



Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

March 6, 2022

Detroit, Michigan



1st Sunday O F L E N T

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. - Lk 4:1-2a

Readings for the Week of March 6, 2022

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15
[cf. 15b]/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3,
7c-8/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/
Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

1st Sunday of Lent

One of the greatest temptations human beings face is leaving the truth of who they are, where they came from and who created them in pursuit of more personal satisfactions. When we consider all that desires our attention in a given day, there are many lures that attract us to illusions about ourselves.

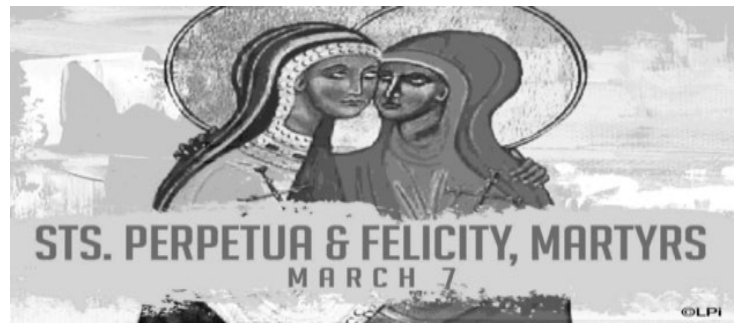
We can easily find ourselves distracted or tired, preoccupied with preserving our status in life, social relationships, current trends, and corporate demands, and intrigued by pursuing what we perceive to be the “path of least resistance.” The daily concerns of life can quickly take our eyes off of our truth, making the empty promises of worldly accomplishments and ideologies seem so attractive. What is at risk in giving into this temptation?

We cease giving thanks to and worshipping our Creator as we pursue our own self-sufficiency, power, and prestige. We replace the true God with a “pet” one. While many do not totally dismiss the idea of God and pretend to remain at least remotely connected, they do not invest themselves heart, mind, and soul in the relationship either.

That is why we are so easily swayed. If something attractive comes along, we lunge for it. After all, having a position above and over everyone else is a good thing, isn't it? In more honest moments, many have to admit that they believe this to be true. The Evil One is very convincing. But he can only gain control if we allow him to.

About temptation, St. Basil remarks, “As the pilot of a vessel is tried in the storm, as the wrestler is tried in the ring, the soldier in the battle and the hero in adversity, so is the Christian tried in temptation.” And here is found the reason for Lent.

It is a wonderful opportunity to get a handle on the attractive lures of illusion that easily captivate us and bring us off track. It is also a time for some honest reflection rooted in prayer, fasting, and selfless giving that can bring us to temptation's remedy: love. Love of his Father gave Jesus resistance. It can do the same for us.



“When my father in his affection for me was trying to turn me from my purpose by arguments and thus weaken my faith, I said to him, ‘Do you see this vessel—water pot or whatever it may be? Can it be called by any other name than what it is?’ ‘No,’ he replied. ‘So also I cannot call myself by any other name than what I am—a Christian.’”

So writes Perpetua: young, beautiful, well-educated, a noblewoman of Carthage in North Africa, mother of an infant son and chronicler of the persecution of the Christians by Emperor Septimius Severus.

Perpetua's mother was a Christian and her father a pagan. He continually pleaded with her to deny her faith. She refused and was imprisoned at 22. In her diary, Perpetua describes her period of captivity: “What a day of horror! Terrible heat, owing to the crowds! Rough treatment by the soldiers! To crown all, I was tormented with anxiety for my baby... Such anxieties I suffered for many days, but I obtained leave for my baby to remain in the prison with me, and being relieved of my trouble and anxiety for him, I at once recovered my health, and my prison became a palace to me, and I would rather have been there than anywhere else.”

Despite threats of persecution and death, Perpetua, Felicity, a slave woman and expectant mother, and three companions, Revocatus, Secundulus, and Saturninus, refused to renounce their Christian faith. For their unwillingness, all were sent to the public games in the amphitheater. There Perpetua and Felicity were beheaded, and the others killed by beasts. Felicity gave birth to a daughter a few days before the games commenced.

Perpetua's record of her trial and imprisonment ends the day before the games. “Of what was done in the games themselves, let him write who will.” The diary was finished by an eyewitness.

Reflection ~ Persecution for religious beliefs is not confined to Christians in ancient times. Consider Anne Frank, the Jewish girl who with her family, was forced into hiding and later died in Bergen-Belsen, one of Hitler's death camps during World War II. Anne, like Perpetua and Felicity, endured hardship and suffering and finally death because she committed herself to God. In her diary, Anne writes, “It's twice as hard for us young ones to hold our ground, and maintain our opinions, in a time when all ideals are being shattered and destroyed, when people are showing their worst side, and do not know whether to believe in truth and right and God.”



