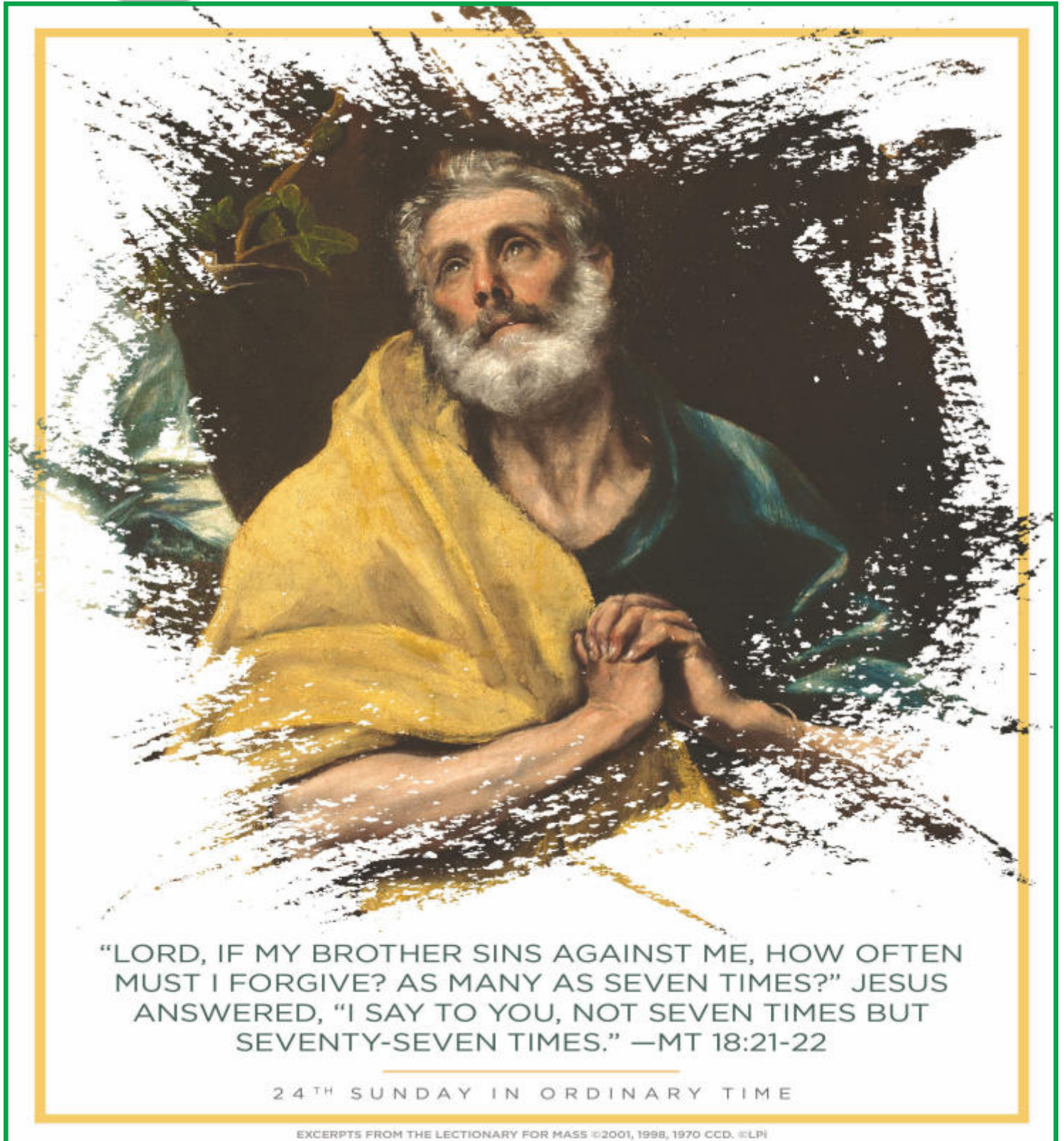




# *Saint Matthew Church* **The PULSE**

September 13, 2020

Detroit, Michigan



"LORD, IF MY BROTHER SINS AGAINST ME, HOW OFTEN MUST I FORGIVE? AS MANY AS SEVEN TIMES?" JESUS ANSWERED, "I SAY TO YOU, NOT SEVEN TIMES BUT SEVENTY-SEVEN TIMES." —MT 18:21-22

