

SAINT MARY of the Assumption



Roman Catholic Church
Manchester, Michigan

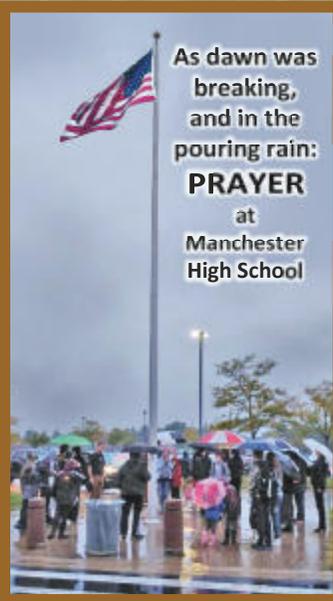


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Administrator

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

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ OCTOBER 3, 2021



As dawn was
breaking,
and in the
pouring rain:
PRAYER
at
Manchester
High School

*St. Mary Teens
live and pray
their Faith...*

Accepting Like a Child

— Dcn. Dennis Walters —

ALL OF US HAVE PROBABLY HAD EXPERIENCE OF BEING REBUFFED BY “GATEKEEPERS,” people whose job is to limit access to the persons we want to see. Following Jesus’ teaching on marriage and divorce, Mark appends four verses portraying the disciples as his gatekeepers.

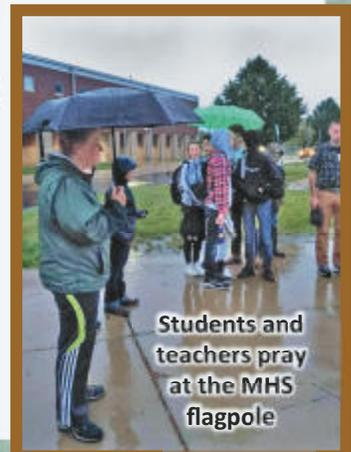
In fairness to them, Jesus’ disciples often had to assume the duties of crowd control. Mark does not tell us what the circumstances were behind this incident. But in his gospel, Jesus is constantly mobbed by people wanting to hear him, be healed, ask favors, or simply touch him. There were occasions when the crowds were so pressing that Jesus had no “down time” even to eat. So it’s no wonder that the disciples, concerned for his welfare, took upon themselves the responsibility to decide who should be allowed near, and who should be kept away. They

must have felt that parents who wanted to present their children to Jesus were wasting his time, since others had more urgent needs. Apparently they were none too gentle about it, since they rebuked – scolded – those who brought children.

When Jesus perceived this, he became indignant, as if their conduct were a personal offense. “Let the children come to me. Do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Then, typically, Jesus used this as a teaching moment: — *continued on p. 2*

Two opportunities for young people to witness their faith in the public square (think school yard) have been accepted by our St. Mary teens. With the organizational energy of our parish youth Bible Study group (led by Lynn Waldecker), the first event was part of the nationwide “*See You at the Pole*” on Wed., Sept. 22. Our seven young men rallied a gathering, and it was a great success! 43 prayer warriors turned out in the pouring rain to thank God for our Country, Schools, Families, and Friends!! What a blessing to be a part of this!

The next event will be this coming Thurs., Oct 7: “*Bring your Bible to School Day*” is a nationwide, student-led movement to read and treasure Sacred Scripture as God’s Holy Word, to encourage others with the hope we have in Christ Jesus, and to celebrate our religious freedoms in the United States. This year, the day is also the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary! (So, bring your rosary as well!!!) This event empowers Christian students of all ages to speak God’s grace and truth into the culture around them, starting with two simple steps: bringing their Bibles to school and sharing what the Lord – and His holy Church and the Sacred Scriptures – means to them. Students of all ages can participate.



