



FOUNDED 1890

SAINT MARY

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

A Journey in Faith — To Love and Serve the Lord

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • January 24, 2021

FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR

Opening Our Minds to Understand the Scriptures:

OUR GOAL AS human beings made in the image and likeness of God must be to overcome ignorance and to grow in knowledge and understanding of God and His divine plan for humanity's salvation. This weekend Scripture readings address the subjects of ignorance (First Reading), knowledge (Second Reading), and understanding (Gospel Reading) concerning the true nature and mission of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches His disciples how to interpret and understand the Scriptures. He tells them that all the prophecies and promises found in the Old Testament refer to Him, from the Torah (the five books of Moses), the Psalms, and the books of the Prophets. That is why, in the Liturgy of the Word, we read passages from the Old Testament, and Christ's representative, the priest, follows Christ's example in applying them to the Gospel Reading and our lives.

FROM THE BEGINNING of its universal mission, the Church has taught the Scriptures as Jesus instructed His Apostles and disciples in Luke 24:25-27 and 44-48. St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354-430 AD), continued to teach the Scriptures in the same way, writing, "The New Testament is hidden in the Old and the Old [Testament] is fulfilled in the New." And St. Jerome (342-420 AD) taught: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." In order to know Jesus Christ and His Mission, we need to dedicate some time to study of the scriptures in our everyday lives. Then, we come to know Jesus in a personal way and thus, we can sing with the Psalmist, "Lord, let your face shine on us".

St. Francis de Sales, The Gentleman Saint:

WE, THE MISSIONARIES of St. Francis de sales are celebrating our Patronal Feast day on Sunday, January 24. As I reflect his life and ministry, one thing that keeps coming to my mind as he often mentioned, "We must begin again". It reveals the great optimism of Fransalian Spirituality. St. Francis de Sales brought a new insight into spiritual life, pointing out that everyone can live a saintly, devout life. St. Francis assures those he guides in the spiritual journey that saintliness is within our grasp. There is nothing that exists stronger, more available, and more attainable than the grace of God. St. Francis teaches that we can be saints in all we do and, in particular, how we engage in our personal vocation.

Since last year, more than any other in our lifetime, has been difficult around the globe. The plague of COVID-19 has ripped through families, causing extreme illness and death, financial ruin, isolation, hopelessness, fear, and frustration. We need a "redo." "Begin Again" reminds us that we can be hopeful and energized for more. Every saint was also a sinner, every saint felt the same anxieties, fears, and sadness that touches so many lives today. It was their faith and trust in God that allowed them to rise above their struggles and "Begin Again!" Please, remember all our Missionaries in your prayers, who are ministering around the globe. **ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PRAY FOR US!**

The March for Life 2021: The March for Life is a great annual family reunion for the pro-life movement from January 28-30th, 2021. Tens of thousands from across America arrive by bus and plane and gather for a midday rally. They are encouraged by speeches from pro-life leaders, legislators, and clergy. The goal of the pro-life movement is to give voice to the unborn children, who are defenseless for a full protection from the moment of conception! Let us pray for an end to abortion and honor a culture of Life!

With Every Blessings,
Fr. John Peter Arul MSFS

ESTATE PLANNING

PLEASE TAKE A moment and consider remembering St. Mary Our Lady of the Snows Parish in your will. It is so important to the future security of our Parish. Preserve your Catholic Values and pass them on to the next generation. God bless you for taking the time to do this for your love and care of our Parish.

IF YOU NEED help with any issues regarding estate planning, you should seek the advice of an attorney or financial advisor.

If you need some direction in contacting an attorney or adviser who can assist with this aspect of estate planning, call the Parish office. We have a list of contact numbers of appropriate and Bar-approved professionals who might assist you with your questions.

EXPOSITION, ADORATION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Jesus is our **Strength** when we are weak, our **Hope** in time of despair and our **Light** in time of darkness.

Come visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament.

Experience the inner healing that takes place

BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU.

