



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



Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time — July 15, 2018 “Does God Have a Plan?” Deacon Dennis Walters

He does, and in today’s second reading Paul is excited to tell you (in global terms) what it is.

The excitement comes through in the Greek, which is one long, complex sentence that rushes through eleven verses from start to finish: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens ...” — and so he’s off and running. Our English translation breaks Paul’s huge sentence into three paragraphs and several sentences in an effort to parse out the elements of the plan. (The rest of Ephesians will slow down and explain how the plan works.)

The churches Paul was writing to began primarily among Christian Jews, among whom Gentiles were being incorporated through baptism. As you read the passage, pay attention to the personal pronouns “we” (Jewish Christians), and “you” (Gentile Christian newcomers). God’s plan takes root with the “we,” but then branches out to include the “you.”

The plan starts before the creation of the universe. From eternity, God chose the “we” (Jewish Christians) to be “holy and without blemish.” The word “holy” here doesn’t mean virtuous or morally perfect, but “set apart” or dedicated as an offering “without blemish” to God, the way Temple sacrifices were selected without blemish or physical defect in order to be acceptable.

Why? Because the Father’s love destined the “we” to be adopted into His Trinitarian family. In Paul’s Roman culture, adoption meant that the adopted child shared all the rights and privileges of natural-born children, including inheritance rights — pretty much what adoption means for unrelated children taken into today’s families. The Father’s motive comes from “the favor of His will” through the Messiah

Jesus, a favor that the “we” did not earn or deserve.

Changing focus a bit, Paul states that in the Messiah Jesus, the “we” “have redemption by His blood.” (Don’t worry: he’ll get to the “you” in a minute.) In other words, through the blood-sacrifice of His natural Son, the adopted children have been ransomed or purchased back from slavery to “transgressions” (original sin, an inherited tendency to bad behavior). That redemption accords naturally with God’s desire to give grace, His tendency to shower on creatures benefits in lavish abundance. Furthermore, “in all wisdom and insight” the Father has revealed to His adopted children what He is up to. His long-range plan is “for the fullness of times,” when everything God created reaches a kind of completion or “summing up” in Jesus, both in heaven and here on earth.

According to his understanding as a Jew and a Christian, Paul alludes to the Father’s choice of the Israelite people as a “chosen people” — again harking back to the idea of a holy people, one intentionally and from all eternity set apart for Himself. Divine election is their destiny; and the reason for it is to exist “for the praise of His glory — we [Jewish Christians], who first hoped in Christ.” The gradual revelation of that “hope in Christ” took place through what we call the Old Testament, in which the expectation of a Messiah came to light through history, to be finally realized in Jesus the Son.

Now Paul gets to the “you” (us Gentile Christians). If the Jewish people were chosen by the Father “in Him” (the Son), then “in Him you also, who have heard the word of the truth, the Gospel of your salvation, and have believed in Him,” have come into the adopted family as well. The “we” (Jewish Christians) came into adoption because “we” were chosen as a people. “You” (Gentile Christians) came into adoption through faith — you believed the good news you heard and acted on it. You elected to be baptized, and that baptism placed the seal of the Holy Spirit on you. The seal verifies that you



A Memorial Gift

Thank you to Gayle and the Antonelli Family for the generous donation of tents in memory of Paul A. Antonelli. This gift came just in time for use at the Ice Cream Social. The tents will come in handy at many parish events.



Our Newest Soldier

Please pray for Elise Kueffner, a 2018 Lumen Christi graduate, enlisted in the Army and headed off to Boot Camp earlier this month. Please also keep her parents, Scott and Ann, in your prayers.

