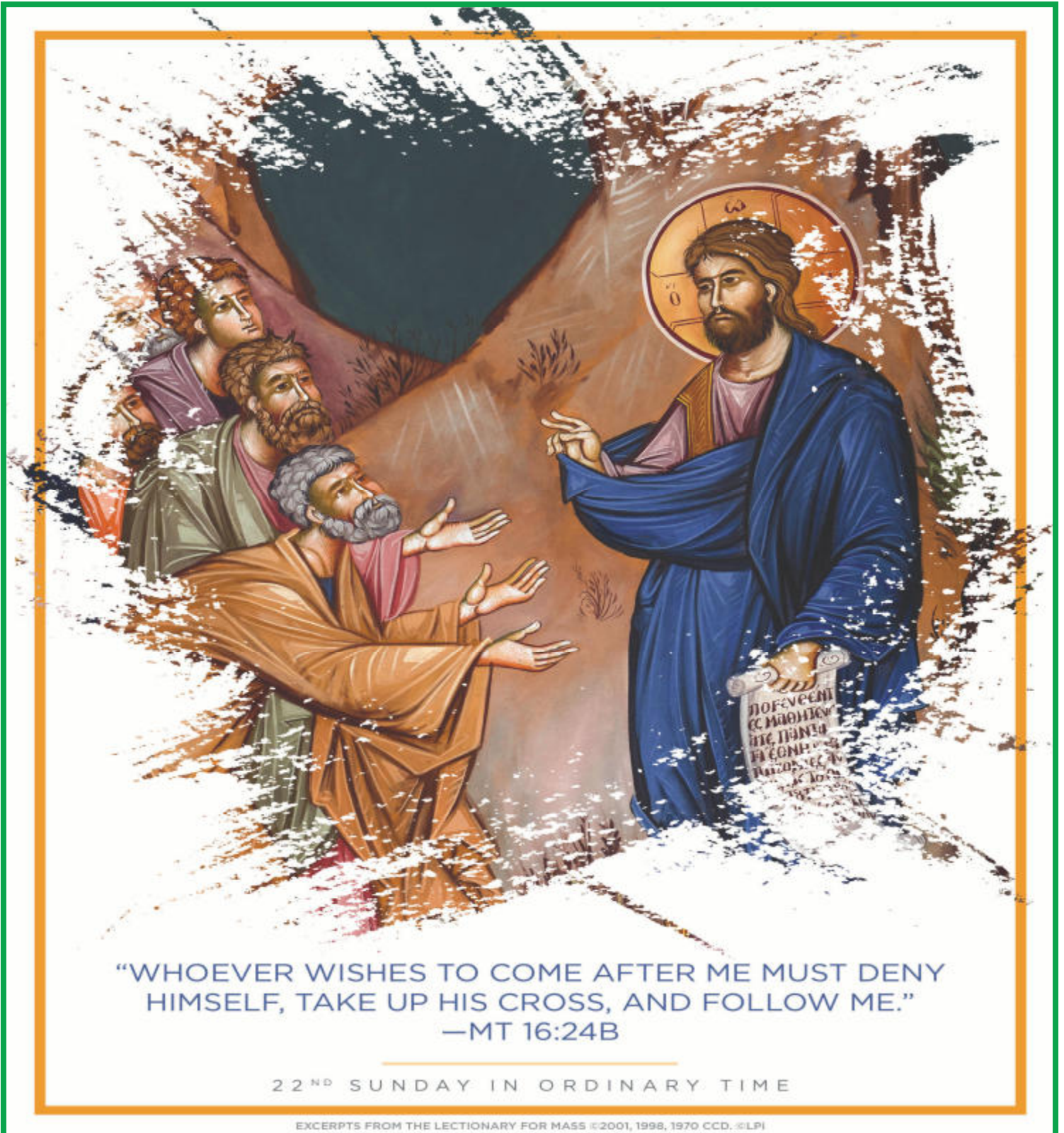




# *Saint Matthew Church* **The PULSE**

**August 30, 2020**

**Detroit, Michigan**



**"WHOEVER WISHES TO COME AFTER ME MUST DENY  
HIMSELF, TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME."**

**—MT 16:24B**

**22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

## Readings for the Week of August 30, 2020

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/  
Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27  
Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102  
[97]/Lk 4:16-30  
Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab,  
13cd-14 [17]/Lk 4:31-37  
Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 [12]/  
Lk 4:38-44  
Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [1]/  
Lk 5:1-11  
Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40  
[39a]/Lk 5:33-39  
Saturday: 1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 [18]/  
Lk 6:1-5  
Next Sunday: Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 13:8-  
10/Mt 18:15-20

## ? A POPE IN OUR TIME OF PLAGUE ? Feast Day, September 3rd

Gregory the Great was indisputably among the greatest popes to lead the Church (AD 590-604), and he did so as his world was crumbling around him. The Roman Empire in the West had fallen, the infrastructure of Rome lay in ruins, the Tiber was constantly flooding, and famine and the bubonic plague were decimating a population already in steep decline. And the plague had just taken the life of Pope Pelagius II in February of 590.

