

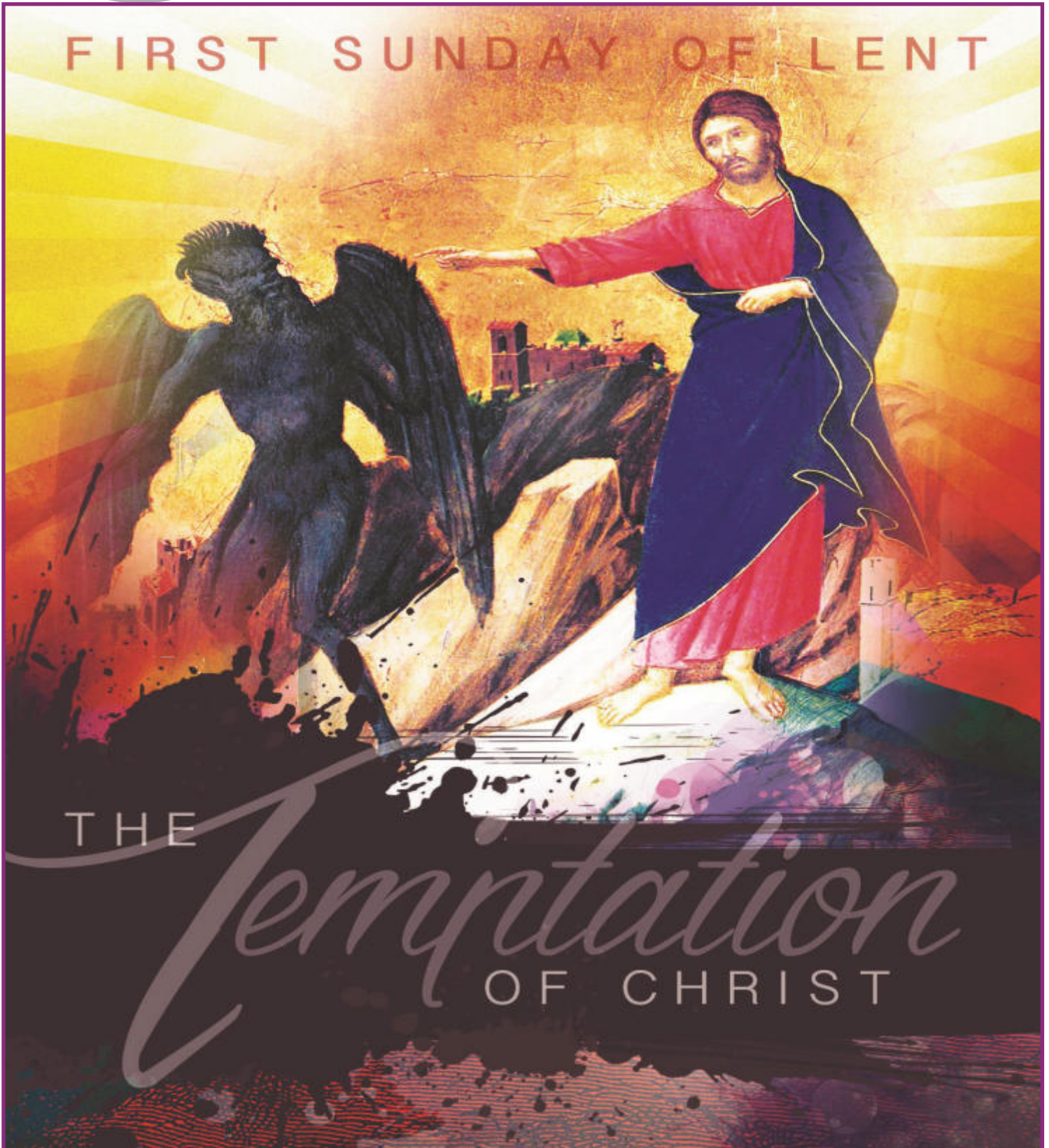


*Saint Matthew Church*  
**The PULSE**

February 21, 2021

Detroit, Michigan

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



THE

*Temptation*

OF CHRIST

## Readings for the Week of February 21, 2021

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15  
Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32  
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48  
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



### 1st Sunday of Lent

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.

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## In Honor of Black History Month We Celebrate Africans of the Bible

**Queen of Sheba:** Upon hearing of the great wisdom of the monarch, Solomon, the beautiful queen of Sheba traveled with a rather large caravan to ask Solomon many "hard questions." With her, she not only brought a "very great train" of camels but bore lovely gifts of spices, gold, and precious stones. When she arrived, her greatest hopes were more than realized - she was highly impressed with Solomon's wealth, wisdom, and religion.

**Jethro:** Jethro, also known as Reuel, was a priest of Midian who was distinguished from other Midianites in that he worshipped only one God. Doubtlessly this belief was passed down through his family line from Abraham. He was Moses' father-in-law since Moses married Zipporah, Jethro's daughter. Because of the similarity in their religious beliefs, Moses felt at home in Jethro's household. Jethro was also an outstanding manager who gave Moses valuable counsel on how to organize and to lead Israel more effectively.

**Zipporah:** Zipporah, an Ethiopian (Cushite) and wife of Moses, was viewed by Moses' sister as an offense to their family and nation. Miriam treated her with disdain and contempt. God sternly rebuked Miriam for her mistreatment and criticism of Zipporah,

Zipporah was known for her great sensitivity and compassion. She felt the needs and problems of her husband, for whom she sought and gave counsel.



