



Saint Mary

of the Assumption

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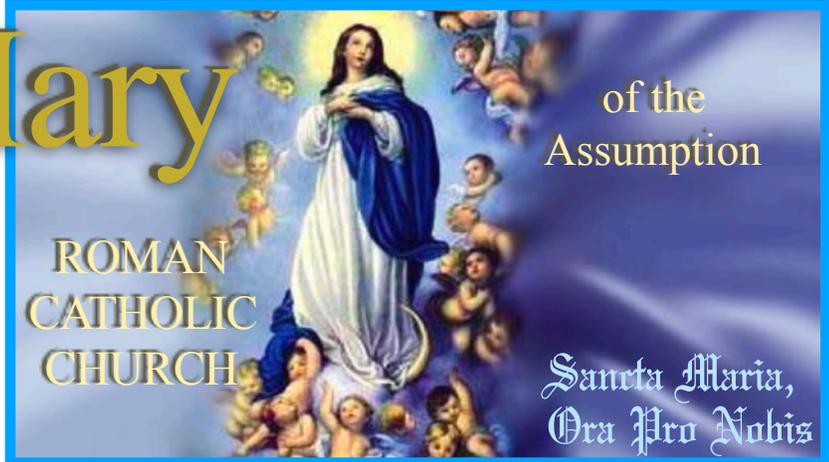
WEEKEND MASSES:

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



ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

Sancta Maria,
Ora Pro Nobis



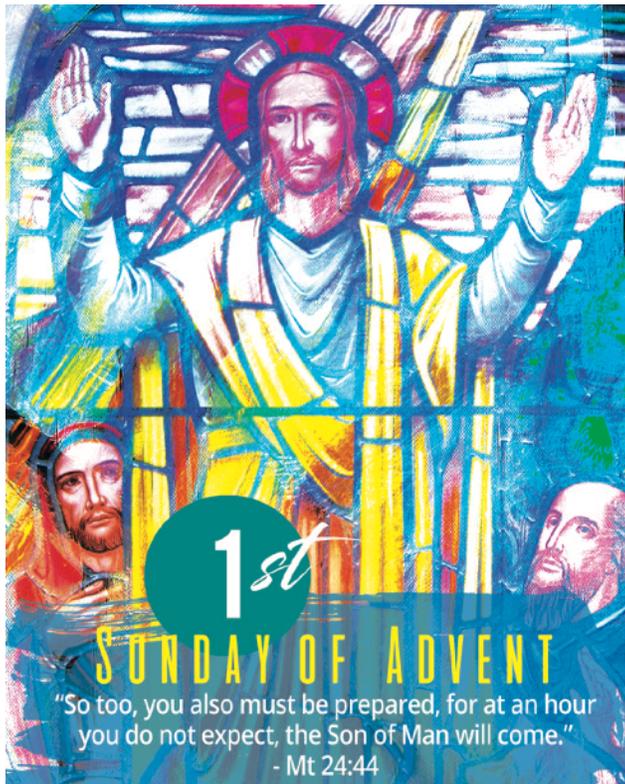
First Sunday of Advent - December 1, 2019

“Ready or Not, Here I Come!” Deacon Dennis Walters

The readings for this first Sunday of Advent remind me of what happened a couple of weeks ago, when the first big snowstorm hit. At our house, we'd received ample warning of a winter storm. We were hoping to get ahead of it with some last-minute leaf-raking and lawn mowing, after which we'd store the lawnmower and get the snow blower ready. Weather reports suggested that we'd get about three inches of snow, so we thought snow shovels would be all we'd need. But when reality struck, the snow blower was still in the shed, and we had to remove nearly a foot of heavy snow by hand. I don't think we were the only ones who were unprepared for what we got.

Our Gospel passage comes in Mt 24, toward the end of Jesus' description of the advent of great destruction at some point in the future. In most of that chapter, Jesus is speaking of the impending destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, which did occur forty years later, within the lifetime of the disciples He was talking to. But a few verses before the passage we've just heard, the topic shifts to the Day of Doom, or Judgment, at the end of time. The point is clear: persevere to the end, and keep alert for the Lord's coming.

There are some allusions in the Gospel passage that are important to focus on. For example, the expression "son of man" simply means one who belongs to the race of human beings. The Old Testament uses it frequently; the prophet Ezekiel used it of himself over 90 times. The most significant use of it there, though, comes in Daniel 7, where "one like a



son of man" is presented to the Ancient of Days to receive dominion and glory and a kingdom that will not pass away. That explains why "son of man" is Jesus' favorite title for Himself. He cited the Daniel passage at his trial when he warned the high priest Caiphas that he would see the "son of man" coming in great power and glory. Jesus mentions the "coming of the son of man" three times in the few verses we read today.