Evagrius Scholasticus, a church historian who died that year in Antioch, lost most of his family to the plague, which had spread throughout the empire. His account is eerily similar to the pandemic we now face: *The ways in which the disease was communicated, were various and unaccountable: for some perished by merely living with the infected, others by only touching them, others by having entered their chamber, others by frequenting public places. Some, having fled from the infected cities, escaped themselves, but imparted the disease to the healthy* (Church History, IV.29).

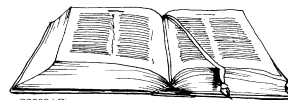
Gregory was the obvious choice to succeed Pope Pelagius. He came from a distinguished family, had served as the prefect of the city of Rome, turned his family villa into a Benedictine monastery (from which came the mission to the English), and as a deacon served as papal legate to the imperial court in Constantinople. But for several months he resisted the call to the Chair of St Peter, preferring the life of a contemplative.

During those months, Gregory sought to help the people of Rome find their way back to God through prayer. Gregory devoted all of his family's assets to feeding and caring for the sick and poor. He led a procession of clergy and monastics and lay faithful through the city's streets, chanting "Kyrie eleison" as they called the people to repent and prayed for God to alleviate the plague. Some 80 actually died during that procession.

Gregory finally accepted the pontificate, and although he himself was very frail in health and often confined to his chamber, for those 14 years he held the Latin Church together and strengthened her foundations with his brilliant theological and ecclesiastical leadership. In his writings Gregory continually warned that this world was nearing its end. But this was not to be met with fear but with prayer, contrition, and joyful expectation.

Keeping these trials in context, Gregory exhorted his people to prepare for the coming day of the Lord. "Put the day of judgment before your eyes, dear brothers, and in comparison, everything that seems painful now will become light." This would be a theme he would emphasize throughout his pontificate.

Gregory practiced what he preached. His humility (he is the first to take the title "Servant of the Servants of God") was demonstrated in his diligent care for the spiritual and temporal needs of his people. Gregory's voluminous correspondence bears witness to his own sufferings, but there is one letter from about midway in his pontificate that is a delightful reminder about keeping one's spirits during a time of plague and crisis. Gregory writes to the patriarch of Alexandria with whom he has been exchanging gifts commemorating the apostolic founders of their respective churches, St. Peter and St. Mark. Gregory asks for this special drink that was introduced to him when he was in Constantinople, namely, cognidium which is a white wine infused with pine resin. This is a drink known today as retsina. Its medical qualities were praised in the ancient world; and perhaps, we can image that Gregory found some temporal consolation in his otherwise strict ascetical discipline.



### 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Secular pursuits only bring a temporary amount of satisfaction and fulfillment. As much as we may think that achieving worldly success, economic security, personal well-being, and self-fulfillment are worthy goals to obtain, they all are dependent on

external variables and can lead to emptiness. We are trained to be very pragmatic and productive. Unless we are able to check off all of the boxes or comply with specific measurable requirements, our value and worth becomes questionable. Corporations, educational institutions, systems, structures, and secular ideology rarely consider deeper, more spiritual, and human contributions a person can and needs to make.

To the secular mind, the wisdom and ideals of the Gospel are making less and less sense. Consider for a moment this question: "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" While Jesus is asking this very challenging question to people who are considering his message, many in our world are in a quite different place. Whether we realize it, many folks are asking a much different question. Why would you not want to gain the whole world and secure your life? If you look at where a lot of folks are investing their time, energy, and resources, it becomes obvious where current priorities rest.

Modern day comforts and possibilities are backing us out of our relationship with God. The fire burning in every human heart is trying to find its satisfaction in the things that humans have created and not God. Being altruistic and offering compassion for those most in need becomes a political responsibility or responsible gesture. We realize that our hearts need to be centered on something and someone who calls us out of ourselves, but we struggle and battle with naming the source of that call. God places the desire to seek, find, and love Him in the core of every soul. We are not abandoned and left to fend for ourselves. But we can easily get confused. We know that when we extend ourselves to another self-sacrificially, we are doing what is just and right. We know that we can work through suffering and loss and come out better and more whole on the other side.

Our minds need to be renewed so that they can begin to understand that there is much more to who we are, and that faith plays a pivotal role in achieving our true and everlasting goals. It is when we see that it is only faith that can bring us to this heightened awareness of ourselves and God that it will begin to make sense. Then, we can put things in proper perspective and consider being a disciple.

