

# SAINT MARY of the Assumption



Roman Catholic Church  
Manchester, Michigan



REVEREND FR. BOSCO PADAMATTUMMAL  
Administrator

DEACON DENNIS WALTERS

210 West Main Street • PO Box 249

Manchester, Michigan

Phone: (734) 428-8811

stmarymanchester@gmail.com

www.stmarymanchester.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Vigil Mass Saturday at 5:00 pm

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

## “Be Opened!”

— Dcn. Dennis Walters —

**WHENEVER I ADMINISTER BAPTISM TO A CHILD**, I always include an optional ceremony in the Baptismal liturgy called the “Ephphatha rite.” Following the text, I say, “The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word [putting my fingers on the child’s ears], and your mouth to proclaim his faith [touching the child’s mouth], to the praise and glory of God the Father.” The rite takes its cue from today’s Gospel reading.

**Two things strike us as we read or hear this Gospel story.** One is its ceremonial aspect: the isolation from the crowd, the gestures, the looking up to heaven and the groaning. The other is the “unsanitary” nature of Jesus’ actions, where he puts his fingers in the man’s ears, then spits on his finger and puts it on the man’s tongue. The actions and the gestures are *immediately personal*, using dramatic, intimate, and (to us) grossly physical contact. It’s almost as if Jesus senses that something in the man is resistant to being healed.

**Let’s look at this healing in a little more detail.** Jesus’ command – “Be opened! – is not addressed to the man’s ears or to his tongue, but to the man himself. He is closed to the Gospel. Through the medium of ears and mouth, he needs to be open to hear and speak, since both are the basis of a relationship with anyone, especially with Jesus. The healing follows a deliberate progression.

### **JESUS BEGINS WITH THE EARS FIRST. WHY?**

**There’s something in human nature that doesn’t want to hear the gospel.** Chalk it up to original sin, but we almost instinctively react against what it says and what it demands. Even those of us raised in the faith may tell ourselves, “I’ve heard it before, it doesn’t work, that stuff is for saints, I don’t want to change, I can be a nice person without it,” and so on. The culture also attempts to divert our faith from the Gospel, which may explain why Jesus pulled the deaf man away from the crowd. This program of diversion takes place both by what the culture wants us to hear and by what it wants us *not* to hear.

**According to St. Paul**, faith comes by *hearing* (Rom. 10:17). We know from experience how this works. How often do we believe **gossip** about our families or friends? How often do news agencies warn us about listening to misinformation? But Paul also adds that faith in the Gospel comes by hearing it *preached*. That is

— continued on p. 2



**St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ❖ Sept 4-12, 2021**  
 Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

|                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SAT. SEPT. 4</b>                                         | <i>Weekday (opt. mem. Blessed Virgin Mary)</i>                                                                                                                                                          |
| Col 1:21-23<br>Lk 6:1-5                                     | ➤ 8:30am <b>FIRST SATURDAY MASS:</b><br>† Don Christian [Karen Christian]<br>3:30-4:30pm Confession<br>➤ 5:00pm <b>VIGIL MASS for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: For the People</b>                  |
| <b>SUN. SEPT. 5</b>                                         | <i>23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Is 35:4-7a<br>Jas 2:1-5<br>Mk 7:31-37                       | 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession<br>➤ 8:30am <b>MASS:</b> † Bishop Kenneth J. Povich, 3rd Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing<br>➤ 10:30am <b>MASS:</b> † Joseph & † Helen Germek [Kathy & Martin Brogley] |
| <b>MON. SEPT. 6</b>                                         | <i>Weekday</i>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Col 1:24-2:3<br>Lk 6:6-11                                   | ➤ No Monday Masses in Manchester during the summer months<br>LABOR DAY: Parish Office closed                                                                                                            |
| <b>TUES. SEPT. 7</b>                                        | <i>Weekday</i>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Col 2:6-15<br>Lk 6:12-19                                    | ➤ 8:30am <b>MASS:</b> † Joe Fitzgerald<br>[His loving wife, Pat Fitzgerald]                                                                                                                             |
| <b>WED. SEPT. 8</b>                                         | <i>Feast: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>                                                                                                                                                   |
| Mi 5:1-4a (or Rom 8:28-30)<br>Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 (or 1:18-23) | ➤ 8:30am <b>MASS:</b> † Tom Burch<br>[Joyce Merriman]                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>THUR. SEPT. 9</b>                                        | <i>Memorial: St. Peter Claver, Priest</i>                                                                                                                                                               |
| Col 3:12-17<br>Lk 6:27-38                                   | ➤ 8:30am <b>MASS:</b> † Wanda Antieu<br>[Alice Kidd]<br>7:00 pm Choir rehearsal / choir loft                                                                                                            |
| <b>FRI. SEPT. 10</b>                                        | <i>Weekday</i>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14<br>Lk 6:39-42                             | ➤ 8:30am <b>MASS:</b> † Joan Walkowe<br>[Bill & Astrida PUNCHES]                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>SAT. SEPT. 11</b>                                        | <i>Weekday (opt. mem. Blessed Virgin Mary)</i>                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1 Tm 1:15-17<br>Lk 6:43-49                                  | 3:30-4:30pm Confession<br>➤ 5:00pm <b>VIGIL MASS for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time:</b><br>† Don Christian [Karen Christian]                                                                         |
| <b>SUN. SEPT. 12</b>                                        | <i>24th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Is 50:4c-9a<br>Jas 2:14-18<br>Mk 8:27-35                    | 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession<br>➤ 8:30am <b>MASS:</b> † Leonard VanBogelen<br>[Pete & Inge Roncoli]<br>➤ 10:30am <b>MASS: For the People</b> ■                                                      |

