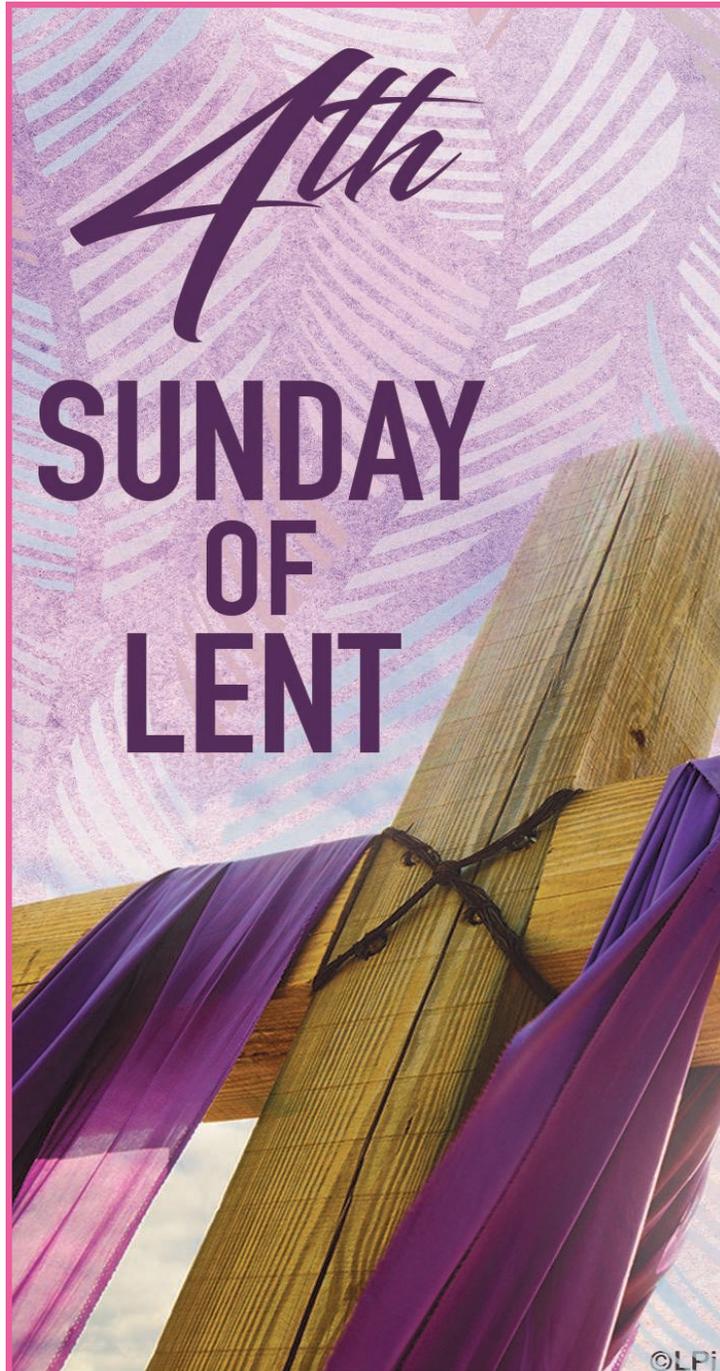




Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

March 11, 2018

Detroit, Michigan



From Father Duane's Desk

During the season of Lent, we are reflecting on the "joy of the Season." It seems odd to say that, it almost sounds like Christmas. But as we have been reflecting, Lent starts with the wonder of God's love for us. Opening ourselves up to God in prayer, we enter upon a conversion journey deepening our relationship to a merciful God and knowledge of Jesus which is a joyful experience.

But how does fasting fit into this reflection, and how can self-denial, sacrifice, and mortification be joyful? The Latin root of the word *mortification* literally means to put to death. If putting to death bad habits or any action that undermines our humanness, then it is not something sad but full of joy. Oh, it may be difficult to change habits and patterns; but, if it opens up for us a new zest for life and living in the Spirit, then it is a joy.

Let me explain. We are not called to despise our humanness. God created everything good. So to die to self (mortify) is not a denial of the goodness of who we are, but a recognition that self-defeating patterns of behavior diminish our true humanness.

Giving up things, sacrificing, and denying ourselves is not to cause pain, but they are done in pursuit of the fullness of life which God fashions for us out of His love. Looking at Lent in this fashion is not a putting to death but a coming to life.

