



Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

February 20, 2022

Detroit, Michigan



7th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” - Lk 6:36

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

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**“OLD” PALM SUNDAY!
PLEASE BRING YOUR OLD PALMS BACK TO MASS NEXT WEEKEND
COLLECTION ON SATURDAY 4:30 P.M. AND SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. MASSES**

Readings for the Week of February 20, 2022

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
Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19
Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11/
Mk 9:38-40
Thursday: Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20/Mk 9:41-50
Friday: Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12/
Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-2, 3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16
Next Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/
1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sometimes, Jesus' teachings don't seem to make practical sense. When we hear things like love your enemies and do good to them, turn the other cheek when struck, give to anyone who asks, do to others as you would have them do to you, be merciful, stop judging, forgive, and give to others, we get a bit unsettled. After all, it's okay for God to do all of these things, but does He really want us to do them, too? Many good-hearted Christians really draw the line with some of these ideals and say, "No way!" They even remark that if someone did something hurtful to someone they loved, they would have no reservations seeking severe retribution. There is still this persistent thinking, even among those who consider themselves Christian, that a violent action deserves a violent response. Somehow, we continue to justify this.

Yet, it is most clearly against the very grain of the Gospel. Part of our difficulty has more to do with understanding God's love. We wrongly think that sinful or hurtful actions and evil people somehow are seen as lesser in God's eyes. They are not. God loves the sinner as much as He does the saint. And, both of these inclinations exist in every human being, even those who consider themselves holy. Both the capacity for good and the disposition toward evil exist in every one of us. Viktor Frankl has this to say when reflecting on the Holocaust: "Our generation is a realistic generation because we have learned what a human being really is. When all is said and done, man is that same creature who invented the gas-chambers of Auschwitz; but he is also that being who walked upright into those chambers with the prayer 'Shema Yisrael' on his lips."

If we believe in God, we have to act like God. Whether we like that idea is another issue. If we don't then perhaps, we need to reconsider our faith and whether we really believe in Jesus Christ. We are made in the image of God, not the image of ourselves. The Christian must, at all costs, leave resentment and the need for retaliation behind, lose defensiveness and bring into the mind and heart the realization of who we represent in this world.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The life of Fr. Augustus Tolton provides an historical reminder of how faith can overcome tremendous adversity, even within one's own religious tradition. While the personal faith of each Catholic is unique, it is instructive for the wider Church to examine the inspiring perseverance practiced by African-American Catholics and continue to foster vocations within the community. Today, there are some 800 parishes, 250 priests, 5 bishops, 400 religious sisters, 50 religious brothers, and 437 deacons of African-American heritage; 75 men are in seminary formation for the priesthood across the country. In 2020, Most Rev. Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, became the first African-American member of the College of Cardinals.

Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton (1854-1897) was born into slavery and later escaped North with his mother and siblings. As he grew, Fr. Tolton expressed interest in the priesthood. After several U.S. seminaries refused to accept him because of his skin color, he studied at the Pontifical Urban University in Rome and was ordained a priest on the Easter Vigil of 1886. Upon his return, Fr. Tolton served as the first Black priest in the U.S. and established a "national parish" for Black Catholics. Father Tolton was granted the title "Venerable" by Pope Francis in 2019.

The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter originally the feast of the Chair of St. Peter in Rome, began in the 4th Century and was held on January 18, as that was believed to be the day when Peter gave his first homily in Rome. At some point before the 16th-century Protestant revolt, the feast was combined with the feast of St. Peter's Chair in Antioch. When Martin Luther revolted from the Church, Protestant heretics made the absurd claim that Peter was never in Rome, thus he could not have been the Bishop of Rome. In their opinion, there could be no pope as claimed by Catholics. In order to reject this false Protestant challenge, Pope Paul IV (1555-1559) reinstated the feast of the Chair of Peter in Rome in 1558. As a result, for 400 years the Church celebrated two feast days (Antioch and Rome) until in 1962, Pope John XXIII combined the two feasts into one, which is the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, held **February 22** each year.

On this feast day, the universal Church acknowledges that St. Peter was the first pope and that his mission continues through the Holy Father today. That mission is to care for the people of God; to carry on the customs, rituals, teachings and truths of Jesus; and to uphold the unity of His Church. The Church proclaims that the authority given to St. Peter by Our Lord has been handed down to Peter's successors for the past 2,000 years.

This is not just about apostolic succession in respect to the pope and the bishops but also symbolizes an unspoken confidence that the Church of Jesus does not change from age to age; that the truths of the Gospel still form the basis of our faith; that these eternal truths are reflected in every Catholic parish and in every Mass. It is a confidence that the leader of our Church adheres to and will never deny the precepts and principles of the Church of Jesus.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Saturday, February 20, and Sunday, February 21, 4:30 pm and 10 am Masses
- Collection of "old" palms for Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2 - Ash Wednesday - Distribution of Ashes at the 9 am and 7 pm Masses



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In studying the effects of religion upon family relationships, researchers inform us hostility and prayer can't coexist. You cannot be hostile toward someone for whom you are praying. Today's Gospel encourages us: "Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who treat you badly."



