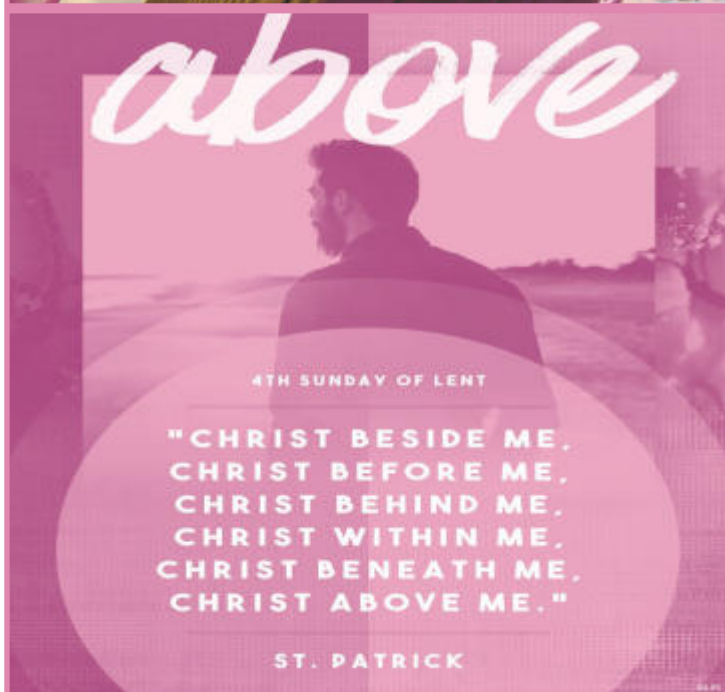
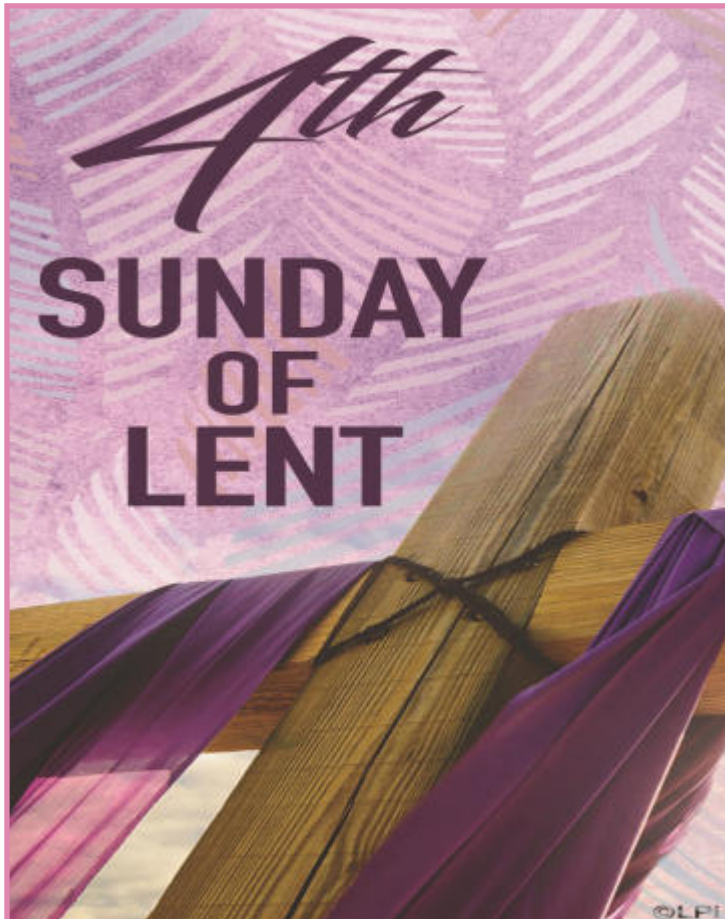




Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

March 14, 2021

Detroit, Michigan



From Father Duane’s Desk



You probably noticed how different The Pulse looked last week. No, we are not changing our style or format, but we had no one to edit or put the paper together. Marilyn Lynn, our parish secretary, was hospitalized for a couple of days due to a back issue. It was severe, and she could not come to work. So I, along with the publisher, LPi, cobbled something together. The Intentions for the Masses will be printed in this week’s paper, as well as an update of other critical matters. It is amazing how the day-to-day workings of an organization depend on the gifts and talents of another. Marilyn had the back problem, but we all were limping.

