

SAINT MARY of the Assumption



Roman Catholic Church
Manchester, Michigan



REVEREND FR. BOSCO PADAMATTUMMAL
Administrator

DEACON DENNIS WALTERS

210 West Main Street • PO Box 249

Manchester, Michigan

Phone: (734) 428-8811

stmarymanchester@gmail.com

www.stmarymanchester.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Vigil Mass Saturday at 5:00 pm

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

In His Magnanimity...

— Fr. Bosco Padamattummal —

For many the parable in today's Gospel (Mt. 20:1-16) seems to run against one of our most deeply cherished values: *The more you work and the more productive you are, the more you should be paid.* This is the complaint of those who worked all day. Of all the gospels, only Matthew records this parable. It is connected to the preceding chapter (Mt 19:30) and appears to add to what Jesus said concerning the Kingdom of Heaven. At the close of that chapter He said, **"Many that are first shall be last, and the last shall be first."**

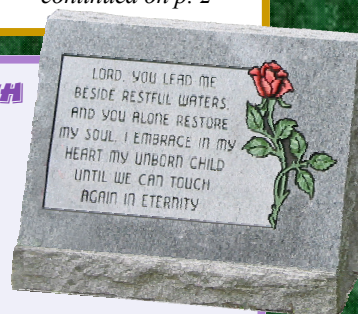
As we consider this text of a harvest time and the Master of the vineyard needing more workers, we need to understand the Old Testament (OT) passage (Ezekiel 18:25): "You say, 'The way of the Lord is not equal.'" **One of the things that the people of Israel did was accuse God** of inequities, of being unjust, of being unfair. And so, Ezekiel said, "Hear now, house of Israel: **Is it my way that is unfair? Are not your ways unfair?**"



We see the accusation that God is unjust in different parts of the OT. I don't think there's a better parable to see this than the one before us which explains commonality of the application of the great benefit of justification and sanctification of the believer in salvation. There's really only one way to understand this proverb: If the first are last and the last are first, then everyone's the same. As we're talking about the sphere of — continued on p. 2

THE NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE ON SEPT. 12TH

More than a dozen St. Mary parishioners gathered at the "Memorial to the Unborn" at our parish cemetery to pray for the little ones whose lives were lost before they even were born...



We pray, Father, that we who are the living stones of the Church, may likewise be witnesses to the dignity of life. Give us the grace to confront the evil of abortion and eliminate it. May we see the day when all people who look upon this stone will remember abortion only as a thing of the past, and may praise You forever for the victory of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Flowers were then placed in a vase at the base of the memorial stone. Oremus...

St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ♦ Sept. 19-27, 2020
 Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

SAT. SEPT. 19 *Weekday (opt mem. St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr) (opt. mem. Blessed Virgin Mary)*

 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 Lk 8:4-15
 3:30-4:30pm Confessions [on the rectory front porch]
 ➤ 5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time: For the people

SUN. SEPT. 20 *25th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

 Is 55:6-9 ➤ 8:30am MASS: † **Dick Krzyzaniak**
 [Krzyzaniak Family]
 Phil 1:20c-24, 27a ➤ 10:30am MASS: † **Bob Laskowski**
 [David & Dianna Roberts]
 Mt 20:1-16a Youth Group following 10:30am Mass

MON. SEPT. 21 *Feast: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

 Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 ➤ 12:10pm MASS: † **Nicholas Hnizdor**
 [Donna Hnizdor]
 Mt 9:9-13 1:00pm Bible Study (Waldecker) / PC
 3:30pm Religious Ed classes / PC
 7:00pm K of C meeting / PC

TUES. SEPT. 22 *Weekday*

 Prv 21:1-6, 10-13 ➤ 8:30am MASS: † **Wilma Lentz**
 Lk 8:19-21 [John and Beth Ball]
 7:00pm Bible Study (Dcn. Dennis) / PC

WED. SEPT. 23 *Memorial: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest*

 Prv 30:5-9 ➤ 8:30am MASS: † **Bob Laskowski**
 Lk 9:1-6 [John and Beth Ball]

THUR. SEPT. 24 *Weekday*

 Eccl 1:2-11 ➤ 8:30am MASS: † **Camilla Kidd**
 Lk 9:7-9 [Alice Kidd]

FRI. SEPT. 25 *Weekday*

 Eccl 3:1-11 ➤ 8:30am MASS: † **Vernie Kastl**
 Lk 9:18-22 [John and Beth Ball]
 9:15am Intercessory Prayer Group / FFH

SAT. SEPT. 26 *Weekday (opt mem. Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs) (opt. mem. Blessed Virgin Mary)*

 Eccl 11:9-12:8 • Lk 9:43b-45
 3:30-4:30pm Confessions [on the rectory front porch]
 ➤ 5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time: INT. Paul Landini's health
 [Jim & Ella Landini]

