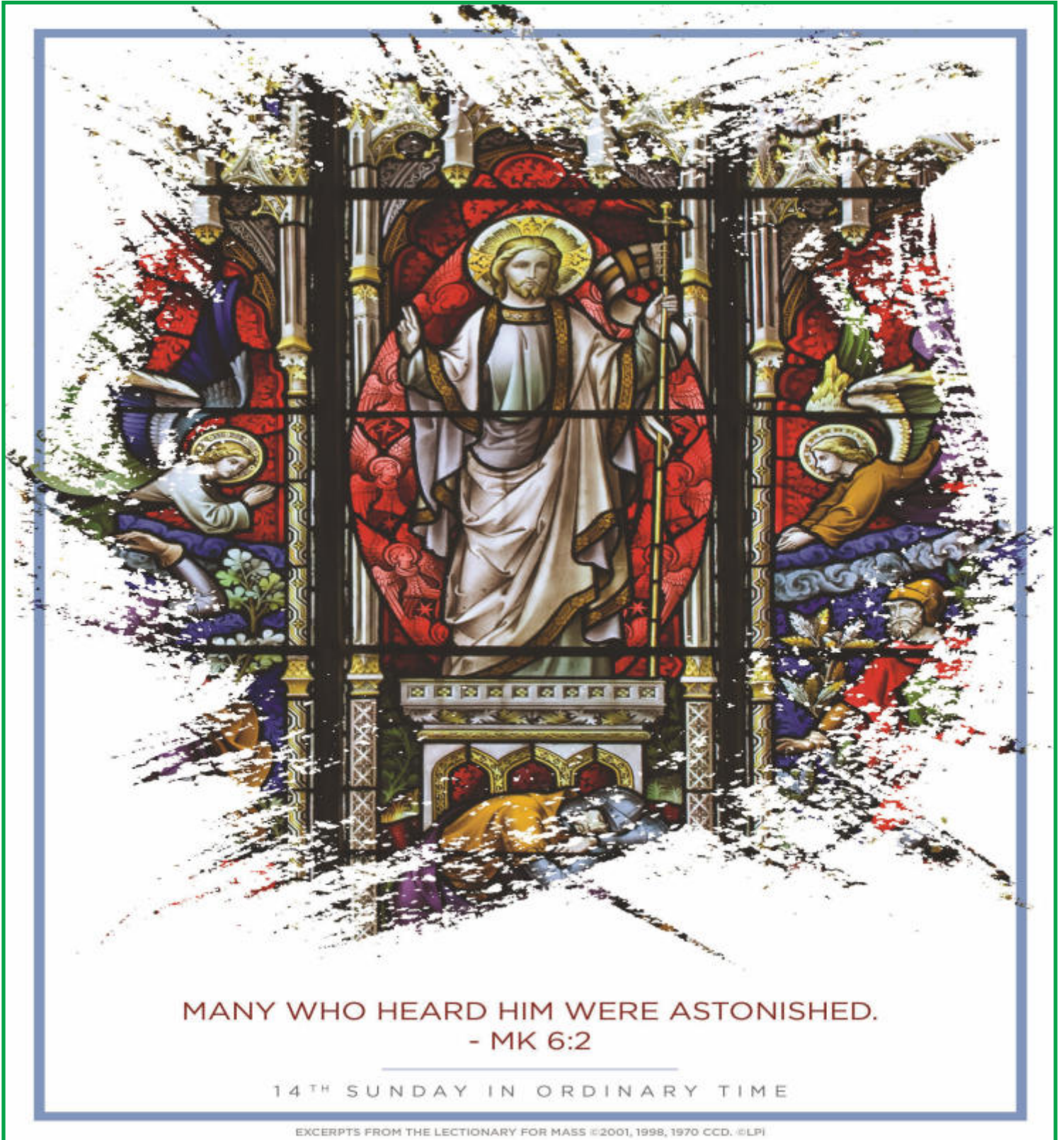




Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

July 4, 2021

Detroit, Michigan



MANY WHO HEARD HIM WERE ASTONISHED.
- MK 6:2

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Readings for the Week of July 4, 2021

Sunday: Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 [2cd]/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a
Monday: Gn 28:10-22a/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15 ab [cf. 2b]/Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33/Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b and 15 [15a]/Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a/Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19 [22]/Mt 10:1-7
Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 10:7-15
Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 [39a]/Mt 10:16-23
Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7 [cf. Ps 69:33]/Mt 10:24-33
Next Sunday: Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/ Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13



