



## Congratulations to

Cristian Alexander Carranza, Zyrah Chelly Castillo, Charles Adelino Daponte, Odin Leinweber, Rowan Leinweber, Emma Sophia Lingle, Dacia Marie Milite, Audrina Oliveira, Emilia Sousa and Jonah Sousa for celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this Sunday, April 11, 2021 at the 11:00 am Mass.

- **Sunday 11.00 am Holy Mass on April 11, 2021** is exclusively celebrated for the 'First Holy Communion' children, parents and their friends. The other community members kindly consider to choose other Mass timings.

### Sacrament of Confirmation:

Parent Meeting	April 24 at 10:30 am Hall
Session 1	May 1 at 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Session 2	May 8 at 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Session 3	May 15 at 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Session 4	May 22 at 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
<b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>June 19</b> Confession at 10:30 am to 12:00 pm Walk-through at 12:00 pm at the Church (Sponsors must attend).

- On **April 24, 2021** we will be having a parent meeting for the parents of those children registered for Confirmation. Due to COVID restrictions, we will be dividing the group into two groups. We will email the parents so as to what time each group can come.

**Confirmation celebration on June 20, 2021 at 11:00 am at St. Matthew's Church by Archbishop Richard Smith.**



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## St. Matthew Parish

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**Pastor:** Fr. Sathiaselan Kulandaisamy, SDB  
**Deacon:** Deacon Wayne Provencal  
**Pastoral Associate:**  
**Secretary:** Mary Ann S. Beaulieu

*April 11, 2021*

*2nd Sunday of Easter*

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever."*

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.

### St. Matthew's Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Closed  
Tuesday to Thursday - 8:30 - 4:00 pm  
Friday & Saturday - 8:30 - 12:00 noon  
Sunday - 8:30 - 1:00 pm

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Friday 6:15 - 6:45 pm  
Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm  
Or anytime by appointment

**Note:** The access to Parish Office door will be closed half an hour before & during Holy Mass as Covid-19 protocol.

**CHURCH COLLECTION :** (April 6, 2021)

Envelopes/Loose Cash:	\$	2,554.50
Maintenance	\$	1,080.00
Together We Serve	\$	245.00
Missals	\$	5.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	5.00
Good Friday (TWS)	\$	2,304.00
Easter Offering	\$	3,049.00
Hall Donations:	\$	695.00
	\$	<b>9,937.50</b>

**HALL COLLECTION:**

2017 Total Collected	\$211,474.24
2018 Total Collected	\$122,690.40
2019 YTD Collected	\$ 74,946.64
2020 YTD Collected	\$ 70,412.33
2021 YTD Collected	\$ 21,970.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$501,493.61</b>

**As of March 9, 2021 the balance that St. Matthew's Parish owes for the Hall is \$124,247.73.**

Thank you for your continued generosity to our hall project.



**April 12 to April 18, 2021**

April 13	9:00 am	Maria Jogovics (SI)
April 14	9:00 am	Margaret Lajczak (SI)
April 15	9:00 am	Maria Jogovics (SI)
April 16	9:00 am	Margaret Lajczak (SI)
April 17	9:00 am	Anna Piorkowska (SI)
	5:00 pm	+Ron Krill
April 18	9:00 am	+Linda Friedel
		+Joe Gartner
	11:00 am	+Edward Wieber (R)



**Request for Prayers**

May our sick and suffering find strength in Jesus along with the Parish Family.

**Let us pray for:**

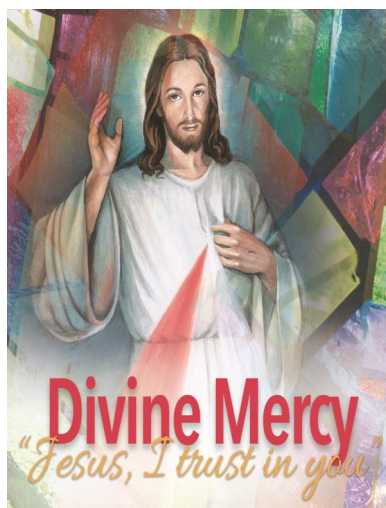
Margaret Broden, Deane Guenette, Mary Harasimiuk, Rose Paskowski, Darrell Smith, Orest Tompich, Robert Chretien, Marie Kash, Shirley Ponich, Joyce Chretien, Joseph Maksymiuk, Leticia Agloro, Stephen Spooner, Vicky Weran, Larry Ofner, Chiedza Marlene Gadzirayi, Ryan Cyr, Gerald Giguere, John Antonucci, Jack Randon, Ann Marcus, Evelyn Sim, Rachelle Lefebvre, Rafael Pingal, Manny Sulit, Elizabeth Clifferton, Richard Rajotte, Florent St. Arnault, Susan Sulit, Phyllis Morrison, Nelie Burlet, Imelda Espiritu, Frank Coady, Denise Blake, Mary Ann Beaulieu, Alicia Aberin

**NOTE:**

If you wish to have a name included please call the Parish office by Noon on Wednesday.

