

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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ♦ DECEMBER 12, 2021

“WHAT THEN SHOULD WE DO?”

– Fr. Bosco Padamattummal –

“**W**hat then should we do?” That question is at the center of today’s gospel (Luke 3:7-18). It has its origin in John the Baptist’s call for repentance. Today’s gospel is the continuation of last week’s (Luke 3:1-6). You may remember his words from last week:

*Repent. Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.
Valleys shall be filled. Mountains and hills shall be made low. The crooked shall be made straight.
The rough ways shall be made smooth.*

The question “What then should we do?” applies in every situation in which there is suffering, violence, pain, and brokenness. These are not questions conditioned on guilt, but questions about how we live our faith in this world. John the Baptist doesn’t want excuses, he wants action. “Bear fruits worthy of repentance,” he says.

“What then should we do?” That question is asked of St. John the Baptist three times. The crowds ask it. The tax collectors ask it. The soldiers ask it. It’s a question many of us are asking. How many of you have asked that question as you look at the world today? My guess is that most of us have. How many of you have had circumstances in your personal life or relationships that left you asking that question? I think we all have.

What’s behind that question? What is it really about? It’s more than a request for information. It is a question that points to and reveals our sense of powerlessness. When I hear you ask that question, when I hear myself ask that question, I hear us saying that we’ve come up against something bigger than ourselves. We’re scared and overwhelmed. Life is out of control. We feel helpless to fix the situation. —continued on p. 2

‘Tis the Season... and... “The Reason for the Season”



The “Strolling Singers” on Main Street downtown during Christmas in the Village (Dec. 4) were none other than our own St. Mary choir members!



The Altar Society once again hosted a “Christmas in the Village Bake Sale” with holiday treats by our excellent parish bakers and chaired by Michelle Dettling.



Each Sunday of Advent, a parish family lights for us another candle in the Advent wreath (pictured here are the Carl & Danielle Van Hoof family).



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful preparation for welcoming the arrival of the Christ Child at Christmas. Penance Services are this coming week. (See schedule on p. 3)

St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ❖ Dec. 11-19, 2021
 Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

SAT. DEC. 11	<i>Weekday (opt. mem. St. Damasus I, Pope)</i>
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	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	<i>Coffee Hour after each Sunday Mass</i> 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
MON. DEC. 13	<i>Memorial: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Mt 21:23-27	➤ 12:10pm MASS: † Fr. Raymond Schlinkert [Jim & Ella Landini] 3:30-4:45pm Rel Ed Classes / PC 7:00pm Advent Penance Service / St. Andrew, Saline
TUES. DEC. 14	<i>Memorial: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Mt 21:28-32	➤ 8:30am MASS: In memory of † Bernita Aiuto on her birthday [Kathy Cornell] 7:00pm Advent Penance Service / St. Joseph, Dexter
WED. DEC. 15	<i>Advent Weekday</i>
Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25 Lk 7:18b-23	➤ 8:30am MASS: † Leon Ball [Sally Gavin] 7pm Advent Penance Service / St. Mary, Chelsea
THUR. DEC. 16	<i>Advent Weekday</i>
Is 54:1-10 Lk 7:24-30	➤ 8:30am MASS: † Vicky Curley [Bill & Astrida Panches] 7pm Advent Penance Service / St. Mary, Manchester
FRI. DEC. 17	<i>Advent Weekday</i>
Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17	➤ 8:30am MASS: † Victoria Curley [Marilyn & Allan DeShano]
SAT. DEC. 18	<i>Weekday</i>
Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25	3:30-4:30pm Confession ➤ 5:00pm Vigil MASS for the Fourth Sunday of Advent: In loving memory of † Gerald Damian [Clandia Damian]
SUN. DEC. 19	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Mi 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45	8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession ➤ 8:30am MASS: † Oscar & † Daisy Walz [Judy Walz] ➤ 10:30am MASS: For the People ■

FR. BOSCO'S ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:
"What then should we do?"

