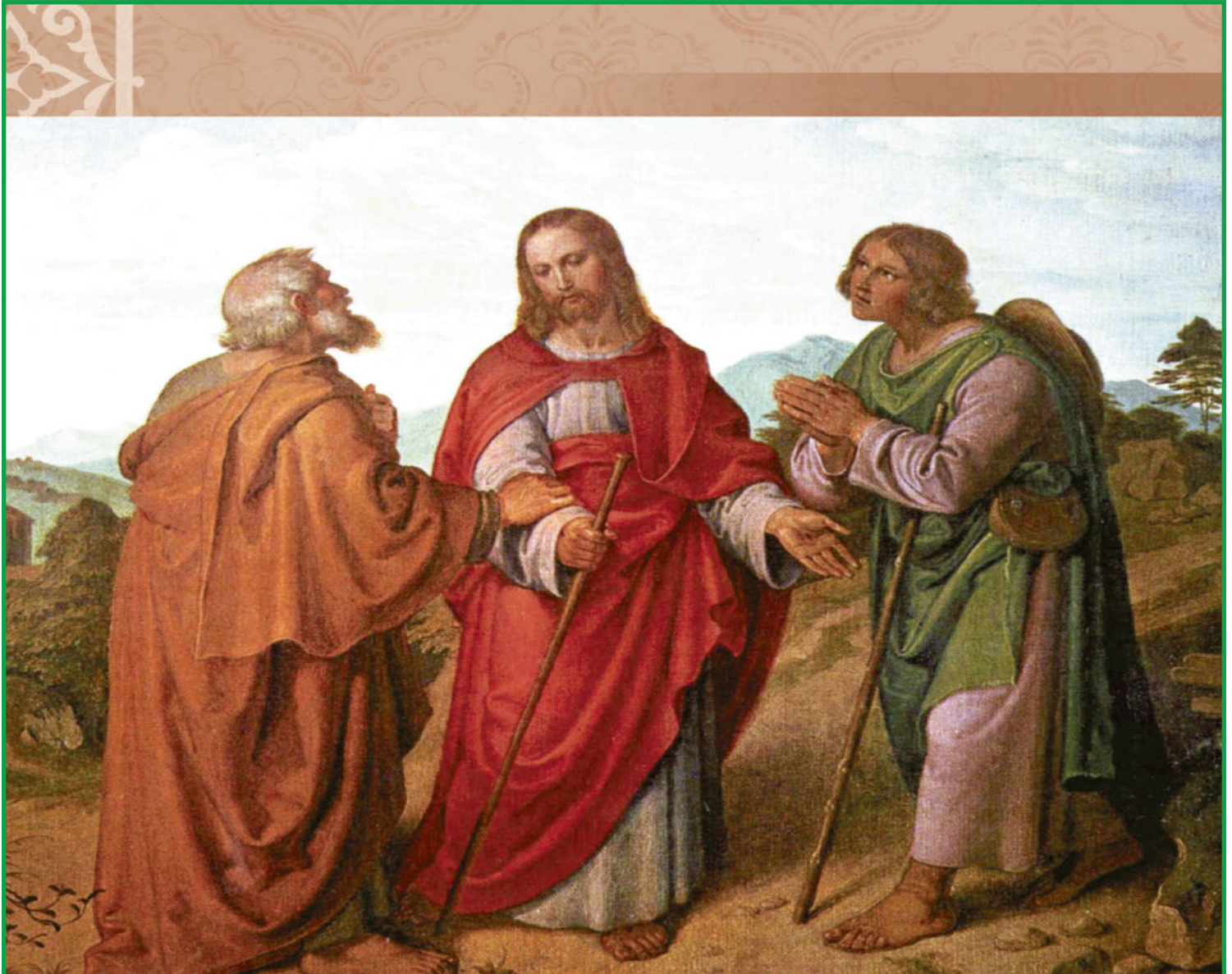




Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

June 26, 2022

Detroit, Michigan



13th Sunday

I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E

[Jesus] answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." - Lk 9:60

Readings for the Week of June 26, 2022

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Gal 5:1, 13-18/Lk 9:51-62
Monday: Am 2:6-10, 13-16/Ps 50:16bc-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23/Mt 8:18-22
Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8/Mt 8:23-27
Wednesday: *Vigil:* Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19 *Day:* Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19
Thursday: Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 9:1-8
Friday: Am 8:4-6, 9-12/Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131/Mt 9:9-13
Saturday: Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 9:14-17
Next Sunday: Is 66:10-14c/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

And to another he said, "Follow me." In every moment of every day, in every circumstance and experience, God is calling us. We can easily get distracted and not hear it or simply ignore it, pretending it wasn't even heard. When we do hear it and favorably respond, there are some conditions that must be met. Jesus makes it clear that once we say yes to his invitation, we must stay focused and forge ahead. We cannot keep looking behind or worry about unfinished business. There are some tasks, and discipleship is one, that require our full devotion.

