



# *Saint Matthew Church* **The PULSE**

January 2, 2022

Detroit, Michigan



## **THE EPIPHANY** *of the Lord*

*"Since from you shall come a ruler,  
who is to shepherd my people Israel." - Mt 2:6b*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## Readings for the Week of January 2, 2022

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  
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17,  
23-25  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52  
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/  
Lk 4:14-22a  
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/  
Lk 5:12-16  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/  
Jn 3:22-30  
Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/  
Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1  
-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29  
-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



**Epiphany** is a complex feast. Originating in the Eastern Church and formed by the mentality of a people whose thought processes differ sharply from our own, the Epiphany is like a rich Oriental tapestry in which the various themes are woven and interwoven—now to be seen in their historical setting, again to be viewed from a different vantage point in their deep mystical significance. In this brief overview, some of the main ideas of the Epiphany will be outlined.

**Divine manifestation:** The Epiphany takes its name from the Greek "epiphania," which denotes the visit of a god to earth. The first idea of the feast is the manifestation of Christ as the Son of God. "Begotten before the daystar and before all ages, the Lord our Savior is this day made manifest to the world." The feast unites three events in the life of Christ when His divinity, as it were, shines through His humanity: the adoration of the Magi; the baptism of Christ in the Jordan; and the first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. Moreover, at Epiphany the Church looks forward to the majestic coming of Christ on the "youngest day" when His manifestation as God will be complete. The Gospels of the baptism and the marriage at Cana are read on the Octave Day and the Second Sunday after Epiphany, and later Sunday masses in the Epiphany season continue to show the divine power of our Lord in some of His most striking miracles.

**Royal kingship:** A second important idea in Epiphany is the extension of Christ's kingship to the whole world. The revelation of Christ to the three kings at Bethlehem is a symbol of His revelation to the whole of the Gentile world. Epiphany presents to us the calling of not merely a chosen few, but all nations to Christianity.

**Your Light is come:** Closely linked to both these themes of divine manifestation and world kingship is a third idea running through the Epiphany feast: that of light. During Advent, the world was in darkness, and we prayed and waited in the spirit of the Jewish nation which lived in expectation of the Coming Light during thousands of years. At Christmas, the Light shone forth, but dimly, seen only by a few around the crib: Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. But at Epiphany the Light bursts forth to all nations and the prophecy is fulfilled: "The Gentiles shall walk in Thy light, and kings in the brightness of Thy rising." The mysterious star of Epiphany, "flashing like a flame," is still another facet of the light-motif, a symbol capable of being interpreted in a dozen different ways.

How much food for thought and reflection is contained in just these three ideas, and what a significance they have for our own time! Epiphany lifts our eyes from the family celebrations and demands that we should include in our vision "all the ends of the earth." It demands that, like the three wise men, we should have the courage to follow the light of the star we have seen, however hazardous the journey; that the light of our faith, like that of the wise men, should be so strong that we are able to see and recognize our Lord and Ruler in however unexpected a way He may present Himself to us; and that having recognized Him, we should bow down and adore Him, offering Him our total loyalty.

## The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of

Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.



## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

Rectory Office Closed on Monday,  
January 3, 2022  
Opening on Tuesday, January 4, 2022  
at 10:30 am

Wednesday, January 5, 7 pm - RCIA  
Class, Fr. Duane Novelly, St. Clare Church

Tuesday, January 11, 6 pm - Parish Council  
Meeting, Church Auditorium (Tentative)

### Christmas Flower Offerings Donated on Behalf of These Loved Ones

In Memory of:

Margaret Stickler	Faustina Ferreria
William & Cecilia Pilette	Jimmy Guilbault
John Camazzola	George & Rose Godoshian
Brandon Brewer	Dionte Adrian Beamer
Desiree G. Miller	Robert Leroi Miller
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Beamer, Jr.	
Lucia Matelonek	Antoni Matelonek
Casmere Moszczenski	Orlanda Moszczenski
Theresa Witkowski	
Frank & Mary Dedenbach	Frank Bach Family
Shamika B. Currington	William & Doreen Redman

December 22, 2021

Dear Fr. Duane,

Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference here at St. Matthew would like to thank you and all the members of the Parish Council for your very generous \$1,000 donation given to us last month as part of the patrimony from the sale of St. Philomena. The money gifted to us will significantly help address the basic needs of families that approach our SVdP conference seeking assistance. We'll be able to continue to provide much needed aid in the coming winter months to struggling families living in our service area on the east side of Detroit.

As you know, we've been serving the poor living in zip code 48224 for many years. It has been our privilege and honor to provide critical support to residents of our community who are hurting. Through hands-on charitable work, we've been a vital part of the community, offering clothing and food assistance, appliance, bedding and furniture help, utility bill relief and rent assistance to help improve a little bit the lives of the less fortunate.

We're very grateful for your generosity which will help our SVdP Conference here at St. Matthew provide spiritual and physical aid to make life a little better for families we visit. With your heartfelt support, our conference will be able to continue to make a positive impact on the lives of many people in our eastside Detroit community in their time of emergency need.

Thank you so very much for all your kindness.  
Merry Christmas to you all!

