

Church of Saint Matthew – August 22, 2021

## SAINT MATTHEW WELCOMES ALL TO OUR PARISH

New to the area, joining us for the first time or coming home again? Please contact Linda Rivera at [lrivera@st-matts.org](mailto:lrivera@st-matts.org) to register as a member of our parish family. We will be happy to get you signed up or welcome you back.

## PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please remember in your prayer our parish family and friends who are ill or in need of our prayers. Pray for their recovery and for their family members who are with them and caring for them. Especially, **Elena Saucedo-Rivera, Louise Breidel, Doris Schillinger, Michael Wood, Grant Littler, Cecelia Glenn, Jerry Jenniges, and Jan Steinbrenner**

**If you have a loved one you would like to add to this list, please call the Parish office, provide us with your name and the name of your loved one.** We are strong as a community praying together.

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Our readings offer us examples of how we should be living, and they present us with an opportunity to make a radical change in our lives.

In our first reading, Joshua tells the leaders of the Israelites to decide as to who they shall serve in this life. As he presents them with this choice, he boldly states, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Who or what does your household serve? Whether you are a household of one or twelve, now is the time to decide, ‘will we serve the Lord?’

We are constantly bombarded with endless distractions around us. It can be very easy to serve other ‘gods’ in our lives. For instance, putting technology (phone, internet, TV), kids’ extracurricular activities, our jobs, or our social lives before the Lord. We also might be putting these things above our loved ones, and if we are doing that, then we are putting them above our relationship with God.

With this in mind, we must strive each day to intentionally live as disciples of Christ. It starts with commitment — incorporating personal daily prayer and increasing that prayer week by week, incorporating prayer into our marriages and families, frequenting the sacraments, and serving others. Through this time with the Lord and service to those around us, He will reveal to us where to go next.

Reflect on how you may not be putting God first in your life and decide to respond like the Israelites, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods... Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

***Stewardship Reflections by  
Catholic Stewardship Consultants***

## MASKS ONE SIZED DOESN'T FIT ALL

“What’s the mask weather like where you are?”

I’m beginning to think that’s our new, enduring reality. I know I’m not alone in all sorts of feelings when it comes to COVID, vaccines and masks: concerned, weary, fearful, confused, impatient, frustrated—I could go on, and I’m sure you could, too.

I get it. I’d love to have definitive answers from scientists and health professionals—but I recognize that we’re still learning things about coronaviruses. I like to have definitive guidelines from the governor and archdiocese—but I recognize that the guidelines change as we learn new things.

One size doesn’t fit all. Not everyone is vaccinated yet, for a variety of reasons. And not everyone can wear a mask. Let us not judge others, lest we be judged.

Moreover, each person has a different tolerance for risk. COVID’s certainly on our minds these days, as it should be. But let’s also remember to buckle up and drive safely, for driving has its risks. We’ll never achieve zero risk from COVID, other diseases, or driving. That’s reality.

For me, it comes down to this: how can we visibly express God’s love through our decisions regarding vaccines, masks, and distancing? The pope encourages these standard public health measures, as do the bishops. St. Matt’s does, too. That’s why we have free masks and sanitizer at the Welcome Table.

When it rains, I use an umbrella. With current COVID “weather”, I still wear a mask.

God bless,

*Phil Grant  
Pastoral Administrator*

## SAINT MATTHEW PARISH LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

**The Finance Committee** will be on Thursday, August 26th at 4:30 pm in the Parish Center and via Zoom.

**The Parish Council** will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 26th in the Parish Center and via Zoom.

Parishioners are invited to attend the meeting as observers. If you have an item you wish to be discussed by the Council you may call the Parish Office and request that it be added to the Agenda, please call 651-224-9793.