There are many "masters" vying for our attention. We need something or someone to give us direction. Human nature requires it. Our motives and actions reveal what has our allegiance. It is tempting to give ourselves to masters that lure us with intriguing promises. When given the choice between a "master" that promises worldly success, abundant wealth, status, privilege, and security versus a "master" that asks for self-sacrifice, hardship, suffering, ridicule, and death, to whom do we go? While the promise of immediate pleasure is enticing, there is always a catch. For all that secular masters can promise, they always keep us looking behind, checking on ourselves, second guessing choices, calculating options, and being slaves to excessive worry. Our guard can never come down. Only one master really promises life: Jesus Christ. Hearing his call, we either trust him or we don't.

Saying yes to following Christ does come with a risk. But it also comes with the brightness of future hopes and dreams. There is no need to keep looking behind. Sins are forgiven and regrets serve no effective purpose. God is not there. He's moved beyond all that stuff. God is in the today and the tomorrow and what he can continually do with our daily affirmation to follow Him. All we need to do is be obedient. St. Gianna Molla is credited with saying, "The stillness of prayer is the most essential condition for fruitful action. Before all else, the disciple kneels down." Begin with prayer. We will not only hear God's call but find the courage to trust that He will guide us where we need to be. God uses us in the most ordinary of ways through the simple daily expression of our lives.

The Holy Martyrs of Rome, June 30th



These early Christians were the first persecuted in masse by the Emperor Nero in the year 64 A.D., before the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul. Nero was widely believed to have caused the fire that burned

down much of Rome in that same year. He blamed the fire on Christians and put them to death, many by crucifixion, being fed to the wild animals in the circus, or by being tied to posts and lit up as human torches.

These Holy martyrs were called the "Disciples of the Apostles" and their firmness in the face of their gruesome deaths were a powerful testimony that led to many conversions in the early Roman Church. These were all early Christians in Rome within a dozen or so years after the death of Jesus, though they were not the converts of the "Apostle of the Gentiles." Paul had not yet visited them at the time he wrote his great letter in 57-58 A.D.

There was a large Jewish population in Rome. Probably as a result of controversy between Jews and Jewish Christians, the Emperor expelled all Jews from Rome in 49-50 A.D. Historians tell us that the expulsion was due to disturbances in the city, "Caused by certain Christians". It is believed that many came back after the Emperor's death in 54 A.D., because Paul's letter was addressed to a Church with members from Jewish and Gentile backgrounds.

In July of 64 A.D., more than half of Rome was destroyed by fire. Rumor blamed the tragedy on Nero, who wanted to enlarge his palace. He shifted the blame by accusing the Christians. According to the Historian Tacitus, many Christians were put to death because of their "hatred of the human race". Peter and Paul were probably among the victims of this time. Eventually Nero was threatened by an army revolt and condemned to death by the senate. He committed suicide in 68 A.D. at the age of 31.

Practical Take Away: *Wherever the Good News of Jesus was preached, it met the same opposition as Jesus did, and many of those who began to follow him shared his sufferings and death. Notice how no human force could stop the Spirit unleashed upon the world through the Christians? They only became stronger witnesses to the faith. Pope Clement I, third successor of St. Peter writes, "It was through envy and jealousy that the greatest and most upright pillars of the church were persecuted and struggled unto death. First of all, Peter who because of unreasonable jealousy suffered not merely once or twice, but many times, and, having given his witness, went to the place of glory that he deserved.*

It was through jealousy and conflict that Paul showed the way to the prize for perseverance. He was put in chains seven times, sent into exile, and stoned; a herald both in the east and the west, he achieved a noble fame by his faith."

We too, can follow the examples of the Great Saints that went before us, paving the way of our faith that has stood the many centuries of time. Don't forget to call upon the First Holy Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church on their Feast Day of June 30 – as they are always willing to help us.



