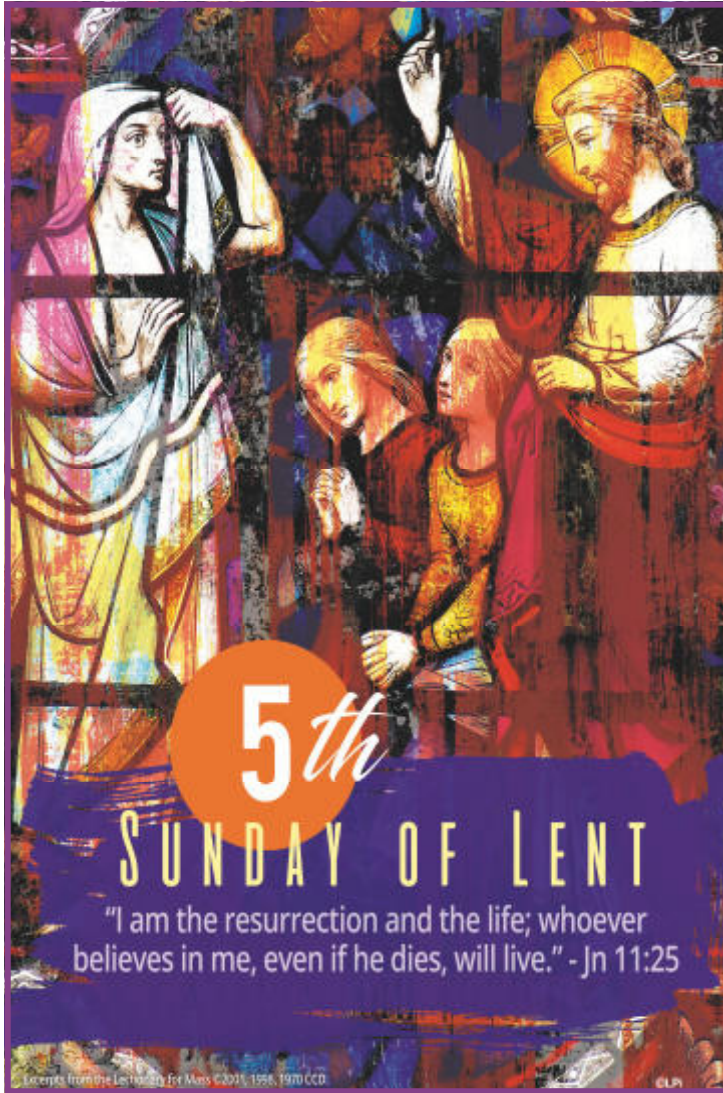




# Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

March 29, 2020

Detroit, Michigan



## From Father Duane's Desk

Dear Parishioner;



In these unprecedented times of “social distancing” due to the Coronavirus, I want to reassure you that we are **not** “spiritually distant” from each other. I pray for you and your health, and I encourage you to do the same for each other. I certainly miss seeing you, being with you, and praying with you, especially at Mass and sharing the Eucharist on Sunday.

But these are our times, and we are not alone. Our country and the entire world are struggling. I cannot believe that God has abandoned us. I do believe God is with us, strengthening us to deal with the inconveniences, protecting us as we protect each other by following the prescribed directives the medical people have given us through our civil leadership, and strengthening our resolve to move through this crisis.

In some ways, there may be a silver lining in this. Perhaps we can better appreciate what we have because when it is taken away, we realize how precious, even the smallest things, we do and have are. There is a saying “absence makes the heart grow fonder.” As we are away from our community here at St. Matthew Parish, we long for the day to be reunited in our common bond with an appreciation for who we are to each other. Perhaps, we will have a fonder appreciation of community, our faith and its practice, and one another once we return.

I want now to highlight some aspects of how this pandemic is affecting us particularly as St. Matthew parishioners.

First, let me say that I am still recovering from my ankle surgery. I must say that my immobility has made it more difficult to deal with matters at hand. My energy levels wane at times, and it takes me three times longer to do the simplest things. I continue to pray for strength as my personal healing moves forward. I am six weeks off the surgery, and the healing is slow.

Secondly, with the ban on assembling, we are not celebrating Mass or receiving Communion. This is indeed unprecedented, and a spiritual hardship on us. At this writing, we don't know when we will be able to gather again given the civil directions that have come forth with the need to protect our community, especially the elderly. Let's be honest, we do have an older population in our parish. As soon as it is safe, we will return to our regular schedule. I ask that everyone would return to church, to our parish, to give thanks to God for bringing us through this crisis and to show our support for one another.

In the meantime, I encourage you to engage in a “Spiritual Communion” with the Lord Jesus. This is an age-old teaching of the Church. This is employed when someone due to illness or the unavailability of the Mass is asked to participate in so as to share deeply in the joy of the Lord's sacrifice and nourishment for us. This would entail setting time aside on Sunday morning in silence or in family prayer to perhaps read the Scriptures of the day, pray the Our Father, and in silent meditation ask that the Lord Jesus would be with you filling your heart and mind. Then, when renewed by this Spiritual Communion, offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God praying for his help in this difficult time.

