

# SAINT MARY of the Assumption



Roman Catholic Church  
Manchester, Michigan



REVEREND FR. BOSCO PADAMATTUMMAL  
Administrator

DEACON DENNIS WALTERS

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WEEKEND MASSES:

Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Vigil Mass Saturday at 5:00 pm

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ♦ MAY 9, 2021

## EVEN WHEN WE FAIL HIM...

– Fr. Bosco Padamattummal –

**I**t is the evening of the last supper. Jesus is speaking final words, one last sermon, to his disciples. He is preparing them for life without his physical presence. Listen to what he tells the disciples:

I love you with the same love that the Father loves me. You have what I have. I give to you the joy that my Father and I share. You are a part of us. You are my joy, my life, and my purpose. I want your joy to be full, complete, whole, and perfect. You are my friends, my peers, my equals. I have told you everything. Nothing is held back or kept secret. I chose you. I picked you. I wanted you. I appointed, ordained, commissioned, and sent you to bear fruit, to love another. I trust and believe you can do this.

WE ALL KNOW FROM OUR EXPERIENCE that one of the great blessings in life is friendship. We value our friends deeply. We are very aware that our lives would be the poorer without them. One of the books of the Old

Testament, from which we don't often read, the

Book of Sirach, has some very striking things to say about friendship. It

was written about one hundred and eighty years before the birth of Jesus. It is clearly written by someone who knew the value of friendship in his own life.

At one point, the author says the following about friendship:

“A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter: whoever has found one has found a

treasure. There is nothing so precious as a faithful friend, and no scales can measure their excellence” (Sir 6:14-15). The image of a faithful friend as a sturdy shelter, as a treasure, rings true to all our experience.

**In today's gospel reading** (John 15:9-17), Jesus speaks of his relationship with his disciples in terms of friendship. He says to them, to us, “I call you friends... I chose you.”

**He tells us** here that he has expressed his choice of us as his friends in two very significant ways. “A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.” The most radical expression of our friendship for someone is to give our lives to that person, for that person. This is what Jesus has done for all of us. By his death he has befriended us in the most complete way imaginable.

**Jesus mentions a second way** in which he has expressed his choice of us as friends, “I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have learned from my Father.” The most — *continued on p. 2*



**St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ❖ May 8-16, 2021**  
 Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

**SAT. MAY 8 Easter Weekday**

Acts 16:1-10 • Jn 15:18-21  
 3:30-4:30pm Confession  
*Pray the Rosary 20 minutes before Mass*  
 ➤ **5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the Sixth Sunday of Easter: For the People**

*Pray the Rosary 20 minutes before each of the weekend Masses.*

**SUN. MAY 9 The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
 1 Jn 4:7-10  
 Jn 15:9-17  
*Mother's Day*  
 ➤ **8:30am MASS: The Holy Souls in Purgatory [Clandia Damian]**  
 ➤ **10:30am MASS: ☩ Joseph and ☩ Helen Germek [Kathy & Martin Brogley]**

**MON. MAY 10 Easter Weekday (opt. mem. St. John of Ávila, Priest and Doctor of the Church) (opt. mem. St. Damien de Veuster, Priest)**

Acts 16:11-15  
 Jn 15:26-16:4a  
 ➤ **12:10pm MASS: INT: Healing of Virginia Strong [Sylvie & Scott Strong]**  
 3:30-4:45pm Rel Ed classes / PC

**TUES. MAY 11 Easter Weekday**

Acts 16:22-34  
 Jn 16:5-11  
 ➤ **8:30pm MASS: INT: For my beloved wife Helena Zink [Her loving husband Eric Zink]**

**WED. MAY 12 Easter Weekday (opt. mem. St. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs) (opt. mem. St. Pancras, Martyr)**

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1  
 Jn 16:12-15  
 ➤ **8:30pm MASS: ☩ Joseph Fitzgerald (his birthday) [His loving wife Pat Fitzgerald]**

**THUR. MAY 13 Easter Weekday (opt. mem. Our Lady of Fatima)**

Acts 18:1-8  
 Jn 16:16-20  
 ➤ **8:30am MASS: ☩ Roger Brooks [Shirley Krzyzaniak]**

**FRI. MAY 14 Feast: St. Matthias, Apostle**

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26  
 Jn 15:9-17  
 ➤ **8:30am MASS: ☩ Eddie Walz [Pat & Liz Wallace]**

**SAT. MAY 15 Easter Weekday (opt. mem. St. Isidore)**

Acts 18:23-28 • Jn 16:23b-28  
 3:30-4:30pm Confession  
*Pray the Rosary 20 minutes before Mass*  
 ➤ **5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the Ascension of the Lord: For the People**

