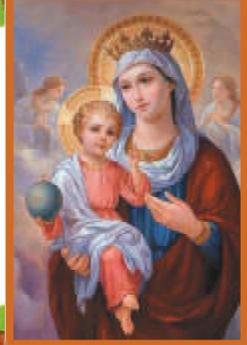


ST. MARY PARISH FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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FALL 2021



"The Greatest Love Story of All Time"

— Fr. Bosco Padamattummal —

IN THE PREVIOUS SUMMER NEWSLETTER, I wrote about our "sweet obligation" to attend church for the Sunday Eucharist celebration. As of Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Boyea had lifted the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass which he had issued due to covid. In this Fall Newsletter I would like to write to explain, part by part, the Eucharist celebration.

The Catechism of the Church teaches:

In the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist, the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained.

(#1374)

On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus with His chosen disciples, celebrated the Passover Meal, taking the bread and wine, solemnly declaring, "This is my Body" (Mk 14: 22) and "This is my Blood" (Mk 14: 24).

The following day on Mount Calvary, Jesus would carry out this sacrifice of offering Himself for the expiation of the sins of the world. The Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist is the perpetual continuation and adoration of the sacrifice of Calvary. The Holy Mass is *not another* sacrifice. The Holy Mass is *not a repetition* of the sacrifice of Calvary. The Priest at the Holy Mass is *not offering a different* sacrifice. Instead, the Holy Mass is *the same* sacrifice of Jesus.

The Holy Mass is the perpetual continuation and adoration of the sacrifice of Calvary. The Priest at the Holy Mass is Jesus Himself, the High Priest and Victim of the Sacrifice. In the Holy Eucharist, we have the promise of the Emmanuel God, "I am with you always, till the end of the age" (Mt 28: 20) being fulfilled. **We live in times of growing indifference;** we live in a situation of faith where there is a tendency



to dilute many spiritual values; there is strong opposition to living holy and sanctified lives. The Eucharist is the story of a God who longs to dwell with us and in us. The Eucharist is the saga of a God who is madly and passionately in love with us.

It is good for us to quickly go through the parts of the Holy Mass – and realize their

significance – in order to understand and love the Holy Mass more deeply and devoutly.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITE

The Opening Prayer, called the "Collect"

- ◆ This prayer gathers together all the intentions, and unites them with the prayer of the High Priest, Jesus Himself.
- ◆ An action to do: Use the moment of silence to bring before the Lord all intentions and prayers.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Signing ourselves on the forehead, lips, and heart

- ◆ We seek His help to cleanse our minds, lips, and hearts, that we may worthily receive Jesus, the Word, into our lives!
- ◆ An action to do: Use the moment to truly have clean thoughts (mind), sincere words (lips), and honest feelings and deeds (heart).

THE OFFERTORY

a. The Offering of Bread and Wine

- ◆ The gifts represent the fruits of our labor. As with the gifts, we pray that we too may be changed into His Body and Blood.
- ◆ An action to do: Use the moment to offer our entire life to the Lord – just as we are – with all our situations, struggles, aspirations and hopes.

b. The mingling of a drop of water in the wine by the Priest

—continued on page 2

—Fr. Bosco's article continued from p. 1

- ◆ The water represents our littleness, which is totally mingled with the wine, signifying, our intention to be one with the Divine Lord.
- ◆ An action to do: Use the moment to sincerely desire to be united with the Lord and become more and more like Him!

c. The washing of the hands

- ◆ The Priest – the representative of the People of God – cleanses himself and prepares for the Most Holy Sacrifice of Calvary.
- ◆ An Action to do: Use the moment to repent of our sins and pray earnestly never to fall into sin again!

THE PREFACE

a. Lift up your hearts

- ◆ Our minds and hearts need to transcend our human worries, concerns, and troubles, and be raised in heavenly contemplation.
- ◆ An action to do: Use the moment to ascend to the heights of glory in order to recognize and be united to the Will of God in our lives.

b. Prayer

- ◆ The Church enlists (as per the Liturgical Season or the theme) the various ways in which the Lord has worked in human history. We (the Church Militant) seek intercession for the Faithful Departed (the Church Suffering) and join the beautiful choir of the saints and angels (the Church Triumphant) singing: Holy,

Holy, Holy to the Most High God!

