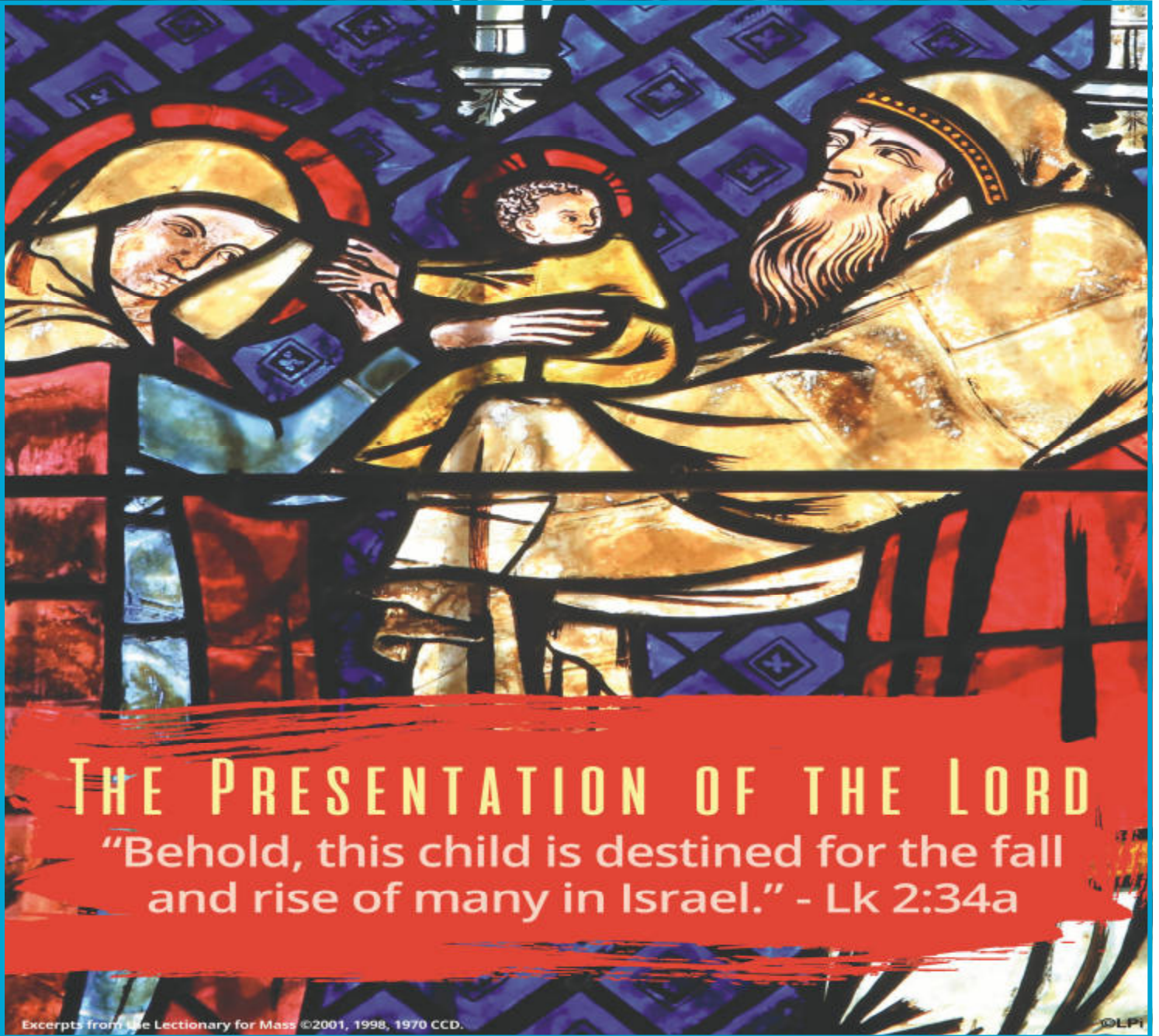




Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

February 2, 2020

Detroit, Michigan



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

"Behold, this child is destined for the fall
and rise of many in Israel." - Lk 2:34a

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



*In Honor of the Feast of St. Blaise, February 3,
Throats will be Blessed this Weekend at all Masses.*

*Remember the faith of this saint each year
and pray for blessings on those who suffer throat ailments.*

*Always remember this blessing is a sign of our faith in God's protection
and love for us and for the sick, and for those who need our prayers.*

Readings for the Week of February 2, 2020

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [10b]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [1a]/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [cf. 5c]/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd [12b]/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51 [cf. 47b]/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 [12b]/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 2:15/Mt 5:13-16



Presentation of the Lord

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” Very often, having more light is not something we desire as it forces us to confront something we really do not want to see. There can be comfort found in darkness. It has an eerie sense of security to it. We do not have to challenge ourselves or be challenged and can simply exist in some fabricated state of self-fabricated blissfulness. Jesus came to bring light, and it is a light that is resisted by many and hated by some. It is a light that causes us to see things as they really are and not as we would want or need them to be.

