



Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

August 29, 2021

Detroit, Michigan

— REPORT TO THE PARISH — UPDATE ON CATHOLIC CHARITIES “HEALTHY HOUSING” PROJECT FOR REPURPOSING OF SCHOOL AND ACTIVITIES BUILDING

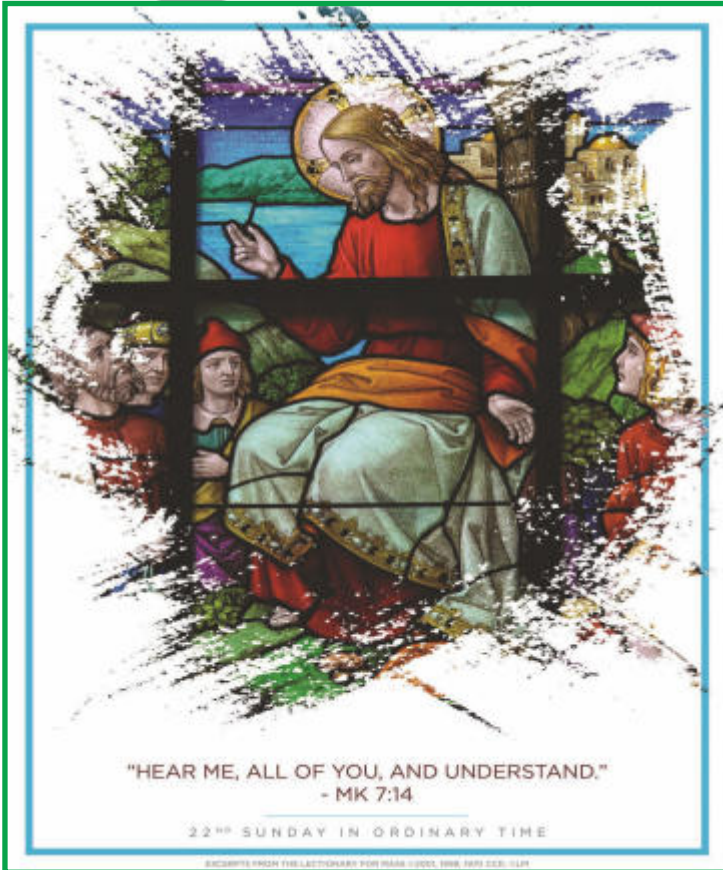
At the weekend Masses of February 6 and 7, Father Novelty announced that a decision had been made, in coordination with the Archdiocese of Detroit and with the advice and consent of the Parish and Finance Councils, to support an acquisition/rehabilitation proposal by Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) for repurposing the parish school and activity buildings into “Healthy Housing” affordable apartments. This vision for providing a new use for these long standing vacant buildings is part of a national program by Catholic Charities USA for expanding affordable housing in Detroit and four other cities (St. Louis, Las Vegas, Spokane, Portland). CCSEM is joined in the Detroit effort by Ascension Health, the parent organization of St. John Hospital.

This past weekend, I reported at both weekend Masses that this effort has now moved from vision to action steps. CCSEM has prepared a comprehensive development plan and begun the process for obtaining the necessary public and private finances to implement the plan. A timeline of 24-36 months is estimated for completion of the entire development process. Requests for the first stage of funding are now underway. CCSEM and Ascension Health have also affirmed their ongoing commitment to this repurposing plan and have developed a community engagement process for keeping the parish and neighborhood informed on the plan’s progress. At St. Matthew Parish, we remain a positive, prayerful, and patient partner in this exciting action plan for the acquisition and repurposing of our school and activity buildings.

The CCSEM/Ascension - St. Matthew “Healthy Housing” Project impacts the parish and the community in a variety of ways: (1) It improves the physical appearance of the parish campus and the neighborhood by transitioning currently unoccupied buildings into an attractive, long term community resource; (2) It provides for affordable housing that is greatly needed and is part of a larger initiative to assure that housing needs for Detroiters are met; (3) It offers an array of essential, on-site health services in a convenient and accessible neighborhood setting; and (4) It assures the ongoing and long established commitment of St. Matthew Parish and the principal partners in the project as a continuing legacy of their respective missions to the people in this northeast Detroit community.

Further reports to the parish will be provided periodically as this exciting plan unfolds.

