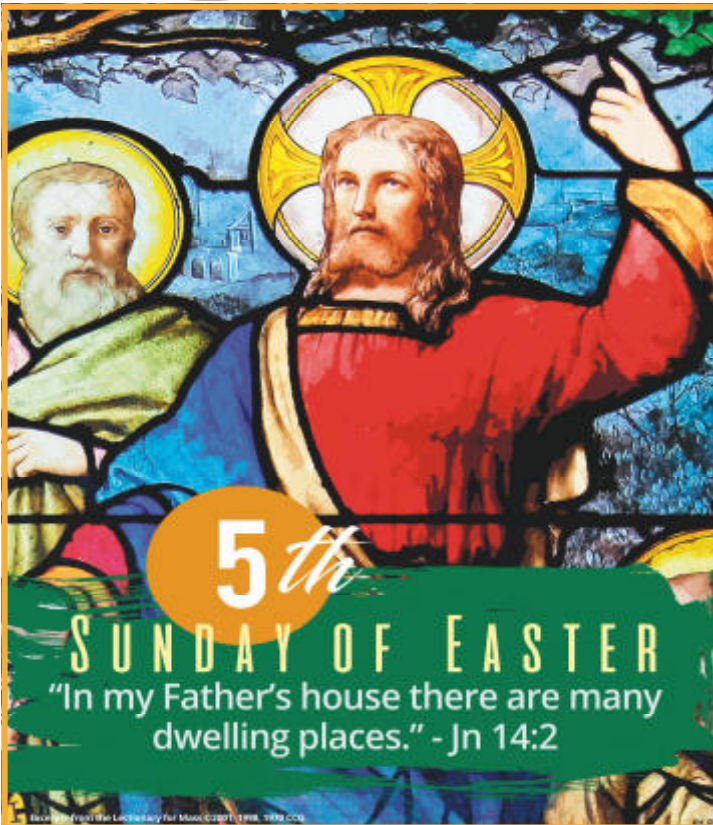




Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

May 10, 2020

Detroit, Michigan



From Father Duane's Desk

In the Liturgy of the Hours (sometimes called the priest's breviary), the opening trope for morning and evening prayer is "Oh, God, come to my assistance, Oh, Lord make haste to help me." These particular words seem to hold so much meaning for me during this pandemic. As I pray them, I keep you in my thoughts. As a community, as a society, we need God's help and assistance as we move through these difficult times, "Oh Lord, make haste to help us."

Sometimes, this help comes in various ways. One is the kindness and generosity of parishioners who are continuing their offertory contribution by envelope and online giving. Thanks for sending it in. Please keep up the good work; it will help us make it through this pandemic.

Also, I want to thank for their generosity those parishioners who helped me after my surgery with meals and food dropped off at the rectory. You have been so kind to me. I do keep healing; although at 11 weeks, it is still a slow process.

I also want to encourage you, as difficult as it is, to continue to adhere and cooperate with the social restrictions placed upon us. I know it is challenging, these times are so strange; but even theologically, we adhere to legitimate authority be it in ecclesial or civil forum. It is for our own good and for the good of others. We might say that there is a spiritual dimension in that we show that by following the rules, we are a charitable people. Not caring just for ourselves but for the good or the wider community.

There is always a tension in our democratic society between the individual and the community. However, the government, the state, can have a reasonable interest in protecting the lives of citizens by asking for a period of quarantine. To keep us sheltered for a sustained but not permanent time is completely legitimate when the results of not doing so could result in the death of thousands.

To this end, church authority has the responsibility to cooperate with civil authority. Thereby, it does not impede our religious freedom if the prohibition on gathering is not a permanent practice. Of course, we know that this is temporary; and in the future, we will be back together again. Everyone including the state desires this. However, it may look different when we return.

