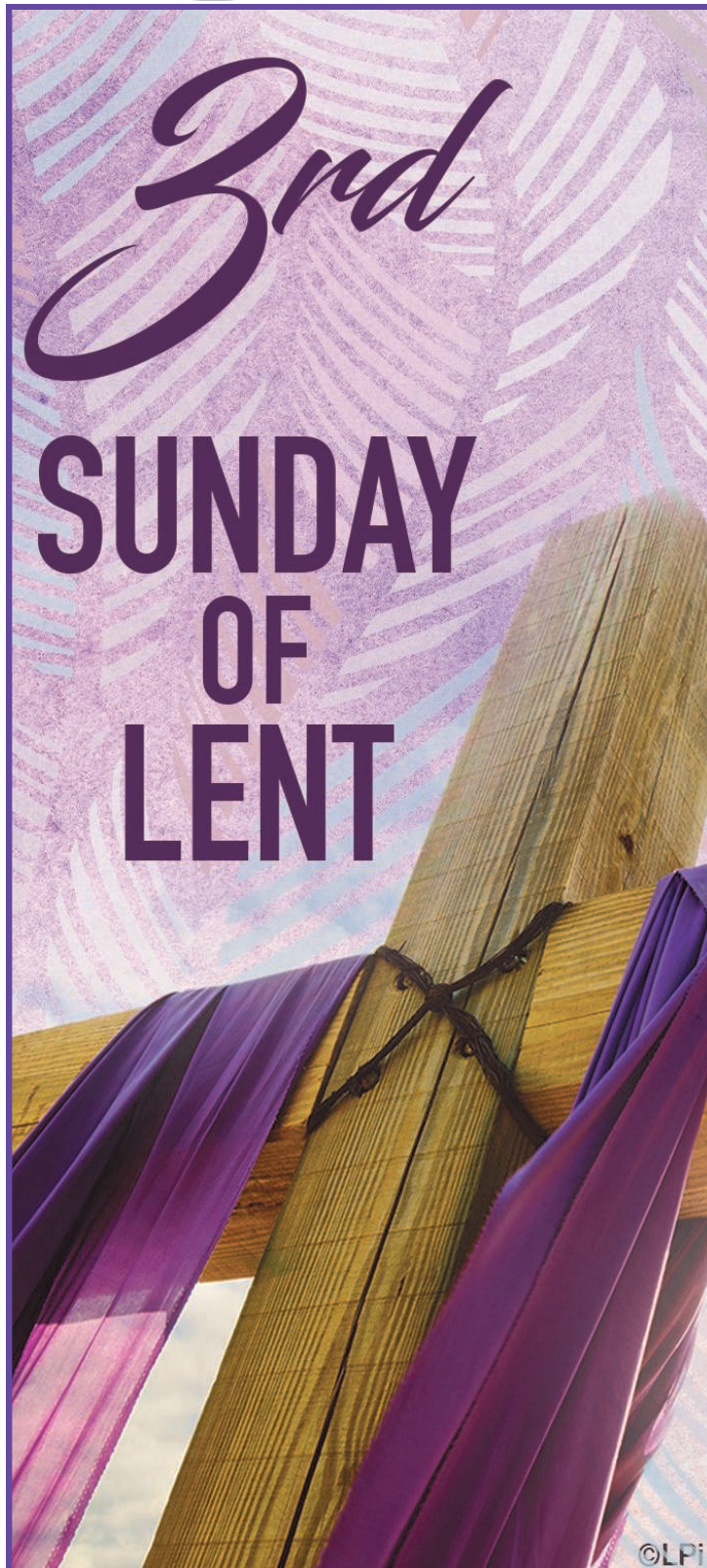




Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

March 4, 2018

Detroit, Michigan



From Father Duane's Desk



Congratulations to our catechumens, Keith and Cory, upon being called through the Rite of Election by the bishop to journey to the Easter sacraments and full initiation in the church at the Easter Vigil through Baptism, Confirmation, and receiving the Eucharist (Holy Communion). This is certainly a time of joy for them and should be for the entire community.

