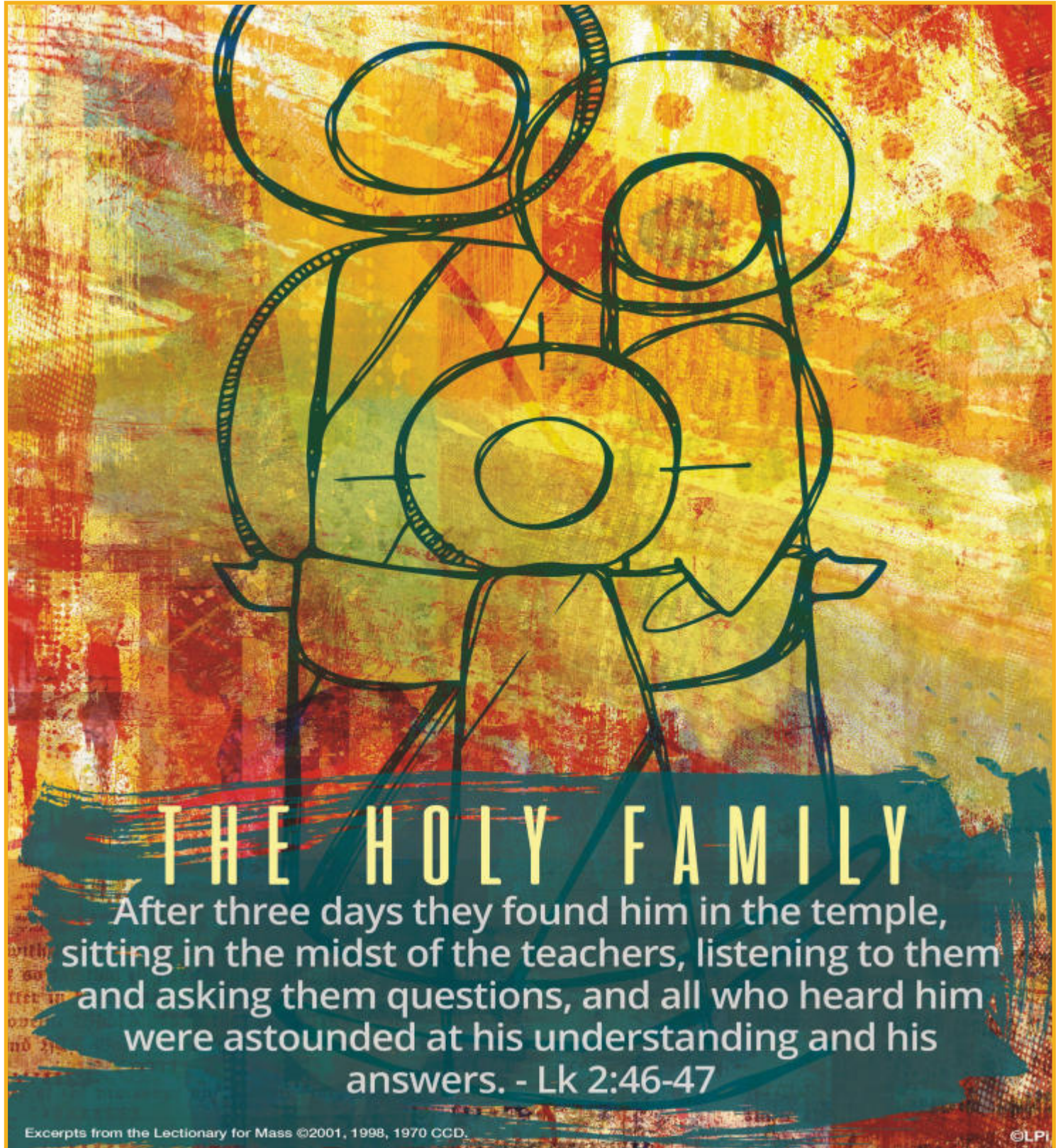




Saint Matthew Church **The PULSE**

December 26, 2021

Detroit, Michigan



THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. - Lk 2:46-47

Readings for the Week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or
1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10
[cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/
Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/
Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
[cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society,

and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

BIRTHDAY Blessings

~ December 30th ~
Happy 71st Birthday, Father Duane!
We thank God for you with an Amen and Alleluia!
May God's Blessings be with you,
may He grant you Good Health, and
may He surround you with His Grace and Love!



SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022
NEW YEAR'S DAY
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
10:00 AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022
FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
10:00 AM

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's Gospel contains this truth about parenting: "but his parents did not know." One of the reasons parenting is so difficult is because our children don't tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?



St. Stephen, First Martyr

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.



