

# SAINT MARY of the Assumption



Roman Catholic Church  
Manchester, Michigan



REVEREND FR. BOSCO PADAMATTUMMAL  
Administrator

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WEEKEND MASSES:  
Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am  
Vigil Mass Saturday at 5:00 pm

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ FEBRUARY 7, 2021

## Christ's Hand

— Fr. Bosco Padamattummal —

In the Gospel we heard that Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law. She is in bed, flat on her back. No energy. No enthusiasm. **She is separated from family, friends, and her usual activities.** It is not that hard to picture this in our mind — every one of us has been there at some time or another. We've all had fever. Now let us take this passage we just heard, and think about it a little differently.

To grasp the message from this gospel, **let us not talk about the kind of fever that comes with the flu or a cold.** It is not about an increased body temperature. I'm talking about those times in our lives when we have a **fever of disconnection** — the kind of **fever that disconnects us from the divine life and a transcendent existence.** It disconnects from the source and origin of life; disconnects us from love, joy, forgiveness, beauty, justice, mercy, compassion, generosity, wisdom, and all the other divine attributes that give *meaning* to our lives, *content* to our relationships, and *direction, energy and enthusiasm* for the purpose behind what we do.

**Sometimes there is not a clear explanation for how that disconnection happened.** Sometimes it is the circumstances of life and not really anyone's fault. **Other times it is our fault:** choices we've made and things we've done. Every time we make a confession, privately or corporately — and we name the things we have done and left undone, and the ways we have not —continued on p. 2



## Heaven • HELL • Angels • DEMONS



## OUR UPCOMING PARISH LENTEN STUDY SERIES beginning the week after Ash Wednesday

While not a *formal* "Bible study," this Lenten series draws on both Scripture and Tradition. These 5 sessions will explain the reality of **"Heaven, Hell, Angels and Demons."**

Attendees will learn that according to Jesus, just being a "nice person" is not enough to get to heaven. Your **GUARDIAN ANGEL** is real, knows you better than you know yourself, and is eager to help you get you to heaven. **SATAN AND HIS ARMY OF DEMONS** are real and have intimate knowledge of your strengths and weaknesses. **HEAVEN** is real, so far beyond what you can imagine that the absolute best earthly happiness is a dim shadow of what's in store for those written in the Book of Life. **HELL** is so hideous that if you knew what it's like, you would shrivel in fear and never choose to sin again.

The videos include messages from Fr. Mike Schmitz, Fr. Robert Spitzer, the exorcist Fr. Chad Ripperger, Peter Kreeft, and Scott Hahn. *This series will be an eye-opener.*

SAVE THE DATES: Feb. 22/23 thru March 22/23  
Weekly for 5 weeks: Mon. at 12:45 OR Tues. at 7pm

St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ♦ Feb. 6-14, 2021  
Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

**SAT. FEB. 6** *Memorial: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs*

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 • Mk 6:30-34

- 8:30am FIRST SATURDAY MASS: † Dick Krzyzaniak & his family [Shirley Krzyzaniak] 3:30-4:30pm Confessions
- 5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: For the people

**SUN. FEB. 7** *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7  
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23  
Mk 1:29-39

- 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession
- 8:30am MASS: † Eddie Walz [Pat Fitzgerald]
- 10:30am MASS: † Jerry Damian [Claudia Damian]

**MON. FEB. 8** *Weekday (opt. mem. St. Jerome Emiliani) (opt. mem. St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin)*

Gn 1:1-19  
Mk 6:53-56

- 12:10pm MASS: † Fr. Raymond R. Schlunkert (former pastor / d. 1990) 3:30-4:45pm Rel Ed classes / PC

**TUES. FEB. 9** *Weekday*

Gn 1:20-2:4a  
Mk 7:1-13

- 8:30am MASS: † Mitch Zink [Bill & Astrida Panches and family]

**WED. FEB. 10** *Memorial: St. Scholastica, Virgin*

Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17  
Mk 7:14-23

- 8:30am MASS: † Colleen Curley [Kaye Ridenour]

**THUR. FEB. 11** *Weekday (opt. mem. Our Lady of Lourdes)*

Gn 2:18-25  
Mk 7:24-30

- 8:30am Mass: † Martin Brogley, Sr. [John & Tina Doyle and family]

**FRI. FEB. 12** *Weekday*

Gn 3:1-8  
Mk 7:31-37

- 8:30am MASS: † Colleen Curley [John & Tina Doyle and family]

**SAT. FEB. 13** *Weekday (opt. mem. Blessed Virgin Mary)*

Gn 3:9-24 • Mk 8:1-10

- 3:30-4:30pm Confessions
- 5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: † Colleen Curley [Bill & Astrida Panches and family]

**SUN. FEB. 14** *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46  
1 Cor 10:31-11:1  
Mk 1:40-45

- 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession
- 8:30am MASS: † Eddie Walz [Peter & Inge Roncoli]
- 10:30am MASS: For the people ■

FR. BOSCO'S ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:  
*Christ's Hand*

loved God with our whole heart, not loved our neighbor as ourselves – we are **diagnosing** the fever of disconnection.

