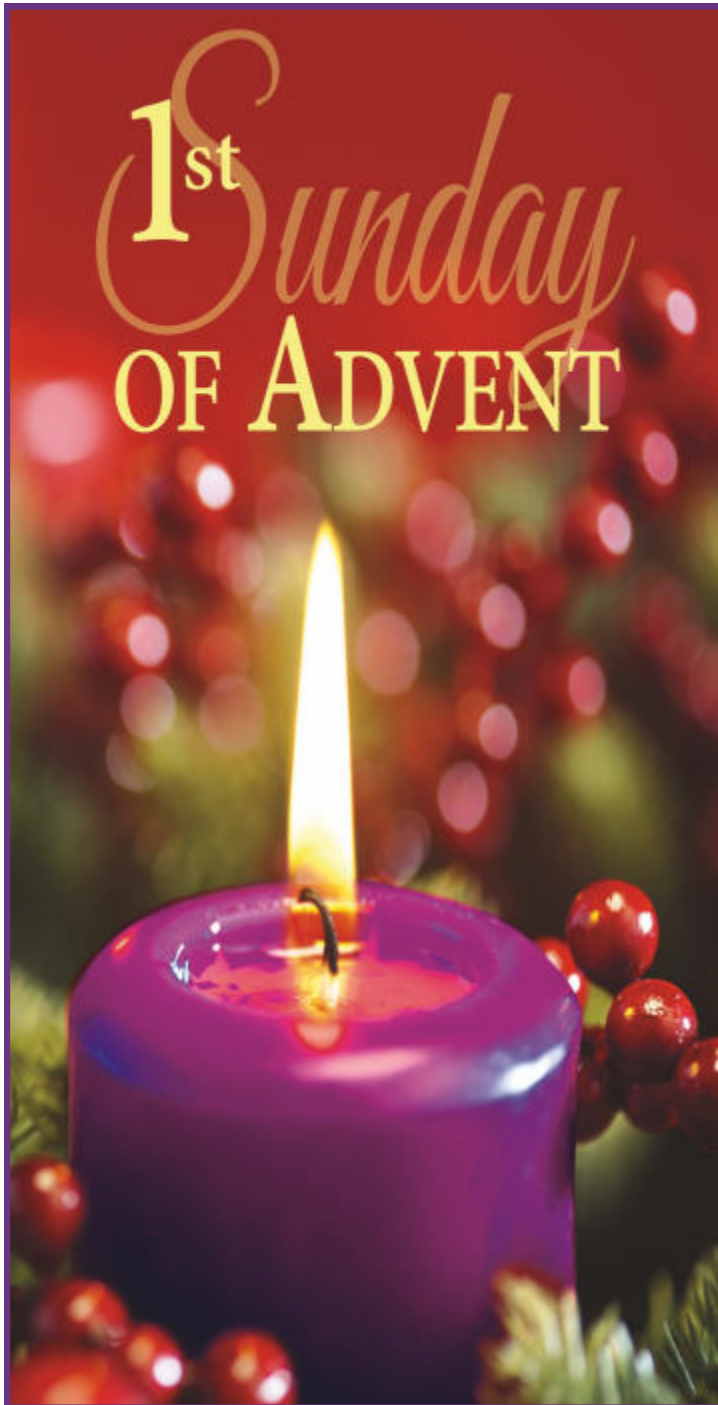




# *Saint Matthew Church* **The PULSE**

**December 2, 2018**

**Detroit, Michigan**



**St. Matthew Catholic Church**

**16th Annual**

**Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle**

**Drawing this Sunday  
December 2, 2018 at noon**

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

**Catered 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!  
~ Good Luck to All ~**

***Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Holy Day of Obligation  
Saturday, December 8, 2018, 9:00 a.m. Mass Only***

***Please note that the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 8, 2018  
will celebrate the Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent!***

## **Readings for the week of December 2, 2018**

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/  
1 Thes 3:12, 4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

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: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]  
/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]  
/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6



### **First Sunday of Advent**

Tribulation. Wildfires. Tsunamis. Moral corruption. Disease. War. We tend to associate these things with the end times, and perhaps for good reason! In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world." Not exact-

ly putting us in the Christmas spirit, is it? During Advent, we anticipate a celebration of Christ's first coming. There is a quiet stillness about our waiting, or at least we try to encourage that in ourselves. Perhaps we have an Advent devotional or we take time to pray together as a family around the Advent wreath.

