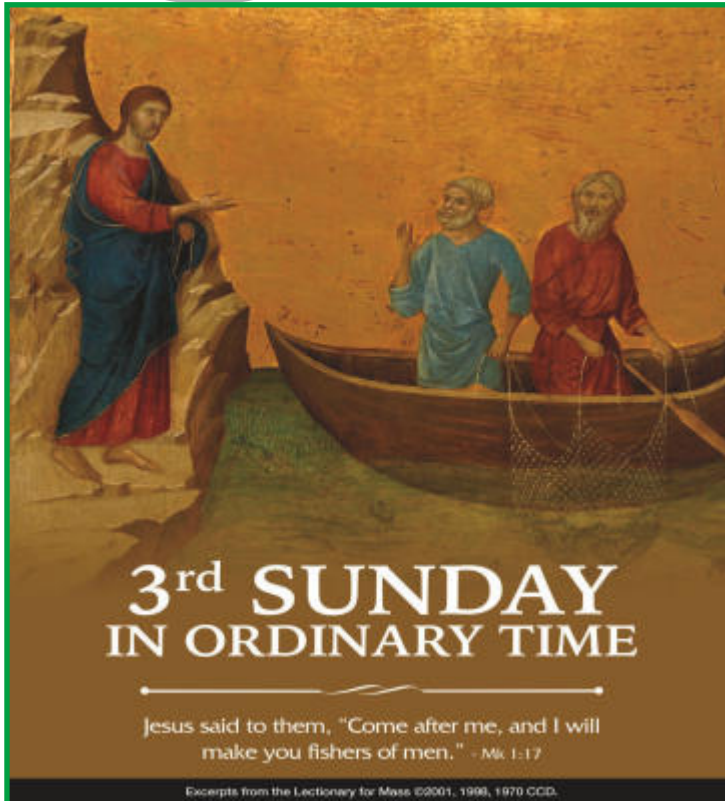




Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

January 24, 2021

Detroit, Michigan



Congratulations to One of Our Own

~ Mr. Bill Ridella ~

In public as well as ecclesial service, it is said that when one is honored, we are all honored. Today, we spotlight and recognize the accomplishments of our long-time parishioner, Bill Ridella, upon his retirement. On January 8, 2021, the State of Michigan along with the Macomb County Board of Commissioners paid tribute and gave proclamation to Mr. Ridella for his 42 years of service to public health in the City of Detroit and Macomb County.

Bill Ridella first joined the Macomb County Health Department working in the Women-Infants-Children (WIC) program. After a year with the department, he continued on a 31-year career with the Detroit Health Department and eventually became the Deputy Health Director. In 2012, Bill rejoined the Macomb County Health Department as Director / Health Officer where he served with distinction for the last eight years of his career. He saw Macomb County through this past year of the COVID-19 pandemic bringing his expertise and patient leadership to help move the community to effectively implement recommended directives to ensure the health and safety of people.



Bill Ridella throughout his career worked for the health and well-being of people. His concern and the approach he took to his work reflected his faith in God, in the Church, and his belief in the dignity of all. He worked to recognize and bridge inequalities in healthcare and to bring a just approach to the delivery of care to a diverse community. Much of this has been fostered here at St. Matthew Parish where, for Bill, faith and service are one. He along with his wife, Laura, of 34 years and their children have been members of St. Matthew's since 1985. They have offered their time to our St. Vincent de Paul Society outreach, and he ministers as a lector on Sundays and continues to bring his expertise to the development of our parish safety plan.

We are proud to say that Mr. Ridella is a part of our faith community and has taken a bit of St. Matthew Parish into the marketplace.

Congratulations, Bill, a job well done. Enjoy your retirement years. May you remain healthy and thank you for your years of service. We all share in your honor!

Father Duane R. Novelly, Pastor

Readings for the Week of January 24, 2021

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/
1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20
Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [
Mk 16:15]/Mk 16:15-18
Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a,
10 [3]/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/
Mk 4:21-25
Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40
[39a]/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75
[cf. 68]/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/
1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

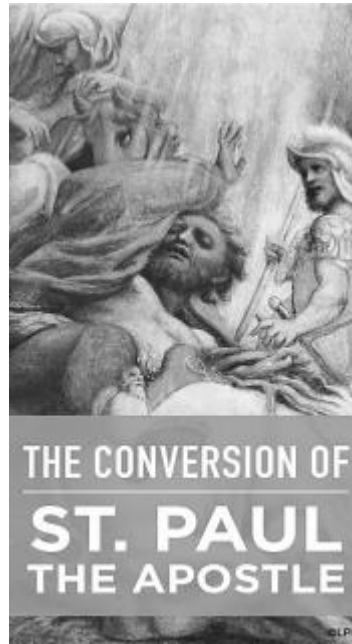
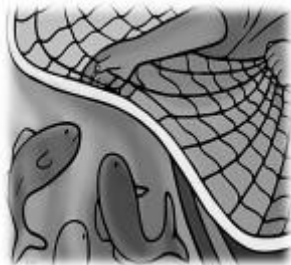
It was a normal day by all accounts, but John just wasn't feeling himself. He was a little light-headed and out of sorts. Later in the afternoon, he experienced a sharp pain in his chest and arm. Quick thinking and action brought John to the emergency department with a diagnosis of a significant heart attack.