Fridays 1-5 pm

Benediction 4:50 pm



SAINT MARY, OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
1955 E. Commerce, Milford, Michigan 48381

Pastor: Fr. John Peter Arul MSFS
Fr.johnpeter@stmarymilfordmi.org
Assistant Pastor: Fr. Augustine Joseph MSFS
Fr.augustine@stmarymilfordmi.org
Website: www.stmarymilfordmi.org
Phone: 248-685-1482 FAX: 248-684-5642

PARISH OFFICES

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parishoffice@stmarymilfordmi.org
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Kathleen Quittschreiber

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faithformation@stmarymilfordmi.org

Adult Formation/RCIA: Faith Formation
Men's Ministry: Faith Formation
faithformation@stmarymilfordmi.org
Director of Youth Ministry: Olivia Frailing
youthministry@stmarymilfordmi.org

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Music Minister & Organist:
Steve Hansen 734-730-7970
s.hansen@stmarymilfordmi.org
Joe Hassell: Guitarist 810-623-4794
New Covenant Youth Ensemble
Maureen Simms 248-684-5289
maurtsimms@aol.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Council President: Larry Chludzinski
Council meeting is the fourth Tuesday of the month.

WORSHIP

Chairperson: Judy Ulbrich
Commission meeting is the second Tuesday of the month.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Chairperson: Jerri Somervell
Commission meeting is the second Tuesday of the month.

FAITH FORMATION

Chairperson: Mike Ciarelli
Commission meeting is the second Tuesday of the month.

FINANCE

Chairperson: Keith Hughes
Commission meeting is the third Tuesday of the month.

BAPTISMS Please call the Parish Office to arrange for your child's baptism.

MARRIAGES Arrangements may be made by contacting the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding date. You must also be a Parishioner six months previously.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual Confession
on Saturdays between 9:00 & 9:30 am,
Mondays 6:30-6:55 pm, Thursdays 8:30-8:55 am
or anytime upon request by calling the Parish Office.

FAITH FORMATION

UNIT 3 is here—this includes Gospel Weeklies and 1st Communion materials.

IF YOU WERE not able to pickup last Sunday, call Wendi at 248-685-2702 to arrange a day to pick up your materials.

Please allow a 2 day notice.

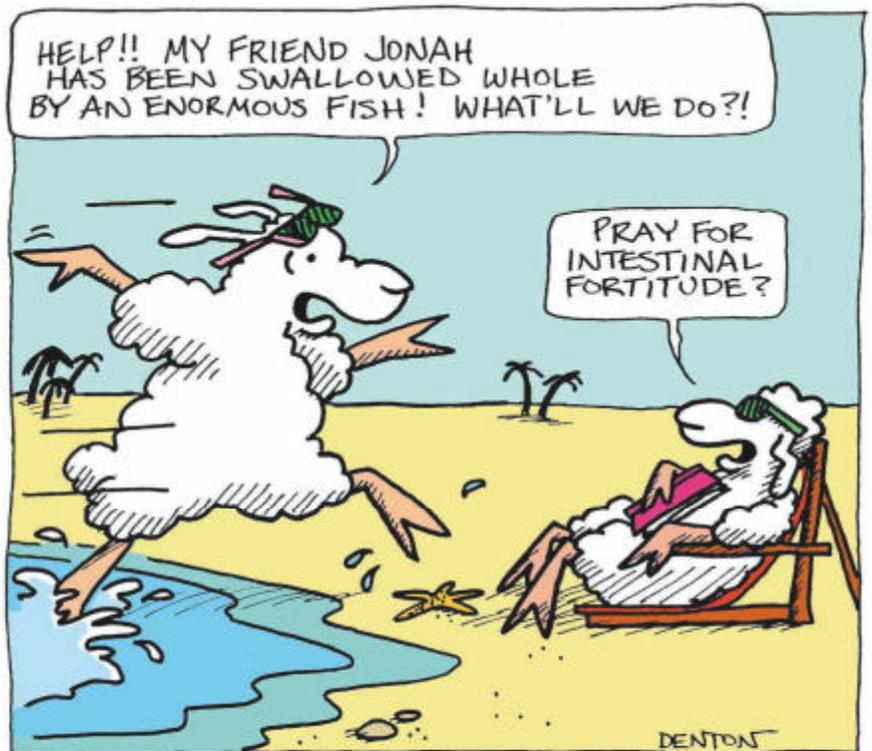


BUILDING YOUR FAMILY'S FAITH VOCABULARY

Last week's answer: Apocalypse

3. A person who is preparing to become a Catholic. He or she spends months, sometimes years, in a process of formation. At the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening, he or she, together with other candidates, is initiated into the life of Christ. After the candidates are baptized and confirmed, they join God's family, the Church, in receiving the Eucharist.

This faith word is _____.



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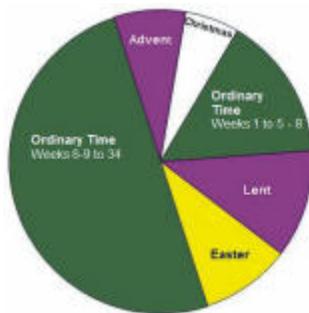
“The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel.”

