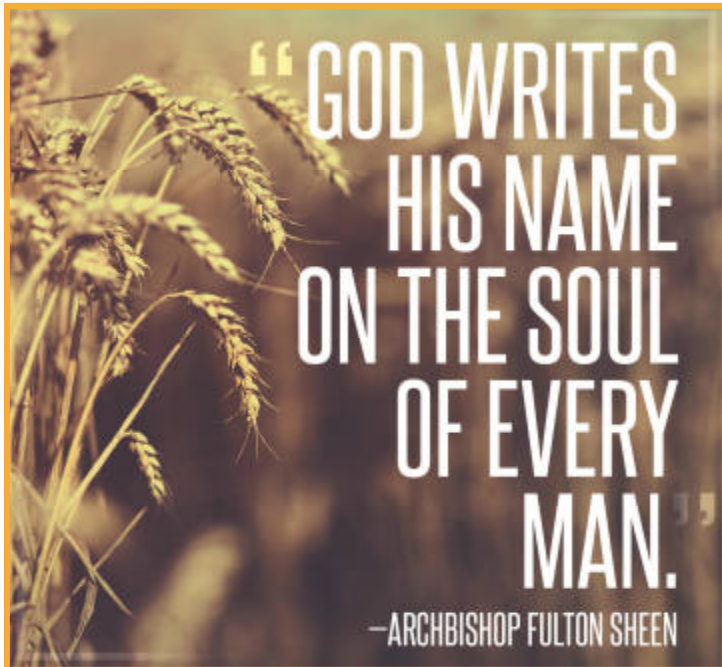




Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

May 17, 2020

Detroit, Michigan



From Father Duane's Desk

As many of you know already from social media, St. Matthew's website, or the AoD website, Sunday public Masses will resume on Pentecost weekend (May 30 and 31). It seems an appropriate feast to re-open our parishes across the Archdiocese and particularly our parish of St. Matthew. The power of the Holy Spirit once again invigorating the "gathering," the Church, although we will look different as we come together again. There will be strict protocols in place for the way we come together in our worship space. We will all be required to wear masks and gloves.

Having just received notice to resume public Masses from the Archdiocese of Detroit, it will take some preparation to make our church safe for you and me. Having said this, as I continue to review the protocols and set them in place, I will send to all parishioners a letter indicating what changes will be put into effect. You should receive this letter by Monday, May 25. To that end and considering the preparation that needs to take place, weekday Masses will resume with our regular schedule on Tuesday, June 2.

Certainly, this is an ongoing and difficult time for all of us. So, I am asking your full cooperation with the protocols. We want to stay healthy. I, too, do not want this coronavirus. We want to be a community that respects each other and our health, especially our senior citizens, those over 65 years old.

We will maintain our current Mass schedule, and due to the fact that we have a large church, our worship space will be able to accommodate our parishioners with proper social distancing.

However, I will ask you at this time to re-think the Mass you attend. Typically, on Saturday, we have only 40 people in attendance. If you can consider moving from Sunday to Saturday Mass, thus splitting the total number between Saturday and Sunday, it would utilize our space more efficiently. Then, we will have no problem with distancing. Again, as I think this through, I will be more direct in my letter as to how this will happen.

Continued on Page Two

Readings for the Week of May 17, 2020

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
Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/ Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/ Jn 16:16-20
Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/ Mt 28:16-20
Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/ Jn 16:23b-28
Next Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/ Mt 28:16-20
7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 [13]/1 Pt 4:13-16/ Jn 17:1-11a



Sixth Sunday of Easter

We hope for many things: passing an exam, finding our true love, securing sustainable work, or surviving an illness. We often seek to have God be a part of what we hope for and desire, almost trying to convince Him that our agenda is what is ultimately important. While our particular hopes may appear to be what needs to be achieved in order for us to be happy, they really are not. Our lesser, more personal hopes can distract us from true hope.

When God became a human being, a powerful message was sent: all that is authentically human is found in the divine. As the human Jesus lived and died in order to show us that he truly is the universal Christ, we have to keep our sight focused on our eternal truth and destiny and who we truly are. We have to be careful when we allow our earthly concerns to distract us. True hope is found when we place our trust in Christ's promises and don't rely on our own strength. True hope focuses on striving toward the fulfillment of God's promises and not simply on achieving what we think we need in this life. Hope always travels with two friends — faith and love. In this trio of virtues, we find the very presence of God born in every human being. These are God's greatest gifts, and they lead us to the fullness of His presence.

As with faith and love, we cannot see hope with just our human eyes. We don't carry this virtue within us to use solely for our own personal agenda. Hope is not something that simply comes with the human package. As with faith and love, hope is a gift that is given to us to draw us closer to our eternal truth. Faith, hope, and love are signs that there is something far greater going on in us and something greater to persevere in obtaining. The true divine gift of hope is what will endure any hardship we encounter, especially those that will come from authentically living the Gospel. With all that is happening in our lives, in our church, and in our world, what is the reason for our hope? Ask God for the fortitude to see His eternal gift as the reason we get up in the morning and do the things we do.



From Father Duane's Desk (cont'd)

Again, let us keep our prayer intent on the scientific community that a vaccine can be developed and restore us to the community we once knew.

I also would like to share with you some parish financial information. I thank all of you who have so generously kept up your contributions during the shut-down. But we are not out of the woods yet. Due to the vulnerability of those 65 and over, it will be left up to them to determine if it safe for that age group to venture out. As you know, we have a good number of seniors in our parish and some may choose to shelter in place even as the church re-opens. That is okay, that is prudent! This age has some our most loyal and largest contributors.

