



# *Saint Matthew Church* **The PULSE**

September 4, 2022

Detroit, Michigan



## 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? ... In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” - Lk 14:28, 33

## **Readings for the Week of September 4, 2022**

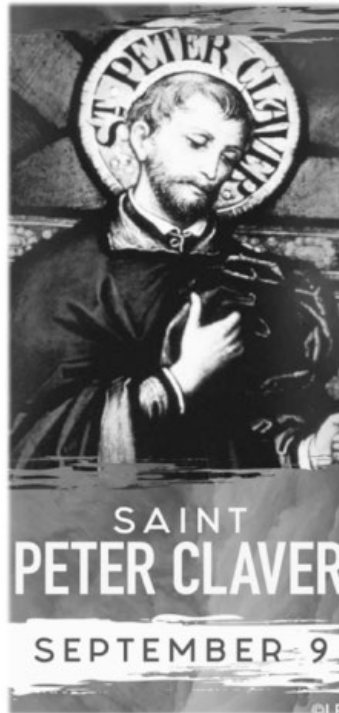
Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17/  
Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33  
Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11  
Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/  
Lk 6:12-19  
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17  
/Lk 6:20-26  
Thursday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/  
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23  
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/  
Lk 6:39-42  
Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49  
Next Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19/  
1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

### **23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

What virtue is the cornerstone of discipleship? Love. Jesus preached about it, lived it, and summarized his greatest commandment featuring it. Love is in our DNA. To follow Jesus, then, is to follow the path of love. While this may appear to be an attractive and easy option, it most assuredly is not. Authentic love always comes with sacrifice. It is the complete giving of oneself to another. The sacrificial character of love always requires that we leave something aside and pursue something else. This is at the heart of self-denial. Love asks us to make choices that are often difficult.

There is a reason Jesus asks that the love of God come first. "Charity is the right attitude of mind which prefers nothing to the knowledge of God. If a man possesses any strong attachment to the things of this earth, he cannot possess true charity (St. Maximus the Confessor)." "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." A devoted disciple must be single-minded in her quest for God. She cannot allow anyone or anything to have more power over her soul than God. When any earthly attachments become more important than Love, we can get ourselves into trouble.

The Gospel calls us to walk boldly into the darkness, confusion, and emptiness of the world clothed in the mantle of love. We are asked to walk with others on their journey, offering a supportive, healing, challenging, and faithful presence. Ours is not to judge. To walk this sacrificial journey means that I must put myself aside and focus on the needs of others. "A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt and must empty ourselves (St. Teresa of Calcutta)." Love helps us walk straight and focus to see things more clearly and help others to do so as well. Many folks struggle to find joy and meaning in life. People may simply need someone with the freedom to sit with them in their pain, so they don't feel so alone. Through acts of kindness, gestures of acceptance, and words of compassion, burdens can be lightened. Believe in God's love and seek it above all other things!



### **St. Peter Claver's Story**

A native of Spain, young Jesuit Peter Claver left his homeland forever in 1610 to be a missionary in the colonies of the New World. He sailed into Cartagena, a rich port city washed by the Caribbean. He was ordained there in 1615.

By this time, the slave trade had been established in the Americas for nearly 100 years, and Cartagena was a chief center for it. Ten thousand slaves poured into the port each year after crossing the Atlantic from West Africa under conditions so foul and inhuman that an estimated one-third of the passengers died in transit. Although the practice of slave-trading was condemned by Pope Paul III and later labeled "supreme villainy" by Pope Pius IX, it continued to flourish.

Peter Claver's predecessor, Jesuit Father Alfonso de Sandoval, had devoted himself to the service of the slaves for 40 years before Claver arrived to continue his work, declaring himself "the slave of the Negroes forever."

As soon as a slave ship entered the port, Peter Claver moved into its infested hold to minister to the ill-treated and exhausted passengers. After the slaves were herded out of the ship like chained animals and shut up in nearby yards to be gazed at by the crowds, Claver plunged in among them with medicines, food, bread, brandy, lemons, and tobacco. With the help of interpreters he gave basic instructions and assured his brothers and sisters of their human dignity and God's love. During the 40 years of his ministry, Claver instructed and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves.

Fr. Claver's apostolate extended beyond his care for slaves. He became a moral force, indeed, the apostle of Cartagena. He preached in the city square, gave missions to sailors and traders as well as country missions, during which he avoided, when possible, the hospitality of the planters and owners and lodged in the slave quarters instead.