Have you ever had times in your life when you were so tired, so busy, so preoccupied, so overwhelmed, or so whatever that you just **skimmed the surface of life, and there was no depth or dimension to what you were doing or who you are?** Everything felt, looked, and sounded shallow? In those times we are disconnected from the vertical axis of our life. Fever has overtaken us, and there is only the horizontal.

Most days I read the news and cannot help but wonder if we are **standing at the edge of a flat world, disconnected from something greater than ourselves.** War casualties, the poor, the hungry, the homeless, battered women, abused children, refugees, those denied education or healthcare are just some of the **degree markers on the world's thermometer**, and the temperature is rising. The pandemic fevers of power, greed, hatred, prejudice, injustice, and violence are raging, and human beings are dying. Perhaps **the only fever worse than these is the fever of apathy and indifference**, to be so disconnected from the vertical axis of God's life that the life and well-being of another are not our care or concern.

There is a **kind low-grade fever** that is hard to recognize; still it can be life threatening. Like too much focus on self-importance, excessive busyness, the desire for control and security, the drive for success and perfection, the need for approval and recognition. They might be **disguised as hard work**, but the disconnection is still real.

**Some of you might recognize in yourselves** the fevers I have described. **Others might not.** But I'll bet every one of you could name times when you have been feverish, times when you felt disconnected, flattened, and confined to a horizontal existence. **The fevers of our lives and world are many and varied.** Regardless of how it comes about, **THE FEVER OF DISCONNECTION KILLS;** sometimes physically, sometimes emotionally, **always spiritually.**

So, we have to think about **how to reconnect with the vertical axis** of our lives. **Christ is both our vertical connection and the means by which that connection is restored** and sustained. He knows and reveals the way of restoration. That's what he did for Simon's mother-in-law. **Jesus "took her by the hand and lifted her up."** She was no longer confined to a horizontal existence. She stood upright. Jesus broke her fever and restored her vertical connection.

With that restoration all **the other connections of her life were**

**renewed.** She was returned to do everything she was doing for her family and community, and **"she began to serve them," not as an act of submission but as evidence of life and as an offering of hospitality and gratitude.** That Jesus "lifted her up" is about more than just changing positions. It's more than just getting out of bed. This woman has been healed, made whole, and raised to new life.

St. Mark has a few other stories about Jesus "lifting them up": **1) a paralytic man "stood up,"** took his mat, and walked (Mark 2:9-12); **2) Jesus took the hand of a dead girl** and told her to **"get up,"** and she did; she **"got up** and began to walk about" (Mark 5:41-42); **3) Jesus took the hand of a boy** most people said was dead **"and lifted him up** and he was able to stand" (Mark 9:27). Jesus has restored their vertical connection just as he did for Simon's mother-in-law, and just as he does for us. **He gives us a hand in our daily struggles** to stand upright and maintain the vertical connection. Christ's hand **touches** our lives, **breaks** the fever, **restores** the connection, **lifts** us up, and **raises** us to new life.

Dear brothers and sisters, **CHRIST'S HAND** of forgiveness breaks the **fever of guilt.** **CHRIST'S HAND** of mercy breaks the **fever of condemnation.** **CHRIST'S HAND** of consolation breaks the fever of sorrow and grief. **CHRIST'S HAND** of hope breaks the **fever of despair.** **THERE IS NO FEVER THE HAND OF CHRIST CANNOT OR WILL NOT BREAK.** In him every broken connection is restored, every flat life is lifted up, and every horizontal existence is raised to a new life. †

Do you have any palms from last year or previous years? If so, bring them to the vestibule next weekend. They will be burned and used for Ash Wed. ashes.

*Altar Flowers for the week of Sunday, February 7th...*

In loving memory of  
+Charles &  
+Claudina Roncoli  
(PETER & INGE RONCOLI)



**LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT... Lent**

**The Fish Fry Crew**

Our first parish Lenten Fish Fry will be **Fri., Feb. 19**. We have a great work crew, but still need folks willing to be substitutes, to step in "just-in-case" they are needed. Please consider offering to be on the sub-team! There is a sign-up sheet in the main vestibule. You may never be called, but if you are needed, you will be very, very appreciated. Do this good work for Lent!

**Ash Wednesday Masses**

"Sunrise Mass" here at St. Mary's on Ash Wednesday, **Feb. 17** will again be at 7:00am. So if you need to leave early in the morning for a job or school, you still will be able to attend Ash Wednesday Mass and receive the sign of ashes, just as the sun is coming up. There will also be Ash Wednesday Masses at 8:30am and 7:00pm.

