

# 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

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

## What if it came down to a choice...

– Fr. Bosco Padamattummal –

**M**ARK WRITES HIS GOSPEL TO THE CHRISTIANS IN ROME WHO WERE LIVING DURING THE REIGN OF THE EMPEROR NERO. A brief bit of background might be helpful. In the year 64AD a terrible fire destroyed much of the city of Rome, and public opinion was that Nero himself had ordered the fires to be set. (The man was a lunatic.) In desperation, Nero needed to find a scapegoat to blame for the disaster. Blame for the fire was placed squarely on the Christians in Rome. The historian Tacitus wrote, “First, Nero had self-acknowledged Christians arrested. Then, on their information, large numbers of others were condemned... Dressed in wild animal’s skins, they were torn to pieces by dogs, or crucified, or made into torches to be ignited after dark.” The city was invited to the ‘circus maximus’ to watch half-starved lions eat the Christians alive.

**This is the audience for whom Mark writes his gospel of Jesus Christ.** These are those who ‘had in mind the things of God’ and who renounced the ‘things of man’ but would not renounce the name of Jesus Christ, and for His name’s sake, experienced terrible suffering, rejection, and death, just as Jesus had.

**Mark begins his gospel** with a bold proclamation: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (1:1). After that, immediately he tells the earthly stories of the Son of God. Today we come to the exact middle, the end of the 8th chapter, and Jesus asks the big question: “Who do people say that I am?” With the kind of groundwork carefully laid out, what would you expect people would be saying about Jesus?

**Mark has carefully recorded what people have been saying about Him up to this point.** They say: “What is this?” “Who then is this that even wind and sea obey him?”

“He is possessed by Beelzebul.” “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?” It is said He is “John the Baptist, raised from the dead.” “He is Elijah.” So, no one gets it! No one sees as who He is.

**Ironically, the only ones in the first half of Mark’s gospel that get it are the demons.** “I know who you are: the Holy one of God.” “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?”

**So, when Jesus asks His disciples,** “Who do you say that I am?” and when Peter answers, “You are the Christ,” they get it! They see Him “as He is.”

**By the end of Mark’s gospel, it becomes apparent** that there are some who get it and some who don’t and never will. At the trial before the Sanhedrin, the Chief Priest and the Sanhedrin are still blind. “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Most High?” (14:61). But the centurion



– continued on p. 2

**St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ❖ Sept 11-19, 2021**

Mass Intention [requested by], &amp; parish activities

<b>SAT. SEPT. 11</b>	<i>Weekday (opt. mem. Blessed Virgin Mary)</i>
1 Tm 1:15-17 Lk 6:43-49	3:30-4:30pm Confession ➤ <b>5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time:</b> ✠ <b>Don Christian</b> [Karen Christian]
<b>SUN. SEPT. 12</b>	<i>24th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Is 50:4c-9a Jas 2:14-18 Mk 8:27-35	8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession ➤ <b>8:30am MASS:</b> ✠ <b>Leonard VanBogelen</b> [Pete & Inge Roncoli] ➤ <b>10:30am MASS: For the People</b>
<b>MON. SEPT. 13</b>	<i>Memorial: St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>
1 Tm 2:1-8 Lk 7:1-10	➤ <b>12:10pm MASS:</b> ✠ <b>Leon Ball</b> [Pat Fitzgerald] 12:45pm "The Real Presence of Jesus" session 1 / FFH 3:30pm Religious Ed classes / PC
<b>TUES. SEPT. 14</b>	<i>Feast: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>
Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17	➤ <b>8:30am MASS:</b> ✠ <b>Martin Brogley, Sr.</b> [The Selecki Family] 9:00am (after morning Mass) Amazing Greys / FFH
<b>WED. SEPT. 15</b>	<i>Memorial: Our Lady of Sorrows</i>
1 Tm 3:14-16 (445) Jn 19:25-27 (or Lk 2:33-35)	➤ <b>8:30am MASS:</b> ✠ <b>Tom Burch</b> [George & Liz Daubner]
<b>THUR. SEPT. 16</b>	<i>Memorial: Ss. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</i>
1 Tm 4:12-16 Lk 7:36-50	➤ <b>8:30am MASS:</b> ✠ <b>Peter Patrick</b> [John & Tina Doyle and Family] 6:30pm "The Real Presence of Jesus" session 1 / FFH
<b>FRI. SEPT. 17</b>	<i>Weekday (opt. mem. St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church) (opt. mem. St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church)</i>
1 Tm 6:2c-12 Lk 8:1-3	➤ <b>8:30am MASS:</b> ✠ <b>Tom Burch</b> [Mark & Kathy Lentz]
<b>SAT. SEPT. 18</b>	<i>Weekday (opt. mem. Blessed Virgin Mary)</i>
1 Tm 6:13-16 Lk 8:4-15 (	3:30-4:30pm Confession ➤ <b>5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time:</b> ✠ <b>Ann Becktel</b> [Bill & Astrida Panches]
<b>SUN. SEPT. 19</b>	<i>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Wis 2:12, 17-20 Jas 3:16-4:3 Mk 9:30-37	8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession Coffee Hour after each Mass / FFH ➤ <b>8:30am MASS:</b> ✠ <b>Tom Burch</b> [Robert & Beth Padley] ➤ <b>10:30am MASS: For the People</b> ■

