



# Saint Mary

Reverend Fr. Bosco Padamattummal, Administrator

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**WEEKEND MASSES:**

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



**First Sunday of Advent — December 9, 2018**

**"Be Watchful, Be Vigilant This Advent" Fr. Bosco Padamattummal**

As we come this 2nd Sunday of Advent in the opening of that chapter of Luke 3, we come to what is a very historical portion of Scripture. Luke is a very careful historian. And as he begins chapter 3 he is really launching the story of Jesus Christ. The birth narrative of Jesus and John is contained in chapters 1 and 2.

Thirty years have now passed since the birth of John and the birth of Jesus and it is time for the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ. They're both around the age of thirty when John begins his ministry of announcing the arrival of the Messiah and about six months later Messiah steps on to the scene. So we've come now to the ministry of John and of Jesus, the great story of the coming of the Savior of the world. He doesn't want the story to unfold on an empty stage, but rather he wants to create for us the historical setting, the social setting, the political setting and the religious setting that really creates the context in which the story of Jesus unfolds. For thirty years the life of Jesus has been very, very private. The angel Gabriel had announced to Zachariah that he would have a son who would be a prophet and who would be the forerunner of the Messiah. But beyond Zachariah and Elizabeth, we're not sure how many others knew, certainly Joseph knew and Mary knew because Mary was related to Elizabeth, the mother of John. But apart from those initial folks, Zachariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, Simeon, and Anna, and those looking for redemption in Israel, and the shepherds who heard the words of the angels and visited the child in the manger, there wasn't anybody else in Israel, perhaps with a few exceptions, that really was aware of those people, John and Jesus, for thirty years. All we know about Jesus during these years we find in chapter 2 verse 40, "The child continued to grow, become strong, increasing in wisdom, the grace of God was upon Him," And all we know about John in those thirty years is told in chapter 1 verse 80, "The child John continued to grow to become strong in spirit, lived in the desert until the day of his public appearance to

Israel." John had in every sense an unrefined kind of life, a very difficult, tough kind of life, but he was uninfluenced by the establishment. He was apart from the social establishment and also apart from the religious establishment.

But as we come to chapter 3 "the word of God came to John" that is it is time for Him to launch His ministry a divine calling, the real story begins and God breaks 425 years of prophetic silence. The long wait is finally over. The last prophet that spoke was Malachi. For four-hundred twenty-five years there's no word from God and all of a sudden God calls John in the wilderness and verse 4 says John becomes "the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'" Therein he announces the arrival of the Messiah. So the two parts of his ministry focus on getting the people ready for the Messiah, and the other part on presenting the Messiah to the people. No king in ancient times ever arrived without an announcement. No king ever showed up at a town without somebody preparing the way,

somebody making a path, making a way ready for his arrival, and that would be the responsibility of John.

The word of the Lord came to John in the same way in Genesis 15:1 it says, "The word of the Lord came to Abraham." In 1 Samuel 15:10 it says, "The word of the Lord came to Samuel." In 2 Samuel 7:4, "The word of the Lord came to the prophet Nathan." In 1 Kings 17 it says, "The word of the Lord came to Elijah." And so the word of the Lord, or the word of God coming to someone was indicative of a calling from God for a special mission. So Luke carefully chooses his words, to put John in the prophetic succession. Even though it's been 425 years, it does not mean that the prophetic office has ended. There has been a gap, but the Old Testament prophetic office doesn't culminate until the arrival of John. So John is spoken of in very familiar terminology to place him in the succession of prophets. In fact, as we know from Matthew 11, Jesus said of him, John is the greatest prophet who ever lived. Luke opens this third



**Sunday, December 2nd** was the 5th Annual Advent Candlelight Prayer Service. Rev. Bob Macfarlane from Emmanuel Church of Christ led the prayer service before dinner and Connie Schaffer was the Master of Ceremonies.