From answering phones, dealing with the computer, organizing fund raisers, setting up for weekend Masses, managing the front office, etc., Marilyn has truly done a magnificent job. If you see her, say a word of thanks!

Now that the pandemic is coming more under control in our State, with lower hospitalizations, more vaccines available, and more venues opening up (still with precautions), Archbishop Vigneron is lifting the dispensation from Sunday Mass starting this weekend, which marks a year since the shut-down began. Lifting the dispensation means we are no longer excused from missing Mass on Sunday. It is our obligation to be taken seriously. However, I don’t suspect we will be packed to overflowing, but I do hope more people will begin returning to church, especially since we are approaching the most holy days of the liturgical year—Holy Week and the Easter Season.

I encourage you to invite people to return to church. If you or anyone goes to Costco, restaurants, shopping malls, albeit with masks and distancing, there really is no reason why you can’t come to church. All safety protocols are still in place, and we seem to be very safe here.

It was so disappointing last year when I celebrated Easter Mass by myself. I know the Eucharist is central to the celebration, but the people are the heart! You give the Liturgy life in your response, your song, your prayer. The pandemic is not over yet, but we are getting through it. Your attendance at Mass is yet another way to show we are in this together, and we can do it! Please get the word out to as many as you can. We at St. Matthew Parish are open with all safety protocols and looking forward to seeing you again.

I also want to encourage you to do all that you can to receive your vaccine when you are eligible. I just received my second shot this past week. The Bishops along with all Church leaders are indicating that it is an act of charity to receive it as it brings protection not only to you but to others. “Herd immunity” is what our society strives for, and we need to cooperate for the good of all. So don’t shy from it!

Get your “Fauci Ouchie”!

God bless you all of you, Father Duane

Readings for the Week of March 14, 2021

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21, 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



4th Sunday of Lent

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, "we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin.

In Honor of Women's History Month We Celebrate Dorothy Day

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

Dorothy Day was born in Brooklyn, New York on November 8, 1897, the third child of Grace and John Day. Her nominally religious family moved to the San Francisco Bay area and then to Chicago where she was baptized in the Episcopal Church. She attended the University of Illinois at Urbana and became interested in radical social causes as a way to help workers and the poor. In 1916, she left the university and moved to New York City where she worked as a journalist on socialist newspapers, participated in protest movements, and developed friendships with many famous artists and writers. During this time, she also experienced failed love affairs, a marriage, a suicide attempt, and an abortion.

Dorothy had grown to admire the Catholic Church as the "Church of the poor" and her faith began to take form with the birth of her daughter Tamar in 1926. Her decision to have her daughter baptized and embrace the Catholic faith led to the end of her common law marriage and the loss of many of her radical friends. Dorothy struggled to find her role as a Catholic. While covering the 1932 Hunger March in Washington, D.C. for some Catholic magazines, she prayed at the national Shrine of the Immaculate Conception that some way would open up for her to serve the poor and the unemployed. The following day, back in New York, she met Peter Maurin, a French immigrant and former Christian Brother, who had a vision for a society constructed of Gospel values. Together they founded the Catholic Worker newspaper which spawned a movement of houses of hospitality and farming communes that has been replicated throughout the United States and other countries.

At the Catholic Worker, Dorothy Day lived a life faithful to the injunctions of the Gospel. Often the newspaper quoted G.K. Chesterton's famous observation that Christianity hadn't really failed — it had never really been tried. Day's life was spent trying. She was shot at while working for integration, prayed and fasted for peace at the Second Vatican Council, received communion from Pope Paul VI at the 1967 International Congress of the Laity, and addressed the 1976 Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia. Her pilgrimage ended at Maryhouse in New York City on November 29, 1980, where she died among the poor.

After initiating meetings with people who had known and worked closely with her, Cardinal John O'Connor in February 2002 formally requested that the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome consider her canonization. Upon the Congregation's approval, Dorothy was officially named a "Servant of God."

