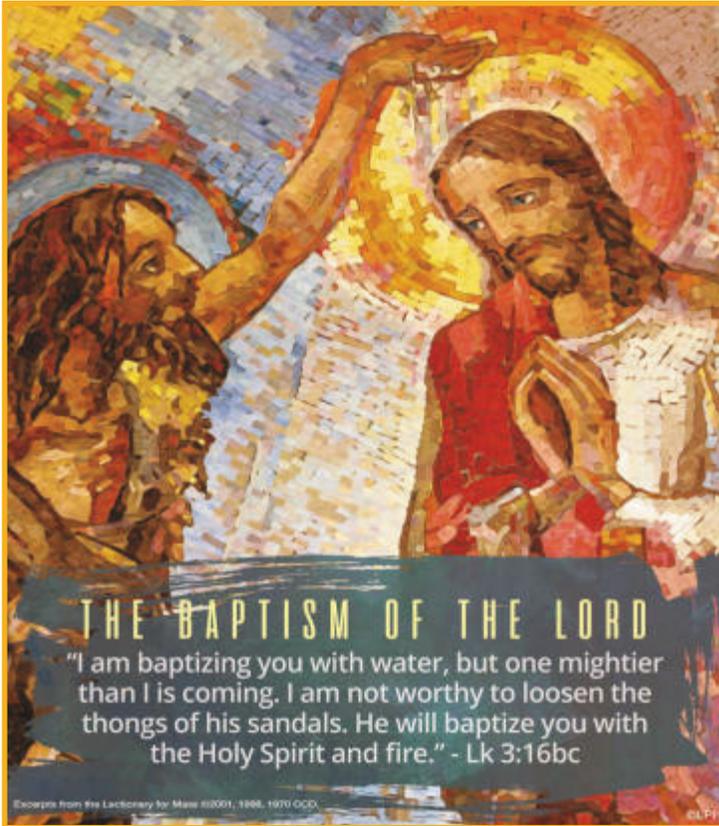




# Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

January 9, 2022

Detroit, Michigan



✝ **STEWARDSHIP** ✉

What shall I render unto the Lord  
for all his benefits to me?



**St. Matthew Parish Report  
July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**

Budget/26 Weeks: @ \$2,442 (rounded)	\$63,500.06
Actual/26 Weeks:	\$45,531.53
Online Giving/26 Weeks:	<u>\$22,275.00</u>
Total Actual/13 Weeks:	\$67,806.53
<b>Overage/Shortfall to Date:</b>	<b>\$4,306.47</b>
Average Collection/Sunday:	\$2,607.94
Average % of Budget/Sunday:	106.78%
Average % <b>over</b> (under)/Sunday:	<b>6.78%</b>
Debt Reduction Envelope/26 Weeks:	\$1,460.00
Online Debt Reduction Giving:	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total Debt Reduction Giving:	\$1,960.00
<b>Net <u>Overage</u> for 2021/2022 2nd Quarter:</b>	<b>\$6,266.47</b>

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**2021-2022 Report  
Catholic Services Appeal**

*This report is from May 1, 2021 through  
January 4, 2022. Payments and pledges for 2021-  
2022 Campaign are accepted through May 31, 2022.*

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| CSA AoD Goal:   | \$17,822.00        |
| Total Pledged:  | \$51,799.18        |
| Total Paid:     | <u>\$47,399.18</u> |
| Pledge Balance: | \$4,400.00         |

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Refund Anticipated: | \$33,977.18 |
| Refund Issued:      | \$24,397.18 |
| Current Refund Due: | \$5,180.00  |
| Average Pledge:     | \$569.22    |

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Pledges Made:        | 91  |
| Pledges Fully Paid:  | 73  |
| Pledges Outstanding: | 18  |
| Parish Families:     | 201 |

## Readings for the Week of January 9, 2022

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

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/  
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/  
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/  
Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/  
Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/  
1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

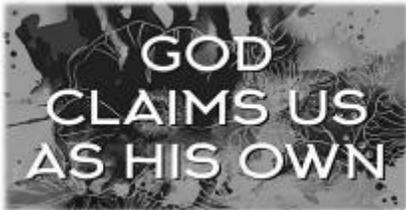
### The Baptism of the Lord

*"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ." — Pope Francis*

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.



