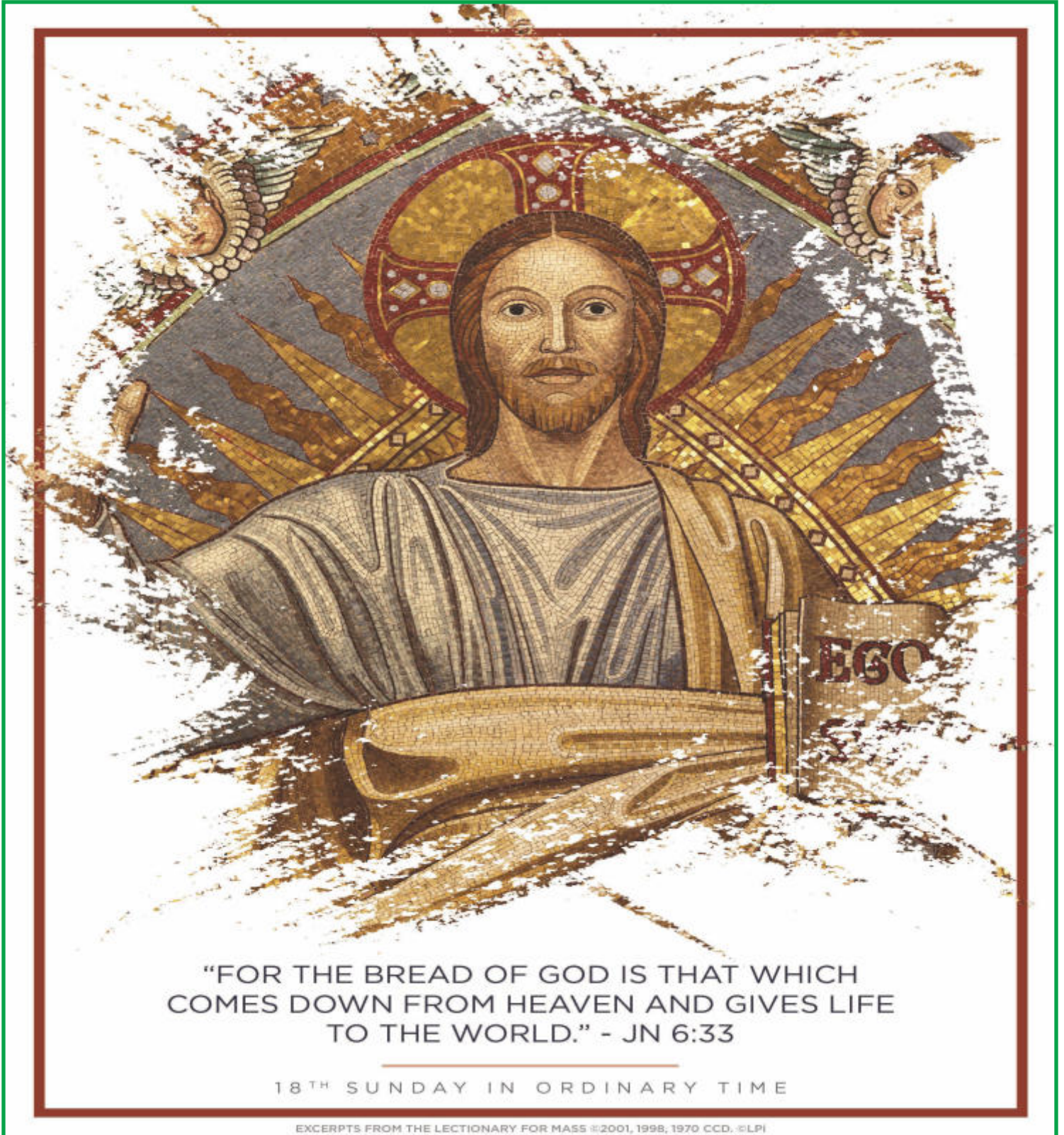




# *Saint Matthew Church* **The PULSE**

August 1, 2021

Detroit, Michigan



“FOR THE BREAD OF GOD IS THAT WHICH  
COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND GIVES LIFE  
TO THE WORLD.” - JN 6:33

