

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

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Prudence vs. the “Principle of Waste”

– Dcn. Dennis Walters –

PARISH OFFICE MANAGERS WHO TRACK DONATIONS HAVE OBSERVED that, in general, wealthy parishioners seem to donate less to the Church than poorer parishioners do. While there are numerous exceptions to this, the general pattern seems to be that the wealthier one is, the less one tends to contribute.

From a purely human point of view, managing one’s money responsibly calls for a great deal of prudence. Prudence is one of the four cardinal virtues. According to the book of Proverbs, “the prudent man looks where he is going” (Prv. 14:15). So when it comes to finances, it’s only prudent to ask yourself where you’re going with your money.

Prudence indicates that you pay what is necessary before you consider what is optional. So, especially if you believe that money is tight, you pay your basic bills first – food, housing, utilities – before deciding where the rest of your income goes. That often puts the Church in the “optional” category.

It may come as something of a shock to learn that our standard of prudence is upside down from God’s. Today’s readings provide two good examples of this.

In our first reading (1 Kings 17:10-16), the prophet Elijah comes in the midst of a three-year famine to a Gentile town, where he meets a widow

gathering firewood. Her food supply has run out; she has only enough for one last meal for herself and her son. When Elijah asks her for food, he promises that her supply of flour and oil will not run out, provided that she first serve him and then herself and her son.

Prudence would dictate that she feed her family first and give Elijah anything left over. But for whatever reason – be it Middle Eastern standards of hospitality or an instinctive faith – she trusts his promise and feeds the prophet before she and her son eat. And her trust is miraculously rewarded.

In our second example (Mark 12:41-44), Jesus points to a widow who puts two coins called leptons – worth less than two cents in our coinage – into the Temple treasury. He commends her generosity over that of all those contributing much larger sums because they give out of their abundance, whereas she gives out of her poverty.

Jesus is not suggesting that donating out of one’s abundance is unworthy – continued on p. 2

Last weekend parents and little ones alike enjoyed the annual evening of dress-up and candy! Even the rectory was busy with costumed visitors on this day named for and originally observed as “the night-before-All Saints Day” – the feast day that introduces our month of November when in a special way we remember and pray for all the faithful departed. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...*



St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ❖ Nov. 6-14, 2021
Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

**DCN. DENNIS' ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:
Prudence vs. the "Principle of Waste"**

SAT. NOV. 6 *Weekday (opt. mem. Bl. Virgin Mary)*

Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27 3:30-4:30pm Confession
Lk 16:9-15 ➤ **5:00PM VIGIL MASS for the 32nd Sun. in Ordinary Time: For the People**

SUN. NOV. 7 *32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

1 Kgs 17:10-16 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession
Heb 9:24-28 ➤ **8:30am MASS:** † Margaret Riley
Mk 12:38-44 (or 12:41-44) [Ellen O'Sullivan]
➤ **10:30am MASS:** † Leon Ball [The Punches Family]
4-5:30pm Confirmation Class / PC

MON. NOV. 8 *Weekday*

Wis 1:1-7 ➤ **12:10pm MASS:** † Leon Ball
Lk 17:1-6 [Jim & Ella Landini]
12:45pm (following Mass) Amazing Greys / FFH
3:30-4:45pm Rel Educ class / PC

TUES. NOV. 9 *Feast: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 ➤ **8:30am MASS:** † Leon Ball
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17 [Betty Cummings]
Jn 2:13-22

WED. NOV. 10 *Memorial: St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church*

Wis 6:1-11 ➤ **8:30am MASS:** INT. Health of Simon
Lk 17:11-19 & Susan Vattathara [Mariamma Jacob]

THUR. NOV. 11 *Memorial: St. Martin of Tours, Bishop*

Wis 7:22b-8:1 ➤ **8:30am MASS:** † Leon Ball
Lk 17:20-25 [Jim Krzyzaniak]

FRI. NOV. 12 *Memorial: St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr*

Wis 13:1-9 ➤ **8:30am MASS:** † Angelia Carrier
Lk 17:26-37 [John & Tina Doyle]

SAT. NOV. 13 *Memorial: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin*

Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9 3:30-4:30pm Confession
Lk 18:1-8 ➤ **5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time:**
† Leon Ball [Jean Rzley]

SUN. NOV. 14 *33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Dn 12:1-3 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession
Heb 10:11-14, 18 ♦ Coffee Hour following each of the
Mk 13:24-32 Sunday Masses
➤ **8:30am MASS:** † Dick Krzyzaniak [His loving wife Shirley Krzyzaniak]
➤ **10:30am MASS: For the People** ■

or trifling. Rich people can be incredibly generous; some contribute thirty percent and more of their personal income to the Church. Yet their level of income permits that generosity; they have almost no need to pinch pennies. But the widow's gift matters more to Jesus because she cannot afford it. Setting prudence aside, she puts God before herself, trusting Him to provide for her.