FR. BOSCO'S ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:  
*What if it came down to a choice...*

at the foot of the cross gets it. "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (15:39).

"And Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And He said this plainly. No parables, no symbolism, no figures of speech, no hidden meanings. He gave it to them straight, plainly. Jesus says that this "must" happen; that means there's no getting around it, no compromise, no deals. This is the only way. This was the Father's "must," and Jesus delights in doing what His Father says He "must" do. Even if it's "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected and be killed and rise again."

We need to learn to appreciate Jesus' acceptance of what He "must" do. He must suffer many things, because we have sinned against God. He must be rejected, because we have rejected God. He must die, because we have chosen the way of death over life. He must be raised again, because He has no sin and death has no hold on Him. He must rise from the dead, or you and I never will. This is what it means to be "the Christ." This is what it means to confess, "You are the Christ." When Jesus said the Son of Man must suffer and die, Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke him, "Let it never happen to you." He is 'rebuking' Jesus for doing what He must do for us men and for our salvation. "Turning and seeing the disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God but on the things of man.'"

The same Peter who had rebuked Jesus for saying that He must suffer, be betrayed, and be murdered was arrested in Rome under Nero's orders. What a spectacle Nero could make out of one of Jesus' own disciples. When Peter was informed that he was going to be crucified, he did not deny, but confessed. Peter requested that he be crucified upside down so that no one would confuse his death with Christ's death. The cross which he so objected to as a young disciple, he now embraced in his old age. In losing his life, Peter found his life, just as Jesus said he would.

Dear brothers and sisters, setting our minds on the things of God and not on the things of man is the great challenge for all of us. The "things of man" are those things that are commended, applauded, and praised by men and women such as success, power, prestige, and influence. We strive to achieve some measure of stability for our lives. And is there anything wrong with any of these "things of man"? Of course not. But what if it came down to having to make a choice between these "things of man" and the "things of God"? The "things of God" are the daily details of life lived out according to God's Word. What if it came down to a choice between the "things of man" and the "things of God"? Would you be willing to let go of the "things of man" to hold onto "the things of God"?

This is a choice that we are confronted with on a daily basis in the things we do as disciples. What will we answer to our Lord if he asks the same question of us: "Who do you say that I am?" †

### Amazing Greys begin a new season of meetings

...and you are invited! This is a fun and spiritually enriching senior fellowship group that meets regularly and organizes several wonderful events during the year. The first meeting of this year will be **Tues., Sept. 14** following the morning Mass. Come down to Fr. Fisher Hall for coffee and donuts. One item on the agenda will be planning the Advent Candlelight Prayer Service and Dinner on Nov. 28th.

### Birthday Blessings!

**SEPTEMBER 14**  
Sarah Cencer  
Cecilia Niehaus  
Melissa Yekulis  
**SEPTEMBER 17**  
Danielle Dettling  
**SEPTEMBER 18**  
Marlene Lentz

### Altar Flowers

SEPT. 12, 2021

In honor of  
**Jim Warner's birthday**  
~Love, Hugs & Prayers

[ His wife, Marja ]

### A Clarification and Correction (and an apology to the Sahakian families)

In the last/Fall newsletter, we recalled the dedication of our church historical marker in 1992. And we mentioned the musical group that played. One of the members was Krista Sahakian. However, we mistakenly identified her family connection. Krista is the daughter of John and Pat Sahakian. Jim (John's brother) and DeeDee and are Krista's uncle and aunt. Apologies to all in these two beautiful families.



## Get the "Real Presence" Course Online at Home

**Belief in the presence of Jesus in Holy Communion is critical for Catholics.** It's so important that Jesus told us in John 6:53, "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." Strong words that demand attention! Jesus didn't say His flesh was symbolic – it is REAL. If you are not able to attend the "Real Presence" sessions in person, you can view the videos and access everything on your computer or smartphone.