The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity and mission. First, it reminds us of who we are and Whose we are. By Baptism we become the adopted sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of His Church, heirs of Heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. We become incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made sharers in the priesthood of Christ. Hence, "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments." (Most of us dipped the fingers of our right hand into the holy water font and blessed ourselves when we came into Church today. Why? This blessing is supposed to remind us of our Baptism. And so when I bless myself with Holy Water, I should be thinking of the fact that I am a child of God; that I have been redeemed by the Cross of Christ; that I have been made a member of God's family, and that I have been washed, forgiven, cleansed, and purified by the Blood of the Lamb.

Jesus' baptism reminds us of our mission:

a) to experience the presence of God within us, to acknowledge our own dignity as God's children, and to appreciate the Divine Presence in others by honoring them, loving them and serving them in all humility;

b) to live as the children of God in thought, word, and action so that our Heavenly Father may say to each one of us what He said to Jesus: "You are My beloved son/daughter with whom I am well pleased." This means that we are to let His Thoughts direct our thoughts, His Mind control our mind, His Concerns be our concerns. In the Church, we all share the same intimate connection with Christ; we are all brothers and sisters in Christ;

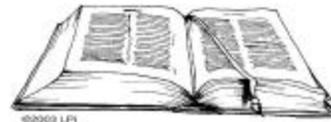
c) to lead a holy and transparent Christian life, and not to desecrate our bodies (the temples of the Holy Spirit and members of Jesus' Body) by impurity, injustice, intolerance, jealousy, or hatred;

d) to accept both the good and the bad experiences of life as the gifts of a loving Heavenly Father for our growth in holiness;

e) to grow daily in intimacy with God by personal and family prayers, by reading the Word of God, by participating in the Holy Mass, and by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and

f) to be co-creators with God in building up the "Kingdom of God" on earth, a Kingdom of compassion, justice, and love, and to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

In other words, God has called us to help others to see, through the love that we show and the help that we give, that God loves them, that He also invites them to be His sons and daughters and that He wants to be their Helper and Strength through all the troubles that life in this world can bring.



### A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

In today's Gospel, Jesus was publicly AFFIRMED by his Father: "You are my beloved son, with you I am very pleased." As parents, we can become so focused on misbehaviors, we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed AFFIRMATION, and so do our children.

## *St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings*

**Tuesday, January 11, 6 pm** - Parish Council Meeting, Church Auditorium

**Wednesday, January 12, 7 pm** - RCIA Class, Fr. Duane Novelly, St. Clare Church

### **Wrapping up Christmas! Christmas Flower Offerings**

Donated on Behalf of These Loved Ones

*In Memory of:*

Rev. Donald and Enka Krueger  
Domenico and Kathy D'Anna

### **Wrapping up Christmas! Thank You St. Matthew Parishioners!**

Our St. Matthew Conference of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank all parishioners who so generously gave gifts last month in response to our Giving Tree appeal. A total of 68 deserving boys and girls living with their families in our eastside neighborhood were delighted at Christmas time to receive all the toys and clothing purchased and given as gifts by St. Matthew parishioners.

Along with food gift cards and clothing donations from others to our SVdP Conference, we were able to help a total of 23 families in our service area here on the eastside of Detroit. Many warm sweatshirts and numerous toys were given to us by St. Rene' Goupil parish in Sterling Heights of which we are very thankful. St. Rene' Christian Service has generously donated at Christmas to our SVDP conference here at St. Matthew for many years.

We're very grateful for the abundance of gifts that parishioners gave to the many, many children whose Christmas was made that much brighter because of your care and compassion. Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference with your tremendous help has been able to make a very positive impact on the lives of many in our eastside Detroit community in their time of need. Thank you so very much!

And a much deserved thank you to the following parishioners and conference members that helped to organize, sort, package and deliver all the gifts for our families: Gerianne LaPratt-Perrault, Anne Marie Langan, Liz Foley-Dunstone, Bruce Campbell, Mary Beth Langan, Patricia Camazzola, Connor LaPratt, Dan Church, Bob Lavoy, Dan McBride, Jude Redman, and Fiona Costello. We couldn't have done it without all of you! Your time and effort was very much appreciated!