So your ongoing financial support is needed more than ever. We have for years struggled at St. Matthew's, and the financial figures that bear out throughout the diocese are the same here. We are down in overall income by 54.7% for the period of March 8 to May 5. (The average across the AoD is 60%.) This accounts for all income,; i.e., debt envelope, maintenance fund, Holy Day, Mass donations, etc.; however, for Sunday envelope income only, we are down for this period by 9%. That is a great testament to your kindness and generosity and full knowledge of what we face. In one way or another, we will try to get back on track financially.

I am overjoyed to see you again even at a distance. But as I said when the shutdown started, we are not distant spiritually. And from your phone calls, my conversation with many of you and your wonderful notes, I can tell you believe this, too.

God bless all of you, Father Duane

I have been going to Mass for years and have always wondered: why do we make the three signs of the cross before the Gospel?

There is a little prayer that goes with the three crosses before the Gospel: "May the words of the Holy Gospel be on my mind, on my lips and in my heart." In standing to hear the Gospel, we acknowledge that Jesus is present, and the words of the Gospel are addressed to us. All of the gestures and special postures we adopt before the Gospel are intended to help us prepare for hearing the Word as well as act on it. The incense, the Alleluia, the deacon or priest, and the special dialogue and announcement that introduces the Gospel help us focus our attention on the Good News we are about to hear. The three signs of the cross show our desire and good intention to hear and live the Gospel.

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In today's Gospel, Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure. Family life is a series of departures. As we mature and grow older, we constantly transition from the familiar to the new unknown. Today, Jesus assures us we are not alone in these transitions. "I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you."

† STEWARDSHIP ✕

What shall I render unto the Lord
for all his benefits to me?



St. Matthew Parish Report July 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

Budget/39 Weeks: @ \$2,442 (rounded)	\$95,250.19
Actual/39 Weeks:	\$93,322.61
Online Giving/39 Weeks:	<u>\$16,346.48</u>
Total Actual/39 Weeks:	\$109,669.09
Overage/Shortfall:	\$14,418.90
Average Collection/Sunday:	\$2,812.03
Average % of Budget/Sunday:	115.14%
Average % over (under)/Sunday:	15.14%
Debt Reduction Envelope/39 Weeks:	\$2,134.00
Online Debt Reduction Giving:	<u>\$495.00</u>
Total Debt Reduction Giving:	\$2,629.00
NET OVERAGE FOR 39 WEEKS:	<u>\$17,047.90</u>

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## 2019 Catholic Services Appeal Parish Report

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| CSA AoD Goal:             | \$16,069.00        |
| Total Pledged:            | \$64,333.00        |
| Total Paid (May 12, 2020) | <u>\$62,657.18</u> |
| Pledge Balance:           | \$1,675.82         |

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Refund Anticipated: | \$48,264.00 |
| Refund Issued:      | \$46,588.18 |
| Average Pledge:     | \$574.40    |

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Parish Families:     | 218 |
| Pledges Made:        | 112 |
| Pledges Fully Paid:  | 101 |
| Pledges Outstanding: | 11  |



*Easter Flower Offering  
Donated in Memory of*

*Genoveva Nogoy*

*In Loving  
Memory*  
Due to the suspension of the  
Easter liturgies, there were no  
Easter flowers displayed on the  
altar. Nevertheless, there is much  
appreciation for those who made these donations in  
memory of their loved ones. Thank you!

## CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Catholic Services Appeal for 2020 will  
be organized in the fall. Please pray for  
our continued success and how you can best make  
a pledge.

### *Prayer During A Health Crisis*

*Compassionate and Loving Father,  
in the face of confusion and concern  
impart to us the calm of your presence.  
In You allow us to find hope and healing.  
Be with those who serve the sick  
and give them Your caring hands.  
Be with those who lead  
and give them Your Spirit of wisdom.  
Be with those who have fallen ill  
and give them Your comforting heart.  
Wrap your arms around our world  
and hold us in your love.  
Allow us at this time of trial to then serve  
as instruments of that love to all we meet.  
We ask this in Your Name. Amen.*

### Observances for the Week of May 17, 2020

|              |                                                                                                                      |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday:      | 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter                                                                                     |
| Monday:      | St. John I, Pope and Martyr                                                                                          |
| Tuesday:     |                                                                                                                      |
| Wednesday:   | St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest                                                                                      |
| Thursday:    | The Ascension of the Lord (in some U.S. dioceses);<br>St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and<br>Companions, Martyrs |
| Friday:      | St. Rita of Cascia, Religious                                                                                        |
| Saturday:    |                                                                                                                      |
| Next Sunday: | The Ascension of the Lord; 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of<br>Easter; World Communications Day                             |

### 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

6021 Whittier, Detroit 48224-2637  
Rectory Office: (313) 884-4470  
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Website: www.stmatthewdetroit.com  
Office Hours: Monday through Friday  
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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, David Smydra ~ *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.<br>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:

Due to the protocols that need to be in place for the health and safety of our parishioners when public Masses resume, your ministry schedule will be revised accordingly. 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 ~ 6th Sunday of Easter

For all church leaders, especially Archbishop Vigneron, our auxiliary bishops, and our pastors during this time of pandemic, that the Holy Spirit will fill their hearts with courage, wisdom, and hope.

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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