Use your browser to link to St. Mary's website: <https://stmarymanchester.org/> Then look for the 2nd box down labeled 'ST.MARY PARISH NEWS,' then click the line: To explore "The Real Presence" series click [HERE](#). That will take you to another page with a big [HERE](#) button – click it to bring up the folders containing all of the series information: the 6 session videos with descriptions, many additional videos to explore, handouts, study guide, and more. You will only miss the in-person session discussions.

## Religious Ed News

Families can look forward to an exciting new year for Religious Ed classes and Youth Group. We are welcoming a new director of the program: **LORI FEILER**. A couple of weeks ago at the end of Mass, Fr. Bosco introduced Lori to the parish, and she spoke briefly. If you missed it, here are some excerpts from what she shared:

- “**My husband Eric and I moved to Manchester** almost a month ago from Brighton, where we lived for 21 years raising two sons, now grown and getting married....
- “**In the short time we have lived in Manchester** we have felt the blessing of this parish's hospitality....
- “**It feels like the Lord has been preparing me** for ministry my whole life....
- “**I am a convert to the faith** after marrying into a Catholic family....
- “**This journey has not only taken me through marriage and motherhood**, but, an Undergrad and Master's degree in Theology along with multiple units of Clinical Pastoral Education for certification as a Hospital and Hospice Chaplain for over two decades....
- “**As I spent time with people/families** who were preparing for end of life [with no desire to know God or heaven], I prayed that God to take me back to a time in people's lives when they might be more open to God's Word and Truth.
- “**Soon I found my heart shifting** toward Family Faith Formation at St. Mary's Student Parish in Ann Arbor. Ministering to the University Student catechists, families and children over the years has brought many blessings....
- “**We enjoy bringing others to the Lord** through prayer and healing....
- “**God continues to reveal his mission for me** in this life: to help His children come to know how much the Lord loves them, no matter the age or stage and despite the mistakes and the wounds of life....
- “**When Fr. Bosco asked me to help with the Religious Education here** at St. Mary's, I took it to prayer and agreed as God has called me to this church and to this community....

- “**My prayer is for the Holy Spirit** to radically move through St. Mary's setting hearts on fire. We are blessed to live under Mary's mantle right here in Manchester....
- “**God is a good, good Father**, and He blesses us abundantly with gifts from above. Among the most precious is the gift of faith....
- “**We are instructed not only to treasure it for ourselves, but to teach others:** our children, family, friends and strangers! And how do we receive God's truth? First through our hearts. It is through our hearts that this gift of faith is cultivated and communicated, or should I say lived and taught!....
- “**I invite all parents, grandparents with children** from 1st thru 8th grades to consider signing up for Religious Ed classes which are Mondays at 3:30 after school which includes 1st Communion and Confirmation)....
- “**Classes begin Sept. 13** at the Parish Center. Registration forms are in the vestibule....
- “**We are also looking for Religious Education Catechists** to assist with passing along this beautiful gift of faith to the children and youth of this parish....
- “**Youth Group meets once a month on a Sunday.** Schedule/Events will be posted in September....
- “**If you have helped in the past or are interested in sharing and deepening your own faith and having some fun**, consider joining us. We unpack the gift faith together, deepening our relationship with the Good Father, embracing His Son, and allowing the Holy Spirit to move through us. Please don't hesitate to email me anytime....
- “**I am truly looking forward to my journey here** at St. Mary's in all the ways God has planned to impart heaven here on earth. ***'Fiat Voluntas Tua, Thy Will Be Done.'***

LORI FEILER

[stmarymanchester.dre@gmail.com](mailto:stmarymanchester.dre@gmail.com)



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

**PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK...**

- 1) + Leonard VanBogelen  
(Pete & Inge Roncoli)
- 2) For the repose of the soul of +Leon Ball  
(Shirley Krzyzaniak)



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

## Please Pray for...

- Cardinal Raymond Burke
- Clara Peterson
- Diane DuRussel
- Michelle & Jon Hagopian
- 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

## IN NEED OF PRAYER?

The St. Mary Prayer Tree will pray with you and for you! Or for your family and friends. Just call the Parish Office (734-428-8811) and we will begin praying!



**St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship**

### WEEKLY COLLECTION Sunday, August 29, 2021

Sunday Env (49) ..... \$ 4,184.02  
Welcome & Loose ..... 416.00  
E-Giving (10) ..... 695.89  
E-Giving Assumpt (1) ..... 25.00

Combined toward budget: ... \$ 5,320.91  
Budget goal: ..... 5,300.00  
Amt ABOVE goal: ..... + 20.91

### OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Bldg. & Maint (1) ..... \$ 25.00  
Poor Box ..... 67.25  
Votive candles ..... 37.00

**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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