



# Saint Matthew Church The PULSE

August 9, 2020

Detroit, Michigan

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## From Father Duane's Desk



On Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020, as our churches were beginning to open after the pandemic shutdown, Archbishop Vigneron announced that the Archdiocese of Detroit was going to be re-structured into groupings of parishes known as "Families of Parishes" (FoP). Due to dwindling resources both financially and the number of priests in the diocese, he feels this is necessary. The problem was to be addressed by the "Missionary Strategic Plan" each parish was to develop. However, due to the pandemic, the problems he stated were exacerbated, and he felt something must be done immediately. In this model, parishes will work toward sharing resources and priests. Priests would now be assigned to a Family of Parishes.

The creation of FoP is to be fully implemented within two years in two separate "waves." The groupings of parishes are being talked about now among AoD leadership and parishes. Let me say at this time, no groups have been finalized. Pastors, in dialogue with other pastors, are making recommendations to the AoD through our vicars based on what would be a good and organic fit.

The one- to two- year waves and full implementation are ambitious given the great change that will occur throughout the diocese. But, discussions are ongoing.

Some recommendations have been floated in our area, but they are not final; and, you should not take some of what you hear as the final word until the final word comes from me in conversation with the diocese.

I want to keep you informed as to what the leadership of St. Matthew's is thinking, and what we have recommended to our vicar, Fr. Mario Amore, and the AoD. To that end, I am publishing the letter I sent to our vicar. I think it is clear as to what we are thinking, and what would be our best relationship for a Family of Parishes.

I will keep you informed as more develops. Please keep the church of Detroit in your prayers and especially our St. Matthew Parish.

My letter follows to the right.

God bless all of you!

July 30, 2020

Reverend Mario Amore, Administrator  
St. Aloysius Parish  
1234 Washington Blvd.  
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Father Amore;

After much conversation with pastors and my Parish Leadership and Parish Pastoral Council, St. Matthew Parish would strongly recommend that we would create the Family of Parishes comprised of St. Clare of Montefalco, St. Matthew, and St. Ambrose.

I have been in discussion with Fathers Tim Pelc and Andrew Kowalczyk, and both are open and agree to such an arrangement.

The rationale for this is simple and two-fold. One, we have an historical connection. For years, we were all part of the Detroit/Grosse Pointe Vicariate. With the "re-drawing" of vicariate borders in 2009, St. Matthew, by virtue of its Detroit address, was separated from the parishes that were organically related to us. St. Matthew draws most of its parishioner base from the Grosse Pointes and other suburban communities, as do these other two parishes.

Secondly, St. Matthew still has an ongoing relationship with St. Clare as we share program resources with St. Clare; i.e., our RCIA candidates attend their program, and I teach several of these sessions at their request. St. Clare utilizes our gymnasium, we share the talent of an organist, we have shared a maintenance engineer, we partner with St. Clare on the community outreach work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. St. Clare draws many students for their school from the St. Matthew Parish territory. St. Matthew parishioners have attended and supported the St. Clare School. Parishioners from both parishes feel comfortable attending liturgy and programs at each parish.

St. Ambrose Parish has historically been supported by St. Matthew in that their events are always promoted at St. Matthew, and our parishioners respond and attend their events like the OysterFest, Friday Fish Fry, etc., and St. Ambrose supports our events as well, i.e., our Gold'n Harvest Raffle and Jazz Nite Dinner Dance. In short, we support each other in our fundraising efforts.

These three parishes have similar liturgical styles, a similar vision of forming community, and being about the mission of Evangelization.

Continued on Page Two

## Readings for the Week of August 9, 2020

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33  
 Monday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 [5]/Jn 12:24-26  
 Tuesday: Ez 2:8—3:4/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 [103a]/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14  
 Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [4b]/Mt 18:15-20  
 Thursday: Ez 12:1-12/Ps 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62 [cf. 7b]/Mt 18:21—19:1  
 Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [1c]/Mt 19:3-12  
 Saturday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14 [8]1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28.  
 Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16 [10bc]/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56  
 Next Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [4]/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

## 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Be still and know that I am God. Silence is sacred. Silence speaks the language of the soul and is the foundation of all life and eternity itself. Silence takes us beyond the limits of our minds and allows us to seek and to love the essence of all love, perfect love, and being. In silence, we can be non-verbally present to things and to God in ways that words cannot accomplish. We can discover, encounter, and be present to truths that our minds struggle to conceive and then set aside the boxes we put around things when comprehending them is challenging. We can know the unknowable and touch eternity when we encounter the core silence in our souls.

We can do this even on a noisy street and in the midst of the greatest distraction. Once we have made friends with silence, the rambling noise of the world no longer seems to matter, and we can carry a deep forgiving peace within us, even when physical silence cannot be found. We know that we are loved, cared for, sustained, nourished, embraced, and carried. There is nothing to fear in silence, and I can be present to myself in the same way that God is present to me. I can see myself as God sees me. All of my faults, weaknesses, imperfections, failings, and sinfulness melt away in the abundance of God's mercy. All of the worldly things we see as being important no longer are.