SUN. SEPT. 27 *26th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

 Ez 18:25-28 ➤ 8:30am MASS: For the people
 Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 ➤ 10:30am MASS: In loving memory of
 Mt 21:28-32 † **Herman Hessling** [Companions of Christ the Lamb]

FR. BOSCO'S ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:
In His Magnanimity...

 salvation, **there is no inequality among the believers of the family of God in the realm over which heaven rules.**

At the time of Jesus, these hired laborers were the lowest class of workers – unskilled and living at a certain level of desperation. **If they didn't work, they didn't eat and neither did their families.** Slaves and servants had steady jobs. Even if they were poor, they knew where they were going to sleep and that they would have enough food. However, here Jesus is concerned about hired workers. He wanted them to be cared for appropriately.

Deuteronomy 24:15 says, "On each day you shall **pay the servant's wages before the sun goes down**, since the servant is poor and is counting on them. Otherwise the servant will cry to the LORD against you, and you will be held guilty." This landowner of the vineyard was a dutiful Jew who did exactly what Old Testament law required; he paid them at the end of the day of their work. And so, he said to his foreman, "You take charge of paying them their wages and start with the last group." Those hired about the eleventh hour came, and each received a denarius, exactly what they needed to support their family for a day. **Had they had earned it?** No, but the compassionate landowner knew that was needed to feed their family.

Verse 10 says, "When those hired first came," (those who had worked all day) "**they thought that they would receive more.**" The silent expectation was that they would get more than everybody else because they worked harder. And so when that did not happen, it says in verse 11, "They grumbled."

But nothing illegal, unjust, or unfair had been done to them. All had the same need. A denarius to provide what they needed for themselves and their families. And the landowner **had every right to do this** because what he gave them belonged to him. Are we to assume that his compassion and kindness to others was somehow wrong?

So what is the point of this parable for us? In the end, everybody received the same. It illustrates that people coming into a vineyard, working different hours, putting out different effort, in the end will all receive the same result. The **HOUSEHOLDER** is **God**. The **VINEYARD** is **His kingdom**, the kingdom of heaven, the **LABORERS** are **those who are in His kingdom**. Some have been in His kingdom a long time, and some have been in His kingdom a very brief time. The **EVENING** is **eternity** when we receive our reward. The **STEWARD** or the foreman corresponds to **Jesus Christ** who gives out those rewards. The **WAGE** or the denarius is **eternal life**. It's life in the kingdom of God.

Some people have spent their lives in difficult, challenging, sacrificial service to Christ. Some have been martyred. Some pay a great price, working diligently to the point of exhaustion in the service of the King. Others, like the thief on the cross, come into the

kingdom at the very last hour, the last moment, the last few minutes, on their deathbed and enter into the kingdom. **Whether you are the thief on the cross or a martyr, you'll receive the same eternal life.**

Jesus is trying to educate His hardheaded disciples. In Mt 19:16, the rich, young man comes to Jesus, asking, "What must I do to obtain eternal life?" Jesus says, "I want you to take everything you have and sell it. Take the proceeds from the sale and give it to the poor and then follow me." He could not do either. **Through his action** he said, *I'm not giving up anything*. Then Peter says (v. 27) what they all were thinking: "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" Peter was saying: *We're not like that guy. We left everything. We had a business. We have left everything and followed you.* And Jesus' response is: *You're going to get exactly what everybody else gets. No more and no less.* Selfish, confused, envious, jealous perceptions on the heart of the apostles were intolerable to our Lord.

Dear brothers and sisters, **we all receive the same eternal life, whether we come to Christ just hours before death or whether we've known Him for 80 years.** So instead of exalting ourselves like the disciples did and imagining that we're someone special and going to get some great place in the glory to come, let us **humble** ourselves, and **be thankful** that God in His magnanimity, has chosen to give us **ALL** the same eternal life. ✝

PARISH NEWS

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES, IN THE PARISH AND IN THE AREA

"The SEARCH: Finding the Meaning of Life"? (REVISED meeting dates)

The parish will begin a new series of 7 once-a-week sessions leading us deeper into our faith. It has been announced in the last few bulletins, but now there is a change in scheduled meeting days/times. There now are two options for day/time for "The Search." Choose which is best for you:

MONDAYS • 1:00pm • beginning Sept. 28
Facilitated by Lynn Waldecker

TUESDAYS • 7:00pm • beginning Sept. 29
Facilitated by Deacon Dennis

The meeting location (Fr. Fisher Hall or Parish Center) will be announced soon.

A DIFFERENT Mission Coop Appeal this year

Covid concerns prevented parish visits from missionaries, visits when we were blessed to hear the stories, the many good works, and the profound needs of our brothers and sisters in the mission field around the world. But the need for our financial and prayerful support still exists!

