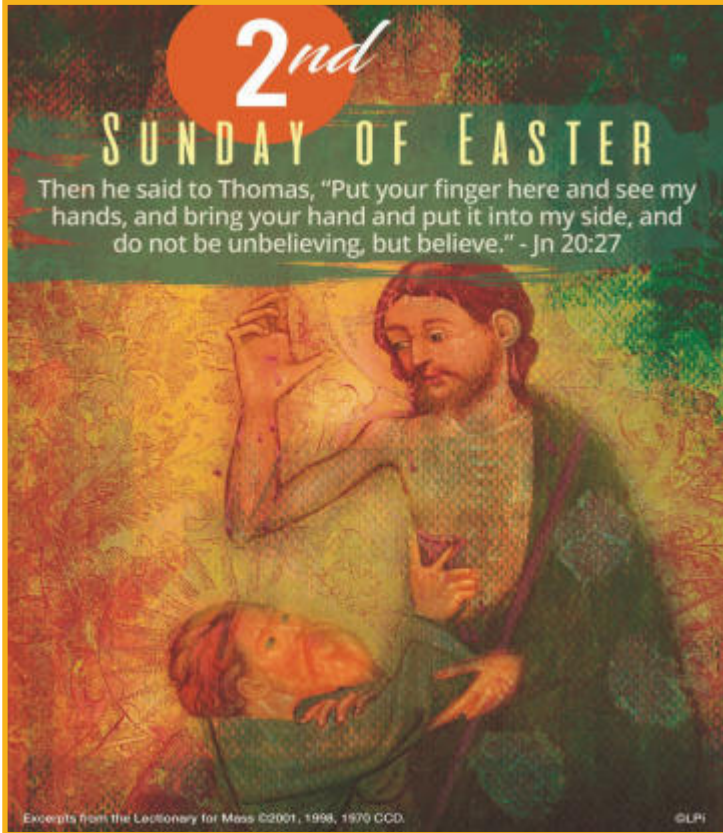




Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

April 11, 2021

Detroit, Michigan



From Father Duane's Desk



Alleluia! He is risen! These words of Easter morning and the Easter season ring true for us. As we slowly emerge from the pandemic, when last year, I celebrated Easter Sunday Mass alone; this year, we had 136 attendees on Sunday and 46 at the Vigil. We could still social distance and all felt comfortable in coming back. It was so good to see so many familiar faces return. It is now time to come back to church.

I would ask you still to consider the Saturday, 4:30 p.m. Mass, as there is usually more room than on Sunday. But between Saturday and Sunday, we should be able to accommodate everyone.

I continue to pray for an end to this pandemic. But it will only happen when everyone gets their vaccinations. So now I pray for those who refuse or are confused about the shots. All legitimate authorities, science, public health, churches, etc. are encouraging full participation. It is an act of charity towards your fellow parishioners, the community, and even yourself. The disease is terrible, and you do not want to contract it.

To young people, I say be smart and avoid super-spreader occasions and events. You certainly can fast from some entertainment a little longer for the sake of your friends, your parents, or your grandparents to say nothing about hospitals that are overwhelmed as the virus and its variants spike.

At St. Matthew, we will still follow all recommended and mandated protocols; i.e., masks, hand sanitizing, and social distancing, until the pandemic is well behind us. Keep praying and take your courage in the Risen Lord.

I also want to comment on the beautiful and prayerful liturgies we experienced during Holy Week, from Palm Sunday through the Triduum/Easter Sunday, the spirit among the people could not have been better. Maybe it was because we were anxious to return to the Sacred Paschal Festival, or maybe it just felt familiar and comfortable. What ever the reason, know it was a good experience for all, including me.

It was so good to have you back. It felt like our community of St. Matthew had risen. Indeed it had, in the faith of Jesus Christ, the Lord who has risen from the dead.

Happy Easter!
Father Duane

Readings for the Week of April 11, 2021

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/
1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3
Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/
Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/
Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/
Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/
Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/Jn 6:16-21
Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/
1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

2nd Sunday of Easter

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.



A Reflection on Easter

As today's Gospel Reading begins, three things have taken place. Both Peter and John have seen the empty tomb, John has believed in the Resurrection, and Mary Magdalene, to whom Jesus had appeared, has told the apostles of His appearance. Yet despite all this, "the disciples had locked the doors of the place where they were for fear of the Jews."

But why were the disciples afraid of the Jews? Why weren't they out on the streets, preaching boldly the Good News of the Resurrection, shouting "Alleluia!"?