**IMPORTANT Announcements**

- **Sunday 11.00 am Holy Mass on April 11, 2021** is exclusively celebrated for the 'First Holy Communion' children, parents and their friends. The other community members kindly consider to choose other Mass timings.
- On **April 24, 2021** we will be having a parent meeting for the parents of those children registered for Confirmation. Due to COVID restrictions, we will be dividing the group into two groups. We will email the parents so as to what time each group can come.
- Fr. Tim Zak, the Salesian provincial of USA will be making his annual visitation to the Salesian mission at Edmonton from **26 April to 29 April, 2021**. Fr. Sathia will be not be available in office those days but he would continue to celebrate Holy Mass in the morning.
- **El Shaddai Edmonton chapter** is celebrating **29th anniversary on 9 May, 2021** virtually. Hence, that Saturday weekend Holy Mass at **5 pm on May 8, 2021** will be solemnized by the members of El Shaddai Edmonton chapter. Since, 30 El Shaddai members are participating in this Holy Mass, the other community members could choose to attend either 9.00 or 11.00 am. Holy Mass on Sunday morning.
- Since registration for Holy Masses are getting filled up so quickly through online, we would like to ask those phoning in to office to register, please call one week ahead.



**Resurrection brings Hope!**

Every Friday, Joe would go to the corner grocery store and buy a lottery ticket. And every week, when the winning numbers were announced, he would compare them to the ones on his ticket. Each week he hoped to win, and each week he was disappointed. But that didn't stop him from buying another ticket the next week. He always nurtured the hope that he would win someday, even though the odds were against him.

We all nurture hopes of various kinds. We hope to live a long and productive life. We hope our children and grandchildren will grow into good people who will contribute to society. We hope for world peace and prosperity. These are all good things, but we can't necessarily count on them to come to pass. They may or may not. So, what can we hope for that will never disappoint us? St. Augustine once wrote, "The Lord's resurrection is our hope". Placing our hope in Jesus' rising from the dead is a sure bet. That's because the hope St. Augustine is talking about is different from Joe's hope that he'll win the lottery. While Joe has no idea whether he'll ever win, we know that everyone who believes that Jesus has been raised from the dead will be saved (Rom 10:9). So, we're not just wishing something good will happen; we are confident it will! Jesus' resurrection brings hope for us personally and for the world, but the question is how can we grow in the virtue of hope and become beacons of hope to the people around us.

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus felt as if the ground under them had just given way. They had placed all their hopes and dreams in Jesus, from Nazareth, but he had been brutally put to death by the Roman authorities. "We were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel," one of them tells a stranger who has joined their journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus (Lk 24:21). When they tell him, what is burdening their hearts, Jesus begins to point out all the places in the Scriptures that refer to him. At the evening as He blesses and breaks bread during dinner, they recognize who He is (Lk 24:31). Their hopes had been fulfilled. Jesus was alive; he had conquered death, and they had witnessed it for themselves. The apostle Paul also met the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-9). Later, he recounts how Jesus also "appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once" (1 Cor 15:6). The point is, our hope in the resurrection is not just a vague hope. It's based on a real event that changed the lives of real people. And what happened two thousand years ago still holds true today: Jesus is alive and lives among us!

Given all of this, how can we not place all of our hope in Jesus' resurrection? Pope Benedict XVI once said, "If we take away Christ and his resurrection, there is no escape for man, and every one of his hopes remains an illusion" (Urbi et Orbi Message, Easter 2009). Without Jesus' resurrection, our lives would not only end here on earth, but they would also lack eternal meaning or purpose. We would die in our sins (John 8:24). Jesus' resurrection gives us such great hope because we can live the abundant life he has given us here on earth, and we can hold on to the promise of everlasting life with him forever in heaven.

So many people today live without hope. We too may have experienced times when we felt hopeless. But because we are Christians, we are never truly without hope. God loves us and has redeemed us, no matter how we feel. He has a plan for our lives, no matter what our circumstances may be. And because he rose from the dead, we too will rise one day and experience union with him. We all have hopes and dreams that we want to see fulfilled. But none can compare to the certain promise of eternal life that God has made for us in Jesus. No matter what struggles we might experience in this life, that is our one solid hope. So, during this Easter season, let's be ready to tell people why we have placed our hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior!

(Edited version of an article from 'The Word Among us').