Surviving this ordeal, he found himself face to face with his cardiologist, having an honest conversation about things that needed to change. "I came close to death," John found himself thinking. Then came the remorse. He was a young man with a loving wife and children who were very close to facing life without him. John found himself with intense sorrow for living an unchecked and self-indulgent life that almost brought him to his demise. He wanted to change.

We all have our wake-up calls. We have experiences and encounters that force us to really think twice about choices we have made and directions we have taken. Often, we find ourselves looking at those we have hurt square in the eye and wallowing in our foolishness. We regrettably realize that we have allowed our needs to lure us into making some cruel mistakes. We impulsively say things and flippantly do things that reveal our unredeemed and unhealed self. It is a self we stumble over and try to tame but can't quite seem to master and control. Help!

We spin our wheels, naively thinking that we will somehow, perhaps through persistence, get ourselves unstuck. But, we don't. We just get out of the car, feeling very helpless, and ignorantly look at the mess we got ourselves into. Did we ever think to ask someone for help? Or, taken the advice of One who is wiser and avoid this route altogether? "Come after me," are words that Jesus says to all of us. In order to heed his invitation, we must leave our ego-self behind and follow.

When we really see and understand the freedom, peace, justice, and love he offers, we find ourselves with such sorrow in our hearts for how foolish and silly we have been. All the misguided choices and sinful actions come full view and we see how risky our random impassioned behaviors really have been. Repentance is beautiful. When done with a sincere and contrite heart, it directs us to the glory that can be ours, ignites us with the challenge of living a life in service of others and reminds us that all is well.



Feast Day, January 25

Before his conversion, Paul, also known as Saul, was "a Pharisee of Pharisees", who "intensely persecuted" the followers of Jesus. Says Paul in his Epistle to the Galatians: "For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers." (Galatians 1:13-14).

Paul also discusses his pre-conversion life in his Epistle to the Philippians, [3:4-6] and his participation in the stoning of Stephen is described in Acts 7:57-8:3.

The conversion of Paul, in spite of his attempts to completely eradicate Christianity, is seen as evidence of the power of Divine Grace, with "no fall so deep that grace cannot descend to it" and "no height so lofty that grace cannot lift the sinner to it." It also demonstrates "God's power to use everything, even the hostile persecutor, to achieve the divine purpose."

There is no evidence to suggest that Paul arrived on the road to Damascus with a single, solid, coherent scheme that could form the framework of his mature theology. Instead, the conversion, and the associated understanding of the significance of the resurrection of the crucified Jesus, caused him to rethink from the ground up everything he had ever believed in, from his own identity to his understanding of Second Temple Judaism and who God really was.

The transforming effect of Paul's conversion influenced the clear antithesis he saw "between righteousness based on the law," which he had sought in his former life; and "righteousness based on the death of Christ," which he describes, for example, in the Epistle to the Galatians.

Based on Paul's testimony in Galatians 1 and the accounts in Acts (Acts 9, 22, 26), where it is specifically mentioned that Paul was tasked to be a witness to the Gentiles, it could be interpreted that what happened on the road to Damascus was not just a conversion from first-century Judaism to a faith centered on Jesus Christ, but also a commissioning of Paul as an Apostle to the Gentiles—although in Paul's mind they both amounted to the same thing



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

It must have been difficult for Zebedee to watch his sons walk away and follow Jesus. It was the end of "Zebedee and Sons Fishing, Inc." Our children were never ours. They are only on loan to us. We raise them to let them go.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Wednesday, January 27, 7:30 pm -
Father Novelly's Class for RCIA, St. Clare
of Montefalco Church

**Save the Date - Tuesday, February 9,
at 6 pm - Parish Council / Leadership
Group Meeting, SWOT Analysis, Church
Auditorium**

THANK YOU TO OUR ONLINE GIVERS

Many many thanks to those who are giving their weekly contributions online. And, especially to those of you who have signed up for the convenience of giving online during this "year of the COVID-19 pandemic." Your decision has helped St. Matthew Parish in its efforts to maintain sustainability during this difficult economic time.

You are able to access your year-end online giving statement using these instructions or follow those on the OSV website.

