

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ♦ DECEMBER 5, 2021

TIMING and the FUNDAMENTAL CHOICE

– Dcn. Dennis Walters –

THE GOSPEL READING FOR THIS SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT OPENS with Luke's effort to pinpoint the time and location of John the Baptist's appearance in Judea. In an age without calendars, Luke uses a list of the names of those in various forms of authority to give his readers a rough idea of when things happened. We often do the same thing when we can't recall an exact date, but do remember the time when so-and-so was president, what's-his-name was governor, which songs were popular then, and so on. Modern scholars can determine from Luke's listing that the year of John's appearance was around 30 A.D., and the locale was a section of the Jordan River near the Dead Sea.

Why was all that information, particularly the timing, important?

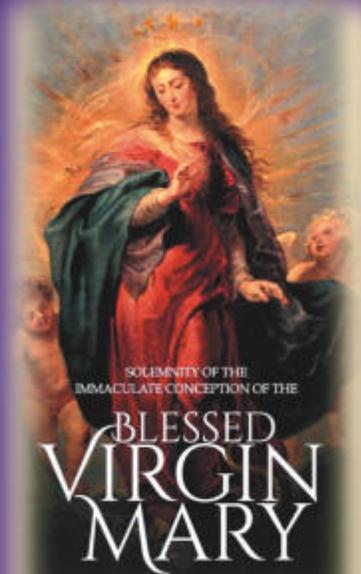
Jewish expectation of the Messiah's arrival had reached a fevered pitch of excitement around the time Luke points to. The Book of Daniel prophesied that roughly four hundred ninety years would pass from the beginning of the Babylonian exile until an anointed one would come to "put an end to sin and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet and to anoint a most holy place" (Dan 9:24). Many in 30 A.D. believed that the fulfilment

of God's plan had arrived.

When the Baptist appeared preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, he repeatedly had to deny that he was the awaited Messiah (Luke 3:15ff; John 1:19-28). However, he said, this baptism of repentance was needed to prepare people's minds and hearts for the advent of the kingdom of heaven that was now at hand in the person of Jesus of Nazareth (Matt. 3:2).

There is a way that Luke's emphasis on timing can apply to each of us. Advent is a time when the Church proclaims a

—continued on p. 2



We witness the truth of Our Lord's promise in the Immaculate Heart of Mary, His Mother and His First and Most Perfect Disciple. Having been preserved from every stain of sin from the first moment of her life, by the Mystery of the Immaculate Conception, she was prepared to be the living tabernacle in which God the Son would take a human heart under her Immaculate Heart. She was always totally for her Divine Son. (Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke)

A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

WED., DECEMBER 8

Masses on the Holy Day at 8:30am and 7:00pm

and a Vigil Mass on Tues, Dec. 7 at 7:00pm

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

DCN. DENNIS' ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:
Timing and the Fundamental Choice

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| SAT. DEC. 4 | | <i>Weekday (opt. mem. St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church)</i> |
| Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 8:30am FIRST SATURDAY MASS: ✠ Tom Burch [Curt & Barb Fielder] 3:30-4:30pm Confession ➤ 5:00pm Vigil MASS for the Second Sunday of Advent ✠ Mary VanHouten [John & Tina Doyle] | |
| SUN. DEC. 5 | | <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> |
| Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession ➤ 8:30am MASS: For the People ➤ 10:30am MASS: ✠ Leon Ball [Pete & Inge Roncoli] 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation Class / PC | |
| MON. DEC. 6 | | <i>Advent Weekday (opt. mem. St. Nicholas, Bishop)</i> |
| Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 12:10pm MASS: ✠ Fr. Francis Murray [Jim & Ella Landini] 3:30-4:45pm Rel Ed Classes / PC | |
| TUES. DEC. 7 | | <i>Memorial: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> |
| Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 8:30am MASS: ✠ Mike Stem [John & Tina Doyle] ➤ 7:00pm VIGIL MASS FOR THE HOLY DAY: INT Anna Muldoon (93rd birthday) [Tina & John Doyle] | |
| WED. DEC. 8 | | <i>Solemnity: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> |
| Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 8:30am HOLY DAY MASS: ✠ Tom Burch [Curt & Barb Fielder] ➤ 7:00pm HOLY DAY MASS: ✠ Victoria Curley [St. Mary Altar Society] | |
|  <p>Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin Mary too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did. And if anyone does not wish to have Mary Immaculate for his mother, he will not have Christ for his brother. (ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE)</p> | | |
| THUR. DEC. 9 | | <i>Feast: The Anniversary of the Dedication of Saint Mary Cathedral</i> |
| Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 8:30am MASS: ✠ Angelia Carrier [Frank & Cindy Remski and family] 7:00pm Choir rehearsal / choir loft | |
| FRI. DEC. 10 | | <i>Advent Weekday (opt. mem. Our Lady of Loreto)</i> |
| Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 8:30am MASS: ✠ Leon Ball [The Panches Family] | |
| SAT. DEC. 11 | | <i>Weekday (opt. mem. St. Damasus I, Pope)</i> |
| Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30-4:30pm Confession ➤ 5:00pm Vigil MASS for the Third Sunday of Advent: In loving memory of ✠ Natalie Daubner [Her Family] | |
| SUN. DEC. 12 | | <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> |
| Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coffee Hour after each Sunday Mass 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession ➤ 8:30am MASS: ✠ Adamo Venditti [John & Tina Doyle] ➤ 10:30am MASS: For the People 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation Class/PC | |

