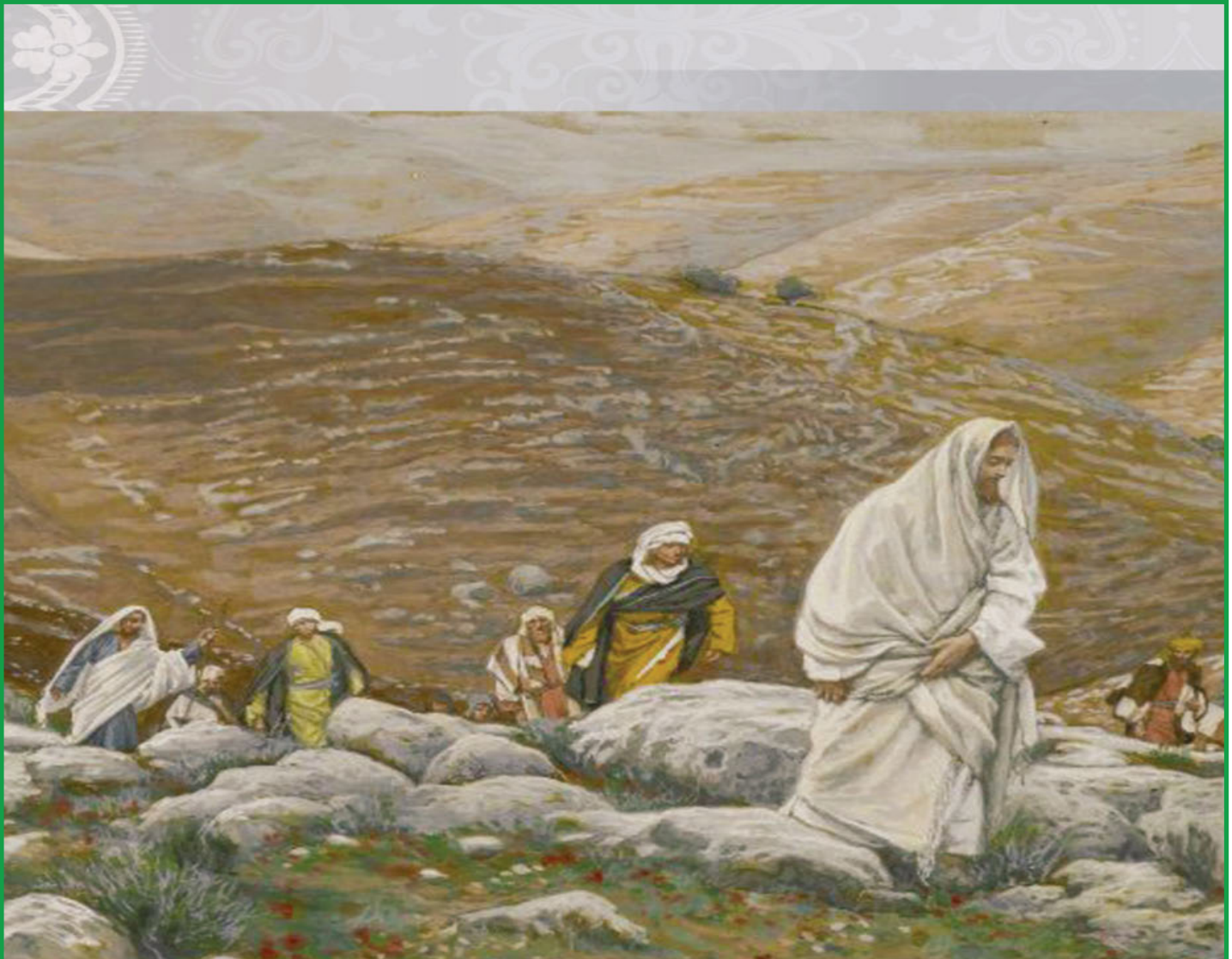




Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

January 30, 2022

Detroit, Michigan



4th Sunday I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away. - Lk 4:28, 30

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**In honor of St. Blaise Feast Day, Thursday, February 3,
there will be the blessing of throats on Saturday, February 5, at 4:30 p.m. Mass
and Sunday, February 6, at 10:00 a.m. Mass.**