Continued on Page Two

## Readings for the Week of March 29, 2020

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

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, 13:41c-62/  
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/  
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55,  
56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7  
[cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13  
[cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-  
20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14, 27:66  
or 27:11-54



### **5th Sunday of Lent**

Even though we say that we believe, there is a part of us that doesn't. There are many times in our lives when we experience death, whether it be the physical death of someone we love, a failed relationship, the loss of a job, or a broken dream. As we are going through these death experiences, we can easily find ourselves reaching out to God to make it better and fix it! We think that the proper order of life is to maintain the things of this world, especially those things that are essential to our sense of well-being and security. We do not like change. The grieving that comes from our death experiences can keep us stuck and in despair. If we have lost something or someone of great value, the very meaning and essence of life is lost with them. We need gentle companions to lift us from despair and that is precisely who God desires to be in our life as well.

God calls us out of our tombs, where we have been closed up in fear and despair, and shouts, "Come out!" He desperately wants to show us the path to hope and the new life that is possible after loss and death. But our faith can be weak, and we still prefer to cling to the memory of what we had rather than the joyful possibilities of tomorrow. We sometimes live as if God is not real and that the transformative power of His resurrected presence is a story found in the Bible rather than a narrative unfolding in our lives.

God is the God of surprises, not our demise. God opens new possibilities, begins new chapters, creates new verses, and brings us to new heights! We spend so much time and energy ruminating over what we left behind yesterday that we are far too tired to see what can unfold tomorrow. Loving someone new doesn't negate our past loves. Embracing the love of a person, God, or life itself tomorrow doesn't diminish the love of yesterday. Each of our loves is different, and one cannot be replaced by another. They don't cancel each other out. God truly has tended to every detail of our lives, and if we listen to each detail, we find that they all lead us back to Him. Jesus wants us to come out of our closed-up tombs. Are we going to listen this time?

### **From Father Duane's Desk (cont'd)**

We are uniquely affected by all of this at this time of year. By Archdiocesan directive and in accord with the Governor's order, we will not gather for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, or Easter Sunday. For some you may wish to watch Mass for Shut-ins on TV; or for those who have the capability, you can search for Holy Week liturgies streaming from the cathedral or from other parish settings. We don't have the capability for this at St. Matthew. Also, I cannot offer it at this time. Therefore, the practice of a Spiritual Communion is encouraged to remember the Paschal Mystery.

It is also typical in the Lenten season to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. However, I have cancelled our Reconciliation service. I would ask that you approach the Lord in this Lenten season, make a good Act of Contrition, express your sorrow for your sin, and promise that you will experience the sacrament as soon as you are able.

Thirdly, we all still need each other's help. Even though we are not gathered, the temporal bills and expenses still need to be paid. Without a gathering, we have no income from the Offertory; and this is presenting a hardship. I ask everyone to please consider sending in your weekly contribution envelope by mail. Our cash flow is important to us. I would hope that any contributions missed, due to our not gathering, would be made up. I can't stress enough the importance of this. We, in normal times, live on the edge, and now it is especially hard. Please prayerfully consider sending in your contribution or going online to fulfill your contribution. ***This is very important.***

We are also coming to a close of this year's CSA campaign. If you still have not fulfilled your pledge, consider doing so. This will come back to the parish and help in our overall budget.

I ask this regarding our finances because we will suffer a loss of income from our "Jazz Nite." For many reasons, i.e., failure to secure ads in this difficult time, the challenge of selling tickets, and the insecurity of not being able to assemble, I, along with our Finance Chairperson, Parish Council President, and the Jazz Nite Committee have decided to cancel the Jazz Nite event this year. We will lose approximately \$12 thousand to \$14 thousand dollars on this event. So, as you can see, the fulfillment of contributions and CSA pledges along with additional donations are extremely important. We will evaluate our financial situation in the fall; however, we will already be in a new fiscal year with its own demands.

Fourthly, as our country and our parish deal with this pandemic, please pray for the victims of this virus. They are suffering greatly here and around the world. Make your daily intercession through our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Lourdes (patron of healing), for an end to this pandemic.

Lastly, let me reiterate that we are not alone, we are not distant. We are spiritually connected, and our prayer for each other binds us as one in a bond of Christ's love that cannot be broken. We, as Catholics, believe we connect with Our Lord through prayer, a communication that cannot be closed off by war, famine, or disease. He binds us together as one. Pray for one another and continue to love one another. Our heart will grow so much fonder when our reunion with the Lord is here.

God bless you through these trying times,

Father Duane



## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

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

**CANCELLED** - Saturday, April 25, 6:30  
pm - St. Matthew's 2020 Jazz Nite



### To the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit From Archbishop Allen Vigneron

March 23, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As citizens of Michigan, we join with our neighbors in observing measures to address the spread of COVID-19. As we continue to practice social distancing to limit the virus' spread, our response as the Body of Christ must always begin in faith. We believe Jesus is still Lord. We believe that God can bring good from this time. We believe that we are not abandoned but remain – however mysteriously – in the loving hands of the Father.