24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## Readings for the Week of September 13, 2020

Sunday: Sir 27:30—28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8]/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35  
Monday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17  
Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 31:2 and 3b, 3cd-4, 5-6, 15-16, 20 [17]/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35  
Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22 [12]/Lk 7:31-35  
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28 [1]/Lk 7:36-50  
Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15 [15b]/Lk 8:1-3  
Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14 [14]/Lk 8:4-15  
Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 [18a]/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a



### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

What right do we have to limit the amount and degree of forgiveness we show to others when we are so desperately in need of it ourselves? In not wanting someone who hurt us to downplay or forget the gravity of their wrong, we cling to anger, resentment, and wrath as a way of maintaining control. It is a way to acknowledge and express our deep hurt.

We fail to realize that in doing so we hold ourselves hostage to these destructive feelings and actually become mired in the bondage of sin. All we gain is further alienation from ourselves, others, and especially God. We are no longer free but tethered to all of this unresolved negativity. Don't we really want to let it go? The fact is that we need to.

A good self-reflective posture will quickly show us that when the shoe is on the other foot and we are the ones in need of forgiveness, we desire it above anything else. This is especially true with our relationship with God. It is hypocritical to want one thing for ourselves and something else for another. Yet, many act in precisely this way.

Perhaps we think that in offering forgiveness, even for the most grievous of wrongs, somehow excuses the person of their wrong and makes it almost acceptable. This is what makes revenge, retaliation, and punishment so attractive. We see forgiveness as being an eraser that easily wipes away the offense without consequence. Or, we may believe that in offering forgiveness I must somehow forget the wrong and open myself as a victim of even greater possible hurts in the future. In fact, forgiving my sister or brother of their wrongful actions or attitudes involves none of this. It does not erase anything or position me vulnerably as a doormat to be walked on.

Forgiveness is an act of freedom that restores honest dialogue, shares true, and heartfelt feelings and acknowledges the consequences of an action. It admits that the wrong has caused a hurt that must be healed and squarely positions responsibility on the offender. The act of forgiveness recognizes our sinfulness and brokenness. It also admits that the most saintly among us is capable of doing very grave and deep harm to another person. It sees that we all can be victims of our passions and works in progress that deserve unlimited chances to get it right. With forgiveness, I release myself from the bonds of negativity and pursue a path of restoration, wholeness, and healing. I do not forget the wrong nor do I dismiss it. Sometimes, we have to stay far away from the one who hurt us. But we can still heal internally and be free.

For the one who wants to be forgiven and the one who needs offer forgiveness, the journey can be an adventure in learning what brought us to this place and what is needed to move forward. This is exactly how God treats us. Why would we not want to do the same for others?



### The Story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Monday, September 14th

Early in the 4th Century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the 2nd-Century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the 4th Century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was

taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the 7th Century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

*Reflection: The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewelry. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority—including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.*



### A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Unable to forgive another, means we are holding onto a past wrong and hoping for a better past. That is not going to happen. We must move on with our life by accepting we were unjustly treated, and it will not be corrected. We aren't condoning the injustice. We just don't let it control our lives any longer. Forgiveness is critical to living a healthy life in the present.

## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Saturday, September 12, and Sunday,  
September 13 - CSA Giving Weekend

### CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ

Have you considered that this time of challenge and uncertainty could possibly be the Church in Detroit's finest hour? This is a time for our parishes and communities to do what we do best: rise up. In Southeast Michigan, we are no strangers to challenges, and we, with the grace and love of God, have always been resilient, rising from the ashes and overcoming these trials.

Over the past year, even amidst trial, we haven't stopped working to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, or equip individuals to know the love of God. This pandemic has not stopped us from sharing the Gospel! But this mission isn't something we can do alone.

