



Saint Mary

Reverend Fr. Bosco Padamattummal, Administrator

Deacon Dennis Walters

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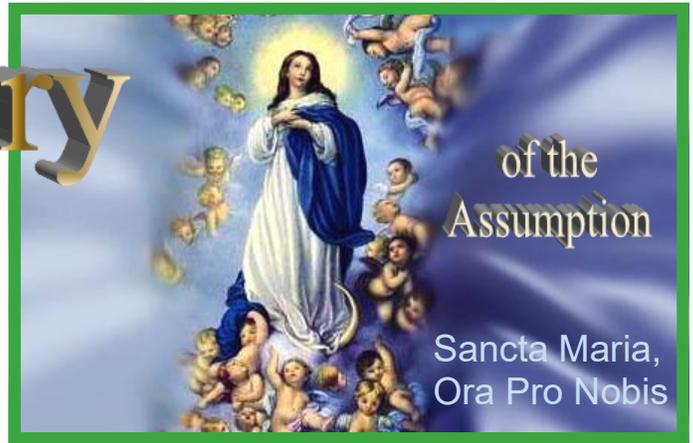
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WEEKEND MASSES:

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



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time — February 17, 2019

“Do You Hunger for Righteousness?” Fr. Bosco Padamattummal

This is the same sermon recorded in Mt 5-7 called the Sermon on the Mount. In fact, Matthew gave more words of Jesus from the sermon than Luke. There are people who treat this sermon as a statement of ethics, but it isn't. It's a sermon about salvation. In fact, it's the most definitive sermon that Jesus preached, identifying who is saved and who is not. What Jesus taught was absolutely opposite human thinking, even the thinking of religious people. The religious Jews found it offensive and threatening. Now to the average person it sounds crazy. Jesus says that poverty, hunger, sorrow and rejection are a blessing; and riches, satisfaction, happiness and popularity a curse. I mean, basically everybody in the world lives their lives to turn poverty into riches, hunger into satisfaction, sorrow into happiness and rejection into popularity, but this is an authoritative word from God that sets the standard by which anybody can discern their spiritual condition. I would assume that you're here because you have some interest in the Kingdom of God.

Now take the word “blessed.” It's the Greek word meaning, “most favored.” It speaks of somebody who is in the most beneficial condition. Then the word “woe,” which in Greek means, “most unfavored.” It means the person who is in the worst condition. When we read “Blessed are you who are poor, I want you to understand these are not wishes. This isn't a wish. This isn't a hope. This isn't even a prayer. It's not like, “O God, please bless poor people; O God, please bless hungry,

weeping and hated people,” and, “O God, please curse rich, satisfied, happy and popular people.” It's not a prayer. These are absolute statements of fact. The poor are blessed. The hungry are blessed. The weeping are blessed. And the rejected are blessed. And the question is; which group are you in? For the desperate, there is blessing. For the self-sufficient, there is cursing. He's talking about spiritually poor. The people that are blessed are people who understand their spiritual poverty. They understand the bankrupt condition of their soul. They understand that they have absolutely no resources with which to buy God's favor.

In chapter 4 when Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth, His own hometown synagogue, He said to them, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,” He has anointed Me to preach the good news.” The good news is forgiveness, the good news is righteousness, but this good news is to all the spiritually poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed or downtrodden. “I come to present good news of forgiveness and freedom.” “God, be merciful to me, a sinner. I'm too embarrassed, ashamed, too humiliated to even look at You.” This is the man with the poor and contrite spirit of Is 66:2. This is the one who knows he has nothing. At the time of Jesus, Jews thought their religious observances had earned them righteousness. They were absolutely wrong. Jesus overturned that completely. It

is those who know they have nothing and are beggars who are blessed. Why are they blessed? Because, “For yours is the Kingdom of God.” You get the Kingdom. You become heirs of God, joint-heirs with Christ, possessors of everything in the Kingdom, all the Kingdom has to offer. Eternal life, forgiveness, grace, mercy, joy, hope, security, comfort, peace,



Sunday, February 10th was Scout Sunday. Fr. Bosco gave a special blessing to the Cub Scouts who were present Brett and Luke Brothers and Eoin Flaherty.



During Coffee Hour on February 10th Hannah Kominars, Mary Sangster and Fr. Bosco were recognized for their birthdays.