## PARISH CALENDAR

## Mass Intentions, [Requested by], and Parish Activities

<b>SAT., DEC 8</b>	<b>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BVM</b>
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 (689) Pss Prop	<b>8:30 am Mass:</b> † <i>Joseph Prevost</i> <i>[John and Tina Doyle and Family]</i> 3:30-4:30 pm Confession <b>5:00 pm Vigil Mass:</b> † <i>Gerald Damian</i> <i>[Claudia Damian]</i>
<b>SUN., DEC 9</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6(6) Pss II	8:00-8:15 am Confession <b>8:30 am Mass:</b> † <i>Joseph Fitzgerald</i> <i>[Pat Fitzgerald]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession <b>10:30 am Mass:</b> <i>For the People</i> Coffee Hour following each Sunday Mass
<b>MON., DEC 10</b>	<b>ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26 (181)	<b>12:10 pm Mass:</b> † <i>Elizabeth Dahl-MacGregor</i> <i>[John and Tina Doyle and Family]</i> 3:30 pm Religious Education—PC 7:00 pm Area Penance Service—St. Andrew's Saline 7:00 pm Evangelization Team Meeting—FFH 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting—PC
<b>TUES., DEC 11</b>	<b>ADVENT WEEKDAY/St. Damasus I</b>
Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14 (182)	<b>8:30 am Mass:</b> † <i>Noreen Burnett</i> <i>[Mary MacKenzie]</i> 7:00 pm Area Penance Service—St. Joseph Dexter
<b>WED., DEC 12</b>	<b>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</b>
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 (690A), or any readings from the Gospels	<b>8:30 am Mass:</b> † <i>Deceased Members of the Millenbach Family</i> <i>[The Achtenberg Family]</i> 7:00 pm Area Penance Service—St. Mary Chelsea
<b>THU., DEC 13</b>	<b>ST. LUCY</b>
Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712 Pss Prop	<b>8:30 am Mass:</b> † <i>Bernard Finneran</i> <i>[Burnett Family]</i> 7:00 pm Area Penance Service—St. Mary Manchester
<b>FRI., DEC 14</b>	<b>ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS</b>
Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15 (184)	<b>8:30 am Mass:</b> † <i>Anita DuBois</i> <i>[Burnett Family]</i> 5:45 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal—Choir Loft 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal—Choir Loft
<b>SAT., DEC 15</b>	<b>ADVENT WEEKDAY/BVM</b>
Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19 (185)	3:30-4:30 pm Confession <b>5:00 pm Vigil Mass:</b> <i>INT: Shurtliff Family</i> <i>[Betty Cummings]</i>
<b>SUN., DEC 16</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13 (186)	8:00-8:15 am Confession <b>8:30 am Mass:</b> † <i>Oscar</i> and † <i>Daisy Walz</i> <i>[Judy and Eddie Walz]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession <b>10:30 am Mass:</b> <i>For the People</i> 12:00 pm Holy Communion Class—PC

## Please Pray for:

Brian Ball  
 Leon Ball  
 Duane Beuerle  
 Bob Curley  
 Betsy Kripas

Ella Landini  
 Jim Maisano  
 Tim McConnell  
 Todd Rickelmann  
 Will and Liam Riley  
 Evie Seegert

Cody Simpson  
 Eddie Walz  
**Repose of the Soul:**  
 +Steve Lewkowicz

## NEED HELP?

**ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION:** Right-to-Life MI Hotline 1-800-57WOMAN or visit [www.optionline.org](http://www.optionline.org)

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

**"PROJECT RACHEL"** (post-abortion reconciliation and healing) Call the

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chapter launching the ministry of John and Jesus with seven names, knowing that we would explore those names and find out the setting and the scene at the time when the Messiah began His public ministry. These names are filled with historical and spiritual significance, and they create for us a marvelous historical setting to understand the ministries of John and Jesus. In general, the five names given in 3:1 are all Gentiles. They're all non-Jews. And they tell us that the people of God and their land was under the power and control of pagans. The two names in verse 2, Annas and Caiaphas, who were the high priests, also tell us something about the religious condition of Israel at the time, for they were corrupt, perverse, apostate leaders. This helps to see the darkness of the time when the Lord began His ministry. It was a time of corruption. It was a time of wickedness. It was a time of hypocrisy. It was a time of legalism. It was a time when the nation desperately needed to repent.

At that time Israel had no true king. Oh they have lots of petty kings, lots of tetrarchs. The nation was split up into four parts, one ruled by Pontius Pilate, one by Herod, one by Philip and one by Lysanias. All of that is under the power of Tiberius Caesar, who has really unilateral power to do whatever he wants to do across the great Roman Empire. Again there was no true religion. The priesthood was divided into fragments: legalistic, hypocritical priests called Pharisees and there are liberal anti-supernaturalist priests called Sadducees.

In this particular situation he came into the entire district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." When he cried out in the wilderness it was fulfillment from Isaiah chapter 40 3 -5. That prophecy was given 700 years before John, 700 years before Jesus began His ministry. Dear brothers and sisters, let us receive this message of preparation in our hearts through repentance and seek forgiveness during this advent to receive the abundant blessings of our Lord in our personal life and in our family. ☞

## Winter Clothing Drive

There is a need for gently used coats, scarves, mittens, hats, snow pants and boots for people of all ages but, especially children. Children in our own community are going to school without proper winter clothing. Please bring your donations to church, we will be collecting items throughout December. Look for the box in the entryway for the donations. The group that started this initiative is working with Family Services and CRC, this is aside from their regularly offered services.

