

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

DPAA—We have met our goal! Now, everything given gets returned to our parish without paying the Diocesan Taxes on it. Our parish's goal for this year was \$13,400. Please be generous if you have not contributed. This collection will run until March, 2026.

MAINTENANCE ISSUE-If anyone is willing to help with a maintenance issue (we have some church mice) please call Heidi Mayleben at 859-991-6467 for more details.

SNACK SHORTAGE!- We have been running short on snacks that are enjoyed by the whole parish after the Sunday Mass. Please see the sign up sheet to bring snacks for after Mass. It is located next to the collection box in the front of church. When you sign up, please try to bring extra since we have been running short. Thank you so much.

TAX STATEMENTS-Tax statements are in the back of church. Please pick yours up. If you have an issue with the donations we have listed for you, please email fryymanlinda@gmail.com or call her at 859-240-2377. Thank you.

EXPANDING OUR HEARTS

You may recall that St. Matthew Parish conducted a parish survey on discipleship in Lent 2023 called the Disciple Maker Index. This Lent, we will be conducting the survey a second time, and we need to hear from you! As part of the diocesan With One Heart initiative, the survey will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and on our parish's efforts to help you become the best disciple you can be. The information gathered will be used to measure the success of our current parish pastoral plan and to plan for the future so we can become a more faith-filled, vibrant community. The greater the participation, the more reliable the information will be for effective decision-making. All parishioners 15 years and

older are encouraged to participate. The DMI will be accessible online from **February 18 through March 23** and will take 10-15 minutes to complete (paper surveys will be available for those who need them). All responses will be confidential; the parish will only receive information about our community as a whole. Results will be shared with the parish in late spring/early summer. In coming weeks, check the bulletin, the parish website, and (insert social media platform if you use one) and listen for pulpit announcements for more information, including how to access the survey online or complete a paper survey. Tell us what's on your heart! Take the *Disciple Maker Index* this Lent!

A Lenten Look-Ahead

Believe it or not, Lent is less than a month away! Where does the time go?! (Well, some of it went to shoveling snow!)

When we talk about Lent, we always talk about the three main pillars of Lenten devotion: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. But so often it sneaks up on us and we have to decide what we're going to do without much thought.

I'm glad I had the presence of mind this year to look ahead a little so that hopefully doesn't happen to me. We should ask ourselves now, and start praying now, about what extra or special prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we're going to take on in Lent. When making that decision, we should ask ourselves what areas we need to grow in, or what stands in the way of our relationship with God and others. So, if our prayer life has slipped, maybe because of the time of day we do it, during Lent we might consider trying a different time. If we've noticed that we have no charities we've been giving to, we might take a new one on in Lent.

In our parish, we'll offer some opportunities in at least a couple of those areas. Stay tuned for more information about when we'll have our delicious Fish Fry's, and spread the word! And I'd like to offer at least a couple extra prayer/devotional opportunities, perhaps with some Stations of the Cross and/or Eucharistic Adoration. Stay tuned to the bulletin for further details!

Moving on to a slightly different note, I want to give a particular thank you to Kevin Cooper and his relative, and also the folks at Redman Farm who helped clear our parking lot from the snow that the "Blizzard of '26" brought us!

Keep warm!

-Fr. Josh Lange