- ◆ An Action to do: Use this moment of intense praise and Divine worship to long to possess Heaven and to be filled with the radiance of this joy in this world.

THE COMMUNION RITE

Epiclesis

- ◆ The portion where the power of the Holy Spirit is invoked so that the gifts of bread and wine may be transformed into Divine Species.
- ◆ An Action to do: Use this moment to pray for the infilling of the Holy Spirit that His Power may overshadow us.



THE CONSECRATION

A small piece of the host is mingled with the Sacred Wine

- ◆ Signifying the unity of the Body and Blood of the Lord, pointing to the Resurrection and also to the Unity of the Body of Christ, the Church.
- ◆ An Action to do: Use this moment to pray for the grace

to share in His Resurrection and to love the Church and be thankful for our Catholic Faith.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

A moment when heaven touches the earth...

- ◆ When the Divine lowers Himself to embrace the fallen humanity, to raise it up to Divine status.
- ◆ An Action to do: Use this moment to be totally absorbed in the mighty ocean of God's Mercy and to experience the consummation of His Divine Love!

THE RITE OF THE DISMISSAL

We are asked to...

- ◆ Be the Eucharist to one another, breaking ourselves, in service!
- ◆ An Action to do: Use this moment to pledge to be a True Missionary, giving His Love to all – in the little ways that we can!

There is nothing more beautiful on this earth than the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist – the Holy Mass. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says: "The Eucharist is our most precious treasure... it contains all the mystery of our Salvation!" Let us truly "Experience and Enjoy the Eucharist!"

May we grow in the love of the Holy Eucharist, for, as Bishop Fulton Sheen says, "The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host." May our Blessed Mother of the Holy Eucharist and St. Joseph help and intercede for us, to love the Lord more! †

Fall is a Season of Holy Days

So many days of the Church calendar year are a cause for celebration! Nearly every day marks the feast day of a saint – a day when that saint's holy life and deeds are remembered – or a significant event in the life of Jesus and His Church. Here are just a few coming this fall ▶▶▶. If you are able, come to Mass. Come to celebrate and rejoice! And be blessed!

- Wed., Sept. 8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (FEAST)
- Tues., Sept. 14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (FEAST)
- Wed., Sept. 15 Our Lady of Sorrows (MEMORIAL)
- Thurs., Sept. 23 St. Pius of Pietrelcina ("Padre Pio") (MEMORIAL)
- Wed., Sept. 29 Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (FEAST)
- Fri., Oct. 1 St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus ("The Little Flower") (MEMORIAL)
- Sat., Oct. 2 The Guardian Angels (MEMORIAL)
- Mon., Oct. 4 St. Francis of Assisi (MEMORIAL)
- Thurs., Oct. 7 Our Lady of the Rosary (MEMORIAL)
- Mon., Nov. 1 All Saints Day (SOLEMNITY)
- Tues., Nov. 2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed ("All Souls Day")
- Sun., Nov. 21 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (SOLEMNITY)

A New Parish-Wide Bible Study Opportunity

— Dcn. Dennis Walters —

IF YOU'VE EVER HAD A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK, have we got a deal for you! Starting in mid-January next year, St. Mary's will offer a Bible study program called "The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation" by Jeff Cavins, a noted Bible scholar and teacher. According to the website for the series, the program "takes you on a guided journey through salvation history.

"**Presenter Jeff Cavins will show you how** fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and will give you the keys to understanding the amazing story woven throughout Scripture. Using a unique color-coded chart, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discover how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Faith... The Bible Timeline will teach you how to read and understand the entire Bible and introduce you to the wonderful narrative of Scripture in a way that will transform your life."

The Bible Timeline will answer many questions you may have about the Bible, such as: What was the tower of Babel? Where were Sodom and Gomorrah, and what destroyed them? When did the Exodus happen? Who were the Judges, and what did they do? How did David go from being an outlaw to becoming king? Why did the kingdom under Solomon split in

two? Who were the prophets, and when did they have their ministries? Who were the Assyrians and the Babylonians? What was the Exile, and how long did it last? When was Jesus really born? Why was the Temple in Jerusalem finally destroyed? How was the early Church structured, and how did it spread?