It is with great sadness that I have to announce to you that Holy Week celebrations will not be offered publicly this year in the Archdiocese of Detroit. To ensure we cooperate with and support the governor and local health officials during this time as well as assuring you of my continued commitment to the work of unleashing the Gospel, I am issuing these directives regarding the life of our parishes, the administration of the Sacraments – particularly to those who are sick and dying – and the celebration of Holy Week.

While it is not possible for us to gather in our parishes during Holy Week and on Easter, it is possible for us to be connected in other ways. I ask you to remain attentive to [aod.org](http://aod.org) and [spiritualcloseness.org](http://spiritualcloseness.org) for ways to be connected with each other during these days. I would also ask you to please continue your financial support to your parish. They rely entirely on your contributions and your generosity. I am very grateful for your support, especially during this time.

In addition, I ask all the faithful in the Archdiocese of Detroit to join me, the Holy Father and faithful around the world in these two times of prayer this week:

1. *Wednesday, March 25 – the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord – to pause at 12 noon to pray the Our Father.*

2. *Friday, March 27 to pray at 1:00 p.m. (in union with the Holy Father in Rome) and, as you are able, to receive the Plenary Indulgence that will accompany the Eucharistic Benediction from the Holy Father on this occasion.*

I know this is an unprecedented time in the life of our local Church. But unprecedented challenges bring unprecedented graces. If we unite ourselves to the Lord, we will emerge from these days of trial and uncertainty more ready to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Please know of my prayers for you and our whole State of Michigan during these days. Asking the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron

## CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



**Permanent Diaconate** - Men discerning a call to the permanent diaconate are invited to attend an information night, with their wives, if married, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. The evening will explore the three-fold ministry of deacons: the ministry of the Word, ministry of the liturgy, and ministry of charity and justice. Attendees will also learn about the application process and requirements for entering formation for the permanent diaconate.

Gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal fund the work of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Office for Clergy and Consecrated Life and the Permanent Deacon Formation Team, which coordinate diaconal ministry and formation. In addition, CSA supports men studying for the permanent diaconate at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

*(It is recommended that if you are interested in this program, you call the Archdiocese in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.)*

**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](http://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!

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

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"My father works every day to support us, to provide the food that we need and to earn money to pay for school." *Maria Ana*

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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
Anthony Mastronardi	Herb Damman
Eduardo Fajardo	Jeanne Damman
Kathy Bush	John Reinhardt
Glenda Johnson	Laura Allman
Stephanie Smith	Steve Czapski, Jr.
Janet Law	
Laura Alix	
Betty Leone	

## Ministers, Lectors, and 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.

## Prayers of the Faithful ~ 5th Sunday of Lent

That the Holy Father and all leaders of the Church, may be graced with the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit during this difficult time.

Let us pray to the Lord

That in this time of illness, our merciful and loving Father will strengthen our faith and trust in his goodness and divine providence.

Let us pray to the Lord

That the nations of the world know the love and peace of Jesus who wept for Lazarus.

Let us pray to the Lord

That our faith community may receive the mercy of God and with his help offer it to others.

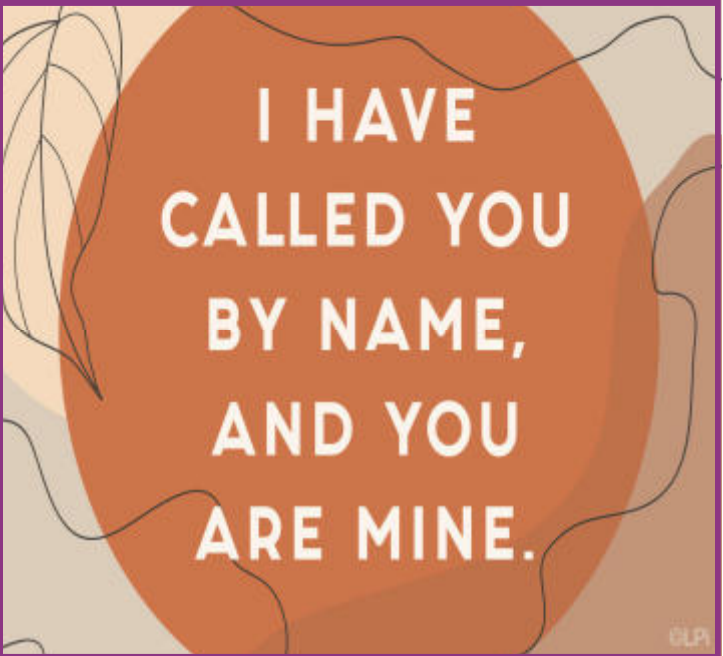
Let us pray to the Lord

For all the sick of the parish, those who are suffering in the current outbreak of the coronavirus, and those whom we love, especially Laura Allman, John Reinhardt, Herb and Jeanne Damman, Steve Czapski, Jr., and Father Duane Novelty. May they experience the healing presence of Christ through his Church.

Let us pray to the Lord

For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, those who have died from the coronavirus pandemic, and all our deceased loved ones, especially Irene Ridella, may the mercy of God cleanse them so they may enjoy the fullness of his kingdom.

Let us pray to the Lord



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