Both stories, of course, are about a kind of "imprudent" faith. Wealthy or not, all of us are poor before God – all we have belongs to Him; we're only using it. So it's only appropriate that we should give some of it back.

The question is, how to be both generous and prudent?

The answer may lie in a story that all four gospels tell of a wealthy woman – in John's gospel, it's Mary, Martha's sister – who at a banquet anoints Jesus by pouring a vial of expensive nard over his head (John 12:1-8). The disciples (specifically, Judas) complain, "Why this waste? That perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor." The question not only attacks the woman's imprudence, but it also suggests that Jesus is not worth the extravagance.

In response, Jesus explains that the woman is performing a work of mercy toward Him, preparing his body for its burial; He then adds, "Wherever in all the world the Gospel is preached, what she has done will be told in memory of her" (Matt 26:13). Her deed illustrates what one preacher calls "the principle of waste."

As he explains it, the "principle of waste" is part of the Gospel message. Giving from our resources – our time, our talent, our treasure – is a way of giving ourselves. It's what Scripture means by commanding us to love God with our "whole heart, our whole mind, our whole soul, and all our strength" (Mark 12:30).

The phrase "our strength" refers to our personal and material resources. We are called to "waste" ourselves on God. The sort of "prudence" where we take care of ourselves first is not part of that.

The episode of Elijah with the widow of Zarephath illustrates the principle of waste: in God's dispensation, real prudence says we give to God first and the rest will follow. Is there a risk to that? Of course. Faith always involves some level of risk; otherwise, it's not faith. But God is not stingy; He gives back. As the story illustrates, He in turn provides for our needs.

So how much of ourselves is it prudent to give to God? 10%? 25%? (Note that 50% is half-hearted!) The widow Jesus observes suggests an answer: 100%. God wants our heart – all of it. Of course, He will take whatever we give Him. But He wants it as a gift. If we give Him all we are, even if it's not much, we give more than someone does who is rich in resources but out of prudence gives only a percentage.

In the spiritual life, prudence indicates that we should imitate Jesus. He became poor for our sake and wasted Himself on us. As I said earlier, all of us are poor before God; we're only using what belongs to Him. If we then, out of our poverty, give Him all we have – if we "waste" ourselves on Him – we can trust that He will not withhold anything we need to live on. †

Altar Flowers

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

+In memory of
+Ronald J. Boglarsky

[Kelly Flaherty, his
daughter, & family]

Birthday Blessings!

NOVEMBER 7

Aidan Doyle
Anna McGoff

NOVEMBER 9

Dianna Roberts

NOVEMBER 10

Matthew Burch

NOVEMBER 13

Ingeborg Roncoli



AN "EYE-OPENER" KNOWN AS "THE HOLY FACE PROJECT" resumed its Lansing presence on Nov. 1 with a billboard at the intersection of Grand River Ave. and the northbound US-127 entrance. The contract for this billboard extends through Jan. 23, 2022. This location offers the highest visibility in the area as it has over 342,000 impressions per week. The project is funded through January. With the support of parishioners, parishes, and Knights of Columbus councils this project may be extended through the Easter Season. Another \$5,000.00 needs to be raised to support this effort. If your parish or K of C council may consider assisting in this effort, please contact Tony Cherniawski at 517-331-5200.

Our Parish "Book of Eternal Life"

During this month of November, we remember the souls of all our dear ones who have been born into eternal life. As a parish, we have a book of names in the front of the church, near the statue of our Blessed Mother. All are invited to write in this book the names of anyone you would like remembered at each Holy Mass during this month of remembrance and prayer.

All humanity is bound together by the common mortality in which Christ Jesus came to share. With us he died, so that in him we might rise to everlasting life.

Let us learn from those who have gone before us how to live well so that we may die well, and let us accompany them on their journey with our love and prayer.