*Pray the Rosary 20 minutes before each of the weekend Masses.*

**SUN. MAY 16 Solemnity: The Ascension of the Lord**

Acts 1:1-11  
 Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13  
 Mk 16:15-20  
 ➤ **8:30am MASS: ☩ Bishop Alexander Zaleski, second bishop of the Diocese of Lansing**  
 ➤ **10:30am MASS: ☩ Joseph Fitzgerald [his loving wife]**

**Pray Our Lady's Rosary!**

*Altar Flowers*

MAY 9, 2021

**In honor of +Joseph & +Helen Germek**

[ Kathy & Martin Brogley ]

*Birthday Blessings!*

- MAY 9 Jacob Miller
- MAY 11 Patrick Wallace
- MAY 13 Karen McNamara
- MAY 14 David Roberts
- MAY 15 Austin Sangster
- Alexis Panches
- Aileen Rohwer

**FR. BOSCO'S ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:**  
*Even when we fail Him...*

intimate relationship in Jesus' life was his relationship with God, his Father. Jesus has shared with us that most intimate part of himself. Friends can share what is deepest and most precious in their hearts with each other. Jesus has done that with us. He has spoken to us about this most intimate relationship in his life so as to draw us all into that relationship, so that we can come to know and love God the Father as Jesus does.

**In these two ways, Jesus has given us** the most incredible gift of his friendship. He has chosen us in love. This is a gift he will never take back, no matter what happens in our life. Just as a parent loves each child differently but equally, Jesus has befriended each of us differently but equally. He befriends each of us in accordance with our own unique identity.

**In any human friendship, two people have to choose each other in love.** Jesus has chosen to befriend us. Yet, in the gospel reading, he doesn't ask us to choose him as a friend. In fact, he says, "You did not choose me, no, I chose you." Jesus does not call on us to choose him as he has chosen us, but, rather, he calls on us to remain in his love. We are to remain in the love that has chosen us.

**We are being reminded that Jesus' friendship with us is of a different quality than our human friendships** where mutual choice is so important if it is to endure. In a human friendship, if either one of the friends ceases to choose the other, then that other person's choice will eventually weaken too. This is not true of Jesus' friendship with us. His loving choice of us endures, regardless of how we respond. It is always a given. Our calling is to remain in that enduring friendship, and, if we fall out of it, to return to it.

**Dear brothers and sisters, we need to let ourselves hear those words of the Lord** – "I call you friends, I chose you" – as addressed to us, to me. Hearing those words and somehow experiencing the love they express is foundational to our life's journey. It is the only foundation on which our choice of the Lord can rest.

**We believe that the Lord's choice of us endures, even when we fail him.** Peter made this discovery. When he reneged on his choice of the Lord and denied him three times, the risen Lord met him by the shore of the sea of Galilee and asked him one question, "Do you love me?" This question was an opportunity for Peter to renew his choice.

**That same opportunity is repeatedly given to us** throughout our lives. The Eucharist is one moment when that opportunity is given. At Mass we celebrate the Lord's choice of us, and we renew our choice of him as our way, our truth, and our life. Jesus is not indifferent regarding whether or not we remain in his enduring friendship. Rather he strongly desires that we remain in his friendship. †

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

If the COVID-19 situation across our part of Michigan continues to improve, it is my intention to lift the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass **as of Pentecost, May 22-23, 2021.** The dispensation remains in place, of course, for those who have serious reasons not to attend.

To welcome you and your loved ones back to Sunday Mass, I am sending each family in the diocese a blessed candle representing, as it does, the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

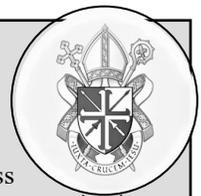
I am also sending you a prayer card to help you pray with the candle in the eight days following Pentecost.

*Veni Sancte Spiritus! Come Holy Spirit!*

Assuring you of my prayers, I am sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Earl

Bishop of Lansing



### “Unite Our Nation” Rosary Rally this week at the State Capitol

Unite Our Nation, founded by the laity, is a non-political organization formed to help bring peace and prayer to local communities and healing to our nation. A local hour of prayer, including the Rosary, has been organized as *Unite Michigan*. Please join us this week on **Thursday, May 13**, at 3:00pm in front of the steps at the Michigan State Capitol building in Lansing where we will be led in prayer.

A public square Rosary Rally is a time to give witness to people of all races and beliefs, keep polarizing politics out, and focus on prayer to unite our nation. If you are interested in joining the leadership team or simply attending, please reach out to Sandra Sherwood at... [ejsherwood@charter.net](mailto:ejsherwood@charter.net). In the meantime, take a look at the Unite Our Nation website [uniteournation.net](http://uniteournation.net) to learn more and get more details on the event!

