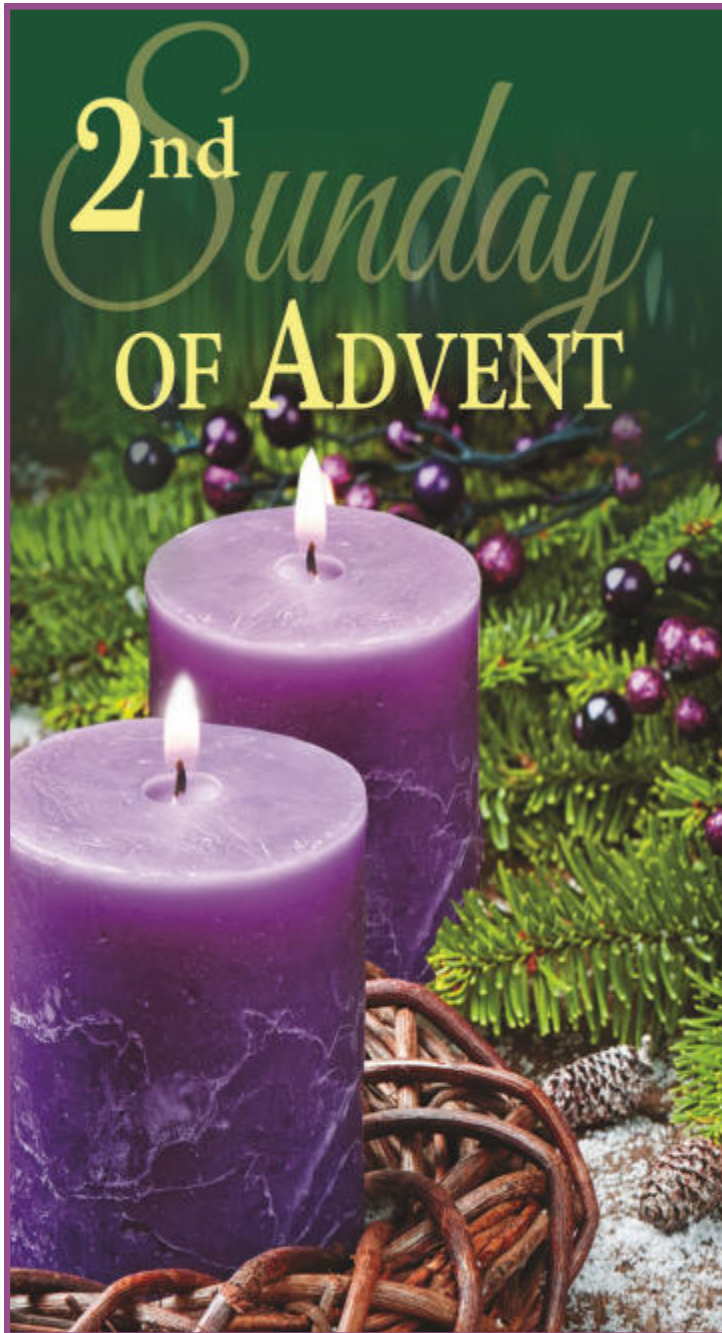




Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

December 9, 2018

Detroit, Michigan



Sunday and Saturday, December 15 and 16
4:30 pm and 10 am Masses
Blessing of Expectant Parents

Monday, December 17, 7 pm
Parish Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation
~ Communal Penance Service

2018 Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle *Announcing the Winners*

The Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Drawing was held last Sunday, December 2nd; it was a great success with friends and families again putting forth an extra-ordinary effort. The gross proceeds totaled \$30,220, not including \$1,380 in donations.

The amount of \$30,220 was divided: with half in the amount of \$15,110 being awarded to the parish, and balance of \$15,110 divided among the winners. Three winners were awarded their prizes in accordance with the rules of the State of Michigan Charitable Gaming Commission. We congratulate these lucky winners!

1st Prize: \$9,066.00 to Rose Bankhead, Joe Nieddu, seller

2nd Prize: \$4,230.80 to Dr. Francis (Frank) Wilson, faithful supporter of St. Matthew Parish

3rd Prize: \$1,813.20 to Jo Marie Nardi, sister-in-law of Joan Nardi, parishioner

Sellers' Drawing Winner: \$200 to Tina Steinbrecher, friend of the parish

Thanks to the generosity of parish members, friends, and businesses who donated consolation prizes so many others could also be winners.