Sheepish Question:

When do I need courage to fully believe and live by God's way?

FAITH FORMATION

How Ordinary Time Readings Are Organized, part 3



Better understanding the Scriptures

Once we understand how the scriptures are arranged for the Sundays and Weekdays of Ordinary Time, we can use our missalette or an online site, to look ahead at what is coming. So, if we know we are beginning to read Mark's gospel for the next number of weeks - both on Sundays and during the week - we might pay special attention to how Mark approaches his story. It could be helpful to read a brief introduction to Mark's gospel. We can usually find a brief introduction in our Bible or in an online version. Just getting

a sense of who Mark's audience was and what issues he was dealing with in helping them hear the Good News, will open up the story - and our experience of Jesus - very much. The same practice could be used when we are reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians or from a series of readings from the Book of Wisdom.

A simple prayer asking for the grace to hear the Word, as I need to hear it

It can be very fruitful, whenever we begin to read the scripture - whether in preparation for Mass or because we discovered a passage - is to ask our Lord "to let me open my heart to hear what this Word can mean for me." Here is a possible example we can pray, using our own words and circumstances.

Dear Lord, I'm beginning to experience this Twentieth Week of Ordinary Time. I have really enjoyed reading how Matthew has been telling us your story. I've been fascinated by the Prophet Ezekiel last week and I look forward to more of his special style this week. Your words to your disciples have been filling me this week. I think when I start to pay attention to your message, as it applies to my life this week, it comes alive. Continue to give me this openness and keep speaking to me so directly. And, give me the grace of your Holy Spirit to be faithful to these gifts, in the way I give myself to loving my family and serving others.

A simple prayer like this, each day, could include specific parts of the message which touched me today, or which I found challenging, and need further help. Then, the readings and movements of this season can nourish my developing relationship with Jesus. And, Ordinary Time counting can become quite extraordinary.



FOR ALL ADULTS, PARENTS AND CATECHISTS

These classes are offered for the entire congregation for personal enrichment as well as for Catechist Certification.

All classes will be presented on Thursdays at 6:30 pm via Zoom

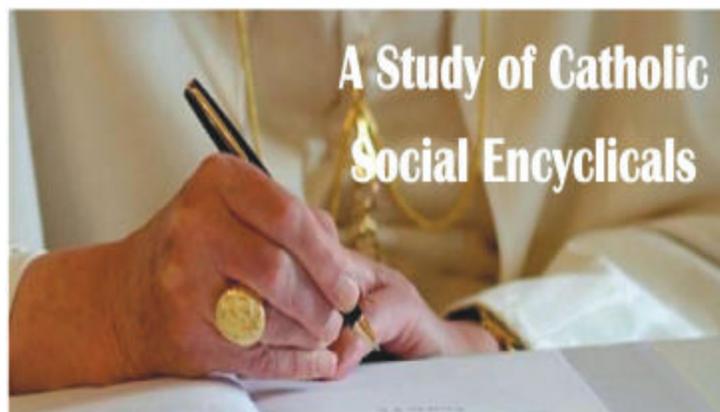
QUESTIONS? Deacon Tim Pilon at: deacontimpilon@yahoo.com

THEOLOGY SERIES: February 4, 2021



#16 THE VISION OF VATICAN II

The Second Vatican Council is the point of reference for the contemporary universal church. This topic explores the nature, purpose and general outcomes of Vatican II and the meaning of the Council for Evangelization. Our objective is to keep the vision of Vatican II alive in relation to the contemporary experience of faith formation.



Session 2—The Social Concerns of the Church, John Paul II—1987 Thursday, January 28th at 6:30 pm—8:30 pm

All meetings to be held on Zoom.
Zoom link ID for all sessions: **618 350 8612**
There is no charge for these sessions. If you have never participated before, please contact Deacon Tim at 248-390-5436 or deacontimpilon@yahoo.com in order to receive a Zoom invitation and the session handout.

Let's wait out the pandemic doing something worthwhile together!

WORSHIP

MARCH FOR LIFE



RIGHT TO LIFE MICHIGAN has been given permission on January 27th to hold a prayer vigil and a walk for life at our state capital. Our Knights of Columbus will attend and all are invited to join us and pray for our unborn children's safety and protection. Join us at St Mary 's parking lot, we will leave for this prayer vigil at 11:00 am.

