

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 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH ♦ DECEMBER 26 2021

Family Classic

Christmas Movie Night

sponsored by the Parish Religious Educ. Ministry

The little ones were invited to Fr. Fisher Hall on Sat. Dec. 11 and encouraged to bring their blankets and wear their favorite Christmas PJs to enjoy Christmas movies as well as popcorn, candy, and beverages! The kids watched “Frosty the Snowman” and “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.” And even Santa made a surprise visit!



A GOOD DAY TO REMEMBER...

— Fr. Bosco Padamattummal —

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family.

Yesterday as we celebrated Christmas, I am sure most of us might have spent some time with family members. I also connected with family, with my siblings through video calls. The centrality of the family at Christmastime is perhaps because, at some deep level, we are aware that at the heart of this feast of Christmas is a family, what we call the Holy Family, whose feast we celebrate today.

When we refer to the Holy Family, we think of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Yesterday it was so beautiful to see the many young parents – who have been bringing their children to the church to pray – bring them to visit the manger. In bringing their children to the church in this way, parents are following in the footsteps of Mary and Joseph in Luke’s gospel. They would have brought their young child, Jesus, to the local synagogue in Nazareth from the earliest days of his life.

In Luke’s gospel, they are depicted as bringing Jesus all the way to the Temple in Jerusalem in keeping with the requirements of the Jewish Law. Their faith in God was central to the lives of Mary and Joseph, and they wanted to initiate their child into that same faith. Bringing their child to places associated with the worship of God was one of the ways they did that.

We have a most beautiful church here in this village. We are blessed with lovely stained-glass windows, attractive shrines of Joseph and Mary on both sides of the altar, striking Stations of the Cross... all of these can easily speak to children’s religious imagination.

Even more than the fabric and objects of the church is the amazing prayerfulness of our church. That is what I felt when I came first from Ann Arbor’s

—continued on p. 2 >>>

St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ❖ Dec. 26-Jan. 2, 2022
 Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

FR. BOSCO'S ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:
A Good Day to Remember...

SUN. DEC. 26	<i>Feast: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i>
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 (or 3:12-17) Lk 2:41-52 (or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/ 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52)	(Note: No confession time before Masses) ➤ 8:30am MASS: † Ed & † Dorothy Kirk [Judy Walcz] ➤ 10:30am MASS: For the People
MON. DEC. 27	<i>Feast: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	➤ 12:10pm MASS: † Victoria Curley [Pat Fitzgerald]
TUES. DEC. 28	<i>Feast: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>
1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	➤ 8:30am MASS: † Cliff Tracy [Sue Tracy]
WED. DEC. 29	<i>Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (opt. mem. St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr)</i>
1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35	➤ 8:30am MASS: † Victoria Curley [Marilyn & Allan DeShano]
THUR. DEC. 30	<i>Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</i>
1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40	➤ 8:30am MASS: † Leon Ball [Greg & Laurie Sanders]
FRI. DEC. 31	<i>Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (opt. mem. St. Sylvester I, Pope)</i>
1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18	➤ 8:30am MASS: † Mike Stem [Dan & Carol Selecki]
SAT. JANUARY 1, 2022	<i>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>
Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21	➤ 8:30am MASS: † Jim Ross [Bill & Astrida PUNCHES] ✦ Eucharistic Adoration following morning Mass 3:30-4:30pm Confession
➤ 5:00pm Vigil MASS for the Epiphany of the Lord: For the People	
SUN. JAN. 2	<i>Solemnity of The Epiphany of Lord</i>
Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12	8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession ➤ 8:30am MASS: † Vicky Curley [Bill & Astrida PUNCHES] ➤ 10:30am MASS: † Angelia Carrier [Frank & Cindy Remski] ■

huge modern church to our St. Mary's church. The faith of many generations of worshippers has left an impact on the atmosphere of this church. Bringing children to such a space for Christmas and every Sunday cannot help but nurture their emerging faith.

We speak of the home and family as the "domestic church." It is in that family setting, above all, that the faith is "caught" by children. Yet, our parish church is a space that can nurture faith in another way. It brings the domestic church into contact with the Church of the generations. It is a space where the faith of each one of us is nurtured, regardless of our age.

When Mary and Joseph brought their child, Jesus, to the Temple that day in Jerusalem, it certainly nurtured their faith, and through them the faith of their young child. They had the good fortune to meet two elderly worshippers, Simeon and Anna. Simeon is spoken of as upright and devout, someone on whom the Holy Spirit rested. And Anna is described as a prophetess, someone who was deeply steeped in God's word and could proclaim it to others. The Lord touched the lives of Mary, Joseph, and their child in and through these two older people of faith.

They both affirmed the identity of the young couple's child. Simeon declared the child to be a "light to enlighten the pagans, and the glory of your people Israel." Anna announced that the child was God's response to all who were looking forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. The long journey of Mary, Joseph, and their child from Nazareth to Jerusalem had not been in vain. It brought them into contact with two wonderful representatives of the wider faith community through whom God touched the lives of this young family.

When parents bring their child to our parish church, they won't necessarily meet a Simeon or an Anna, although their equivalents can be found in our church at various times of the day. Yet, when a family or when we as individuals come to our parish church, even outside the times when people gather for Mass, we are coming in contact with the wider community of faith, with the Simeons and Annas of our day, and with the community of faith who are now in heaven. I also have come into contact with some

Simeon and Annas of this parish in these past eight years. some of whom have already gone from this earthly dwelling to be with the Lord.

Among that community of faith who are now in heaven and whom we remember in a special way today are the parents of Jesus: Mary and Joseph. Both are represented visually in our church on both sides of the altar. We come into contact with the Holy Family when we come to our church, and we are also reminded of our own honored place within this Holy Family. Through baptism, we have become members of Jesus' family – his brothers and sisters who can look to God his Father as our Father and to Mary his mother as our mother.