In my column of February 4th, I spoke of the joy of Lent. A thought that almost sounds counter-intuitive. However, I did reflect upon the disciplines of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, as a way to open ourselves up to God's love which is always around us and is always a joy. Noting that I would continue this thought, I would like to reflect further.

If Lent starts with the wonder of God' love and putting the accent on God's mercy and love, not merely on our own strength of will, then we must be open to a journey of conversion. That is, in the biblical sense of changing of one's heart. We might even say that conversion is a joyful process because at the very center of conversion is us letting go of that which does not work for us. A turning away from what is illusory, deceptive, and dried-up wells that do not give us life. Like the woman at the well in today's Gospel, we seek fresh running springs of water that refresh us like a fountain of love, God's love. As our Catholic catechism says, conversion is not just human, it is a contrite heart moving to "respond to the merciful love of God who loved us first."

Conversion first begins in prayer. Prayer is a joyful moment especially in our busy and hectic lives. We shouldn't think of prayer as something for professional religious or contemplatives who are trained in it. Rather, it should be likened to two lovers or two friends who can sit in silence with each other knowing that a love exists between them, and they share it without saying a word. As Thomas Merton once said prayer is becoming conscious of what is already happening between God and ourselves. In prayer, we discover what we already have and possess, God's love. Again, conversion is a joyful discovery of God's love. If Lent offers us this type of prayer, we will move toward Easter with hearts renewed and all action will flow from the life-giving water of adoration, prayer, and praise.

Next week, I'll reflect on the joy of fasting — really!! Seeking the bread of life is our true joy. Continue to live Lent in the joy of the season.

(Continued on Page Two)

Readings for the Week of March 4, 2018

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25.
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 [12a]/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21.
Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5,

From Father Duane's Desk (cont'd)

One last word goes to Mr. Jeff Smith for organizing our trip to the DIA for the Monet Exhibit. The day was wonderful, good art, good friends, good food. Thank you, Jeff and Joe Zainea for your hospitality at the Majestic Café.

This week, St. Matthew Parish Community will share and experience with our Elect, Keith Arcicovich and Cory Fullilove, the first of three Scrutinies that are solemnly celebrated on the next three Sundays.

The scrutinies are rites for self-searching and repentance and have, above all, a spiritual purpose. The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak or sinful in the hearts of the Elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. The scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the Elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the Elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God.

Because the Elect are asking for full initiation in the church, they must have the intention of achieving an intimate knowledge of Christ and His Church, and they are expected particularly to progress in genuine self-knowledge through serious examination of their lives and true repentance.

The first presentation, the Creed, will be given to Keith and Cory today by our Pastor, Father Duane Novelty, as part of their formation process.



3rd Sunday of Lent



"I am he, the one speaking with you." Jesus reveals his true identity to an anonymous woman, and a Samaritan at that. She speaks about the Messiah only to discover that she is speaking with the Messiah! How does this woman,

this non-disciple and non-Jew, this perfect stranger earn the right to such a direct revelation? Why does Jesus choose her? For the same reason he chooses us. Out of love. The "woman at the well" did not earn her place at the side of Christ. She did nothing to merit this life-changing encounter. In fact, the reading implies she was a sinful woman. Yet Jesus approached her first. He asked her for a drink, and then looked for an opportunity to offer her the "living water" that would quench her deepest thirst.

This is what Jesus has done for us. As Saint Paul says, "God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). He offers us the gift of salvation, the "spring of water welling up to eternal life." We don't earn this gift; Jesus paid for it on the cross. In other words, we get to drink without having to dig the well. As Jesus tells his disciples, "others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work."

Of course, we must be willing to "drink" by accepting the gift Christ offers, orienting our lives around it. Like the woman who "left her water jar and went into the town" to testify, we are called to leave behind our old life of sin and selfishness once we accept our new life in Christ. Indeed, Lent is the season that prepares us for such a dramatic rebirth. We pray and fast and give alms, not to earn the joy of Easter, but to be ready to drink it in.