IF YOU HAVE any questions, please contact: Ken Hulewicz at 248-685-9295

5TH SUNDAY ROSARY WITH THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, please join your Knights of Columbus to pray the rosary on Sunday, January 31st after the 10:00 am mass.

THIS 5TH SUNDAY is a Knights of Columbus intentional prayer day. Please come and spend 25 minutes of prayer for our Parish, our families and our country during these very troubling times.



25TH AND 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

AS A PARISH FAMILY, we would like to congratulate those couples in our Parish who are celebrating their **25th and 50th anniversary** during 2021.

A **SPECIAL MASS** for anniversarians has been planned for Sunday, February 13th, at 5:00 p.m.

WE INVITE THOSE couples celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage to please fill out the form below and return it by mail or by dropping it in the collection basket.

NAME OF HUSBAND & WIFE

YEARS MARRIED 25 50

CHRISTIAN SERVICE



HEALTH MINISTRY

HEALTH TIDBIT

VEGGIES, SOUP CURB CRAVINGS: Adding more veggies and even a little spice to your meals can help you lose more pounds. Eat more. Weigh less. Sound too good to be true? It isn't – as long as you're eating more of the right foods. New research highlights exactly how you can eat more but still shed pounds. There's still no magic diet pill that can melt fat. However, the latest studies show certain foods can fill your belly, curb your cravings and cut your calorie count. For a new study in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, researchers added extra pureed vegetables to some meals. Study participants ate 200 to 350 fewer calories without noticing a taste difference. They also boosted their daily nutrient intake from veggies. Spicy food helps decrease fewer cravings for salty, sweet, or fatty foods.

PLEASE CONTACT:

DONNA BINNS-GORDON, 248-933-0941 if you have questions or are interested in joining the Health Ministry.

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY



WE CHRISTIANS ALL know that we are the Body of Christ, that when one of our members is hurting, we all suffer. So we must also be aware how important are the prayers we tie into a prayer quilt to provide comfort and healing to another person that is hurting. Especially during this very trying and difficult time in all of our lives, and we all benefit.

THE PRAYER QUILT Ministry is still servicing the needs of the faithful during the Covid-19 restrictions. We are taking precautions and no public tying is permitted to ensure the safety of all.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS THE COMFORT OF A PRAYER QUILT?

CALL THE ST. Mary Parish office at 248-685-1482 to arrange for that person to receive the benefits of a prayer quilt.

KNIGHT NEWS



MY BROTHER KNIGHTS - All of my Brother Knights have received their book of Knights of Columbus State Raffle tickets. Just a bit of a reminder when selling your tickets, when filling out the 'seller' portion of the ticket, please put the name of John Rogers in the blank space. The purpose of this is to make John the top ticket seller in the state. John is not looking for accolades. By becoming the top seller, he is eligible for prize money. As is in the last couple of years, John has turned over 100% of the money back to the Council. This allows us to help more people in need in our area. He is up against some stiff competition from other Councils in the thumb area. He cannot go door to door in Milford like he has done in the past. So this gesture on your part goes a long way.

FROM FULTON J. Sheen: 'Sustain the courage of those who suffer persecution for conscience' sake. Have pity on all who have been insulted, robbed, tortured, defiled, enslaved by their conquerors'.

Enjoy Sunday with your family!

Gus LaRuffa - PGK (248) 912-7406
 Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council 7444



Milford Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed!
Could this role be for you???

THE MILFORD MEALS on Wheels program is seeking **one full time driver** (one Monday - once a month) and **several substitute** drivers. St. Mary is responsible for delivering the hot meals for one week out of each month.

TIME COMMITMENT WOULD be approximately 10am-1pm. Meals are picked up at the Milford Senior Center and then dropped off to our seniors. This program ensures that **"no senior goes hungry."**

IF YOU ARE available to be a permanent driver, or a substitute driver please contact: Greta Merandi at: greta.merandi@sbcglobal.net

COME LET US ADORE HIM!

