



Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

February 14, 2021

Detroit, Michigan

6th
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."
 - Mk 1:40-41

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**DISTRIBUTION
 OF ASHES**
**WEDNESDAY
 FEBRUARY 17TH**
**9 A.M. MASS
 AND
 7 P.M. MASS**

**ASH
 WEDNESDAY**

From Father Duane's Desk

I was very pleased to be able to make the announcement regarding our school buildings last weekend. Due to the pandemic, I know that many parishioners did not hear the announcement because they are not yet back to church. So, I am publishing the full announcement in The Pulse this week because many parishioners do access the parish paper online. I encourage everyone to read it anew even if you have heard it at Mass. Sometimes, a second hearing brings out additional information and understanding.



Remember this vision is in a developmental stage and nothing is final at this time. So, please continue to pray for a successful development. I feel confident that this will be good for our parish, our neighborhood, and for the people who are served by CCSEM.

We also heard from the Archbishop regarding the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. In fact, his complete statement was sent on social media to all Catholics who are connected to it. But, in brief, the Archbishop indicated that the **general** dispensation will be extended only for one month, until March 13th. With its expiration, we encourage parishioners to return to the celebration of the Eucharist, an **essential** part of our faith and life. For God comes to us in Christ Jesus not virtually but in flesh and blood, the Body and Blood of Christ received in Holy Communion.

Fully aware of extenuating circumstances, a **particular** dispensation will be granted for those who are ill or anyone caring for one who is at risk of serious complications from COVID-19, as well as those who may have significant anxiety or fear of getting sick from being in a public setting.

The judgment to return should be based on your need for communion with the Lord; and, if you are engaging in other activities like eating out at restaurants, traveling, partaking in non-essential shopping, widening one's circle of contacts, or other non-essential activities, it is advised that you return to an essential part of your spiritual life, the Holy Eucharist.

Of course, we will still practice all standard protocols, i.e., masks, hand sanitizing, social distancing, and complying with a recommended 50% capacity of our worship space. However, with distance protocols already in place, we can comfortably accommodate just over 100 people. To date, during the pandemic, we've only had 40 to 60 people attend. We can certainly accommodate more, especially as we approach the Lent and Easter Seasons.

I hope to see many more return to our Sunday celebrations as we anticipate the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection which we were not able to do last year.

Continued on Page Three

Readings for the Week of February 14, 2021

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45
Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 [14a]/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10 [11b]/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Church, as a voice of the Gospel, proclaims the sacredness of all human life. Everyone created by God is fashioned in God's image and has Divine DNA at the center of their soul. God never leaves what God creates but always remains intimately bound to what he has given form. Everyone has a place and because they have received the gift of Divine Blessing, nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, unclean or marginalized. Even the most broken of souls has a place. We, the Body of Christ, have the privilege and responsibility to give voice to the voiceless. The cries of the little one in his or her mother's womb are just as sacred as the cries of one who is homeless and hungry. The migrant deserves our attention as much as the forgotten elderly and even the prisoner, with a heart hardened by anger and resentment, deserves respect and dignity.

The Gospel of Life is often hard to swallow, and we would rather keep those we consider unclean, different or unfixable in a place by themselves. It is hard to see them with us, but they deserve to be. There is far too much violence in this world and the result of that violence is the assault on human life. Many are forced to leave the place they call home in search of safer ground, finding few if any along the way who will help them. How different today's Gospel story would be if Jesus gave in to what was politically correct at that time. The leper would have been turned away and a soul, already beaten down by disease and fear, would have experienced an even deeper wound. Jesus wouldn't have captured much attention from anyone, nor would he have mirrored the Father's compassion and love.