Respectfully submitted,
David Smydra, St. Matthew Parish Representative



Readings for the Week of August 29, 2021

Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 [1a]/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13 [13b]/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [13]/Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday: Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11 [10]/Lk 4:38-44
Thursday: Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 [2]/Lk 5:1-11
Friday: Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2b]/Lk 5:33-39
Saturday: Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8 [6]/Lk 6:1-5
Next Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Albert Einstein said that the “true measure of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.” Being a disciple of Jesus Christ requires a great deal of imagination. It is not



enough to simply attend to facts, rules and rituals and consider the job done. Quite contrarily, the Gospels demands creativity, of trying to discern how to put flesh on the Beatitudes and properly serve God’s children. Jesus never doled out a top down agenda. Not once did he ever demand conformity over conversion or sacrifice over mercy. The Gospel is always about putting people in touch with their compassionate, forgiving, and unconditionally loving God and meeting them where they are.

For Jesus, it often meant breaking a few rules. Well respected and time-honored traditions had to be set aside in order to attend to what really mattered. God’s compassion, mercy and true conversion were always the trump cards. The story of the Good Samaritan, healing on the Sabbath, and bypassing of purification rituals all display this theme. Human beings can get too hung up on protocol and tradition. This is so much so that often preserving all of these things is of greater concern than the beggar knocking on our door or the sinner looking for mercy. It is no wonder, then, that we can easily become hypocritical. Many can see us on our knees in prayer while our true heart and actions, rooted in judgment and self-preservation, are hidden from others. It is a trap into which we can easily fall. Who cares how we live our lives as long as our hands are properly washed!

Here enters the need for imagination and the distinction of truly being a wise and intelligent person. It takes a good measure of creativity and a lot of guts to really be a doer of God’s word and not merely a hearer. Being a person who doesn’t just tell people about God but shows people God requires courage and ingenuity. That’s why people like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Teresa of Calcutta are timeless. Their genuineness speaks volumes generation to generation. It’s risky business taking the step to allow God into our hearts. Permitting God to release us from the grip of our evil thoughts, infidelity, greed, malice, sexual improprieties, licentiousness, envy, arrogance, folly, and the like takes courage. That’s why we prefer to spend our energy rearranging the future rather than take measures to secure a foundation that is most certainly crumbling.

From Father Duane’s Desk



Just when you thought the worst was behind us with the COVID-19 pandemic, here comes the Delta Variant. Across the country and here in southeast Michigan, and particularly our tri-county area, COVID is on the rise again. Having said that, we announced last Sunday renewed protocols issued by the Archdiocese and recommended for parishes to evaluate each according to their particular situations. For your convenience and knowledge, I am publishing in The Pulse this week what I announced last Sunday. Please consult the article on Page 3. Also, as an act of charity, if you haven’t been vaccinated, please do so, or try to get the message out that it is safe and people need to be vaccinated. It is our only way out of this pandemic. Remember the old adage: “God helps those who help themselves.” Perhaps, this is God’s help to us—a vaccine to stop the pandemic.

I also want to point out Mr. David Smydra’s article on the front page of The Pulse. It is a summary of what he presented at both Masses last weekend regarding the sale of our school buildings. His presentation was concise, straightforward, and gave us the current status in our negotiating and relationship with Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, the entity that is considering the purchase of our school buildings. Again, I want to thank David for all his good work, for assisting in moving this project forward, and keeping not only our St. Matthew community but also the neighborhood community informed through his work in establishing and sitting on the “Community Engagement Committee” for this project. With all of his expertise in city government and with projects of this nature, he is certainly an asset, dare I say a gift to our efforts here at St. Matthew.

Also, we do continue to work on the flood damage that we experienced the weekend of June 23 and 24. I know it has been hard on so many people, and we are experiencing the same. I am trying to the best of my ability to move extensive restoration forward, but I am on other people’s schedules. What with contractors, remediation people, asbestos removers so backed up at this time, it is hard to move forward. Please keep me and our parish in your prayers.

Lastly, I want to remind you that our Gold’n Harvest Raffle kick-off will be coming soon. On October 15th, we begin. We truly need a good year with all the expenditures we’ve had and to support our budget. I’m sure you’ll do your very best. My biggest fear is that we will not reach enough people due to the pandemic. Parishioners have not yet fully returned to church. And when you’re not here, it is hard to stay in touch. I always look forward to seeing you in church. We do bring life to each other in the name of Christ Jesus!

Have a good week!
God bless all of you, Father Duane



St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Monday, September 6, Labor Day
Rectory Office Closed,
No Mass on Labor Day

~ MARK YOUR CALENDARS ~

Saturday, October 16,
and Sunday, October 17
2021 Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Kick off!

St. Vincent De Paul School Supplies Drive

Now that schools are opening up, albeit with certain health safety protocols, our conference of St. Vincent de Paul is asking for your help this year with donations of school supplies for elementary and middle-school age students. Any items you can purchase to include backpacks, calculators, Trapper keepers, 3-ring binders, 2-pocket folders, spiral notebooks, age appropriate scissors, rulers, crayons, construction paper, glue sticks, pens, highlighters, markers, erasers, and age appropriate books would be greatly appreciated. Many of our SVdP families have school age children and simply can't afford to buy these items themselves so they turn to us for help.