God of the Journey, We Encounter You in Creation Journey to Burkina Faso

The dry and dusty climate of Burkina Faso means farming can be difficult and water can be hard to come by. And it means Safiata and her family often face hunger. Even with two plots of land to farm, months without rain make feeding her 9 children and 16 grandchildren difficult.

That's why CRS is providing farmers like Safiata with more land to grow crops that thrive in dry climates, like onions. And, thanks to a CRS-sponsored irrigation system, she knows she'll have access to water year-round. Her crops will grow, and she'll be able to sell some at the market. "I pay school fees thanks to selling the vegetables. The vegetables help solve the problems my family faces." Safiata says.

A polluted river, poor soil, rising waters, these are some environmental reasons families migrate. They remind us to care for creation.

Let us Pray

For Safiata, who we encounter through CRS Rice Bowl, and all farmers near and far, that they find abundant harvests to feed their families, their communities, and the world.

We Pray to the Lord

For those worldwide who are forced to flee from their homes for safety or better opportunities.

We Pray to the Lord

PRAYER
FASTING
ALMSGIVING

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Sunday, March 4, 10 am Mass - First Scrutiny for our RCIA Elect, Keith Arcicovich and Cory Fullilove

Saturday, March 10, Sunday, March 11, 4:30 pm and 10 am Masses - Catholic Relief Services Collection

Sunday, March 11, 9:15 am - St. Matthew Choir Rehearsal with Rick Cucchi, Choir Loft

Sunday, March 11, 10 am Mass - Second Scrutiny for our RCIA Elect, Keith Arcicovich and Cory Fullilove

April in Paris "A Jazzy Soiree" (ooh la la)

We are surely looking forward to our spring fundraiser, April in Paris, "A Jazzy Soiree", planned for Saturday, April 14, at the Assumption Banquet Center.

We are offering special opportunities for individuals to help sponsor our Jazz Nite event which will ensure the success of this fundraiser. A Program Booklet is being prepared under the direction of Patrick Lusch and Gerianne LaPratt that will highlight sponsors for our "April in Paris." The following are ways in which you can help in this effort and gain recognition for your generosity.

Benefactor ~ "Eiffel Tower" ~ \$1,000 or more

Sustainer ~ "Notre Dame" ~ \$500 or more

Major Donor ~ "Palace of Versailles" ~ \$250 or more

Supporter ~ "Arc de Triomphe" ~ \$100 or more

Advocate ~ "Moulin Rouge" ~ up to \$100

Table Sponsorships ~ \$750 for 8 guests

In addition to business sponsors, these donors' names will be printed in the Program Booklet. But in order to meet the publication deadline, all sponsorships must be in by March 26th.

Please see Patrick for information on this effort at the back vestibule of the church on Saturdays or Gerianne following the Sunday Mass.

Tickets need to be purchased before the night of the event. Ticket sellers will be in the back vestibule after weekend Masses for your convenience.

My life is a gift from God given,
not in years, but a day at a time.

Today is the day the Lord has made for me,
and he planned it to be the most important day of my life.
Yesterday is gone, never to return, I will not worry about it,
but leave it in the hands of God.

Tomorrow and all that it holds is God's secret
and its coming is not assured. Only today is mine.
Each day, arranged by God with infinite wisdom
and goodness is his gift, his act of love for me.
In thanksgiving, I will offer him every day the gift of
myself - my prayers, works, joys and sufferings.

Dear Lord, receive them graciously.

CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Stewardship - "Joyful Missionary Disciples: A Steward's Response," a workshop on the spiritual and practical aspects of stewardship as a way of life for parish leaders and those seeking to be Christ's disciples, will be held at Sacred Heart Major Seminary this Tuesday, March 6.

Auxiliary Bishop Donald Hanchon will serve as the keynote speaker, addressing "The Spirituality of Stewardship." Two breakout series will cover topics such as the vital role of parish leadership in forming disciples; recruiting, training, and forming your Stewardship Commission; planning for successful ministry events; and motivating and engaging parishioners.