Fasting is a path to joy because it opens a path to a fuller life. We sacrifice a false or lesser belief for a fuller one gaining a measure of freedom over compulsive behavior.

If you sacrifice an hour away from your computer or "hand-held device" and reflectively used this same amount, would your life be less joyful? If you took that \$20 or \$40 you spent on your favorite indulgence; i.e., alcohol, deserts, junk food and donate it to a worthy cause, would your life be less? If you "put to death" that which has diminished you, a false life for a true self free from a slavery you are caught in, would that not be joyful?

Yes, fasting, although difficult, can offer us the freedom of God's love and mercy. And isn't that a wonderful joy?

During our Hospitality Sunday, March 18, after the 10 a.m. Mass, Father Duane will present a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a joyful approach to Penance and Repentance.

Plan on your attendance at this Lenten Reflection opportunity. Join your fellow parishioners for breakfast beverages and treats. This is your chance to further your Joyful Lenten experience.

Readings for the Week of March 11, 2018

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, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



4th Sunday of Lent

Candles provide a wonderful atmosphere. Their soft glow and warm light soften the colors and give us a sense of comfort. Even in a large room that is illuminated by other lighting, when there are candles around we feel that we are drawn in closer, because the candlelight itself casts just a small

footprint, almost asking us to huddle together. Modern lighting can flood every nook and cranny with a brilliance that surpasses the light of a single candle. But we won't lean in to be close to a light bulb the way we might to a flickering flame. More than a century and a quarter after light bulbs were first introduced in the 1880s, we still use candles for light in some of our most joyous and most intimate moments.

The man born blind in today's Gospel has no experience of light at all. He would have felt the sun's warmth, but known nothing of its brilliance. He likely knew flame, and the heat generated by the fire of a hearth or the burning of an oil lamp. But he had no idea of the glow of illumination shed by these lights. He was completely in the dark. That is what makes his cure all the more amazing. This man has never seen light! Even if we close our eyes for an extended period of time, we can still imagine what something is like, because we have seen it before. This man in the Gospel has never seen!

The light that the man born blind sees is not so much the brilliance of the day, as it is Jesus, the light of the world. Like a room illuminated by electric lights in which candles are burning for atmosphere, the man is drawn to the light that gives him comfort and solace, that is Jesus. The man's single-hearted gaze on Christ is a reminder to us not to be distracted by other lights.

PRAYER
FASTING
ALMSGIVING

We cannot travel into the darkness without a source of light. Those going through the Second Scrutiny, our Elect, Keith Arcicovich and Cory Fullilove, have come seeking light instead of darkness. When Jesus heals the blind man, he not only gives to him a physical sight that is real, but he also provides for him a new spiritual lens through which he can see the world.



Those who witness the healing, those who then encounter the man, and even those who maintain a cynicism toward him, all have been offered this new way of seeing the world. Those of us who have been baptized have this gift of new sight, but too often we either choose to put on glasses of sin or despair or act like we cannot see that which exists clearly in front of us. We pray for those who will be baptized at Easter to be freed from their darkness, while we oftentimes choose to live with our eyes closed. As we listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel proclaiming he is the Light of the World, let us resolve to allow God to provide a light for our path so that we may share the good news of this Light with all around us.

Let us pray for them as they look forward to the Easter Vigil.

*We confess our faith in you,
our One and eternal Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
We pray today for our catechumens
who have received the gift of faith.
May they trust in the truth of Christ
as they find freedom from sin.
We know that we must model for them
what it means to live for Christ.
Help us and our neighbors to profess the faith
in our actions and thoughts.
Give wisdom to our catechumens
to persevere in faith even when it is difficult.
We ask this and profess our faith in you,
God and Father with the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

God of the Journey, We Encounter You in Teachers Journey to Haiti

"Education is the foundation of everything," says Andrise, who's been teaching at the same elementary school she graduated from in northern Haiti for 11 years.

A lot has changed since she was a student. So CRS has partnered with the Catholic Education Commission to provide new teaching techniques and resources for students. "We use poems, dances, songs, all sorts of activities to help the students improve their literacy," Andrise says. And unlike before, every student have books of their own.

The students love it, and Andrise. She was named Teacher of the Year at her school. "They call me 'my mother,' and I call them 'my son, my daughter,'" she says. "They've already promised that next year, when they're in second grade, they'll take time out of their recess to come and visit."