Fr. Bosco's article continued from page 1

PARISH CALENDAR

Mass Intentions, [Requested by], and Parish Activities

SAT., FEB 16	Ordinary Weekday/BVM
Gn 3:9-24/Mk 8:1-10 (334)	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: <i>For the People</i>
SUN., FEB 17	SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Jer 17:5-8/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26 (78) Pss II	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: <i>INT: the Health and Birthday of Scott Strong</i> <i>[Sylvie Strong]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: † <i>William and Irene Carrier</i> <i>[Frank and Cindy Remski and Family]</i> 5:30 pm Youth Group Movie-FFH
MON, FEB 18	Ordinary Weekday
Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13 (335)	12:10 pm Mass: † <i>Betsy Kripas</i> <i>[Betty Cummings]</i> No Religious Education Classes Today
TUES., FEB 19	Ordinary Weekday
Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21 (336)	8:30 am Mass: † <i>Lillian Van Riper</i> <i>[Alice Kidd]</i>
WED., FEB 20	Ordinary Weekday
Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Mk 8:22-26 (337)	8:30 am Mass: † <i>INT: For the Health and Welfare of all St. Mary Parishioners</i> <i>[The Panches Family]</i>
THU., FEB 21	Ordinary Weekday/<i>St. Peter Damian</i>
Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33 (338)	8:30 am Mass: † <i>Noreen Burnett</i> <i>[Mary McKenzie]</i> 7:00 pm Altar Society Meeting-FFH
FRI., FEB 22	Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19 (535) Pss Prop	8:30 am Mass: † <i>Betsy Kripas, a Birthday Remembrance</i> <i>[Gayle Anotonelli]</i>
SAT., FEB 23	St. Polycarp
Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13 (340)	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: † <i>Betsy Kripas</i> <i>[Kathy Hagerman]</i>
SUN., FEB 24	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38 (81) Pss III	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: † <i>Jim Walkowe</i> <i>[Shirley Krzyzaniak]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>For the People</i>

love, righteousness, all that is yours.

And the second characteristic of the people who are blessed comes in the second Beatitude, the blessing of hunger. Verse 21 says, "Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied." Again the point is not physical food but spiritual. Mt 5:6 says, "Blessed are those who hunger for 'righteousness.'" It's an intense desire for righteousness. It's saying, "Look, I have nothing. I am bankrupt. I am a beggar. I can't earn my salvation, but I hunger for righteousness." So the blessed are those who have a deep consuming, longing for acceptance with God. They want to be right with God. They want a relationship with God. They want forgiveness. They want their sin to be dealt with. They want fellowship with God. They want eternal life. It's like Psalm 42:1-2 where the psalmist said, "As the deer longs after the water brooks, so is the longing of my soul after You, O God, my soul thirsts for God, the living God." When Mary was praising God after the announcement that she would be the mother of the Messiah, she praised God in Lk 1:53 as "the one Who has filled the hungry with good things." He fills the spiritually hungry of heart. This is a hunger for forgiveness, a hunger for righteousness, a hunger for holiness. So first, there's a recognition of poverty, spiritual bankruptcy, and then there is a hunger for righteousness. That hunger is the indicator of blessing because the Beatitude says, "For you shall be satisfied."

The third Beatitude at the end of verse 21 says, "Blessed are you who weep now for you shall laugh." These are the people who are sad about their condition. They're sad about their spiritual bankruptcy. They're sad about the absence of righteousness. They hunger for that. They are disappointed. They are fearful. They are in pain. And this is the sorrow of repentance. This is the kind of sorrow in James 4:9, "Be miserable and mourn and weep. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord and He will exalt you." That's the humiliation and the humbling and the sadness of repentance.

The fourth one is the blessing of rejection. Verse 22 says, "Blessed are you when men hate you and ostracize you and cast insults at you and spurn your name as evil for the sake of the Son of Man." Here you have gone from spiritual poverty to riches, hunger to satisfaction, sorrow to laughter. Your life has changed. It's evident. And now comes the blessing of rejection. And this is not how you see yourself but how the world sees you and treats you, which also is an evidence of your blessed condition. St. Paul gave his life to bring salvation, blessing to the enemies of God, read 2 Corinthians for yourself and see the litany of things he endured. Five times at a synagogue the Jews whipped him with 39 lashes. So, we can do a little inventory on our life. Do you understand your spiritual bankruptcy? Do you have a profound hunger for righteousness? And is our life filled with sadness over your sin. If so we are blessed because he can turn sorrow to laughter. ☞

Deacon Dennis and Sue are off to the Holy Land! Each evening Steve Ray will upload a video of the day's events so you can be with us as we travel. You can share in the Pilgrimage virtually by accessing the daily videos at www.CatholicConvert.com

Please Pray for:

- Russ Auito
- Brian Ball
- Leon Ball
- Ann Becktel
- Duane Beuerle

- Ethel Fahey
- Herman Hessling
- Elise Kueffner
- Jessica Morrison
- Cody Simpson
- Trish Waldecker Murray
- Eddie Walz

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.

