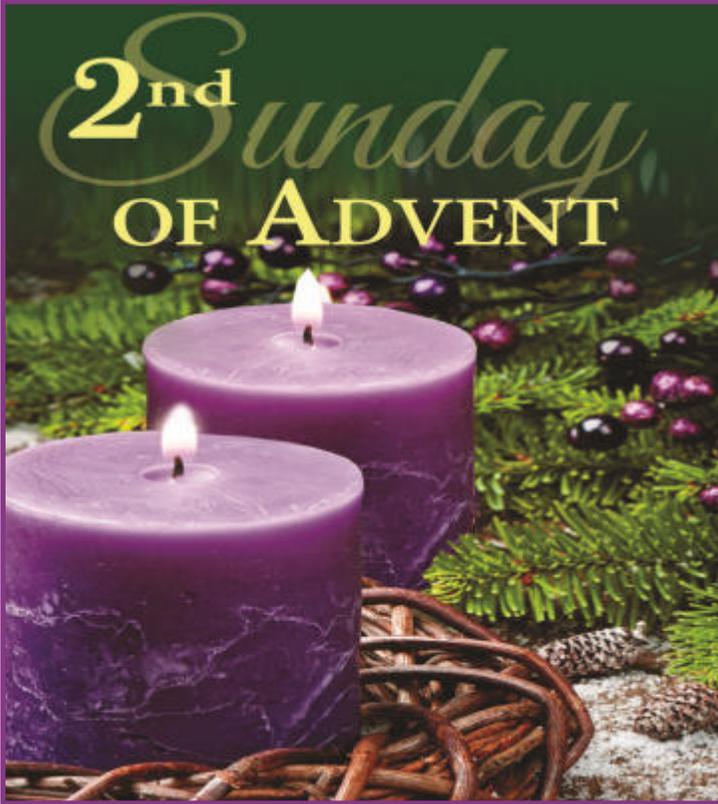




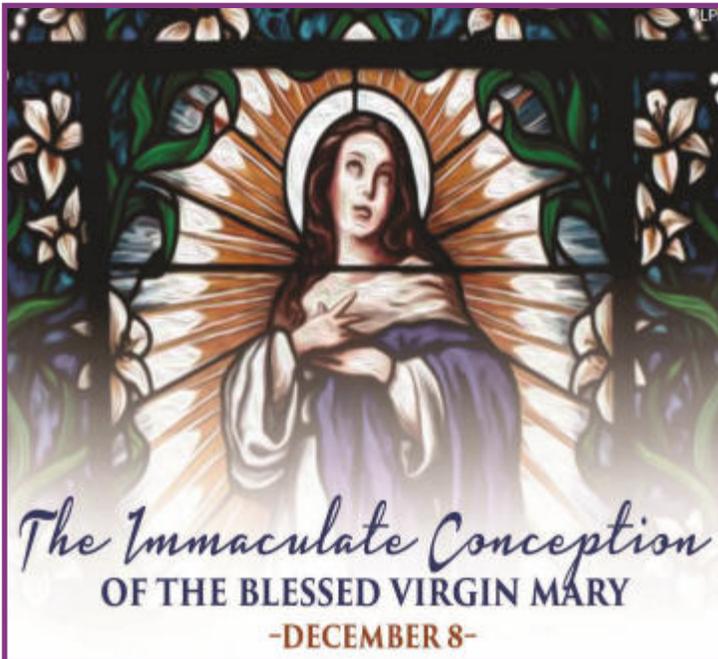
Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

December 5, 2021

Detroit, Michigan



2nd Sunday OF ADVENT



The Immaculate Conception
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
-DECEMBER 8-

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021
MASSES AT 9:00 A.M.
AND 7:00 P.M.
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

*Attaching
new stop
actions to the
back of the
refinished
stop jams.*



*The stop
jams
refinished
and loaded
with new
felt and
hardware to
accept the
new stops.*

*The refinished
stop jams with
the new stops
in place. The new
stops were
made to look
like the old
ones. These is a
USB port to
allow the
organist to save
their stop
settings and to
record their
playing to a
memory stick.*



Readings for the Week of December 5, 2021

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/ Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/ Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/ Lk 3:10-18

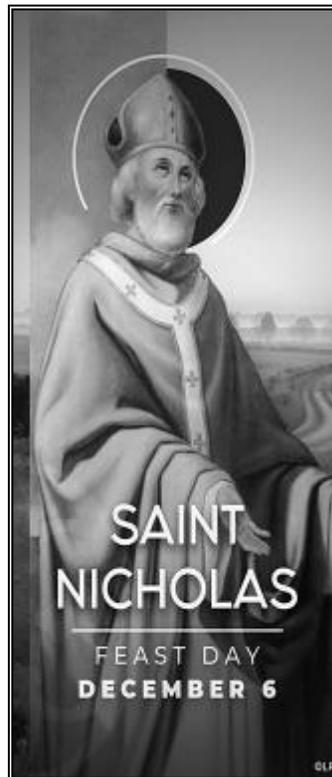
2nd Sunday of Advent

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.