18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## Readings for the Week of August 1, 2021

Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 [24b]/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35  
Monday: Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [2a]/Mt 14:13-21  
Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13 [cf. 3a]/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14  
Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35/Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Mt 15:21-28  
Thursday: Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Mt 16:13-23  
Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 [1a and 9a]/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mk 9:2-10  
Saturday: Dn 6:4-13/Ps 18: 28, 3-4. 47 and 51/Mk 17:14-20  
Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9a]/Eph 4:30—5:2/Jn 6:41-51



### 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“You cannot see the forest for the trees” is a widely known saying that can bring wisdom to our understanding of our journey. Often, our sight becomes limited to what is immediately before us. We lose touch with lessons and experiences from the past and promises and hope for the future.

As human beings, we have the privilege of being able to choose things. What I like and don't like, want, and don't want can be major preoccupations of our minds and hearts. Our preferences and desires begin to define us more than the simple fact of our being. Who we are matters more than what we are or what we have. If we don't move beyond the external and superficial stuff to what really is of essence, we risk becoming very unsettled, disorientated, angry, and unhappy. We fail to see the bigger picture of hope and promise that lies ahead and the Divine Presence that has sustained and carried us before.

We like it when the “now” time of our lives satisfy us. Even the people who witnessed Jesus feed the five thousand got confused and distracted. It felt good when thousands of people were able to eat. They wanted to know what they could do to get this to happen again! But Jesus quickly reminds them that this is not the point of this sign. As much as the now time of our lives is of concern, it is not what is ultimately important. We need to learn the difference between being and doing, drawing more strength from who we are and who God is rather than what is happening around us and the choices we can make. Jesus is the true bread that came down from heaven. Jesus is the very incarnate presence of God who sustains life and assures us that we will not perish. This is not easy to understand and feel. We have to practice being in the presence of ourselves, others, creation, and God. We are brought to a holy place when we encounter the sacredness of being. This is real prayer.

Then, we learn to trust. It is when we cease trusting that we start to become afraid, uncertain, apprehensive, and doubtful, and overly self-concerned. We even start to grumble. God has our back. That is the essential powerful message of the living bread come down from heaven. God, who is alpha is also omega, the beginning and the end, and has everything in between in his care as well. A woman once remarked that her most powerful God moment happened when she and her husband cuddled with their new baby for a time. Without exchanging words and using only the affection communicated through sight and touch, they rested in being with each other. This brought them to the sacred, where they realized that a greater Being was with them. It was real. They knew that they were part of something bigger, intimate, and profound. When we rest in the Living Source of life, we will find that our souls are no longer hungry or thirsty.

# TRANSFIGURATION *of Christ*

AUGUST 6th

### The Revelation

The transfiguration of Jesus provides a glimpse of Jesus Christ's deity. This revelation of His glory is recorded in The Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. One week before the Transfiguration, Peter shared his confession of Jesus as Messiah. Jesus would soon make His final departure from Galilee, about four months before His death. One of the purposes of the Transfiguration was to strengthen the faith of the disciples in the divine nature of Jesus before they experienced the shock of the difficult days ahead. Jesus longed for a presentation of His Heavenly Father's divine magnificence and splendor in human form.

While on earth, Jesus appeared in His state of humility and affliction. Glimpses of His glory were displayed while maintaining unity with His human form/appearance. As Jesus prayed, He was "transfigured." This means His facial appearance was changed. Jesus' face shone like the sun. The substance of His body remained the same; He was not turned into spirit. His body which had appeared in weakness and dishonor, now appeared in power and glory. His clothes became white and glistening as the light.

At Jesus' baptism, the voice of God provided the authentication from heaven, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” God repeats these words. All three Persons of the Godhead, Father, Son, and Spirit, were revealed.

### The Conversation

Moses' and Elijah's conversation with Jesus focused on His coming death. Moses was the giver of the Old Testament law. Elijah was one of the most noteworthy prophets of the Old Testament. The Jews acceptance of the relationship between Jesus' death and the work of Moses and Elijah was crucial. Jesus' death abolished the bonds of Old Testament laws and teachings.

