

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ♦ AUGUST 1, 2021

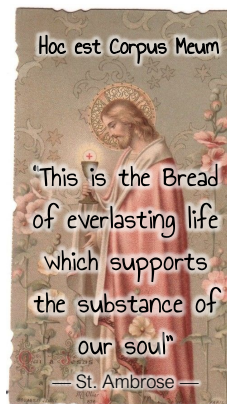
The Work that Takes Work

— Dcn. Dennis Walters —

AT SOME POINT IN YOUR LIFE, YOU MAY HAVE ASKED YOURSELF, “IS JESUS REALLY GOD?” I ask myself that question in one form or another quite often. Rather than feel embarrassed that the question even comes up, it is an opportunity to renew my faith in his divinity. Usually, my answer goes something like, “Yes, of course he is, now get back to work.”

The connection between work and faith comes up in our Gospel reading today from John, Chapter Six. It will be critical for the way Jesus’ audience responds to his teaching in what we call the “Bread of Life Discourse.” It is critical for how we respond to it as well.

As we heard in last week’s Gospel reading, John sets the stage for this discourse by describing how Jesus fed five thousand men (not counting women and children) by multiplying five loaves and two fish, with twelve wicker baskets left over. Not included in our readings is how, that very night, Jesus walked on the water to join his disciples in the middle of the Sea of Galilee, a distance over a liquid surface of about four miles. These are things that only someone with divine power can do. Unfortunately, they make little impression on those who question Jesus in Capernaum.



Today’s reading provides the lead-in to the main discourse. It begins with Jesus challenging his followers’ motive for seeking him: they’re not interested in the signs that point to his divinity but only in the free food. They want more. To which Jesus replies, “Don’t work for food that perishes but for the food that endures into eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.” Notice that the idea of working applies *both* to the food that perishes *and* to the food that provides eternal life. Getting

both takes work. One takes manual labor; the other takes work of another sort.

When his hearers ask what they need to do to accomplish the works of God – or, literally, “to work the works of God” – they’re asking what’s involved with working for the food that endures to eternal life? What kind of work is it?

— continued on p. 2



St. Mary Annual Rummage Sale

DECLUTTER and **CLEAN OUT** your
ATTIC, BASEMENT, garage,
DRAWERS and closets!

Drop off times begin this weekend
Sat., July 31 & Sun. Aug., Aug 1
Noon-4pm

(see additional days and times
in bulletin and insert)

St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar ♦ July 31–August 8, 2021
 Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

SAT. JULY 31	Memorial: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Lv 25:1, 8-17 • Mt 14:1-12	12-4pm Rummage Sale Drop-off / PC 3:30-4:30pm Confession ➤ 5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time: ✠ Jim Shafer (remembrance of his birthday) [Patricia Shafer, his wife]
SUN. AUGUST 1	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ex 16:2-4, 12-15 Eph 4:17, 20-24 Jn 6:24-35	8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession ➤ 8:30am MASS: For the People ➤ 10:30am MASS: ✠ Tom Burch [John & Beth Ball] 12-4pm Rummage Sale Drop-off / PC
MON. AUGUST 2	Weekday (opt. mem. St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop) (opt. mem. St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest)
Nm 11:4b-15 Mt 14:13-21	➤ No Monday Masses in Manchester during the summer months 4-7pm Rummage Sale Drop-off / PC
TUES. AUGUST 3	Weekday
Nm 12:1-13 Mt 14:22-36 (or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14)	➤ 8:30am MASS: ✠ Ann Becktel [Deb & Dan Burch] 4-7pm Rummage Sale Drop-off / PC
WED. AUGUST 4	Memorial: St. John Vianney, Priest
Nm 13:1-2, 25–14:1, 26-29a, 34-35 Mt 15:21-28	➤ 8:30am MASS: ✠ Joseph and ✠ Joan Germek [Kathy & Martin Brogley] 4-7pm Rummage Sale Drop-off / PC
THUR. AUGUST 5	Weekday (opt. mem. The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major)
Nm 20:1-13 Mt 16:13-23	➤ 8:30am MASS: ✠ Don Christian [Karen Christian] 4-7pm Rummage Sale Drop-off / PC
FRI. AUGUST 6	Feast: The Transfiguration of the Lord
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 2 Pt 1:16-19 Mk 9:2-10	➤ 8:30am MASS: ✠ Fr. Francis Faraci [St. Mary's Parish] Exposition & Adoration , beginning after morning Mass, then continuing all day & evening, closing with Benediction at 10:00pm 8:00-9:00pm Confession 4-7pm Rummage Sale Drop-off / PC
SAT. AUGUST 7	Weekday (opt. mem. St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs) (opt. mem. St. Cajetan, Priest) (opt. mem. BVM)
Dt 6:4-13 Mt 17:14-20	➤ 8:30am FIRST SATURDAY MASS: ✠ James Van Riper [Alice Kidd] 12-4pm Rummage Sale Drop-off / PC 3:30-4:30pm Confession ➤ 5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time: ✠ Veronica Martin [Mark & Linda Sullivan]
SUN. AUGUST 8	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 19:4-8 Eph 4:30–5:2 Jn 6:41-51	8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession ➤ 8:30am MASS: For the People ➤ 10:30am MASS: ✠ Leon Ball [The Ball Family] 12-3pm Rummage Sale Drop-off / PC ■