The reference to Noah makes the central point about readiness for that coming. In Genesis, Noah was warned to prepare himself and his family for God's decision to wipe out the human race by means of a flood, and start over again with Noah himself. Following explicit instructions, Noah

built an ark and stocked it with both clean and unclean animals. As Jesus summarizes the story, everyone else in Noah's time went about business as usual, blissfully ignorant of the flood that would sweep everyone away. Jesus then adds two more current examples to underscore the point, one of two men in a field, and the other of two women grinding flour; one of each would be taken and one left. Jesus is not talking about what some Christians call "the Rapture," where those taken are removed to heaven and the others left behind to endure the tribulation. Just the opposite. The ones taken are swept away to destruction, just as those in Noah's day were swept away; the ones left are those who were prepared for what was to come. Jesus concludes: "So you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

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PARISH CALENDAR

Mass Intentions, [Requested By], Parish Activities

SAT., NOV 30	St. Andrew
Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22 (684) Pss Prop	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: †Adolph (Uncle Taby) Tabbert [Bill and Sandi Kwolek]
SUN., DEC 1	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44 (1) Pss I	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: For the People 9:30-10:30 am Religious Education - FFH 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: †Bishop Joseph Albers 1st Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing
MON., DEC 2	Advent Weekday
Is 4:2-6 (second choice)/Mt 8:5-11 (175)	11:30 am Intercessory Prayer Group - FFH 12:10 pm Mass: INT: Anna Muldoon [John and Tina Doyle and Family]
TUES., DEC 3	St. Francis Xavier
Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24 (176)	8:30 am Mass: For the †Souls in Purgatory [Claudia Damian]
WED., DEC 4	Advent Weekday/St. John Damascene
Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37 (177)	8:30 am Mass: INT: For all St. Mary Parishioners in dire need of divine healing and God's mercy [St. Mary Parish] 4:00 pm Staff Meeting - FFH 7:00 pm Pastoral Council Meeting - FFH
THURS., DEC 5	Advent Weekday
Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27 (178)	9:00 am Mass: †Harriet Tabbert [Bill and Sandi Kwolek]
FRI., DEC 6	Advent Weekday/St. Nicholas/First Friday
Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31 (179)	8:30 am Mass: †Betsy Kripas, a 1st Anniversary Remembrance [Gayle Antonelli] 9:00 am Exposition and Adoration begins 8:00 pm Confession 10:00 pm Benediction and close of Adoration
SAT., DEC 7	St. Ambrose/First Saturday
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180)	8:30 am First Saturday Mass: †Tim O'Hare [John and Tina Doyle and Family] 3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: †Camilla Gates [Alice Kidd]
SUN., DEC 8	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12 (4) Pss II	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: †Rita Townsend [Dan and Deb Burch] 9:30-10:30 am Religious Education - FFH 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: For the People 11:30 am Youth Group Meeting - PC 5:00 pm Advent Candlelight Dinner and Prayer Service - FFH

Parish News

Christmas in the Village

The Altar Society will be selling St. Mary's Soft German Pretzels and other items that you bake and donate at the Bake Sale. Any items must be delivered to the Methodist Church **Friday, Dec. 6th**, between 10am and 6pm. This early time is so all can enjoy the Christmas Parade that evening. Please contact Marja Warner, 428-9506 if you are interested. This event is one of only three fundraisers for the Altar Society each year.

Advent Dinner and Prayer Service

Sunday, December 8th at 5:00 pm is the Annual Candlelight Dinner and Prayer Service in the Fr. Fisher Hall. Contact Somebody at 555-555-5555 for more details.

Advent Penance Services

Next Week will be the area Penance Services each evening at 7:00pm. Please see the display ad below for dates and locations.

Choir Notes

Any interested St. Mary grade school aged children are invited to sing in the children's choir on Christmas Day at 10:00 am Mass. All choir rehearsals are in the choir loft children at 5:45 pm and adults at 7:00 pm on **Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th and 18th**. The choir is always looking for additional members, particularly men, so please come to a rehearsal if you would like to try it out.

Votive Candle Subsidy

An anonymous benefactor has paid to subsidize votive candles. The first 100 votive candles that are lit will only cost \$2 instead of the usual \$4. A note will be on each of the candle stands as a reminder. When the note is gone, all 100 candles have been lit. Please, as you light your candles, remember to also pray for our generous benefactor.

Parish Movie Night

The movie "Unplanned" will be shown in the Fr. Fisher Hall on **Friday, December 13th**, at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free; refreshments will be available. Older teenagers are encouraged to attend.

St. Mary Shuttle Running

Just a reminder that we have organized the St. Mary Shuttle for those needing a ride to Mass or other parish activities. Rides to doctor appointments and some grocery delivery may also be available. Call 734-972-5652 or email: sfielder@umich.edu

Intercessory Prayer Group

The intercessory prayer group meets on Mondays in the Fr. Fisher Hall at 11:30 am for prayers of thanksgiving and petition. All are welcome.

Glory of Christmas

The bus to the "Glory of Christmas, A Christmas Extravaganza" at Northridge Church on **Saturday, December 14th** will be departing from St. Mary Manchester at 11:30 am that day. Please be prompt.



Sanctuary Candles

Consider sponsoring these candles for your prayer intention similar to a Mass intention. The intentions will appear in the bulletin and on a sign in the entryway of the church. The candles typically burn for one week. Suggested donation is \$12.

