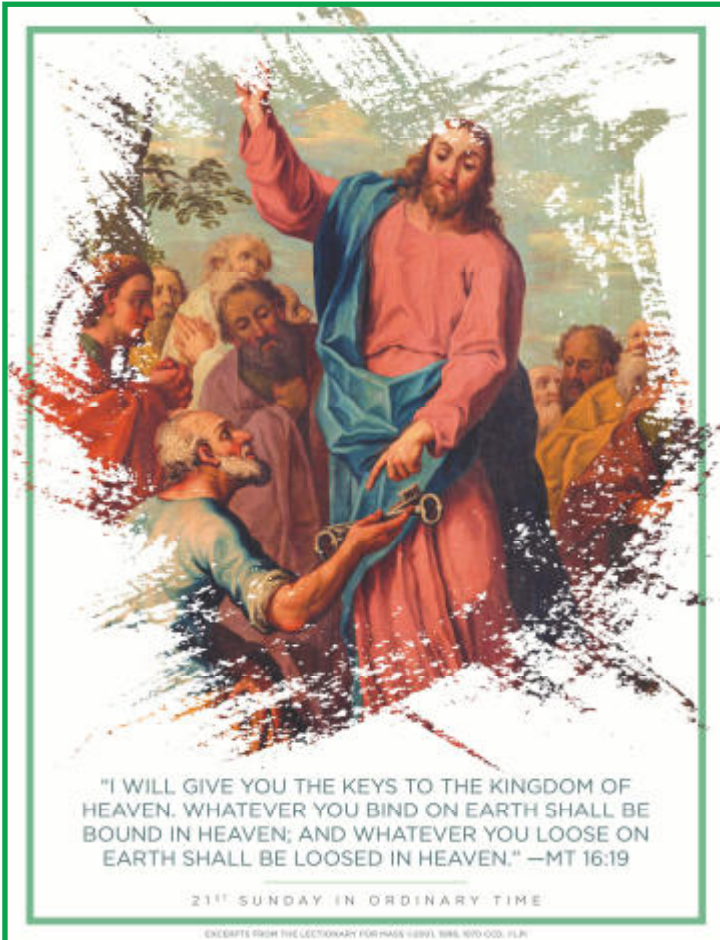




Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

August 23, 2020

Detroit, Michigan



From Father Duane's Desk

As the summer continues to wear on, our country and state is still dealing with the pandemic. We all are feeling a sense of frustration with the way our lives have been altered. As a priest and pastor, I too am saddened that we cannot be the community we once were. I can't help but think of all we worked for as priests to help our communities grow in the understanding of the liturgy in these past decades which now seems to be wiped out overnight; for example, active participation in said and sung responses during the liturgy. Now we can only speak quietly into our masks. Forming ourselves to look like a community by sitting together. Now we have to be distanced from one another. Just when everyone not only enjoyed the Peace Greeting, but looked forward to it, we can only nod to each other from six feet away. Sharing in the common cup of the Blood of Christ ministered by Eucharistic Ministers seems so long ago.

But what is now most disturbing is Mass attendance, keeping holy the Lord's Day, the Third Commandment of the Decalogue. Just when we were building attendance and participation at St. Matthew's, we are down to 30 / 35 participants at each Mass.

I know that people are worried, and I know that we have had a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass given by our Archbishop to September 6. Now that the dispensation has been extended to November 23, through the Feast of Christ the King, my greatest fear is that people may get used to not attending and will choose not to come back. I ask you, please do not make that mistake. Attendance is important.

Faith is sustained best in the company of others. A faith community is still what we are about. In fact, we are specifically a Eucharistic Community. To distance ourselves from the reception of Communion is a loss to us all. I know that many are viewing the Mass for Shut-ins, or "live-streaming", but it is just not the same. The decision to extend the dispensation into November is a prudent and practical response to the crisis. However, it is dramatic and not to be taken lightly. We still have a responsibility to keep holy the Lord's Day. Some for obvious reasons of underlying conditions; i.e., old age, terminal illness, breathing or mobility issues, may not be able to attend but to all others I do encourage you not to distance yourself too long from the liturgy.