PARISH CALENDAR

Mass Intentions, [Requested by], and Parish Activities

SAT., JULY 14	ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA
Is 6:1-8/Mt 10:24-33 (388)	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: † <i>Chuck Cornell</i> [<i>Shirley Krzyzaniak</i>]
SUN., JULY 15	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Am 7:12-15/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13 (104) Pss III	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: <i>For the People</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>INT: Elise Kueffner</i> [<i>St. Mary's Parishioners</i>] 5:30-8:00 pm Vacation Bible School—MUMC
MON., JULY 16	ORDINARY WEEKDAY/Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Is 1:10-17/Mt 10:34—11:1 (389)	No Mass Today in Manchester 5:30-8:00 pm Vacation Bible School—MUMC
TUES., JULY 17	ORDINARY WEEKDAY
Is 7:1-9/Mt 11:20-24 (390)	8:30 am Mass: † <i>Bernita Aiuto</i> [<i>William and Astrida Pnches</i>] 5:30-8:00 pm Vacation Bible School—MUMC
WED., JULY 18	ORDINARY WEEKDAY/St. Camilus de Lellis
Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Mt 11:25-27 (391)	8:30 am Mass: † <i>Richard Krzyzaniak</i> [<i>Delores and Bob Randall and Family</i>] 5:30-8:00 pm Vacation Bible School—MUMC
THU., JULY 19	ORDINARY WEEKDAY
Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Mt 11:28-30 (392)	8:30 am Mass: † <i>Frank Tomko</i> [<i>June Faubion</i>] 7:00 pm Ice Cream Social Meeting—FFH
FRI., JULY 20	ORDINARY WEEKDAY/St. Apollinarus
Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Mt 12:1-8 (393)	8:30 am Mass: † <i>Bernita Aiuto</i> [<i>Richard and Mary Ann Fielder</i>]
SAT., JULY 21	ORDINARY WEEKDAY/BVM/St. Lawrence of Brindisi
Mt 2:1-5/Mt 12:14-21 (394)	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: <i>INT: Burnett Family</i> [<i>Burnett Family</i>]
SUN., JULY 22	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Jer 23:1-6/Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34 (107) Pss IV	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: † <i>Gerald Damian</i> [<i>Claudia Damian</i>] 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>For the People</i>

NEED HELP?

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

"AA" group meets Fridays & Sundays at 7:00 pm - Emanuel Church kitchen.

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

"COURAGE" is a Catholic (endorsed by Diocese) spiritual support group for those struggling with same sex attraction.

"ENCOURAGE" is a separate support group for the families and friends of "Courage" clients. Call 517-342-2596



Please Pray for:

Bonnie Barnard
Duane Beuerle
Ruth Dahl
Rae Emmons
Rosemary Hamilton

Betsy Kripas
Elise Kueffner
Clint Silveus
Strengthening of Marriage
Eddie Walz
Cindy Willis
Mitchell Zink

belong to the Father and are under His protection. According to Paul, the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism is a "down payment" on your inheritance. Just as the down payment on a house means that when you close on the house you have the right to move into it, so you have the privilege now of enjoying the first stages of your final inheritance in God's house.

At this point, God's long-range plan for mankind becomes your near-term plan. Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are called "sacraments of initiation" because they both inaugurate and maintain the Christian life. Those sacraments launched you into a life of faith. As Paul explains in Chapters Two and Three (addressed mainly to "you Gentiles"), Baptism and Confirmation are not just moments in your past, but are continuing realities, the way a spring begins a river. Christianity is a way of life that once begun is meant to keep growing. Of course, life requires food, which the Eucharist provides. But a living faith requires more. It requires movement, activity, behavior appropriate to believers, since "faith without works is dead" (Jas. 2:17). Ephesians 4 through 6 spell out the kinds of behavior that make your faith a living reality.

Does God have a plan? He does — one for the human race as a whole, and one for you in particular. You'll have to work out the specifics, but the general goal still applies you: that your life be "holy and without blemish before Him," since you are destined as a gift to God "to the praise of His glory." ☞

AREA NEWS

Jail Ministry—Catholic Religious Services at Washtenaw County Jail...Volunteer ministers meet with both men and women in the jail. We celebrate Catholic services and share our faith in Jesus. Healing happens in our church community when we care enough to spend a little time together. Jail Volunteers Orientation **Saturday, July 28th, 2018, 9am-11:30am** for "The Rules & Regulations of the Jail" presented by Jail staff at Washtenaw County Sheriff Office, Hogback Rd., Ann Arbor. RSVP to Scott Wright (734-821-2121) swright@stfrancis2.org

Bricks 4Kidz will be offered at Emmanuel Church of Christ **July 30th-August 3rd** for kindergarten through 6th graders with special models for middle-schoolers. Contact Eugene Blair by phone 734-748-6039 or email eblair@bricks4kidz.com for info.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for those healing after abortion will be held **Friday, August 10th - Sunday, August 12th** in Lansing. This retreat is for anyone impacted by abortion: married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings of aborted children, as well as persons who have been involved in the abortion industry. Contact Della Seeley at 989-828-6002, e-mail: nlcrachelsvineyard@gmail.com or call Lansing's New Life Center, 517-993-0291.

