



Saint Mary

Reverend Fr. Bosco Padamattummal, Administrator
Deacon Dennis Walters

210 West Main Street, Manchester, MI 48158

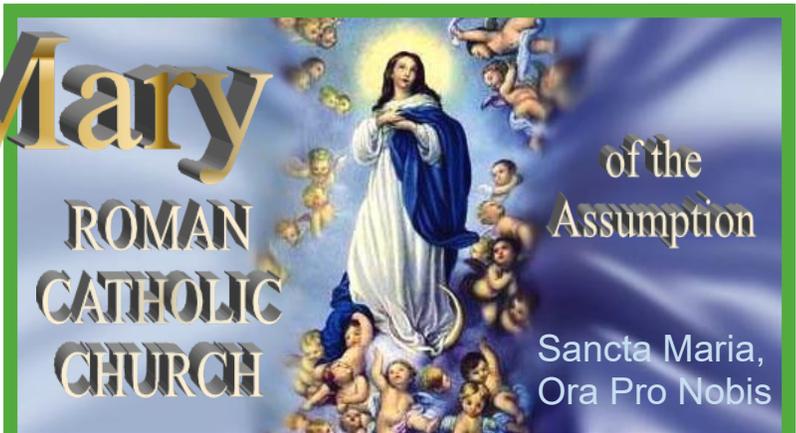
Phone: (734) 428-8811

Email: stmarymanchester@gmail.com

Website: stmarymanchester.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

“Are You Prepared for the Performance?” DEACON DENNIS WALTERS

Sometimes when I’m assisting at Mass and my mind begins to wander, I recall an old Roman proverb: *Age quod agis* — “Do what you’re doing.”

Here’s how St. Paul puts it for believers: “I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” St. Paul follows that sentence with a four-chapter description of what “present your bodies as a living sacrifice” involves. Behaving in all areas of life with the kind of love that Christians are supposed to exercise is a sacrifice in the root sense of the word — that is, making what you do something holy, something set apart for God. St. Paul calls it “your spiritual worship.”

That “spiritual worship” is encapsulated in the sacrifice of the Mass, and it includes your body. To validly participate in the Mass, you have to be physically present, doing the standing and sitting and kneeling, and saying the responses, especially the affirmation of faith at the great Amen. The reason physical presence matters is that you’re a priest. True, you’re not a priest in the same sense as Fr. Bosco is; but you’re performing a priestly role along with him by offering yourself through Jesus to the Father, and for that you need to be present bodily and do what you’re supposed to be doing.

But, some Catholics complain that they get nothing out of Mass. It’s boring. It’s the same thing every time. Granted, the readings and some prayers vary, but the structure doesn’t. The whole thing is scripted; everything happens in the same order every time, so there’s no need to pay attention. You can respond in your sleep (and some people do).

That’s one way of looking at it. There’s another way.

When I was in college, I became the stage manager for a production of *A Man for All Seasons*. Among other things, that meant that I had to make sure every actor followed every cue according to script in every performance. An actor who performs the same role hundreds of times can’t afford to let the audience know he’s bored with the play. He always has to be “on,” as if each performance was the only one. How do you keep things fresh? First, by studying how his real personality informs the character he plays. Second, by

observing how his reactions to other characters helps them with their portrayals. Third, by experimenting with little bits of “stage business” (small actions not written in the script) that reveal elements of his character to the audience. Fourth, by rehearsing lines, rehearsing cues, and rehearsing movements as the director indicates — again, again, and again. As stage manager,



Many parishioners came out to Carr Park on Wednesday, August 23rd for the annual picnic. The weather was perfect, the food was fantastic and the fellowship was heartwarming. Special thanks to Martin Brogley for cooking the burgers, brats and dogs. More opportunities for Christian Fellowship will be available in September: coffee hour after Masses on Sunday, September 10th and Alpha on Tuesday, September 12th.