Continued on Page Two



Readings for the Week of August 23, 2020

Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 [8bc]/
Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20
Monday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/
Jn 1:45-51
Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13
[13b]/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 [1]/
Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [1]/Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 [5]/
Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab
and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Mk 6:17-29
Next Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/
Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The only way to know God is to love God. Our minds will never fully grasp the mystery of God, but our hearts and souls can learn to love the mystery. Years ago, when life had a more innocent quality to it, we believed what we were told or witnessed, unless there was direct evidence otherwise. This was especially true if the information came from someone in authority. In a sense, we were a bit more gullible on one hand but also more trusting on the other. The latter is an admirable quality that sadly can be eroded when we realize we have been duped. With education and technological advances, we find ourselves more skeptical and less likely to too quickly accept and believe what we see and hear.

For all of the good that social media can do, it can also easily distort reality and truth. Photoshop and a myriad other technological truths can add to, fabricate, and make even the non-existent seem real. It is amazing. How far do we allow this obviously justifiable skepticism to take us? Questioning and doubting are healthy elements of any good relationship as long as we don't allow them to turn us away from a deeper experience of love and encounter. If we cannot get our minds around something or empirically justify or prove it, we tend to declare it a hoax, untrue, or unauthentic and walk away. The very same trust that can quickly be eroded is exactly what is essential for all of our relationships, especially our relationship with God. With all things and people that make a profound claim on us, we have to trust in the absence of knowledge. Full self-investment involves plunging completely into the unknown!

Simon Peter said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Peter came to this knowledge, which is not "head knowledge" because of the relationship he shared with Jesus and what God was able to reveal in and through that relationship. Peter simply "knew" because of love that this is who Jesus really is. The silent exchange of love between friends, and not an intellectual exercise of the mind, brought Peter to this place. When we stop and think about it, there are many things in life that we simply know but do not completely understand. When someone sacrifices their own well-being for another, it may not make intellectual sense when examined. But it makes a world of sense when it is carried out. The vastness of reality and an encounter with incomprehensible mystery all lead us to profound silence where we simply know something to be true. Have you trusted enough to allow your relationship with God to bring you to this place or are you still too skeptical?



From Father Duane's Desk

(cont'd)

We are safe here. Masks are required, hand sanitizer is available, social distancing is practiced; and we still have plenty of room. I do miss so many of you; but most of all, I'm concerned that with the extension of the dispensation we will not have seen each other or worshipped together for almost a year. This is not good for a Eucharistic Community. I would encourage you to come back as often or as soon as you can.

But no matter what happens, please keep the day holy by refraining from activities that may be more risky than going to church. If you feel well enough to go to a restaurant, visit with friends, or attend small gatherings, you should seriously consider returning to Mass.

Above all, keep the day holy by reading spiritual material, praying the Scriptures, or meditate on the mystery of the Lord's life. Pray for a quick end to this pandemic and above all pray for the strength to follow the prescribed recommendations so that the pandemic can be brought under control.

Know that I pray for you in weekday Masses and will continue to do so until we celebrate the Lord's Day again in full community.

God bless all of you, Father Duane

THANKFULNESS

*"In everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

We see troubles, problems, anger, anxiety, and judgment all around us especially in the daily news. But the Good News of the Gospel and the everyday kindness and love among regular people is often missed in their reporting. When we are looking at the half-empty part of the glass, that is what we see; but there is the other part which is half-full, and goodness and love is inherent in the creation of every human heart. Let us be thankful for what we have and for what goodness that we do see, and our awareness and gratefulness will grow to see more!