Summer Scripture Days—"Growing in Faith though the Book of Psalms" St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt **August 14-16th** Co-hosted by the Lansing Area Catholic Council on Aging, this retreat is an opportunity for adults set aside time to focus on the Book of Psalms and relate Psalms to their personal faith life. Cost is \$175 for the retreat with lodging. Other cost options available. Register online at stfrancis.ws or call 517-669-8321.

P A R I S H N E W S

Parish Family Birthdays

- July 14Eric Zink
- July 15Helena Zink
- July 16John Beuerle
- July 16William McNamara
- July 17Donna Maloney
- July 18Norma Scaglione
- July 19Sullivan Flaherty
- July 19Frank Tistle
- July 20.....Jacob Messman
- July 21Natasha Kominars
- July 22Kari Ball
- July 22August Hutchison

Humane Vitae is Fifty!

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Deacon Dennis will be preaching on this topic throughout the month of July.

DSA is not Over Yet!

Please make a gift or pledge soon! Use the envelopes available in church or submit your gift online at www.dioceseoflansing.org/dsa.

VBS Needs You!

Vacation Bible School starts today, **July 15th** at Manchester United Methodist Church. This year dinner will be served to the students and volunteers beginning at 5:30 pm. Please participate in this community-wide event. The children always have fun. Contact Karin Villarreal for more information at stmarymanchester.dre@gmail.com

Sanctuary

Lamps

are burning this week for:

- 1) †Joseph and †Helen Germek
(Kathy and Martin Brogley)
- 2) For the repose of the soul of †Betty Walkowe
(St. Mary Altar Society)

Alpha on the Horizon

St. Mary's next Alpha Course, which begins on **Thursday, Sept. 13th**, will take place in the Parish Center. Because we'd like younger guests to come, the parish would like to offer childcare for children below the first grade level (older children can attend with parents). Childcare will be in the Parish Center (old Post Office side), and meals will be provided for everyone. If you would like to assist with childcare, please contact Dcn. Dennis at waltersdennis1940@gmail.com.

Made for Happiness

Don't forget to register for the **September 22nd** "Made for Happiness" Diocesan Assembly MADEFORHAPPINESS.ORG The Assembly will close with Mass offered by Bishop Boyea. Admission is FREE, but space is limited. (Note: there will be no Saturday Masses that day, at the Bishop's request.)

Diocesan Assembly Prayer Project

Bishop Boyea is looking for people to pray in a special way for the Diocese of Lansing and the upcoming Made for Happiness assembly. He has blessed 4 framed images of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, and is asking for these images to rotate between private homes throughout the Diocese of Lansing leading up to the assembly. Each family that volunteers is asked to pray with the image for half an hour or more in their home before passing it onto the next volunteer. Go to madeforhappiness.org and click on "Support" to sign up.

Altar Flowers

for the week of
SUNDAY, JULY 15TH
INT: Madigan Flaherty and Mitchell Ebeling
(Pat and Kelly Flaherty)

Rummage Sale: Request for Items

We are weeks away from the rummage sale, but plans are under way and we are in need of your helping hands! We will not be doing a sign up for volunteers this year. You are welcome to show up during any of our times to help with bringing in items, pricing, selling, or clean up. If you are unable to give us your time, we could use your treasures! Drop off for items for the rummage sale will take place: **Saturday, July 28th through Sunday, August 5th**. The drop off times are: Saturdays from 12pm-5pm, Sundays from 12pm-4pm, and weekdays from 4pm-7pm. Pricing will be **Monday, August 6th, Tuesday, August 7th, and Wednesday, August 8th from 4-7pm**. The sale will be **Thursday, August 9th from 9am-6pm, Friday, August 10th from 9am-6pm, and Saturday, August 11th from 9am-4pm**. Clean up will follow closing until we are finished. It takes our village of Manchester to make our rummage sale a success. Spread the word!

Sponsor Altar Flowers

A reminder that we have the opportunity each weekend to sponsor the flowers on the Altar. There is a minimum donation of \$40. Contact the parish office.



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, July 1, 2018

Sunday Envelopes	\$4,578.37
Loose Cash & Checks	\$146.00
Welcome Envelopes	\$70.00
Choir Needs	\$250.00
Weekly toward budget.....	\$5,044.37
Weekly goal.....	\$5,300.00
Amt. Below goal.....	\$255.63

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Building and Maintenance	\$1,075.00
Peter's Pence	\$671.00
Poor Box	\$33.22
Votive Candles	\$42.00