



Saint Matthew Church
The PULSE

February 28, 2021

Detroit, Michigan



Readings for the Week of February 28, 2021

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
Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9 11 and 13 [cf. 103:10a]/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 [17b]/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



2nd Sunday of Lent

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, “You are absolutely beaming!” The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn’t mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald’s and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new “digs,” received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you’re really “into it” this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it’s only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God’s call. Then, there is God’s request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.

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

One of the Magi: A passage from the book of Psalms is used by many scholars as evidence that one of the Wise Men who visited the Christ Child was Black. Although the exact country of his birth is not known, it is believed that he originated in Ethiopia or Arabia. Further support for his Black ethnic origin is evidenced by the fact that he is depicted as a Negro in a mosaic of the Magi located in the basilica of Sant’ Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy. Legend has it that his name was Casper!

Ebed-melech: Ebed-melech, an Ethiopian, was highly honored by God for his commendable service in rescuing Jeremiah the prophet from a miry dungeon (cistern). Using “old cast clouts and old rotten rags” let down into Jeremiah’s living grave, Ebed-melech and his helpers were able to draw him out to safety. God honored Ebed-melech by saving him from death, because “you have put your trust in me, said the Lord.”

Ethiopian Eunuch: One of the first Gentile converts to Christianity was an Ethiopian eunuch who served as the treasurer in the court of Queen Candace. He was prominent, well respected, and a man of influence. He was led to accept Christ as a direct result of divine providence. God’s spirit directed Philip to go to the eunuch who was unable to understand a Bible prophecy of the Book of Isaiah that he was reading. After hearing Philip’s explanation, the eunuch eagerly acknowledged Jesus Christ as the Son of God and was baptized.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY ~ Second Week of Lent ~

The season of Lent gives us a wonderful opportunity to reflect and make room in our hearts to welcome the stranger. Through our prayer, we encounter Jesus, who is present in the face of every member of our human family. When we fast, we encounter the obstacles that stop us from fully loving God and our neighbor. When we give alms, we share what we have with others. Jesus calls us to help those in need. Our Lenten prayers, fasting and sacrificial gifts help us answer this call.

This Lent CRS Rice Bowl takes us to three countries—Madagascar, El Salvador, and Timor-Leste. Hunger and malnutrition, which happens when we don’t get the right amount of nutrients, are challenges that too many families face each day. One out of every 10 people worldwide don’t have enough to eat. Sometimes this is caused by natural disasters like floods and droughts. Other times, families don’t have enough money to buy the food they need, or the food they can get doesn’t have all the vitamins and minerals they need to stay healthy.

CRS helps communities find solutions to each of these problems. Farming families learn new skills and grow stronger, healthier harvests. Communities train health care workers so children can get regular check-ups and parents can learn new nutritious recipes to make sure their families get a balanced diet. People in vulnerable areas prepare for unpredictable weather that could destroy crops.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

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

Tuesday, March 9, 6 pm - Parish Council Meeting, Church Auditorium

Collection for the Church In Central and Eastern Europe

This is the last week for the 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.

When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane

It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. "We're ready, God!" our hearts cry out. "Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!"

But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they've joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It's not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It's the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there's that nagging voice in our minds saying: go ahead, God doesn't really mind.

It's a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn't you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried "Ready!" when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him. If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, "Ready!" when we hear the call of God?

Invite Us Deeper

Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world,
your people, your Lent.

May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom,
generosity, and encounter.

Give us hearts hungry to serve you
and those who need what we have to give.

CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



In his pastoral letter, *Unleash the Gospel*, Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron asks us to make Jesus "known by our word and deed, "timely guidance for the 2020 Catholic Services Appeal.

The CSA gives us an opportunity to live out our discipleship in Christ through the many benefits our annual appeal provides. These ministries, programs, and services meet the spiritual and physical needs of parishes and countless people throughout the Archdiocese. Our support demonstrates our own Catholic faith as we strive to grow in our love of Jesus as His missionary disciples.

When we embrace the CSA for carrying out the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, we witness Christ, and in turn, we open doors so others may also develop a deeper relationship with Him. We also extend our personal involvement in our local Church beyond our home parishes.