It is in silence that all of the barriers that divide us disappear. There is no more "yours" and "mine" but only the oneness of "ours." There is no longer a need to "figure things out," and we tap into our desire to simply let things be. Silence is creative and powerful and gives us hope. Silence is God's greatest blessing. God became one with humanity in silence. It allows us to be one with all of creation, with the moon and the stars and all of the creatures God has made. The smallest particle of creation radiates with beauty. Silence allows us to soar beyond ourselves and connect in ways that the mind can only imagine. When all is quiet, we begin to see that it is only our fear that keeps us from the Lord. It is our fear that causes us to sink and to fail. We can hear the gentle whisper that tells us to reach for God's hand. We discover that we yearn for the salvation and wholeness that only God can give to us. Be still my soul and be at peace.



## Fr. Mario Amore Letter (cont'd)

Although St. Matthew would be crossing vicariate lines, we feel the border is artificial and has not really worked well for us. In fact, St. Matthew Parish has very little connection or organic relationship with Detroit parishes to the west and south. Point in fact, St. Matthew attempted a merge relationship with St. Jude Parish in 2012/2013. I must say it was an unmitigated disaster. The relationship never came to be.

In conclusion, we respectfully submit this summary and Family of Parishes Model to you for consideration. Having to adjust to the new reality, we keep clearly in mind that the transition and restructuring will be difficult in itself at various levels; we do not need to create an additional problem by placing St. Matthew with parishes we are unfamiliar with and with which we have no relationship.

If you have any questions or concerns with this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

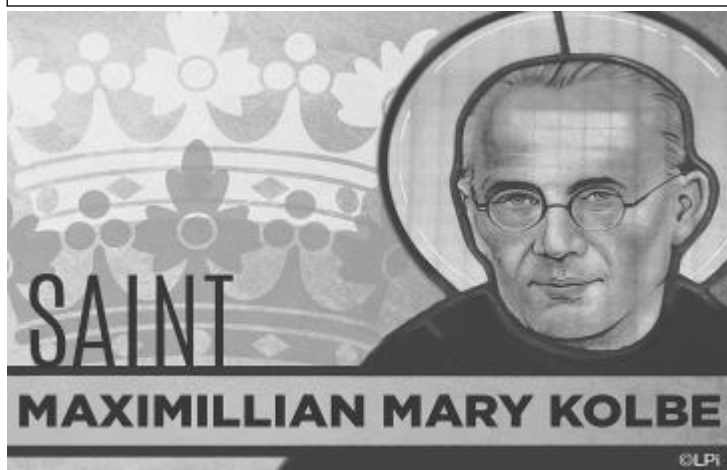
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Duane R. Novelly  
Pastor

DRN/mjl

cc: Rev. Timothy Pelc, Pastor  
St. Ambrose Parish

Rev. Andrew Kowalczyk, CSMA, Pastor  
St. Clare of Montefalco Parish



## Who is St. Maximilian Kolbe?

*St. Maximilian Kolbe was a Franciscan priest from Poland devoted to the Blessed Mother. He edited and published a large Catholic newspaper which spread love and devotion to Christ and His Blessed Mother.*

*After the Nazi occupation of Poland, Father Maximilian was imprisoned at Auschwitz death camp in 1941. There he offered his life for another prisoner and was condemned to slow death in a starvation bunker. Despite forced starvation, Fr. Maximilian continued to minister to the prisoners that were with him and never lost his faith in Christ.*

*On August 14, 1941, his captors, impatient for his death, ended his life with a fatal injection. Pope John Paul II canonized Maximilian as a "martyr of charity" in 1982.*

## St. Matthew Parish ~ Happenings

**Saturday, August 15, 9 am Mass -**  
Feast of the Assumption of Mary, Holy Day  
of Obligation (There will be no Vigil Mass!)

**Saturday, August 15, and Sunday,**  
**August 16 - Pregnancy Aid Baby Layette**  
**Drive**



### Pregnancy Aid Layette

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we, as a parish, were unable to collect donations for our annual Mothers' Day Layette Drive. The parish office contacted Nancy Antner, the Director of Pregnancy Aid, to ask if there was anything that St. Matthew Parish could do to help them during this time as they minister to mothers in need.

Nancy explained that they were very low on all sorts of supplies and noted those items most needed. It was determined that St. Matthew's would again have a layette drive on the weekend of August 15 and August 16 in honor of the Feast of the Assumption of the Mary. This appeared to be the most fitting time since we did not hold it during the month of May, Mary's month.

The following are the items that are most needed. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please enclose a check (no cash) in an envelope marked "Pregnancy Aid" and place it in the collection basket, drop it off at the rectory, or give it to Father or Marilyn.