Last week, the priests had a video conference with Archbishop Vigneron and some preliminary precautions are being discussed for when public Masses will resume. This has not been completely spelled out, but we must be prepared to cooperate. It is not only our civic duty but our ecclesial (church) duty as well. With these thoughts of encouragement and gratitude, we continue to pray, "Oh Lord, make haste to help us."

God bless all of you, Father Duane

Readings for the Week of May 10, 2020

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12
Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 [1ab]/Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8]/Jn 15:9-17
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 [2a]/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21



Fifth Sunday of Easter

When earthly lives end, especially when the person is younger, we tend to focus upon and consider what was lost. We think of lost opportunities — things they won't be able to see, babies they won't be able to cradle, and adventures that now must go undiscovered. Our minds create this chasm between earth and heaven that sees the losses of this life as permanent ones, never possible to achieve again. This perception causes many folks to remain stuck in their grief as they ponder all of the missed opportunities and regrets.

This is not resurrection thinking. All of the love that we can give and receive, the joy and elation that can be experienced, the adventures that can be undertaken, and the possibilities to be discovered are all part of a continuous journey. They are not ends in and of themselves but are all part of the unfolding of a relationship we have with God, who not only makes all of these wonderful things possible now but sustains them and fulfills them into eternity. The perception and experience of loss is really an illusion, because in God's eternal kingdom and in God's time, nothing is ever lost. Even the most intimate and tender of moments we can conceive of sharing with another human being are only part of a journey toward perfect intimate and tender moments to be shared with God in our resurrected life. We become like God and see God as He is in eternity. What greater joy, love, and hope can ever be discovered as we walk down our often dimly lit paths in this world.

This is an awesome wonder and magnificent news to behold. Call to mind someone you have lost in death. How do you see them now? How do you see yourself in heaven? Remind yourself, again, that God is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Our happiness is not going to be fully realized in this world, and there is nothing we can find here that cannot be found one hundred fold in eternity. It's all about relationship, and not solely about the relationships we have with each other, ourselves, and the world in which we live. It's about our relationship with God. If we realize how special that one relationship really is, then there is only one particular of heaven and life eternal that really matters: namely, that we fall into love eternal and discover truth. For when we finally close our eyes in death, then all will be well as long as we are with God. There are no losses, only gains.

The Hope of the World

"Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you that hope in the Lord."

We live in hard times, The very hardest part is the loss of so much hope, and the fear of never coming out of our present pain which takes the fragrant breath of the hope of better things to come out of our hearts. Yet, this is not so, and in history people have lived in much harder times; but when their faith was strong, they kept their hopes still alive. They hoped in Jesus Christ, the Lord of Life. Let us never lose our hope, for the same Lord of those times was and is the Lord of today, yesterday, and tomorrow.

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord; for He is good, His mercy endures forever."

**We Honor and Love You
Happy Mother's Day!**

**To all St. Matthew Parish
Moms, Mamas, Mommies, Mothers,
Grandmas, Grandmothers,
and Nanas!**

**No matter what endearing name
we call them,
we are ever grateful for their
constant love, care and support.
God bless all our mothers,
living and deceased.**

*Mothers
hold their
children's hands
for a while,
but their hearts
forever.*



To the Lay Faithful of Detroit from Archbishop Vigneron

As the Body of Christ, the Church in all her sons and daughters has been enduring a time of severe trial. As we continue to practice social distancing to limit the spread of coronavirus, I write today with deep gratitude for all of you, the faithful of southeast Michigan, who have been walking the path of love for one another, particularly the most vulnerable among us, by sacrificing your ability to gather together for Mass during these last several weeks. Thank you for your witness and your faith.

Many of you have shared your sadness and devoted desire to return to Mass. Please know that I listen to your longing for the Eucharist and have taken them to prayer as I have discerned each step of the Archdiocese of Detroit's response to this global pandemic. I share your desire to return to normal liturgical life and reestablish the rich spiritual and communal life of our parishes and schools.