message of repentance to prepare for the Lord's coming – in the first two weeks of Advent, specifically, preparations for His Second Coming and in the last two weeks for His first coming at Christmas.

It's important that we take this call to repentance seriously, since delaying repentance until the end of life is like playing Russian Roulette with our salvation.

I want to be clear about the kind of repentance the Baptist is thinking of. People who came to him for baptism wanted to turn away from sinful patterns of life. But they would not have come to John if they weren't also thinking of something more positive; namely, a desire to be ready for the Messiah, a desire to turn toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

This was no getting rid of superficial imperfections like using bad language or watching too much television. Besides, given the biblical view of sin versus righteousness, there are no allowances for "gray areas" where I can't decide whether what I'm doing is right or wrong, so I do it anyway. Scripture doesn't admit of "gray areas." In biblical terms, I'm either wise or a fool, righteous or wicked, a sheep or a goat. So, when it comes to wanting entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven, it's either For or Against, In or Out, Yes or No. Repentance of this sort is radical; it strikes to the root of my identity. Here, the subject of repentance is that *one choice* at the core of my being, that one "fundamental option" that, when made, sets the overall direction for the rest of my life.

Who of us has not allowed ourselves to drift along, taking things as they come, letting circumstances determine what we do with our lives, even determine what their ultimate purpose is? We may have settled on something we're passionate about, like saving the environment or building a career that helps people; we may even have sensed a vocation to using the environment or our career to advance the Catholic faith. But these choices are temporal.

The Kingdom (Jesus himself) calls for a specific, conscious response to a question even more fundamental: Do we want Him or not?

All of us will face a moment in the history of our lives when the Lord will face us with that question. It may come at one recognizable moment, or it may crystallize over a period of years. But seizing the moment is critical, lest it slip by. In my own case – and purely by God's grace – the time to answer that question occurred just when I had reached the point of deciding to leave the faith, and I can still remember the year, the month, and the day I finally realized what the question was and said Yes. When I did, all my other concerns fell into place.

The baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins that John preached was an invitation to make that one fundamental choice: Yes or No, In or Out, Toward God or Away from Him. Not to decide one way or the other is to say No. If you want to say Yes, you need to say so consciously, deliberately, and with conviction, and then renew your choice every day.

If you have not yet said that fundamental Yes, or if you don't even know whether you have, the time is right this Advent to turn to the Lord and ask for the grace to say it. The time of fulfillment in God's plan for your life has arrived. In your heart make straight the way of the Lord, so he can level the mountains and fill the valleys of your life. †

ISAIAH, OUR ADVENT COMPANION
 Provident Father, you prepared the world to receive your Son. Prepare our minds and hearts now by your prophet Isaiah, that in our flesh we might see your salvation.
Advent Companion 12/05/2021

MARY RESCUES SINNERS
 Eternal Father, grant that Mary, my Mother, the Immaculate Conception, may clothe me with the integrity of her Son and yours.
Advent Companion 12/08/2021

TAILOR-MADE
 Father of all, teach me how best to live in my current circumstances. Enlighten me by your grace, and give me the fortitude to carry out your will, even when I find it difficult.
Advent Companion 12/12/2021

Christmas Poinsettias

The parish Holiday Decorating Committee will be ordering poinsettias from the Flower Garden for the Christmas Masses, and parishioners are invited to sponsor one or more plants. The cost is \$17, and Susie will need your order by **Mon. Dec. 13**. Order forms are available in the vestibule.