- ♦ Baby bibs and infant caps (knitted, crocheted, or purchased)
- ♦ Receiving blankets
- ♦ Baby afghans
- ♦ Onesies or baby sleepers (size 0 to 6 mos)
- ♦ Diapers (size 5 and 6)
- ♦ Baby bottles
- ♦ Baby hygiene products and baby wipes (no talcum powder)
- ♦ Pack and Plays (new or gently used)

The Pregnancy Aid Layette Drive will start on Saturday, August 16, and continue through to Sunday, August 23. A baby basinet is placed at the Blessed Mother's altar for your donations. Any thing you can do will be most appreciated.



### A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

The demands of family can be so overwhelming, we feel walking on water would be easier. When Jesus was pressured, he dismissed everyone, so he could be "by himself and pray."

When overwhelmed and stressed, go to a quiet place and surrender your pressured feelings to the Lord using Peter's prayer in today's Gospel: "Lord, save me."

## CSA Minute ~ Sharing Christ



**Your Gifts at Work** - CSA 2020 will be launched soon. Please consider this information when you prayerfully consider your pledge. Your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal makes a difference in countless lives throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit and beyond. The more than 170 ministries, programs, and services funded by the CSA provide the energy for our Lord's grace and blessings on our parishes, institutions, parishioners, and others every day.

Be assured that no CSA dollars have ever been — or ever will be — used to settle claims of any nature against the Archdiocese, or to support projects outside of the Archdiocese, other than six specific national collections of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The archdiocesan lay Finance Council oversees the distribution of CSA funds to ensure all reach the ministries, programs, and services for which they are intended. The 2020 CSA budget is \$15,212,693.

### KAYAK THE CANALS of St. Ambrose Parish

*Not many parishes enjoy waterways like St. Ambrose. Join St. Ambrose Parish for a guided 2-hour Kayak Canal tour. Paddle out to the Detroit River, around Grayhaven Island, past the Fisher Mansion, and by the waterfront residences of Jefferson-Chalmers. This tour is great for beginner and experience kayakers alike!*

*August 15 or 22, 2020*

*Launch at 12 p.m.*

*\$55 per kayaker with choice  
of single or tandem kayak*

*Mass back at St. Ambrose Parish at 4 p.m.*

*This private tour is professionally conducted by Detroit River Sports. Kayak and safety equipment provided. Limited space available. Reserve now!*

*[stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net) or 313-822-2814*

19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

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Rectory Office: (313) 884-4470  
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Website: www.stmatthewdetroit.com  
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Rev. Duane R. Novelty ~ *Pastor*  
Rick Cucchi ~ *Music Minister / Choir Director*  
Joe Balistreri ~ *Saturday Organist*  
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-Godoshian,  
Bryan Jones, David Smydra ~ *Members 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
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.*

Chuck Schuster	David Beaupre
Lolita Dorado	Kenneth Beaupre
Albert Fajardo	Anthony Crimando
Madeline O'Neill	Rosemary Schoolcraft
Kurt Beghuyn	Tiffany Gelle
Sebastiano Stellino	Robert Stark
Teresita Covacha	Pauline Williams
Joe Petrylka	Bill Solomon
Roger Sharpe	Eloise Parker
Nenette Ferreria	Kelly Kranson
Anthony Mastronardi	Herb and Jeanne Damman
Eduardo Fajardo	Doreen Redman
Kathy Bush	Dennis Corbett
Glenda Johnson	Alice Rapas
Stephanie Smith	Sarah Wagner
Janet Law	
Laura Alix	
Betty Leone	
Michelle Harter	
Jo Marie Nardi	

# Ministers, Lectors, and Servers

## LECTORS

Saturday, August 15, 2020, 4:30 p.m.  
Bruce Campbell

Sunday, August 9, 2020, 10:00 a.m.  
David Smydra

## SERVERS

Ian Campbell

Jermaine Donaldson  
Cory Fullilove

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday, August 8 - Vigil: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
4:30 p.m. - For the People of St. Matthew Parish

**Sunday, August 9 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Sophie Bush, Betty Amara (23rd Anniv),  
The Reyes Family, Robert Lynn, Raymond and  
Sylvia Novelly (10th Anniv)

**Monday, August 10 - St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr**

**Tuesday, August 11 - St. Clare, Virgin**  
9:00 a.m. - For an Increase in Vocations to the Consecrated Life

**Wednesday, August 12 - St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious**  
9:00 a.m. - For the Poor and Needy in our Community


**Thursday, August 13 - Sts. Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs**

**Friday, August 14 - St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr**  
9:00 a.m. - For an End to the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Saturday, August 15 - Feast of the Assumption of Mary**  
9:00 a.m. - For the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

**Saturday, August 15 - Vigil: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
4:30 p.m. - Nancy Bergamin

**Sunday, August 16 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
10:00 a.m. - Judy Stark, Clarence Merlo (34th Anniv), David and  
Marty Smydra (50th Wedding Anniversary)



19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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# FAITH

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Immediately Jesus stretched  
out his hand and caught  
Peter, and said to him,  
"O you of little faith, why  
did you doubt?" - Mt 14:31

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



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