



# Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

March 22, 2020

Detroit, Michigan

*Excerpts from a Letter Written  
to the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit  
By Archbishop Allen Vigneron*

March 13, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

As we continue to receive reports about the spread of the Coronavirus in our communities, I write to you today with some news that may be difficult to hear. After consultation with health care professionals and government officials, **I am temporarily suspending all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Detroit until Monday, April 6.**

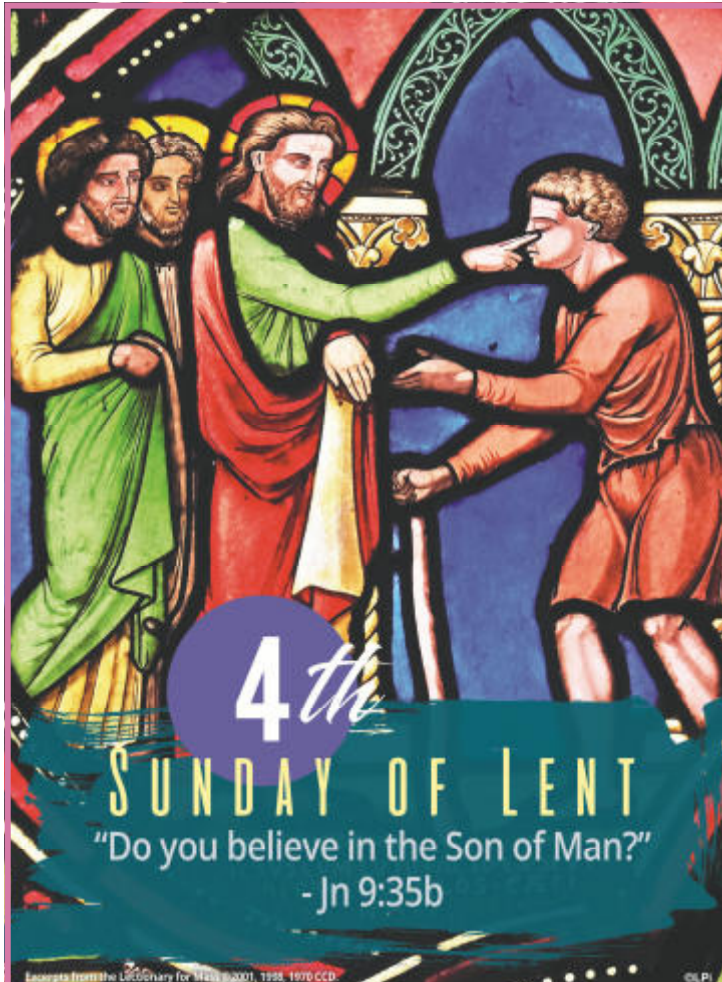
The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of the Catholic faith, through which we encounter and enter into sacred Communion with the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. The decision to temporarily suspend this practice was not and must never be taken lightly. As Mass is a commemoration of Christ's great act of love for us, we take this unprecedented measure with eyes fixed on him and his greatest commandment to love one another, which in this difficult time means that we ensure the health and safety of our community by following the wise counsel of local, state, and federal government and health officials.

During this growing spread of COVID-19, we must redouble these efforts, particularly of prayer and fasting. We should pray and fast for God's mercy on our local community and the whole world to end the Coronavirus pandemic. We should pray for medical professionals, researchers, and government leaders that the Lord would give them wisdom in their work and that we would heed their advice and directions for the good of society, especially for the least among us, those who are most susceptible of contracting this virus and other illnesses. You can find prayer resources at [aod.org](http://aod.org) and more will be forthcoming.

The decision to temporarily suspend public Masses has been communicated to your pastors in a separate correspondence with more details. Effective Saturday, March 14, **all Sunday and weekday public Masses, faith formation courses, communal Penance services, and all other parish events will be suspended in the Archdiocese of Detroit until Monday of Holy Week, April 6.** Mass will be available to you each day via live-stream and other media channels. You can find these on our website [www.aod.org](http://www.aod.org).

Funerals, weddings, and baptisms are at the discretion of the pastor but are not to exceed 100 people in attendance (*This figure has been revised by the federal government as of this publication date*)., Holy Communion, except as Viaticum, will not be distributed to the faithful at any liturgy during this time.

(Continued on Page Two)



## Readings for the Week of March 22, 2020

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38  
Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54  
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16  
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38  
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47  
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53  
Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

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

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?” Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man “sees” as someone very special. The Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.



