

**Reverend Fr. Bosco Padamattummal, Administrator  
Deacon Dennis Walters**

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**WEEKEND MASSES:**

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



### Third Sunday of Lent - March 24, 2019

#### "WHAT IS YOUR SUFFERING TEACHING YOU?" Fr. Bosco Padamattummal

We've all heard it numerous times: "Why would a God who is all-good, all-knowing, and all-powerful allow bad things to happen to good people?" We can also turn the question around: "Why would an all-good, all-knowing, and all-powerful God allow good things to happen to bad people?" After all, while seeing good people suffer is horrible, they honestly want to know, "How could God let this happen to me and to mine? Why wouldn't God stop this pain and help me?"

In Luke 13:1, "on the same occasion," some were present who reported to Jesus about the Galileans who were killed. Pilate had sent in his troops to break up a gathering of Galilean Jews that he deemed dangerous.

The Roman soldiers did not even respect the fact that the Jews were worshiping God by offering sacrifices. They slaughtered them so that their blood flowed together with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus uses this current event to make a spiritual point. Then He brings up another tragedy from recent history, when a tower fell and killed 18 people, and uses that event to reinforce the spiritual lesson. From His reply, we can also surmise that these men were thinking that those who suffered such tragedies were deserving of God's judgment, whereas the fact that they had been spared such tragedies meant that they were pleasing to God. Their theology was like that of Job's comforters, who thought that Job was suffering because he had sinned. Jesus corrects this mistaken view by showing that we all are sinners worthy of God's judgment. Were those who suffered greater sinners? "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." Then Jesus tells a parable (13:6-9) that underscores the point: "If you don't repent, you will soon face God's judgment."



The Knights of Columbus served corned beef and cabbage dinners to a packed Parish Center on Saturday, March 16th.

Thus rather than asking the question, "Why?" with regard to suffering, we should ask the question, "What?" What does this tragedy teach me? Our Lord's answer is, tragedies should teach us that since death and judgment are imminent, we need to be ready through true repentance. Jesus turned such discussions into the personal need for repentance. There are two kinds of tragedies in the text: those caused by evil people; and, those caused by accidents or natural disasters. But the worst tragedy, as Jesus shows, will be on the final judgment which involves not only physical death, but also spiritual death or eternal separation from God. If we learn rightly from earthly tragedies, we will avoid the ultimate and final tragedy. So what should we learn from tragedies?

Here Jesus asks twice, "Do you suppose that those [who suffered] were worse sinners than others because of their suffering?" And He responds emphatically, "I tell you, no." In Jesus' day (as well as in our own), many had the mistaken view that people suffer in this life in direct proportion to their sinfulness. Even the disciples asked Jesus concerning the blind man, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?" (John 9:2). The Bible often shows godly men who suffer and are killed at a young age (e.g., John the Baptist) and ungodly men who live long and relatively trouble-free lives (e.g., Herod). The ultimate biblical resolution to the problem of evil and suffering is the final judgment, when every wicked person who has not repented will pay for his sin, and every righteous believer in Christ who has suffered will be eternally rewarded.

The lesson we should learn is that tragedies show us how fragile life is and that we must get right with God before we die and face

(Continued on pg. 2)

## PARISH CALENDAR

### *Mass Intentions, [Requested By], Parish Activities*

SAT., MARCH 23	Lenten Weekday/ <i>St. Turibius of Mogrovejo</i>
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 (235)	3:30-4:30 pm Confession <b>5:00 pm Vigil Mass: †MJ Kidd, a Birthday Remembrance</b> [Alice Kidd]
SUN., MARCH 24	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9 (30) or, from Year A, Ex 17:3-7/ Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42 (28) Pss III	8:00-8:15 am Confession <b>8:30 am Mass: For the People</b> 10:00-10:15 am Confession <b>10:30 am Mass: †Gerald Damian</b> [Claudia Damian]
MON., MARCH 25	<b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b>
Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/ Lk 1:26-38 (545) Pss Prop	<b>12:10 pm Mass: †Jean Ramdé</b> [Sylvie and Scott Strong] No Religious Ed - Spring Break 7:00 pm Evangelization Team Meeting - FFH
TUES., MARCH 26	<b>Lenten Weekday</b>
Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35 (238)	<b>8:30 am Mass: †Maynard G. Kidd</b> [Alice Kidd] 6:00 pm Understanding the Eucharist - FFH
WED., MARCH 27	<b>Lenten Weekday</b>
Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19 (239)	<b>8:30 am Mass: †Evelyn Hankerd</b> [Irene Mockaitis] 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal - Choir Loft
THURS., MARCH 28	<b>Lenten Weekday</b>
Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23 (240)	<b>8:30 am Mass: †Cora Tournier</b> [Alice Kidd]
FRI., MARCH 29	<b>Lenten Weekday</b>
Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34 (241)	<b>8:30 am Mass: †Jim Walkowe</b> [Heather Walkowe] 4:30-7:00 pm Fish Fry Dinner - PC 7:30 pm Stations of the Cross - Church
SAT., MARCH 30	<b>Lenten Weekday</b>
Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14 (242)	3:30-4:30 pm Confession <b>5:00 pm Vigil Mass: †Richard Krzyzaniak</b> [Bill and Astrida Punches]
SUN., MARCH 31	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 (33) or, from Year A, 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 (31) Pss IV	8:00-8:15 am Confession <b>8:30 am Mass: †Jim Maisano</b> [Bill and Astrida Punches] 10:00-10:15 am Confession <b>10:30 am Mass: For the People</b>