We are grateful to God that public Masses are once again becoming a possibility in a few other dioceses less affected by the pandemic. While we do not yet have a firm date when it will be safe to resume public gatherings here, please know that we continue to monitor the incidence of coronavirus in southeast Michigan and are following the lead of local health officials and civil authorities. We will resume public Masses, and other parish events, when we are confident that doing so will not pose undue risk to the health and well-being of members of our community.

Meanwhile, let us look with joyful hope toward some more gradual returns to normalcy. Last week, we published updated liturgical guidelines allowing for the celebration of weddings, funerals, and baptisms, as long as these gatherings adhere to current social distancing practices. Families wishing to postpone these events until it is safe to gather in larger numbers are welcome to do so, except when there is danger of death and baptism is urgently necessary.

It is important to note that the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation has not been prohibited during the pandemic in the Archdiocese of Detroit and pastors have been encouraged throughout to use their discretion to determine how to safely administer this sacrament to the faithful. Likewise, Anointing of the Sick and the pastoral care of the sick and the dying have continued as clergy are able and with respect for individual hospital or home policies. For more information about all these guidelines and other resources, visit www.aod.org/emergencyresponse.

It is my fervent prayer that we will gather again soon for Mass, in one form or another. We know that this return will look and feel different from what we are used to experiencing. As we move forward, we must remember God's unending love for us and his ability to bring good from our trials. He created each of us to live in this moment, during this pandemic so that we might give witness to our confidence in the good news of the Lord's victory over suffering and death. Please pray that I may rise to this challenge, as I will pray for you.

Let us also continue to pray for our heroic health care workers, for those who are ill or who have died from the virus, and for their families. We entrust them and our entire Archdiocese into the loving care of Our Lady of Lourdes, patron of the sick. To this end, I invite all to join me for a Rosary and renewal of the consecration of our Archdiocese to Mary, live-streamed at 7 p.m. Wednesday on [Facebook](#) and [online](#). With this prayerful act we unite ourselves once again with the faithful of Canada and Latin America to entrust all our nations to the Blessed Mother. Through her intercession, may God bring about an end to the pandemic and grant healing and protection to the people of southeast Michigan and beyond.

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

(Since the suspension of AoD Office Services, the articles printed here are from aod.org in order to focus on the mission and importance of the Catholic Services Appeal.)



Witnessing Christ in our parishes - St. Gabriel parishioners respond generously to the Catholic Services Appeal each year because they know the importance of returning the blessings God has given them, according to Father Marc Gawronski, pastor.

"We're not a rich parish, by any means. We're a parish of people who live paycheck-to-paycheck and who have jobs that pay by the hour without any insurance," Father Gawronski said. "Our folks live with lots of daily challenges, but they're still very grateful to God, and they're still very generous when it comes to CSA."

The predominately Hispanic parishioners in southwest Detroit see the benefits of the annual appeal, such as in the younger priests who minister to them in Spanish and in the opportunity to earn certification in lay ministry at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. St. Gabriel's vibrant faith formation program has flourished, in part because of the formation and support parish catechists receive — in Spanish — from the Archdiocese. As a result of the growth in religious education students, two confirmation celebrations were needed in order to accommodate all of the children and their families in the church.

St. Gabriel identifies a project each year to fund with gifts collected over the parish's CSA target, as they are returned 100 percent free of the archdiocesan assessment. This year's project: to restore a bell for the church's bell tower.

"In any town in Mexico or Latin America, whenever there's Mass, a bell rings to evangelize people, to remind people that it's time to come to gather to pray," Father Gawronski said. "It's a sound that people long to hear, so, we're looking forward to restoring that bell with the help of the generosity of our parishioners through the CSA."

The Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Several weeks ago, before the suspension of public Masses, St. Matthew Parish conducted a collection on behalf of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. These are the results of this collection with gratitude for your generous response.

Your donation of **\$352** will help support the restoration of the church struggling to recover from Communist rule. Funds from this collection help reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach in more than 20 countries.