Career Opportunity with the Catholic Foundation

The Catholic Foundation serving the Diocese of Lansing is looking for experienced fundraising professionals for two open positions within the organization. One position is a Development Officer and the other is a Major Gifts Officer. To learn more about these positions and other job openings throughout the Diocese, please visit: dioceseoflansing.org/human-resources/careers

"Undone: Freedom for the Feminine Heart"

Ladies, do you desire to dive deeper into the freedom that you were created for? Do you feel restricted and bound by the knots of sin and shame that conceal the profound beauty of your feminine heart? Then plan to attend this special conference put on by the John Paul II Healing Center! "Undone: Freedom for the Feminine Heart" will be coming to Christ the King Catholic Church in Ann Arbor on **Thursday and Friday nights and all-day Saturday, November 11-13**. Both in-person and livestream options are available:

- In-person registration is \$150 and includes a box lunch on Saturday.
- Livestream registration is \$119.

To learn more and register, go to jpiihealingcenter.org/events/undone-womens-conference-ann-arbor-mi. Questions? Email JPIIRetreatAnnArborMI@gmail.com.

Aquinas College Open House

Aquinas College welcomes interested high school students and their families to a Fall Open Houses on **Sat., Nov. 13!** Choose your own path through sessions throughout the day as you get the inside scoop on academics, athletics, service learning, study abroad and more! Details and registration information can be found at aquinas.edu/visit-days-open-house

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience

Take a time out to refresh your marriage and your faith by attending a weekend experience at the Weber Center in Adrian on **Nov 19-21!** Apply today at wwme.org and put MI in the search bar. For questions, contact Chris & Darla Vinton at 269-953-8287.

Contemplative Retreat for women - Advent: Peace

On the weekend of **Fri-Sun, Nov. 19-21** at St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt, Bert Schomberger will facilitate a predominantly silent retreat for women. It will focus on preparing for Advent and seeking the peace of Christ. This retreat will include presentations, two Masses, opportunity for Reconciliation, and ample time for individual reflection and prayer. Guests are welcome to bring Bibles, journals, books, art supplies, or anything else that will add peace to their experience. The Chapel is open at all times during this retreat for personal prayer. The registration fee is \$185 and includes all meals, lodging, and materials. This retreat is held in the Retreat House. Rooms are private – some share a connecting bath; others use community restrooms down the hall. For more info or to register, visit form.jotform.com/212834726624054

Married Couples Weekend: December 3-5

The weekend features inspiring presentations focused on maintaining and strengthening your marriage. Plus, a renewal of vows and blessing of wedding rings ceremony, Mass, fun social receptions, and down time for prayer with your spouse. Registration fee is \$325 per couple, which covers all lodging, meals, and retreat materials. Check in/social hour on Friday at 5:30pm followed by a small plate dinner at 7pm. This retreat takes place in the Bethany House. Each room is private with a private bathroom. The Retreat Center provides towels and linens. For more info or to register, visit: form.jotform.com/212843838372058



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

- 1) For All Veterans
(Gerald & Mary Shaw)
- 2) ...

Please Pray for...

- Sonja Rhees
- Bette Ball
- James Fleischman
- Carl (Beth Ball's brother)
- James Strong
- Carlos Cornu and all Kathy Sangster's sister's family.
- Kirsten (stepdaughter of Laurie Sanders' brother Mark)
- Christy Woody
- Jerry Kripas
- Joyce Stein
- Loretta Widmayer
- Joe Kirk
- Connie Stancato
- Duane Beuerle
- Annie (sister of Lynn Waldecker)
- Baby Keaton
- Lee Anton
- Eric & Helena Zink

Holy Mother Mary, Queen of All Saints, Pray for Us

Let us pray to the Queen of All Saints for the grace to remember that God has created us to live a life of holiness in this world and to become saints in heaven. God will give us enough grace to do this if only we have an earnest desire for holiness just as Mary did. Holiness does not consist in heroic deeds, but in doing the will of God perfectly, loving God with all our heart and our neighbor for God's sake, keeping our soul from sin, and being united with God through prayer and the sacraments. Let us pray to Mary to obtain for us the grace to imitate her holiness in this world and enjoy the vision of God and her presence for all eternity in heaven. Amen.



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, October 24, 2021

Sunday Env (53)	\$ 4,422.00
Welcome & Loose	134.00
E-Giving (6)	264.20
All Souls Day	50.00
Christmas Decorations	25.00
Combined toward budget:	... \$ 4,895.20
Budget goal:	5,300.00
Amt BELOW goal: - 404.80
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:	
Bldg. & Maint (5)	\$ 130.00
Mission Coop Appeal	20.00
World Mission	245.00
Poor Box	31.20
Votive candles	164.00

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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