Students and
teachers pray
at the MHS
flagpole

St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ❖ Oct. 2-10, 2021
 Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

DCN. DENNIS' ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:
Accepting Like a Child

SAT. OCT. 2 *Memorial: The Holy Guardian Angels*

Bar 4:5-12, 27-29
 Mt 18:1-5, 10
 ➤ **8:30am FIRST SATURDAY MASS:**
 ☩ **Ann Becktel** [*Ruth Burch*]
 3:30-4:30pm Confession
 ☞ *Pray the Rosary 20 minutes before Mass*
 ➤ **5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: For the People**

SUN. OCT. 3 *27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Gn 2:18-24
 Heb 2:9-11
 Mk 10:2-16
 (or 10:2-12)
 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession
 ☞ *Pray the Rosary 20 minutes before both Masses*
 ➤ **8:30am MASS: INT. Cathy & Jim McMonagle** [*Ruth Burch*]
 ➤ **10:30am MASS:** ☩ **Harriet Van Riper** [*Alvie Kidd*]
 12 noon: Blessing of Pets (in front of church)

MON. OCT. 4 *Memorial: St. Francis of Assisi*

Jon 1:1-2:2, 11
 Lk 10:25-37
 ➤ **12:10pm MASS:** ☩ **Natalie Daubner** [*Bill & Astrida Panches*]
 12:45pm "The Real Presence of Jesus" session 4 / FFH
 3:30-4:45pm Rel Ed class / PC

TUES. OCT. 5 *Weekday (opt. mem. St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin) (opt. mem. Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest)*

Jon 3:1-10
 Lk 10:38-42
 ➤ **8:30am MASS:** ☩ **Edward Clark** [*John & Tina Doyle*]

WED. OCT. 6 *Weekday (opt. mem. St. Bruno, Priest) (opt. mem. Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin)*

Jon 4:1-11
 Lk 11:1-4
 ➤ **8:30am MASS:** ☩ **Tom Burch** [*Robert & Beth Padley*]
 7pm Parish Pastoral Council Mtg / FFH

THUR. OCT. 7 *Memorial: Our Lady of the Rosary*

Mal 3:13-20b
 Lk 11:5-13
 ➤ **8:30am MASS:** ☩ **Ann Becktel** [*Jim & Cathy McMonagle*]
 6:30pm "The Real Presence of Jesus" session 4 / FFH
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal / choir loft

FRI. OCT. 8 *Weekday*

Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2
 Lk 11:15-26
 ➤ **8:30am MASS:** ☩ **John Wils** [*Betty Cummings*]

SAT. OCT. 9 *Weekday (opt. mem. St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs) (opt. mem. St. John Leonardi, Priest) (opt. mem. Bl. Virgin Mary)*

Jl 4:12-21
 Lk 11:27-28
 ☞ *Pray the Rosary 20 minutes before Mass*
 ➤ **5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time: For the People**

SUN. OCT. 10 *28th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Wis 7:7-11
 Heb 4:12-13
 Mk 10:17-30 (or 10:17-27)
 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession
 Coffee Hour (Knights of Columbus) after both Masses
 ☞ *Pray the Rosary 20 minutes before both Masses*
 ➤ **8:30am MASS:** ☩ **Dick Krzyzaniak** [*His loving wife Shirley Krzyzaniak*]
 ➤ **10:30am MASS:** ☩ **Tom Burch** [*Brad & Julie Messing*]
 4-5:00pm "Rosary Coast-to-Coast" / church
 4-5:30pm Confirmation Class / PC ■

"Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." That line, of course, is the point of the story. But what does it mean to accept the kingdom of God like a child?

In ancient Israel, children were welcomed, but not coddled.

They were expected to reach maturity quickly. As children, they had no expectations placed on them except to learn their father's trade (if they're boys) or manage a household (if they're girls). They were in the social position of receiving discipline, but not of accomplishing anything of value. In her commentary on the Gospel of Mark, Dr. Mary Healy points out that what makes them "apt recipients" of the kingdom of God is that they "have no accomplishments with which to earn God's favor, no status that makes them worthy. In their dependency they exemplify the only disposition that makes entrance into the kingdom possible: simply to receive it as a pure, unmerited gift" (italics in original). She quotes St. Therèse of Lisieux, who writes that being a child before God "is to recognize our nothingness, to expect everything from God as a little child expects everything from its father...."