Most of the time we know what to do. Every day we make hundreds of decisions, big ones, little ones, life changing ones, some with lasting consequences, and others with temporary effect. We generally know what to do. But when our world gets turned upside down, when life feels like more than we can handle, when we feel powerless, that's when we cry out, "What then should we do?"

Our response to that question must begin not with what is happening around us but with what is happening within us. If we focus only on what is happening in the world around us, our response is basically limited to fight or flight, neither of which are "fruits worthy of repentance."

Powerlessness is the middle ground between fight and flight. We are powerless to fight the world's situations on our terms, and we are powerless to get away from them. That's a source for much of our fear, anxiety, anger, and frustration. That same powerlessness, however, can be our way forward.

Our powerlessness opens us to a new and different source of empowerment. Instead of limiting possibilities, our powerlessness now creates new possibilities with "the one who is more powerful." Powerlessness does not mean we have no choices; it means we must make different choices. We may be powerless to change the world, but we can choose to change ourselves. We may be powerless to escape the world, but we can choose to live a different way.

Isn't that what St. John the Baptist is telling those who come to him? He doesn't ask them to change the world but to change themselves. He doesn't tell them to quit their jobs but to live a different life. The crowds who came to him could not eliminate poverty, but they could share what they have with the cold and hungry. The tax collectors who came to him could not overhaul the tax code, but they could be honest. The soldiers who came to him could not end the Roman occupation, but they could act with integrity and not abuse their power. In each of those situations John focuses on people and relationships. His answers are simple, concrete, practical.

When we look around, John's answers have not yet fixed the problems. Poverty still remains, unjust economic systems still exist, and power is still abused. But let's be honest: Jesus didn't really fix the world either. He engaged and gave himself to the world. He loved the world to death and beyond. He showed a different way of being, a different way of living and relating. He offered different priorities and values, and then invited us to participate and follow him. In doing all that, he showed us what it means and looks like to be human, to be the dwelling place of God.

What then should we do? I cannot answer that question for you. It's your question to ask and yours to answer. I can, however, tell you some things I've seen and heard. As act of repentance...

- **Support our society in their efforts to feed someone who is hungry.** We won't eliminate hunger in this town, but we can do a small act of charity. It can be a way by which we realign our lives and values with the life and values of Christ.
- **Make a good confession before Christmas.**
- **Spend some time in silence with God** – whether in your room or any adoration chapels or in our parish church. That will not overcome the chaos and noise of the world. Instead, it can remind us that God is present in that chaos and noise.
- **Let us visit or call someone in need of company,** someone who is sick or cannot come to church or participate in the activities of our parish. That simple act can make someone really happy.
- **You have heard: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."** If you take the initiative to start a conversation or to fix a problem in the family or among friends, that can bring peace and joy to you and the other.

Each one of those are simple, concrete, practical acts of repentance. They may not change or fix the world, but they continue to hold the door open for the coming of "the one who is more powerful." †

O Come Let Us Adore Him!

Christmas invites us into an even more intimate union with Jesus. Please consider continuing this and drawing even closer when the new year begins by making time for **Eucharistic Adoration**—especially on Frist Fridays when we have **Exposition!** For each hour of Exposition, a parishioner commits to staying with Jesus. There are three open times needing to be filled: 11:00am–noon, 1:30–2:30pm, and 2:00–3:00pm. If you want to say “Yes” to spending time with Jesus, please contact Pete Nashif (who coordinates Adoration) at pjnashif@sbcglobal.net

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.

A new start to a new year...

If your Bible has been a dust collector, now is the time to dust it off. The “Bible Timeline” series starts on **Thurs., Jan 27**. Grab a promotion flyer and sign-up envelope from the church vestibule; read and consider participating. Your cost is \$25 because the parish is covering 1/3 of it. There are three ways you can participate: 1) In person sessions with video and discussion; 2) online, real time streaming of the in-person sessions; and 3) online self-study, anytime at your convenience via computer or smartphone. If you have questions, contact by phone or email either Dcn Dennis (734-761-3163 or waltersdennis1940@gmail.com) OR Bill Kwolek (734-428-7674 land, or 734-775-1124 cell, or bkwolek@comcast.net) OR the parish office at 734-428-8811.