This is serious Bible study, and because it covers the entire Bible it will take a while. Tentatively, we plan to divide the 24 sessions into four series of six weeks each. Thus, starting around January 17th with a break between each six-week series (plus a break for Holy Week), the study should end in early June.

The Bible Timeline comes with a workbook, a color-coded timeline chart of the entire Bible, and video presentations. (The timeline chart alone is worth the cost of admission.) The program runs for 24 sessions. Each session consists of a discussion and a 50-minute video, lasting for about 90 minutes.

Of course, you will need a Bible of your own (no sense attending a Bible study without a Bible); the presentations will use the Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition, but you can use any translation you're comfortable with.

Registration for The Bible Timeline will begin in December and conclude by the first week in January. There will be a small registration fee to cover the cost of materials, but the parish expects to provide a discount for interested parishioners. The amount is to be determined. More information about The Bible Timeline Bible study program will be available as the Fall progresses, so keep your eyes open. ■



Come and see...

◀ Bible studies and other faith-formation parish programs generally meet downstairs in Fr. Fisher Hall. Enter by this path taking you to the door under the front steps OR thru the kitchen door at the back of the church.

Religious Education

by Sarah Cencer

Hello fellow parishioners. Wow! It is already August. Where does the time go? Religious education classes will begin again on **Mon., Sept. 20** for 1st through 8th grade. We had such a great year last year, and we are truly looking forward to seeing familiar faces and hopefully some new ones! We hope that this year the children will be able to participate in even more activities as well.

Last year we had several lively events that included an Easter Egg Hunt where the eggs each contained a portion of the story of the Passion. That opened the kids up to a great discussion and understanding of the sequence of events. We also had bible trivia games and interactive activities that got the kids up and moving and helped them enjoy the learning process. The teachers each have such a passion for teaching and bringing religious education to life for the children. We hope you will consider joining us this fall for the new classes. They are sure to be exciting! Classes again will be held from 3:30-4:45pm on Mondays. Please see the parish website for the updated forms, and you can turn them into the parish office or email a scanned copy. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns by emailing stmarymanchester.dre@gmail.com. Thank you, and have a blessed day! ■





Our New Hymnal

by Benjamin Dahl, Music Director

IN THE MIDST OF THE PAST YEAR'S MANY CHALLENGES, St. Mary's didn't have any hymnals in the pews for several months. During this time, Fr. Bosco made the 2021 Mass readings available in paperback form in the vestibule for parishioners to use at will. Sadly, per Diocesan pandemic guidelines, parishioners were discouraged from singing, and consequently nearly all the hymnals were removed from the church. During this time of no congregational singing, I had the opportunity to reflect on the parish's needs, particularly in light of the Disciple Maker Index survey in which a majority of parishioners expressed dissatisfaction with the music at St. Mary's.

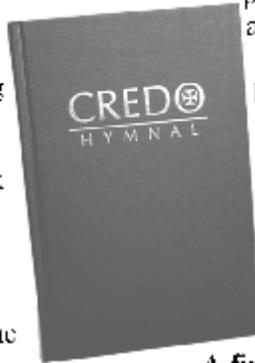
I communicated the fruits of this reflection to Fr. Bosco, Deacon Dennis and members of the Evangelization Team and Parish Council. I recommended that the parish explore purchasing a new hymnal. One reason I even considered this move is that the edition of the *St. Michael Hymnal* we had was very outdated. It had the old English translation of the Mass from before 2010, which parishes in the USA no longer use. While there is an up-to-date edition of the *SMH* with the new English translation of the Mass on the market, one drawback for our parish's needs is the amount of Spanish repertoire in it; in my 10 years at St. Mary's, I don't recall even once ever being asked to use one of the many Spanish songs from the *SMH*.

Our new hymnal benefits St. Mary's in multiple ways. By investing in this hardbound hymnal with the

3-year Lectionary readings incorporated into it, the parish saves much money over time since we no longer have to purchase yearly disposable books with readings. The new hymnals have ribbons to help parishioners mark the place of current Mass readings and mark their place among the selection of over 650 songs and hymns.