Thanks also to Co-chair, Bill Zuerblis, and Debbie and Joe Nieddu, for collecting returns and assigning additional tickets at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday; and Jeff Smith for taking over this task at the 4:30 pm Saturday Mass. Thanks to Joe Nieddu and Dick Goll for manning the breakfast table and handling the hungry crowd.

Tim Fitzgerald coordinated with Majestic Café for the breakfast that was provided by them for all to enjoy. Jennifer Khalifah and "her girls" pitched in to help with the beverage service. The church auditorium was transformed into a welcoming space for the event by Tim and Karen Fitzgerald and Beverly Goll. We especially appreciate Tim Duffy who provided the sound system for us again this year as well as the holiday music.

Of course, we cannot forget those of you who bought or sold the 50/50 Gold'n Harvest Raffle tickets. Your efforts truly made this fundraiser our second best success! It was a moment to celebrate!

*With gratitude to all,
Co-Chairs, Bill Zuerblis and Marilyn Lynn*

Readings for the week of December 9, 2018

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14
[Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13
[Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or
Lk 1:39-47

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab
[8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Jn 8:12]/
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,
18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/
Lk 3:10-18

Second Sunday of Advent

"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee...and Lysanias was tetrarch of..." Did you need to pinch yourself awake during the first few lines of this Sunday's Gospel? John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn't a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It's not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God's presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus' preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical event.



"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John's call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today's Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas - occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today!

This Sunday, examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to "be filled" by the love of God? Are their mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be "made low"? Are you making decisions that have moved you away from God? This Advent season is the time for them to "be made straight and rough paths made smooth." Prepare the way in your heart for Christ today!



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's Gospel shows that John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"

Watch for the Lord

*"I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)*

Life is a journey. It is a path, a journey to meet Jesus. It is for the Christian to continually encounter Jesus, to watch him, to let himself be watched over by Jesus, because Jesus watches us with love. He loves us so much and he is always watching over us. To encounter Jesus also means allowing oneself to be gazed upon by him. And the most beautiful gift is to meet Jesus. We meet Jesus every day. How? Our whole life is an encounter with Jesus: in prayer, when we go to Mass, when we receive Communion, when we do good works, when we visit the sick, when we help the poor, when we think of others, when we are not selfish, when we are loving— in these things we always meet Jesus. "But, Father," you might say, "you know that this journey is horrible for me, I am such a sinner, I have committed many sins. How can I encounter Jesus?" But remember that the people whom Jesus most sought out were the greatest sinners. And those who believed themselves righteous criticized him for this saying: this is no true prophet, look what kind of company he keeps! And Jesus said: I came for those in need of salvation, in need of healing. And along the way Jesus comes, heals us and forgives us—for we are all sinners. *(Pope Francis)*



Second Week of Advent Prayer

Each night of the second week, the eldest child (or one other one selected by the gathering) lights the first and second purple candle. Both candles burn during the evening meal as before. The Father or Leader prays:

*O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare
for Your only begotten Son that through His coming,
we may be made worthy to serve You with pure minds.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Second Week Reflection

*Just as the Virgin Mother pondered
in her heart on the Word made flesh,
so every individual soul
and the entire Church are called
during their earthly pilgrimage to wait for Christ
who comes – and to welcome him
with faith and love ever new. (Pope Benedict XVI)*



St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Saturday, December 8, 4:30 pm, Sunday, December 9, 10 am Masses, respectively - Collection for the Retired Religious

Monday, December 10, 6 pm - 2019 Jazz Nite Committee Meeting, Rectory Conference Room

Saturday, December 15, 4:30 pm, Sunday, December 16, 10 am Masses - Blessing of Expectant Parents

Monday, December 17, 7 pm - Parish Communal Service

Tuesday, December 18, 6 pm - Parish Council Meeting, Rectory Conference Room (re-scheduled from December 11)

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree for children's toys and clothing is now up in the church and ready for Christmas. Please take a tag or two and make Christmas a little more special for a child in need. These gifts benefit the families that our St. Vincent de Paul Conference has helped during this past year. The individual tags include whether the child is a boy or girl and their age. Please donate toys or clothing appropriate for the age level stated on the tag. Suggestions: pull toys, plush toys, games, coloring books and crayons, puzzles, balls, sports equipment, dolls, trucks, and cars, (non-violent toys only, please!). Also, shirts, sweaters, hats and gloves, etc... would be an appropriate gift. Return all toys and clothing with tags from the Giving Tree by December 16th, the 3rd Sunday of Advent.