Thanks to gifts to the CSA, this workshop of the archdiocesan Department of Development and Stewardship is free and will be held twice on March 6, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 9 p.m. In addition, Our Sunday Visitor will offer two bonus sessions on establishing a Parish Priority Plan to transform parishioners. These bonus sessions begin at 11:20 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and will include a boxed meal. To register: <https://aodstewardshipworkshop.eventbrite.com>



Our Sunday Outing to the DIA

A well-deserved note of appreciation to Jeff Smith who coordinated our trip last Sunday to the DIA to view the Monet Exhibit and enjoy dinner at Joe Zaina's Majestic Café.

The exhibit proved to be a beautiful experience, and the dinner was a bountiful and tasty. In all 50 observed the exhibit and 46 enjoyed the dinner. The weather was favorable, the conversations flowed, and the shuttles "were on time." Thank you, Jeff!

3D SUNDAY OF LENT



ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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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.

Chuck Schuster
Bienvenido Fajardo
Lolita Dorado
Rita Moroni
Albert Fajardo
Virginia Fajardo
Madeline O'Neill
Regina Butler
Kurt Beghuyn
Laura Bush-Terry
Sebastiano Stellino
Allen McKee
Teresita Covacha
Janet Law
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Sr. Judy Seefeld, OP
Rev. Robert Allman
Nanette Ferreria

Dorothy Kurrie
Anthony Mastronardi
Eduardo Fajardo
Kathy Bush
Peggy Bates
Glenda Johnson
Daniel Adams
John Allman
Robert Stark
Stephanie Smith
Alice Mocerri
Keith Wilk

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

EUCCHARISTIC

MINISTERS

Janet Bielman
Janet Law
Marie Vortkamp

LECTORS

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

Julie Smith

SERVERS

Ian Campbell
Lauren Gross

Sunday, March 11, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Marilyn Lynn
Patti Adams
Beverly Goll
Veronica Obianwu
Greg Redman
Jean Solomon
Kristen Stark

William Zuerblis

Kiley Dulapa
Mary Pocius
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, March 3rd - Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Lent

4:30 p.m. - Laura Bush-Terry, Emma Langan

Sunday, March 4th - 3rd Sunday of Lent

10:00 a.m. - Laura Bush-Terry, Judy Stark, Peppino Moroni,
Mary Merlo, Stella Aluia Wilk (16th Anniv)

Monday, March 5th -

Tuesday, March 6th -

9:00 a.m. - Laura Bush-Terry

Wednesday, March 7th - Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

9:00 a.m. - Laura Bush-Terry

Thursday, March 8th - St. John of God, Religious

Friday, March 9th - St. Frances of Rome, Religious

9:00 a.m. - Sylvia Novelly

Saturday, March 10th - Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent

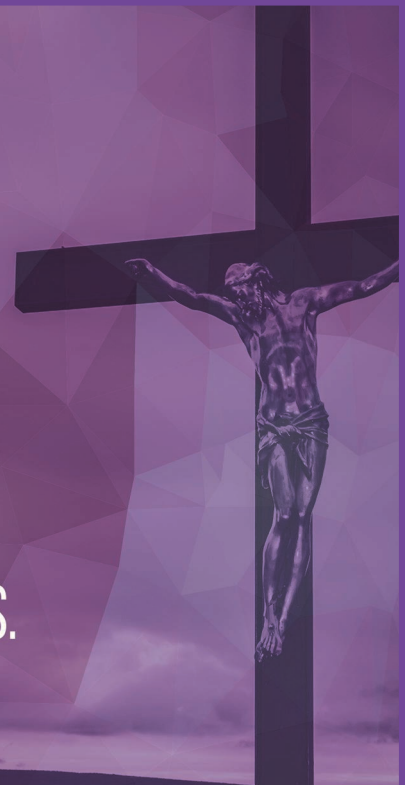
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, March 11th - 4th Sunday of Lent

10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Rose Colombo, Bruno Bush, Beverly
Witkowski (3rd Anniv)

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THAT YOU
HAVE NOT
GIVEN AWAY
WILL EVER BE
REALLY YOURS.

-C.S. LEWIS



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