Look around at our world. So much of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God’s kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God’s children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?



### A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Failure to forgive blinds us to another’s goodness. Lent provides an opportunity to wash away our blind-spots in the pool of forgiveness. Listen to Jesus in today’s Gospel: “Go wash and see.”

### Archbishop Vigneron’s Pastoral Letter (cont’d)

Individual confessions, anointings, and other forms of pastoral care can be offered in a case-by-case basis. Consult your local parish for any of these needs during this time.

As you temporarily participate at Mass in a different way, you and your families are encouraged to make a daily spiritual Communion by praying:

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love you above all things and  
I desire to receive you in my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,  
Come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace you as if you were already there  
and unite myself wholly to you.*

*Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.*

As I mentioned (*in an earlier letter*), let us entrust ourselves to Our Lady of Lourdes, patron for those who suffer illness. Through her intercession, may God grant healing and protection to the people of Southeast Michigan and beyond. And let us, by the courageous hope with which we face the challenge of the virus’ spread, give witness to our confidence in the good news of the Lord’s victory over suffering and death.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron  
Archbishop of Detroit



### The Lenten Spring Has Come

Each year we give a portion of our wealth to God for he is the yeast for growth that will leaven our whole life. This wealth is mostly inwards but also in our daily lives, for the days of Lent are the beginning for us as the days of Heaven. What is truly most precious in our lives are our hearts and minds that can dedicate themselves to seeking quality time and effort to be with God himself. Everyone can do this, for it just takes a rearrangement of our busy lives to give our real attention to Christ. Then we will be truly servants of the Lord, living in his presence and in his heavenly house, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (*Matt 6:21*)

The Three Pillars of Lent are fasting, prayer, and the giving of alms. These support the blessed season. When we give what we have to Christ by the voluntarily keeping of more self-restraint, the voluntarily making of more time to draw near to him in prayer, and the voluntarily giving of more generosity and love to others, then these three pillars will actively change us to be more like him, for he is always self-restrained, prayerful, and actively reaching out in generosity to us and to the whole world.

In this season of Lent, we see the Lord of Life move towards the fulfillment of all good by willing to suffer for our sakes, not in substitution but in actively leading us on the path of salvation so that we may come to him, to every good thing, and to heaven itself. May our hearts be moved this year to follow him along this sacred path of love through his unjust judgment by men, his torture and death, and at last, his glorious Resurrection for the dead.

## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

**POSTPONED** - Sunday, March 22, following 10 am Mass - St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Matthew Conference Meeting, Church Auditorium

**CANCELLED** - Monday, April 6, 7 pm - Parish Reconciliation Service

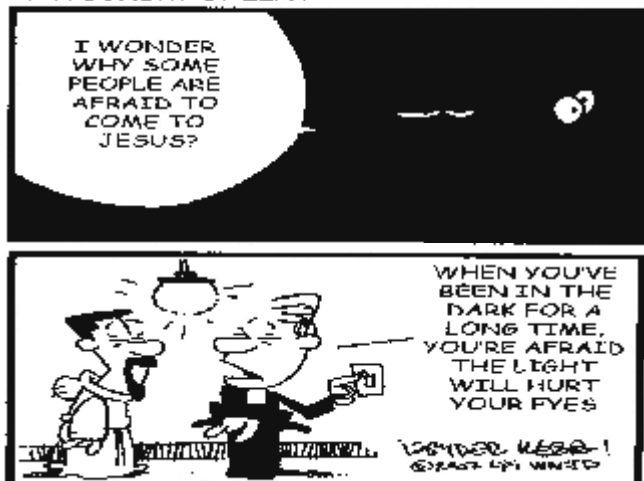
During the Suspension of Public Masses, your continued financial support is still vital to the sustainability of St. Matthew Parish. Please don't forget your Sunday Envelope and its importance to the day to day operation of the parish. You may mail it in, drop it off at the rectory, or hold on to them until the return of public Masses. There is, however, another means of making sure your Sunday Envelope contribution is never forgotten or missed. We have established an Online Giving portal on our website: [stmatthewdetroit.com](http://stmatthewdetroit.com). Online Giving is fast, easy, and secure and comes with benefits for both you and the parish!

