



*Saint Matthew Church*  
**The PULSE**

December 22, 2019

Detroit, Michigan

**SAVE**



“She will bear a son and  
you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his  
people from their sins.”

MATTHEW 1:21

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## Readings for the Week of December 22, 2019

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/  
Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27  
and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: 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

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab,  
16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a,  
2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/  
Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/  
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

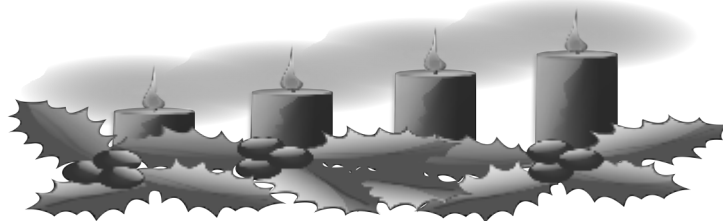
### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. "When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit." For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.



For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet "do not be afraid," the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of "Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to "expose [Mary] to shame." Yet he was prepared to "divorce her quietly" all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us?



### 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)*



**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS ~ 10:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ~ 10:00 AM**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019**  
**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY ~ 10:00 AM**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**  
**10:00 AM**

### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
**RECTORY OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON**

**DECEMBER 25 & 26 ~ RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27**  
**RECTORY OFFICE RE-OPENS**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
**RECTORY OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON**

**JANUARY 1 & 2, 2020**  
**RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED**

**JANUARY 3 ~ RECTORY OFFICE RE-OPENS**

## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

**Tuesday, December 24, 10 pm Mass - Christmas Eve**

**Wednesday, December 25, 10 am Mass - Christmas Day**

**Thursday, December 26 - Rectory Office Closed; Re-opens Friday, December 27**

**Saturday, December 28, 4:30 pm Mass - St. Matthew School Alumni Mass, All Grades and All Years; School Tour to Follow**

### 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.*



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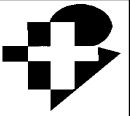


### A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

The child born to Joseph and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Every child is EMMANUEL, reminding us "God is with us." Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives.

## CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



**Christmas** - The Archdiocese of Detroit is blessed with faithful Catholics who are committed to *opening doors to witness* Christ at Christmas and throughout the year through their support of the Catholic Services Appeal.

As we unleash the Gospel throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit, we witness Christ, and in turn, we open doors so others may also develop a deeper relationship with Him. Gifts to the CSA help fund more than 100 ministries, programs, and services that meet the spiritual and physical needs of parishes and countless people in the Archdiocese.

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 to be used for parish programs and projects. You may make a gift to your parish online at [give.aodcsa.org](http://give.aodcsa.org).



### A Christmas Prayer for Peace

Holy Spirit,  
You watch so lovingly over all the earth,  
waiting for us to open our hearts  
to your gift of Christmas peace.  
We need your peace, Holy Spirit,  
and our wounded world  
needs your healing presence.

Only you can give us  
the true and lasting peace  
promised by our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace.  
Come to us, Blessed Creator,  
surround us with Your love  
this Christmas Season  
and bless all nations with Your peace. Amen.



## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

6021 Whittier, Detroit 48224-2637  
Rectory Office: (313) 884-4470  
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Rev. Duane R. Novelly ~ *Pastor*  
Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*  
Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*  
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

### CLERICAL STAFF

Marilyn Lynn ~ *Secretary*  
Gloria Bermudez ~ *Bookkeeper*

### PARISH COUNCIL

John Dunstone ~ *President*  
Bill Zuerblis ~ *Financial Council Chair*  
Michael Dulapa ~ *Evangelization Chair*  
Patricia Camazzola-Godoshian &  
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	Michelle Harter
Lolita Dorado	Jo Marie Nardi
Albert Fajardo	Thomas Bingham
Virginia Fajardo	David Beaupre
Madeline O'Neill	Kenneth Beaupre
Kurt Beghuyn	Anthony Crimardo
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

*Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, 2019, 10:00 p.m.*  
Marilyn Lynn  
Keith Arcicovich  
Beverly Goll  
Linda Holster  
Michael Holster  
Debra Nieddu  
Joseph Nieddu

### LECTORS

Bryan Jones  
Julie Smith

### SERVERS

Ian Campbell  
Bruce Campbell  
Jermaine Donaldson  
Lauren Smith

*Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25, 2019, 10:00 a.m.*  
Janet Bielman  
Dorothy Brooks  
Patti Hammond  
Marilyn Lynn  
Jean Solomon  
Kristen Stark  
Marie Vortkamp

William Zuerblis  
David Smydra

Julia Zuerblis  
Cory Fullilove  
Mary Pocius  
Lauren Gross

*Saturday, December 28, 2019, 4:30 p.m.*  
Janet Bielman  
Janet Law

Bruce Campbell

Ian Campbell

*Sunday, December 29, 2019, 10:00 a.m.*  
Marilyn Lynn  
Keith Arcicovich  
Beverly Goll  
Debra Nieddu  
Joseph Nieddu  
Veronica Obianwu  
Greg Redman

David Smydra

Jermaine Donaldson  
Cory Fullilove  
Julia Zuerblis

*New Year's Day, January 1, 2020, 10:00 a.m.*  
Marilyn Lynn  
Janet Bielman  
Dorothy Brooks  
Veronica Obianwu  
Greg Redman  
Kristen Stark  
Marie Vortkamp

Bruce Campbell

Jermaine Donaldson  
Ian Campbell  
Cory Fullilove  
Julia Zuerblis

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday, December 21 - Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent**  
4:30 p.m. - Emma Langan

**Sunday, December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent**  
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, William H. Gracey, Sr., Joseph Chinnici

**Monday, December 23 - St. John of Kanty, Priest**

**Tuesday, December 24 - Vigil: Nativity of the Lord**  
10:00 p.m. - Hugh Glen McGillivray, Albino Martinelli (33rd Anniv), Raymond and Sylvia Novelly

**Wednesday, December 25 - Nativity of the Lord**  
10:00 a.m. - John and Mary Ozark, John Camazzola, Rose Godoshian, George Godoshian, Frederick and Rita Allman

**Thursday, December 26 - St. Stephen, The First Martyr**

**Friday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**  
9:00 a.m. - For Missionaries Serving around the World

**Saturday, December 28 - Vigil: Feast of the Holy Family**  
4:30 p.m. - For the Families of St. Matthew Parish

**Sunday, December 29 - Feast of the Holy Family**  
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, For and Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life





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