Readings for the Week of January 30, 2022

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17
[cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/
Lk 4:21-30

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a,
12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/
Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 [1c]/
1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Oscar Romero (1917-1980) was a “Salvadoran Roman Catholic archbishop who was a vocal critic of the violent activities of government armed forces, right-wing groups, and leftist guerrillas involved in El Salvador’s civil conflict (Encyclopedia Britannica).” As a voice of the voiceless, he was an outspoken champion of the poor who were the ones most affected by the civil unrest and violence. His advocacy provoked several attempts on his life. Nonetheless, St. Oscar Romero was convinced that before all else his faith in the resurrected Christ and the values of the Gospel trumped any earthly concern or worry. He walked with complete confidence and trust. On March 24, 1980, St. Oscar Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass. Such is often the fate of those who challenge the socio-political agendas of the day.

We may look at the example of witness of St. Oscar Romero as something extraordinary. In one sense it is. Through the power of God, an ordinary human being did extraordinary things. But, in and of himself, St. Oscar Romero was simply a humble, loving servant of God. Oscar knew not only the power of love but the risk that comes when loving unconditionally. The beauty of God’s message was able to shine in and through him because he was able to step out of the way and be a vessel. One can assume that for St. Oscar Romero, one’s earthly life has no merit when faith, integrity, conviction, zeal and love are jettisoned. Fear and apprehension had no grip on this man who not only saw but spoke the truth.

Do we speak the truth? It makes us feel good to speak of God as love. But have we ever considered the ramifications of this radical message? There are assaults on human life occurring daily. More and more the value and worth of a human being is being reduced and minimized. We are becoming widgets in the production of life. In our whole simple humble ways, we too are called to be prophets. Knowing who you are and what is within your means to do, how can you make God’s love real, stand up for what is right, and give witness to the sacredness of all that is around you?



Patron Saint of Wool Combers and Sufferers of Throat Diseases

The obscure memory of an early bishop-martyr endures

The memory of Saint Blaise, a man of obscure origins, stands behind one of the most enduring healing traditions in all of Christianity. In the holy name of Blaise, two candles are crossed, X-shaped, and pressed against the neck to ward off and cure diseases of the throat. Oil and ashes, candles and flames, bread and wine, words and blessings. God’s face does not appear in the ash cloud of a volcanic eruption or in a golden pile at the end of a rainbow. The Christian believes that God’s salvation and healing power come through His Holy Mother, through His saints, and through the creation He molded in His own hands.

A believer doesn’t believe in belief, any more than a soldier loves patriotism. A soldier loves his country, and a believer loves God. And because the believer loves God, he loves a someone, not a something, and waits in line and shuffles forward, step by step, to the priest holding those X-shaped candles on today’s feast. Saint Blaise is primarily a “northern” saint called upon to remedy mostly cold climate ills. Because it is usually winter, then, the believer adjusts his jacket collar, feels the milky wax candle against his tender throat, closes his eyes, and prays that the cough disappear, that his voice remain strong, or that the faintest lump turn out to be nothing at all.

Details of Saint Blaise’s life are difficult to verify. Some traditions, dating from centuries after he lived, state that he was a bishop in Armenia, east of modern day Turkey. His reputation for holiness drew people to him in search of a cure for their infirmities. It is said that Blaise was tortured and murdered in an anti-Christian persecution. Every saint, no matter how remote his life or obscure his story, casts some light on the truths of our faith. The life of Saint Blaise and the tradition of throat healing that still surrounds him tell us that holy lives have power. His life tells us that holy people intercede for less holy people, and that the less powerful, the less wise, and the less good depend on the strong, the intelligent, and the good in order to leave their state of dependence, ignorance, and sin. In the same way that salvation is mediated, healing is as well. Whether through the skilled hands of a surgeon, the chemicals of a drug, or the intercession of a saint, healing comes. The many channels branch out from the one source who is God.

We, the faithful, when fragile and afraid, patiently sit in the doctor’s office for our name to be called, wait at the pharmacy counter for the prescription to be filled, or line up in church for the candles to rest softly on our clavicles. Healing is an offer, we are ripe to be cured, and any sacred intervention is welcome, no matter whence it comes.