Our new hymnal, the *CREDO* hymnal published by International Liturgical Press (ILP), offers many of the traditional hymns found in our previous hymnal. ILP also does not alter any traditional hymn texts by neutering references to God in the masculine. I encourage everyone to read the preface in the front of the book for more information on this and the publisher's other guiding principles.

A final reason for our new hymnal is to address the Disciple Maker Survey results regarding parishioners' feelings about music at St. Mary's, particularly some parishioners' desire for more contemporary music. *CREDO* has a substantial amount (20%) of contemporary worship music. One may hope that the contemporary repertoire combined with a good selection of traditional chants and hymnody will meet the diverse preferences of our parish family. I believe *CREDO* is in continuity with the music we've been using at St. Mary's many years in the *SMH*. While many parishioners appreciate the music our previous hymnal offered, *CREDO* addresses the diverse musical preferences of parishioners. 🎵



Ice Cream Social 2021

by Beth Ball

Our 128th Ice Cream Social was indeed a blessed event. God graced us with a beautiful day, the food was absolutely delicious, there was laughter and smiles to be enjoyed. People enjoyed being out for an old-fashioned ice cream social, a sense of community again.

The one thing that means the most was how we all came together as a parish family to make this a success. **Everyone** worked very hard the entire week, people donated their time, talent, treasure, and prayers. Every aspect of this Ice Cream Social was for the Glory of God.

St. Mary's **parish family** donated \$1,841.00 to cover all the expenses, and we made a profit of \$4,611.32. I want to thank **Sharon Kleinschmidt** for donating the food service tent, **Emanuel Church** for the use of their tables and chairs, the **Riverfolk Musicians** for the excellent entertainment, **Joel Tobias Family** for their tent, the **Boy Scouts** for their tents, and the **Knights of Columbus** for their help. There wasn't any gift given that was small or insignificant.

Now it is time to think about our 129th Ice Cream Social; what can we do to make it even better? **God bless you all, and thank you.** ❤️





“Real Presence” Sessions

by Bill Kwolek

Jesus said in Luke 19:8, *“I tell you... when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”* Recent polls claim up to 80% of Catholics do not believe Jesus is actually present in Holy Communion. It’s only a symbol or a communal meal. This ignorance is a recent ‘unbelief.’ It was not so—even 50 years ago! Doubting what your senses cannot perceive is natural. Seeking to answer such doubts requires supernatural grace to believe it’s really Jesus and not just a symbolic wafer of bread.

If you want to receive the supernatural grace to believe in the Real Presence, decide to attend the Real Presence sessions, learn the truth, the beauty and the glory of the Holy Indwelling, and feel the awesome joy promised by Jesus. We cannot make this happen by our own power. We need supernatural help. The Real Presence sessions are a call to this grace.

Reflection from the Gospel of John, Chapter 6

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.”

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.

Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?”

Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

Please join fellow parishioners at the Real Presence sessions beginning on Monday, Sept 13th. See the bulletin (past bulletins are on the parish website www.stmarymanchester.org) or the flyer in the vestibule for details.

If you can’t attend in person, all of the videos and handouts will be available with a few clicks of a mouse or taps on your smartphone screen. You can learn at your own pace whenever you choose. The online sessions will be accessible for at least a year.

Believe like Simon Peter.

The alternative is unthinkable.

Live Catholic—be a saint, what else is there?

The Musings of Marja



ALTAR SOCIETY

When you see Father Bosco walking around the church before Mass, more than likely he will be wearing one of the two new albs that the Altar Society has just purchased for him. Well, actually, he picked them out, and the Altar Society picked up the bill. These new ones definitely are a better fit for him.

CEMETERY

As you know, at St. Mary's Cemetery there is a small Memorial Garden dedicated to the Unborn. It is located on the north side of the driveway. All of the bushes have been trimmed and the weeds pulled thanks to Elsie O'Dell, our sexton's wife. She took it upon herself to clean up this garden that she lovingly calls "Baby land." Elsie has spent most of her spare time pulling weeds and trimming. Bless her for doing all of this. As Elsie says, it is a peaceful place to come and just sit. And, yes, there is a bench. There is a large tree, oak I believe, that provides shade, too. Elsie says this was her way of keeping sane during all of the chaos over the past 16 months. If you know Elsie and you see her, tell her "Thank You." This has turned into her special little corner of the world. "Thanks, Elsie, it looks GREAT."