14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's all so ordinary that we can easily miss it. The seagulls hunting and diving for mollusks at the beach offer a display of determination and precision as they gather their food for the day. It's simply what these creatures do. Yet, there's a magical artful-

ness and skill to their work that speaks volumes about the One who breathed life into their being. This is pretty much the way it is with God's presence. God comes in common ways through common things and ordinary people. Sadly, we are so engulfed in our little worlds of order and ideas to notice the beauty and wonder of it all. Many have numbed themselves to the Divine spark at the essence of all life because that's just the way it is. What's so special about it? A sunset is a sunset and a seagull is a seagull. That's precisely what they thought about Jesus too. After all, isn't he just the carpenter's son? What merit can his words possibly have?

If we're looking for God to come in an event that is so dramatic and intense that it knocks our socks off, then think again. When pondering God's relationship with His people and God's action in our lives, we have to go back to the stable and the recurring, creative, unending power of God's presence. It was a quiet, run of the mill kind of night. There was nothing spectacular or extraordinary. To the naked eye, a woman gave birth to a child and there wasn't anything extraordinary to see. We have a hard time understanding God's ordinary-ness. Jesus grew up in an ordinary town, had neighbors and did normal human things. Perhaps that's why we don't always like the Gospel. It doesn't dazzle us with extraordinary things but simply challenges us to take a different look at our ordinary stuff. That makes us uncomfortable. We prefer things as they are. Our lack of faith can even cause us to take offense at what Jesus says and does, dismissing it as folly.

God's life-giving presence continues to sustain that seagull in flight and keep all things in being regardless of whether we have the faith to see and understand this. Our personal agendas, preconceived ideas, misconceptions, and expectations can often cause us to be hardened and blinded to what God is doing or desiring to do. While God continues to do what he has done for all eternity, faith is needed for God's presence to bear fruit. The blinders we wear and the expectations we bring to life can often prevent us from seeing graced moments that radiate with God's graceful presence. They also prevent God's transforming, healing, and hope filled vision for our world from being realized. Without faith, God won't be able to do much for us either.



St. Maria Goretti, A Saint for Our Time, Feast Day, July 6th

St. Maria Goretti is unique in that she is the youngest canonized saint in the Church. She died tragically on July 6, 1902, at the age of eleven. Born into poverty, her father moved the family when Maria was just six years old from the east side of Italy (near Ancona) to the west side (near Nettuno, about 40 miles south of Rome) in hopes of escaping the grinding poverty that was gripping the area.

Just three years later, when Maria was nine, her father died tragically. It fell to her at that time to raise her five siblings while her mother worked the fields to produce the crops with which they would both pay the rent and feed themselves.

This was a terrible time of trial and suffering for the whole family. For Maria it was especially difficult. Aside from having the responsibility of caring for her family, she had to also cook and clean for her two next door neighbors, Giovanni Serenelli and his son, Alessandro, who assisted her mother with the farm tasks.

It was also during this time that Alessandro began to develop an impure liking for Maria. The big 20-year-old would say rude and crude things to her, things that were inappropriate and embarrassing, and that would cause her to run away. However, at a certain point he began to make direct sexual advances towards her, demanding her virginity and threatening her with violence for non-compliance. Finally, after many months of this, Alessandro forced himself upon Maria in an attempt to rape her. Though she prevented him from violating her, Alessandro brutally stabbed her numerous times with a sharpened farm awl. Maria died the next day in the midst of horrendous infection brought on by her lacerations. Her last words were, "I forgive Alessandro Serenelli ... and I want him with me in heaven forever."

During his prison sentence, Maria appeared to Alessandro and forgave him. That act of mercy and forgiveness, that act of love, filled Alessandro with contrition for his crime. It was a turning point for him where grace entered his heart. From that point on, he lived a beautiful and converted life of holiness, eventually becoming a Franciscan lay brother.

On June 24, 1950, Maria is declared a saint by Pope Pius XII in St. Peter's Square. The attendance at her canonization exceeded one half million souls, the largest of any canonization up to that point and time, a crowd so large that for the first time in its history, St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world, could not be used for a canonization Mass. The canonization was moved to St. Peter's Square, being the first open air canonization in history.

