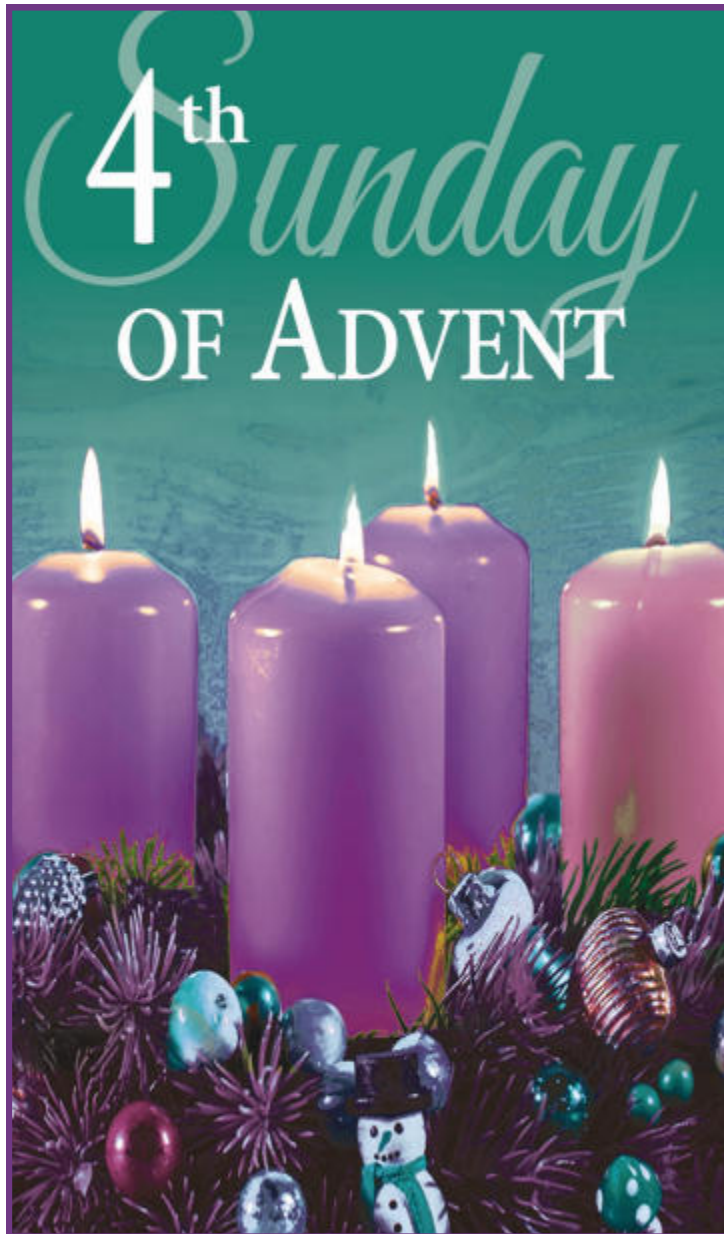




Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

December 23, 2018

Detroit, Michigan



From Father Duane's Desk

On this last Sunday of Advent as we approach the Christmas Season, I wish everyone a joyous Christmas Day. As pastor, I want to share the joy with as many as possible, but I will

need your help.

I ask you to please reach out to friends, neighbors, and family and invite them to our Christmas liturgies. I'm sure that with the beauty of our church and the warmth of our community, our guests will not be disappointed. Many people often times speak of how crowded their parishes are at Christmas. Let them know that there is room for them here at St. Matthew's. It would be great for us to fill our church this season. It is truly a great way for us to become missionary in our work and celebrate a missionary Christmas.

I know that if you continue to extend a warm welcome to visitors and guests, we will continue to develop a reputation as a welcoming community; not only during Christmas, but also throughout the year. Many visitors and guests have told me we are a very friendly community.

I also want to say thank you to the parishioners who have extended themselves to the St. Philomena parishioners who are looking for a spiritual home. I hope that with your encouragement and warmth, they will join us in our mission of being a beacon of light and a sign of hope.

Due to my surgery, I have not been able to speak or to write to you about our involvement in the realignment of St. Philomena parish; however, after the first of the year, the new parish boundaries will be published and what that will mean for us.

Again, be welcoming, inviting, and friendly, and above all give praise to God for the gift of St. Matthew Parish. We can be a real Christmas gift to all!

On a separate note, a word of thanks for all the prayers and well-wishes you have been sending to me. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness, and I continue to pray to God that I will be restored to full health.