*"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."*

**Ash Wednesday Special Collection**

Next **Sun., Feb 14**, please pick up and take home one of the envelopes that will be in the pews. Use this to make a contribution to help replenish our parish Evangelization Fund. Bring it back to Mass on Ash Wednesday. This enables us to offer many parish activities to deepen our faith as well as support our outreach efforts.

**Bishop Boyea extends the Dispensation**

All Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation. However, due to health concerns regarding covid as well as government restrictions on gatherings, Bishop Boyea has at various times issued extensions of his "dispensations" from that obligation.

The current dispensation was only through the day before Ash Wednesday. However, the Bishop recently announced that, in consultation with his brother priests and other bishops, **he is extending the dispensation until Pentecost Sunday (May 23) 2021**. So those who have concerns about covid as well as those who are sick or prone to sickness may miss Mass.

However, Bishop reminds us that: "Although the faithful are dispensed from their Sunday obligation to attend Mass, they must observe the Lord's Day and are encouraged to spend time in prayer on Sunday, meditating on the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection (an excellent way to do this is through participating in a broadcast of the Sunday Mass) or participating in a spiritual or corporal act of mercy."

**Having a Mass offered for an intention you request**

Each holy Mass has an intention associated with it. The Mass is offered by the priest for that intention, and all the people at Mass share in that prayer. You see the intention in the bulletin calendar and hear it announced during the Mass. Usually these intentions are requested by family and/or friends for someone who has died ("for the repose of the soul of...") or for a special intention for the living (e.g. "for the health of...", "On the birthday of...", etc). You may request a Mass intention at any time, and with just one intention per Mass, the calendar fills up quickly.

However, occasionally there is a daily Mass "open," that is, a Mass for which no intention has been requested. The parish office maintains a list of parishioners who have asked to be called whenever there is such an opening so that their request can be used. If you would like to be on that list, please contact the parish office at 734-428-8811 or stmarymanchesyer3@gmail.com (Note: The Diocesan policy is that typically a stipend of \$10 should accompany the request.)



**The SANCTUARY LAMPS are burning this week for the following intentions:**

**PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK...**

- 1) For the repose of the soul and in loving memory of + Colleen Curley (Bill & Astrida Panches & Family)
- 2) For the repose of the soul of +Martin Brogley, Sr., father of Martin Brogley (K of C #4354)

**Birthday Blessings!**

- Feb. 7 ..... Bud Ball ☆
- ..... Christine Remski
- Feb. 8 ..... Lynn Waldecker ☆
- Feb. 10 ..... Mary Sangster ☆
- ..... Daniel Selecki
- Feb. 11 ..... Sonja Rhees ☆
- Feb. 12 ..... Bill Kwolek
- ..... Elizabeth Wallace
- Feb. 13 ..... John Doyle ☆
- ..... Brent Jennings

**Please Pray for...**

- James Strong
- Carolann Fenner
- Christy Woody
- Annie (sister of Lynn Waldecker)
- Jerry Kripas
- Tom Burch
- Paula Saft
- Leon Ball
- Bruce Sommers
- Patrick Muldoon
- Duane Beuerle

...and for the repose of the soul of † Sally Delorey



**St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION: Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021**

Sunday Env (35)	\$ 4,944.00
Welcome & Loose	63.00
E-Giving (5)	195.64
Immaculate Conception (1)	15.00
Christmas (1)	25.00
Solemnity of Mary (1)	15.00
Utilities/Fuel (2)	40.00
Combined toward budget:	\$ 5,297.64
Budget goal:	5,300.00
Amt BELOW goal:	- \$ 2.36
<b>OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>	
Bldg & Maint (4)	\$ 80.00
Worldwide Evang (2)	40.00
Poor Box	30.41
Votive candles	57.00



**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit to inspire holy, faithful men to minister as priests. Lord, we pray for Your grace to encourage and support our seminarians as they endeavor to become priests. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Diocese of Lansing Seminarian**  
**Peter Randolph, Christ the King, Ann Arbor**



Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit to inspire holy, faithful women to become Brides of Christ and serve Your people. Lord, we pray that Your grace and love be enough for this woman in discernment of consecrated life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Discerner of Religious Life**  
**Rosemary Battle**

**NEED HELP? ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION:**  
Call (800) 57WOMAN (800-579-6626) – OR – Text for Help: "HELPLINE" to 313131

**Need Help? PROJECT RACHEL** (post-abortion reconciliation and healing) Call the confidential phone line: 517-993-0291, or email nlc@resurrectionlansing.org

**NEED HELP? "COURAGE"** is a Catholic spiritual support group for those struggling with same sex attraction. "ENCOURAGE" is a separate support group for families & friends. For info in the Diocese of Lansing, call 517-342-2596 or email caverart@comcast.net

**NEED HELP? An "AA" group meets Fridays at 7:00pm at Emanuel Church, 324 W Main St. (next door to St Mary's)**



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