This is the last weekend for donations; however, they will be accepted at the rectory until Tuesday, August 31st. During this week, volunteers will gather to sort the supplies for distribution to deserving families on Sunday, September 5th.

Thank you again and again for all you do each and every time we ask ... Please know that many families and many children were assisted by your generous donations in the past.



New Liturgical COVID-19 Protocols

It has been reported that Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties are experiencing an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant; and in response to that information, the Archdiocese has issued new protocols for the safety and health of parishioners.

- The Archdiocese encourages Mass goers, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face-coverings and to practice social distancing to reduce exposure to the coronavirus. Here, at St. Matthew's, mask wearing will be encouraged if you are inclined to do so, although it's not mandated. It is strongly encouraged for those who are unvaccinated to be masked for your own protection and in the spirit of respecting the health and safety of their fellow parishioners as an act of charity.
- Social distancing is strongly encouraged; although, here at St. Matthew's, we will not be cordoning off the pews as we did earlier. Please use your discretion.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for your use at the entrances of the church.
- I will continue to wear a mask for the distribution of Holy Communion which will be distributed in the hand.

THE PROOF OF LOVE IS IN THE WORKS.
WHERE LOVE EXISTS,
IT WORKS GREAT THINGS.

Pope Gregory the Great

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.

CUCCHI'S CORNER

Rick's Notes from the Loft

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

(for a few good voices!)

Choir Members Wanted: Positions open to soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. No others need apply.

Hours: Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 11:15. There are occasional opportunities for overtime.

Interested?: Contact Rick Cucchi at cucchi@umich.edu or come to the **first rehearsal in the choir loft balcony on September 12th (unless otherwise notified) at 9:15 a.m. or call the rectory to sign up.**

Kroger Community Rewards

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local neighborhoods. The period of May to July brought a monetary reward of **\$250.58** back to St. Matthew Parish thanks to the participation of **72** households. Please join those who participate!

Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and sign up today. Every little "bite" helps. The account number for St. Matthew Parish is **AW497**.

Mass with a Musical Setting that Honors the Culture of Jazz in Detroit

Sunday, September 5, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
St. Moses the Black Catholic Church
1125 Oakman Blvd., Detroit 48238

Be Inspired by Gospel and Jazz music that draws upon the heart and spirit of the people.
Detroit Jazz Artists: Alina Morr, Nate Winn, Deblon Jackson, Jonathan Muir-Cotton, and the William S. Harrison Chorale
Visit: aod.org/Septembermass to RSVP.

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

6021 Whittier, Detroit 48224-2637
Rectory Office: (313) 884-4470
Rectory Fax: (313) 884-4276
E-mail : stmatthew27@aol.com
Website: www.stmatthewdetroit.com
Office Hours: Monday through Friday
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Duane R. Novelly ~ *Pastor*
Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

CLERICAL STAFF

Marilyn Lynn ~ *Secretary*
Gloria Bermudez ~ *Bookkeeper*

PARISH COUNCIL

John Dunstone ~ *President*
Bill Zuerblis ~ *Financial Council Chair*
Michael Dulapa ~ *Evangelization Chair*
Patricia Camazzola, Bryan Jones,
David Smydra ~ *Members at Large*
Sharon & Jerry Mielke ~ *VPC Representatives*

PARISH FINANCIAL COUNCIL

BILL ZUERBLIS ~ *CHAIR*
MARY ANN BOLONE, JOHN DUNSTONE, JEFF SMITH,
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	Mary Spansky
Stephanie Smith	Marie Kane
Janet Law	Mike Dulapa
Laura Alix	Kathy Bush
Jo Marie Nardi	Sue Allasio
Anthony Crimauco	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	
Jesse Ocampo	

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

Saturday, September 4, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
Julie Smith

Sunday, September 5, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Liz Foley-Dunstone

SERVERS

Lauren Smith

Lauren Gross
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, August 28 - Vigil: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, August 29 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and
Consecrated Life, For Those Suffering from
Natural Disasters and Civil Unrest

Monday, August 30 -

Tuesday, August 31 -
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

Wednesday, September 1 - World Day of Prayer
9:00 a.m. - For the Care of Creation

Thursday, September 2 -

**Friday, September 3 - St. Gregory the Great, Pope and
Doctor of the Church**

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

Saturday, September 4 - Vigil: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, September 5 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - Lucy Zelenak (5th Anniv), Ginger Cottone (20th
Anniv)

CSA 2021



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