After four years of sickness, which forced the saint to remain inactive and largely neglected, Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. The city magistrates, who had previously frowned at his solicitude for the black outcasts, ordered that he should be buried at public expense and with great pomp.

Peter Claver was canonized in 1888, and Pope Leo XIII declared him the worldwide patron of missionary work among black slaves.

Saint Peter Claver is the Patron Saint of African Diaspora, African Missions, Colombia, and Interracial Justice

*Reflection: The Holy Spirit's might and power are manifested in the striking decisions and bold actions of Peter Claver. A decision to leave one's homeland never to return reveals a gigantic act of will difficult for us to imagine. Peter's determination to serve forever the most abused, rejected, and lowly of all people is stunningly heroic. When we measure our lives against such a man's, we become aware of our own barely used potential and of our need to open ourselves more to the jolting power of Jesus' Spirit.*

**"Seek God in all things and  
you shall find God by your side."**

*St. Peter Claver*



## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Monday, September 5, and Tuesday,  
September 6 - Rectory Office Closed!

Saturday, September 10, and Sunday,  
September 11 - Our St. Matthew "Sock it to  
Us" Campaign Begins!

~ MARK YOUR CALENDARS ~

Saturday, October 15, and Sunday, October 16,  
2022 Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Kick off!



### Catholic Teaching on Labor

One of the most important principles of Catholic social teaching is the dignity of work and the rights of workers. Four encyclicals address this foundational social teaching: *Rerum Novarum* (1891) by Leo XIII, *Quadragesimo Anno* (1931) by Pius XI, *Laborem Exercens* (1981), and *Centesimus Annus* (1991) by John Paul II. They address both the theology and dignity of work. In *Genesis*, God takes the initiative in creating the world, calling forth human beings to be faithful stewards of creation. We are thus formed to share in God's continuing creative activity by partnering with God in finishing the world and helping bring it to completion and fulfillment. From this perspective, work can be spiritually understood in terms of sharing in God's ongoing activity to build, create, and transform the world. Human beings are co-creators with God. This vocation demands self-discipline.

Besides an exercise in self-discipline, work is also the means by which we develop and fulfill ourselves. In work, we shape the world and our environment. Through work, we also shape ourselves. Pope John Paul II summarized this point in *Laborem Exercens* #6, "the value of work is not primarily the kind of work being done, but the fact that the one who is doing it is a person."

Labor Day offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on how we view work in light of our Catholic social teaching.

### A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's Gospel is clear: commitment to another involves sacrifice. Before we accept a commitment such as marriage or parenting, we must plan carefully like the king in today's Gospel. These are serious commitments which demand complete self-giving and are not for the faint hearted or selfish.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FLYER  
THIS WEEK REGARDING  
"PROJECT HOPE"**

**9TH ANNUAL 5K & PRAY RUN!**

**THIS EVENT BRINGS HOPE TO THOSE  
FIGHTING CANCER.**

**YOU CAN RUN, WALK, EAT, AND PRAY.**

**MEET AT ST. CLARE OF MONTEFALCO**

**SEPTEMBER 27, EVENTS FROM 8 AM TO 5:30 PM**

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## CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Your pledge or donation to the 2022 CSA helps the Archdiocese support over 170 ministries, services, and programs. Also, your pledge or donation is vital to the sustainability of your St. Matthew's Parish. We have met our CSA archdiocesan goal of \$18,511; however, we established an internal target of \$36,000. The theme of our campaign being "one (dollar) for the Archdiocese, and one (dollar) for St. Matthew's". Any money over and above our AoD target is returned to the parish for its use. So, let's "double down" and "repeat the success."

St. Matthew is a vital part of this eastside neighborhood. Not only do we have charitable outreach programs, but more importantly, we serve the spiritual needs of our parishioners, family, and friends. We need the physical presence of our church on the corner of Harper at Whittier. It is truly a Sign of Hope and a Beacon of Light in this community.

Please prayerfully consider a pledge to CSA. You won't regret it. It is an act of charity for the sustainability of St. Matthew Parish. God bless you for whatever you can do.



### "SOCK IT TO US"

Help "sock it to us" and keep people in our community warm this winter.

From now until October 31, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Wayne County sponsored by Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan are holding their 30th annual sock collection. This effort is part of "A National Day of Service and Remembrance" Project and is meeting an important need in the community. Socks, while necessary, are rarely collected and distributed. The socks we collect will be distributed to veterans and their families and human services agencies throughout Wayne County.

