

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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ♦ MARCH 14, 2021

MEDICINE FOR THE SNAKY PLACES

– Fr. Bosco Padamattummal –

“PRAY TO THE LORD TO TAKE AWAY THE SERPENTS FROM US,” the people say to Moses. They’ve come to one of those snaky places in life. They’re impatient and wandering in the wilderness. They are thirsty and hungry. Even if they didn’t like the life they once had in Egypt, it was their life. It was familiar and they want to go back to what used to be.

They’re grumbling, and nothing is right. Life is difficult. They complain that they have no food. I don’t think this is really about what is going on around them, but rather about what is going on within them. Their stomachs may be empty, but there is venom in their hearts and in their lives.

Sometimes the snakes of our life strike and bite when we least expect it. They take us completely by surprise. Sometimes we wander in the snaky places of life despite our best intentions. I have heard people say: “More than once my wife has warned me.” “You better be careful. That one’s going to come back to bite you.” “Pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” How many times have we prayed that? “Just fix it God. Make it stop. Take it away. I don’t want this.”

Moses prayed to the Lord for the people. What did God do? God did not take away the serpents from the people. That has been my experience as well. God has not offered a magical fix. I have had to face my serpents and deal with the snaky places of my life.



It seems snaky places are a part of life. God did not take away the serpents or stop them from biting. Instead, God, sent another snake. God tells Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” God offered an antidote

to the snakebites of life; the salvation God offered the Israelites was that they were to stare at the very thing they feared. The serpent that bites and kills and is also the serpent that heals and give life.

That doesn’t make sense, but what if that is really how it is? What if the snaky places are not so much places to escape but places from which soul-medicine arises? Where does the anti-venom to treat snakebite come from? It comes from the snake’s venom. What about the immunization that protects from disease? It often comes from the same virus that causes the illness.

The cross that kills is also the tree of life. The empty tomb of resurrection is already hidden in the crucifixion. Every sin, misstep, or wrong choice holds out — *continued on p. 2*

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

SAT. MARCH 13 *Lenten Weekday*

Hos 6:1-6 • Lk 18:9-14

3:30-4:30pm Confessions

† Stations of the Cross prayed 20 min. before Mass

➤ **5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the Fourth Sunday of Lent: For the people**
SUN. MARCH 14 *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

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

† Stations of the Cross prayed 20 min. before Masses

➤ **8:30am MASS: † Eddie Walz** [Norman & Laurie Childs]

Eph 2:4-10

Jn 3:14-21

➤ **10:30am MASS: † Dick Krzyzaniak** [His loving wife Shirley Krzyzaniak]
MON. MARCH 15 *Lenten Weekday*

Is 65:17-21

➤ **12:10pm MASS: † Tom Burch**

[Bill & Astrida Panches and Family]

Jn 4:43-54

12:45pm Lenten Bible Study / FFH

3:30-4:45pm Rel Ed classes / PC

TUES. MARCH 16 *Lenten Weekday*

Ez 47:1-9, 12

➤ **8:30am MASS: † Father Charles Irvin**

[Ron & Carol Driessche]

Jn 5:1-16

7:00pm Lenten Bible Study / FFH

WED. MARCH 17 *Lenten Weekday*
*(opt. mem. St. Patrick, Bishop)*

Is 49:8-15

➤ **8:30am MASS: † Emily Cummings****(birthday)** [Ella & Jim Landini]

Jn 5:17-30

THUR. MARCH 18 *Lenten Weekday*
(opt. mem. St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

Ex 32:7-14

➤ **8:30am Mass: † Dick Krzyzaniak**

[Bill & Astrida Panches and Family]

Jn 5:31-47

FRI. MARCH 19 *Solemnity: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

➤ **8:30am MASS: † Eddie Walz**

[John & Beth Ball]

Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

(or Lk 2:41-51a)

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. MARCH 20 *Lenten Weekday*

Jer 11:18-20 • Jn 7:40-53

3:30-4:30pm Confessions

† Stations of the Cross prayed 20 min. before Mass

➤ **5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the Fifth Sunday of Lent: For the people**
SUN. MARCH 21 *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Jer 31:31-34

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

Heb 5:7-9

† Stations of the Cross prayed 20 min. before Masses

Jn 12:20-34

➤ **8:30am MASS: † Eddie Walz** [Joe & Gretchen Kirke]➤ **10:30am MASS: † Helen Germek** [Kathy & Martin Brogley]
FR. BOSCO'S ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:
Medicine for the Snaky Places

repentance as an antidote. Reconciliation is the medicine planted in our broken relationships. Eternal life is found in the Son of Man, lifted up on a cross (John 3:14). There's a snake that bites and kills and a snake that heals and gives life. They must decide to which one will they give their attention and focus. So must we. We too live in that tension. We too have the same choice before us.

Look at that tension in your own life. We claim certain values for our lives, but we often do the very opposite. Sometimes we say one thing and mean another. Or in the words of St. Paul, "I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (Romans 7:15). That tension of opposites is always with us.

It's in today's gospel. Jesus says that "those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already." "Those who do evil," he says, "hate the light" and hide in the darkness. They don't want to be seen. "But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." To stand in the tension of those opposites is to begin to better understand and clarify who we are, what our priorities are, where our loyalties lie.

That tension is what can shape and transform our lives. It asks a question of us. To which one will we give our attention and focus? Look at the snaky places in your life today. Acknowledge the contradictions within you. Recall the serpents that have bitten you. To what are you giving your attention? Do you need to change your focus? What would it mean to shift your attention from the biting serpent to the bronze serpent?