### Need Help?

<b>Alternative to Abortion:</b> Right to Life MI Hotline 800-57WOMAN or visit <a href="http://www.optionline.org">www.optionline.org</a>	“AA” group meets Fridays and Sundays at 7:00 pm - Emmanuel 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-abortive reconciliation and healing) Call the confidential phone line: 517-993-0291 or email <a href="mailto:nlc@resurrectionlansing.org">nlc@resurrectionlansing.org</a>	For more news and events in the area, please visit our website: <a href="http://stmarymanchester.org">stmarymanchester.org</a>

**Correction and apology:** The Mass intention for **†Emily Cummings** on **Saturday, March 16th** was requested by **Ella Landini**, not St. Mary Altar Society. I am heartily sorry for my grave error. In Christ, Kelly Flaherty

judgment. When tragedy hits someone else, whether it is a tragedy caused by evil people or one caused by some natural disaster, we all talk about it. We’re glued to the TV set, watching the details over and over as they are reported. But, when it’s over, most people go unchanged, with no thought of how it applies to them. Jesus here shows that we should immediately take it to heart by asking, “What if it had been me? Would I have been ready to stand before God? Have I truly repented of my sins? Is my life pleasing to the Lord?” Because the fact is, sooner or later, it will be me! None of the Galileans who were slaughtered by Pilate knew beforehand that going to the temple would be their last act on this earth. If they had known what was about to happen, they would have stayed home that day. None of the 18 people standing by the tower of Siloam knew that it was about to fall and crush them to death or they would have gotten out of the way. None of the parents of the children murdered in Colorado or Florida imagined when they said good-bye to their children that morning that it would be the last time. None of those in Arkansas who perished in the tornadoes had any idea that they only had hours to live.

The point is, life is very fragile! Even though you are healthy and young, you could be in your coffin tonight. Because we are sinners we all are debtors to God. Either we will pay for our sin by eternal separation from God in hell, or we trust in the death of Jesus as the sinless substitute who bore God’s wrath on our behalf. Whenever we hear of a tragedy, we should apply it to our own hearts by making the key question we ask ourselves, “Am I truly repentant for my sins?” We can weep over our sins for days, but our tears will not get us into heaven. Our sorrow for our sins does not somehow cancel out the debt we owe. Only the blood Jesus Christ shed atones for our sins, the sacrament Jesus instituted to forgive our sins can cancel out our sins. Today’s Gospel tells us that the world is His vineyard and we are His fig trees, planted there for His purpose. As the owner of the fig trees, God has the right to expect those trees to produce fruit for His use. If they do not produce, He is perfectly just to cut down those trees and throw them in the fire. No one can dare say, “What do You think You’re doing?” if God decides to cut it down. He made it for His purpose; He owns it; He can do what He chooses with it. The more we see of God’s sovereign and holy right to judge His creation, the quicker we will be to repent of our sins. Every person who has ever lived on this planet was created by a good and merciful God for His purpose, to bring glory to Him. ♦

**Parish Family Birthdays**

March 25 .....James Miller  
 March 26 .....Cecelia Kueffner  
 March 27 .....Lisa Irvin-Chisnell  
 March 28 .....Garett Sanders  
 March 30 .....Andrew Bonkowski  
 March 30 .....Kelly Flaherty



*St. Mary  
Roman Catholic  
Church  
Stewardship*

**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS****Sunday, March 10, 2019**

*Sunday Envelopes .....\$3,909.00  
 Loose Cash & Checks.....\$104.00  
 Easter Decor.....\$135.00  
 E-Giving .....\$145.90  
 Black & Indian Missions \$340.00  
 CRS.....\$30.00*