- Automatic deductions make having to remember your weekly envelope a thing of the past. You set the frequency and the amount, and the system takes care of the rest.
- Generate your own report of financial giving activity for your tax purposes each year.
- You can contribute to CSA, special Holy Days, Flower Funds, and Fundraisers.  
This is how you get started:
- Visit [www.stmatthewdetroit.com](http://www.stmatthewdetroit.com), and click on the green "Giving & Donations" button.
- Click the link for Online Giving.
- Click the green "Create New Account" button.
- Enter your information and set up your gift amounts and frequency.
- That's it! You are all set for recurring automatic contributions.

It is so essential that we maintain a consistently weekly budget during these challenging times. Your continued support and attention of ensuring your weekly contribution does not go unnoticed! If you need further assistance, please reach out to our webmaster, Patrick Lusch, at [Patrick.Lusch@gmail.com](mailto:Patrick.Lusch@gmail.com).

Thank you and God bless you for all you do!

### 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



## CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



**Detroit Catholic en espanol** - Detroit Catholic, the digital news service of the Archdiocese of Detroit, recently launched a Spanish-language sister site: *Detroit Catholic en espanol*. With a focus on sharing news of interest to our Hispanic brothers and sisters, a dedicated team of reporters will share content from local producers, columnists, and partners reporting on Catholic news and events in the local Church in southeast Michigan and across the world. For more information, visit [detroitcatholic.com](http://detroitcatholic.com)

Your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal make possible ministries such as this. Visit [aod.org](http://aod.org) for more information on CSA-funded ministries and events.

### Remember ~ CRS Rice Bowl ~ "For Lent for Life"

*Right now we can especially appreciate the importance of sharing a meal in our homes with loved ones. Gathered together around a table, food nourishes us in so many ways. We need food to be successful at work or school, to grow and simply to function each day. But not everyone has access to enough nutritious food to do that. Yvone, Maria Ana, and Trinh know the importance of daily meals. It means they can pay attention in class, have energy to do homework and chores, and stay healthy.*

**For Trinh:** In Vietnam, meals at home are one of her favorite things. "It is a time that is joyful," she says. "It makes me feel warm in my heart." Trinh's favorite foods are vegetables. But just like Yvone and Maria Ana, Trinh's family works to ensure that she and her siblings have well-balanced meals. Fish and meat are not always available, so her family sometimes leaves the house at night and wades in the deep water nearby to catch snails for food, a good source of protein and extra income.

**Yvone in Kenya:** Yvone's Aunt Gaudencia has said that CRS has changed her life and the life of her family. Gaudencia could tell that Yvone was not very healthy, but now, she is active. Gaudencia is proud of what she has learned from the CRS program about healthy eating habits. She has taught her family about eating vegetables with every meal. Eliakim, Yvone's grandfather, suffering from diabetes has noticed that the improved diet has made him healthier. "I have benefited from Gaudencia's participation with CRS."

He also thinks the improved diet has given his grandchildren more energy for school and play. They have learned to share and borrow food from neighbors in a the spirit community. This spirit has provided a strong foundation from which to pursue their dreams and live a healthier life.

**Maria Ana from Honduras:** The same is true for Maria Ana and her fellow students in Honduras. It is hard to study and concentrate in school if you are hungry. That's why CRS provides daily lunches and snacks at Maria Ana's school. Using ingredients from CRS, like rice, beans, and milk with vegetables donated by local families, the students' mothers volunteer at the school to make lunch and a snack for the students. The students will bring containers to school with them and save much of their lunch to take home and share with their families.

"With the food that CRS is providing, we are able to get what we need to do our best at school and at home," Maria Ana says.

*The date for the collection of your Rice Bowls will be determined at a later time.  
Remember this important almsgiving effort for Lent.*

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

6021 Whittier, Detroit 48224-2637  
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### 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 Crimauddo
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
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Eduardo Fajardo	Jeanne Damman
Kathy Bush	John Reinhardt
Glenda Johnson	Laura Allman
Stephanie Smith	
Janet Law	
Laura Alix	
Betty Leone	



# Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

EUCCHARISTIC  
MINISTERS

LECTORS

SERVERS

**To all Ministers:  
The regular schedule with respect to your ministry will resume when public Masses resume. Please watch for updates.**

## Mass Schedule

**The Mass Intentions that were scheduled for the days and times effected by the suspension of public Mass will be moved forward to future dates when public Masses are resumed.**

**You may call the rectory at that time with your preferences.**

**Thank you for your patience and please let us pray for a speedy end to this health crisis.**

**Remember also to pray for those in our parish who are sick and suffering.**



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IS LISTENING,  
LORD.

ST. AUGUSTINE

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