Dear brothers and sisters, today on the Feast of the Holy Family, it is a good day to remember our own families of origin, the family into which we were born, within which, to varying degrees, we grew to maturity. It is a day to give thanks for all that was good in our family of origin. We give thanks for the care that nurtured and nourished us when we were too weak and vulnerable to take care of ourselves, for the many sacrifices that were made so that we might have better opportunities in life than earlier generations.

Today's feast is also a good day to ask the Lord to help us to forgive what needs forgiving in our experience of family, a day when we ask Him for the freedom to let go of whatever resentments may be oppressing us, a day when we pray to Him for the healing of any hurts that family members may have inflicted on us. †

Birthday Blessings!

DECEMBER 26
Stan Gilbert
Gerald Shaw

DECEMBER 27
Peter Cocco
Michael Coltre

DECEMBER 28
Peter Nashif

DECEMBER 29
Peter Cocco

DECEMBER 30
Joyce Stein

DECEMBER 31
Marguerite Dahl
Mary Shaw

JANUARY 1
David Zielinski

Dec. 26 The Holy Family	Dec. 27 St. John, Apostle Evangelist	Dec. 28 The Holy Innocents	Dec. 29 St. Thomas Becket	Dec. 30 6th Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	Dec. 31 St. Sylvester I	Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary	Jan. 2 The Epiphany of the Lord
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Looking for an Anchor for Stability?

These days it sometimes feels like we're living in the Twilight Zone – and maybe we are! Yet God's word is the same, yesterday, today and forever. If you need an anchor to bring some stability into life, the Bible has been safe mooring for thousands of years to Jews and Christians.

St. Mary parish will begin a different kind of Bible study on Jan 27th called "The Bible Timeline." It makes understanding Scripture easy for the average Christian. It was designed for people who avoid reading the Bible because they just can't connect with 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;
- 3) **ONLINE SELF-STUDY**, anytime at your convenience via computer or smartphone.

Your cost is only \$25 because the parish is covering a third of the actual cost. If you miss a session, you can view it online anytime. The sign-up fee includes 1-year access to the online videos, a Bible Timeline chart that chronologically shows the 14 books of the Bible used in the series, and a study guide that helps you key-in to Bible essentials.

The in-person sessions will meet on consecutive Thursdays beginning Jan. 27, in five clusters of 4-5 sessions each, spread over 7 months.

The promotion flyer and sign-up envelope are in the church vestibule. If you have questions, contact Dcn Dennis: 734-761-3163, waltersdennis1940@gmail.com OR Bill Kwolek: 734-428-7674 land, 734-775-1124 cell, bkwolek@comcast.net OR the Parish Office: 734-428-8811



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

- 1) Happy 80th Birthday
 Gerald Shaw
(His loving wife, Mary Shaw)
- 2) Happy Birthday to Mary
 Shaw *(Sylvie & Scott Strong)*

There is still a little time left...

There are many excellent reasons for being generous in your support of the Church. For example: God blesses us, the Church reminds us that it is an 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. Put your gift in the collection or mail it to the parish office **before Dec. 31**. And may God bless you.

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 First 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

Please Pray for...

- Marja Warner
- Leroy Cummings
- Connie (Uhr) Marion and her daughter Milly & family
- Mark Wiedmayer
- Bob Scharpenberg
- Paul Whelan
- Kirsten (stepdaughter of Laurie Sanders' brother Mark)
- Ryan Colter
- Joyce Stein
- Christy Woody
- Jerry Kripas
- Joe Kirk
- Loretta Widmayer
- Connie Stancato
- Duane Beuerle
- Eric & Helena Zink
- Annie (sister of Lynn Waldecker)
- Joe Novak
- Luise Kienzle
- Baby Keaton
- Lois Milkey
- Pam Wils
- "L," friend of Claudia Damian
- Joseph Ruiz
- Xander Antecio
- Eric Feiler
- Robin Schmidt
- Dawn Gaylord
- Emilienne Ramde
- James Strong
- James Fleischman
- Bruce Sommers

...and for the repose of the soul of
 † Sonja Rhees
 and of † Elise Conseibo
 and for their grieving loved ones.

A Note about January 1, 2022: What is and what isn't...



The "Holy Day," Holy Hour, & First Saturday

TYPICALLY: January 1st is always a significant day! In the life of the Church it is usually a holy day of obligation: It is the Octave (8th) day of Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (our Lady's greatest title!). Also here at St. Mary's we typically would have a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration before the vigil Mass on Dec. 31. Additionally this year, January 1st is First Saturday.

HOWEVER, THIS YEAR: While ordinarily a Holy Day of Obligation, in the United States this is not the case when this Solemnity falls on either Saturday or Monday. However, Fr. Bosco will celebrate Mass on the holy day at 8:30am for all who desire to come. This also will be a First Saturday Mass for those who keep that devotion. And there will be a time of Eucharistic Adoration following the morning Mass.

We are so very blessed!

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, December 12, 2021 and the Dec. 8 Holy Day

Sunday Env (41)	\$ 6,920.21
Welcome & Loose	232.25
E-Giving (5)	341.57
Immaculate Conception	663.00
Christmas decorations (1)	50.00
E-Giving Chr. decorations (1)	25.00
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Combined toward budget:	\$ 8,232.03
Budget goal:	5,300.00
Amt ABOVE goal:	+ 2,932.03
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OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:	
Bldg. & Maint (1)	\$ 25.00
E-Giving Bldg Maint	173.00
Retired Religious (1)	295.00
Poor Box	74.00
Votive candles	63.00

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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