

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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ FEBRUARY 14, 2021

ASH WEDNESDAY is This Week:

Begin this holy season with Ash Wednesday Mass and receive the sign of ashes. There are three Masses (to fit all schedules), each with distribution of ashes:

- ▶ 7:00am "Sunrise Mass" (a brief Mass, without a homily, for those rushing off to work or school)
- ▶ 8:30am Mass
- ▶ 7:00pm Mass.

This year we will see an option that is somewhat unusual in the United States but common in Italy and other European countries. That is, **the ashes are sprinkled on the penitent's head rather than imposed on the forehead.** This is especially welcome by those with covid concerns that must be rigorously observed.

"Prepare the Way of the Lord!"

We need not hesitate...

— Fr. Bosco Padamattummal —

People who feel isolated appreciate it when someone enters their isolation and tries to connect with them. **There are various reasons why people can find themselves isolated.**

- **Old age and failing health** can make it difficult for people to make the kind of contact with others they deeply desire. That is especially the case if people are homebound.
- There is a **certain kind of temperament** that can leave people somewhat isolated. The shy, retiring, introspective person who finds it difficult to make friends can become very isolated over time. It can be a struggle for others to connect with them.
- To be a **stranger in a land or an environment that is foreign to us** can also be a very isolating experience.

I experienced an initial sense of isolation when I came to my first parish in 2004. I told my friends that I felt very lonely and thought I might have to go back. A priest who was working in North Dakota urged me stay for at least for couple of months; let us see if it will change. Then the whole situation changed for good. I am still here – joyfully with you!

Any one of us can experience a sense of isolation from time to time. We may feel isolated even when surrounded by people, friends, and family. We can be struggling with personal issues that we find very difficult to share with others, even those closest to us.

In the time of Jesus, **the disease of leprosy left a person totally**

— continued on p. 2 —



Fish Fry



Fridays
during Lent

**beginning
this Friday:**

**February 19
3:30–7:00pm**

AT ST. MARY'S
PARISH CENTER
108 E. MADISON ST.

**FAST
DRIVE-THRU
TAKE-OUT!
\$12**

Pray the
Stations
of the
Cross



Fridays at 7:30 pm
and
20 minutes before
each weekend
Mass

St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ♦ Feb. 13-21, 2021
 Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

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 PUNCHES 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

MON. FEB. 15 *Weekday*
Gn 4:1-15, 25
Mk 8:11-13

- 12:10pm MASS: † Tom Kladzyk [Bill & Astrida PUNCHES and family]
- 3:30-4:45pm Rel Ed classes / PC

TUES. FEB. 16 *Weekday*
Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10
Mk 8:14-21

- 8:30am MASS: † Mitch Zink [Dan & Debbie Burch]

WED. FEB. 17 **FAST & ABSTINENCE** *Ash Wednesday*
Jl 2:12-18
2 Cor 5:20-6:2
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

6:30-6:45am Confession

- 7:00am MASS: † Tom Kladzyk [Dan & Debbie Burch]
- 8:00-8:15am Confession
- 8:30am MASS: † Martin Brogley, Sr. [Dan & Debbie Burch]
- 6:30-6:45pm Confession
- 7:00pm MASS: INT. Scott Strong (Happy Birthday) [Sylvie Strong]


THUR. FEB. 18 *Thursday after Ash Wednesday*
Dt 30:15-20
Lk 9:22-25

- 8:30am Mass: † Colleen Curley [Dan & Debbie Burch]

FRI. FEB. 19 **MEATLESS FRIDAY** *Friday after Ash Wednesday*
Is 58:1-9a
Mt 9:14-15

- 8:30am MASS: † Lillian Van Riper [Alice Kidd]

- 3:30-7:00pm FISH FRY DINNER (DRIVE THRU-TAKE OUT / PC)
- † 7:30 pm Stations of the Cross
- 8:00-9:00pm Confessions


SAT. FEB. 20 *Saturday after Ash Wednesday*

Is 58:9b-14 • Lk 5:27-32

3:30-4:30pm Confessions

- † Stations of the Cross prayed 20 min. before Mass
- 5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the First Sunday of Lent: † Mitch Zink [Betty Cummings]

SUN. FEB. 21 *First Sunday of Lent*
Gn 9:8-15
1 Pt 3:18-22
Mk 1:12-15

8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession

- † Stations of the Cross prayed 20 min. before Masses
- 8:30am MASS: † Eddie Walz [Eileen & Leon Ball]
- 10:30am MASS: For the people


FR. BOSCO'S ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:
We need not hesitate...

isolated. If you were a leper, there was no one for company except other lepers. The community needed to protect itself from a highly contagious disease, and the only effective way was to isolate the leper from all human interaction.

In that context and in today's Gospel (Mk 1:40-45), the action of **Jesus touching the leper would have been considered subversive.** His touching the leper was putting the whole community at risk. A chain is as strong as its weakest link. **Here was a weak link,** someone who risked the health of the whole community by touching an infected person. They are banished into the darkness; they are treated like lepers.

Yet, **in touching the leper, Jesus did not in fact infect the community.** He healed the leper and, thereby, strengthened the community. In responding to the cry of the leper and in reaching into his isolation, **Jesus released him into the community again.** Having healed the leper, we are told that Jesus had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. His touching the leper cost him something; **he took upon himself something of the leper's isolation.** This kind of ministry would eventually lead Jesus to become totally isolated.

