

SAINT MARY of the Assumption



Roman Catholic Church
Manchester, Michigan



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Administrator

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WEEKEND MASSES:

Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Vigil Mass Saturday at 5:00 pm

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - November 20, 2022 “Pay Attention and Do Not Fear!” Fr. Bosco Padamattummal

Today we celebrate the solemnity of Christ the King. This feast was only introduced in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. Interestingly, as the Pope points out in an encyclical (letter of the pope) that accompanied the event, the introduction of the feast was a warning against the totalitarian governments of the 20th century. It was a statement against the situation in Europe between the two World Wars. As we know, though ‘kings and queens’ are mostly becoming titles of the past, or becoming symbolic in places where they still exist, we are not free from dictatorial governments and totalitarian regimes. In many of our countries, the state itself stands as a symbol of tyranny. On another front, we are also increasingly overpowered by technology, media and affluence. Therefore, this feast is still needed to remind us who our real ‘Boss’ is. This feast simply calls us to humble ourselves to accept the loving reign of God in our lives.

Let us explore this a little deeper. All four Gospels agree on the interesting detail that Jesus claimed to be the king of the Jews (Mt 27:37; Mk 15:18; Lk 23:38; Jn 19:14). In short, Jesus was to be killed in the Roman way because of treason: He was accused of calling Himself, “King of the Jews”. But this was only a false accusation. Nowhere in the Gospels do we find a text where Jesus made an explicit declaration like: “I am the King of the Jews.” All the Gospels tell us that this question featured very strongly in the trials of Jesus. So how did he get entangled with this title, and, to the point of getting crucified on account of that?

We need to look at a little bit of the history of the “King of the Jews”! After the great Exodus from Egypt and entry into the Promised Land, the people of Israel were governed by the Judges. The Judges were wise leaders who did not wield extraordinary political powers. They did not have a standing army, for instance. If they led armies, it was ad hoc, only to overcome a particular situation of aggression. They did not have big palaces. This was also due to the fact that the people of Israel were nomadic during

those years. But their history takes a different turn when the people request a king, as we read in the 1 Sam 8. God warns them through the Prophet Samuel of the dangers of having a strong monarchy. But the people of Israel say, “No! We are determined to have a king, so that we can be like the other nations, with our own king to rule us and lead us and fight our battles” (1 Sam 8:19-20).

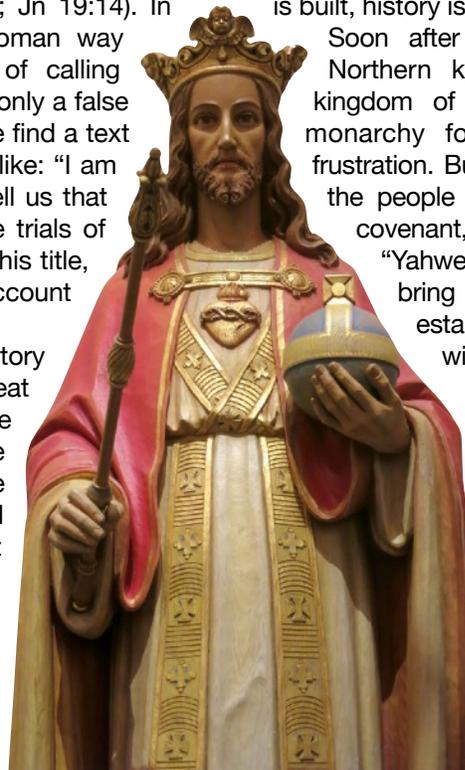
Now the problem with this crucial transition is that until up to this point in the history of Israel, the supreme position of God Yahweh is not threatened by any human authority. The Judges were administrators and the Prophets were inspirers. There was no conflict in leadership. But the people of Israel make an explicit choice to have a human authority. So, they were given a king, Saul (1 Sam 9:2). Saul’s reign was disappointing (1Sam 15:11; 31:24). So, they were given David. The time of David was marked by many conquests and they did see Israel emerging as a powerful nation. David was followed by Solomon. This was the golden era – alliances are being established, the temple is built, history is being written. But this was short-lived.

Soon after Solomon there is a division – the Northern kingdom of Israel and the Southern kingdom of Judea. In short, the history of the monarchy for the people of Israel was a big frustration. But the prophets give hope! They remind the people of Israel: “We were not faithful to the covenant, but God is faithful” (Joel 2:13; Hos 4:1).

“Yahweh will re-establish the kingdom. He will bring us a king” (Jer 23:5-6), “who will re-establish the reign of God among us, and He will be the anointed one” (Dan 9:3-27, especially verse 26). This was the origin of the figure of the Messiah – the anointed one, which, in Greek is rendered as ‘the Christ’.