DURING THE CHRISTMAS holidays, very different for most of us this year, one thing remained the same. We were celebrating an event which changed the history of the world: the birth of the Savior -----of the world. For the Holy Family, this was not an easy time. After traveling (not by car or van), by foot and with only the help of a donkey, in the cold of winter, St Joseph could not find a place for our Blessed Mother to give birth to Jesus. Imagine the Son of God having to be born in a stable (not a castle, nor even a "room in the inn"). What were they thinking about all this? A manger used for feeding animals was the "crib" for this Newborn Baby. However, **THAT WAS ALL IN-GOD'S PLAN.** In spite of the many hardships, there must have been great joy in the hearts of Mary and Joseph **WHEN THEY HELD THEIR NEWBORN BABY..** I wonder if they heard the Angels singing in the heavens? It was an Angel that announced to the shepherds of the birth of This Baby. What were the Wisemen looking for? A Newborn King? **THEY ALL CAME TO ADORE HIM.**

DURING CHRISTMAS, AT Friday Adoration, viewing the Monstrance on the altar holding the consecrated Host (Body of Jesus), surrounded by the beautifully decorated sanctuary, tears of joy couldn't be helped -----by merely being there in His Presence. **IT WAS AWESOME!** For the moment, thoughts of God's Gift to us through His Great Unconditional Love and Great Mercy, brought feelings of peace and hope. In spite of the problems confronting America and the world, God knows "how to deal with us" and what is best for us, even if we (like Mary and Joseph) don't understand His Plan. We pray for His Will and trust completely in Him. In Adoration, we can address these concerns openly with Him, asking for His Healing, Guidance, Forgiveness and Mercy. Coming to His House and spending a little time with Him can calm our frustrations and lighten our hearts. In His Infinite Power, He can bring good even out of evil. We just have to trust in Him.

Until next week, Love & Prayers,
 Arlene Loehr

P. S. Jesus is the server providing online communication with God at no cost. If you can't reach heaven on the internet, try prayer.





3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20

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

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NEXT WEEKEND'S LITURGY

THROUGHOUT HIS MINISTRY, Jesus responded to and addressed the needs around him. Today we hear of His early teaching and confronting evil with authority through an exorcism. We recognize his profound actions as miracles. We, too, are called to respond to the needs around us with compassion. We rely on him for the support we need to address what we see, including dark and difficult issues. Doing that is a kind of miracle in itself.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Dt 18:15-20 Moses speaks of a future prophet.

Ps 95 If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart.

1 Cor 7:32-35 Paul addresses concerns about marriage.

Mk 1:21-28 Jesus begins His ministry with exorcism.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Give Until It Hurts

ONE OF THE characteristics of Everyday Stewardship is to be committed – to persevere daily in a way of life acknowledging that everything belongs to God.

I KNOW, I know. Easier said than done.

JUST ASK ZEBEDEE. It's quite an image we get from the Gospel, after all. "So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him."

THERE WAS ZEBEDEE, about his business, mending nets with his two sons, who were undoubtedly his best workers – they had to have been more dedicated than the hired men, who worked for wages rather than for family. And in an instant off they go, following this strange man.

I DON'T KNOW about you, but if my kids left me on a hot summer day to finish the lawn by myself, I wouldn't be too happy.

BUT ZEBEDEE MUST have been someone quite special. Perhaps he realized that his sons didn't belong to him – not really. They belonged to God, and from the beginning of time, it had been appointed that they would be among the first disciples of Christ. He passed, he called, they followed, and Zebedee obliged. He simply went back to mending his nets, I imagine.

ZEBEDEE ALREADY UNDERSTOOD what St. Teresa of Calcutta would say millennia later: "Give until it hurts."

"**YOU'RE WASTING MY** time." "I've done so much for her; she owes me this." How often do we think things, and even people and relationships, belong to us? The truth is none of them do. We must be ready, as Zebedee was, to surrender them to God when He comes walking past.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

IN THIS SUNDAY'S Gospel, Jesus says: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." As disciples, we are called to continue God's work on earth. Taking care of God's poor is indeed living gospel values.

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist many families, providing in food, for utility, rent and other bills. May God Bless You!

Please note that ALL MONIES donated to St. Mary St. Vincent de Paul remain in this area, and are used to assist local families in need.