And finally a huge acknowledgement and token of appreciation goes out to conference member, Dan McBride, who organized and directed Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner distribution of food gift cards for 100 additional families in our eastside neighborhood. Dan put our conference in touch with Clark Elementary School and coordinated with the school to provide a very generous and nutritious holiday meal for low income families that otherwise might not have been so fortunate at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Financial support was provided by our Detroit East District SVDP.

Thank you to all!



## **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!

### **I Hope I Am Like Him**

*"Who is this Christ? Is he like you?"*

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

"He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like him."

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

### **A Prayer for the Baptism of Our Lord**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
in order to fulfill all that is just,  
you were baptized by John in the Jordan.  
Clothe us with this same righteousness,  
that as your baptized people,  
we, too, may be called  
beloved children of your Father,  
and because of you,  
know he is well pleased with us;  
through your mercy, O our God, you are blessed,  
and live and govern all things,  
now and forever. Amen.



### **On the Lighter Side - Divine Delivery**

A businessman ordered flowers to be sent to the opening of his friend's new branch office. When the businessman got to the event, he was shocked to see the flowers with the inscription "Rest in Peace." He was so outraged that he stopped at the florist to complain.

"It could be worse," the florist said, "Just think: Today someone was buried beneath a floral arrangement with the inscription 'Congratulations on Your New Location!'"

## 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*

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Bill Zuerblis ~ *Financial Council Chair*  
Michael Dulapa ~ *Evangelization Chair*  
Patricia Camazzola, Bryan Jones,  
David Smydra ~ *Members at Large*  
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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.<br>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 and Ernie 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

Saturday, January 15, 2022, 4:30 p.m.  
Julie Smith

Sunday, January 16, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
Bill Ridella

## SERVERS

Lauren Smith

Jermaine Donaldson  
Julia Zuerblis

## Mass Schedule

**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

**Monday, January 10 -**

**Tuesday, January 11 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For our Military Serving around the World

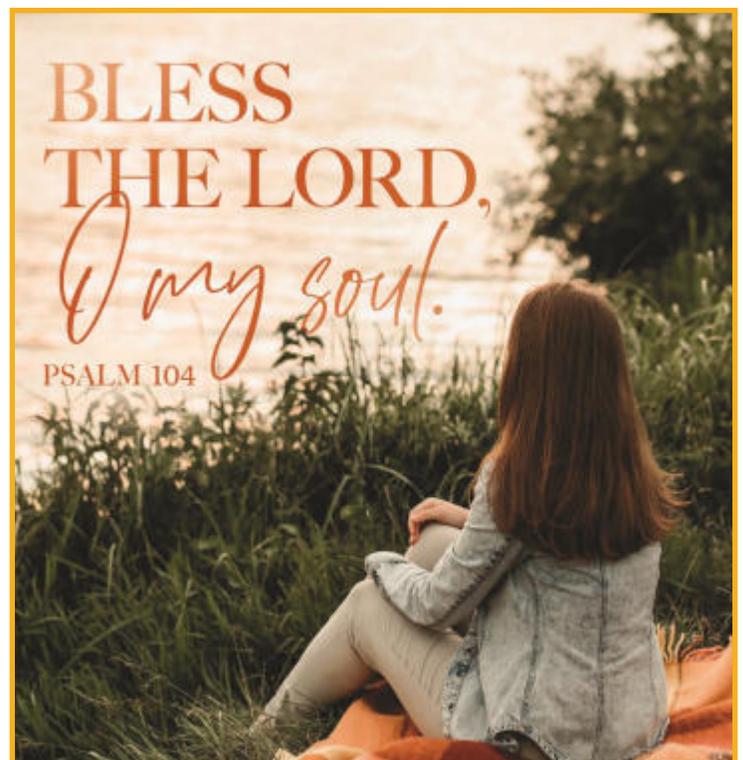
**Wednesday, January 12 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For Refugee and Migrant Families

**Thursday, January 13 - St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

**Friday, January 14 -**  
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Saturday, January 15 - Vigil: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

**Sunday, January 16 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
10:00 a.m. - The Babas Family



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