But Jesus did not come only once into history. During Advent, we remember that he will come again. You may remember the rapture craze in the early 2000s, when a series of books and movies envisioned a future where Jesus was coming soon and all the true believers had been whisked away. Everyone else had one more chance to repent before things really went to hell...literally, in this case!

But is that what Jesus is talking about here? The truth is, we don't know what Jesus' Second Coming will be like. The actual return of Christ - though sudden and perhaps frightening to some - should not frighten us. Despite all the stories we may have heard about the apocalypse, the advice of Jesus is not to hang our heads or cower in fear. "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." In a certain sense, we are already living in the end times. We already encounter great tribulation. We all find it easy to get distracted or discouraged in the grind of daily life. Today's Gospel reminds us that vigilance for God's presence is needed now.



### **A Family Perspective**

by Bud Ozar

At this time of the year, we are very conscious of our family as we prepare for Christmas. Today's Gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent, appreciate the gift of the people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others.

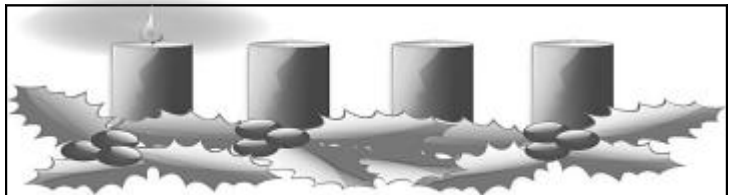
### **Watch for the Lord**

*"You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near" (James 5:8)*

Today we begin our Advent journey, which will culminate in Christmas. Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes near to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return to us in the celebration of Christmas. We remember his historic coming in the humility of the human condition. But he enters our heart each time we are willing to receive him and he will come again at the end of time to "judge the living and the dead."

Therefore, we must always be vigilant and await the Lord with the hope of encountering him. In today's Gospel, Jesus exhorts us to be vigilant, so as to be ready to welcome him at the moment of his return. The person who takes heed does not let himself or herself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality amid the worldly din, but lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost for others.

The watchful person is the one who accepts the invitation to keep watch, that is, not to be overpowered by the listlessness of discouragement, by the lack of hope, by disappointment, and at the same time to ward off the allure of the many vanities with which the world is brimming and for which, now and then, time and personal and familial peace is sacrificed. *(Pope Francis)*



### **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.*

#### **The First Week Resolution**

*Mark the Season of Advent by loving and serving others  
with God's own love and concern. (Mother Theresa)*

## *St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings*

**Sunday, December 2, following the 10 am Mass** - Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Catered Breakfast, Church Auditorium; Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Drawing, Church Auditorium

**Saturday, December 8, 9:00 am Mass** - Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

**Saturday, December 8, 4:30 pm, Sunday, December 9, 10 am Masses, respectively** - Collection for the Retired Religious

**Monday, December 10, 6 pm** - 2019 Jazz Nite Committee Meeting, Rectory Conference Room

**Tuesday, December 11, 6 pm** - Parish Council Meeting, Rectory Conference Room

### Retirement Fund for Religious

~ for those who have given a lifetime ~

A donor writes, "Your flyer touched my heart—seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced." Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God.

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 and clothing is now up in the church and ready for Christmas. Please take a tag or two and make Christmas a little more special for a child in need. These gifts benefit the families that our St. Vincent de Paul Conference has helped during this past year. The individual tags include whether the child is a boy or girl and their age. Please donate toys or clothing 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!). Also, shirts, sweaters, hats and gloves, etc... would be an appropriate gift. Return all toys and clothing with tags from the Giving Tree by **December 16th, the 3rd Sunday of Advent.**

Please put toys and clothes 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 REMEMBER TO ATTACH THE GIVING TREE TAGS TO GIFTS.**

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



## CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



**Youth Ministry** - A workshop focused on "How to Run a Youth Retreat" will be held at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit on Thursday, December 13.