IF YOU HAVE questions or are interested in joining us, please contact Julie Jacobs at (248) 396-2857.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Michelle Adams
Robert Andrzejewski
Brandy Asnaz
Arlene Banka
Laurel Bedgood
Anthony Beningo
Shirley Bible
Darryl Bolitho
Virginia Boomer
Carol Brown
Vince Brown
Tom Buckley
Dan Burke
Sarah Campione
Marguerite Carlise
John Carlton
Fran Censer
Terri Chiaz
Chuck Chidsey
Josie Ciaravino
John Clement
Trevor Cline
Bud Conrad
Richard Cole
Paul Corrin
Julien Couture
Simone Couture
Joe Criscuolo
Cliff & Mary Cunningham
Mary Jane DeCender
Russ DeLong
John Dickey
Jacob DiPonio
Tonya DiPonio
Dolores Donnellon
P.J. Driscoll
David Dunn
Morgan Elliot
Ivan Emiline
Alan Fergin
Mary Finnegan
Beverly Fleming
Andrea Foster
Thomas Fuja
Anthony Garofalo
Betty Gates
Natalina Gaviglio
Bev Golden
Jack Graver
Jamie Guckian
Eli Hansen
Helen Harcharick
Kathy Harcharick
George Hayden
Nancy Heinz
Dennis Henry
James Hanson
Ann Marie Howard
Virginia Iaconelli
Atlas Lee Jackson
Diane Jechura
Jackie Johnson
Joan Johnston
Kate Joslin
Patricia Kelly
Rob Kelly
Christopher Kirk
Jason Kirk
Ryan Kirk
Carole Kirouac
Linda Kozlowski
Bruce Krot
Barb Kuehnl
Dorothy LaFave
Connie Lagodzinski
Becky Lamb
David Lashbrook
Lorraine Latour
Nancy Leanord
Judith M. Leek
Ron Lemmon
Frannie Lesniak
David Liscinsky
Carol Malloy

Randy Manar
Cary Marakovitz
Tom Marciniak
Kelly Martin
Suzanne Marzek
Virginia Markey
Annette Matt
John Matusiak
Michael McCarthy
Sean McCusker
Marge McDiarmid
Michael McGregory
Debra McKinney
Fred McMahon
Mary McNamara
Pete Mercer
Michael Misteravich
Adam & Peggy Moore
Earl & Pat Moore
Audine Morris
Charlotte Moss
Fr. Ed Mitchell
Joan Murphy
Joan Opiela
Mike Polcyn
Tim Pollard
Don Ponto
Karl Prescher
Susan Quade
Fran Rabideau
Michael Rahig
Cindy Rashid
Betty Redford
Kevin Reirdan
Vincent Rhodes
Marilyn & John Rogers
Henry Rossi
Sandy Roy
George Rusczyk
Claire Salyers
Eileen Sausa
Dave Scherf
Christopher Scherf
Lillian Schuller
Gloria Schulte
Jackie Schutz
Janet Sikora
Ken Sikorski
Edna Skop
Anne Sordyl
Graham Squires
Phil Stapleton
Kimi Stephens
Connie Stewart
Duane Stibal
Kristin Stoneback
Helen Swiacki
Lynn Tankersley
Shirley Teasdale
Bob Tomczyk
Hai Tran
Michael Trupiano
Chris Tucker
Bill Tumidanski
Erin Van Gordon
Mark Vecellio
Sally Wagener
Matthew Wagner
Frank Walcheck
Damon Weaver
Justin Weaver
Nina White
William Wilkins
Barbara Wilson
Ruth Wilson
Arlene Yearn
Diana Zerilli
Nicole Zapinski
Connie Zielinski
Laurie Zielinski
Paxton Zielinski
rev. 1-24-21



SAINT MARY PARISH

1955 E. Commerce, Milford, Michigan 48381
Website: stmarymilfordmi.org
Email: stmaryscatholicchurch@comcast.net
Phone: 248-685-1482

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday : 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
12:00 noon

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Cancelled until further notice

Nursery

Closed until further notice

Weekday Masses

Monday: 7:00 p.m.
Tues., Wed., Thurs., Friday: 9:00 a.m.
Sat., 8:30 am

Holy Day Masses

9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 25th, 7:00pm

† The Mertz Family, req. by: Elizabeth & Lou Yeager

† George Grant, (5th anniversary) req. by: Family

Tuesday, January 26th, 9:00 am

† John Slotka, (1st anniversary) req. by: Family

Wednesday, January 27th, 9:00am

† Clarence (Bud) O'Leary, req. by: Ruth Hughes

Thursday, January 28th, 9:00 am

† Janet Perkins, req. by: Family

Friday, January 29th, 9:00 am

† Frank Fisher, (27th anniversary) req. by: Family

Saturday, January 30th

8:30 am (presider) Fr. John Peter

† Carole Sobran, (13th anniversary) req. by: Family

5:00 PM (presider) Fr. Augustine

† Deborah Levesqu, req. by: Mike Stadler & Jean

† Phil Rashid, req. by: The Simms Family

Sunday, January 31st

8:00 am (presider) Fr. John Peter

† Marino Melaragni, req. by: Family

† Edward Cassar, req. by: The Refalo Family

10:00 am (presider) Fr. John Peter

† Joe Maceri, req. by: The Olesko Family

† A needy soul in Purgatory, req. by: James G. Lesniak

12:00 Noon (presider) Fr. Augustine

† Eugene Blodgett Jr., (1st anniversary) req. by: Family

People of St. Mary

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

On behalf of the Parish Family
of St. Mary, we would like to
extend our deepest sympathies
and prayerful reassurances to
the family and friends of:

EVELYN LOWRY
(Mother of Niki Morantes)

OFFERTORY REPORT

Thank you so much for your great
generosity and open-hearted
support of St. Mary.