Deacon Dennis' article continued from page 1

PARISH CALENDAR

Mass Intentions, [Requested by], and Parish Activities

SAT., SEPT 2	ORDINARY WEEKDAY/BVM/First Saturday
1 Thes 4: 9-11/ Ps 98: 1. 7-8. 9/ Mt 25: 14-30	8:30 am First Saturday Mass: ☩ <i>Merle Cummings</i> <i>[Betty Cummings]</i> 3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: <i>For the People</i>
SUN., SEPT 3	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
Jer 20: 7-9/ Ps 63: 2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9 (2b)/ Rom 12: 1-2/ Mt 16: 21-27	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Christine Marie Hessling</i> <i>[Hessling Family]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Joseph and ☩ Opal Maloney</i> <i>[Donna and Alan Maloney]</i>
MON., SEPT 4	ORDINARY WEEKDAY/Labor Day
1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96: 1 and 3.4-5.11-12.13/ Lk 4:16-30. Labor Day Proper Mass: Blessing of Human Labor	No 12:10 pm Mass today Parish Office Closed
TUES., SEPT 5	ORDINARY WEEKDAY
1 Thes 5:1-6.9-11/Ps 27:1.4.13-14/Lk 4:31-37	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Bishop Kenneth J. Povish</i> <i>[St. Mary Manchester Parish]</i>
WED., SEPT 6	ORDINARY WEEKDAY
Col 1: 1-8/ Ps 52: 10. 11/ Lk 4: 38-44	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Cora Tournier, Sister of Alice Kidd</i> <i>[Alice Kidd]</i> 4:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting—FFH 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Choir Loft
THUR., SEPT 7	ORDINARY WEEKDAY
Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab.3cd.4.5-6/Lk 5:1-11	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Douglas Muldoon</i> <i>[John and Tina Doyle and Family]</i>
FRI., SEPT 8	NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Mi 5: 1-4a or Rom 8: 28-30/ Ps 13: 6ab. 6c/ Mt 1: 1-16. 18-23	8:30 am Mass: <i>INT: Dianna Dohm's 21st Birthday</i> <i>[Grandpa and Grandma Warner with love]</i>
SAT., SEPT 9	ST. PETER CLAVER
Col 1: 21-23/ Ps 54: 3-4. 6 and 8/ Lk 6: 1-5	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: ☩ <i>Wanda Anticau</i> <i>[Clara Scheurman]</i>
SUN., SEPT 10	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
Ez 33: 7-9/ Ps 95: 1-2. 6-7. 8-9 (8)/ Rom 13: 8-10/ Mt 18: 15-20	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Tom and ☩ Shirley Sweeney</i> <i>[Connie Borkin]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>For the People</i> 12:00 pm First Communion Orientation and Class—PC -Coffee Hour after each of the Sunday Masses Today sponsored by the Youth Group



Please Pray for:

Linda Dyer
Erin, Granddaughter of Noreen Burnett
Betsy Kripas
Frank Tomko
Eddie Walz
Marja Warner



Amazing Greys

Will resume their monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month after the 12:10 pm Mass. The next meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 11th

I was responsible for making sure cast and crew performed according to the script. But their performance brought the script alive.

In a sense, the Mass is like a play — except that we're really worshipping, not acting. The Mass is formal, public worship. Because it's formal, it has a defined plot and all the characters know what their part is. The dialog between God and His people is scripted, using formal language suitable to the dignity of the characters: God the Creator and us His creatures. And because the Mass is public worship, it's ritualized: the actions are predictable. Nothing is spontaneous, in the sense that neither side is free to improvise; but that's not the same as saying that by following the script we as characters in this "play" can't keep our role fresh. We do that by intending to do what we're supposed to be doing, committing ourselves to the performance — the gestures, the bodily positions, the formal language — bringing it alive.

So to a Catholic who says he gets nothing out of Mass, I might ask, "What are you putting into it?"

Several times in the Old Testament, a leader of Israel would command the people, "Sanctify yourselves for the sacrifice, for tomorrow the Lord is coming to you." The expression, "sanctify yourselves," is odd. Scripture generally insists that it's God who sanctifies us, makes us holy; we don't do it ourselves. So what did "sanctify yourselves" mean?

Basically, it meant "prepare yourself for worship," usually through physical purification. In a negative sense, sanctifying yourself meant keeping away from any activity that would make you ritually impure, such as eating forbidden foods. In a more positive sense, it meant purifying yourself by taking a bath, washing your clothes, and gathering together the offering you'd take to the sacrifice. We sanctify ourselves in the same way, by preparing to come to Mass — bodily by bathing and dressing in good clothes, and spiritually by preparing to do sacrifice. The idea is that, if we intend to come to where God will meet us, we'd better get ready to be there.

Yes, the Mass is repetitive in structure and content, but it's only boring if we're physically present but mentally somewhere else. True, attending Mass means giving up our time, our energy, and our attention — it's a sacrifice. But we get out of Mass what we put into it. What we put into it, according to St. Paul, is our bodies, a "living sacrifice." Our offering is ourselves. In exchange, God offers Himself to us in the Eucharist. If that exchange is to work out as God intends it to, we need to do our part: be present in body and mind, really doing what we're doing. ☞

ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION:
Right-to-Life MI Hotline
1-800-57WOMAN
Or visit www.optionline.org

NEED HELP? PROJECT RACHEL
(post-abortion reconciliation and healing)
Call the confidential phone line:
517-993-0291 or email
nlc@resurrectionlansing.org

NEED HELP? "AA" group
meets Friday & Sunday nights
at 7:00 pm in the Emanuel
church kitchen.

NEED HELP? "COURAGE" is a Catholic (endorsed by Diocese) spiritual support group for those struggling with same sex attraction. "ENCOURAGE" is a separate support group for families and friends. Call 517-342-2596

P A R I S H N E W S

Coffee Hour after
Masses **September 10th**

Each month a different group will sponsor. September is sponsored by the Youth Group. To be a sponsor, please contact Fr. Bosco.



