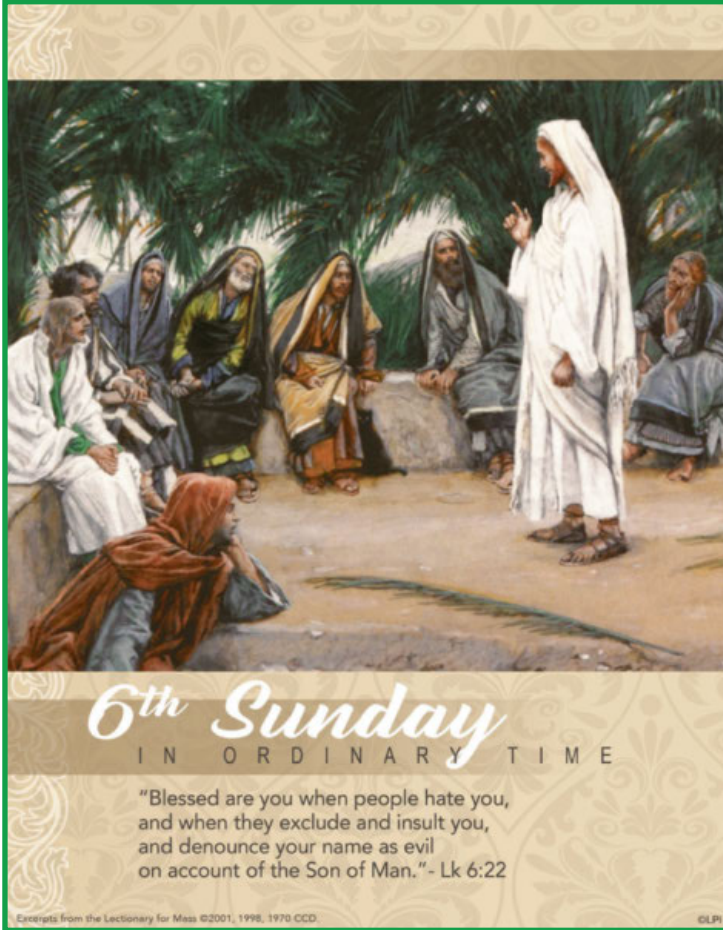




Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

February 13, 2022

Detroit, Michigan



From Father Duane's Desk



Last week, the Scripture reading seemed to me a perfect springboard for talking about "Families of Parishes." Jesus getting into Simon's boat and pulling away from the shore so that the dynamics of sound, his speaking, would carry over the water and be amplified so that the crowds could hear his teaching. Jesus used any means necessary to proclaim the Kingdom of God. As reflected in the homily, the church today must do what it can to continue to proclaim the Gospel in the midst of a dire priest shortage. The Archbishop has decided that the structure of "Family of Parishes" (FOP) will be the model by which we can best minister to our parishes.

Certainly FOP is driven by the shortage of priests, but the deeper issue is why are we in this crisis. As reflected last Sunday, part of the problem is a lack of people attending church. "Millennials" have the highest percent (75%) of "nones," those acknowledging no religious affiliation. They seem to claim spirituality but not religiosity. Yet without a religious institution giving foundational teaching, moral direction, and community worship, one's spirituality may be nothing more than a self-reflection which does not serve us well and will take us into spiritual poverty.

Fallen away Catholics are also a group that needs to be called back. The richness of our tradition and faith is certainly a gift that should not be thrown away. A good place to start to evangelize is to not only invite but encourage those who are away to return.

Having said this, I draw your attention to the article I'm putting in The Pulse from the Detroit News / Detroit Free Press printed last weekend indicating that the problem is widespread. Please read it on the inside page.

Also, too, I think it is time for people to come back to church. Many are staying away due to pandemic concerns. However, I think we still have enough room for people to be safe. Masks are recommended, and I think with proper distancing our community is safe. My fear is that as people stay away, they may grow accustomed to not attending, and this will be detrimental to the church and to them.

We will continue to develop FOP in our new Serf Vicariate as we move toward implementation on July 1, 2022.