Mary Wilkerson and Mike Chamberland of BOLD Ministries will share their best practices and tips for planning and executing dynamic retreats. Participants will gain new skills, resources, and renewed confidence to prepare their own youth retreats.

Your CSA gifts allow the Archdiocese of Detroit to minister to those who foster the spiritual and personal growth of our youth and young adults and empower them to become disciples of Jesus Christ and actively witness their faith.

For more information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, go to [www.aod.org](http://www.aod.org).

## 2018 CSA "DOUBLE DOWN"

~ ONGOING ~

~ REMEMBER YOUR PLEDGES ~

~ CONTINUE YOUR EFFORTS ~



**Kroger Community Rewards Program**  
**St. Matthew's Quarterly Reward**  
**From 8-01-2018 to 10-31-2018**  
**\$232.50**

Thank you to those 64 households who shopped at Kroger during this last period. Your support has benefited St. Matthew Parish. If you are interested in joining this unique group of shoppers, please visit [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com), and follow the prompts, and designate St. Matthew as the organization to benefit from your purchases. Our Kroger Rewards Number has changed to AW497.

**We need your participation!**

## News from the Archdiocese of Detroit

Introducing the Open Door Policy Podcast

Open Door Policy is hosted by Fr. Steve Pullis, the AOD's Director of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Schools and St. Augustine & St. Monica parishioner, Danielle Center. Season 1 of Open Door Policy features six episodes in which Fr. Steve and Danielle interview fellow joyful missionary disciples from around the archdiocese to learn more about their work as they strive to unleash the Gospel in southeast Michigan. Guests share their personal testimonies, their stories of encountering Jesus Christ, and their decisions to follow Him. In addition, they also talk about the Unleash the Gospel pastoral letter itself.

The name of the podcast, *Open Door Policy*, is a tribute to Blessed Solanus Casey, God's doorkeeper, and reflects God's call for the archdiocese to be mission-focused and to go out and share the Gospel, the most radical, beautiful, and life-changing message of all time.

Download the podcasts on Apple Podcast (<https://apple.co/2TuNsBz>), Spotify (<https://spoti.fi/2ziVpRT>), or Google Podcasts (<http://bit.ly/2ziUYHf>) and look for upcoming episodes.

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Denise Balogh ~ *Bookkeeper*

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### 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  
Kurt Beghuyn  
Laura Bush-Terry  
Sebastiano Stellino  
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Glenda Johnson  
Daniel Adams  
Robert Stark  
Stephanie Smith  
Alice Mocerri  
Janice Lafferty  
Janet Law  
Dan Lusch  
Michelle DeLeauw  
Jesse Ocampo  
Mike Holster  
Tim Fitzgerald  
Laura Alix

## Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

### EUCCHARISTIC

#### MINISTERS

*Immaculate Conception, Saturday, December 8th, 9:00 a.m.*  
Marilyn Lynn  
Beverly Goll

#### LECTORS

William Zuerblis

#### SERVERS

Julia Zuerblis

Saturday, December 8, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

Janet Bielman

Liz Smith

Ian Campbell

Mary Bielman

Lauren Gross

Michelle VandenBrooks

Sunday, December 9, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Marilyn Lynn

Liz Foley-Dunstone

Cory Fullilove

Keith Arcicovich

Mary Pocius

Dorothy Brooks

Julia Zuerblis

Beverly Goll

Linda Holster

Greg Redman

Jean Solomon

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday, December 1 - Vigil: 1st Sunday of Advent

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

### Sunday, December 2 - 1st Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - The Reyes Family, Judy Stark, Robert Spansky

### Monday, December 3 - St. Francis Xavier, Priest

### Tuesday, December 4 - St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

9:00 a.m. - For the Homeless and Marginalized in our City

### Wednesday, December 5 -

9:00 a.m. - For our Military Families

### Thursday, December 6 - St. Nicholas, Bishop

### Friday, December 7 - St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

### Saturday, December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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

### Saturday, December 8 - Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

### Sunday, December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - John C. Sasinowski, Judy Stark, Elizabeth Reyes  
(1st Anniv)

THE SEASON OF ADVENT  
MEANS THERE IS SOMETHING  
ON THE HORIZON  
THE LIKES OF WHICH WE HAVE  
NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

— JAN RICHARDSON



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