Remember, if you want to add decorations or plant some flowers, please consult the decorations brochure, available on the front of the small building, regarding what is acceptable and what is not.

SERVING AT MASS

As things are slowly returning to what we were accustomed to, are you one of those who now attends Mass every week? If so, have you thought about becoming a Lector/Reader? Do you have a son or grandson who comes to Mass, and have you suggested to them becoming an Altar Server? Likewise, any adult male in the parish also is invited to serve at the altar. There always is a need for more of us to become involved in this way. If you are

interested, you can call St. Mary's Office at 734-428-8811 or Astrida PUNCHES at 734-476-9764. Astrida is the one who does all of the scheduling for all of the Masses. And when you see Astrida, tell her "Thank You" for doing this job.

MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Do you have a private or a special intention or prayer that you want to offer in a special way? Have you thought about the votive candles in front of the statue of Our Blessed Lady or her spouse St. Joseph? Each globe has a candle insert that will burn for 6 days. You can offer your intention in the form of a burning candle? Why light a candle? Consider this:

The light signifies our prayer offered in faith...With the light of faith, we petition our Lord in prayer, or we petition the saint to pray with us and for us to the Lord. The light also shows a special reverence and our desire to remain present to the Lord in prayer even though we may depart to go about our daily business. Note: Because the parish must pay for these candles, we must ask for a donation to cover costs. The donation for the 6-day votive candle is \$4.00 per candle.

You also may request an intention associated with a Sanctuary Lamp. These are the two candles that burn in the red globes on the walls of the Sanctuary. Every Catholic church has a Sanctuary Lamp burning at all times near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the Presence of Jesus. These candles burn for 8 days, and the donation for this is \$15.00 for one. The intention for each Sanctuary Lamp is published in our weekly bulletin and displayed in the vestibule.

I hope that you all have had a safe and fun filled Summer.

Until Advent ~
Marja Warner • 734-428-9506

OUR PARISH IS UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

Each Thursday, for decades, the faithful who attend Thursday Masses here at St. Mary, Manchester begin the Mass in prayer to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. This is a beautiful devotion, seeking Our Lady's intercession – for our needs and the needs of those we love. The devotion is associated with an ancient Byzantine icon. The framed print that our parish has of this icon was usually brought out as we prayed. However, have you noticed it has been permanently placed on the wall of the church? It is on the west wall, beneath the First Station of the Cross and under the Ambry (the box that contains the holy oils). Pause at this beautiful image; and learn more about the icon and the devotion at devotiontoourlady.com/our-lady-of-perpetual-help.html and at redemptorists.net/redemptorists/devotion-to-omph/



Let us pray:

PRIEST: *Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope.*

PEOPLE: *We come to you today. We thank God for all the graces you have obtained for us. Mother of Perpetual Help, we love you...*



FINANCIAL & REALIGNMENT NEWS

by Bill Kwolek, Finance Council • August 2, 2021

UPDATE ON WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Our weekly collections, since the beginning of our fiscal year on July 1, 2021, have only reached 81% of our annual goal. July and August are typically low points for weekly donations, but this is 15% lower than the same period last year during Covid lockdowns. More people are attending Mass and the envelope count is up, yet the donation total is down. Our savings accounts at Comerica and the Diocese of Lansing remain healthy. However, the downward trend of weekly donations can change this. So PLEASE donate as best you can. Inflation is rapidly increasing for all of us—your parish included.

WHAT'S BEEN DONE LATELY

The new “Credo” hymnals have been delivered. They have all of the Mass readings for the 3-year cycle in the lectionary, the order of the Mass, hymns and songs with a topical index, various rites and prayers. They also have two place-holding ribbons to mark the current Sunday readings. With this new hymnal, we will no longer need to purchase disposable hymnals. The cost of the hymnals came from the Ed Haller fund. Please pray for Ed and his parents. The parish owes a debt of gratitude to the Haller family.

The refrigerator in Fr Fisher Hall was replaced with a new unit. Repairing the old fridge was not cost effective. The water heater in the rectory was replaced. And the rectory and church windows were professionally cleaned.