The story of St. Thomas' unbelief in today's Gospel Reading seems to condemn him. But this passage in fact condemns all of the apostles: either for not believing in, or not proclaiming their belief in the Risen Jesus.

The Season of Easter—which began last Sunday and lasts for seven weeks—lets us reflect on the Resurrection. At the same time, we need to ask ourselves what our lives should look like because we believe in the Risen Jesus.

The great English author G. K. Chesterton once wrote about the false forgiveness that man often offers: "it seems to me that you only pardon the sins that you don't really think sinful. You only forgive criminals when they commit what you don't regard as crimes, but rather as conventions. So you tolerate a conventional duel, just as you tolerate a conventional divorce. You forgive because there isn't anything to be forgiven." By contrast, Chesterton in another work described Christian forgiveness: "Charity means pardoning the unpardonable, or it is no virtue at all."

The world has problems, and each of us who lives in the world has problems. There is a lot in our lives to distract us, to tempt us to think that the sin and evil around us and within us is nothing of importance. But the Holy Spirit whom we wait for during these fifty days of Easter leads us to face our own difficulties and the difficulties of the world squarely, looking them in the eye through the light of Christ.

When Christ appeared to the apostles, what did He say to convince them who He was? Did He work a miracle? No. He showed them the wounds in His side, hands, and feet: the battle scars from His fight with death. He invites us to share in the strength of His Body and Blood, and invites us to share fully in the life of His Holy Spirit. Yet these invitations serve a larger purpose. God wills that each of us might courageously proclaim the Good News about the Risen Jesus.



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches, "Blessed are those who have not seen and believe." Accepting someone as they are, without demanding they prove themselves or meet our expectations, creates a rich relationship. Without acceptance, a home is only a house, and a family is just a group of house mates.

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Attention:

St. Matthew Parish
~ Family of Parishes Group Leaders ~
Mark your Calendars
Monday, April 19, 6 p.m.
AoD SWOT Meeting
Church Auditorium

YOUR GENEROSITY

The Church in Central and Eastern Europe - Thank you for your recent contributions to the collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. As a parish, we collected **\$288** to help restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection - Thank you for your support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for helping *Jesus in Disguise*. Your contributions will make a difference for the poor and marginalized around the world. St. Matthew Parish collected **\$98**. However, it is not too late to give; visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections for more information.

Break Open the Tomb

Lord of Easter's Promise,
I live in faith of the Resurrection,
But such is the nature of my faith
That so much of me remains entombed.
Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my compassion,
Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my sense of mercy,
Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my humility,
Break open the tomb

Where I've buried my humanity,
Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my love for my heavenly Father,
Break open the tomb.

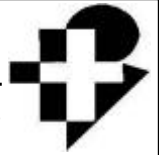
Where I've buried my sense of joy,
Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my willingness to forgive,
Break open the tomb.

Lord, in you I've found a Savior no grave can withstand.
Help me to roll away this stone
And find the miracle of new life
That I may live more fully in your saving grace.
Amen.



CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



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Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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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.

Joe Petrylka
Anthony Mastronardi
Stephanie Smith
Janet Law
Laura Alix
Betty Leone
Jo Marie Nardi
Anthony Crimauco
Rosemary Schoolcraft
Tiffany Gelle
Robert Stark
Pauline Williams
Bill Solomon
Eloise Parker
Herb and Jeanne Damman
Doreen Redman
Sarah Wagner
Nenette Ferreria
Lolita Dorado
Albert Fajardo

Eduardo Fajardo
Aurora Guinto
Mary Spansky
Marie Kane
Mike Dulapa
Irene McCann
Bing Ocampo
Kathy Bush
Mary Zainea
Sue Allasio
Richard Goll
Tim Fitzgerald

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

SERVERS

Saturday, April 17, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
Bruce Campbell

Ian Campbell

Sunday, April 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Bill Ridella

Cory Fullilove
Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, April 10 - Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Easter
4:30 p.m. - Dick Pint

Sunday, April 11 - 2nd Sunday of Easter
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, The Babiase Family, Chuck Schuster,
Jerry Paul D'Avanzo

Monday, April 12 -

Tuesday, April 13 -
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community

Wednesday, April 14 -
9:00 a.m. - For the Sick, Suffering, and Dying

Thursday, April 15 -

Friday, April 16 -
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, April 17- Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Easter
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, April 18 - 3rd Sunday of Easter
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Veronica Kaminski

How good &
how pleasant it is,
when brothers dwell
together as one!

PSALM 133:1

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