All of which is correct as far as it goes; but something is missing from this picture. Anyone who has spent much time around small children – say, kids between eighteen months and six years old – knows that there is more to the story than that.

Of course, little children have no accomplishments with which to earn favor, but that doesn't keep them from trying to show off what they're learning anyway. "Watch me do this somersault, Grandpa!" "Good job, Johnny!" "Look what I made, Grandma!" "That's beautiful, Mary; it goes right on my refrigerator!" Children like that have no need to earn favor. They easily impress their elders by their sheer energy. They can't seem to stay still; anyone who has watched a three-year-old dance witnesses sheer delight in just moving. They're like sponges, soaking up new things, eager to learn and expand their vocabulary. They try to discover how things work by poking at anthills or taking old clocks apart. The world to them is new; they approach it wide-eyed, delighted to be here, acting out what the French call *joie de vivre*, the joy of life. They not only accept the world the way it presents itself, they want to probe it, sink themselves into it, grow up in it.

Which illustrates what I think Jesus means by accepting the kingdom of God like a child. There are two ways we can accept something. We can accept it because that's the way it is, and we just receive it as is – the passive view. That's unfortunately the way many who have outgrown childhood accept the kingdom of God: they receive it passively without expecting to accomplish anything of value. Or we can accept it as a doorway to something new and inviting – the active view. "Behold, I make all things new," Jesus says (Rev. 21:5). He invites us to climb higher up and farther in. In the text of Mark's gospel, the Greek word for "to accept" carries the sense of welcoming. Accepting the kingdom of God like a child is embracing it as a whole new world to explore.

Jesus delighted in children, embracing them and blessing them. (Indeed, Mark seems to have placed these four verses in the context of Jesus' teaching on marriage, as if addressing modern adults who dislike children and want to avoid raising them.) His words to his disciples, though, apply directly to us who have outgrown our own childhood. "Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." The commentators are right: like children we have no accomplishments with which to earn God's favor. The kingdom of

God is indeed an unmerited gift. But to accept it as a child, we need to do more than to receive the kingdom passively. It is given to us to be actively welcomed, delighted in, explored, and loved here on earth, so it can reach its completion in heaven. †

NOTICE REGARDING CEMETERY DECORATIONS

The Cemetery Board asks all parishioners to remember: It's that time of the year again! *Kindly remove all decorations on graves at St. Mary Cemetery by Oct. 15* for Fall Cleanup. Items remaining after that date will be discarded. Winter grave decorations may be placed on graves after Nov. 15. Thank you.

Birthday Blessings!

- ★ **OCTOBER 5**
OrLynn Kouba
- ★ **OCTOBER 6**
James Achtenberg
Carol Moretto
- ★ **OCTOBER 7**
Martin Brogley
Timothy Timoszyk
- ★ **OCTOBER 8**
George Kuboff
Morgan McFarland
Larry McGee

Coast-to-Coast Rosary at St. Mary's

Our parish will participate in the nationwide COAST-TO-COAST ROSARY next **Sun., Oct 10** at 4pm in the church. This Rosary will be specifically for our country to return to its roots in God in these times of radical change. Join thousands nationwide! *Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!*

Altar Society News

Even though we are not holding meetings, that doesn't mean things aren't about to happen. We will again be doing the CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE, the HOLIDAY DRAWING, and the BAKE SALE. Order forms for the Wreath Sale will be available **the end of October**; the Holiday Letters with the books of 10 tickets will be mailed out **about the same time**; and the Bake Sale will be held **Sat., Dec. 4** at the Manchester United Methodist Church – we look forward to all the delicious homemade food items made by St. Mary's great bakers that will be offered. More information to come. Thank you. —*Marja Warner*

Knights of Columbus Corner

It has been a busy summer at St Mary Parish with the Ice Cream Social, Rummage Sale, and Appreciation Dinner. Many dedicated parishioners worked many hours to make sure all of the events were successful.