Decorating for Christmas

Christmas is a time of special beauty. Please consider helping decorate the church for Christmas! We will begin indoor decorations on **Wed., Dec. 22**, and for that we will need “heavy-lifter” volunteers to carry Christmas trees and nativity figurines, etc. from the rectory basement. We also need volunteers to set up the indoor and outdoor nativity scenes and to assemble and fluff the trees.

On **Thur., Dec. 23**, we will need one volunteer to put the lights on the trees. Other volunteers will hang the wreaths and decorate the altar trees, etc.

Finally, we need additional volunteers to decorate the rectory porch and outdoor trees on **Wed. and/or Thurs., Dec. 22/23**. Please contact Sue Fielder at 734-972-5652 or sfielder@umich.edu if you are able to help. Thank you.

Year-end Contributions

There is still time to make a tax-deductible donation to St. Mary’s. We know that you have many options when it comes to your end-of-year giving, and thank you for thinking of us.

Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling

In the Christmas story, hope enters the world through the birth of a child, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Join us as we sing carols and share this Christmas hope where it’s needed most: the abortion facility here in our community. Hot chocolate and hand warmers will be provided. ❖ **EVENT:** Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling ❖ **WHEN:** Sat. Dec. 18 at 11:00am ❖ **WHERE:** Planned Parenthood Abortion Facility, 3100 Professional Dr., Ann Arbor.

For more info, please ❖ **CONTACT** Paul at SAFLAnnArbor@gmail.com or 734-657-0901 [Organized nationally – many locations – by Pro-Life Action League] ■

Area Penance Services during Advent – This coming week

Prepare for the Holy Celebration of Christmas! “*Prepare the way of the Lord!*” In addition to our regular times for Confession (Saturdays 3:30-4:30pm, and for 15 minutes one half-hour before each weekend Mass), we will have Area Penance Services at 7:00pm on the following days this coming week:

MON., DEC. 13 St. Andrew, <i>Saline</i>	TUES, DEC. 14 St. Joseph, <i>Dexter</i>	WED, DEV 15 St. Mary, <i>Chelsea</i>	THURS, DEC. 16 St. Mary, <i>Manchester</i>
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During each Penance Service there will be Scripture readings, prayer, an examination of conscience, and time for individual confession with one of the four area priests. *Maranatha!*



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

- 1) A birthday remembrance of +Esther Kuyda
(Gerald & Mary Shaw)
- 2) For a successful surgery & speedy recovery for Marja Warner
(Sylvie & Scott Strong)

Birthday Blessings!

DECEMBER 13
Ella Landini

DECEMBER 14
Shirley Krzyzaniak
Michael McFarland

DECEMBER 15
Sheila Doyle
Ted Szufnar

DECEMBER 16
Eric Beuerle
Mary Frances Fielder
Christine Kanta

DECEMBER 17
Beth Ball
Nancy Cocco

Please Pray for...

- Connie (Uhr) Marion and her daughter Milly & family
- Eric Feiler
- Mark Wiedmayer
- Barbara Patrick
- “L,” friend of Claudia Damian
- Sonja Rhees
- Joseph Ruiz
- Xander Antecio
- Bob Scharpenberg
- Kirsten (stepdaughter of Laurie Sanders’ brother Mark)
- Karl Kemner
- Ryan Colter

...and for the repose of the soul of
† Harold Kominars
and for his grieving loved ones.



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, November 28, 2021

Sunday Env (40) \$ 7,838.00
Welcome & Loose 215.00
E-Giving (12) 875.65
Christmas decorations (11) .. 255.00

Combined toward budget: ... \$ 9,183.65
Budget goal: 5,300.00
Amt ABOVE goal: + 3,883.65

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:
Bldg. & Maint (1) \$ 100.00
Campaign for Human Dev (9)...170.00
E-Givg Campgn f/Human Dev ... 25.00
Catholic Social Teaching 5.00
Poor Box 850.50
Votive candles 59.00

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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