God be with us! God help us! After all, this is the Church of Jesus Christ not ours.

Peace and
God bless all of you, Father Duane



We're spiritually poorer than ever

BY RUSTY HILLS

One of the most interesting data points to emerge from research studies in recent years has been the rise of the “nones” — people with no religious affiliation: atheists, agnostics and those who just don't care. Fewer than half of all the adults in America belong to a church, synagogue or mosque, according to a Gallup poll from 2020.

For many, this increase in religious non-affiliation signifies liberation from the stultifying strictures of religion. All those rules and regulations — who needs 'em?

So how is all this freedom from religion working out for everyone? Turns out, not so well.

■ Deaths of despair are on the rise. These are deaths from alcohol abuse, drug overdoses or suicide. In fact, deaths of despair have increased so much, U.S life expectancy is on the decline.

Mass shootings are on the rise. The U.S. recorded 689 mass shootings just in 2021, including the tragedy at Oxford High School that took the lives of four teenagers.

■ Divorce affects a large percentage of marriages. We have all heard the statistic that half of all marriages end in divorce. Newer information disputes that, indicating that the percentage of divorces is on the decline. But some of that can be attributed to the fact that marriage itself is in jeopardy, as more and more couples live together without the benefit of a marriage ceremony.

■ And another new poll finds millions in America struggling through life with few people, if any, to help them. The Impact Genome Project and the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 18% of U.S. adults, roughly 46 million Americans, report they have just one person, or no one at all, to help them with simple tasks such as going to the store or picking up a prescription.

America is the richest country on Earth, and Americans are the most prosperous people in history. We have acquired material riches at the expense of spiritual poverty. A bad bargain.

Maybe society would be a bit better off if we believed there actually is a God — and God is not us. That we may have sinned along the way, and that confession is good for the soul. That doing unto others as we'd like done to us isn't such a bad way to live. Maybe Mother Teresa and Billy Graham and Abraham Heschel were on to something.

A little Old Testament righteous indignation at the over-accumulation of wealth and materialism might be good for us. As would a little New Testament passion for love of neighbor, mercy and forgiveness. We could do a lot worse. For too many of us, it looks like we have.

Rusty Hills is a lecturer in public policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. He previously served as chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, and as a senior adviser to Attorney General Bill Schuette and Gov. John Engler.

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6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

What has been the most difficult challenge you faced in your life? Many difficult human experiences can “turn up the heat” in our lives, causing us to question the why of things or even fall into despair. Some people just somewhat passively accept what life brings, even death, and chalk difficult experiences up to happening “because they do.” They seemingly endure and move on. Taking life at face value, there really is no ultimate meaning to things. It's easier to ignore that inner prompting calling us to understand why. It's there whether we admit it or not. To question or not to question — that is the question! People sometimes give up the God search because it causes too many questions. Once we open the door to the possibility of God's existence, then all of the awkward, challenging, and tragic pieces of life have to find their place.

It gets messy. But the search is so important to living. We can easily dry up and become arid, abandoning any hope for purpose and meaning because it's too difficult and non-rational at times. In searching for answers to the how and why of life, human beings also embark on a search for God.

When one finally stumbles upon the real living tangible presence of God, then that discovery allows life's ironies and tensions to be held side by side with the all-encompassing totally unconditional, unmerited love of God! Then when life's heat gets turned up, difficulties and challenges abound, dryness and heartache become the norm, the soul remains in joyful repose. There is no fear.

The beatitudes celebrate life's ironies and tensions, holding them all together in the Kingdom of God. Poverty, hunger, weeping, being insulted and hated are not things we would normally associate with being God's friends. But they are! In fact, those who experience these uncomfortable realities of life are actually better off than those who do not. This is what makes Jesus' message so intriguing! Don't give up questioning. Questioning the apparent inequities and polarities of human experience will certainly challenge one's faith. But it's the only way to deepen it.