Sincerely,

Dennis Costello, President  
St. Matthew St. Vincent de Paul Conference

## 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!

December 17, 2021

Dear St. Matthew Parishioners;



The Retired and Senior Volunteer (RSVP) program of Wayne County sponsored by Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) would like to thank you for your donation of new socks to help with the "2021 Sock It to Us" Project, which broke our **All Time Collection Record!**

RSVP collected **19,336** pairs of socks that were distributed to 24 agencies serving needy men, women and children throughout Wayne and Oakland Counties. This year's donations were delivered to the following agencies in December.

Center for the Works of Mercy	Redford Interfaith Relief
Christnet	Salvation Army, Detroit (2)
Dearborn Hgts. Head Start	Salvation Army, Wyandotte (2)
Detroit Rescue Mission, Detroit	First Step
Samaritas Wayne Family Center (2)	The Information Center
Foster Grandparents, Oakland	Safe Haven, Westland
Guidance Center Head Start, Taylor	Interim House, YWCA, Detroit
Starfish Head Start, Inkster	Mariner's Inn, Detroit
Veterans' Dingell Hospital	Vista Maria, Dearborn Hgts.
LaCasa Amiga, Oakland	World Medical Relief, Oakland
Neighborhood Service Organization	

Your group donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and "soles." As we look forward to the October 2022 campaign, we sincerely hope that we will be able to count on your support again. Together, we can make a difference!

Sincerely,  
Christine Sickle, RSVP  
Project Coordinator

*Note: This letter was received in gratitude for all the socks that you generous folks donated for this campaign. Your donation of 568 pairs of socks was included in their total 19,336. The 19,336 pairs that were collected this year was approximately 10,000 more than the year before. Wow!*



### Volunteers for Christmas Church Decorations

A Big Thank You for all of you who showed up on Wednesday, December 22, to decorate the church for the Christmas Season. Your time and effort are much appreciated. It looks really beautiful!

Don Veyser  
Rebecca Berger  
Mary Adams  
Bob LaVoy  
Bill Ridella

Theresa Zuerblis (coordinated with florist)  
Dave Smydra

Mary Ann Bolone (organized the helpers)  
Gerianne LaPratt

Derek Smith (handled the tree lights)

Ed and Dennis  
Father Duane (prayed a lot!)

## 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.

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

### CLERICAL STAFF

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

### PARISH COUNCIL

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

### PARISH FINANCIAL COUNCIL

BILL ZUERBLIS ~ *CHAIR*  
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 8, 2022, 4:30 p.m.

Bryan Jones

Bruce Campbell

Sunday, January 9, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Liz Smith

Jermaine Donaldson

Julia Zuerblis

## Mass Schedule

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

10:00 a.m. - John and Nora Boyle

**Sunday, January 2 - Epiphany of the Lord**

10:00 a.m. - Frank Amara, The Assad Family

**Monday, January 3 - Holy Name of Jesus**

**Tuesday, January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

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

**Wednesday, January 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop**

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

**Thursday, January 6 - St. Andre Bessette, Religious**

**Friday, January 7 - St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest**

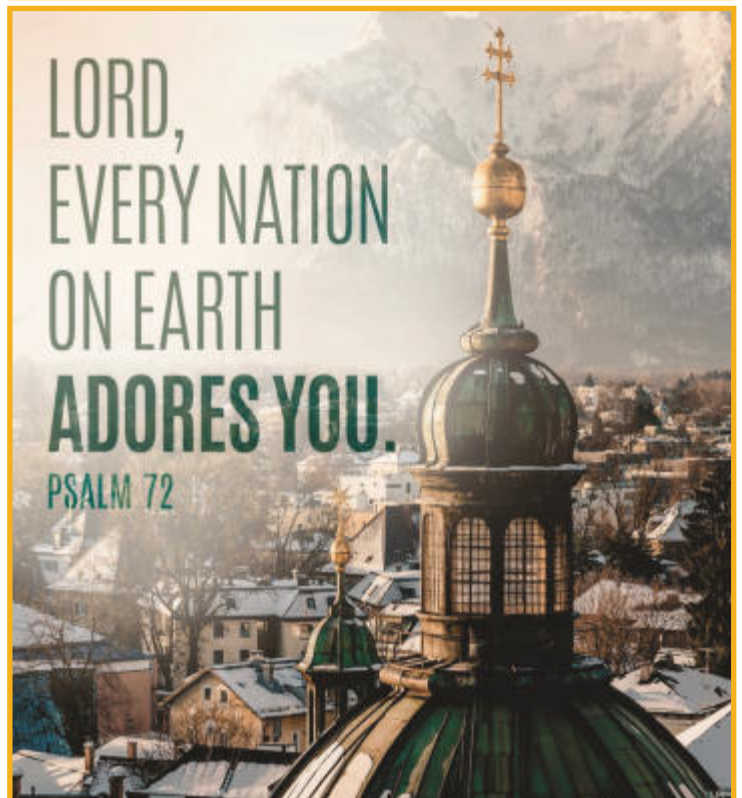
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Saturday, January 8 - Vigil: Baptism of the Lord**

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

**Sunday, January 9 - Baptism of the Lord**

10:00 a.m. - For all Healthcare and Hospice Workers and First Responders and For Their Families



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