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Jesus “was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.” What is the wilderness in your life to which the Holy Spirit is leading you this Lent? Perhaps, there are uncharted areas in your marriage or family relationships. Spend this Lent in your “wilderness” with God work. Where is the Spirit leading you this Lent?

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Saturday, March 5, and Sunday, March 6, 4:30 pm and 10 am Masses - Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Tuesday, March 8, 6 pm - Parish Council Meeting, Church Auditorium (Tentative)

BLESSING OF THE CRS RICE BOWLS

Welcome to CRS Rice Bowl 2022! Join our faith community and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a transformative Lenten journey with the Rice Bowl. During these 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on global hunger and take action to help our sisters and brothers impacted by this injustice.

Lord Jesus, you call us to a conversion of heart during Lent, and you give us the tools to do this through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. When we pray, help us remember the needs of our sisters and brothers.

When we fast, help us offer our sacrifice in union with you.

When we give, help us recognize our gifts are from you so that we are generous with others.

May our Lenten journey with the Rice Bowl enable us to follow you more faithfully and love our neighbor more fully.

Guide us throughout these 40 days

so that we may be joined more closely to you

when we arrive at the joyful celebration of Easter. Amen.

As we begin our Lenten journey, reflect on how your prayers, fasting, and almsgiving can guide you. As Pope Francis explains, these are "elements which, when lived sincerely, can transform life and provide a sure foundation for dignity and fraternity."

Kroger Community Rewards

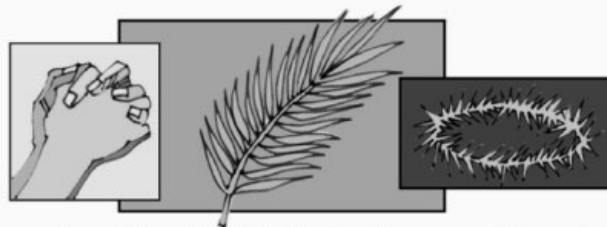
The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local neighborhoods. The period of November 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022 brought a monetary reward of **\$234.35** back to St. Matthew Parish. Thanks to the participation of **72** households.

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



The Church in Central and Eastern Europe

This week we have a special collection that supports the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your donation today helps restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries still struggling to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this collection support reconstruction, education, formation, and poverty outreach. Please be generous. Envelopes are in the pews for your use.



Penitential Disciplines of Lent

"The Christian faithful, during Lent, are clearly conscious of the need to turn the mind towards those realities which really count, which require Gospel commitment and integrity of life which, through self denial of those things which are superfluous, are translated into good works and solidarity with the poor and needy" (*Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*, #125).

In addition to choosing their own penitential practices, Catholics are also asked to observe the practices of fast and abstinence during the 40 days of Lent. The Lenten Fast and Abstinence Regulations are as follows:

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. (The obligation of fasting ceases with the celebration of one's 59th birthday.)

3. Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday means eating only one full, meatless meal. Two other smaller, meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

4. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.



Relief Help for the People of Ukraine

If you are interested in helping the people of Ukraine as they experience the hardships of war and the displacement of their people, you are invited to send a check to the Archdiocese clearly marked **Relief for Ukraine**, 12 State Street, Detroit 48226. Or you can donate on line at: www.aod.org/collectionforukraine.

Almighty God we pray for the situation in the country of Ukraine.

We pray for those who live in fear, that you may grant them peace.

We pray that the voices for discernment and peaceful solutions may prosper.

Lord, we ask that you raise up peacemakers on all sides, that war and violence might be averted.

Give diplomats wisdom, understanding and build trust.

We ask for the church in the nations involved, may they be salt and light in a dark situation.

Lord we lift this dangerous situation to you.

May your kingdom come.

Amen.

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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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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Eduardo Fajardo
Aurora Guinto
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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, March 12, 2022, 4:30 p.m.
Dan McBride

Bruce Campbell

Sunday, March 13, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Bill Ridella

Jermaine Donaldson
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, March 5 - Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent
4:30 p.m. - Jim Greco

Sunday, March 6 - 1st Sunday of Lent
10:00 a.m. - Rose Marie Zajac Parker, Ernie Alix

Monday, March 7 - Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

Tuesday, March 8 - St. John of God, Religious
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

Wednesday, March 9—St. Frances of Rome, Religious
9:00 a.m. – For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

Thursday, March 10 -

Friday, March 11 -
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, March 12 - Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Lent
4:30 p.m. - Tim Fitzgerald

Sunday, March 13 - 2nd Sunday of Lent
10:00 a.m. - Bruno Bush, Tim Fitzgerald, Betty Wilk (96th Birthday)



SERVE



*“You shall worship the Lord,
your God, and him alone
shall you serve.”*

LUKE 4:8

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