St. Maria Goretti is the protectress of those who suffer or have suffered from sexual abuse.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Sunday, July 4, 10 am Mass - Independence Day Liturgy

Monday, July 5, Rectory Office Closed

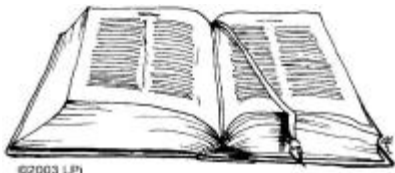


"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

We all know these words by heart. They are from the United States Declaration of Independence. However, are these words held with the same reverence around the world as they are held here at home? Sadly, no. There are many places in the world where it is a life-threatening endeavor to practice one's faith, that faith that was given to each human by that Creator who endowed us with inalienable rights.

Let us take a moment to remember all those people in the world who are not free to seek life, liberty or happiness. Today throughout the United States, we celebrate our freedom. Our rights are protected and opportunities abound. We recognize that freedom has a cost, one we celebrate and honor on days such as this. It's good to honor those who fight for our country, who may well pay the ultimate price for the liberties we're afforded.

As faithful Catholics, we recognize that there is more to freedom than simply being at liberty to make our lives what we want them to be. St. John Paul II reminds us: "Freedom is not just doing what we can, it is doing what we ought." We become freer within ourselves and within our relationships when we choose what is right and good. When we choose sin, we become trapped in egoism - less free, not more. This Independence Day, let's continue to pursue virtue and good character and encourage others to do this same.



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's Gospel is so familiar, it hurts! The home town folks couldn't accept the presence of God in Jesus. After all, they had watched him grow up. We can easily make the same mistake if we don't see God present in the ordinary routines of our family. "The Lord be with you" is a statement of fact. Believe it. Live it.

CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Your parish of St. Matthew has now raised \$16,120 toward our 2021 CSA target of \$17,822. Thank you to the 43 parishioners who have already pledged their support. The ministries, programs, and services that the Catholic Services Appeal funds help us unleash the Gospel in our own parish and throughout south-east Michigan and beyond.

Truly, we *Fuel the Mission* to witness Christ! If you are still prayerfully considering your sacrificial gift to this year's CSA, you may mail your completed pledge card in the pre-addressed envelope that was provided you. There are also pledge cards at all the entrances of the church.

You may also make your pledge to our parish's campaign online at givecsa.org.

**YOUR WORD
IS A LAMP
FOR MY FEET,
A LIGHT FOR
MY PATH.**

PSALM 119:105

Another Opportunity to Help Right to Life of Michigan Christmas in July ~ Diaper Drive

During the month of July, Right to Life of Michigan will be collecting diapers and baby wipes to help local crisis pregnancy centers and baby pantries. You may drop off your donations at 27417 Harper, St. Clair Shores, or call 586-774-6050 to schedule a pickup.

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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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.

Anthony Mastronardi	Jesse Ocampo
Stephanie Smith	Mary Spansky
Janet Law	Marie Kane
Laura Alix	Mike Dulapa
Betty Leone	Kathy Bush
Jo Marie Nardi	Sue Allasio
Anthony Crimauo	Richard Goll
Rosemary Schoolcraft	Tim Fitzgerald
Tiffany Gelle	Kristen Freiburger
Robert Stark	
Pauline Williams	
Eloise Parker	
Herb and Jeanne Damman	
Doreen Redman	
Sarah Wagner	
Nenette Ferreria	
Lolita Dorado	
Albert Fajardo	
Eduardo Fajardo	
Aurora Guinto	

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

SERVERS

Saturday, July 10, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
Dan McBride

Ian Campbell

Sunday, July 11, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
William Zuerblis

Lauren Gross
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, July 3—Vigil: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, July 4 - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - Salustiano Guinto, Dr. Raymond Kettel, John Shea,
Rita Allman (13th Anniv)

Monday, July 5 - St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Tuesday, July 6 - St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

Wednesday, July 7 -
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

Thursday, July 8 -

Friday, July 9 - St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, July 10 - Vigil: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 p.m. - John P. Langan (7th Anniv)

Sunday, July 11 - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - The Misuraca Family, Chuck Schuster



Prayer of Thanksgiving for Freedom

***God, giver of all good gifts,
Help us to be thankful for rest and food,
and remember that, in all we do or say,
you are with us, here this day.
We are thankful for all you do
and for everything you have given us.
But above all, we are thankful for our freedoms
and the ability to protect others' freedom.
We are free because of you.
We ask for your continued blessing
on all your creation.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

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