### Feast of the Ascension

FYI: “Ascension Thursday” is the traditional Church feast day that occurs 40 days after Easter (Acts 1:1-3). However, in many Dioceses, including the Diocese of Lansing, the holy day is transferred to the following Sunday (i.e. this year next Sunday, May 16) to enable more people to celebrate this great solemnity. *“Whoever remains in love, remains in God, and God in him.”*

### Divorce Support Group

St. Andrew the Apostle parish in Saline is starting a support group for divorced persons. It will be a 12-week workshop, meeting on Mondays, **beginning June 7**, from 7:00–8:30pm. There is a modest fee of \$20 to cover the participant book. You can register online at [standrewsaline.org/divorce](http://standrewsaline.org/divorce), and you can pay online or in person.

### Interesting discussion of music at Mass

*Dcn. Dennis shared the following:* Last night at our [evangelization] Team meeting... I shared a link to a webinar sponsored by the Diocese of Lansing which I attended and gained a lot from. Here is the link if you are interested in pursuing some real instruction on music in the liturgy. Visit [my.demio.com/recording/NretkU8x](http://my.demio.com/recording/NretkU8x)

### Virtual Baby Bottle Drive: May 9 - June 20, 2021

CPC (Care Pregnancy Center) of Lenawee is beginning their Annual Baby Bottle Campaign and asks us to take part. This will be a virtual campaign again this year. There are two ways to participate: 1) Through their website: [cplenawee.com](http://cplenawee.com) (scroll down and click on the DONATE NOW box which will open up the PayPal link); 2) Mail an offering in the form of a check, designated for the Virtual Baby Bottle Drive, payable to CPC, 308 N. Broad St., Adrian, MI 49221. CPC offers pregnancy and parenting services free of charge. Thanks for your support!

### Talk on Saint Joseph at Pious Union

During this “Year of St. Joseph,” the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake has scheduled a series of talks on St. Joseph, on the 3rd Sunday of the month. This month’s talk is next **Sunday, May 16** at 6pm. Come in-person or watch live on Facebook (PiousUnion/ShrineofStJoseph) or the Shrine website ([www.PiousUnionOfStJoseph.org](http://www.PiousUnionOfStJoseph.org)). For more info, call 517-522-8017.

*O most blessed Patriarch, glorious St. Joseph, who was chosen to be the foster father of the Word made flesh and the chaste spouse of Mary, pray for us.* ■



#### KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit to inspire holy, faithful men to minister as priests. Lord, we pray for Your grace to encourage and support our seminarians as they endeavor to become priests. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Diocese of Lansing Seminarian  
Andrew Schneider, St. Mary, Westphalia**



Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit to inspire holy, faithful women to become Brides of Christ and serve Your people. Lord, we pray that Your grace and love be enough for this woman in discernment of consecrated life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Servants of God's Love  
Sr. Lisa Zelfa**



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

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK...

- 1) For the repose of the soul of +Don Carl Christian, Sr. (Jim & Marja Warner)
- 2) For the repose of the soul of +Michelle Sanders (Jim & Marja Warner)



#### ST. MARY'S SUPPORT OF THE 2021 DSA

Our parish goal:

**\$28,871**

As of May 2 **63** families have supported DSA with **\$24,396** or **84.5%** of our goal! (We're just **\$4,475** short of our goal!)

**LET'S ALL DO OUR PART!**

#### Please Pray for...

- Fr. Bosco's sister and all in India suffering with illness
- Fr. Mathias Thelen
- Young father, hospitalized and grieving family loss
- Marie (niece of Ann Kueffner)
- Jerry Kripas
- Loretta Widmayer
- Joe Kirk
- Dianne Schwab
- Christy Woody
- Leon Ball
- Bruce Sommers
- Duane Beuerle
- Joyce Stein
- Connie Stancato
- Susie (from the Flower Garden)
- Walter Radisovich
- Jack & Liz Stong
- Scott Sangster
- Bibian Sangster



#### St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

#### WEEKLY COLLECTION Sunday, April 25, 2021

Sunday Env (54)	\$ 4,672.00
Welcome & Loose	170.82
Easter (1)	40.00
Fuel (1)	30.00
E-Giving (6)	306.20

Combined toward budget: ...\$ 5,219.02  
Budget goal: ..... 5,300.00  
Amt BELOW goal: ..... - \$ 80.98

#### OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Bldg. & Maint (1)	\$ 20.00
Rice Bowl	296.44
Poor Box	40.00
Votive candles	15.00

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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)**