REALIGNMENT UPDATE: “CHANGE WILL COME”

The Diocese of Lansing is keeping parish leaders up to date with regular emails, Zoom meetings and videos describing progress on the Realignment of Resources for Mission models. Anyone interested in details about the Realignment can link to the Diocesan website:

<https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/RRM>

The completed interviews of diocesan priests, deacons and parish staff provided feedback for the RRM Committee to adjust their RRM models. This is good news for all parishes. It proves that the Committee is open to updates and revisions for both large and small parishes. The model scenarios and parish grouping will be further refined before being announced to us at the August 29th, in person, regional meeting with the laity. Although this newsletter will arrive in your mailbox after the regional meeting, St. Mary parishioners who attended had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

As of this writing, St. Mary’s is tentatively planned to be grouped with 2 or 3 other parishes. As it stands now, the RRM Committee identified St. Andrew in Saline as a strong possibility for grouping with us. This is not set in stone, but our parish is NOT likely to

be grouped with St. Mary in Chelsea. A group of parishes is technically designated “In Solidum” (in solidarity with each other). This is NOT the same as a merger of two or more parishes. According to Canon law, parishes that are not merged remain financially distinct. In other words, our offertory collections and savings will continue to belong to us. We won’t be bailing out another parish in financial difficulty. Grouped parishes will retain their own Finance Councils. To be absolutely clear: St. Mary Manchester will not be closed or merged.

The primary goal of In Solidum grouping is to EVANGELIZE. To evangelize means to spread the Good News of the Gospel. To accomplish this, In Solidum groups will share priests, deacons, staff, and ministries in new and different ways. This is why the Diocese unequivocally says “Change Will Come.” Again, the logistics of this sharing is not set in stone. A ‘moderator’ priest will have oversight authority of the grouped parishes and will be accountable to the bishop. Parish priests and parish leadership teams, together with the moderator and an In Solidum Leadership Council comprised of individual parish representatives, will be tasked with working out the details. Their goal will be a smooth running collaborative effort. This is expected to take at least a year. Mass schedules might change, parish staff and ministries may be shared—along with the associated expenses. The personal skills and talents in one parish can be shared with another parish in the group.

The RRM Committee is committed to following the Catholic social teaching of Subsidiarity, otherwise known as: the best way to serve people is at the local level with local people.

In October 2021, final RRM Committee recommendations will be given to Bishop Boyea. Although the date is tentative and revisions are always possible, Bishop Boyea plans to announce the final RRM decisions on Dec 8th, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Implementation of the final Realignment models will happen in 2022. After a year or more of living with the changes, relationships within and among the parish groups are expected to evolve.

Personally, I’m hopeful and not at all fearful. There are areas where St. Mary’s can gain from association with 2-3 other parishes. Being actively connected with a larger parish like St. Andrew will open ministries and opportunities that our stand-alone, rural parish is unable to sustain. Saline is a 15-minute drive. If you are interested in discovering what St. Andrew’s is doing, link to their online bulletins. Remember to pray for our parish, the RRM committee and Bishop Boyea. Above all, trust in God’s providence. ■



Our Beloved Parish Church of St. Mary

As the Diocese works with parishes to develop and implement a plan of “realignment of resources for mission,” it is good for us to recall the history of our dear little parish.

Have you ever paused to read the historical marker located near the steps at the front of the church? It has a story: In 1992 our church was designated an historic site in Michigan. This was commemorated with the placement of an historical marker. The event was filled with speeches and music. The former governor of the State of Michigan **John B. Swainson** formally presented the marker, and it was accepted by our then-Bishop of Lansing **Kenneth J. Povish**.

Our then-pastor **Fr. Francis Murray** both hosted the entire event and gave the invocation. Oh, and by the way, the music was presented by a flute and recorder group named on the program as “St. Mary Ensemble.” The members of this group were **Julie Hamilton** (daughter of the late Rosemary Hamilton) and **Krista Sahakian** (Dee Dee and Jim’s daughter), as well as current parishioners **Betty Cummings** and **Janet Shurtliff**.

It was a beautiful July afternoon!