God bless you and Merry Christmas!
Father Duane

Readings for the week of December 23, 2018

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-18 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



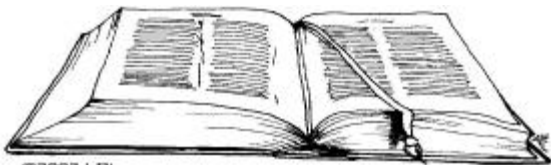
4th Sunday of Advent

Here we are, mere days from Christmas, and we hear a Gospel anticipating the birth of another child. Mary has received word that her cousin Elizabeth is with child. Pregnant as she is, Mary "set out and traveled to

the hill country in haste." She has recently received the greatest news of her life - that she is to be mother to the Messiah by the power of the Holy Spirit - but her concern is for her cousin in need. Through God's grace, Elizabeth turns it into an opportunity to honor the coming Christ. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Yet Mary's example of selflessness should inspire us.

As Christmas draws near, there is plenty of goodness to anticipate for many of us. We'll reunite with family and friends, uphold time-honored traditions, swap stories old and new, exchange gifts, and welcome Jesus at the Christmas liturgy. These are wonderful things! Of course, they probably all come with their own to-do list. Shop for last-minute gifts, pick up recipe ingredients, ready the guest room, or pack your own bags. Mary probably had things to do as well. She had a lot to consider, for one thing. How do you plan to tell your parents you're pregnant, but no man was involved? When Joseph finds out, who will care for the practical needs of you and your child? Into what may have been a chaos of questions, Mary receives news that someone is in need. She goes immediately.

In these final days before Christmas, stay watchful and awake! You never know when God might invite you to welcome, hospitality, and compassion. It might be tempting to reject the opportunity for your own needs. Follow the example of Mary! If God is providing you an opportunity to love, He will provide the means to accomplish all your other tasks. This Christmas season, may you too hear, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."



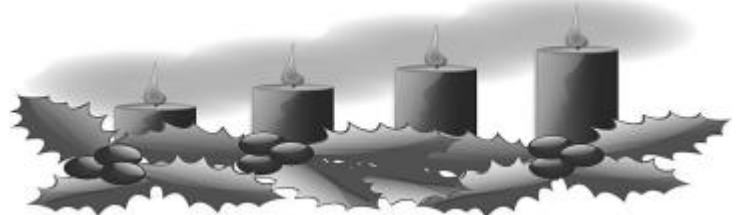
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A Surprise Gift

"God's love has been poured into our hearts through The Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5)

On this Sunday just before Christmas, we listen to the Gospel of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. Mary shows us that being comes before doing, and to leave the doing to God in order to be truly as God wants us. It is God who works so many marvels in us. Mary is receptive, but not passive. Because, on the physical level, she receives the power of the Holy Spirit and then gives flesh and blood to the Son of God who forms within her.

Thus, on the spiritual level, she accepts the grace and corresponds to it with faith. As Mary was greeted by Elizabeth as "blessed among women," so too we have always been "blessed," that is, loved. Regarding this love, regarding this mercy, the divine grace poured into our hearts, one single thing is asked in return: unreserved giving. Not one of us can buy salvation! Salvation is a free gift of the Lord, a free gift of God that comes within us and dwells in us. As we have received freely, so are we called to give freely; imitating Mary, who, immediately upon receiving the Angel's announcement, went to share the gift of her fruitfulness with her relative, Elizabeth. In visiting her, the Virgin Mary brought not only material help but she also brought Jesus, who was already alive in her womb. (Pope Francis)



Fourth Week of Advent Prayer

The father of the household or the designated leader for the group lights all four candles in proper sequence during the fourth week after saying the following prayer.

*O Lord, stir up Your power, we pray You and come;
and with great might help us
that with the help of Your grace,
Your merciful forgiveness may hasten
what our sins impede.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Candles can be replaced as necessary during the Advent Season without re-blessing the wreath. Replace the purple/pink candles with white candles for the Christmas Season.

The Fourth Week Reflection

*"Lift up the eyes of your heart to the sacred light, watch closely to see the glory and majesty of the Lord."
(St. Elizabeth of Schonau)*



St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Monday, December 24, 10 pm Mass - Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 25, 10 am Mass - Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 26 - No Mass, Parish Rectory Office Closed

Tuesday, January 1, 10 am Mass - Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Day of Obligation, New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 2 - No Mass, Parish Rectory Office Closed

HOLIDAY *Mass Schedule*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018
CHRISTMAS EVE MASS ~ 10:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ~ 10:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY ~ 10:00 AM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019
NEW YEAR'S DAY
SOLEMNITY OF MARY ~ 10:00 AM



The Giving Tree

Your generosity in responding to the Giving Tree was overwhelming. Please know that because of you, many families in our community have a much better Merry Christmas. There will be a more complete report in the following weeks on the details of the effort. Thank you for remembering those less fortunate among us. God bless you and Merry Christmas from the St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference of St. Matthew Parish.



CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Christmas - The spirit of generosity is strong in the Archdiocese of Detroit at Christmas—and year-round through the Catholic Services Appeal.

The Archdiocese is grateful for the nearly 60,000 Christian stewards who pledged more than \$25 million to the 2018 Catholic Services Appeal. These CSA gifts support valuable ministries, programs, and services that open doors so thousands can grow with Christ each day.