Bible Study to begin after Christmas

The Bible Timeline series starting on **Thurs., Jan 27** will meet on consecutive Thursdays in five clusters of 4-5 sessions each spread over 7 months. If you feel unsettled about the disturbing events swirling around us these days, you might consider getting to know what God has to say about it. The parallels in both the Old and New Testaments dating back over 2500yrs are packed with insights. This Bible Timeline series makes understanding Scripture available to the average Christian. It was designed for people who avoid reading the Bible because they just can't connect with it. The promotion flyer and sign-up envelope are in the church vestibule.

"Thanks" from the Altar Society...

The Altar Society would like to thank all of you who supported the Wreath Sale, the Holiday Raffle, and supplied all of the goodies that were sold at the Bake Sale at the Methodist church. Because of your support, we are able to continue to pay for the altar candles, Advent candles, the tall Easter candle, and other things for the church and for Father Bosco. Without your generous support, we could not do this. The names of those who won the items from the Raffle will be published at a later date. Again, THANK YOU, and God Bless.

Turkey Dinner for Senior Citizens ~

The 3rd and 4th graders at Riverside Intermediate School will be hosting and honoring the Senior Citizens of Manchester with a turkey dinner on **Wed., Dec. 8** at 11am, at the school. All senior citizens are invited and no RSVP is needed.

Talk on Saint Joseph at Pious Union

During this "Year of St. Joseph," the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake has been holding a series of talks on St. Joseph, on the 3rd Sunday of each month. However, for December, with the closing of the Year, the talk will be this **Sun., Dec. 5**, again at 6pm. Come in-person or watch live on Facebook (PiousUnion/ShrineofStJoseph) or the Shrine website (www.PiousUnionOfStJoseph.org). For more info, call 517-522-8017.

O most blessed Patriarch, glorious St. Joseph, who was chosen to be the foster father of the Word made flesh and the chaste spouse of Mary, pray for us.

Calling All Prayer Warriors

We are updating our parish Prayer Tree list. If you would like to receive the prayer requests via email so you can include these needs in your prayers, please email a message to sfielder@umich.edu. If you'd like to receive prayer requests via the phone messages, please call 734-972-5652. Thank you.

As we approach the end of the calendar year...

There are many excellent reasons for being generous in your support of the Church. God blesses us, the Church reminds us of that obligation, and we may even experience a tax advantage. Please consider making an extra contribution to the parish before the end of the calendar year. We know that you have many options when it comes to your end-of-year giving, and thank you for thinking of us.

In the Vestibule: Special for Advent

Be sure to pick up a copy of the **MAGNIFICAT ADVENT COMPANION** from the main vestibule.

Also, consider supporting the parish by purchasing one of the **2022 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CALENDARS** that have been donated by the artist to the parish for a parish fund-raiser. See the display in the main vestibule.

PARISH ADVENT NEWSLETTER: Did you receive your copy in the mail? If not, please make sure the parish office has your correct mailing address. And be sure to pick up a copy from the main vestibule to read about the latest parish news for the Advent season. ■



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

- 1) +Victoria Curley
(Marilyn & Allan DeShano)
- 2) ...

Birthday Blessings!

DECEMBER 5
Mark Ball
Lynn Miller

DECEMBER 7
Mary Ann Gilbert
Peter Roncoli

DECEMBER 11
Jan Little

Please Pray for...

| | |
|--|---|
| • Eric Feiler | • Karl Kemner |
| • Mark Wiedmayer | • Ryan Colter |
| • Barbara Patrick | • Joyce Stein |
| • "L," friend of Claudia Damian | • John Huber (brother of Sarah Laskowski) |
| • Joseph Ruiz | • Bette Ball |
| • Xander Antecio | • Christy Woody |
| • Bob Scharpenberg | • Jerry Kripas |
| • Kirsten (stepdaughter of Laurie Sanders' brother Mark) | • Joe Kirk |
| • Joe Novak | • Loretta Widmayer |
| • Luise Kienzle | • Connie Stancato |
| • Sonja Rhees | • Duane Beuerle |
| | • Eric & Helena Zink |

...and for the repose of the soul of
† Pauline Messer
and for her grieving loved ones.

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, November 21, 2021

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunday Env (51) | \$ 5,752.00 |
| Welcome & Loose | 307.00 |
| E-Giving (11) | 657.05 |
| Christmas decorations (1) | 5.00 |
| Combined toward budget: | ... \$ 6,721.05 |
| Budget goal: | 5,300.00 |
| Amt ABOVE goal: | + 1,421.05 |

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Bldg. & Maint (1) | \$ 5.00 |
| Campaign for Human Dev (9) | 183.00 |
| Catholic Social Teaching | 529.00 |
| Poor Box | 2.00 |
| Votive candles | 37.00 |

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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