Our annual budget is based on
contributions each week of
\$22,482.00 The contributions for
last weekend were \$17,252.00

This amount includes On Line
donations.
Christmas donations so far \$107,504.
THANK YOU!



Feast of St. Francis de Sales - January 24th

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES was born on August 21, 1567. As a young man, Francis was sent to study in Paris. While there, he consecrated himself to the Blessed Virgin Mary and made a vow of chastity. After Paris, Francis went on to study law in Padua. Once he finished his studies, he told his parents he wished to become a priest. His father strongly objected, but after much gentle persuasion, he finally relented.

AFTER HIS ORDINATION, Francis was appointed Provost (archdeacon) of the Diocese of Geneva, France, where he preached, heard confessions, gave advice, and ministered to the people. The archdeacon was the bishop's assistant and, in some cases, such as caring for the sick, visiting prisoners, and training priests, the archdeacon served as the bishop's representative.

IN 1602, FRANCIS became the Bishop of Geneva. Francis reformed religious communities and lived simply so that he could provide better for the poor and needy and whom he loved greatly. He was well known for his patience, goodness, and mild nature.

Francis wrote many letters and several books including, "An Introduction to the Devout Life," "Treatise on the Love of God," and several more!

Founder and Patron

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES and Saint Jane Frances de Chantal founded together, in 1607, The Institute of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin. This community was founded for young girls and widows who felt called to religious life but lacked the strength for the rigors of other communities. These Sisters, through works of mercy, practiced the virtues Mary exemplified when she visited her cousin, Elizabeth - humility, piety, and charity.

TODAY, SOME VISITATION Communities teach, while others are cloistered contemplatives. Saint Therese of Lisieux's sister, Leonie, was a Visitation Sister and is now a Servant of God. In addition to the Visitation Order which was specifically founded by Saint Francis de Sales, many other orders have been founded under his patronage, such as Fransalians - Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, MSFS (founded by Servant of God, Fr. Peter Marie Mermier), the Salesians (founded by Saint John Bosco) and the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales (founded by Father Louis Brisson).

A Path for Everyone

THE TEACHINGS OF Saint Francis de Sales focus on the realization that holiness and sainthood are for all people. He wanted everyone, no matter what their state in life, to know that they could become Saints!

Sayings

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES has left us with a treasury of sayings that speak in simple ways about what matters most. Here are just a few of his quotes. There are many more!

"Be who you are and be that well to give glory to your Creator."

"Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself."

"Nothing is so strong as gentleness; nothing so gentle as real strength."

"Doing little things with a strong desire to please God makes them really great."

"What we need is a cup of understanding, a barrel of love, and an ocean of patience."

The Last Days of Saint Francis de Sales

FRANCIS DE SALES died on December 28, 1622 at the age of fifty-six. His final words were, "God's will be done! Jesus, my God and my all!" Francis was beatified by Pope Alexander VII in 1661. He was then canonized by Pope Alexander VII four years later in 1665. In 1877, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Francis de Sales a Doctor of the Church, the "Doctor of Love."

BECAUSE OF HIS meek and cheerful personality, he is known as "The Gentleman Saint." He strove to attract people through goodness and gentleness. He used to say, "A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrel of vinegar!" Saint Francis de Sales' feast day is celebrated on January 24. He is the patron saint of authors, writers, the Catholic Press, journalists, and the deaf.

Saint Francis de Sales pray for us!

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MARRIAGE AND ANNULMENT



SOMETIMES WHEN A person has been divorced they feel alienated or shunned by the others, even by the Church. The reality is that the Church has a great deal of compassion for those whose marriages have failed and provides many remedies for helping the divorced put their lives back together again. One such remedy is through the process of annulment

THE CHURCH DOES not dissolve marriages through the annulment process, but what it does do is to look at the circumstances which lead up to the marriage in the first place and ask the question, "Did a valid sacramental action take place here?"