This divine conversation revealed Moses and Elijah not opposing cancellation of the written code, but freely discussing it with Jesus, showing that Jesus' work was not a contradiction or a violation of what they had done, but a fulfillment of it. In addition to a revelation of His glory, the Transformation verified Jesus' death was part of God's will, purposed, and understood long before it happened.

### The Transformation

Transfiguration and transformation both come from the Greek verb *metamorphoo*, meaning “to change into another form.” Scripture makes only four references of this verb, one as a reference to Jesus' radiant appearance at the Transfiguration, another as Paul travels on the road to Damascus where he encountered Jesus' light which left him temporarily blind and transformed him as a powerful instrument for God's glory. How are Jesus' transfiguration and our transformation interwoven?

The Transfiguration represents a focal point of God's Kingdom - Christ fulfilling the Old Testament prophesies - the cross, resurrection, and His eternal glory. All God's spiritual favors await those who place their trust in Jesus. Humanity was added to Christ's deity, yet He became the radiant “light of men.” Jesus Christ, God's Word made flesh, offers magnificent illumination and transformation to everyone.

“His face shone  
like the sun,  
and his clothes become  
as white as the light.”

Matthew 17:2

## *St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings*

**Tuesday, August 3, 7 am to 7 pm -  
Municipal Primary Elections, Mayoral and  
City Council**

### **St. Vincent de Paul Call Center Volunteers**

*Our St. Vincent DePaul East District is seeking one or more volunteers to help with the district's call center help line. The commitment would be once every 8 weeks for about three hours of work spread out over a week's time. That amounts to a total of about 18 hours in a year. And the best part is that you can fulfill your volunteer commitment on your own time from the comfort of your home.*

*The volunteer work entails picking up phone messages from our East District phone line and forwarding the information to one or more of the six parish conferences that are part of our SVDP East District. It would be very helpful for someone to contribute a little of their time with this very important work which indirectly benefits those persons that contact our SVDP organization asking for assistance to help address an urgent need often faced by lower income individuals and families living in our community on the east side of the city.*

*If you are able to offer your services to assist our SVDP conferences, please let me know by leaving a message at the parish rectory (313 884 4470) or by sending me an email at [dennisrcostello@msn.com](mailto:dennisrcostello@msn.com). For those that volunteer, a short training for the job at hand will be provided remotely at a mutually convenient time. Thank you very much and hope to hear from you soon.*

*Dennis Costello  
St Matthew Conference of SVDP*

### **St. John Vianney, the Cure of Ars Patron of Priests, Feast Day, August 4th**

St. John Vianney performed many miracles. The greatest miracle of all was his life. He practiced mortification from his early youth, and his food and sleep were insufficient, humanly speaking, to sustain life. Yet he labored incessantly, with unflinching humility, gentleness, patience, and cheerfulness, until he was more than 73 years old. On October 3, 1874, he was proclaimed Venerable, and on August 4, 1925, he was canonized a saint by Pope Pius XI.

#### **Prayer for Priests by St. John Vianney**

*God, please give to your Church today  
many more priests after your own heart.*

*May they be worthy representatives of Christ  
the Good Shepherd.*

*May they wholeheartedly devote themselves  
to prayer and penance; be examples of humility and poverty;  
shining models of holiness;*

*tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God;  
zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments.*

*May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the Eucharist  
and to Mary his Mother*

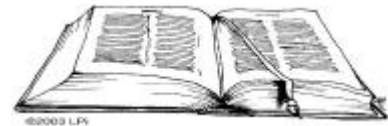
*be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry.  
Amen.*

## **CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ**



The Catholic Services Appeal is an annual campaign that raises funds for Archdiocese of Detroit ministries, programs and services that benefit all the faithful in southeast Michigan. This archdiocesan-wide campaign communicates that the local Church extends beyond the parish.

Since the CSA was introduced in the early 1980s, it has been conducted through parishes with the support of materials and guidance from the archdiocese. The CSA is an opportunity for the faithful to respond to Christ's command "to love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12) by helping to fund services throughout the broader area of southeast Michigan. This collaborative, archdiocesan campaign is a way to demonstrate the unity of the larger Church and to fund these vital programs, as opposed to simply increasing the archdiocesan assessment of parish offertories.