To all the men that I have personally talked to, over the last year, I would like to encourage you to prayerfully consider joining the Knights of Columbus. All of you already support our many Parish activities with your time and hard work; joining us means joining a brotherhood serving the larger Church community. Our ceremony for joining the K of C can take place at St Mary Church after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday. You will not have to be away from your families to join the K of C, because your family members are encouraged to attend and witness this beautiful ceremony.

As we move into fall, October will be a busy month for the Knights of Columbus. We start off with our TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE on **Oct. 8 and 9**, by putting on our familiar yellow vests and collecting donations from the Manchester community at the various businesses. Next, we will be having a PARISH BREAKFAST in the FFH after the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses on **Sun. Oct. 10** (serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, orange juice, milk, coffee, and sweets).

We have our REGULAR MEETING on **Mon. Oct. 11** at 7:00pm. Then on **Wed., Oct. 13** the Manchester Council will be hosting a 4TH DEGREE MEETING at the Parish Center attended by about 30 members from the Cardinal O'Hara Assembly.

Please email me or talk to me after Mass on Sunday with any questions you have (abrog66@gmail.com • 734-972-9204)

—*Martin Brogley*, Grand Knight Manchester K of C Council 4354

Disabilities Mass and Speaker Luncheon

Each individual is wonderfully made, and when our faith community comes together to worship, we become one Body in Christ. Please join us this **Sun. Oct. 3** at 11:30am for a standard Sunday Mass at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Saline with some additions to welcome and integrate those with disabilities.

The Mass will be appropriate for those with sensory difficulties, an ASL interpreter will be present, worship aids available for those needing large print and braille, quiet spaces for individuals needing a break will be available, and we will have extra ushers to assist with mobility and other needs. Most importantly, it is a welcoming environment.

Immediately following the Mass, please join us in the Parish Hall to welcome guest speaker Catherine Blatnik from the Diocese of Lansing. A light lunch will be provided by the Knights of Columbus and dessert provided by Baked Goods by Dominic. For questions, contact Janice Raymond at janicer081@gmail.com or Becky Goulet at tbgoulet@yahoo.com

"I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!" (Psalm 139:14)

Alber Orchard is looking for help

Therese Bossory at the Alber Orchard is looking for kids 7 years old and up to pick up "deer" apples at the orchard. Children can earn \$2 per bag, up to \$20 each. Families with children and youth, if you are interested please contact Therese Bossory at 734-649-9064.

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

- + Joseph and + Suzanne Germek
(Kathy & Martin Brogley)
- +Leon Ball
(Nicholas Krzyzaniak)

Altar Flowers
OCTOBER 3, 2021
+ Joseph and +Helen Germek
[Kathy & Martin Brogley]

Please Pray for...

- Shirley Krzyzaniak
- Robin Schmidt
- Mike Stem
- Dawn Gaylord
- Emilienne Ramde
- Sr. Ann Mahany
- Michelle Henderson
- Delores Oakley
- George Oakley
- Michelle & Jon Hagopian
- Paul Marion
- Sean Sangster
- Mike Gibbons
- Bruce Sommers
- Luise Kienzle
- Christy Woody
- Jerry Kripas
- Joe Kirk
- Joyce Stein
- Loretta Widmayer
- Connie Stancato
- Duane Beuerle
- Annie (sister of Lynn Waldecker)
- Paul Whelan (imprisoned in Russia)
- Pam Wils
- Larry Lehmann

...and for the repose of the soul of
† Adamo Venditti
and for his grieving loved ones.

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, September 19, 2021

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunday Env (52) | \$ 2,568.50 |
| Welcome & Loose | 195.00 |
| E-Giving (10) | 1,193.89 |
| Assumpt BVM | 25.00 |
| Combined toward budget: | ... \$ 3,982.39 |
| Budget goal: | 5,300.00 |
| Amt BELOW goal: | ... - 1,317.61 |

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Bldg. & Maint (3) | \$ 70.00 |
| Poor Box | 51.00 |
| Votive candles | 25.00 |
| Coffee Hour | 55.00 |

THINK YOU MIGHT BE PREGNANT? NEED HELP? ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION
Call (800) 712-HELP (4357)
24-hr emergency pregnancy help

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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