### BLESSING OF THE CRS RICE BOWLS

Welcome to CRS Rice Bowl 2021! Thank you for joining CRS on this Lenten journey to three countries, where you will learn how to help others through CRS Rice Bowl. When you donate to CRS Rice Bowl, you share your life and your abundance with our global family in need. Your generosity puts nutritious food on their tables and helps them lead healthy lives and reach their God-given potential!

*God of all people,  
You are the source of every blessing.  
May we be mindful of your presence now  
and as we use these Rice Bowls  
in prayer, fasting and almsgiving.  
May they be instruments of encounter,  
bringing us closer to you, our God,  
and to our neighbors both near and far.  
May these days in the desert inspire us to bring hope  
to the most vulnerable - those  
experiencing hunger, lack of economic opportunity,  
and violence that force them to migrate.  
Through these 40 days, may we deepen our faith in  
you and our love for one another,  
as we prepare for the great celebration of Easter.  
Amen.*

## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

**Saturday, February 20, 4:30 pm, and Sunday, February 21, 10 am, Masses, respectively** - Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and Distribution of CRS Rice Bowls

**Saturday, February 27, 4:30 pm, and Sunday, February 28, 10 am, Masses, respectively** - Last weekend: Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

### Collection for the Church In Central and Eastern Europe

This week we have a special collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation to this collection supports the more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation, as well as poverty outreach. Please be generous. Envelopes are in the pews for your use.

### The Unlikely Suspects

Have you ever taken a nature walk? Have you leisurely strolled through a forest or field, with no real destination in mind and your only objective being receptive to and observation of all God's creation?

Sometimes, Scripture readings can feel like a nature walk. All of salvation history plays out against the backdrop of the natural world, with all elements of God's creation — plants and animals and the dust of the earth itself — turning in a supporting performance. How about Jesus in the hot and dusty desert, tempted, living "among the wild beasts?" Noah departed from his ark with the animals he rescued, observing God's sign in the very clouds of the sky. Even God Himself, offering us salvation from original sin through the waters of baptism.

How often do we remember that God speaks to us through all of His creation, even in the unlikely suspects?

Let's go back to the nature walk. It sounds like a lovely way to pass an afternoon, amongst wildflowers and butterflies, but don't forget the beating hot sun, mosquitos, and threat of rain on the horizon. Remember, we're not in heaven yet. Here on earth, God may be present in His creation, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to endure.

Lent is, essentially, a time to listen for the voice of God in places we may not expect: the mild irritations you experience when you're craving the chocolate you gave up, or the dull pangs of hunger during the Ash Wednesday fast. It's a golden opportunity to see the divine hand in all of creation, even those unlikely suspects.



### A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Jesus went into the desert to put his life in perspective. This Lent, take a fresh look at a difficult relationship in your life. Concentrate on the positive things that person does, not just the negatives. Try to understand why their behaviors "bug" you. Can you honestly share your feelings with them without attacking them? Make Lent a time to **mend** and **forgive**!

## CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



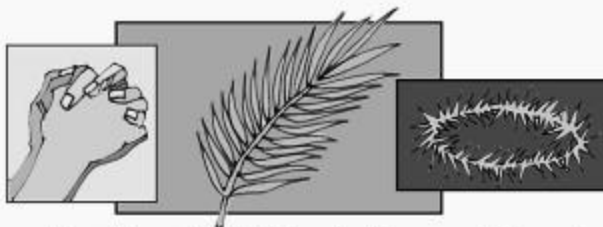
The 2021 CSA campaign will start in May, with one Sunday in May designated as CSA Sunday, this date at the discretion of the pastor. Bulletin articles, posters, and other CSA materials will be made available to parishioners. However, pledge cards and letters will be mailed directly from the CSA Offices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

### Kroger Community Rewards

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local neighborhoods. The period of November 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021 brought a monetary reward of **\$242.53** back to St. Matthew Parish. Thanks to the participation of **71** households.

Please go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to sign up today. Every little "bite" helps. The account number for St. Matthew Parish is **AW497**.



### Penitential Disciplines of Lent

"The Christian faithful, during Lent, are clearly conscious of the need to turn the mind towards those realities which really count, which require Gospel commitment and integrity of life which, through self denial of those things which are superfluous, are translated into good works and solidarity with the poor and needy" (*Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*, #125).

In addition to choosing their own penitential practices, Catholics are also asked to observe the practices of fast and abstinence during the 40 days of Lent. The Lenten Fast and Abstinence Regulations are as follows:

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. (The obligation of fasting ceases with the celebration of one's 59th birthday.)
3. Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday means eating only one full, meatless meal. Two other smaller, meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.



## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday  
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Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*  
Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*  
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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### 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

## SERVERS

Saturday, February 27, 2021, 4:30 p.m.  
Dan McBride

Ian Campbell

Sunday, February 28, 2021, 10:00 a.m.  
William Zuerblis

Lauren Gross  
Julia Zuerblis

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday, February 20 - Vigil: 1st Sunday in Lent**  
4:30 p.m. - Roger Sharpe, Patrick Foley

**Sunday, February 21 - 1st Sunday in Lent**  
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Chuck Schuster

**Monday, February 22 - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle**

**Tuesday, February 23 - St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr**  
9:00 a.m. - For all Healthcare Workers

**Wednesday, February 24 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For Missionaries Serving around the World

**Thursday, February 25 -**

**Friday, February 26 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Saturday, February 27 - Vigil: 2nd Sunday in Lent**  
4:30 p.m. - Frank Amara (21st Anniv)

**Sunday, February 28 - 2nd Sunday in Lent**  
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Chuck Schuster, William Pilette

“Faith is to believe  
what you do not  
see. The reward of  
faith is to see what  
you believe.”

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