DCN. DENNIS WALTERS ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:
The Work that Takes Work

Jesus replies that the work of God is “that you believe” in the person God has sent. *Believe* of course is a verb, here in the present tense; it could just as well have been translated “that you be believing” – that is, that you continuously maintain an attitude of faith. In other words, believing is work – a point I will come back to in a moment.

But first, let's consider the crowd's response, which here turns toward disbelief. Jesus has just made a claim for himself, the first of several in this discourse. He refers to himself here as the Son of Man whom God the Father has not only sent, but on whom he has set his seal. (In the Judaism of Jesus' time, the only person who was set with a seal was the high priest. Carried on his forehead, it read, “Holy to the Lord.”) The crowd demands that Jesus prove his claim by performing a particular sign. Granted, they say, you performed a miracle of multiplying bread for a few thousand, but that was a one-time demonstration. You're not Moses. Can you match what Moses did by providing manna for an entire generation for forty years? They quote Scripture: “he gave them bread from heaven to eat.”

Jesus counters by clarifying that it was not Moses who gave them bread from heaven, but “my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.” For Moses' followers, manna was only physical food; Jesus' audience thinks of it the same way. But, as Jesus will say later, their fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and died. The true bread that the Father gives “is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” The crowd replies, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Though they still think of that bread as an endless supply of physical food, their response opens the door for Jesus to make the next startling claim about himself: “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

Let's put a couple of things together, here. If (like the manna) the true bread that the Father gives is that which comes down from heaven, and if (as he says) Jesus himself is that bread, then he has himself come down from heaven. Only God comes down personally from heaven. Many people these days don't believe that Jesus is really God, and so they don't believe his presence in the Eucharist is real. Jesus is claiming to be God. He is also claiming to be the Bread of Life. If we accept both claims, then we must believe that his presence in the Eucharist is real. Maintaining that belief is doing the work of God.

The point here is that faith is a work that takes work. What kind? The spiritual labor of cultivating a disposition to accept Jesus as he presents himself, namely, as food given freely as a gift. Like cultivating a relationship, that work is ongoing. The work of believing takes the form of studying the word of God, praying over it, seeking out answers to questions, quelling doubts, helping others through their unbelief, freeing oneself from sin (and even the desire to sin), and cultivating a hunger for the bread of life. Do it every day for the rest of your life. When the question arises in your mind, Is Jesus really God, really present in the Eucharist? Then answer yourself: Yes, of course he is. Now get back to work.. ✠



Birthday Blessings!

<p>AUGUST 1</p> <p>Kevin Bourland Beverly Dettloff Jeffrey Messman</p> <p>AUGUST 3</p> <p>Stephanie Beuerle</p>	<p>AUGUST 4</p> <p>Elizabeth Beuerle</p> <p>AUGUST 6</p> <p>Alice Kidd</p> <p>AUGUST 7</p> <p>Theresa Baran</p>
---	--




Altar Flowers

AUGUST 1, 2021

For our Wedding anniversary

[Sue Fielder]

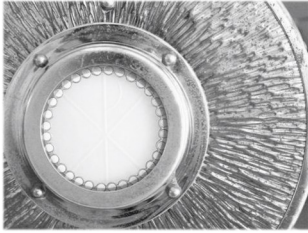


The SANCTUARY LAMPS are burning this week for the following intentions:

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK...

- 1) “Happy Birthday” Marja Warner! (Patricia Shafer)
- 2) For the repose of the soul of +Leon Ball (K of C #4354)

Sept/Oct Eucharist Session times & dates are firm



The six sessions on "The Real Presence in the Eucharist" include a video and Q&A discussion. Snacks and drinks will be offered. Sessions are scheduled on **Mondays after noon Mass (12:45pm)** and **repeated on Thursdays at 6:30pm** BEGINNING on **Mon., Sept 13** and **Thurs. Sept 16** ENDING on Oct 18 and 21. The location is in Fr. Fisher Hall.