The Diocese developed a short video message in lieu of a face-to-face speaker. It is posted on our parish website and facebook page. The hope is that this message will encourage us, if we are able at this time, to pray for and donate toward the longstanding, core mission groups of our Diocese. All funds collected will be combined and divided equally among these groups. Donations can be made online at the Diocesan website: donate.dioceseoflansing.org/mission-co-op-appeal OR use a white envelope from the pews (make checks payable to St. Mary Church) and drop it in the collection basket just inside the church door or drop it off at/send it to the parish office.

Please join in the continued support of the Missioners and the tremendous work of Christ Jesus that they undertake.

Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp Intentions

Altar flowers and Sanctuary Lamps are available to reserve for special prayer intentions that will be shared with the parish, and we all will pray with you. Contact the parish office (734-428-8811).

DSA: Getting sooooo close to our goal!

Thanks to 74 generous and faithful St. Mary parish families, we now have received or have pledges for \$24,927 which is 91% of our parish goal! This means we are very close. We just need \$2,379 to meet the goal. If you haven't yet given or pledged, please do so! We want to demonstrate our parish's commitment and strength to Bishop Boyea by supporting the many good works of the Diocesan Services Appeal. There are still envelopes in the main vestibule.

Online or Nearby...

- ◆ **VENERATE THE RELICS OF ST. PADRE PIO** at Old St. Pat's parish (5671 Whitmore Lake Rd, Ann Arbor (stpatriack2.org) **Tues., Sept 22** from 9:00am until the 7:00pm closing Mass. At 6:00pm Dcn. Gary Perrydore will present a talk entitled: "Hope in the Midst of Trial."
- ◆ **AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY** (near Naples, FL) is offering the Michigan Scholarship (\$28,000 over 4 years) and the Michigan Homeschool Scholarship (\$36,000 over 4 years) to local Catholic students, making an authentic Catholic education truly affordable. You are also invited to participate in the **2020 AMU Michigan Fly-In**, a FREE college visit to AMU **Thurs. Oct. 29–Sun., Nov. 1**, including airfare, lodging, food, etc. Limited spots available! For info or to apply for the Fly-In, visit www.avemariafoundation.org
- ◆ **ALPHA** explores the basics of the Christian faith. Fr. John Vandenakker CC and the T2 seminarians of Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit invite you to join them for Alpha-via-Zoom on Tuesdays (7pm-8:30pm) from **Sept. 22–Dec. 1**. Free of charge! Open to everyone, especially those who have questions. For more info or to register visit shms.edu/alpha
- ◆ **A VIRTUAL RETREAT WITH FR. TIMOTHY GALLAGHER**, "Discerning the Will of God," offered by the Diocese of Lansing the weekend of **Sept 25–27**. Tune in virtually or from the St. Francis Retreat Center (still virtual but with additional parts). For more info or to register, visit dioceseoflansing.org/event/ignatien. ■



The SANCTUARY LAMPS are burning this week for the following intentions:

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK...

- 1) For the repose of the soul of
+Robert Clark Sr.
(Jim & Marja Warner)
- 2) ...

Birthday Blessings!

Sept. 20 ... Judy Fahey

Sept. 21 ... Shaun Bonkowski

... Patrick Flaherty

Sept. 26 ... Mike Bossory

Please Pray for...

- Eddie Walz
- Nick & Jenn Thomm
- Kathy Curley (and her family)
- Tom Burch
- June and Walt Faubion
- Bill Coltre
- Leon Ball
- Paula Saft
- Aimee Simpson
- Carrie Warner
- Andrea Mendoza
- Tom Kladzyk
- Connie and Frank Stancato
- Walter Radisovich
- Paul Whelan
- Duane Beuerle
- Bruce Sommers
- Pam (friend of Susan Fielder)

Please advise Parish Office to add or remove a name from the prayer list.



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION: Sunday, September 6, 2020

Sunday Env (47) \$ 4,143.00
Welcome & Loose \$ 134.00
E-Giving (14) \$ 611.36

Combined toward budget: \$ 5,037.06
Budget goal: \$ 5,300.00
Amt BELOW goal: – \$ 262.94

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Bldg & Maint (6) \$ 270.00
Bldg & Maint E-giving (1) ... \$ 50.00
Poor Box \$ 17.00
Votive candles \$ 85.00

NEED HELP?
ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION:
Call (800) 57WOMAN (800-579-6626) –
OR – Text for Help:
"HELPLINE" to 313131

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

NEED HELP? "COURAGE" is a Catholic
spiritual support group for those struggling
with same sex attraction. "ENCOURAGE" is
a separate support group for families &
friends. For info in the Diocese of Lansing, call
517-342-2596 or email caverart@comcast.net

NEED HELP? An "AA" group
meets Fridays at 7:00pm at
Emanuel Church, 324 W Main St.
(next door to St Mary's)