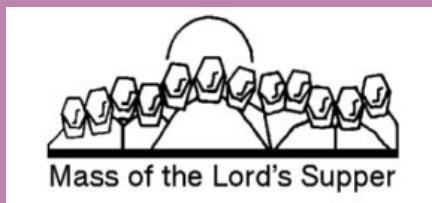


Holy Week

St. Matthew Church

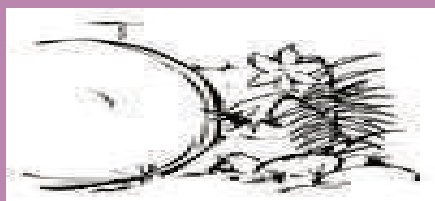
MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK.....	7:00 p.m.	Communal Penance Service
TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK.....	9:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Liturgy
WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK.....	9:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Liturgy
HOLY THURSDAY.....	10:00 a.m.	Chrim Mass at Most Blessed Sacrament Cathedral
	7:30 p.m.	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
	9:00 p.m.	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament <i>(until 10:30 p.m.)</i>



GOOD FRIDAY	12:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
	1:30 p.m.	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
	3:30 p.m.	Acolyte Rehearsal
		Lector Rehearsal



HOLY SATURDAY.....	9:00 p.m.	Easter Vigil
		Easter Food Blessing
		<i>(at conclusion of Vigil Mass)</i>



EASTER SUNDAY.....	10:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Liturgy
		Easter Food Blessing
		<i>(following Easter Mass)</i>



Holy Week 2022 ~ April 10th to April 17th

Readings for the Week of April 3, 2022

Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5-6/Jn 8:12-20
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49

5th Sunday of Lent

We love to make examples out of those who have erred and done wrong. Publicly punishing others serves as a means of demonstrating the consequences for what is deemed inappropriate or wrongful behavior. While this may appear an effective way of achieving conformity to established rules, it runs the real risk of distorting motivation. Obviously, we want people to do what is right and pursue healthy, virtuous behaviors and ideals. But is fear of punishment ever the best motivation for avoiding one action in favor of another?

Doing something out of fear is never healthy. Focusing exclusively on our behavior and what others expect or think, leads to living life with a self-focused superficiality. We become more concerned about protecting ourselves from something negative and unpleasant, than investing ourselves in the freedom, wonder and awe of being human! We can still find our way to the unacceptable or inappropriate behavior as long as we do not get caught! Being a whole, focused, and God-centered human being requires more. It demands an investment of the heart. Virtuous, moral, and mature lifestyles reflective of the Gospel necessitate love.

When we experience and recognize love, God's unconditional love, in the depth of our soul, we fall in love with what we have found. We then find ourselves leaving destructive and sinful actions behind in search of something more holy, dignified, true, integral, and loving. This is really "mercy realized." God's tremendous, loving, eternal forgiveness and willingness to bring us back to something more real and tender is transformational. The respect for myself that I receive from God is so life changing that it causes me to run quickly away from anything sinful and self-destructive to things that are whole and holy.

There are many people who want nothing more than to judge or criticize us. What would actually stoning the woman caught in adultery really accomplish? Nothing more than the inflation of the already self-righteous egos of a few men who think they have power. They have no power because they are sinners too, just like everyone else. What all of us have is the humble ability to express sorrow for pursuing destructive thoughts and actions and receive the power of God's mercy. Then, Jesus' request to "go and sin no more" will be one we proudly heed and follow.



Our Lenten Journey - Making a Difference

Hunger impacts millions of women, men, and children around the world. Throughout Lent, we have encountered communities in Guatemala, Bangladesh, and Rwanda that are overcoming this problem so their members can have brighter futures. How are you working to address hunger or other injustices locally and globally?

Although we are in the final days of Lent, there's still plenty of time to continue the three pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to grow with God and our sisters and brothers around the world. Just like how you have to practice reading or math or playing your favorite sport or instrument, we have to practice these pillars regularly—even when it's not Lent.

Heavenly Father, thank you for leading us closer to you during these 40 days.

We experienced your love for us by loving our sisters and brothers.