**New socks** of all sizes, colors, and patterns for men, women, and children are needed. Patterned and colorful socks for pre-school age children are particularly welcome. In 2021, 19,336 pairs of sock were collected by 35 different agencies and individuals and then distributed to 18 community organizations. Your generosity last year yielded 568 pairs of socks which covered 1,136 feet.

Again this year, St. Matthew Parish is joining this effort to continue to help keep people warm this winter in Michigan. It is the goal to collect more socks than ever before, maybe reaching a total of over 20,000 socks!

A special "laundry basket" will be placed at the St. Matthew statue for your donations. Please help in this most simple and easy way. If you desire, monetary donations are welcome to help purchase socks. **Please do not remove any labels on the socks.** These are needed for the sorting process.

Let St. Matthew parishioners make a difference by "socking it to us." With thanks from Catholic Charities of SE Michigan and RSVP.

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

6021 Whittier, Detroit 48224-2637  
Rectory Office: (313) 884-4470  
Rectory Fax: (313) 884-4276  
E-mail : stmatthew27@aol.com  
Website: www.stmatthewdetroit.com  
Office Hours: Monday through Friday  
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Duane R. Novelly ~ *Pastor*

David Troiano ~ *Organist*

### CLERICAL STAFF

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Gloria Bermudez ~ *Bookkeeper*

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Bill Zuerblis ~ *Financial Council Chair*  
Michael Dulapa ~ *Evangelization Chair*  
Patricia Camazzola, Bryan Jones,  
David Smydra ~ *Members at Large*  
Sharon & Jerry Mielke ~ *VPC Representatives*

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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  
Pauline Williams  
Herb Damman  
Sarah Wagner  
Albert Fajardo  
Aurora Guinto  
Jesse Ocampo  
Mary Spansky  
Mike Dulapa  
Kathy Bush  
Kristen Freiburger  
Joanne Papineau  
Elsa Camazzola

William Walker IV  
Nancy Clemons  
Madeline Jozwiak  
Robert Rabe  
Lynn Simoncini  
Joan Nardi



# Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

## LECTORS

## SERVERS

Saturday, September 10, 2022, 4:30 p.m.

Julie Smith

Lauren Smith

Sunday, September 11, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Bryan Jones

Emmanuel Kole-James

Samuel Kole-James

Julia Zuerblis

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday, September 3 - Vigil: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
4:30 p.m. - Thomas Daniel

**Sunday, September 4 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
10:00 a.m. - Gary Guilbault, Richard D. Goll

**Monday, September 5 - Labor Day**

**Tuesday, September 6 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For Migrant and Refugee Families

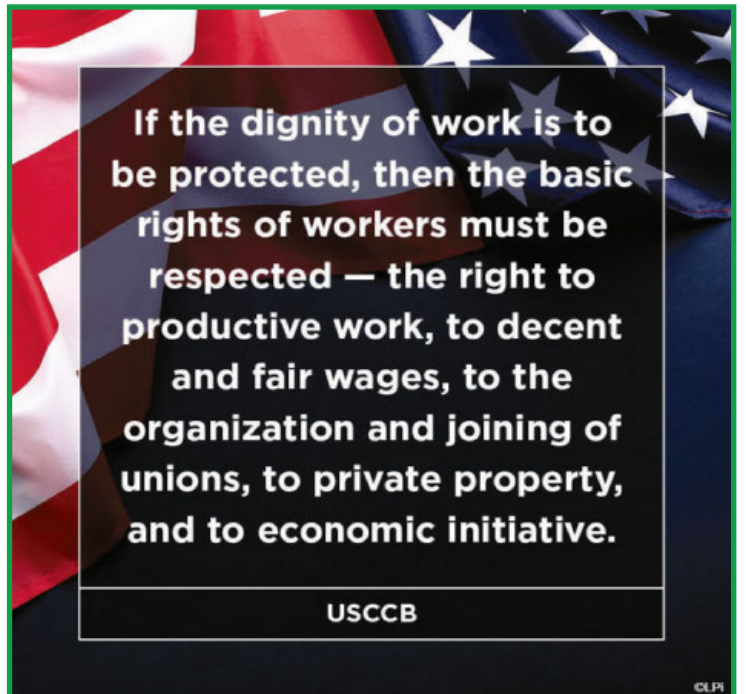
**Wednesday, September 7 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For Missionaries Serving around the World

**Thursday, September 8 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Friday, September 9 - St. Peter Claver, Priest**  
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Saturday, September 10 - Vigil: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

**Sunday, September 11 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
10:00 a.m. - Robert Stark, Betty Cummings, Paul Shepard



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