



Saint Matthew Church
The PULSE

December 20, 2020

Detroit, Michigan

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT



Readings for the Week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14
cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Friday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25.
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
[Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14.
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20. *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab,
16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4,
5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22,
39-40

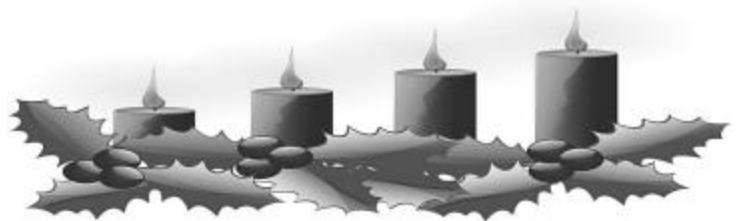
4th Sunday of Advent

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.



Fourth Week of Advent Prayer

The father of the household or the designated leader for the group lights all four candles in proper sequence during the fourth week after saying the following prayer.

*O Lord, stir up Your power, we pray You and come;
and with great might help us
that with the help of Your grace,
Your merciful forgiveness may hasten
what our sins impede.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Candles can be replaced as necessary during the Advent Season without re-blessing the wreath. Replace the purple/pink candles with white candles for the Christmas Season.

The Fourth Week Reflection

*"Lift up the eyes of your heart to the
sacred light, watch closely to see the
glory and majesty of the Lord."
(St. Elizabeth of Schonau)*



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020
CHRISTMAS EVE MASS ~ 10:00 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ~ 10:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY ~ 10:00 AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021
NEW YEAR'S DAY
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
10:00 AM

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
RECTORY OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON
DECEMBER 25 ~ RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28
RECTORY OFFICE RE-OPENS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
RECTORY OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON

JANUARY 1, 2021
RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED
JANUARY 4 ~ RECTORY OFFICE RE-OPENS

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

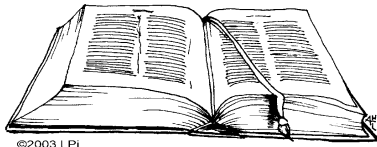
Thursday, December 24, 10 pm Mass -
Christmas Eve

Friday, December 25, 10 am Mass -
Christmas Day

Rectory Office Closed at Noon,
December 24, opening on
Monday, December 28, at 10:30 am

The Giving Tree

Your generosity in responding to the Giving Tree was overwhelming. Please know that because of you, many families in our community have a much better Merry Christmas. There will be a more complete report in the following weeks on the details of the effort. Thank you for remembering those less fortunate among us. God bless you and Merry Christmas from the St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference of St. Matthew Parish.



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A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

QUESTION: What do you call family which began with an unmarried pregnant teen and had a twelve-year-old son who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal? ANSWER: HOLY! Two lessons in today's Gospel: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." (2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God"

FOREVER
I WILL SING YOUR
goodness.

PSALM 89



CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Please remember to respond to your invitation to pledge to the Catholic Services Appeal. Our parish benefits from your pledges and payments. Repeat the Success! Double the Participation! Thank you!

Heaven Draws Near! Bless the Lord!

God is near and God is close and God is real and God is love, and He is so full of love that He came to earth to be with us and make a way for us to come to Him across the bridge He built to bring us to His Eternal resting place in Heaven with all those who love Him. That is what this Nativity Season is all about. Since He came and became a man, a human being like us but without sin, we can be sanctified and become more like Him imbibing His Life, by His Grace and His Love, into our inmost being. It is this Life that we seek to fulfill every good thing that He has prepared for us.

In hard times, we need to remember this more than when things are easy, and we indeed live in hard times, economically and with much uncertainty even about those things that we so took for granted before, such as health and work and education and a secure future that seemed more normal then. In these hard times, we need to turn more to Him, and turn to those that we have an ongoing relationship with, to pray and care for spiritually, and this is very important today.



A Christmas Prayer for Peace

Holy Spirit,
You watch so lovingly over all the earth,
waiting for us to open our hearts
to your gift of Christmas peace.
We need your peace, Holy Spirit,
and our wounded world
needs your healing presence.

Only you can give us
the true and lasting peace
promised by our Savior, Jesus Christ,
the Prince of Peace.

Come to us, Blessed Creator,
surround us with Your love
this Christmas Season
and bless all nations with Your peace.

Amen.



ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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Gloria Bermudez ~ *Bookkeeper*

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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	Pauline Williams
Madeline O'Neill	Bill Solomon
Sebastiano Stellino	Eloise Parker
Joe Petrylka	Herb and Jeanne Damman
Roger Sharpe	Doreen Redman
Nenette Ferreria	Sarah Wagner
Anthony Mastronardi	Steve Czapski, Jr.
Kathy Bush	Lolita Dorado
Glenda Johnson	Albert Fajardo
Stephanie Smith	Eduardo Fajardo
Janet Law	Aurora Guinto
Laura Alix	Patrick Foley
Betty Leone	Mary Spansky
Jo Marie Nardi	Marie Kane
David Beaupre	Mike Dulapa
Kenneth Beaupre	Mike and Linda Holster
Anthony Crimaudo	
Rosemary Schoolcraft	
Tiffany Gelle	
Robert Stark	

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

SERVERS

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2020, 10:00 p.m.
Bryan Jones
Liz Smith

Ian Campbell
Bruce Campbell

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
William Zuerblis
David Smydra

Julia Zuerblis
Lauren Gross

Saturday, December 26, 2020, 4:30 p.m.
Julia Smith

Lauren Smith

Sunday, December 27, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
David Smydra

Jermaine Donaldson
Cory Fullilove

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 19 - Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent
4:30 p.m. - Emma Langan

Sunday, December 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Joseph Chinnici (5th Anniv), Bobby
Hanshaw (4th Anniv), Linda Holster

**Monday, December 21 - St. Peter Canisius, Priest and
Doctor of the Church**

Tuesday, December 22 -
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

Wednesday, December 23 - St John of Kanty, Priest
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

**Thursday, December 24 - Vigil: Feast of the Nativity of the
Lord**

10:00 p.m. - Clarence and Mary Merlo, Richard and Shirley Goll,
Albino Martinelli (34th Anniv), Raymond and
Sylvia Novelty

Friday, December 25 - Feast of the Nativity of the Lord
10:00 a.m. - John and Mary Ozark, Rose and George
Godoshian, John Camazzola, Robert Lynn

Saturday, December 26 - Vigil: Feast of the Holy Family
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, December 27 - Feast of the Holy Family
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Linda Holster, For an Increase of
Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated
Life



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