A good education doesn't just benefit the student, it benefits the community, making home a safer, more inclusive place.

Let Us Pray

For Andrise and her students in Haiti, who we encounter through CRS Rice Bowl, that what they learn together may be for the betterment of their community.

We Pray to the Lord

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

We Pray to the Lord

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

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

**Sunday, March 11, 10 am Mass - Sec-
ond Scrutiny for our RCIA Elect, Keith Arcico-
vich and Cory Fullilove**

**Tuesday, March 13, 6 pm - 2018 Jazz
Nite Committee Meeting, Rectory Conference
Room**

**Sunday, March 18, 9:15 am - St. Mat-
thew Choir Rehearsal with Rick Cucchi, Choir
Loft**

**Sunday, March 18, 10 am Mass - Third
Scrutiny for our RCIA Elect, Keith Arcicovich
and Cory Fullilove**

**Sunday, March 18, after 10 am Mass -
Hospitality Sunday, Father Duane's Presen-
tation: Our Joyful Lenten Journey - Recon-
ciliation, Penance, and Repentance**

April in Paris "A Jazzy Soiree"

Ooh la la! Mon Ami! We are offering special opportunities for individuals to help sponsor our Jazz Nite event on Saturday, April 14. This will ensure the success of our fundraiser. A Program Book 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.



CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Music Ministries - The Academy of Sacred Music is presenting the St. Joseph Youth Choir Festival, to inspire and affirm children's and youth choirs in our Archdiocese, at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament on Monday, March 19.

Choristers in third through eighth grades are invited for a day of clinics and rehearsals with Joe Balistreri, archdiocesan music director, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The day will culminate in a Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph, celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Bob Fisher at 2 p.m.

Sacred music is an important part of the new evangelization. Your CSA gifts support the work of the Christian Worship Office, which coordinates music ministries like the St. Joseph Youth Choir Festival and the Archdiocesan Chorus.

Registration is required for the St. Joseph Youth Choir Festival, and the fee of \$15 per singer includes lunch.

Help Jesus in Disguise

This week, we are taking up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to respond to "Jesus in Disguise." This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support to struggling communities and to work toward peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. And thank you for your generosity!



*Please welcome our newest parishioner!
Keith Rowinski of Detroit*

*We are happy, Keith, that you are now part of the
St. Matthew Parish Community.*

We hope you find your spiritual home here.



**Spring
forward**

Set your clocks
one hour ahead.

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batteries.

And be Safe!

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Website: www.stmatthewdetroit.com
Office Hours: Monday through Friday
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Rev. Duane R. Novelty ~ *Pastor*
Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*
Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

CLERICAL STAFF

Marilyn Lynn ~ *Secretary*
Denise Balogh ~ *Bookkeeper*

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Bill Zuerblis ~ *Financial Council Chair*
Michael Dulapa ~ *Evangelization Chair*
Patrick Lusch ~ *Member at Large / Webmaster*
Patricia Camazzola-Godoshian &
Bryan Jones ~ *Members at Large*
Sharon & Jerry Mielke ~ *VPC Representatives*

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.

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
Richard Gargulinski
Joe Petrylka
Roger Sharpe
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
Marie Vorkamp

LECTORS

Saturday, March 17, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

Liz Smith

SERVERS

Ian Campbell

Sunday, March 18, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Marilyn Lynn
Dorothy Brooks
Beverly Goll
Linda Holster
Michael Holster
Debra Nieddu
Joseph Nieddu

Liz Foley-Dunstone

Mary E. Dunstone
Lauren Gross
Mary Pocius

Mass Schedule

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

4:30 p.m. - Laura Bush-Terry, The People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, March 11th - 4th Sunday of Lent

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

Monday, March 12th -

Tuesday, March 13th -

9:00 a.m. - Laura Bush-Terry, For the Poor and Needy in our Community

Wednesday, March 14th -

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

Thursday, March 15th -

Friday, March 16th -

9:00 a.m. - Laura Bush-Terry, For our Military Serving around the World

Saturday, March 17th - Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent

4:30 p.m. - Laura Bush-Terry

Sunday, March 18th - 5th Sunday of Lent

10:00 a.m. - Laura Bush-Terry, Annette Laige, Judy Stark, Pilato and Chinnici Families, Andrew Pope (1 month Anniv)

“For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”

- Jn 3:20-21



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