1. Log in to your Online Giving donor account on the parish website.
2. Click on "My Online Giving History."
3. On the right side, click the "Print" button.
4. Set your date range from 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020.
5. Change the report type to "Full Detail Report (Tax Purposes)".
6. Leave the tax filter option checked.
7. Click "Print".
8. Your report will open in a new window.
9. You will need to export the report to a PDF to print the full report.
10. Click the PDF link at the top of the screen to open the report as a PDF to print your report.

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Courage in Hardship

A Prayer of Trust & Intercession

Jesus, in these difficult times,
we renew our faith and trust in You.

We believe in your tender love for all people and your absolute sovereignty over world affairs.

Send your Holy Spirit to protect the Church and our country and to console all believers, especially those burdened with fear and anxiety.

We pray especially for all church and civil leaders, may they shepherd your people with wisdom and grace amidst uncertainty.

In this time of insecurity and doubt,
open anew the hearts of all people and raise them up to witness your everlasting love.

Amen.

CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ

Please remember to respond to your invitation to pledge to the Catholic Services Appeal. Our parish benefits from your pledges and payments. Repeat the Success! Double the Participation! Thank you!



*Rose Mass for the Unborn
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
at 6 p.m.*

*Our Lady of Good Counsel Church
46750 Territorial Road
Plymouth, 48170*

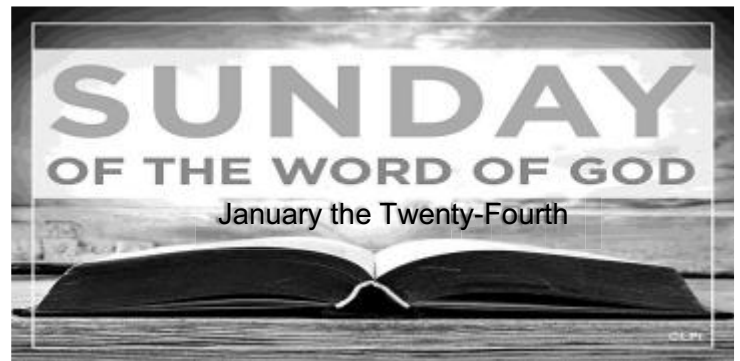


*The Ceremony features the presentation of a rose
and a petition commemorating victims of abortion
for each year since Roe v Wade.*

*Christians of all denominations are invited
and welcome.*

*Let us unite to give witness to the sanctity
of human life!*

*Proceeds from the collection benefit the efforts of
Right to Life - LIFESPAN*



3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

6021 Whittier, Detroit 48224-2637
Rectory Office: (313) 884-4470
Rectory Fax: (313) 884-4276
E-mail : stmatthew27@aol.com
Website: www.stmatthewdetroit.com
Office Hours: Monday through Friday
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

Marilyn Lynn ~ *Secretary*
Gloria Bermudez ~ *Bookkeeper*

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Bill Zuerblis ~ *Financial Council Chair*
Michael Dulapa ~ *Evangelization Chair*
Patricia Camazzola-Godoshian,
Bryan Jones, David Smydra ~ *Members at Large*
Sharon & Jerry Mielke ~ *VPC Representatives*

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BILL ZUERBLIS ~ *CHAIR*
MARY ANN BOLONE, JOHN DUNSTONE, JEFF SMITH,
GARY STARK ~ *MEMBERS*

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.

Joe Petrylka	Eduardo Fajardo
Anthony Mastronardi	Aurora Guinto
Stephanie Smith	Mary Spansky
Janet Law	Marie Kane
Laura Alix	Mike Dulapa
Betty Leone	Mike and Linda Holster
Jo Marie Nardi	Irene McCann
Anthony Crimauco	Bing Ocampo
Rosemary Schoolcraft	John and Kathy Bush
Tiffany Gelle	
Robert Stark	
Pauline Williams	
Bill Solomon	
Eloise Parker	
Herb and Jeanne Damman	
Doreen Redman	
Sarah Wagner	
Nenette Ferreria	
Lolita Dorado	
Albert Fajardo	

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

Saturday, January 30, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
Dan McBride

Sunday, January 31, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Bill Ridella

SERVERS

Ian Campbell

Cory Fullilove
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, January 23 - Vigil: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, January 24 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Chuck Schuster, Connie Schuster (6th Anniv), Roger Sharpe

Monday, January 25 - Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

Tuesday, January 26 - Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
9:00 a.m. - For Healthcare and Frontline Workers


Wednesday, January 27 - St. Angela Merici, Virgin and Religious Founder
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

Thursday, January 28 - St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Friday, January 29 -
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, January 30 - Vigil: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, January 31 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Winnifred Tobin (52nd Anniv), Helen Rice (29th Anniv), For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life



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IN ACCEPTING THE
TRUTH OF GOD'S
WORD, BUT IN
PERSEVERING IN IT.

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