*Saint Blaise, many centuries ago
you suffered for the same faith we now share with you.
May we be ever united to you in our common Church,
and may we be healed of all infirmities of the throat
through your heavenly intercession. Amen.*

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Sunday, January 30, 10 am Mass - Stark Baby Baptism

Saturday, February 5, and Sunday, February 6, 4:30 pm and 10 am Masses, respectively - Blessing of Throats

Tuesday, February 8, 6 pm - Parish Council Meeting, Church Auditorium

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

First Corinthians and the Stewardship of Social Media

"Love is patient, love is kind ..." As familiar as these words are, they never seem to stray into the territory of becoming trite or silly. At their core they communicate a truth about us and about our Creator that never fails to inspire.

But despite the fact that you've probably heard it at many weddings over time, *First Corinthians* isn't just for newlyweds. It wasn't written for married folks. It's for every single one of us, in every state of life and every social situation, in every country and culture and language across the globe.

Which means that *First Corinthians* is even for the online world. It's for Facebook and Twitter and Instagram and all the other platforms I'm forgetting (there seems to be a new one every day, doesn't there?).

A sense of division — whether rooted in politics, culture or anything else — is growing in our world, and it's never more obvious than when we observe interactions online. It is far easier, after all, to remember what love is when a human being of flesh and blood stands before us. When all we see is an avatar or a profile picture on a screen — especially accompanied by an opinion with which we vehemently disagree — even the most loving Christians can throw *First Corinthians* out the window.

As everyday stewards we know that we are charged to be not only gracious but grateful. We receive others but we also give thanks for what they bring to us — even if that's an opportunity to "strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts."

So before the next time you post anything online, I suggest giving *First Corinthians* a read — and remember, love never fails.



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A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Mary and Joseph must have been proud when their village "all spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at his words." But they probably felt shame when the same people drove him out of town. Like Mary and Joseph, the highs and lows of parenting are our path to being a Holy Family.



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Unite Our Hearts

O Christ, to you your people pray,
Unite our hearts and with us stay,
For in your Word we live and grow,
That all the world your love may know.

We pledge our lives to you today.
We seek to walk a different way.
Free us to comfort and to care,
In word and deed your love to share.

Love bears all pain and injury,
Love waits in hope for what will be.
When loss is real and grief is raw,
Love still believes, love will endure.

For now we see but partially,
And long to love more perfectly,
Your love the ground that makes us whole,
The one true mirror of our soul.

For when your love in us is sown,
Then we will know as we are known.
And we will see you face to face
For ever rest in your embrace.

Bernadette Farrell: Hymn Texts by Women

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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Gloria Bermudez ~ *Bookkeeper*

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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
Stephanie Smith
Janet Law
Laura Alix
Jo Marie Nardi
Anthony Crimauco
Rosemary Schoolcraft
Tiffany Gelle
Robert Stark
Pauline Williams
Eloise Parker
Herb and Jeanne Damman
Sarah Wagner
Lolita Dorado
Albert Fajardo
Eduardo Fajardo
Aurora Guinto
Jesse Ocampo
Mary Spansky
Mike Dulapa

Kathy Bush
Richard Goll
Tim Fitzgerald
Kristen Freiburger
Joanne Papineau
Elsa Camazzola
William Walker IV
Cathy D'Agostini
Madeline Jozwiak

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

SERVERS

Saturday, February 5, 2022, 4:30 p.m.

Julie Smith

Lauren Smith

Sunday, February 6, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Bryan Jones

Jermaine Donaldson
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, January 29 - Vigil: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. - For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

Sunday, January 30 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - Pat and Stella Urso, Antoinette and Salvatore Urso, Lucia and Gaetano Urso, Ginger Cottone, Lucy Zelenak, Salvatore Urso, Judy Sark (5th Anniv)

Monday, January 31 - St. John Bosco, Priest and Religious Founder

Tuesday, February 1 -

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

Wednesday, February 2 - The Presentation of the Lord

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

Thursday, February 3 - St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

Friday, February 4 -

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

Saturday, February 5 - Vigil: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Sunday, February 6 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - Helen Rice (30th Anniv), Winnifred Tobin (53rd Anniv)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd



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