As you plan your year-end donations, consider benefiting your parish with a gift to the CSA. Parishes that exceed their CSA targets receive the excess funds, without archdiocesan assessment, as refunds for parish programs and projects.

Priest iTunes Scam Ramps up for the Holidays

A number of reports in our Archdiocese have come in lately of an iTunes scam where e-mails are being sent to parishioners impersonating a priest, often their own pastor. The e-mails typically come from an "@gmail.com" address and are not from the actual pastor. The impersonator asks the individual to purchase iTunes cards for someone in need, and will engage in an e-mail dialogue ultimately asking to have the person scratch off the pin code from the purchased iTunes cards and e-mail a picture of it so they can misuse the money.

This has been a nation-wide scam reported across many dioceses, and there is no obvious pattern that points to a specific system breach. With just an e-mail, a bad actor can find a lot of information about a person, who they are, where they worship, and who they know. Presume any request for iTunes cards or other unusual purchase from a priest is fake. Be sure to verify any request from an unexpected e-mail or phone call by calling or e-mailing through a separate, known and official channel.

Waiting in Joyful Hope

Try
Wish
Listen
Be gentle
Light a light
Find the time
Mend a quarrel
Keep a promise
Encourage youth
Give a soft answer
Welcome a stranger
Share some treasure
Express your gratitude
Seek out a forgotten friend
Gladden the heart of a child
Apologize if you were wrong
Take pleasure in the beauty of the earth
Speak your love
Speak your love once again
Speak it still once again!

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Mary was excited about her pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly, children are often seen as a liability, "another mouth to feed" or an "obstacle to my career." It is said "Christmas is for children." It is more accurate to say, "Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!"

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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Denise Balogh ~ *Bookkeeper*

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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
Allen McKee
Teresita Covacha
Richard Gargulinski
Joe Petrylka
Roger Sharpe
Nenette Ferreria
Dorothy Kurrie
Anthony Mastronardi
Eduardo Fajardo
Kathy Bush

Peggy Bates
Glenda Johnson
Daniel Adams
Robert Stark
Stephanie Smith
Alice Mocerri
Janice Lafferty
Janet Law
Dan Lusch
Michelle DeLeauw
Jesse Ocampo
Mike Holster
Tim Fitzgerald
Larry Hamel
Jim Dubay

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

EUCCHARISTIC

MINISTERS

LECTORS

SERVERS

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, 2018, 10:00 p.m.

Marilyn Lynn	William Zuerblis	Ian Campbell
Keith Arcicovich		Bruce Campbell
Beverly Goll		Cory Fullilove
Debra Nieddu		Julia Zuerblis
Joseph Nieddu		
Veronica Obianwu		
Greg Redman		

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Janet Bielman	Bill Ridella	Patrick Dunstone
Patti Adams	Liz Foley-Dunstone	Mary E. Dunstone
Dorothy Brooks		Mary Pocius
Marilyn Lynn		Lauren Gross
Jean Solomon		
Kristen Stark		
Marie Vortkamp		

Saturday, December 29, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

Janet Bielman	Bruce Campbell	Ian Campbell
Mary Bielman		
Janet Law		

Sunday, December 30, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Marilyn Lynn	William Zuerblis	Lauren Gross
Patti Adams		Mary Pocius
Beverly Goll		Julia Zuerblis
Debra Nieddu		
Joseph Nieddu		
Jean Solomon		
Michelle VandenBrooks		

New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

Marilyn Lynn	Julie Smith	Ian Campbell
Janet Bielman		Lauren Smith
Mary Bielman		Julia Zuerblis
Veronica Obianwu		
Greg Redman		
Kristen Stark		
Marie Vortkamp		

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 22 - Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent

4:30 p.m. - Laura Bush Terry, Emma Langan, Joseph Chinnici (3rd Anniv)

Sunday, December 23 - 4th Sunday in Advent

10:00 a.m. - Laura and Jeff Terry and Family, Karen Nutting and Family, Judy Stark, William H. Gracey, Sr., Cecilia Pilette

Monday, December 24 - Vigil: Nativity of Our Lord

10:00 p.m. - Albino Martinelli (32nd Anniv), Dick Pint (19th Anniv), Hugh McGillivray, Ray and Sylvia Novelty

Tuesday, December 25 - Nativity of Our Lord

10:00 a.m. - John and Mary Ozark, Rose and George Godoshian, John Camazzola, Hugh McGillivray, Robert Lynn, Rita and Frederick Allman

Wednesday, December 26 - St. Stephen, The First Martyr

Thursday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Friday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents

10:30 a.m. - Funeral Liturgy for Virginia Blackmer

Saturday, December 29 - Vigil: Feast of the Holy Family

4:30 p.m. - Laura Bush Terry, John and Kathy Bush

Sunday, December 30 - Feast of the Holy Family

10:00 a.m. - Laura and Jeff Terry and Family, Karen Nutting and Family, Judy Stark, For an Increase in Vocations



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