Where do we stand with all of this? Do we at least understand that God's vision is often in conflict with the vision put forth in our world and even the one we advance ourselves? There is no doubt that it is incredibly challenging to find a place for everyone at the table. This challenge is compounded when the systems of operation and structure that are so ingrained in us affirm power and privilege rather than inclusivity and justice. Everything really goes askew when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice and entitlement raise their ugly heads and we find ourselves with quite a mess. It's time to admit that things have been a mess for a very long time. The mess needs to be healed, not by erasing it but by allowing God to touch it and make it whole. We need to bring God back to the center of life where God belongs. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But, knowing that wholeness, healing, and dignity are worthy pursuits, we can more confidently labor to achieve God's vision.



AUGUSTUS TOLTON.

In Honor of Black History Month We Celebrate Venerable Augustus Tolton

Venerable Tolton himself was born into slavery and owned by a white Catholic family in Brush Creek, Missouri.

His Catholic mother, however, nourished his faith in God, and when they escaped to Quincy, Illinois, in 1862, it was a Catholic priest who made sure that he attended the all-white Catholic school and graduated college. But the U.S. bishops, who decades earlier ignored a papal condemnation of slavery, refused to allow him to enter any of their seminaries.

Eventually, Rome decided to ordain him, and after graduating St. Francis Solanus University (now Quincy University) in Illinois

and attending the Pontifical Urban University in Rome, he was ordained a priest in Rome in 1886.

The Vatican sent him back to the U.S. as his mission field, where he ministered in Quincy, attracting large numbers of white and black Christians to his parish. There some despised him, and others found him refreshing and "an experience of God in our midst." Eventually, his opponents forced him to leave Quincy for Chicago, where he founded St. Monica's parish in 1891, with its first church built in 1893. After serving St. Monica's for six years as its first pastor, Father Tolton died of heat exhaustion in 1897.

One of Father Tolton's geniuses is that he saw the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith despite his experiences. Father Tolton had some really rough experiences on the part of Catholics, but he saw something deeper and survived. Since Rome's decree about Venerable Tolton, the African American priest's story is appealing because his life reminds Catholics in a powerful way that they must follow Jesus where he calls and witness to the fact that "God commands us to love one another as he taught us."

Intercession Prayer for the Canonization of Ven. Augustus Tolton

O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest,
Fr. Augustus Tolton,

who labored among us in times of contradiction,
times that were both beautiful and paradoxical.
His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly
Catholic gathering in faith in our time.

We stand in the shadow of his ministry.

May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with
that confidence and hope that will forge
a new evangelization for the Church we love.
Father in Heaven, Fr. Tolton's suffering service
sheds light upon our sorrows;
we see them through the prism of your Son's
passion and death.

Complete what you have begun in us,
that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord; Father,
Son and Holy Spirit, living and reigning forever and ever.
Amen.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Saturday, February 13, 4:30 pm, and Sunday, February 14, 10 am, Masses, respectively - Bring your old palms back to church for Ash Wednesday!

Ash Wednesday, February 17 - Masses are celebrated at 9 am and 7 pm with distribution of ashes.


From Father Duane's Desk *(cont'd)*

Having said that, our preparation for Easter begins on Ash Wednesday this coming week. With proper protocols in place, we will have the distribution of ashes with a global or universal directive to reform our lives and follow the Gospel with the placement of ashes on your forehead with the minister being gloved. Ashes being an inert material, the health experts indicated that the risk of any transmission is negligible. Again, distribution of ashes will be at the 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses.

Just a reminder that Rice Bowls will be available on the First Sunday of Lent for your use. Their return will be on Palm Sunday.

Let us keep each other in prayer. As more people are vaccinated and the number of infections start to trend down throughout the country, we pray the Lord will strengthen us to move through these difficult times, so we may fully return to being church to and for one another. Please pray for me as well.

God bless you, Father Duane!



Lenten Disciplines of Fasting & Abstinence

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Family life is about decisions. The leper in today's Gospel knew this when he said to Jesus. "If you will, you can make me clean." Jesus knew this, and he said, "I do will it." Love is not an emotion. It is a decision to be with and for another person in "good times and bad," even when we don't feel like it.

CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



The 2021 CSA campaign will start in May, with one Sunday in May designated as CSA Sunday, this date at the discretion of the pastor. Bulletin articles, posters, and other CSA materials will be made available to parishioners. However, pledge cards and letters will be mailed directly from the CSA Offices to include those donors who have given in the years 2017 through 2020.

The 2020 CSA is ongoing until May 31, 2021. You still have time to pledge and continue your payments. Remember your CSA contributions help sustain St. Matthew Parish.



Important Announcement re: Catholic Charities of SE Michigan and St. Matthew

For the past 13 years, we have prayed in our General Intercessions at Mass, "For the appropriate transition of our school buildings as we seek to further the Gospel message as a parish and as a community resource." Persistence in prayer does bear fruit. I want to share with you some exciting developments.

CCSEM along with the national organization, CCUSA, a leading organization in addressing the needs of the poor, along with Ascension Healthcare has approached us, St. Matthew Parish, with a vision for affordable housing in the city of Detroit. A concept that is beginning to take root in five other major US cities. The vision is to re-purpose older school buildings to meet the needs of the marginalized with affordable healthy housing.

To that end, CCSEM approached us to share their vision. Needless to say, we listened, we were open, excited, and cooperative in listening to them. Upon recommendation of the Finance Council, the Parish Council prayerfully deliberated the matter and found it to be appropriate. In fact, the idea seemed to be an excellent opportunity for a new charism in our parish. The Parish Council approved to move forward with discussions in an exploratory fashion to determine feasibility.

Again, this is a vision for the future and many pieces need to be put in place particularly by CCSEM for this to be realized. However, the parish leadership both financial and lay see this as an exciting possibility and opportunity to partner with a solid organization who can bring about a sustainable usage of our buildings. "An appropriate transition" as we have been praying, not only to use our buildings well, but to make them compatible with our campus and mission and be, also as we have been praying, "a community resource."

I bring this to your attention now after consulting with our Finance Chair, Bill Zuerblis, and our Parish Council President, John Dunstone, and members of the Council along with the AoD Properties Office because the vision has moved to examine zoning of the property and notices have been publicly placed on our buildings for a zoning hearing. So, if you hear of rumors, they are not rumors; but the very beginning, one might say, of the seeds of having our prayers answered.

Further announcements will be forthcoming as developments unfold.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter and continue to pray for our success that we may continue as our mission statement indicates: "to be a beacon of light and a sign of hope."

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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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*

PARISH COUNCIL

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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*

PARISH FINANCIAL COUNCIL

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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
Anthony Mastronardi
Stephanie Smith
Janet Law
Laura Alix
Betty Leone
Jo Marie Nardi
Anthony Crimauco
Rosemary Schoolcraft
Tiffany Gelle
Robert Stark
Pauline Williams
Bill Solomon
Eloise Parker
Herb and Jeanne Damman
Doreen Redman
Sarah Wagner
Nenette Ferreria
Lolita Dorado
Albert Fajardo

Eduardo Fajardo
Aurora Guinto
Mary Spansky
Marie Kane
Mike Dulapa
Linda Holster
Irene McCann
Bing Ocampo
Kathy Bush

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
TBD

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
William Zuerblis

Saturday, February 20, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
Bruce Campbell

Sunday, February 21, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Bryan Jones

SERVERS

TBD
Julia Zuerblis

Ian Campbell

Cory Fullilove
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, February 13 - Vigil: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 p.m. - Patrick Foley

Sunday, February 14 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, The Delisi Family, Chuck Schuster,
Roger Sharpe

Monday, February 15 -

Tuesday, February 16 -
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

Wednesday, February 17 - Ash Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying
7:00 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Thursday, February 18 -

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

Saturday, February 20 - Vigil: First Sunday of Lent
4:30 p.m. - Roger Sharpe, Patrick Foley

Sunday, February 21 - First Sunday of Lent
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Chuck Schuster

FROM
FR. DUANE
AND THE STAFF
OF
ST. MATTHEW
PARISH

TO

ALL
ST. MATTHEW
PARISHONERS

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BLESSINGS
ON
THIS
VALENTINE'S
DAY



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