For several weeks beginning in August, there will be a note card in the pews for you to choose either Mondays or Thursdays so we can plan for food. Put a check mark on your preference and drop it in a basket as you exit the church. Learn why Catholics believe Jesus is actually present in Holy Communion and how to explain this reality to friends, family, co-workers and others.

Rummage Sale: Your help needed!

Now is the time to step in and help with our next parish fundraiser, the Annual St. Mary Rummage Sale. Besides donating items to sell, your help is needed for pricing, during the sale, and clean-up. There are no sign-up sheets, so please just come to help as often and for as long as you can. Below are the times. Thanks!



DROP OFF DAYS / TIMES...	PRICING...	THE SALE WILL BE...	CLEAN-UP...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat, July 31, Sat. Aug. 7, Sun., Aug. 1 from noon-4pm; Weekdays from 4-7pm; and Sun., Aug. 8 from noon-3pm. 	will be August 9-11 from 4-7pm	Thurs. & Fri. Aug. 12 & 13 from 9am-6pm, and Sat. Aug. 14 from 9am-3pm.	will follow closing until we are finished.

Looking forward to our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

YOU will be the guest of honor at our parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. You AND your fellow parishioners and your families, young and old, who all do so much to make our parish the wonderful place it is! The date is **Wed., August 25**. The place is the Parish Center. And no, you do not need to bring anything, no dish to pass, not a thing! This event is FOR you.

Maybe you think you don't do enough to attend. Not true. Each of us supports the parish in our own way, as best as we are able. Some in the big and complicated ways (chairing a fundraiser for example, or reading at Mass), and some in quieter ways (attending the fundraiser, praying for our pastor).

Please plan to join with your fellow parishioners as we honor, appreciate, and celebrate each other! **Wed., August 25** at the Parish Center. (Time to be announced.)

Men's Retreat: "All the King's Men"

Friday-Saturday, August 13-14

Christ the King, Ann Arbor

Men, please join us for a powerful three-session retreat, led by Bart Schuchts, Peter Herbeck, Bishop Scott McCaig, and Pete Burak. It will include talks, testimonies, praise and worship, Mass, Confession, prayer ministry, fellowship, and more! Cost: \$45. To learn more and register, go to ctkcc.net/mensretreat



Special Needs Mass

There is a Special Needs Mass on **Sun., Aug. 29** at the St. Francis Retreat Center located at 703 E. Main Street in DeWitt. Mass starts at 2pm followed by refreshments in the Dining Room. Please RSVP by August 22 for this Mass to Cathy Blatnik, Co-Coordinator of the Special Needs Ministry at blatsie63@yahoo.com or at 517-381-1410 with the TOTAL number of people in your group. Hope to see you there!!

The First Annual Michigan Catholic Women's Conference

Women from five Dioceses – Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Saginaw – come together to focus on their faith and to experience the fellowship of sisterhood in Christ Jesus. Throughout the day, women will be encouraged and inspired to focus and grow their faith by hearing from Catholic speakers, engaging in praise and worship music, and celebrating holy Mass with our bishops. The conference will be held at the Lansing Center in Lansing, MI on **Sat., Oct. 16, 2021**

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

FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION & ADORATION



Come adore Jesus this Friday, August 6, after morning Mass until Benediction at 10pm

Please Pray for...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mikaylah Duffield Dallas Bradbury Susie (from the Flower Garden) Larry Lehmann Pam Wils Colleen Whitten Kristy Raab Bill Schaffer Natalie (sister of Jane) Christy Woody | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> and family Judy Fahey Barbara (Kemner) Haas Kay Lantis Jerry Kripas Delores Oakley Joe Kirk Bruce Sommers Joyce Stein Loretta Widmayer Connie Stancato |
|---|--|

...and for the repose of the soul of

†Ashley Galloway

†Chelsea (young mother of 3)

†Dan Orzel

and for their grieving loved ones.

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



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION Sunday, July 18, 2021

Sunday Env (46) \$ 2,762.00
Welcome & Loose 155.61
E-Giving (7) 382.80

Combined toward budget: ... \$ 3,300.41
Budget goal: 5,300.00
Amt BELOW goal: - \$ 1,999.59

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Bldg. & Maint (2) \$ 45.00
Peter's Pence (1) 30.00
E-Giving Peter's Pence (1) 50.00
Poor Box 25.75
Votive candles 27.00

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