### A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Relationships live in a careful balance. If a person changes, the balance is altered requiring a shift in the relationship. In today's Gospel, Jesus announced a change, and Peter resisted. Sometimes, those we count on for support may actually get in the way. Jesus told Peter: "You are an obstacle to me."

## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

**Saturday, September 5, 4:30 pm, and Sunday, September 6, 10 am Masses, respectively - Blessing of Students and Teachers**

**Monday, September 7, 9:00 am Mass - Liturgy in celebration of Labor Day**

The Rectory Office will be closed and will re-open on Tuesday, September 8, at 10:30 am



### Pregnancy Aid Layette

Thanks to all who contributed to the Pregnancy Aid Layette. There were diapers, baby wipes, formula bottles, onesies, sleepers, blankets, knitted hats and toys, afghans, and more diapers. A generous donation of infant car seats, a Pack 'n' Play, — and more diapers.

This beautiful ministry of caring for pregnant moms and their little ones is important in this age when life isn't respected and concern and care are not given to the most vulnerable among us; the newborn and the elderly.

Continue to pray for these men and women who help those who cannot help themselves. Thank you again for all your wonderful donations and monetary contributions. Nothing will be wasted! God bless all of you!

### Kroger Community Rewards

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to local neighborhoods. The period of February 1 to April 30, 2020 brought a monetary reward of **\$241.55** back to St. Matthew Parish thanks to the participation of **69** households.

Please go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to sign up today. Every little "bite" helps. The account number for St. Matthew Parish is **AW497**.

### **St. Teresa of Calcutta, Feast Day, September 5** *(Written on a wall in one of her Children's Homes)*

People are often unreasonable, irrational and self-centered; forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies; succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you; be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight; create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous; be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten; do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough; give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.

## CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



**Witnessing Christ by welcoming others to our faith** - Posie West passed the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament nearly every day without ever stepping through the doors — until a friend invited him inside. Intrigued by the beauty of the music and liturgy, he began attending Mass regularly at our Mother Church.

"A wise man told me once, 'When God is at work, you sit down and pay attention so you can learn how to play your part,'" he said.

Posie soon felt so at home at the Cathedral that he began the process of becoming Catholic through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). "I've never been so driven to learn something," he said. "Understanding the sacraments brought about a new understanding that I was trying to develop with my relationship with God."

At this year's Easter Vigil, the Archdiocese of Detroit welcomed him and hundreds of other candidates and catechumens into the Catholic Church, their year of study and formation funded through the CSA.

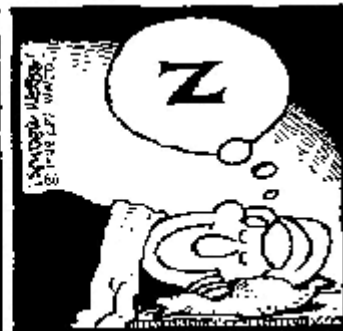
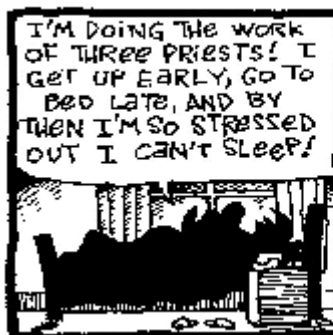
Josh and Caitlin Gibson entered the Church together at the Easter Vigil in 2018. A series of "nice little nudges" from Josh, who had been studying Catholicism on his own, eventually led Caitlin to join him in exploring the faith. "I remember the first day of RCIA, sitting in Mass and just feeling so at home in the Church," she said.

Having Josh by her side throughout the process was "absolutely wonderful," Caitlin added. "Being able to have him there to ask questions, to be able to talk about the things we learned in class, to get confirmed together, was really cool."

Caitlin and Josh have found sharing one faith for the first time has further strengthened their union, and also had their marriage convalidated at the Easter Vigil. "The sacrament just makes it so much more special," Caitlin said.

The two are now helping with RCIA classes at their parish, Our Lady of the Lakes in Waterford, sharing the purpose they have found since entering the Church. "It is great to see others with the same spark I was given through grace," Josh said. "I enjoy watching them grow each week in their faith and understanding. It's a rare and intimate experience to share in the journey of so many people."