*Weekly toward budget.....\$4361.75  
 Weekly goal.....\$5,300.00  
 Amt. **BELOW** goal .....\$938.25*

**OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:**

*Building & Maintenance...\$130.00  
 Coffee Hour .....\$67.85  
 Poor Box.....\$130.59  
 Votive Candles .....\$115.00*

**Sanctuary Lamps**

are burning this week for:

1. The Repose of the Soul of  
 \*Ethel Fahey  
 (Jim and Marja Warner)

**Please Pray for:**

Russ Aiuto  
 Brian Ball  
 Leon Ball  
 Matt Beals  
 Ann Becktel  
 Duane Beuerle  
 J. Kevin Doyle  
 Mike Gibbons  
 Shane Schook  
 Cody Simpson  
 Frank and Connie Stancato  
 Jean Walczak  
 Frances Walters  
 Eddie Walz

**Repose of the Soul:**  
 \*Ethel Fahey  
 \*Denise Kratz  
 \*John Walton

**Parish News****Confirmation at the Cathedral**

Our Confirmation Candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Boyea at the Cathedral in Lansing on **Sunday, April 7th**. Please keep Hannah Kominars, Megan Miller, Mary Sangster, and their Confirmation Sponsors in your prayers as they make their final preparations for reception of the sacrament.

**DSA Underway**

The annual Diocesan Services Appeal is officially underway. This year our parish goal is \$28,001.00. Envelopes for your pledges can be found in the pews. An appeal was also sent to you in the mail. Please be as generous as you are able.

**Fish Fry Fridays**

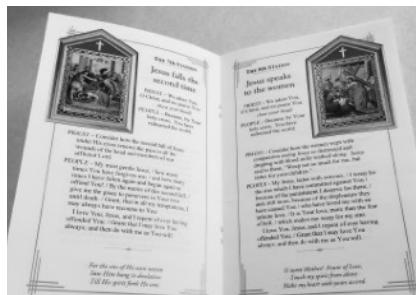
Please invite your family, friends, co-workers and the strangers you meet to join us 4:30-7:00 pm each Friday of Lent at the Parish Center. This "All You Can Eat" meal is sure to please.

**Faith Magazine**

Are you receiving Faith magazine and wish to discontinue your subscription? To be removed from the mailing list, simply call the parish office and make your request.

**Stations of the Cross**

Special thanks to Bill and Janet Shurtliff for donating the new booklets which includes images of the newly framed Stations of the Cross. They will be used for this devotion each Friday during Lent beginning at 7:30 pm in the Church. This devotion will also be prayed 20 minutes prior to each of the weekend Masses.

**Area News**

**Theology on Tap** a Q&A with Bishop Boyea at Connor O'Neils Pub in Ann Arbor **March 26th** at 6:30 pm.

**Pre-Screening** of "Unplanned." The free showing is planned for **Thursday, March 28th** at 7 pm. Mark your calendars and watch for confirmation of the theater location.

**"Grace, Mercy, & Eternal Life"** A new one-day Lenten Retreat is being offered for you at St. Francis Retreat Center 9am-3:00pm **March 27th**. Includes Mass and lunch. Cost is

**Heal Your Soul**

The gift of healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at Area Communal Penance Services which will be held at 7:00pm each evening, as follows:

**Monday, April 1st** - St. Andrew's Saline

**Tuesday, April 2nd** - St. Joseph Dexter

**Wednesday, April 3rd** - St. Mary Chelsea

**Thursday, April 4th** - St. Mary Manchester

Additional times will also be available for confession throughout Lent. Watch the bulletin for details.

**CRC Needs**

Don't forget that you may bring in your donations for the Community Resource Center any time throughout Lent. There is a bin in the vestibule to place your contributions.

**Singers Sought**

There will be a Children's Choir for **Easter Sunday, April 21st**. Children in grades 2-7 are invited to join. Rehearsals will be **April 3rd, 10th and 17th** at 5:45 pm in the Choir Loft. This choir will sing for the 10:30 am Mass.

**Formed**

If you haven't yet explored FORMED, an online service for accessing Catholic content, Lent is a great time to start. This service is available to all parishioners for free by downloading the app on your device or visiting [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org).

If you need more assistance contact the Parish Office.

\$65 or \$55 for seniors 60+. Info and registration at [stfrancis.ws](http://stfrancis.ws) or 517-669-8321.

**Quiet Moments** photography exhibit through **Thursday, June 27th** at INAI: A Space Apart, an art gallery adjacent to Weber Center. Quiet Moments showcases the art of Scott Miller and Elaina Robinson. Exhibit is open daily 8 am-6pm (until 8pm on Thursdays). The exhibit is free and open to the public.