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY: Fourth Week of Lent

A Story of Hope from Timor-Leste: Many families in Timor-Leste work as farmers, but changing weather patterns make it difficult to grow enough food. Hunger and malnutrition are big problems, and a lot of children don't grow to their full potential.

With support from CRS, families are participating in community nutrition groups and starting home gardens built to withstand droughts and flooding. The gardens provide critical nutrients that help children grow and develop. The families also learn new recipes they can make with the food they grow.

Eliza and her husband have six children. After joining their community's nutrition group, they started a garden to grow crops like carrots, tomatoes, peanuts, and watermelon. Eliza loves to use her fresh produce in her family's meals and knows it is helping to provide the nutrition her children need to thrive.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Saturday, March 13, 4:30 pm, and Sunday, March 14, 10 am Masses, respectively
- Catholic Relief Services Collection (not Rice Bowl)

SAVE THE DATE: Monday, March 29, at 7 pm
Lenten Parish Communal Reconciliation

Catholic Relief Services Collection ~ Help Jesus in Disguise ~

This year's Catholic Relief Services Collection provides us with an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people around the world and right here at home. The collection supports organizations that provide housing for victims of natural disasters, educational opportunities for refugees displaced by war, ministries to maritime workers who have unique pastoral needs, and legal services for immigrants and asylum seekers.

This week we are taking up the CRS Collection to help *Jesus in disguise*. This collection helps six Catholic agencies provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters.

Please be generous in your response. Envelopes are in the pews. **Also note: This is not our annual Lenten almsgiving effort, The Rice Bowl.**



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's Gospel speaks of light and darkness. Often a parent is deliberately "left in the dark." Darkness can be comforting for it makes no demands on us. Light can be disturbing for it forces us to take action. Parents walk a delicate balance of when to "sit in the dark" and when to "turn on the lights."

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



The mission of the Church is to proclaim and establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Advancing this mission requires our clergy, religious, and lay faithful to unite in our common goal of pursuing the pastoral priorities of the Church.

For over 30 years, the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) of the Archdiocese of Detroit has been a particularly successful way we have come together to advance our mission.

Together, as Christian stewards, we live out the Gospel mission of our Church through our support of the CSA. The ministries, programs and services funded by our annual appeal reach every soul in our six-county Archdiocese, strengthening urban and rural faith communities alike. No one individual or parish could possibly accomplish all these good works themselves. Truly, the CSA transforms our diverse family of believers into, in the words of Pope Francis, a "band of joyful missionary disciples."

We are grateful to our pastors, who lead this effort in their parishes, and to our parish and archdiocesan staff and lay volunteers who do the hard work of annually conducting the CSA. We are particularly grateful to our many faithful stewards who so generously give their treasure to the CSA, benefiting all their brothers and sisters in Christ throughout southeast Michigan.



The Prayer of St. Patrick

*I arise today, through the strength of heaven;
Light of the sun, Splendor of fire, Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of the wind, Depth of the sea,
Stability of the earth, Firmness of the rock.*

*I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me, far and near,
Alone or in a multitude.*

*Christ shield me today against wounding.
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me.
I arise today through the mighty strength of the Lord of creation.*



ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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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.

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
Mary Zainea

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

SERVERS

Saturday, March 20, 2021, 4:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.
Dan McBride Ian Campbell

Sunday, March 21, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
William Zuerblis Jermaine Donaldson
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

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

Monday, March 8 - St. John of God, Religious

Tuesday, March 9 - St. Frances of Rome, Religious
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

Wednesday, March 10 -
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

Thursday, March 11 -

Friday, March 12 -
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, March 13 - Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare)
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, March 14 - 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare)
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Bruno Bush, Chuck Schuster, Irene Ridella (1st Anniv)

Monday, March 15 -

Tuesday, March 16 -
9:00 a.m. - For Frontline Workers

Wednesday, March 17 - St. Patrick, Bishop
9:00 a.m. - For Migrant and Refugee Families

Thursday, March 18 - St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday, March 19 - St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, March 20 - Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, March 21 - 5th Sunday of Lent
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Chuck Schuster



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