It is no wonder then that Simeon boldly and honestly proclaims to Mary, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” We have to take the Gospel message as it is and not just use those parts that are useful to us or more palatable. Taking Jesus at face value can and will lead to turmoil and dissention. Hearts will be pierced. Whether we like it, Jesus’ proclamation of what the world God created really ought to look like has real and absolute social implications.

It has a lot to say about how we treat our brothers and sisters: spiritually, personally, economically, and globally. It has everything to do with the poor, the immigrant, the scared, the unborn, the vulnerable, the sick, and the broken. The light opens us to a challenging, table-turning experience that may not be something we want to see but shows us where we need to be.



Candlemas Day is another name for the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Forty days after His birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple for the rites of purification and dedication as prescribed by the Torah. According to the Book of Leviticus (12:1-4), when a woman bore a male child, she was considered “unclean” for seven days. On the eighth day, the boy was circumcised. The mother continued to stay at home for 33 days for her to be “purified.” After the 40 days, the mother and father came to the temple for the rite of purification, which included the offering of a sacrifice — a lamb for a holocaust (burnt offering) and a pigeon or turtledove for a sin offering, or for a poor couple who could not afford a lamb, two pigeons or two turtledoves. Note Joseph and Mary made the offering of the poor (Lk 2:24).

Also, Joseph and Mary were obliged by the Torah to “redeem” their first born son: “The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites, both of man and beast, for it belongs to me’” (Ex 13:1). The price for such a redemption was five shekels, which the parents paid to the priest. This “redemption” was a kind of payment for the Passover sacrifice, by which the Jews had been freed from slavery.

Simeon, a just and pious man, who awaited the Messiah and looked for the consolation of Israel, blessed the Holy Family, and said in turn to Mary: “This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed - and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword - so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare.” (Lk 2:34-35).

So the Presentation is a proclamation of Christ — Messiah and Priest, Lord and Savior. He is the light who came into this world to dispel sin and darkness. For this reason, traditionally at least since the seventh century, candles have been blessed at Mass this day that will be used throughout the year, hence coining the term “Candlemas.”

Two other interesting tidbits highlight this day: First, in many Eastern European countries, the feast of the Presentation officially closes the celebration of Christmas. For this reason, St. John Paul II began the custom of keeping the Nativity scene in St. Peter’s square until Feb. 2.

Second, Candlemas Day also was important in the lives of farmers. An old English song went as follows:

*“If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come, Winter, have another flight.
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,
Go, Winter, and come not again.”*

So if the bright sun “overshadows” the brightness of Candlemas Day, there will be more winter. However, if the light of Candlemas Day radiates through the gloom and darkness of the day, the end of winter is near.

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Mary and Joseph are amazed by the words of Simeon about their son. At times, we will be “presented” with things we never knew about a member of our family. Being open to the light of this revelation is the key to fall in love all over again.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Tuesday, February 4, 6:30 pm - Jazz Nite Committee Meeting, Rectory Conference Room

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

Sunday, February 16 - Following the 10 am Mass, Hospitality Sunday

SAVE THE DATE! - Saturday, April 25, St. Matthew's 2020 Jazz Nite Event "BROADWAY ~ and all that Jazz (Nite)"

Signature Petition Drive to End Dismemberment Abortions

Thank you to all the St. Matthew's parishioners who signed the Michigan Values Life Petition. The Coalition was successful in gathering 379,418 signatures for verification. 340,047 are needed to advance this important item to the Legislature. A simple "yes" vote in the House and Senate will outlaw the practice of dismemberment abortion in the State of Michigan. Give yourselves a pat on the back!



David Gross

St. Matthew Presents BROADWAY ~ and all that Jazz (Nite)

LET'S GO DOWN TO "OLE BROADWAY" AT THE CORNER OF 42ND STREET AND VISIT THE MOST FAMOUS THEATER DISTRICT OF ALL TIME. "ALL THAT JAZZ (NITE)" IS THE THEME FOR OUR 2020 JAZZ NITE. ENJOY YOUR FAVORITE TUNES OF BROADWAY, EXPERIENCE THE DRAMA AND COMEDY, AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 25.