Please put toys and clothes in bags, boxes, or some type of covering (no wrapping paper). If you would like to purchase a gift card for a child ages from 13 to 16, that would be much appreciated. PLEASE REMEMBER TO ATTACH THE GIVING TREE TAGS TO GIFTS.

Your generosity in the past has always been an inspiration as you remember those that are less fortunate among us! Thank you so very much.

**Retirement Fund for Religious
~ for those who have given a lifetime ~**

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious.

Please be generous.

CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Unleash the Gospel - Last month, hundreds of missionaries in parishes across the Detroit area encouraged parishioners to take the six-day "Unleash the Gospel Challenge." Inspired by Archbishop Vigneron's pastoral letter, the challenge asks Catholics to devote five minutes per day to learn and pray about what it means to be a Church on mission filled with joyful, missionary disciples.

Your CSA gifts support innovative new communications in the Archdiocese. You can join this movement at any time at utchallenge.com. Each morning, you will receive an e-mail with a two-minute video and a three-minute reflection, presenting an opportunity to learn more about the action of God in our region and the role you have in this great mission.

Unleash the Gospel Results for the Archdiocese

So far 50,169 individuals have signed up for the 6-Day Challenge and that number continues to grow every day. Here's the breakdown for each day:

Intro Video - 46,100; Day 1 - 39,400; Day 2 - 31,500;
Day 3 - 27,200; Day 4 - 23,200; Day 5 - 20,400;
Day 6 - 18,200

An estimated 20,000 people participated using the printed reflection booklet.

Unleash the Gospel Results for St. Matthew Parish

57 people signed up



HOLIDAY *Mass Schedule*

GLP

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018 ~ 7:00 PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018
CHRISTMAS EVE MASS ~ 10:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ~ 10:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY ~ 10:00AM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019
NEW YEAR'S DAY
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
10:00 AM

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
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10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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*

PARISH COUNCIL

John Dunstone ~ *President*
Bill Zuerblis ~ *Financial Council Chair*
Michael Dulapa ~ *Evangelization Chair*
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
Kurt Beghuyn
Laura Bush-Terry
Sebastiano Stellino
Allen McKee
Teresita Covacha
Richard Gargulinski
Joe Petrylka
Roger Sharpe
Nenette Ferreria
Dorothy Kurrie
Anthony Mastronardi
Eduardo Fajardo
Kathy Bush

Peggy Bates
Glenda Johnson
Daniel Adams
Robert Stark
Stephanie Smith
Alice Mocerri
Janice Lafferty
Janet Law
Dan Lusch
Michelle DeLeauw
Jesse Ocampo
Mike Holster
Tim Fitzgerald
Larry Hamel

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

EUCCHARISTIC

MINISTERS

Janet Bielman
Mary Bielman
Marie Vortkamp

LECTORS

Julie Smith

SERVERS

Ian Campbell
Lauren Smith

Saturday, December 15, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

Marilyn Lynn

Patti Adams

Beverly Goll

Debra Nieddu

Joseph Nieddu

Veronica Obianwu

Kristen Stark

William Zuerblis

Lauren Gross

Mary Pocius

Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9:00 a.m. - For the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Saturday, December 8 - Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday, December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - John C. Sasinowski, Judy Stark, Elizabeth Reyes
(1st Anniv)

Monday, December 10 -

Tuesday, December 11 - St. Damasus I, Pope

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

Wednesday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00 a.m. - For Homeless, Refugee, and Migrant Families

Thursday, December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

**Friday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest and
Doctor of the Church**

9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

Saturday, December 15 - Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday, December 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - Annette Laige, Judy Stark, Robert Hanshaw (1st
Anniv)

"The winding roads shall be made straight."

- Lk. 3:5



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