



# *Saint Matthew Church*

## *The PULSE*

October 2, 2016

Detroit, Michigan

*Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*



### From Father Duane's Desk

I write today to draw your attention to two important topics. First, the *Mass for Pardon*, that I announced last Sunday along with the Archbishop's letter in the Pulse; and, secondly, as I noted in my article last week-end, our current registration in the parish.

As we move toward the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in November with the Feast of Christ the King, and the Synod 16 in November as well, our Archbishop Vigneron has taken a bold step in celebrating for the entire Archdiocese a *Mass for Pardon*. The letter he sent to all the faithful (insert in our Pulse last week) presented his thought on the need for such a liturgy. Certainly, we are, as the Second Vatican Council stated, a pilgrim church, sinning and sinful. We are human and in need of redemption. Christ the Good Shepherd has gathered us together as His flock and has given us shepherds to watch over us and help guide us through the ministry and office of Bishop.

For a Bishop, who as chief shepherd of a diocese to take on a penitential stance on behalf of the entire diocese is certainly a great witness to the need for the Church in its humanity to repent and to show us personally our need to come before the Lord and seek forgiveness for the many ways we may have contributed to the sinfulness of the Church.

But what does the "sinfulness of the Church" mean? In the Archbishop's letter, he references "the sins committed over the generations by our bishops, our priests, our lay ministers, institutions, and all the faithful." Reflecting upon that statement, I'm sure what comes to mind first is the sexual abuse crisis that rocked the Church in 2002; priests who offended and bishops who covered it up. As glaring as this sin became for the Church, other sins may have been committed. A non-pastoral approach to people's hurts oftentimes needs forgiveness. For example, people being scolded in confession when they come seeking mercy and forgiveness, divorced couples told that there was nothing that could be done for them. The misuse of parish funds by institutions or individuals. Parish leadership or parishioners who purposely put up stumbling blocks and cause

*(Continued on Page Two)*

*Mass of Anointing this Week-end*  
*Saturday, 4:30 p.m., Sunday, 10:00 a.m.*

## Readings for the Week of October 2, 2016

Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10  
Monday: Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1-2, 7-10/Lk 10:25-37  
Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1-3, 13-15/Lk 10:38-42  
Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1-2/Lk 11:1-4  
Thursday: Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-75/Lk 11:5-13  
Friday: Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1-6/Lk 11:15-26  
Saturday: Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-7/Lk 11:27-28  
Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1-4/2 Tm 2:8-13/

## Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

"When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'" What a humble attitude this would be! Jesus challenges us today not to boast, not to seek special praise, not to consider ourselves worthy of some great reward when we follow him. Rather, he honestly reminds us that it is simply our duty to do all we "have been commanded."

God made us. Our lives are a result of his loving initiative. Giving ourselves back to him through "the obedience of faith" (as the Second Vatican Council called it), is truly the only appropriate response. Of course we are free NOT to practice this obedience. We are free to reject God, to ignore his commandments, even to make ourselves his enemies. But nonetheless it remains true that what we ought to do is to love God and follow his ways. And Jesus suggests today that this simple obedience should be a given in our lives. Following the commandments is merely what we are obligated to do.

But, let's not forget that we are also free to do more. Because of the nature of love, we can never really exhaust it. We can always love more, serve more devotedly, give more generously. Perhaps Jesus is calling us to focus less on meeting the bare-bones requirements of Christianity, and instead to shift our efforts farther in the direction of going above and beyond the call of duty. Instead of asking what is the least I HAVE to do, we would do well to ask, what ELSE can I do? What else can I do to show my gratitude to God for all he has given me? What else can I do to serve his people and nurture the world he has made? Let us aim to become truly profitable servants.



## A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Faith is one of those things we just can't get enough of! In today's Gospel, the apostles asked Jesus to "Increase our faith." It is faith in ourselves, our spouse, our children, and our parents which equips us to overlook annoyances, helps us to forgive, and urges us to ask forgiveness. "Lord, increase our faith!"



## From Father Duane's Desk (cont'd)



grievances at their Parish Council meetings or commissions. Systemic racism that sometimes we are even unaware of but nonetheless still exists and for the lack of inclusion of women, gay, or youth in the legitimate governance of the community.

I imagine the list could go on and on. But suffice it to say, these and other sins need to be looked at honestly and brought to the Lord for redemption. As Christ took on the sins of the world on the cross, I respect our Archbishop for the public statement of a need for pardon. To support him in this effort, I, too, will concelebrate the *Mass for Pardon* on Friday, October 7, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I invite any parishioner who feels compelled to repent for the Church in the same way to attend this liturgy. We may not have personally participated in this sinful behavior; but, like Christ, we take on the sins of the community simply because we are part of the community. How many people have looked down upon us as Catholics because of something another Catholic, Bishop, Priest, or lay person did.