Altar Flowers

for the week of
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD
are sponsored by
John and Tina Doyle and Family
In Memory of †Douglas Patrick
Muldoon, 1st Anniversary

*Sanctuary
Lamps*

are burning this week for:
1) †Bernita Aiuto
(Marvin and Edna Keezer)

Parish Family Birthdays

- Sept 2.....Priscilla Hale
- Sept 2.....James Ritz
- Sept 2.....Tommy Simpson
- Sept 3.....Dominic Bargardi
- Sept 4Timothy Miller
- Sept 4Parker Rohwer
- Sept 7.....Logan Reppert
- Sept 8.....Megan Miller
- Sept 8.....Frank Remski
- Sept 9Cassidy Sangster
- Sept 9Ricardo Villarreal
- Sept 10.....Kay Hartman
- Sept 10.....Lisa Reppert
- Sept 10.....Jim Warner

**St. Mary Roman
Catholic Church
Stewardship**

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, August 20, 2017

- Sunday Envelopes..... \$3,018.60
- Loose Cash & Checks..... \$347.00
- Welcome Envelopes..... \$136.00
- Assumption..... \$105.00
- Peter's Pence..... \$45.00

- Weekly toward budget \$3,651.60
- Weekly goal..... \$5,300.00
- Amt. **BELOW** goal..... \$1,648.40

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Building and Maintenance... \$15.00
- Poor Box \$17.08
- Votive Candle Receipts..... \$37.00

Catechist Needed

The St. Mary Religious Education Program is searching for a Grade 1 and 2 teacher. Materials and curriculum are supplied and your support will make the difference in the lives of our young students. Classes are on Mondays from 4:00-5:00 pm. Please contact Karin Villarreal at stmarymanchester.dre@gmail.com or call the Parish Center office at 734-428-7211 with questions or interest.

Alpha Registration

Alpha Course starts in just a week and a half! If you plan to invite anyone (or come yourself), please have them register (or register them yourself) *no later than Friday, Sept. 8th*, so we can order food. (Late registrations are welcome, but we'd have to rely on the Lord for enough for all to eat.) To register, contact the parish office or Dcn. Dennis.

Convocation for Lay Leaders

You are invited to attend the Lay Convocation for Lay Ministry Leaders **October 10-11th**. We have a two-day event planned for you at Faholo Retreat Center in Grass Lake. Registration deadline is **September 12th**. dioceseoflansing.org/events

Senior Mass and Luncheon

The Washtenaw Catholic Council on Aging and the Diocese of Lansing invite

you to attend this annual event on **Thursday, September 21st**. The event will begin with Mass celebrated by our Bishop, Earl Boyea, and will conclude with lunch. This year the event will be held at St. Joseph, Dexter Country Church with lunch following in town at the KofC hall. Please RSVP by **September 7th** to Dianne Schwab or Fr. Bosco at 428-8811. Suggested donation of \$10 is greatly appreciated.

Parish Office Closed

Monday, September 4th is Labor Day. To observe this civil holiday, the Parish Office will be closed. Regular office hours will resume on **Tuesday, September 5th**.

Choir Schedule

The St. Mary Adult Choir will be performing at the 10:30 am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Practice will be held the previous Wednesday in the choir loft at 7pm. In September rehearsals will be on **Wednesday September 6th and 20th** with performances on **September 10th and 24th**.

Religious Ed Programs Begin

All Religious Education programming will begin **September 10, 2017** with an orientation meeting at noon for all families with children who will be receiving First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. The meeting will be held in the Parish Center.

A R E A N E W S

Michigan Catholic Choir is beginning its 3rd exciting season and will be hosting a "guest night" on **Tuesday, September 5th**. Rehearsals are from 7:00pm-9:00pm at the American Legion Hall in Swartz Creek, Michigan. For more information, please contact Dan Schmier – 810-516-5505. All are welcome!

Pulled Pork Dinner at Emmanuel United Church of Christ **September 13th**. Please call 734-428-8359 if you have any questions.

The 40 Days For Life Ann Arbor Fall Campaign will kick off on **Sunday, Sept 24th** with our very popular Jericho March and Kickoff Rally beginning at 2pm. The Fall Campaign runs from Wed. **Sept 27th**

through Sunday, Nov. 5th with the Prayer Vigil taking place daily from 7am until 7pm outside of Planned Parenthood, 3100 Professional Dr. To sign up for an hour or more at our prayer vigil, please go to: www.40daysforlife.com/annarbor. Please plan to join us for one or more laps of our Seven Sunday Interfaith Jericho March, which will take place every Sunday afternoon during the campaign. Life Chain will take place on **Sunday, Oct 1st**. Additional details to follow. For additional information please contact Sandie at 734-657-1936 or plan2pray@gmail.com.