FREQUENTLY WHEN A marriage has failed it can be found that one or more of the requirements for its canonical validity were missing from the start. The failure or simple inability of the parties to fulfill all of the necessary requirements for marriage constitutes grounds for annulment.

THROUGH THE 25 years of my diaconate I have helped literally hundreds of individuals find peace and renewal after a failed marriage. Even though the process may look complicated and foreboding at first glance, I have always done my very best to make it as simple and painless as possible. There is no charge for this service. The Church's only objective is to bring the healing peace of Christ to peoples' lives.

MAYBE YOU OR someone you know would like to investigate the possibility of going through this process of healing and renewal. I am retired from my paying job so now I have more time to devote to this ministry. If you would like to talk confidentially about the annulment process please call me on my cell phone at 248-390-5436. I will be happy to serve you in any way that I can.

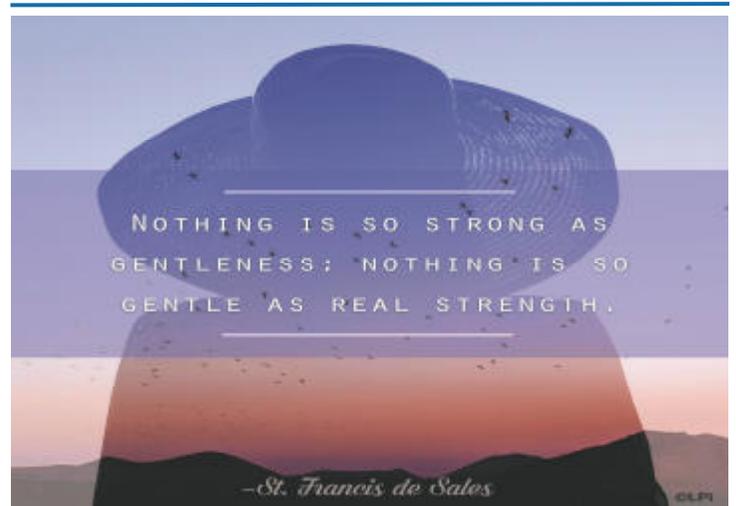
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- ~ Kyle Whiteaker & Katie Salow
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- ~ Keith & Elizabeth Vandenbussche



WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out. (Jon 3:10)



PSALM

Teach me your ways, O Lord. (Ps 25)



SECOND READING

For the world in its present form is passing away. (1 Cor 7:31)



GOSPEL

The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel. (Mk 1:15)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

It was a normal day by all accounts, but John just wasn't feeling himself. He was a little lightheaded and out of sorts. Later in the afternoon, he experienced a sharp pain in his chest and arm. Quick thinking and action brought John to the emergency department with a diagnosis of a significant heart attack. Surviving this ordeal, he found himself face to face with his cardiologist, having an honest conversation about things that needed to change. "I came close to death," John found himself thinking. Then came the remorse. He was a young man with a loving wife and children who were very close to facing life without him. John found himself with intense sorrow for living an unchecked and self-indulgent life that almost brought him to his demise. He wanted to change.

We all have our wake-up calls. We have experiences and encounters that force us to really think twice about choices we have made and directions we have taken. Often, we find ourselves looking at those we have hurt square in the eye and wallowing in our foolishness. We regrettably realize that we have allowed our needs to lure us into making some cruel mistakes. We impulsively say things and flippantly do things that reveal our unredeemed and unhealed self. It is a self we stumble over and try to tame but can't quite seem to master and control. Help!

We spin our wheels, naively thinking that we will somehow, perhaps through persistence, get ourselves unstuck. But, we don't. We just get out of the car, feeling very helpless, and ignorantly look at the mess we got ourselves into. Did we ever think to ask someone for help? Or, taken the advice of One who is wiser and avoid this route altogether? "Come after me," are words that Jesus says to all of us. In order to heed his invitation, we must leave our ego-self behind and follow.

When we really see and understand the freedom, peace, justice, and love he offers, we find ourselves with such sorrow in our hearts for how foolish and silly we have been. All the misguided choices and sinful actions come full view and we see how risky our random impassioned behaviors really have been. Repentance is beautiful. When done with a sincere and contrite heart, it directs us to the glory that can be ours, ignites us with the challenge of living a life in service of others and reminds us that all is well.

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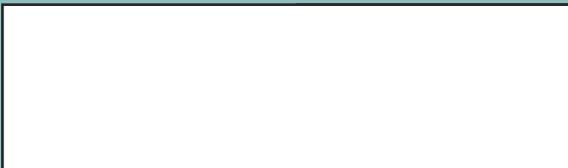
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