Christ died once for all; but we, as an institution, repent for our sins to move forward with a renewed grace and hope so that we indeed can, with a clean conscience, "Unleash the Gospel" for a New Evangelization.

Certainly as a pilgrim church, we will stumble and fall; we are sinning and sinful. But to feel a communal sense of forgiveness because our Chief Shepherd, Archbishop Vigneron, repents on behalf of the Archdiocese of Detroit, is humbling for all of us. Let us stand at the foot of the cross of humility. Join together by meeting in St. Matthew's parking lot no later than 5:30 p.m. on Friday, October 7. We meet for the baseball game outing and for fellowship on Hospitality Sundays, can we not come together for this *Mass for Pardon*? Let us meet to share rides and support our Archdiocese and our Archbishop in this act of repentance. After all, it is a Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Regarding my second point, I wanted to follow up on the announcement and welcome of our new parishioners since the Mass Mob in June of 2015. I think we are all making a concerted effort to invite people to St. Matthew's and to glean new parishioners. It is so important to the sustainability of our parish. I am happy to report that since the Mass Mob, we have registered 22 new parishioners/families. All of whom are contributing to the parish either through envelopes, on line giving, ministry, and/or attendance. Keep up the good work!

However, on the other side, we lost seven parishioners through death and 10 parishioners/families have moved away from the parish but are still contributing. Some return on occasion, but all still want to be parishioners at St. Matthew's.

So we are not running a deficit, we are maintaining with a slight positive edge. But our work still lies ahead of us. With 227 registrants, totally 322 parishioners, we still need to invite more people to the parish. I'm looking forward to our Synod 16 on evangelization. I'm sure our diocesan spirit will have results here at the parish level.

God bless all of you!



## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

**Saturday, October 1, 4:30 pm; Sunday, October 2, 10 am Masses, respectively - Mass of Anointing**

**Friday, October 7, 5:30 pm - Parishioners Gather in Parking Lot for Travel to Mass for Pardon, Blessed Sacrament Cathedral**

**Sunday, October 9 - St. Vincent de Paul Society's Walk for the Poor, Belle Isle, following 10 am Mass**

**Saturday, October 15, 4:30 pm; Sunday, October 16, 10 am Masses, respectively - 2016 Gold'n Harvest Raffle Kick-off**

**Sunday, October 16, following 10 am Mass - Hospitality Sunday / Flu Shots Available in the Church Auditorium**



### "Friends of the Poor Walk"

On Sunday, October 9, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul "Friends of the Poor Walk" will take place on Belle Isle. This event allows the entire metropolitan Detroit Vincentians to proudly walk in support of our mission—hands on charitable work for people in need.

Vincentians from our own parish at St. Matthew's will participate in the walk. All from our parish are welcome to join our conference members for this day of friendship and solidarity.

A representative from our St. Matthew SVdP conference will be in the back of church after Mass on this weekend to answer your questions and accept pledges for our walkers. Your donation in a fixed amount will help our conference provide much needed assistance to individuals and families living in our community.

Donations in any amount are welcomed and will help us serve the less fortunate who reach out to us on a regular basis for such things as food, clothing, furniture, appliances, rent and utility assistance.

Your financial support will directly impact in a positive way those in the surrounding area of our parish that are struggling. All donations raised by St. Matthew's will be kept and used for charitable work by our parish SVdP conference. For your convenience, a pledge can be made after Mass today with payment collected in a few weeks' time.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. And, please, come join us if you can on October 9 for the "Friends of the Poor Walk." We would love for you to be a part of this inspiring event.

## CSA MINUTE SHARING CHRIST



**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING - OCTOBER IS NATIONAL PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS MONTH.** THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT WILL SUPPORT THOSE DESIRING A BABY WHILE REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN LOST AT A MASS AT BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHEDRAL NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9.

THE MASS WILL FEATURE A BLESSING FOR MARRIED COUPLES DESIRING A BABY AND A PRAYER FOR COUPLES WHO HAVE LOST A PREGNANCY, INFANT, BABY, OR CHILD. YOUR GIFTS TO THE CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL HELP FUND THIS MASS, WHICH IS SPONSORED BY THE ARCHDIOCESAN MARRIAGE, FAMILY LIFE, PRO-LIFE, AND NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING MINISTRIES.

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Maryjo Yokum, Northville

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### **Solanus Casey Center Weekly Bible Study**

Are you looking for a Bible Study group? You are invited to the Weekly Bible Study held every Friday at Noon. Please bring your own Bible. The selected passages will come from the upcoming Sunday Scripture readings. The Solanus Casey Center is located at 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit.





## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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Denise Balogh ~ *Bookkeeper*

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Patrick Lusch ~ *Member at Large / Webmaster*  
David Smydra ~ *Member 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

*In your prayers...*

*Please remember those in our parish and in our families who are sick or in need of our prayers.*

Chuck Schuster	Joe Petrylka
Bienvenido Fajardo	Roger Sharpe
Lolita Dorado	Peggy Bates
Rita Moroni	Bob Spansky
Albert Fajardo	Sr. Judy Seefeld, OP
Virginia Fajardo	Mike Dulapa
Madeline O'Neill	Chris Doherty
Regina Butler	Rev. Robert Allman
Kurt Beghuyn	Steve Czapski
Rose Colombo	
Laura Bush Terry	
Sebastian Stellino	
Allen McKee	
Ann Billiu	
Jack Leh	
Teresita Covacha	
Janet Law	
Joe Escorial	
Richard Gargulinski	

# Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

## EUCCHARISTIC

### MINISTERS

Janet Bielman  
Mary Bielman  
Janet Law

### LECTORS

Saturday, October 8, 2016, 4:30 p.m.  
Marie Vortkamp

### SERVERS

Sunday, October 9, 2016, 10:00 a.m.  
Marilyn Lynn  
Patti Adams  
Beverly Goll  
Linda Holster  
Michael Holster  
Greg Redman  
Michelle VandenBrooks

David Smydra  
Fiona Costello  
Mary Pocius

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday, October 1st - Vigil: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. - Joyce Habrowski, Lincoln Chrysler, Bernie Dorado  
(4th Anniv), All Deceased Bishops, Priests, and  
Deacons

### Sunday, October 2nd - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - Ofelia Vivo, Mary Noreen Kaminski, Genoveva  
Mesina Nogoy (46th Anniv), Mariama Matthew,  
Irma Scarnecchia

### Monday, October 3rd -

### Tuesday, October 4th - St. Francis of Assisi

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

### Wednesday, October 5th -

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

### Thursday, October 6th -

### Friday, October 7th - Our Lady of the Rosary

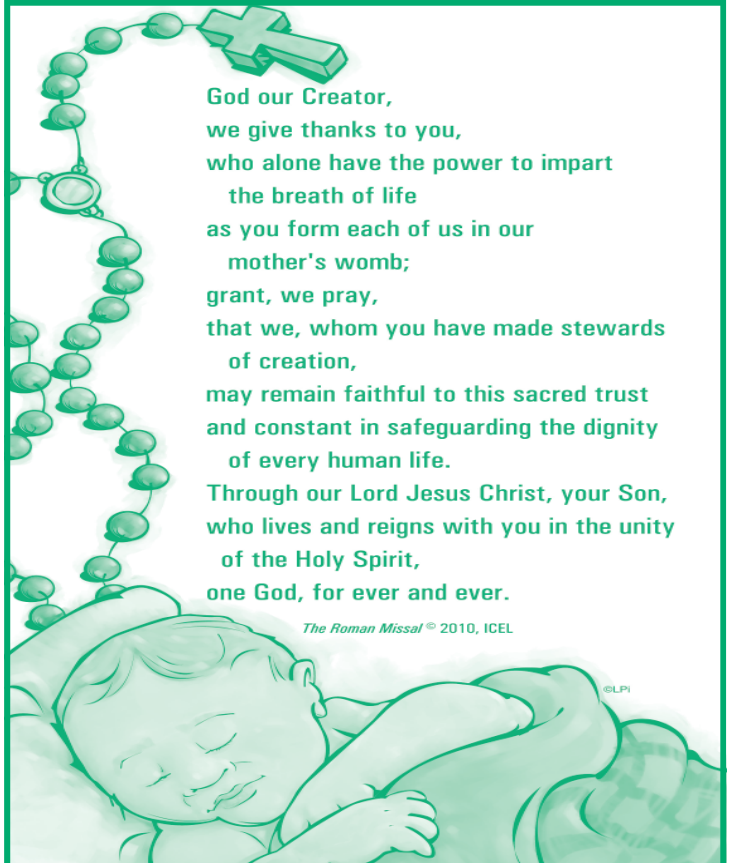
9:00 a.m. - For the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

### Saturday, October 8th - Vigil: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 p.m. - Sylvia Law, Margaret Vernier

### Sunday, October 9th - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. - The Rowe Family, Paul Coen, Stella Aluia Wilk,  
Joyce Habrowski



God our Creator,  
we give thanks to you,  
who alone have the power to impart  
the breath of life  
as you form each of us in our  
mother's womb;  
grant, we pray,  
that we, whom you have made stewards  
of creation,  
may remain faithful to this sacred trust  
and constant in safeguarding the dignity  
of every human life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

The Roman Missal © 2010, ICEL

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