### **A Family Perspective**

**by Bud Ozar**

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us: "Do not work for what perishes." Give your life to what endures such as the family history you are creating, the love and mutual respect which bonds you together, the memories you share, and the forgiveness generously given. These are the true treasures that are worth working and dying for.

### **Practicing Graciousness in the Desert**

Looking back over your journey of parenthood, there surely were days when you traveled the extra mile for your children. You made their toast the way they liked it, let them play in the park an extra ten minutes, or let them go to the movies with their friends, and then you finished up the chores on your own. And then, it happened: the attitude. The request for the smallest thing from one of them is met with disdain or bewilderment.

Sometimes, you can be made breathless with the ingratitude of another person who takes so much and with so little shame, only to scoff at the idea that they, too, give even the smallest amount.

But if we're being honest with ourselves, we will admit that we do the exact same thing to God. Haven't we all been the Israelites in the desert at one point or another? God has parted our Red Sea in some way. He's led us out of some great trial, given us some great blessings. But then, we run into a little resistance somewhere along the way, and we throw up our hands. How could you do this to us, Lord? How could you ask this of us? No, I can't go any further. No, I won't do any more.

Persisting in the blindness to the many ways God continues to protect us is nothing short of a temper tantrum. It robs our Everyday Stewardship of its graciousness, of our ability to accept with joy the trials of life because we are also constantly aware of its blessings.

### **Marriage and Coffee**

Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scriptures for her answer. She said that the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee.

Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said, "It's right here — HEBREWS."

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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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.*

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 Crimardo	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

Saturday, August 7, 2021, 4:30 p.m.  
Bruce Campbell

Sunday, August 8, 2021, 10:00 a.m.  
Bryan Jones

## SERVERS

Ian Campbell

Lauren Gross  
Julia Zuerblis

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday, July 31 - Vigil: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
4:30 p.m. - Rose Marie Zajac Parker (1st Anniv)

**Sunday, August 1 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
10:00 a.m. - For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and  
Consecrated Life

**Monday, August 2 - St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; St.  
Peter Julian Eymard, Priest**

**Tuesday, August 3 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

**Wednesday, August 4 - St. John Vianney, Priest**  
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

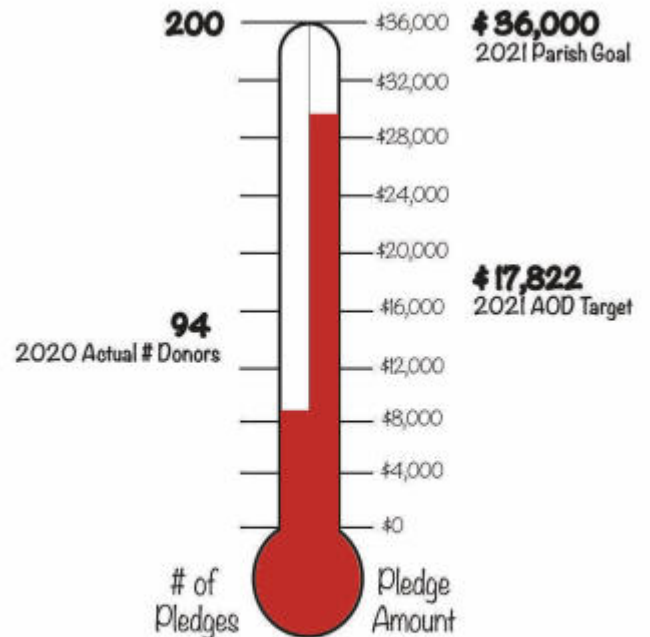
**Thursday, August 5 - The Dedication of the Basilica of St.  
Mary Major**

**Friday, August 6 - The Transfiguration of the Lord**  
9:00 a.m. - Raymond and Sylvia Novelty (11th Anniv)

**Saturday, August 7 - Vigil: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

**Sunday, August 8 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
10:00 a.m. - Sophie Bush, Peter Reyes, Joseph Petrylka, Robert  
Lynn

## CSA 2021



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