*Ernie (Ernest) Alex
Husband of Laura*

Father to Jean, Emily, Jacques, and Michael

Ernie was an active member of St. Matthew Parish and a member of St. Matthew Choir for over 20 years.

His family and friends will miss his presence.

May the Lord bless you, Ernie, and may He welcome you home to His heavenly banquet.



Prayer for Government Leaders

God of power and might,
wisdom and justice,
through you authority is rightly administered,
Laws are enacted,
and judgement is decreed.

Assist with your spirit of counsel and fortitude
the President and other
government leaders.

May they always seek
the ways of righteousness,
justice and mercy.

Grant that they may be enabled
by your powerful protection
to lead our country
with honesty and integrity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

What Is Mammon?

What does that mean? When you hear Scripture proclaimed each Sunday, remember it wasn't originally written in English. Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek — these ancient tongues were the original language of our Old and New Testaments. Most of the time, all of the words are translated into our native language. Sometimes, a word or two is left in the original language. Such is the case in this Scripture passage.

Mammon is an ancient Aramaic word referring to money, wealth, or profit. Earthly wealth isn't bad in itself, nor does it automatically exclude us from being a disciple of Jesus. But what dominates our life? To serve money — that is, to seek accumulation of wealth for its own sake and to structure our lives around it — is morally problematic. What good is our wealth if it isn't at the service of others? What good is our wealth if its pursuit leads us to selfishness, obsession, greed, envy, and comparison?

There are many things that can be opposed to our service of God — power, prestige, popularity. Ultimately, something in our lives will be our master. But there is only one God worth serving.



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2. **Click on "View My Giving History & Tax Information."**
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5. **Change the report type to "Full Detail Report (Tax Purposes)."**
6. **Leave the tax filter option checked.**
7. **Click "Print."**
8. **Your report will open a new window.**
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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
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Richard Goll
Kristen Freiburger
Joanne Papineau
Elsa Camazzola
William Walker IV
Nancy Clemons
Cathy D'Agostini
Madeline Jozwiak
Marc McEachern

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

SERVERS

Saturday, February 26, 2022, 4:30 p.m.

Liz Smith

Bruce Campbell

Sunday, February 27, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Liz Foley-Dunstone

Lauren Gross
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

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

Monday, February 21 - St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Presidents' Day)

Tuesday, February 22 - The Chair of St. Peter

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

Wednesday, February 23 - St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

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

Thursday, February 24 -

Friday, February 25 -

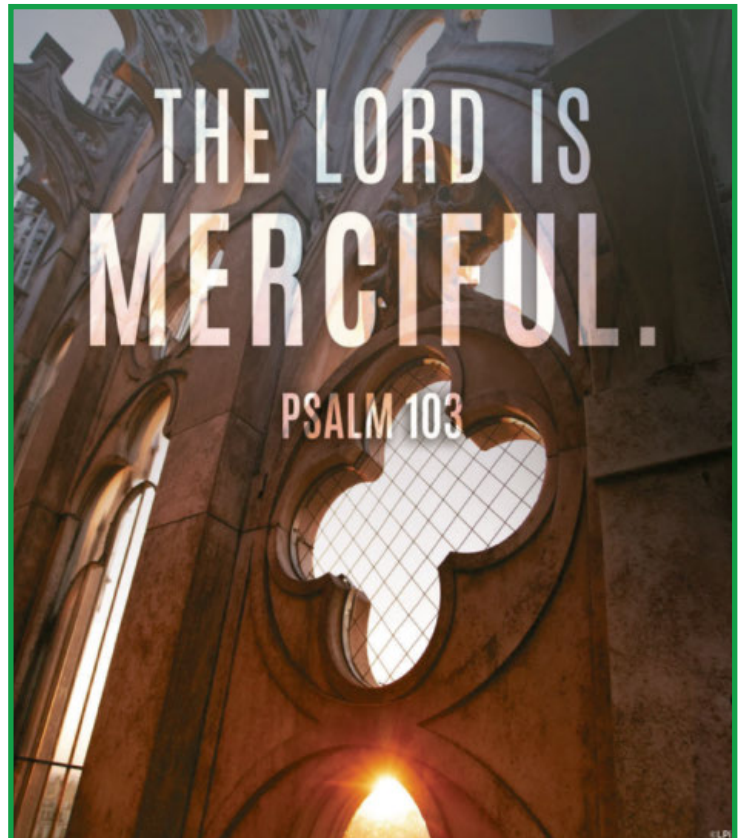
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, February 26 - Vigil: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. - Frank Amara (22nd Anniv)

Sunday, February 27 - 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - William Pilette



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