ALONG WITH THE PLANNING OF OUR JAZZ NITE IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM BOOKLET FOR THAT EVENING. THIS PROGRAM BOOKLET PROVIDES MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ENTITIES TO ADVERTISE THEIR SERVICES AND PRODUCTS. PATRICIA CAMAZZOLA AND GERIANNE LAPRATT ARE HEADING UP THIS PHASE OF OUR FUNDRAISER AND HAVE A NEED FOR HELPERS TO APPROACH BUSINESSES, ETC. FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING PATRICIA AND GERI PROCURE ADS, PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY OFFICE AND YOUR NAME WILL BE FORWARDED TO THEM. IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN THE PROGRAM BOOK, PLEASE LET THE RECTORY KNOW AND THAT INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARDED AS WELL. THANK YOU!

CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



52 Sundays - Reclaim the Lord's Day for faith and family in 2020! With this weekly guide from the Archdiocese of Detroit, families can honor the year's 52 Sundays in their own homes through such engaging activities as reading the Gospels, learning about our "extended family" of saints, and spending time together in the kitchen. 52 Sundays is a dynamic guide to help you and your family reclaim the Lord's Day with prayer, activities, food, and more! It offers simple and insightful ways for your family to spend time together each Sunday learning more about the Catholic faith and having fun while you're at it. Visit 52Sundays.com to learn more and to sign up for weekly e-mail reminders.

Your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal support formation of families through the ministry of the Department of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship. To learn more about this and other CSA-supported ministries, visit aod.org.

For Your Generosity ~ Thank You

Over the past few weeks, we took up special collections as authorized by the Archdiocese of Detroit. Your generosity in these collections is much appreciated as there is always sacrifice involved in helping others.

Catholic Services of SE Michigan: \$877.00
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$1,821.00 (update)



A Reflection Prayer on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

For the price of two turtledoves
A poor man's offering,
the king made offer of sacrifice.

Gates were lifted. The King of Glory entered.
And this child redeemed the world;
our universe rich now, beyond all telling.

Along with Anna and Simeon,
let us wait for You in the Spirit - now -
as You birth into our world, into our hearts
moment by moment.

Lord, You sought to be like us, flesh and blood.
And You were tried,
suffering from this desire.

You, who are God, came to help us,
making us more like You:
we who are tested - in every way.

Make it so. Amen.

Contribution Statements Are Now Available!
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Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*
Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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Gloria Bermudez ~ *Bookkeeper*

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Michael Dulapa ~ *Evangelization Chair*
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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	David Beaupre
Virginia Fajardo	Kenneth Beaupre
Madeline O'Neill	Anthony Crimauo
Kurt Beghuyn	Rosemary Schoolcraft
Sebastiano Stellino	Tiffany Gelle
Teresita Covacha	Robert Stark
Richard Gargulinski	Pauline Williams
Joe Petrylka	Bill Solomon
Roger Sharpe	Eloise Parker
Nenette Ferreria	Kelly Kranson
Anthony Mastronardi	Herb Damman
Eduardo Fajardo	John Reinhardt
Kathy Bush	
Glenda Johnson	
Stephanie Smith	
Janet Law	
Laura Alix	
Betty Leone	

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Janet Bielman

Marilyn Lynn
Keith Arcicovich
Beverly Goll
Patti Hammond
Debra Nieddu
Joseph Nieddu
Veronica Obianwu

LECTORS

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

Liz Smith

Mary Anne Pilette

SERVERS

Ian Campbell

Cory Fullilove
Mary Pocius
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, February 1 - Vigil: Presentation of the Lord

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

Sunday, February 2 - Presentation of the Lord

10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Helen Rice (28th Anniv), Winnifred Tobin (51st Anniv)

Monday, February 3 - St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

Tuesday, February 4 -

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

Wednesday, February 5 - St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

9:00 a.m. - For Military Families both Here and Abroad

Thursday, February 6 - St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Friday, February 7 -

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

Saturday, February 8 - Vigil: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. - For Migrant and Refugee Families

Sunday, February 9 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, The Delisi Family

Last Sunday, Word of God Sunday, we recognized and blessed these lectors of St. Matthew Parish who faithfully and prayerfully proclaim the Word of God every weekend.

As a parish and with gratitude from Father Duane, we acknowledge from left to right, Dan McBride, Bruce Campbell, Bill Ridella, Liz Smith, Father Duane, Mary Anne Pilette, Bill Zuerblis, Liz Foley-Dunstone, and Bryan Jones. Not pictured are Julie Smith and David Smydra who were unable to attend. God bless you for all you do!



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