A Prayer for All Mothers

**O almighty and eternal God,
Lord of both the living and the dead,
Your tender mercy embraces all men known to be yours
by faith and a good life.
Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary,
our Mother, and of all saints,
grant your merciful pardon to all mothers
for whom we pray whether living in this world
or have departed from this life into the world to come.
I especially, dear Lord, ask that you grant this request
I now make to you on behalf of my own beloved mother.
Amen.**

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Mothers are instruments of Christ's presence in the home. A mother's love reveals the attentive, thoughtful, serving, forgiving, and concerned side of God's love. Thanks to all mothers for showing us the tender and loving face of God.

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10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Duane R. Novelly ~ *Pastor*
Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*
Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

CLERICAL STAFF

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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	Jo Marie Nardi
Lolita Dorado	David Beaupre
Albert Fajardo	Kenneth Beaupre
Virginia Fajardo	Anthony Crimardo
Madeline O'Neill	Rosemary Schoolcraft
Kurt Beghuyn	Tiffany Gelle
Sebastiano Stellino	Robert Stark
Teresita Covacha	Pauline Williams
Joe Petrylka	Bill Solomon
Roger Sharpe	Eloise Parker
Nenette Ferreria	Kelly Kranson
Anthony Mastronardi	Herb and Jeanne Damman
Eduardo Fajardo	Mike and Theresa Elrick
Kathy Bush	Doreen Redman
Glenda Johnson	Dennis Corbett
Stephanie Smith	
Janet Law	
Laura Alix	
Betty Leone	
Michelle Harter	

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 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 Easter

For all our pastors, especially Father Novelly, who have been working to stay connected with their parishioners, may God provide them the strength they need to continue their outreach, showing that the presence of the Lord is always with them.

Let us pray to the Lord

For those in our faith community, that we may be drawn closer to the Lord in this time of sorrow and find the fullness of grace.

Let us pray to the Lord

For all healthcare workers who are selflessly treating coronavirus patients, may they feel the presence of God walking alongside them, giving them the strength they need throughout their day. Keep them safe!

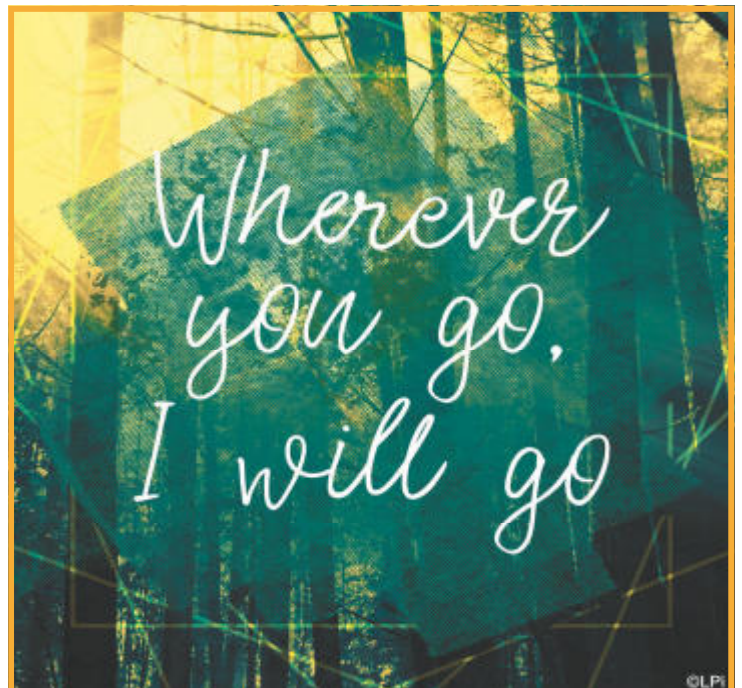
Let us pray to the Lord

For all the sick of the parish, and those whom we love, especially Herb and Jeanne Damman, Steve Czapski, Jr., Doreen Redman, and Father Duane Novelly. May they know 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, 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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