Your generosity to the Catholic Services Appeal makes all these efforts possible. It brings livestreamed Mass to those who can't attend, powers our Christian Service programs and outreach, helps us learn how to better share Jesus in our diverse and multicultural Detroit community, and helps individuals and families grow closer to God even while physically distanced. Your gifts to the CSA does all this, and so much more.

Jesus told his disciples, "Rise up, and be not afraid." Now it is our turn to answer the call, to rise up and be united in the mission of Christ. Please, prayerfully consider making a one-time or recurring gift to help continue this mission and to help each parish, family, and individual throughout the Archdiocese bring the hope of Jesus and his message to Southeast Michigan and beyond.

***This is Giving Sunday for the CSA.***

***Please take a few moments to fill out your pledge card, place it in the enclosed self-addressed envelope, and mail it to the Archdiocese.***

***Use your phone to call 888-331-8695 and following the prompts, make your pledge.***

***Or give online at [www.givecsa.org](http://www.givecsa.org)***

***Your gift is truly a gift to St. Matthew Parish.***



### THINK ABOUT THIS!

"...the Lord sees not as man sees;  
for man looks on the outward appearance,  
but the Lord looks on the heart."

We can think about what we look like in many ways, but there is no better way to look than inside our own heart to see if we look and act like Christ in following his ways and his thoughts and his life. When we look this way, we may see things in ourselves that are not right and can even be ugly, but in seeing them we choose to ask God to help us change, this is the beginning of a deeper repentance. It takes courage to find out what is wrong when we are ill, but it is much better than being terribly surprised later.

God has only good will for us, and we have to work with him to change. Let us start today by taking a moment to reflect on the inmost image and likeness that he has given us. Is it currently what we really want, or do we want to look more like him in the time to come!

### ***Our Lady of Sorrows, Feast Day, September 15***

*O most holy virgin, mother of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
by the overwhelming grief you experienced  
when you witnessed the martyrdom, the crucifixion,  
and the death of your divine Son,  
look upon me with eyes of compassion and awaken  
in my heart a tender commiseration for those sufferings,  
as well as a sincere detestation of my sins, in order that,  
having removed myself from all undue affections  
for the passing joys of this earth,  
I may long for the eternal Jerusalem,  
and that all my thoughts and all my actions may be directed  
toward this one most desirable object.  
Honor, glory, and love to our divine Lord Jesus,  
and to the holy and immaculate mother of God. Amen.*

### 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



# Grandparents Day

~ Sunday, September 13 ~

***Celebrate Grandparents Day!***

***Keep them healthy and safe!***

***Throw kisses and give a big hug from the heart!***

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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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.<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      | 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      | Albert Fajardo         |
| Stephanie Smith     | Lolita Dorado          |
| Janet Law           | Eduardo Fajardo        |
| Laura Alix          | Sarah Wagner           |
| Betty Leone         | Kathy Lozon            |
| Michelle Harter     |                        |
| Jo Marie Nardi      |                        |
| David Beaupre       |                        |
| Kenneth Beaupre     |                        |
| Anthony Crimauto    |                        |



# Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

## LECTORS

## SERVERS

Saturday, September 19, 2020, 4:30 p.m.  
Bruce Campbell

Ian Campbell

Sunday, September 20, 2020, 10:00 a.m.  
William Zuerblis

Lauren Gross  
Julia Zuerblis

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday, September 12 - Vigil: 24th Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time

4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

### Sunday, September 13 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Anna Sasinowski, Ginger Cottone (4th Anniv), Lucille Zelenak (19th Anniv), Stella Urso (21st Anniv), Lucia Cottone, Gaetano Cottone, Ross Chinnici (13th Anniv), Bobby Hanshaw, Mary Flood

### Monday, September 14 - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

### Tuesday, September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows

9:00 a.m. - For the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

### Wednesday, September 16 - Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian Bishop, Martyrs

9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

### Thursday, September 17 - St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

### Friday, September 18 -

9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Saturday, September 19 - Vigil: 25th Sunday in Ordinary

#### Time


4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

### Sunday, September 20 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark



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