



Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

December 8, 2019

Detroit, Michigan

CRY OUT



John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

MATTHEW 3:4

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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St. Matthew Church
63231 Whittier Detroit, MI 48224
Ph: 313-884-4470

0000 Gold'n Harvest 50/50 RAFFLE

TICKET PRICE **\$20.00**

Raffle License #22513

Drawing: Sunday,
December 8, 2019

Maximum Prize
1st - \$12,000
2nd - \$5,000
3rd - \$2,400

Minimum Prize
1st - \$1,200
2nd - \$500
3rd - \$240

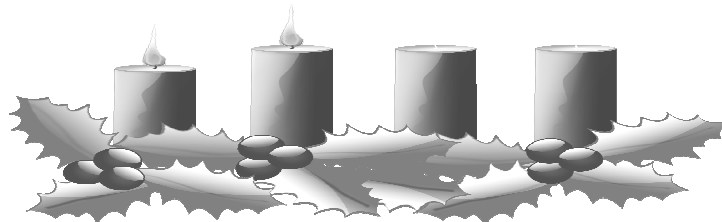
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After all the preparation, selling of tickets, passing out posters, and reconciliation of returns, it is finally here ~ the Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Drawing today after 10 a.m. Mass. Join your parish family and friends for a delicious catered breakfast by the Majestic Café, experience the surprise of all the winners, and maybe meet new friends. You may even be a lucky winner of the many consolation prizes. See you there!

Readings for the Week of December 8, 2019

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/
Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/
Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17
[cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-
19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
[Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



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.*

The Second Week Reflection

*Just as the Virgin Mother pondered
in her heart on the Word made flesh,
so every individual soul
and the entire Church are called
during their earthly pilgrimage to wait for Christ
who comes – and to welcome him
with faith and love ever new. (Pope Benedict XVI)*



2nd Sunday of Advent

What does it mean to be worthy? There are a few different ways to approach this question. Today's Gospel highlights two: the way of the Pharisees and the way of John the Baptist. Our faith values good works and discipleship. Perhaps, then, we "earn" our

worth by adhering to the right doctrines and following the right pious practice. The Pharisees thought they were worthy. Due to their religious pedigree and proper procedures, they were self-satisfied. John the Baptist's words to them are strong. *"Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'"* Of course, Jesus (and John) don't omit the responsibility for moral behavior. John gives the Pharisees quite a strong warning in that regard. *"Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."*

It's a question of attitude. Of disposition. It's a matter of the heart. If anyone would be worthy in this scenario, it's John the Baptist. Jesus himself will name him the greatest of prophets and a great man. John, however, recognizes his own lowly place in the grand scheme of things. *"The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals."* The Pharisees take pride in being "better" than others. John embraces humility in Christ being "better" than him. We don't self-generate our own worthiness. We receive it as a gift from God.

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate the birth of Christ. Bishop Ven. Fulton Sheen wrote about the Nativity in his "Life of Christ": "Because [Jesus] was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss divinity." God invites us to prepare our hearts this Advent. When you consider your own life, where are you looking for your worth? This Christmas, are you prepared to stoop?



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Like John the Baptist, every parent "prepares the way of the Lord" in the hearts of their children. Advent is a good time to ask; "Do I help or hinder my children to know Jesus?"

Cultivate a Spirit of Thanksgiving ~ All Year

Sitting at our Thanksgiving tables with family and friends, it is easy to be thankful. It is also easy to be thankful when we experience other of God's great bounties when things are bright, warm, and going our way. This is the first bright gift of thanksgiving.

The second is also bright, but less obvious, and is the blessing of our daily lives so often more fortunate than those who are cold, hungry, homeless, or in war-torn parts of the world in great poverty and want. We can be thankful for these more peaceful daily times that we move in from day to day. Give thanks, too, for these gifts.

The third is still a bright gift when we use it in a Godly way, and this is the gift of the challenges in our lives: in sickness, troubles, demands, and deadlines for which we must rise in these occasions to do the best that we can. If we see these times most clearly, they are also quite bright for Christ Himself used His challenges for our greatest blessings, and all of the saints did, too. Without His crucifixion, there would have been no Bright Resurrection on that Easter morning.