St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Saturday, June 25, and Sunday, June 26, 4:30 pm and 10 am Masses, respectively
- Peter's Pence Collection

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION *Be a Sign of Mercy*

In late December 2020, a powerful earthquake about 30 miles from the Croatian capital of Zagreb killed seven people and caused widespread destruction. In solidarity with the many people left homeless, Pope Francis donated €100,000 to Caritas Croatia through the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Human Development. Within five days of receiving the donation, Caritas Croatia purchased and took delivery of 100 temporary housing modules for people displaced in the disaster. The donation allowed Caritas to purchase an additional 100 modules to meet the tremendous ongoing need.

Your donation to the Peter's Pence Collection funds not only the activities of the Roman Curia that assist the pope in the exercise of his ministry but also solidarity projects that aid those most in need, like the support to Croatia.

Today is the Peter's Pence Collection at St. Matthew's. Please take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a sign of mercy to our suffering brothers and sisters. Envelopes are in the pews for your use.

A Blessing for Graduates

Eternal God, in you we live, and move, and have our being.

In your will we find our purpose,
and in your wisdom we find our joy.

Bless our graduates who have completed their course of study and now begin a new part of their lives.

Let them not be troubled about the past
nor anxious about the future,
but let them be concerned about the moment
they must now live.


Strengthen their faith and ease their fears
that they may courageously follow your Spirit
and live fully the life you give them.

When doubt and confusion about their purpose
surround them, light their way and give them peace
in your plan for them.

Let them use the gifts they have received
in their studies that they may become a source
of inspiration and blessing for the world.

And when each day is ended,
give them delight in knowing that the good work
you have begun in them shall come to completion in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



 We say good-bye this weekend to our Sunday office receptionist and money counter, Clare Ramsdell. Clare graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School and will be attending the University of Michigan this fall pursuing studies in Political Science on a pre-law track. We wish Clare well and will miss her very much. Good luck, Clare, and God bless you in all your future endeavors!

CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



Respond, Repeat, and then Rejoice! -

In Archbishop Vigneron's letter to parishioners across the archdiocese, he calls us to witness the love of Christ to a suffering world. It is the way we serve each other and in the way we love one another that we give effective witness to Christ.

Each year, the Catholic Services Appeal provides us an opportunity to celebrate the ways our Church in Detroit responds to the material and spiritual needs of individuals and families. One parish alone could not meet these many needs. It is through the sharing of our gifts and our service that we, together, can be the Church Christ wants us to be.

St. Matthew Parish has set an internal target over and above that of the Archdiocese of Detroit target. This year our internal target is \$36,000 double that of the AoD target of \$18,500. Let's "Repeat the Success," "Double-down," and give "One Dollar for the Archdiocese and One Dollar for St. Matthew."

As reports come in from the archdiocese, we will publish the progress of our CSA Campaign. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's Gospel reminds us once we set our "hand to the plow" of parenting and marriage, "we cannot look back." This is what commitment means: we have said YES to what was, what is, and to what can be.

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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Rob Abbott ~ *Weekend Organist*
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.

Anthony Mastronardi
Stephanie Smith
Janet Law
Laura Alix
Jo Marie Nardi
Anthony Crimauco
Rosemary Schoolcraft
Tiffany Gelle
Pauline Williams
Eloise Parker
Herb and Jeanne Damman
Sarah Wagner
Albert Fajardo
Aurora Guinto
Jesse Ocampo
Mary Spansky
Mike Dulapa
Kathy Bush
Richard Goll
Kristen Freiburger

Joanne Papineau
Elsa Camazzola
William Walker IV
Nancy Clemons
Madeline Jozwiak
Robert Rabe
Lynn Simoncini
Joan Nardi

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

SERVERS

Saturday, July 2, 2022, 4:30 p.m.

Julie Smith

Lauren Smith

Sunday, July 3, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

David Smydra

Lauren Gross
Julia Zuerblis

Independence Day, Monday, July 4, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

William Zuerblis

Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, June 25 - Vigil: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. - John P. Langan

Sunday, June 26 - 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish, For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

Monday, June 27 - St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Tuesday, June 28 - St. Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr

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

Wednesday, June 29 - Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

9:00 a.m. - For Missionaries Serving around the World

Thursday, June 30 - The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Friday, July 1 - St. Junipero Serra, Priest

9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Saturday, July 2 - Vigil: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Sunday, July 3 - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - Rita Allman (14th Anniv), Frederick Allman

Monday, July 4 - Independence Day

9:00 a.m. - For Military Families Serving Here and Abroad



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