*How I praise You Lord for every day of my life,
for my family and friends and all the good things that
You have provided for me in Your love and grace.
Lord, You have blessed all those that trust in Your Son
with every spiritual blessing, for You have saved us by His
blood and clothed us in His own perfect righteousness.
You have poured out Your grace into our laps
with great abundance.*

*I thank You, Lord, for every day of my life,
for every single hour which has been given to me by grace.
I cannot draw another breath unless You give me the power.
How can I ever thank You enough, my God and my Savior?
Lord, I know that there is nothing that I have done to deserve
this favor from You, nor is there anything that I can do
to repay You for all your loving-kindness and
merciful blessings which are new every single day.*

*I pray that I may give my life as a living sacrifice of praise
to You, for You alone are worthy, You alone are the Lord.
You alone deserve all honor and glory and praise and worship,
not only today but in the eternal ages to come.
Amen.*

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Saturday, August 22, and Sunday, August 23 - Last weekend for Pregnancy Aid Baby Layette Drive



Pregnancy Aid Layette (Last Weekend)

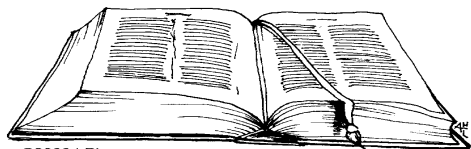
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we, as a parish, were unable to collect donations for our annual Mothers' Day Layette Drive. The parish office contacted Nancy Antner, the Director of Pregnancy Aid, to ask if there was anything that St. Matthew Parish could do to help them during this time as they minister to mothers in need.

Nancy explained that they were very low on all sorts of supplies and noted those items most needed. St. Matthew is having the layette drive on this weekend of August 15 and August 16 in honor of the Feast of the Assumption the Mary. This is the most fitting time since we did not hold it during the month of May, Mary's month.

The following are the items that are most needed. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please enclose a check (no cash) in an envelope marked "Pregnancy Aid" and place it in the collection basket, drop it off at the rectory, or give it to Father or Marilyn.

- ◆ Baby bibs and infant caps (knitted, crocheted, or purchased)
- ◆ Receiving blankets
- ◆ Baby afghans
- ◆ Onesies or baby sleepers (size 0 to 6 mos)
- ◆ Diapers (size 5 and 6)
- ◆ Baby bottles
- ◆ Baby hygiene products and baby wipes (no talcum powder)
- ◆ Pack and Plays (new or gently used)

The Pregnancy Aid Layette Drive will end this Sunday, August 23. A baby basinet is placed at the Blessed Mother's altar for your donations. However, any late gift will be accepted at the rectory during the week. Any thing you can do will be most appreciated.



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A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Like Jesus in today's Gospel, we are seen by others in different ways. Perhaps the name of our family gives us its closest to our true identity. They know us best. Who do they say you are?



CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



CSA gifts allow people to *grow with Christ* throughout our Archdiocese. Our gifts ensure others also know the Lord through the ministries, programs, and services the CSA funds in the six counties of our Archdiocese.

Witnessing Christ as one of His priests - Like many young people, Derik Peterman fell away from the Catholic faith when he went away to college. But when he found his way back to the Church, God reminded him of "this call He had placed in my heart" years before, to serve as one of His holy priests. "Although the priesthood was always in the back of my mind, I really didn't know how to respond to that calling," he said.

Then, at the first Mass he attended following a long absence, the pastor asked any men thinking about the priesthood to come talk to him. "I was blown away," Derik said.

After attending a discernment group with other college-aged men and then exploring different religious orders and seminaries, Derik found his spiritual home at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. He has been preparing to serve as a priest for our Archdiocese for the past six years.

"I've had a lot of peace, each year growing in that confidence that this is indeed, where the Lord has called me," he said. "God willing, I'll be ordained a priest in June." Gifts to the CSA support men, like Derik, who are studying for the priesthood at Sacred Heart, as well as men in formation for the permanent diaconate.

"I'm looking forward to walking with people in their journeys and helping to bring them closer to Jesus," Derik said. "However God wants me to serve them."

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

SERVERS

Saturday, August 29, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

Dan McBride

Ian Campbell

Sunday, August 30, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Bryan Jones

Cory Fullilove
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, August 22 - Vigil: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 p.m. - Anna Martinelli

Sunday, August 23 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark

Monday, August 24 - St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Tuesday, August 25 - St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest
9:00 a.m. - For Healthcare Workers and their Families

Wednesday, August 26 -
9:00 a.m. - For Military Men and Women Serving around the
World

Thursday, August 27 - St. Monica


Friday, August 28 - St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the
Church
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, August 29 - Vigil: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, August 30 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, For an Increase in Vocations to the
Priesthood and Consecrated Life



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