I don't mean that we ignore or deny the biting serpents, pretend they are not real. I don't want us to be naive about life, our self-contradictions, or the venoms of this world. I do want us to be alive, hopeful, and whole. I want us to find the medicine our soul needs. And that means acknowledging the biting serpents even as we look up to and give our focus to the bonze serpent. The one to which we give our attention will fill our hearts and shape our lives.

To the degree we give our attention to the biting serpents and the venoms of this world, we will become toxic to ourselves and one another. If we give our attention to the light, the bronze serpent, the lifted-up Son of Man, we become life and light to ourselves and for one another.

Whatever the snaky places of your life are today, the gospel promise is that there is an antidote to the venom, a healing for every bite, a life for every death. There is hope in the midst of despair, forgiveness in the midst of sin, reconciliation in the midst of brokenness, strength in the midst of weakness, light in the midst of darkness. That medicine is already within us. We are all sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever." The medicine of Christ has never gone away or run out. †

Talks on Saint Joseph at the Pious Union

During this "Year of St. Joseph," the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake has scheduled a series of talks on St. Joseph, on the 3rd Sunday of the month. This month's talk is next **Sun., March 21** at 6:00pm. Come in-person or watch live on Facebook (Piousunion/ShrineofStJoseph) or the Shrine website (www.piousunionofstjoseph.org). For more info, call 517-522-8017.

O most blessed Patriarch, glorious St. Joseph, who was chosen to be the foster father of the Word made flesh and the chaste spouse of Mary, pray for us.



The great feast day of St. Joseph is this FRIDAY, MARCH 19. For those observing this holy day, it will be a day when we can put aside our Lenten penances to celebrate and honor the foster father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Holy Mass is at 8:30am.

Pray the Stations of the Cross



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

Fish Fry



Fridays during Lent
Come by this Friday
March 19
3:30-7:00pm
AT ST. MARY'S PARISH CENTER
108 E. MADISON ST.
FAST DRIVE-THRU TAKE-OUT!
\$12

Easter Food Bags

The sign-up sheets, with reminder tabs, are in the vestibule for the donations for the Easter Food Bags that will be given to 10 Manchester Family Service's families. Please put your donations in the Father Fisher Hall kitchen, and pin a note with your name on it. Please do not write on the products. Put the hams and crescent rolls in the refrigerator. However, the frozen pies will need to be put in Father Bosco's freezer, so either go to the office with them or contact Father directly. These items all need to be in the FFH by noon on **Sun., March 28**. The items will then be taken up to the Parish Center and the bags filled. The families will be receiving their bags on Wed., March 31. Thank you in advance for your generosity. —*Marja Warner*

Memorial Easter Lilies

We are taking orders for Memorial Easter Lilies. The cost is \$16, and you can take your lily home after the 10:30 Easter Sunday Mass. Orders are needed by **Mon., March 22**. Order forms are available in the vestibule and can be left in the vestibule basket or put in the collection basket. Checks should be made out to "The Flower Garden."

Sign-up sheets to help decorate the church on **Sat., April 3** from 10:00am – noon and/or 2:00 – 4:00pm will also be available. Contact Susan Fielder at 734-972-5652 or sfielder@umich.edu if you have questions.

Three Weeks from Today is Easter Sunday!

Today is known as Laetare Sunday, the Latin word for "Rejoice." We are reminded that Easter will soon be here! Be sure to prepare your heart and soul through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In addition to our usual times (Fridays following Stations, Saturday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm, and before each of the weekend Masses), there will also be Area Communal Penance opportunities **Monday thru Thursday, March 22-25**. Note: The covid restrictions meant changes in the format; there will not be an actual penance *service* each night, however, there will be four priests available to hear confessions each evening at 7:00pm.

Also, please note that because the first Friday of April is Good Friday, we will not have our usual First Friday day of Exposition and Adoration. Rather all are encouraged to come to Stations of the Cross at noon and the Good Friday liturgy at 3:00pm.

DSA is Underway: All aboard!

We are just beginning what we so successfully do each year : working together as a parish to accomplish our parish's share of the Diocesan Services Appeal goal. If you have not received an envelope, there are some in the main vestibule. Please help us achieve our goal again this year – and help with the good work of the DSA. ■

Banns of Marriage

II. Jacob Bauer & Riley Kent

March 27, 2021



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

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK...

- 1) In memory of my husband +Tom Kladzyk (*His wife*)
- 2) In memory of +Martin Brogley, Sr. (*Pete & Inge Roncoli*)

Birthday Blessings!

- March 15 ...Robert Krall
- March 16 ...Kevin Dobis
- March 17 ...Susan Fielder
- ...Michael Gibbons
- March 18 ...Andre Dahl
- March 20 ...Robert Rohwer
- ...Kathleen Spork

Please Pray for...

- Peter Patrick
- Don Christian and his wife
- Clara Petersen
- Loretta Widmayer
- Ed Z. (father of Therese Bossory)
- Bibian Sangster
- Roxanne Rickert Bush
- Eunice Scully
- Christy Woody
- Jerry Kripas
- Melody Binkerd
- Joe Novak
- Luise Kienzle
- James Strong
- Annie (sister of Lynn Waldecker)
- Paula Saft
- Leon Ball

...and for the repose of the soul of
 † John Schmenk



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION:
Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021

Sunday Env (55)	\$ 6,359.00
Welcome & Loose	81.00
Easter decorations (1)	25.00
E-giving (4)	505.97
Combined toward budget:	\$ 6,970.97
Budget goal:	5,300.00
Amt ABOVE goal:	+ \$ 1,670.97
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:	
Bldg & Maint (3)	\$ 125.00
Black & Indian (4)	200.00
Poor Box	22.75
Votive candles	15.25



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
Kevin Schafer, St. Mary, Westphalia



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.

Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; Sr. Amber Czeiszperger

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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