**DCN. DENNIS' ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:**  
*"Be Opened!"*

why the Liturgy of the Word at Mass – the readings and the homily – is so important; it's a necessary part of the Eucharistic liturgy.

**So the first thing Jesus has to do is overcome our resistance to hearing him**, even if it means being unsanitary about it. And even once our ears are miraculously opened, we need to learn how to hear and understand his voice. That takes some practice. The world is full of messages to sort through. Jesus warns us to be careful how we hear (Luke 8:18), but hearing *him* is possible. If we don't know how to hear, we can simply ask Jesus to open our ears so we can hear him speak. We should pay special attention to the questions he asks ("Didn't you hear? What do you want me to do for you? Who do you say that I am? Will you also go away?") because he's looking for an answer from us.

**THE NEXT THING JESUS DOES IS TOUCH THE MAN'S TONGUE, SINCE A PERSON WHO CAN'T HEAR CAN'T SPEAK CLEARLY.**

**Our culture encourages a "don't ask, don't tell" attitude to religious faith.** The deal is, I won't ask you what your day-to-day relationship with Jesus Christ is like, and you won't ever have to tell me about it. To most people, religion is a private matter. Either they don't want to talk about their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, or they're afraid of having to defend themselves in an argument, or they don't feel that there's anything to talk about.

**The Catholic Church explicitly says that all of that is wrong.** Sure, our faith is very personal to us – it must be – but it is *not* private. If we don't speak it, others won't hear it. Jesus wants our mouths to be open to speak. As the baptismal liturgy says, our mouth is made to proclaim his faith; so when our ears are open, our mouth can form the right words. In fact, the Gospel of Matthew ends with the *command* to speak the Gospel to all nations.

**Our mouths need to be opened to speak.** That may take courage, but we can start with small things. Like telling others where we spend our time on Sunday mornings, how we pray, and events that have made a spiritual difference in our lives.

**This healing is deliberately dramatic (the isolation from the crowd, the extravagant gestures) and is very personal.** It addresses us as well as the deaf and dumb man. From Jesus' fingers to my ears, from Jesus' saliva to my tongue. "Be opened!"

**Here's something you can do right now.** In a moment, we will recite the Nicene Creed, which is a summary of what we believe. Right now, ask the Holy Spirit to help you hear something in it you haven't really heard before. As you do that, make a deliberate effort to speak the words of the Creed to yourself with new meaning.

Amen.

*Birthday Blessings!*

**SEPTEMBER 4**  
 Timothy Miller  
 Parker Rohwer

**SEPTEMBER 8**  
 Megan Miller  
 Frank Remski

**SEPTEMBER 9**  
 Cassidy Sangster  
 Ricardo Villarreal

**SEPTEMBER 10**  
 Kay Hartman  
 Marjorie Kuboff  
 Jim Warner

**SEPTEMBER 11**  
 Carol Selecki  
 Ethan Woods

*Altar Flowers*

SEPT. 5, 2021

**In Honor of our 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 4**

[ Jeff & Connie Schaffer ]

**A LABOR DAY REFLECTION**  
 Whenever you begin any good work you should first of all make a most pressing appeal to Christ our Lord to bring it to perfection. –  
 — Saint Benedict —



**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

Sept. 22–Oct. 31

The 40 Days For Life story is so POWERFUL, that it was made into the major motion picture, UNPLANNED! You are invited to be a part of a movement that is on the right side of history. Rally with your pro-life neighbors as we meet outside of Planned Parenthood at 3100 Professional Dr. in Ann Arbor on **Sun, Sept. 19** at 2 pm for the Kickoff Rally with Keynote Speaker Rev Christopher Thoma (Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hartland) along with Fr Pieter vanRooyen (St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ypsilanti) and Pastor Mike Frison (Knox Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor).

