



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

March 24, 2019

Detroit, Michigan



**3<sup>rd</sup>**

**SUNDAY OF LENT**

"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down.'" - Lk 13:7a

## Readings for the Week of March 24, 2019

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 [8a]/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9  
Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38  
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35  
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 [12a]/Mt 5:17-19  
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23  
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34  
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14  
Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9a]/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



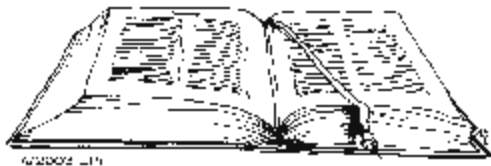
### 3rd Sunday of Lent

"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it [he] found none." We live in a results-driven society. It can be easy to put pressure on ourselves to succeed. If we're not keeping up with the perceived "good life" of those around us, we feel anxious and disappointed. Some of the Gospel stories about fruitfulness

can seem to play out in this fashion. "For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down." The message seems to be clear. Abide in God and bear fruit! Stand apart from God and be barren. But what happens when we're trying, but the growth we wanted doesn't seem to be coming our way? What if it feels like life just isn't bearing fruit?

This Sunday, Jesus gives us a sign of hope. "[The gardener] said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also? it may bear fruit in the future.'" How quick we can be to judge! Perhaps you started out Lent with high hopes and big ideas for getting closer to God. Maybe things haven't gone exactly like you thought. It can be easy to lose patience with our failures or slow growth. We shouldn't be too quick to assume that God has given up on us. He hasn't.

The same ideas apply to those around us. Perhaps we're the planter of the fig tree. We expect a certain amount of growth from someone in our life, and they just aren't measuring up. Let today's Gospel be a gentle nudge for mercy. As Lent continues to unfold, be patient with yourself and those around you. Wait for God to provide the growth.



### A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

The owner of the fig tree was impatient because the tree did not live up to his expectations. In families, there are those who don't live up to our expectations. Imitate the gardener and give them more time and help. Don't cut them out of your life. Love asks us to be connected, not productive.

**The Feast of the Annunciation, March 25**, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the 4th or 5th century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38). Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

**Hail Mary, Full of Grace!**

**The Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!**

### Journey to Sri Lanka

*In Sir Lanka, we encounter the Dhathcroos family who return home to a farm in shambles following the civil war in their country. With the help of the CRS Rice Bowl initiative, they were able to rebuild their lives. Even if refugees are able to return home, they must often rebuild their lives. They need support to begin again.*

**Encounter Christyan Dhathcroos** - Christyan spent half of his life in India. It's where he fled at age 14 during Sri Lanka's civil war. By the time he returned to his homeland, Christyan was 30, and the family's farm was destroyed.

CRS is helping Christyan and others like him rebuild their lives and revitalize their farms. Christyan is now growing rice, pumpkin, and peanuts. He can give his family things he never had, like an education.

With the profits from the family's farm, Christyan can send his 4-year old son, Godwin, to a private Catholic preschool. Godwin is receiving the education he needs to pursue his dream of becoming a scientist.

"I want to make sure my children are educated," Christyan says. "That's my dream. No one in our family has finished their education, but I know my children will."



## *St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings*

**Saturday, March 23 4:30 pm Mass; Sunday, March 24, 10 am Mass - Collection for the Catholic Relief Services (not Rice Bowl!)**

**Plan Ahead this Lent and Prepare for Easter ~ Monday, April 15, 7 pm - Parish Reconciliation Service**



To our St. Matthew Community Family  
The family of  
John and Julie Piazza of Grosse Pointe Farms  
With Son, Jacob, and Daughter, Marella.  
The Piazza Family come to us as  
former parishioners of St. Philomena's.  
We hope they find many spiritual blessings and  
graces here in St. Matthew's faith community.

DETROIT | SKYLINE



**Jazz Nite 2019  
~ City Rhythms ~  
20th Century Detroit  
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 6:30 to 11 pm**

The publication deadline for the Program Book has passed; however, if you are still contemplating any of the special sponsorships, please see one of our volunteers in the back vestibule after the weekend Masses. We will recognize all **City Rhythms** special sponsors.

Tickets are still available for our Jazz Nite. Individual tickets are \$75 per person, \$55 for young adult, and \$25 for children under age 12. Table sponsorships are \$750 for eight of your guests.

There will be a wonderful 5-course dinner provided by Marchiori Catering, an open bar, dancing to the music of Heart 'n Soul, and other surprises throughout the night.