The Gospel reading reveals Jesus as someone who desires to enter into our isolation, who seeks to release us from our isolation, even at the cost of experiencing great isolation himself. He continues to enter our experiences of isolation today if, like the leper, we invite him.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, *"Anyone who comes to me, I will never drive away"* (Jn 6:37). **When the leper came to Jesus, he half expected to be driven away.** This explains his rather tentative request: *"If you wish, you can make me clean."* He needs to be declared clean in order to return to his family. He did not desire a piece of bread, some water, a blanket; rather he said, *"If you wish, you can make me clean."* **That is a cry from isolation and loneliness.** In reply Jesus said, *"Of course I am willing."*

We can be equally tentative in our own approach to the Lord. Like the leper, we may feel unclean in some way. Something in our lives, in our past or in our present, can make us hesitate to draw near to the Lord. We may wonder if the Lord is willing to draw near to us. **Yet, there is no part of our lives which the Lord will not gladly touch with his compassionate and life-giving presence.** There is nothing in us that would keep him from us.

He does not hesitate to touch, even to embrace, those parts of our lives we may consider ugly and infected. It is we who need to rise above our hesitation. The letter to the Hebrews puts it well when it encourages us, *"Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need"* (Hb 4:16).

Dear brothers and sisters, **the Gospel reading encourages us to approach the Lord with the same assurance with which he approaches us.** In touching the leper, Jesus reveals a God who wants

to make contact with us in all our brokenness. Jesus was declaring that there is no human life that God cannot touch. Everyone kept a distance from the leper. In touching the leper, Jesus was declaring that God is not like everyone. **We may keep our distance from God for various reasons, but God never keeps a distance from us.**

That reading also challenges us to **be as alert to those who may be crying out to us in their isolation as Jesus was to the leper.** That cry is not always easy to hear, even when it comes from those close to us. **It can be subtle and faint. It can be hesitant,** as it seeks out whether we are willing.

Our own preoccupations can prevent us from hearing it, and can make us hesitate to respond. We may sense that it will cost us something to respond. Yet, to hear and respond can be truly life-giving for the one who cries out to us and for us. **We ask the Lord to give us the willingness to heed the cry of those who cry out to us in their isolation.** †

FASTING

Regulations regarding Fast and Abstinence during Lent

- ◆ Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are **obligatory** days of fasting and abstinence from meat for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are **obligatory** days of abstinence from meat.
- ◆ For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are **obligatory** from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.
- ◆ The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Note: If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

[see: dioceseoflansing.org/news/lenten-fast-and-abstinence]

A FEW IDEAS FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL LENT

PRAYER...

- Discovering that the world revolves around God, not us -

- **Magnificat Lenten Companion:** Short daily reflections by noted Catholic writers. (*Pick up a copy from the vestibule.*)
- **Missalette:** Like those we used to have in the pews, but for the entire year. Delve into the Mass readings *before* coming to Mass. (*Pick up a copy from the vestibule.*)
- **Lenten Study series: “Heaven, HELL, Angels, and Demons”:** With fellow parishioners, listen to and discuss presentations on these topics. Starts next week, Feb. 22/23. Choose either Mondays at 12:45pm or Tuesdays at 7pm, each in FFH.
- **Bible Studies:** Study the Bible online, either with Bishop Boyea (dioceseoflansing.org/byob or text BYOB to 84576) or Fr. Mike Schmitz (ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear)
- **Formed:** Don’t forget this great online library of movies, catechetical materials, history, just about everything Catholic! (If you’ve never signed up, simply follow the prompts at formed.org, entering “St. Mary Manchester” in the parish search window. If you need help, call the parish office.)

FASTING

- Redirecting our thoughts & desires from self toward greater realities -

- **Besides the mandatory fasting,** decide what else to “give up” – and then donate to a good cause what you’re not spending.
- **Help others observe meatless Fridays** by volunteering to be a substitute/on-call for our parish Fish Fry worker team.

ALMSGIVING

- Giving to those in need in a spirit of sacrifice -

- **Rice Bowl boxes:** Put coins (or paper money!) in these boxes during the 40 days of Lent. Return them on Palm Sunday. The money goes to Catholic Relief Services to help the needy. (*Boxes in the main vestibule.*)
- **Special collection for Evangelization on Ash Wednesday:** Use the envelopes in the pews to support our parish E-efforts. (And evangelize a bit by sharing a copy of our parish newsletter – copies in the vestibule – with a friend or family member.) ■



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

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK...

- 1) For the repose of the soul of +Martin Brogley, Sr., father of Martin Brogley
(*Jim & Marja Warner*)
- 2) +Martin Brogley, Sr., Martin Brogley’s Dad (*Bill & Astrida Punches and Family*)

Birthday Blessings!

- Feb. 16 Todd Ducsay ★
 ... Gary O’Hotzke ★
 ... Jay Schwab ★
 Feb. 17 Scott Strong
 Feb. 19 Russel Rickert ★

Altar Flowers for the week of Sunday, Feb. 14th...

In honor of + Gerald Damian on his birthday
(CLAUDIA DAMIAN)

Please Pray for...

- Melody Binkerd & family
- Joe Novak
- Luise Kienzle
- James Strong
- Christy Woody
- Annie (sister of Lynn Waldecker)
- Jerry Kripas
- Tom Burch
- Paula Saft

...and for the repose of the soul of † Carolann Fenner



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION: Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021

Sunday Env (49)	\$ 5,034.00
Welcome & Loose	49.00
Christmas (1)	100.00
Solemnity of Mary (1)	50.00
Utilities/Fuel (1)	50.00
Combined toward budget:	\$ 5,283.00
Budget goal:	5,300.00
Amt BELOW goal:	-\$ 17.00
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:	
Bldg & Maint (5)	\$ 180.00
Evenangelization Fund (1)	10.00
Worldwide Evang (5)	125.00
Blk & Indian (2)	25.00
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
Brian Armbrustmacher, Most Holy Trinity, Fowler



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.

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration
Sr. Mary Augustine Warrell

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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