



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

September 20, 2020

Detroit, Michigan



## 25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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“Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.” - Mt 20:16

## Readings for the Week of September 20, 2020

Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 [18a]/  
Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a  
Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13  
Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44  
[35]/Lk 8:19-21  
Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163  
[105]/Lk 9:1-6  
Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and  
17bc [1]/Lk 9:7-9  
Friday: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4 [1]/  
Lk 9:18-22  
Saturday: Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and  
17 [1]/Lk 9:43b-45  
Next Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [6a]/Phil 2:1-  
11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

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



If I work for five hours, I expect to get paid for five hours. If I work for two, I expect to get paid for two. What if we worked for a company that paid everyone the same amount regardless of how long they worked? How would we feel going home with the same

pay for working eight hours as my co-worker did for working only two hours? Secular wisdom would have a huge problem with this and a visit to the Labor Board would quickly pursue. But this is God's wisdom and God's ways.

We sometimes think that if we pray more, better, or more fervently and go over and above with the practice of our faith, God will somehow reward us and present us with some kind of merit badge. We are so wrong. Spiritual practices have only one true purpose: to deepen our love for God. In deepening our love for God, we also increase our ability to see God's presence around us, living life more purposefully and contemplatively. What if God chooses to treat someone who has come on the scene of faith later in life the same as someone who has devoted their whole lives to it? Does it really matter? If we have the merit badge notion of faith, we can find ourselves feeling a little arrogant and even jealous of folks who have not followed the same path that we have. We can even see ourselves as the privileged few who have a corner on the faith and fully possess it.

That thinking doesn't square with God. God is all about mercy in abundance and is ready to take anyone to himself regardless of when they come. He is only happy that they have come home and delights in their return. After all, if you really and truly love someone, does it matter what they will give you in return or what you receive as a benefit? If relationships were assessed based upon productivity, they would lack authentic love. We invest too much self interest in our prayer and neglect to see it as an opportunity to pursue our Lover and deepen the intimate bond we have with God.

When we breathe our last, all that is of consequence is union with God. If my love for God is real, I am going to want to live the Gospel, abide by the commandments, practice my faith, forgive and love my neighbor, and care for the environment, regardless of how much time it takes or benefits me. We want God to think and behave as we do, and in doing so, we set ourselves up for disappointment. God has a totally different agenda and that's okay.

### ~ Our Parish Patron ~ St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Feast Day, September 21st



Among the early followers and apostles of Jesus, Matthew is mentioned in the gospels as a publican who, while sitting at the "receipt of custom" in Capernaum, was called to follow Jesus. Matthew was a 1st Century Galilean (presumably born in Galilee), the son of Alpheus. As a tax collector, he would have been literate in Aramaic and Greek. His fellow Jews would have despised him for what was seen as collaborating with the Roman occupation force.

After his call, Matthew invited Jesus home for a feast. On seeing this, the Scribes and the Pharisees criticized Jesus for eating with tax collectors and sinners. This prompted Jesus to answer, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Mark 2:17, Luke 5:32)

Through Matthew's Gospel, we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament.

It was many years following the death of Christ that Matthew wrote his Gospel account, around 41 and 50 AD. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. This was an important message at the time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword.

It is believed that he departed for other lands (perhaps with St. Thomas) to escape persecution sometime after 41 AD, possibly Parthia, Persia, or Ethiopia. We do not know how died, whether a natural death or martyrdom.

St. Matthew is often depicted with one of the four living creatures of Revelation 4:7 which reads, "The first living creature was a like lion, the second like a bull, the third living creature had a human face, and the fourth living creature was a flying eagle." St. Matthew's symbol is an angel (the human face). His relics were supposedly discovered in Salerno in 1080. As a tax collector, he is the patron of bankers.

*O Glorious St. Matthew, in your Gospel  
You portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah  
who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant  
and as the new Lawgiver who founded a  
Church of the New Covenant.*

*Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in his Church  
and to follow his teachings in our lives on earth  
so that we may live forever with him in heaven.*



### A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today Jesus is saying to us: "Why are you idle? Go into my vineyard." Family, where "the last will be first," is the "vineyard" entrusted to us on today's Gospel. Successful families are constructed by "laborers," who work hard on family relationships, and not by couch potatoes.

## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Saturday, September 19, and Sunday, September 20 - The 2020 Catholic Services Appeal Campaign Continues



*To New Parishioner*

*Mary Lusch of Clinton Township*

*Mother of Patrick Lusch*

*and Proud Grandma of*

*Kylan, Kinsleigh, and Kamden*

*St. Matthew's Catholic Community welcomes you,*

*Mary, and we hope that you find your spiritual home here with us.*

### The Cathedral Cultural Series

*Writing my annual letter, I never imagined the cancellation of our spring concert and streaming Lenten vespers from my living room piano! We look forward to the day when we can all be together again at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.*

*For safety of all, the AoD does not allow its churches to hold non-liturgical events of more than 10 people. This means that we cannot have our normal Cathedral Cultural Series for the foreseeable future. We will instead have pop-up concerts for the 2020-2021 season. Watch our Facebook page or visit [detcathedral.org](http://detcathedral.org), the announcement of concerts about a month before they take place. These concerts will be available by stream only. Please join us.*

*This fall, we have tentative plans for a 95th birthday recital for our Casavant organ along with certain Detroit Symphony players highlighting our favorites for an Advent/Christmas concert.*

*In this time of social distancing, connection is more important than ever. We are so glad to be connected to you through the Cathedral Cultural Series. We look forward to building even deeper connections following the end to these extraordinary times.*

*Sincerely, Joe Balistreri and the CCS Steering Committee*

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Gary and Kristen Stark  
on this Happy Occasion  
of your Fifth Wedding Anniversary

May God bless you with health and happiness and keep you in each other's love forever.

## CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



The theme for the 2020 Catholic Services Appeal takes inspiration from the city of Detroit's motto given by Father Gabriel Richard, "We hope for better things; it will rise from the ashes." These are also the words Jesus speaks to his disciples after the Transfiguration: "Rise and be not afraid." (Matt 17:7)

This year, as our families, parishes, and communities find ways to continue the mission of Christ amid new challenges, we are reminded that we too must rise up, follow Christ, and share with others the peace and joy that comes from knowing we are loved and that God is with us at all times.

Please make your pledge today. Visit [www.givecsa.org](http://www.givecsa.org) to make your gift and learn more. Or you can send in your card with your pledge or with your gift to the AoD. Your gift helps St. Matthew Parish as well as supporting the outreach programs of the Catholic Services Appeal.

**In the month of September,  
let us pray that our planet's resources  
will not be plundered, but respected and shared  
in a just and respectful manner.**

### Prayer Vigil for Life!

A *Prayer Vigil for Life* sponsored by Helpers of God's Precious Infants in conjunction with St. Basil the Great Parish, will be held on Saturday, September 26, starting at 7:30 a.m. Mass will be offered at St. Basil's by Archbishop Vigneron and Fr. Fedewa, pastor of St. Basil Church, Eastpointe. A procession from St. Veronica's Parish on Universal will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The Rosary will be prayed as a group on the Eight Mile median in front of both abortion clinics. The Vigil concludes with benediction at St. Basil Church, approximately at 10:15 a.m.

For more information, please call Mary Beckhold at 586-216-7867.

### 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*  
Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*  
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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GARY STARK ~ *MEMBERS*

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

# Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

## LECTORS

Saturday, September 26, 2020, 4:30 p.m.  
Julie Smith

Sunday, September 27, 2020, 10:00 a.m.  
Liz Foley-Dunstone

## SERVERS

Lauren Smith

Jermaine Donaldson  
Cory Fullilove

## Mass Schedule

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

4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish, Gary and Kristen Stark (5th Wedding Anniv Blessing)

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

10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark

### Monday, September 21 - St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

### Tuesday, September 22 -

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

### Wednesday, September 23 - St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

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

### Thursday, September 24 -

### Friday, September 25 -

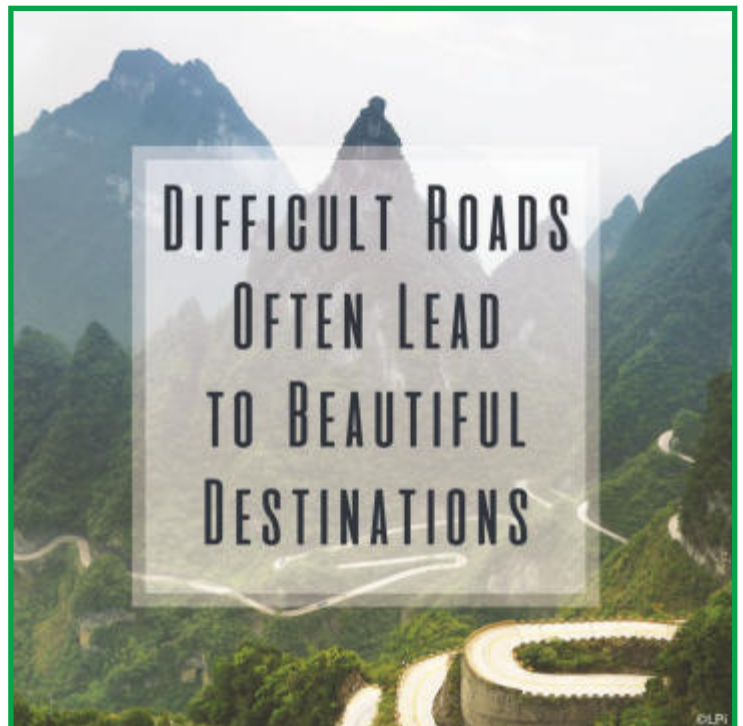
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Saturday, September 26 - Vigil: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time


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

### Sunday, September 27 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Rose Marie Zajac-Parker, For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life



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