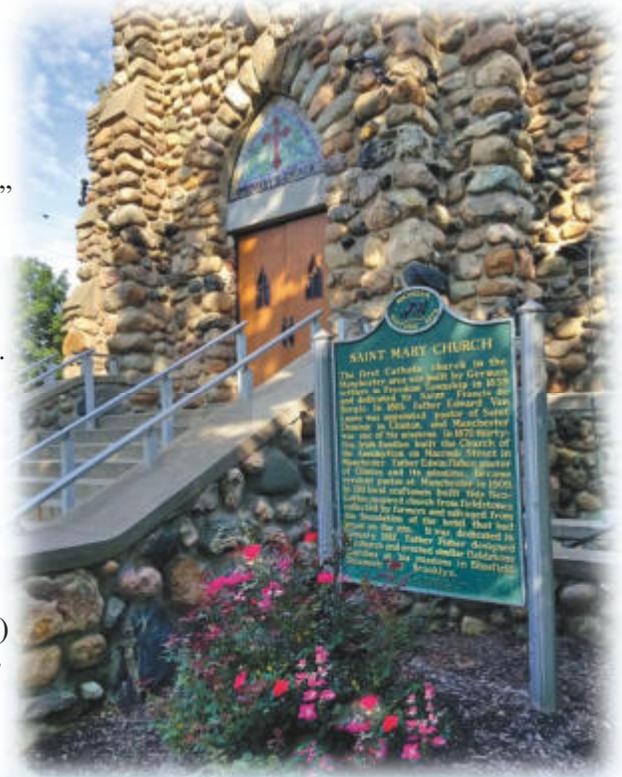
The text of the marker is printed here (▶▶). And these words from one of the hymns sung that day are so meaningful now:

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns,
With Them in highest Heaven
The one eternal God
Whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Let us pray together these words composed on the 100th anniversary of our building’s construction (1911- 2011):

May our worship of You in this sacred temple of Your glory strengthen our desire for holiness and be for us the gate of heaven.

May Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption, who shares body and soul in the glory of the Resurrection, be our hope on our earthly sojourn and keep our sights ever set upon that heavenly Temple where you dwell for ever, One God in Three Persons. Amen.



SAINT MARY CHURCH

The first Catholic church in the Manchester area was built by German settlers in Freedom Township in 1839 and dedicated to Saint Francis de Borgia. In 1863 Father Edward Van Lauwe was appointed pastor of Saint Dominic in Clinton, and Manchester was one of his missions. In 1870 thirty-five Irish families built the Church of the Assumption on Macomb Street in Manchester. Father Edwin Fisher, pastor of Clinton and its missions, became resident pastor at Manchester in 1909. In 1911 local craftsmen built this Neo-Gothic-inspired church from fieldstones collected by farmers and salvaged from the foundation of the hotel that had stood on the site. It was dedicated in January 1912. Father Fisher designed the church and erected similar fieldstone churches at his missions in Blissfield, Tecumseh and Brooklyn. ✝

[Text on St. Mary’s historical marker • Dedicated July 19, 1992]

SUNDAY MASSES:
Saturday 5pm,
Sunday 8:30am and
10:30am
**SACRAMENT OF
PENANCE:** Saturday
3:30-4:30pm;
Sundays 8-8:15am
and 10-10:15am;
First Fridays 8-9pm;
and during Lent,
after Stations of the
Cross
**COMMUNION at HOME
and SACRAMENT of
the SICK:** call 428-
8811
MARRIAGE / BAPTISM:
By appointment

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH MISSION
We the people of God of St. Mary Roman Catholic Parish, guided by the Holy Spirit, are called to continue the Mission of Jesus Christ. We dedicate ourselves to the personal responsibility of fulfilling this mission by:
♦ proclaiming the good news of God’s life, love and mercy ♦ seeking nourishment in God’s Word and the Most Blessed Sacrament ♦ serving those in need in a spirit of justice and mercy, flowing from a love of Jesus ♦ passing on our Catholic heritage through fellowship in the parish community and through worship, prayer and the guidance of the Bishop of Lansing, in union with the Pope, the Bishop of Rome.
Responding to and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we pledge to accept and live the teaching of Jesus Christ, thus being living witnesses of God’s presence in the world.

St. Mary Church
210 W. Main St • P.O. Box 249
Manchester, MI 48158

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