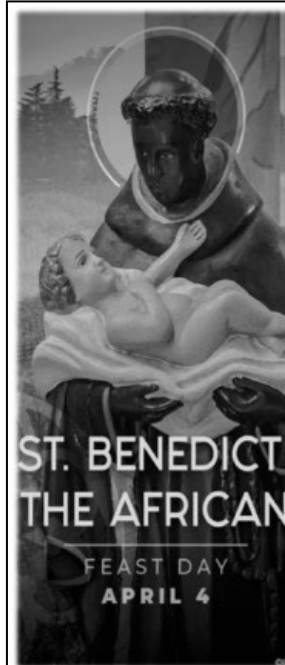
As we end our Lenten journey, we pray that our sacrifices may give glory to you by helping communities access nutritious food and other resources necessary to flourish.

Help us continue what we started this Lent, caring for our global family and addressing the injustices that prevent people from thriving.

You promise hope and life through your son's Resurrection. May we be instruments of your peace and share this hope with the world by working together to end hunger.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**NEXT WEEKEND
PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022
PLEASE REMEMBER TO
BRING YOUR RICE BOWLS TO CHURCH.
THEY WILL BE COLLECTED
DURING MASS AT THE
OFFERTORY.**



St. Benedict the African, whose feast day is April 4, (1524-1589) was born in San Fratello, Sicily to Cristoforo and Diana Manasseri, Africans who had been taken as slaves. Some accounts claim that because of his parents' loyal service that Benedict was given his freedom at birth, other sources say that his freedom was granted when he turned 18.

At age 21, Benedict joined a society of hermits living under the rule of St. Francis of Assisi. Eventually he succeeded his friend, Jerome Lanze, as their leader. When the Pope disbanded the independent hermit society, Benedict joined the Order of Friars Minor and he was sent to Palermo, to the Franciscan Friary of St. Mary of Jesus.

There Benedict worked in the kitchens and despite being illiterate and a lay brother (not a priest), he also served as Master of Novices, and as Guardian of the Community. St. Benedict was known throughout his life as a brilliant cook under whose hands food seemed to multiply miraculously, a healer, and a spiritual leader with profound understanding. He is recognized as the patron saint of African Americans.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 pm -Organ Dedication Concert Committee Meeting, Church Auditorium

Saturday, April 9, 4:30 pm, and Sunday, April 10, 10 am - Please Remember to Bring your Rice Bowls

**- SAVE THE DATE -
Lenten Parish Communal Reconciliation
Monday, April 11, 7 pm**

CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron has charged all faithful in our Archdiocese to join together as a “joyful band of missionary disciples” in a spirit of evangelization. Generously sharing ourselves and our gifts through the CSA allows us to witness our discipleship in Christ through our love of one another. This “attitude of gratitude” also provides growth in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your generous support of CSA through St. Matthew Parish. There are only a few weeks left for the 2021 CSA campaign. If you are interested in participating in the 2021 campaign, please contact the rectory for further information or go to aod.org for more information.

From Father Duane's Desk



It seems we may be at a critical point in our nation's legal history and in the long struggle for the respect for life and the protection of unborn children. It is suspected that the Supreme Court will take up the issue of the constitutionality of Roe v Wade, the 1973 decision that allowed for abortion throughout our country. There is the probability that Roe will be overturned. However, this does not mean an end to the issue. In fact, it will bring the issue of abortion closer to home. That is to say, that the decision for or against abortion will lie with individual states.

The state of Michigan has on its books since 1846 a ban on abortion. If Roe is overturned, the state already has its law in place; but it is being challenged by the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and Michigan Voices. Their goal is to enact a change in the Michigan constitution. In effect, making abortion legal and calling for a “fundamental right” in our state constitution to “explicitly affirm” unrestricted abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

This coalition is called “reproductive freedom for all,” and they are, since March 19, 2022, circulating a petition to put the constitutional amendment on the November ballot. They have until July 11, 2022 to complete their task of obtaining 425,059 signatures to succeed.

At the behest of the Church, our Archbishop (see inserted letter), and people of goodwill, we ask you **NOT TO SIGN** the petition. If approached, please be aware of what you are asked to sign. It would be best if the proposed constitutional change would not be put to a referendum and appear on the November ballot.

If it does, we could have Michigan as a pro-abortion state set in concrete. We can have a positive force for life and truly make a difference in these changing times. All life comes from God, only He can decide who lives and who does not. More information to follow in the future.