### 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## 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*  
Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*  
Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*  
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

### CLERICAL STAFF

Marilyn Lynn ~ *Secretary*  
Gloria Bermudez ~ *Bookkeeper*

### PARISH COUNCIL

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

### PARISH FINANCIAL COUNCIL

Bill Zeurblis ~ *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.*

Chuck Schuster	Rosemary Schoolcraft
Madeline O'Neill	Tiffany Gelle
Kurt Beghuyn	Robert Stark
Sebastiano Stellino	Pauline Williams
Teresita Covacha	Bill Solomon
Joe Petrylka	Eloise Parker
Roger Sharpe	Kelly Kranson
Nenette Ferreria	Herb and Jeanne Damman
Anthony Mastronardi	Doreen Redman
Kathy Bush	Dennis Corbett
Glenda Johnson	Lolita Dorado
Stephanie Smith	Albert Fajardo
Janet Law	Eduardo Fajardo
Laura Alix	Sarah Wagner
Betty Leone	Kathy Lozon
Michelle Harter	
Jo Marie Nardi	
David Beaupre	
Kenneth Beaupre	
Anthony Crimauco	

# Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

## LECTORS

## SERVERS

Saturday, September 5, 2020, 4:30 p.m.  
Bruce Campbell Ian Campbell

Sunday, September 6, 2020, 10:00 a.m.  
Mary Anne Pilette Cory Fullilove  
Julia Zuerblis

Monday, Labor Day, September 7, 2020, 9:00 a.m.  
William Zuerblis Julia Zuerblis

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday, August 29 - Vigil: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

**Sunday, August 30 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, For an Increase in Vocations to the  
Priesthood and Consecrated Life

**Monday, August 31 -**

**Tuesday, September 1 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

**Wednesday, September 2 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

**Thursday, September 3 - St. Gregory the Great, Pope and  
Doctor of the Church**


**Friday, September 4 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Saturday, September 5 - Vigil: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary  
Time**  
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

**Sunday, September 6 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark



**FREE**  
AD DESIGN  
WITH PURCHASE  
OF THIS SPACE.  
- 800-477-4574 -

**Avis Ford**   
**"The Dealership with the ♥"**  
 TIMYINGER, Used Car Sales, Parishioner  
 29200 Telegraph Rd. at 12 Mile • Southfield, MI 48034  
 Direct: (248) 226-2557 • Cell: (313) 575-8640  
 tim.yinger@avisford.com • www.avisford.com

  
 A.H. PETERS  
 FUNERAL HOME  
 alpeters.com

SERVING THE  
COMMUNITY FOR  
OVER A CENTURY

Grosse Pointe Woods  
28705 Mack Avenue  
313-484-7500  
Warren  
32000 Woodward  
586-271-6037

**Jim's Collision Shop**  
 Complete Body • Mechanical  
 Glass • Free Loaner Cars  
**DETROIT**  
 313-882-5400 • 16651 Harper  
 www.jimscollision.net

**NEVER MISS A BULLETIN !**  
 Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin  
 emailed to you at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)



**ADT-Monitored Home Security**  
 Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

 Authorized Provider **SafeStreets** **1-855-225-4251**

**Fert-Scape, Inc.**  
 Fertilizer and Landscape Contracting  
 13335 15 Mile Rd  
 Sterling Heights, MI 48312  
**(586) 344-9012**  
**(586) 565-1077**

 LICENSED & INSURED  
 MASTER PLUMBER™  
**WaterWorkPlumbing.com**  
 Senior Discounts **313-558-8757**  
 24 Hr. Emergency Service  
**\$20 OFF ANY SERVICE**

**AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME**

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE**

Contact **Richard Brogna** to place an ad today!  
 rbrogna@4LPi.com or **(848) 225-5120**

**CHAMPS**  
 ROTISSERIE & SEAFOOD  
 DINE IN • CARRY-OUT • CATERING  
**313-886-7755**  
 20515 Mack Ave. • Grosse Pointe Woods  
 Hours: Mon-Sat: 11:30a - 10p • Sun: Noon - 10p

 Celebrate with  
 Flowers  
 viviano.com  
 800-VIVIANO  
 Family owned  
 Serving Metro Detroit  
 For all of Life's Celebrations since 1937

UPGRADE TO A  
**VIBRANT ad**  
 Contact us for details • 800-477-4574

**catholicmatch®**  
 Michigan  
  
 CatholicMatch.com/MI

**Too Sick for Mass?**  
 SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!  
 Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered  
 right to your inbox!  
[www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)



**Elite Driving School**  
 23804 Harper Ave. • Between 9 & 10 Mile Rd.  
 St. Clair Shores, MI 48080  
**586-778-4934**  
 STATE OF MICHIGAN APPROVED AND CERTIFIED  
 ROAD TESTING BY ELITE DRIVING SCHOOL  
[www.elitedrivingschoolscs.com](http://www.elitedrivingschoolscs.com)

**catholicmatch®**  
 Michigan  
  
 CatholicMatch.com/MI

**PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE**  
 MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM  
**\$29.95/MO** PLUS SPECIAL OFFER  
 BILLED QUARTERLY  
 CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772  
[WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM](http://WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM)