May we give heartfelt thanks to God for all of His gifts: in our bounties, in our daily routines and life, and in our challenges, too, to make our thanksgiving at any time a hearty and bright one to God for everything he has gifted us.



St. Lucy Feast Day
Friday, December 13th

Patron saint of the blind,
she is also the patron saint of
authors, laborers, peasants,
Perugia, Italy; saddlers, salesmen,
and stained glass workers.
She is invoked against hemorrhages,
dysentery, diseases of the eye,
and throat infections.

St. Lucy, pray for us!

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Saturday, December 7, and Sunday, December 8, 4:30 pm and 10 am Masses, respectively - Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Sunday, December 8, following 10 am Mass - Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Drawing and Catered Breakfast by Majestic Cafe

Tuesday, December 10, 9 am Mass - in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 10, 6 pm - Parish Council Meeting, Rectory Conference Room

Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15, 4:30 pm and 10 am Masses, respectively - Blessing of Expectant Parents

Monday, December 16, 7 pm - Parish Reconciliation Service

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Support the aging religious. Our second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

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 15th, 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



Hispanic Ministries - Bishop Arturo Cepeda will celebrate Mass at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral this Wednesday, December 11, in honor of an important feast day to our Hispanic Catholic community.

The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego, a native Mexican, twice in 1531 on Tepeyac hill near Mexico City. We celebrate the feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. St. Juan Diego's feast day is December 9.

Gifts to the CSA help fund Hispanic Ministries, which include conferences for men, women, and youth, as well as religious education, adult faith formation, leadership, and catechist formation programs for Hispanic families.

The celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will begin at 5 p.m. with the Rosary followed by singing and dancing. Bishop Cepeda will celebrate Mass at 7 p.m.

Right to Life of Michigan Petition drive to end dismemberment abortions Target end date ~ Thursday, December 12

Please take this opportunity to sign the petition to end dismemberment abortions in Michigan. See David Gross, our leader in this initiative, in the church auditorium on Sunday, December 8. David will have available the petition sheets during our Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Drawing event.

Make your voice heard ~ sign the petition for life!

Prayer to St. Lucy

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 illumine our daily lives.

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

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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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	Michelle Harter
Lolita Dorado	Jo Marie Nardi
Albert Fajardo	Thomas Bingham
Virginia Fajardo	David Beaupre
Madeline O'Neill	Kenneth Beaupre
Kurt Beghuyn	Anthony Crimauco
Sebastiano Stellino	Thomas Giles
Teresita Covacha	Rosemary Schoolcraft
Richard Gargulinski	Tiffany Gelle
Joe Petrylka	Robert Stark
Roger Sharpe	Pauline Williams
Nenette Ferreria	Bill Solomon
Anthony Mastronardi	John Allman
Eduardo Fajardo	Eloise Parker
Kathy Bush	Kelly Kranson
Glenda Johnson	Herb Damman
Stephanie Smith	John Reinhardt
Janet Law	
Laura Alix	
Betty Leone	

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

LECTORS

SERVERS

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 4:30 p.m.
Janet Bielman Julie Smith Lauren Smith

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 10:00 a.m.
Marilyn Lynn Bill Ridella Cory Fullilove
Keith Arcicovich Mary Pocius
Beverly Goll Julia Zuerblis
Patti Hammond
Veronica Obianwu
Jean Solomon
Kristen Stark

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 7 - Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent
4:30 p.m. - Sr. Karen Eklund, IHM

Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, John C. Sasinowski, Elizabeth Reyes
(2nd Anniv), Tracey Lynn Walker

Monday, December 9 - St. Juan Diego

**Tuesday, December 10 - Celebration of the Feast of the
Immaculate Conception**
9:00 a.m. - For the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Wednesday, December 11 - St. Damasus I, Pope
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

Thursday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Friday, December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
9:00 a.m. - For Migrant and Refugee Families

**Saturday, December 14 - Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)**
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

**Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete
Sunday)**
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark

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