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Stoning is not just an ancient act of violence. Each day in our homes, we throw stones of ridicule, criticism, name-calling and put-downs. All of it is deadly. Hear Jesus in today's Gospel: “Whoever is without sin can throw the first stone.” Rid your home of violence. Stop verbal stoning!

REFLECT Retreat Weekend

As a mid-life single, are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose and belonging? REFLECT retreat weekends offer a chance to experience healing, a sense of belonging, and a renewed relationship with the Lord. Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend at the St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on April 22-24, 2022. Take a chance and get involved...you won't regret it! The cost is \$200 for meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.michigan@gmail.com, or call 586-770-1772 for details.

A Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

*O Lord, we are your people,
and we are asking for the prayers of your
Most Holy Mother and the intercession of all the saints
for the Ukrainian people.
Deliver them from civil strife, cease the spilling of blood,
and turn back the misfortunes set against them.
Lead into sanctuary all those in need of shelter,
feed the hungry, comfort those who weep,
and unite those who are divided.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*



**Congratulations
to Lieselotte Auth
on her 100th Birthday!**

**Registered Parishioner
since 1945
Faithful to her Faith, her family,
and her friends,
having a life well-lived, we wish you, Lieselotte,
all the best of God's blessings
as you continue on your life's journey!**

ALL THE STOPS

**SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022
3:00 P.M.**

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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
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
Marc McEachern
John Cassisa

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

Saturday, Vigil: Palm Sunday, April 9, 2022, 4:30 p.m.
Liz Smith (N)
Bryan Jones (V)

Sunday, Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
William Zuerblis (N)
Julie Smith (V)

SERVERS

Bruce Campbell (Th)
Jeff Smith (B/+)

Julia Zuerblis (Th)
Lauren Smith (B/+)
Lauren Gross (C)

Mass Schedule

Saturday, April 2 - Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent
4:30 p.m. - Maria Fowler

Sunday, April 3 - 5th Sunday of Lent
10:00 a.m. - Hermenia (Emmy) Escorial, Grace Chinnici (12th Anniv), Lieselotte Auth (100th Birthday)

Monday, April 4 - St. Benedict the African

Tuesday, April 5 - St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

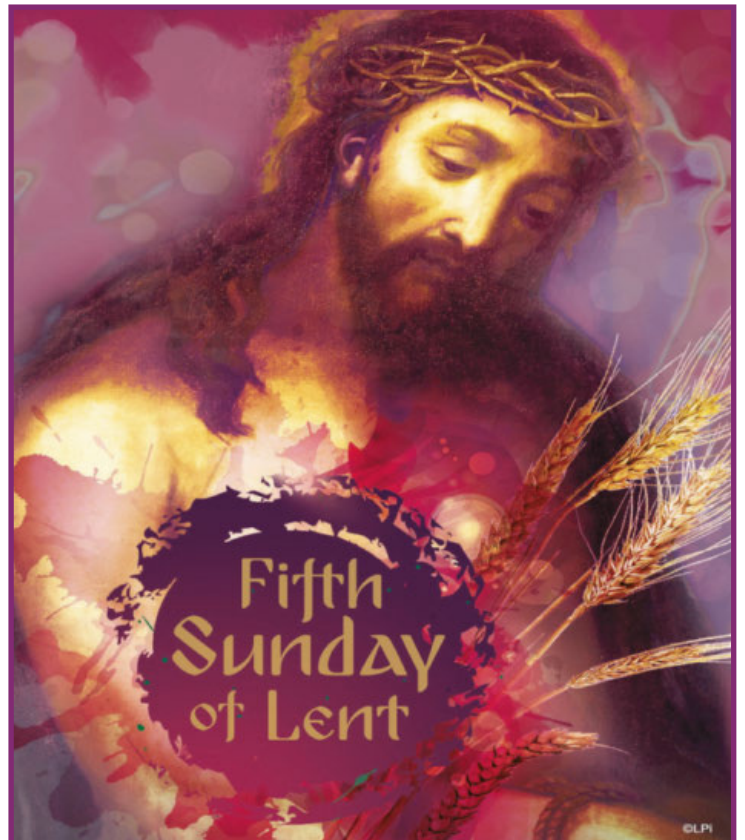
Wednesday, April 6 -
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

Thursday, April 7 - St. John the Baptist de la Salle, Priest

Friday, April 8 -
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, April 9 - Vigil: Palm Sunday
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, April 10 - Palm Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Marcella Adams, Gaspare Stellino



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