We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

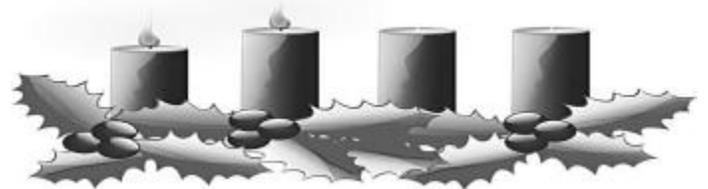


St. Nicholas of Bari

(March 15, 270 – December 6, 343), the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.

According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys.

Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.



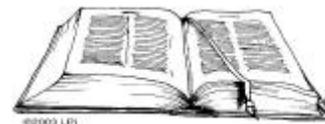
Second Week of Advent

Each night of the second week, the eldest child (or one other one selected by the gathering) lights the first and second purple candle. Both candles burn during the evening meal as before. The Father or Leader prays:

O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Your only begotten Son that through His coming, we may be made worthy to serve You with pure minds. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Second Week Reflection

Just as the Virgin Mother pondered in her heart on the Word made flesh, so every individual soul and the entire Church are called during their earthly pilgrimage to wait for Christ who comes – and to welcome him with faith and love ever new. (Pope Benedict XVI)



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's Gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"

St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Wednesday, December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Masses at 9 am and 7 pm. This is a Holy Day of Obligation!

Saturday, December 11, 4:30 pm and Sunday, December 12, 10 am Masses, respectively - Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Save the Date - Sunday, December 12
Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle Drawing
Following 10 am Mass
Church Auditorium

St. Matthew Church

19th Annual Gold'n Harvest 50/50 Raffle

Tickets ~ \$20 each or 5 for \$100
Maximum 1st Prize ~ \$12,000
Minimum 3rd Prize ~ \$240
\$200 Sellers' Drawing

Drawing on Sunday, December 12, Noon



It's "crunch time!" Only one week left before our Big Drawing. Please turn in your returns, and make every effort to sell those tickets. A small parish gathering is planned with these safety protocols in place. Masks will be required, social distancing will be practiced, and you must be vaccinated and better yet "boosted." Coffee and donuts will be served, and the drawing will be live-streamed on our website, stmatthewdetroit.com.



NOTICE ON THE DEATH OF MARIE KANE

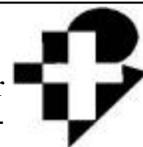
Marie Kane, parishioner, also served the parish as its School Tuition Secretary for 35 years.

You may remember her and her time here at St. Matthew's and want to honor her memory.

Marie's Funeral Mass with cremains will be celebrated on Friday, December 10, 2021.

In-state visitation at 8:30 a.m. and
Funeral Mass at 9:00 a.m.

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! St. Matthew Parish will be eternally grateful!

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree for children's toys and clothing is now up in the church and ready for Christmas. Please take a tag or two and make Christmas a little more special for a child in need. These gifts benefit the families that our St. Vincent de Paul Conference has helped during this past year. The individual tags include whether the child is a boy or girl and their age. Please donate toys or clothing appropriate for the age level stated on the tag. Suggestions: pull toys, plush toys, games, coloring books and crayons, puzzles, balls, sports equipment, dolls, trucks, and cars, (non-violent toys only, please!). Also, shirts, sweaters, hats and gloves, etc... would be an appropriate gift. Return all toys and clothing with tags from the Giving Tree before December 19th, the 4th Sunday of Advent.



Please put toys and clothes in bags, boxes, or some type of covering (no wrapping paper). If you would like to purchase a gift card for a child ages from 13 to 16, that would be much appreciated. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO ATTACH THE GIVING TREE TAGS TO GIFTS.**

Your generosity in the past has always been an inspiration as you remember those that are less fortunate among us! Thank you so very much.

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Elderly religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes, often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious Collection next week helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

God of patience,
show us your wisdom in time,
that we may grow to expect your action
on your time.

Teach us to be gentle and patient with ourselves.

Make us receptive to your timing in others.
Help us see the long view when we are caught
in the frustration of waiting. Amen.

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.

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

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

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Michael Dulapa ~ *Evangelization Chair*
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David Smydra ~ *Members at Large*
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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.

Anthony Mastronardi
Stephanie Smith
Janet Law
Ernie and Laura Alix
Jo Marie Nardi
Anthony Crimauco
Rosemary Schoolcraft
Tiffany Gelle
Robert Stark
Pauline Williams
Eloise Parker
Herb and Jeanne Damman
Sarah Wagner
Lolita Dorado
Albert Fajardo
Eduardo Fajardo
Aurora Guinto
Jesse Ocampo
Mary Spansky
Mike Dulapa

Kathy Bush
Richard Goll
Tim Fitzgerald
Kristen Freiburger
Joanne Papineau
Elsa Camazzola
William Walker IV
Nancy Clemons
Cathy D'Agostini

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

SERVERS

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 9 a.m.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Dan McBride

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

William Zuerblis

Julia Zuerblis

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 4 - Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday, December 5 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - Elizabeth Reyes, Fred Schaldenbrand, Dick Pint

Monday, December 6 - St. Nicholas, Bishop

Tuesday, December 7 - St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

Wednesday, December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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

7:00 p.m. - For the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Thursday, December 9 - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Friday, December 10 -

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

Saturday, December 11 - Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

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

Sunday, December 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

10:00 a.m. - John C. Sasinowski, Chuck Schuster (1st Anniv), Roger Sharpe, Bill Cummings



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