Advent Penance Services

Monday, Dec. 9th - St. Andrew, Saline
Tuesday, Dec. 10th - St. Joseph, Dexter
Wednesday, Dec. 11th - St. Mary, Chelsea
Thursday, Dec. 12th - St. Mary, Manchester



*St. Mary
Roman Catholic
Church
Stewardship*

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Sunday, November 17, 2019

- Sunday Envelopes \$4,341.00
- Loose Cash & Checks.....\$226.00
- Welcome Envelopes\$33.00
- All Saint's Day.....\$10.00
- All Souls Day.....\$2.00
- Christmas Décor.....\$25.00
- E-Giving\$190.90

Weekly toward budget.....\$4,877.90
 Weekly goal.....\$5,300.00
 Amt. **BELOW** goal.....\$422.10

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Building & Maintenance....\$70.00
- Campaign for Human Dev....\$440.00
- Poor Box.....\$42.50
- Votive Candles.....\$17.00

Parish Family Birthdays

- Dec 2.....Christian Long
- Dec 3.....Geraldine Bonkowski
- Dec 4.....Ryder Brothers
- Dec 5.....Mark Ball
- Dec 5.....Lynn Miller
- Dec 7.....Eden Bourland
- Dec 7.....MaryAnn Gilbert
- Dec 7.....Peter Roncoli

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

of the Most
BLESSED
SACRAMENT
December 6th
9am until



Benediction at 10 pm
(Confessions heard
8-9pm)

**** FIRST SATURDAY
MASS at 8:30 am ****

Deacon Dennis' article continued from page 1

In each of the three cycles of readings in the lectionary, the Church reminds us on the First Sunday of Advent that we need to prepare for the Lord's coming at the end of time. It's immaterial whether "the end of time" is the final Day of Judgment for all mankind or simply the end of our personal time on earth, the day of our death. Either way, we've been warned of what's coming. As our second reading so nicely puts it, "You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand." If we're not to be caught unprepared, we must right now "throw off the works of darkness" and "conduct ourselves properly as in the day."

This first Sunday of Advent merely warns us that Jesus will finally come on that Day. Later Advent readings will specify how to prepare for it through repentance, usually focusing on the ministry of John the Baptist. Only by the Fourth Sunday of Advent do we directly turn our attention to Jesus' first coming at Christmas. For the liturgy, right now Christmas is in the background; the Last Day is in the foreground. By approaching Christmas through preparing spiritually for the day of our death, we prepare

ourselves to celebrate Christmas the way it should be celebrated, by (as Paul would say) "putting on the Lord Jesus Christ and making no provision for the desires of the flesh."

If you want some concrete suggestions for how to prepare for Christmas, a good resource is at the US Bishops' website (<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/>) where you can download their Advent calendar. It contains lots of ideas for family activities.

Most of us will probably spend the Advent season in *immediate preparation* for the Christmas celebration, buying and wrapping presents, cooking and baking, making plans for family visits - and, if we can separate ourselves from worldly concerns for awhile, making spiritual preparations like going to confession. But *remote preparation* for the Last Day is critical too, because it puts into a mindset of keeping ourselves ready for Jesus' final coming into each of our lives. It's the only one that really matters in the long run. Just as we don't want to be unready for a major snowstorm or other weather event, we don't want to be unprepared for when Jesus calls us home to that eternal Christmas celebration. ❖

Area News

Love and Mercy the movie about St. Faustina will be in theaters for one day, tomorrow, **December 2nd**. Quality 16, Ann Arbor 20+IMAX or Jackson. All shows are at 7:00 pm.

Christmas Bazaar hosted by St. Mary Rosary Altar Society on **Saturday, December 7th** 10-4 at St. Mary Church, 10601 Dexter-Pinckney Road, Pinckney. For info call Mary at 734-878-6563.

2019 St. John's Vendor Craft Show, Saturday, December 7th 405 E. North St., Jackson MI. Admission \$2.

Amazing Greys

The next meeting is after
12:10 pm Mass

Monday, December 9th
Please join us for a potluck lunch.



Please Pray for:

- Matt Beals
- Duane Beuerle
- Burkina-Faso (ongoing terrorism)
- Tom Burch
- Maxine Delaschmit
- Linda Dyer
- June Faubion
- Ray Gavin
- Charles and Mary Gaylord

- Mike Gibbons
- Amanda Huber
- Carl Kemner
- Tom Kladyk
- Wilma Lentz
- Babette Medlock
- Patrick Muldoon
- Ron Panches
- Émilienne Ramdé
- Paula Saft
- Ray Seghers

- Thomas Strong
- Bruce Sommers
- Eddie Walz
- Sharon Warren
- Loretta Widmayer
- Gary Zubok

The Repose of the Soul:

- ‡Thomas Manion
- ‡Michael Whalen

Need Help?

Alternative to Abortion: Right to Life MI Hotline 800-57WOMAN or visit www.optionline.org

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

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

"AA" group meets Fridays and Sundays at 7:00 pm - Emmanuel Church Kitchen.

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

For more news and events in the area, please visit our website:
stmarymanchester.org