Lap 1 of our 7 Sunday Interfaith Jericho March will immediately follow led by Pastor Frison and Deacon Gary Perrydore (St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ypsilanti). ■

**“Do you also want to leave?”**

After Jesus told his listeners that they must eat His Flesh and drink his Blood, they couldn't accept it and left Him. Jesus, alone with his apostles, asked them the question above. Peter spoke for the group, “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.” The 6th chapter of John’s gospel ends with Jesus revealing Judas as a betraying devil. Peter believed Jesus was the Son of God because of his faith in the evidence. We invite you to listen to this evidence. If you believe in life after death, the ‘Real Presence’ sessions will help you step from time into eternal happiness when you exhale your last breath.  
*[BTW, over 40 people have signed up so far!]*



**The SANCTUARY LAMPS are burning this week for the following intentions:**  
**PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK...**

- 1) In loving memory of +Tom Burch *(His loving wife, Ruth Burch & Family)*
- 2) +Leon Ball *(Jim Krzyzaniak)*

**Religious Ed classes begin soon!**

As you heard after Mass last weekend, we have a new director of religious education and youth ministry: LORI FEILER. She shared her story and touched on some of her plans for the upcoming school year working with grades 1-8 as well as high school youth. We are so excited to hear more! Keep an eye on this bulletin as well as the parish website and Facebook page for more info about Lori, the program, and registration for classes (which begin **Mon., Sept. 13**).



**Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your kingdom come.**

**The First Annual Michigan Catholic Women’s Conference**

**“GOD’S LOVE HAS BEEN POURED INTO OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN US.” - ROMANS 5:5**

*Save the Date:* Women from five Dioceses – Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Saginaw – come together to focus on their faith and to experience the fellowship of sisterhood in Christ Jesus. Throughout the day, women will be encouraged and inspired to focus and grow their faith by hearing from Catholic speakers, engaging in praise and worship music, and celebrating holy Mass with our bishops. The conference will be held at the Lansing Center in Lansing on **Sat., Oct. 16, 2021**. Registration NOW OPEN! (Visit [mcwc.ticketspice.com/cwc](http://mcwc.ticketspice.com/cwc) )

*Also, Parish Captains are needed:* We are in need of parish captains to help coordinate the promotion of this event within parishes. If you’d like to serve as a parish captain, or know someone who would, please contact Deanna McCrate at [MichiganCWC@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MichiganCWC@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 810-287-7272.

**Our Diocese presents a “realignment” plan for parishes**

Last weekend, the Diocesan RRM planning committee presented the fruit of their work: To create for Bishop Boyea’s approval a plan to “realign resources” in the Diocese. They described “grouping” parishes, that is, sharing staff including having priests “grouped” for the grouped parishes, perhaps residing together, while still assuring each parish has a “parish priest.” If you missed the presentation, you can watch it on the Diocese YouTube channel and learn about how St. Mary, Manchester will be affected. Go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVN3dzGXCbw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVN3dzGXCbw)

**Please Pray for...**

- Cardinal Raymond Burke
- Paul Marion
- Delores Oakley
- Sean Sangster
- Mike Gibbons
- Sylvie’s mother
- Bruce Sommers
- Luise Kienzle
- Adamo Venditti
- Susie (from the Flower Garden)
- Larry Lehmann
- Pam Wils
- Bill Schaffer
- Kay Lantis
- Christy Woody and family
- Barbara (Kemner) Haas
- Jerry Kripas
- Joe Kirk
- Joyce Stein
- Loretta Widmayer
- Connie Stancato
- Duane Beuerle
- Paul Whelan
- Annie (sister of Lynn Waldecker)

*...and for the repose of the soul of*  
**† David Bonkowski (sr)**  
*and for his grieving loved ones.*

*(Need Prayer? Contact the St. Mary Prayer Tree. Call the Parish Office at 428-8811.)*

**Does an old hymnal have YOUR prayer intention?**

As you know, we have new hymnals. And our previous *St. Michael Hymnals* have been retired. Each of those hymnals was donated by someone in the parish. And with each, the donor was invited to have the prayer request of their choice printed on a bookplate and placed in the front of the hymnal.

**PERHAPS ONE OR MORE ARE YOURS!**

You can pick up “your” hymnal from Fr. Fisher Hall (downstairs in the church). You might keep it at home for your family prayers. Or maybe give it to a family member – a young person away at school or an aging parent or friend – or give it to a friend who no longer attends Mass.

The hymnals can be beautiful evangelization opportunities. But be advised: The final day for picking up hymnals is **Mon., Sept. 6**. Any hymnals not claimed by the end of that day will be donated to the Marian Center in Petoskey, MI.

Please Note: 1) The church is open all day, and you can access Fr. Fisher Hall by the steps under the choir loft or by the elevator. 2) There are a number of hymnals without bookplates or given anonymously, so you are welcome also to take one of those.



**St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**  
**Sunday, August 22, 2021**

*Sunday Env (47) ..... \$ 3,572.00*  
*Welcome & Loose ..... 292.00*  
*E-Giving (9) ..... 425.32*  
*Assumption BVM (5) ..... 67.00*

*Combined toward budget: ... \$ 4,356.32*  
*Budget goal: ..... 5,300.00*  
*Amt BELOW goal: ..... - 943.68*

**OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:**  
*Bldg. & Maint (2) ..... \$ 25.00*  
*Poor Box ..... 112.00*  
*Votive candles ..... 48.00*

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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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