"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

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

P A R I S H N E W S

Youth Group Gathering

All 7th-12th graders come and enjoy *The Greatest Showman* and learn about unique people that God has created. We'll watch the movie, have food, play games and have a lot of fun tonight, **February 17th** at 5:30pm in the Fr. Fisher Hall.

Lend a Hand for the Fish Fry Dinners

As Lent approaches, team captains of the Fish Fry Committee are preparing for the famous St. Mary Fish Fry that will be held each Friday. Sign-up sheets are available in the entryway of the Church after Masses to either renew your volunteer commitment or choose new tasks. The first dinner will be held on **Friday, March 8th**. Many hands make light work.

Prepare for the Pillars of Lent

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving beginning on Ash Wednesday, **March 6th**. Ash Wednesday is always observed as a day of fast and abstinence. It is also set aside as a day of prayer and contemplation given that we are marked with ashes as the priest reminds us that we are dust and unto dust we shall return. This year there will be three Masses offered that day: 7:00am (no music, no homily, simple Mass with imposition of ashes), 8:30am and 7:00pm. At each Mass there will be a second collection that will be used to fill the parish poor box. Please take the opportunity to begin Lent with the three pillars firmly in place and come prepared to help fill the poor box to assist our brothers and sisters in need.

What is the "Real Presence" in Holy Communion?

If Jesus is really "present" in the Eucharist, why don't I sense it? Has this question crossed your mind? If you're curious about the Eucharist, you will have an opportunity to get answers. St. Mary's will host five sessions including dinner, a 30min video, and friendly discussion that will open your mind to the Eucharistic truth. The 1st session is **Tuesday, March 12th**, 6-7:30pm, in Fr. Fisher Hall. Sign-up sheets are in the vestibule.

All-Day Confession

During the season of Lent we are asked to not only pray, fast and give alms, but also to prepare ourselves for the joy of the Resurrection by making a good confession. St. Francis of Assisi in Ann Arbor will be hosting All-Day Confession on **Thursday, March 19th**. Many priests will be available to give counseling and the gift of healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you are unable to attend this event, more opportunities will be available for confession throughout Lent.

AREA NEWS

Special Needs Seminar at St. Louis Center will workshop based on Matthew Kelly's book *The focus on how the 'Montessori Lifestyle' can help* *Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* and featuring to detect and deal with dementia in persons with Jonathon Fanning, will be offered on **March** developmental disabilities. Dr. Cameron Camp **16th** from 9 am-1 pm at St. Rita's Clark Lake. will speak on **Wednesday, February 20th** at 7:00pm. Please RSVP to Joe at 734-475-8430

Kerygma Encounter is now the first step in preparing Catechists for the classroom. The day is spent in quiet listening, and gentle rejoicing. The event is hosted this year by St. Paul, Owosso on **Saturday, March 9th**. To register contact Sharon at religiouised@stpaulowosso.org or 989/723-4765, ext. 1307

Find Your Greatness: Four Habits that will transform your life, a



Purchase tickets at DynamicCatholic.com for \$25/person. **Parish Regional Meetings** are annual events lead by diocesan directors for all parish ministry leaders. Dates this year include: **March 13th** at Holy Spirit, Brighton; **March 19th** at St. Elizabeth, Tecumseh; **March 20th** at St. Martha, Okemos.

Sanctuary Lamps

are burning this week for:
1) INT: Deacon Dennis and Sue Walters for a Safe Trip to the Holy Land (St. Mary Parish Family)

Parish Family Birthdays

- Feb 16.....Todd Ducsay
- Feb 16.....Gary O'Hotzke
- Feb 16.....Jay Schwab
- Feb 17.....Scott Strong
- Feb 20.....Rebekkah (Rivka) Schiel-Pratt
- Feb 21.....Tyler Ball
- Feb 21.....Claudia Damian
- Feb 21.....Elizabeth Daubner
- Feb 22.....Daniel Davila
- Feb 22.....Loretta Widmayer
- Feb 23.....Anthony Bargardi
- Feb 23.....Ann Becktel
- Feb 23.....Astrida Panches
- Feb 24.....Anna Cocco
- Feb 24.....Francis Cousino
- Feb 24.....Ellen O'Sullivan

Altar Flowers

for the week of
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH
In Honor and Memory of
†Richard Krzyzaniak
(Shirley Krzyzaniak)



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, February 3, 2019

Sunday Envelopes	\$6,896.02
Loose Cash & Checks.....	\$100.50
Welcome Envelopes	\$108.00
E-Giving	\$300.63
Weekly toward budget	\$7,505.15
Weekly goal	\$5,300.00
Amt. ABOVE goal	\$2,205.15

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Building and Maintenance.	\$990.00
Utilities/Fuel.....	\$100.00
Worldwide Evang.	\$31.00
Poor Box.....	\$9.58
Votive Candles.....	\$83.00