St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

**Saturday, January 1, 2022 10 am Mass -
Solemnity of Mary, New Year's Day**

**NO 4:30 PM MASS ON SATURDAY,
JANUARY 1, 2022, NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**December 31, Rectory Office Closed
at 3 pm, Opening on
Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 10:30 am**

Christmas Flower Offerings

Donated on Behalf of These Loved Ones

In Memory of:

The Lee Family	The Fitzgerald Family
Judy Stark	Lisa Leszczynski
George & Marie Stark	Frank & Cynthia Tegel
Edward & Agnes Czarnecki	Conley & Ethel Delong
Jim & Pat D'Alessandro	William & Garnet Bogle
Allen Czarnecki	Lorrie Calhoun

Wanda Mort

Clarence & Mary Merlo	Richard & Shirley Goll
Ponina Stellino	Rose Colombo
The Chinnici Family	The Pilato Family
Lillie B. and Isaiah Isby	

Gloria Pocius	Sheila Pocius
Thomas Pocius	Gladys Pocius
Jerry Pocius	Paul R. Coen
Jerry Mallon & Pat Foley	John & Ursula Ruhl
Richard Gargulinski	Francis & Helen Biernat
Paul, Barbara, Joey & Claire Biernat	

In Honor of:

Sam B. Gargulinski & Emily Gargulinski



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

During the Twelve Days of Christmas, the Catholic Church celebrates many important feasts, including the feasts of Saint Stephen, the first martyr (December 26), Saint John the Apostle (December 27), who wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation, as well as three epistles; the Holy Innocents (December 29), the children who were slaughtered at the order of King Herod, when he was trying to kill the Christ Child; and the Holy Family (normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas, or on December 30, when Christmas falls on a Sunday).

None, however, is as important as the feast celebrated on the octave (eighth day) of Christmas, January 1: the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

One of the earliest titles given by Christians to the Blessed Virgin was Theotokos—"God-bearer." We celebrate her as the Mother of God, because, in bearing Christ, she bore the fullness of the Godhead within her.

As we begin another year, we draw inspiration from the selfless love of the Theotokos, who never hesitated to do the will of God. And we trust in her prayers to God for us, that we might, as the years pass, become more like her. *O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!*

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!



All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

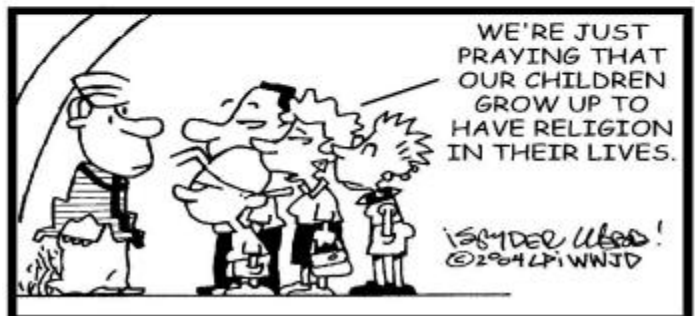
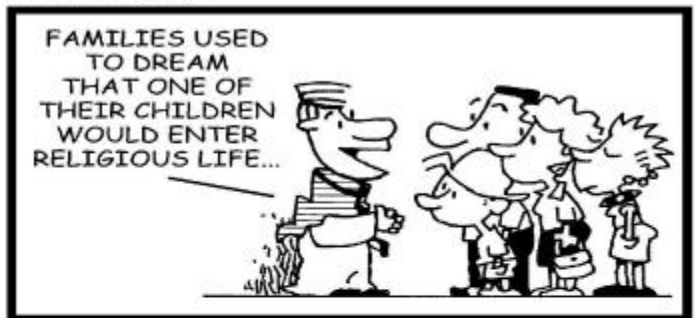
You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

HOLY FAMILY



ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Rectory Fax: (313) 884-4276
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Website: www.stmatthewdetroit.com
Office Hours: Monday through Friday
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Duane R. Novelly ~ *Pastor*
Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*
David Troiano ~ *Weekday Organist*

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

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Bill Zuerblis ~ *Financial Council Chair*
Michael Dulapa ~ *Evangelization Chair*
Patricia Camazzola, Bryan Jones,
David Smydra ~ *Members at Large*
Sharon & Jerry Mielke ~ *VPC Representatives*

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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
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
Maureen Dritsan

Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

LECTORS

SERVERS

Saturday, January 1, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Liz Smith

*Lauren Gross
Julia Zuerblis*

Sunday, January 2, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Liz Foley-Dunstone

*Lauren Gross
Julia Zuerblis*

Mass Schedule

Friday, December 24 - Vigil: Nativity of the Lord

10:00 p.m. - Albino Martinelli (35th Anniv), Raymond and Sylvia Novelly

Saturday, December 25 - Nativity of the Lord

4:30 p.m. - Anna and Zenon Kolasa, Irene and John Ridella, George and Rose Godoshian, John Camazzola

Sunday, December 26 - Feast of the Holy Family

10:00 a.m. - For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

Monday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Tuesday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents

9:00 a.m. - Faustina (Nanette) Ferreria

Wednesday, December 29 - St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

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

Thursday, December 30 -

Friday, December 31 -

4:00 p.m. - DeBacker / Novelly Nuptials

Saturday, January 1, 2022 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:00 a.m. - The People of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday, January 2, 2022 - Epiphany of the Lord

10:00 a.m. - The Assad Family



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