St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Thursday, February 17, 6:30 pm -
Fundraising Committee Meeting, Church
Auditorium



Timothy E. Fitzgerald
Husband of Karen

*Father to Timothy P. and Michael W.
Loving Grandfather to Sean, Patrick, Brody, Frank,
Connor and Dillon*

*Tim will be greatly missed by the St. Matthew Parish
Community of which he was a life-long
member always bringing a willingness to work
and give counsel.*

Family and friends grieve his passing.

*May the Lord bless you, Tim, and bring to you the joy
of heaven which you so richly deserve.*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
FATHER THOMAS KRAMER
FORMER ASSOCIATE OF
ST. MATTHEW PARISH
ON HIS 45th ANNIVERSARY
OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

FEBRUARY 12, 1977 to FEBRUARY 12, 2022

We are joining Resurrection Parish in praying for Father Tom as he celebrates 45 years of priestly ministry. He asks that we pray to the Holy Spirit to open the hearts and minds of those who have been called to vocations to respond. Congratulations may be sent to Resurrection Parish, 48755 Warren Road, Canton, MI 48187.

FEBRUARY ~ BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During Black History Month, we honor those Black Catholics who are in the process of being declared saints of the Church. These African-American Catholics are an inspiration to holy men and women. They gave demonstration to the way forward toward racial reconciliation. The individuals we honor are in the early stages of investigation for sainthood. They faced difficulties because of their race, including within the Church, yet they persevered and highlighted Christ in all they did.

Venerable Henriette Delille (1812-1862) was born a free woman of color in New Orleans who experienced a religious conversion at age 24. She later founded the Sisters of the Holy Family, a religious order dedicated to serving and educating the enslaved, the sick, and the poor. Henriette is the first U.S. native born African-American whose cause for canonization has been officially opened by the Church.

Venerable Henriette Delille, pray for us!

CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



We thank you for your generous support of CSA through St. Matthew Parish. You have truly supported our efforts to remain a beacon of light and sign of hope to many in our eastside neighborhood.

If you are interested in helping to Fuel the Mission by supporting the 2021 CSA, please consider making a gift today. Contact the rectory office for further information or go to the archdiocesan website at aod.org.

Readings for the Week of February 13, 2022

Sunday: Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6 [40:5a]/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26
Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/ Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/ Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Jas 2:1-9/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 8:27-33
Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 8:34, 9:1
Saturday: Jas 3:1-10/Ps 12:2-3, 4-5, 7-8/Mk 9:2-13
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 15:45-49/ Lk 6:27-38



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Don't look very far when you hear today's Gospel speak of poverty, hunger, sorrow, or exclusion. These things happen in families. Children feel "insulted" when they are constantly criticized. Spouses "hunger" for affection. Grandparents feel "excluded" by divorce and custody decisions. Parents "weep" because they feel alienated from their children.

World
Marriage Day

*I said a prayer for you today
And know God must have heard.
I felt the answer in my heart
Although He spoke no word!*

*I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind).
I asked Him to send treasures
Of a far more lasting kind!*

*I asked that He be near you
At the start of each new day;
To grant you health and blessings
And friends to share your way!*

*I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small.
But it was for His loving care
I prayed for most of all!*

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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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
Kristen Freiburger
Joanne Papineau
Elsa Camazzola
William Walker IV
Nancy Clemons
Cathy D'Agostini
Madeline Jozwiak

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

Saturday, February 19, 2022, 4:30 p.m.
Bruce Campbell

SERVERS

Jermaine Donaldson

Sunday, February 20, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
William Zuerblis

Lauren Gross
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, February 12 - Vigil: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - Mass of Resurrection for Timothy E. Fitzgerald
4:30 p.m. - William Redman (6th Anniv), William Walker IV, Kyle Mullen

Sunday, February 13 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - For the DeLisi Family

Monday, February 14 - Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop (Valentine's Day)

Tuesday, February 15 -
9:00 a.m. - For our Military Men and Women and their Families

Wednesday, February 16 -
9:00 a.m. - For Missionaries Serving around the World

Thursday, February 17 - The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Friday, February 18 -
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, February 19 - Vigil: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 p.m. - Tony Aiello

Sunday, February 20 - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00 a.m. - Elizabeth Reyes, Faustina (Nenette) Ferreria



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