The CSA enables Archbishop Vigneron, his auxiliary bishops, the clergy, religious men and women, and the lay faithful to carry out Christ's ministry of mercy and love throughout southeast Michigan and beyond — works no one individual or parish could possibly do alone.

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.

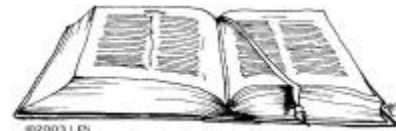
News from the Archdiocese

*(requested to be included in parish bulletins
for certain Sundays of February)*

From: Deacon Bill Kolarik, Project Manager, Sacraments Validity Project
Subject: Pastoral Care Regarding the Vatican's Note on Baptism

In August of 2020, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a response to questions regarding the use of the words, "We baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" instead of the proper form of "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The Vatican ruled that the form "We baptize" does not convey the Sacrament of Baptism.

In the Archdiocese of Detroit, we are aware that between 1976 and 1999, potentially invalid baptisms occurred at St. Anastasia Parish in Troy, conducted by Deacon Mark Springer using the improper form. We are in the process of contacting those individuals who may be affected, and we are asking for your help. If you or someone you know was baptized at St. Anastasia Parish during this time period, or you have any questions or concerns about the validity of your sacrament(s), we invite you to visit the website aod.org/sacramentsupdate for more information and to submit questions or concerns using the online form.



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

The apostles thought they knew Jesus, but when he changed in front of them at the Transfiguration, they were "afraid." In families, we cannot freeze relationships because change and growth are inevitable. Children grow up, parents grow old, and spouses change. Transfigurations are all around us and within us. Relationships can only grow when we embrace the new and let go of the old.

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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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. 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

Saturday, March 6, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
Bruce Campbell

Sunday, March 7, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Mary Anne Pilette

SERVERS

Ian Campbell

Cory Fullilove
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

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

Sunday, February 28 - 2nd Sunday of Lent
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Chuck Schuster, William Pilette, For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

Monday, March 1 -

Tuesday, March 2 -

9:00 a.m. - For Families Suffering from the Effects of COVID-19

Wednesday, March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

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

Thursday, March 4 - St. Casimir

Friday, March 5 - World Day of Prayer

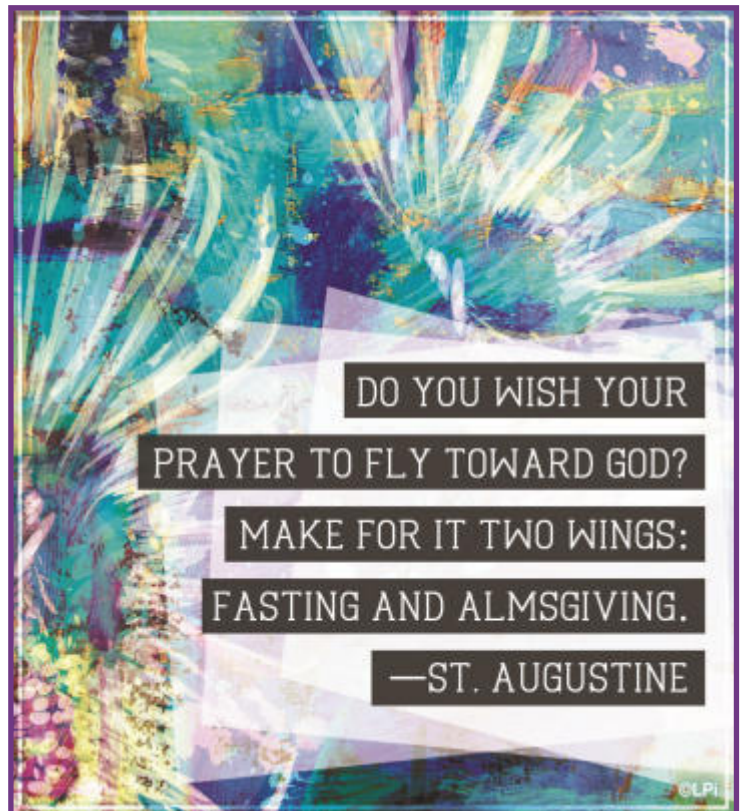
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, March 6 - Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

Sunday, March 7 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Mary Merlo (30th Anniv), Barbara VanRysseghem



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