Believe it, this will be an unforgettable evening as we celebrate all that Detroit offered through the 20th Century. Hang on, and take that ride down memory lane!

## **CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ**



**Parish Nursing** - Parish nurses and those who minister in healthcare across the Archdiocese of Detroit will gather on Thursday, March 28, at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House for a retreat focusing on how to "Search for Wisdom: Experience the Power of Renewal through Spiritual Refection, Humor and Music Enrichment."

This daylong retreat will provide healthcare ministers with renewal and refreshment. Presenters will explore the ramifications of being in a desert and finding a sense of joy, community, and healing. They will begin with Scripture and reflection, move to storytelling with humor, and conclude with the benefits of music in this ministry.

Your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal support parish nursing in our Archdiocese. Parish nurses, who encourage the faithful to care for themselves and others as an expression of God's love, serve as pastoral staff members, as well as spiritual caregivers, health counselors, and educators, and health resources and advocates.



### **MEDIA ADVISORY FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE**

#### **Regarding the Shootings at New Zealand Mosques**

The Department of Communications shares the following statement from Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, in response to the March 15 shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

*"On behalf of all of the Catholic faithful of southeast Michigan. I offer prayers and condolences to the Muslim community throughout the world, especially in New Zealand, as they mourn the horrific violence that unfolded Friday (March 15) in two houses of worship. We pledge a renewed commitment in our society to building a solid foundation of justice and solidarity, respecting the rights and dignity of all persons."*

#### **Help Jesus in Disguise**

##### ***The Catholic Relief Services Collection***

When water is available to the people of Syria and Niger through the humanitarian work of CRS, your contributions save lives. When there are advocates on behalf of Jesus working through the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development for the poor and marginalized, your contributions save lives. When so many suffer the scourge of human trafficking and are saved, your contributions repair lives. The Catholic Relief Services Collection is next week.

*"O Saint Josephine Bakhita,  
assist all those who are  
entrapped in slavery;  
intercede on their behalf with  
the God of Mercy so that the  
chains of their captivity will be broken."*

Pope Francis, February 2018

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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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	Peggy Bates
Bienvenido Fajardo	Glenda Johnson
Lolita Dorado	Daniel Adams
Rita Moroni	Robert Stark
Albert Fajardo	Stephanie Smith
Virginia Fajardo	Alice Mocerri
Madeline O'Neill	Janice Lafferty
Kurt Beghuyn	Janet Law
Laura Bush-Terry	Dan Lusch
Sebastiano Stellino	Jesse Ocampo
Allen McKee	Mike Holster
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Richard Gargulinski	Laura Alix
Joe Petrylka	Mary Bielman
Roger Sharpe	Robert Rabe
Nenette Ferreria	Betty Leone
Dorothy Kurrie	
Anthony Mastronardi	
Eduardo Fajardo	
Kathy Bush	

# Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

## EUCCHARISTIC

### MINISTERS

Janet Bielman  
Mary Bielman  
Janet Law

### LECTORS

Liz Smith

### SERVERS

Ian Campbell

Saturday, March 30, 2019, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 31, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

Marilyn Lynn  
Patti Adams  
Dorothy Brooks  
Beverly Goll  
Debra Nieddu  
Joseph Nieddu  
Michelle VandenBrooks

William Zuerblis

Cory Fullilove  
Lauren Gross  
Julia Zuerblis

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday, March 23 - Vigil: 3rd Sunday in Lent

4:30 p.m. - Laura Bush-Terry, George Zainea

### Sunday, March 24 - 3rd Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. - Laura Bush-Terry, Judy Stark, George Zainea, John David Palkovic, Frank Klassner

### Monday, March 25 - Annunciation of the Lord

### Tuesday, March 26 -

9:00 a.m. - For the Poor Souls in Purgatory

### Wednesday, March 27 -

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

### Thursday, March 28 -

### Friday, March 29 -

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

### Saturday, March 30 - Vigil: 4th Sunday in Lent (Laetare)

4:30 p.m. - George Zainea

### Sunday, March 31 - 4th Sunday in Lent (Laetare)

10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, George Zainea, Renee LaPratt  
Jaczkowski (5th Anniv)



God speaks silently,  
God speaks in your heart;  
if your heart is noisy, chattering,  
you will not hear.  
- Caryll Houselander

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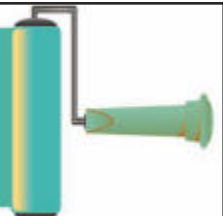
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