## AREA NEWS

## Post Abortion Healing Retreat Friday-Sunday, December 14th-16th

Rachel's Vineyard is a place to renew, rebuild, and redeem hearts broken by abortion. This retreat offers a supportive, confidential, and non-judgmental, environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile post-abortion emotions to begin the process of renewal and healing. [rachelvineyard.org](http://rachelvineyard.org) Contact: Beth Bauer 734-879-0427 or [toheal4give@outlook.com](mailto:toheal4give@outlook.com)

confidential phone line: 517-993-0291 or email [nlc@resurrectionlan-sing.org](mailto:nlc@resurrectionlan-sing.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



## PARISH NEWS

## Parish Family Birthdays

Dec 11..... Jan Little  
 Dec 12..... Michael Boehmer  
 Dec 12..... Ann Kueffner  
 Dec 13..... Ella Landini  
 Dec 14 ..... Shirley Krzyzaniak  
 Dec 15..... Colm Brochue  
 Dec 15..... Sheila Doyle  
 Dec 15..... Ted Szufnar  
 Dec 16 ..... Ann Dunn  
 Dec 16 ..... Mary Frances Fielder  
 Dec 16 ..... Christine Kanta  
 Dec 16 ..... Thadd Szufnar

**COFFEE HOUR  
 TODAY, DEC 9TH,  
 NAME  
 TAG  
 SUNDAY**

Sponsored by Youth Group



**ADVENT PENANCE  
 SERVICES  
 MONDAY-THURSDAY  
 DECEMBER**

- 10th - St. Andrew's - Saline
- 11th - St. Joseph - Dexter
- 12th - St. Mary - Chelsea
- 13th - St. Mary - Manchester

**\*\* SERVICES BEGIN AT  
 7:00PM NIGHTLY \*\***



**St. Mary Roman  
 Catholic Church  
 Stewardship**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION  
 Sunday, November 25, 2018**

Sunday Envelopes..... \$5,197.00  
 Loose Cash & Checks..... \$181.00  
 Welcome Envelopes..... \$33.00  
 Christmas Decor..... \$560.00  
 eGiving..... \$125.00

Weekly toward budget .... \$6,096.00  
 Weekly goal ..... \$5,300.00  
 Amt. ABOVE goal ..... \$796.00

**OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Building and Maintenance... \$45.00  
 Campaign Human Dev. .... \$10.00  
 Poor Box..... \$28.00  
 Votive Candles..... \$42.00

**Name Tag Sunday**

To help us get better acquainted, we will have "Name Tag Weekend" at all Masses this weekend, **December 8th-9th**. All parishioners are encouraged to wear a name tag so that we can associate "names & faces". The Youth Group will be assisting the ushers with the name tags and will be hosting Coffee Hour after Sunday Masses.

**Christmas Poinsettias**

Tomorrow, **December 10th**, is the last day to purchase poinsettias to honor loved ones during Christmas Masses. Order forms are in the vestibule of the Church. Cost is \$16/plant. Please make checks payable to "The Flower Garden." Contact Sue Fielder at 734-428-8816 or [sfielder@umich.edu](mailto:sfielder@umich.edu)

**Calendar Sales Benefit Parish**

Bill Shurtliff has generously donated 2019 UofM/Ann Arbor calendars, featuring his original artwork. The suggested donation is \$5.00 with 100% of the money going to our parish! This is the perfect gift for the UofM fan on your Christmas list or for your home or office. These calendars are available in the vestibule of the church. Please put your donations in an envelope marked "Calendar Fundraiser" and put it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office.

**Choir Rehearsal Schedule**

Children's Choir will be singing at 10:00 am Christmas morning Mass. Rehearsals are in the choir loft on **Friday, Dec. 14th and 21st** at 5:45 pm. Adult choir rehearsals are on the same dates at 7:00 pm. The adult choir will sing at Christmas Midnight Mass on Dec. 25th. Please contact Benjamin [benjaminjameson@gmail.com](mailto:benjaminjameson@gmail.com) or 734.428.0007 for more details. New members are always welcome.

**Cleaning House**

We've been preparing our hearts and homes for Christmas this Advent. Please consider also helping us prepare our Church for this joyful day. Cleaning of the church will be **Saturday, December 22nd** beginning at 10:00 am. Please bring a bucket and a clean rag. Many hands make light work.

**Purchase a Book: a Parish  
 "Christmas Fundraiser"**

The parish has received another generous donation that might help with your Christmas shopping for young teens (ages 10-15): a wonderful book written by former parishioner Vida Shurtliff and entitled, *Setting the Record Straight: The True Story of How I Stopped a Murderous Tyrant and Saved the World from Nuclear War*. It is an exciting, action-packed story with excellent character development, good morals – and with little gems of history and philosophy thrown in! The suggested minimum donation is \$5, with ALL proceeds going to the parish!

**Parish Calendars are Here**

2019 religious year calendars are now available in the vestibule of the Church. These calendars are a gift to you from the Parish.

**Keep Christ in Christmas**

Car magnets depicting the Nativity of our Lord with the words, "Keep Christ in Christmas," are available for purchase for \$5 in the vestibule of the church. Please place your payment in the collection basket.

**End of Year Giving**

The IRS deadline is fast approaching to receive the 2018 tax advantages for your contributions to St. Mary Church. Please consider if you might benefit by making an end-of-the-year donation to the parish. All donations are tax deductible. We will be sending out contribution letters in January to support your tax records. Please make sure that all donations for the 2018 tax year are postmarked or delivered to the parish office by December 31st.

**Support Retired Religious**

An envelope for 'Retired Religious' was included with your weekly envelopes and there are extras available in each pew for your use. The priests and sisters who have given their lives in service of the church rely on you to assist with their retirement expenses so please be as generous as possible.