So when Jesus claimed to be the anointed of the Lord (Lk 4:18), it was not difficult for the people to associate Him to the expected king in the line of David.

To add to this, Jesus often spoke about a kingdom, even if he called it ‘the Kingdom of God’. Surely, Jesus was misunderstood. It was too late



(Continued on pg. 2)

Fr. Bosco's article continued from page 1

PARISH CALENDAR <i>Mass Intentions, [Requested By], Parish Activities</i>	
SAT., NOVEMBER 19	Weekday/BVM Rv 11:4-12/Lk 20:27-40 3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: †Blanche Blackney <i>[June & Walter Faubion]</i>
SUN., NOVEMBER 20	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 2 Sm 5:1-3/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43 Confessions 8:00-8:15am and 10:00-10:15am 8:30 am Mass: †Eddie Watz <i>[Greg & Laurie Sanders]</i> 10:30 am Mass: For the people RCIA Combined Rite of Acceptance & Welcoming
MON., NOVEMBER 21	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Lk 21:1-4 12:10 pm Mass: †Joyce Stein <i>[Geneva Walkowe]</i> 3:30-4:45 pm Religious Education K-8 - PC 6:00 pm Staff Meeting - FFH 7:00 pm Evangelization Meeting - FFH
TUES., NOVEMBER 22	St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr Rv 14:14-19/Lk 21:5-11 8:30 am Mass: In loving memory of †Victoria Curley <i>[John Curley Family]</i> 7:00 pm ENDOW Young Women's Group - FFH
WED., NOVEMBER 23	Weekday/Sts. Clement I and Columban, Blessed Miguel Pro Rv 15:1-4/Lk 21:12-19 8:30 am Mass: † David Roncoli <i>[Carol Westfall]</i>
THURS., NOVEMBER 24	St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions, Martyrs/Thanksgiving Day Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Lk 21:20-28 9:00 am Mass: †Joyce Stein <i>[Shirley Cabla & Joyce Lancaster]</i>
FRI., NOVEMBER 25	Weekday/St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2/Lk 21:29-33 8:30 am Mass: † David Roncoli <i>[Anonymous]</i>
SAT., NOVEMBER 26	Weekday/BVM Rv 22:1-7/Lk 21:34-36 3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: †Duane Beuerle <i>[Elizabeth Beuerle]</i>
SUN., NOVEMBER 27	First Sunday of Advent Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44 Confessions 8:00-8:15am and 10:00-10:15am 8:30 am Mass: For the people 10:30 am Mass: †David Roncoli <i>[Martin & Kathy Brogley]</i>

to defend Himself, even when He said explicitly in front of Pilate, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world...' (Jn 18:36).

If we look at the temptations of Jesus that appear early in the synoptic Gospels (Mt 4:1-11; Mk 1:12-13; Lk 4:1-13), and more spread out during His public ministry in the Gospel of John (Jn 6:30-31; 6: 15; 7:3), we see Jesus making a discernment about His kingdom and what type of a king He is going to be. Jesus discerns that the will of His father is that He be "the king of hearts." He will have to usher in the Kingdom of God through love, by appealing to the hearts of people – a kingdom that will not be brought through revolution, but through the evolution from within, through the conversion of hearts. It entails pain and even death. He opts to be the "Suffering Servant".

It is interesting to note that the dialogue between the two criminals, who were Jesus' companions in His last moments, raises this conflict once again – the conflict between what the people thought Jesus' kingship was and what Jesus Himself had chosen to be. The so-called "bad thief" becomes the spokesman for the people: "If you are the Christ (the King of the Jews) save yourself and us as well." Jesus does not solve problems. And salvation is not the end of human suffering.

The "good thief", on the other hand, understands the role of Jesus in this world more clearly. Jesus does not save us from human limitations, legal sanctions for our faults, from suffering, or from physical death itself. Jesus gives us hope, He provides meaning to our human lives. Therefore, the criminal surrenders his heart to Jesus. He makes a choice to be part of the real Kingdom of God. And Jesus assures him: "Indeed, I promise you, today you will be with Me in paradise." I think this is what the feast of today invites us to: to surrender ourselves to the loving reign of God, to make a choice to be part of the Kingdom of God, to be free from the tyranny of power, possession and pleasure. ❖

Need Help?	
Alternatives to Abortion: Call (734)994-8863 or the 24-hour hotline 800-712-HELP or visit arbor woman.com/abortion/ "Courage" is a Catholic (endorsed by Diocese) spiritual support group for those struggling with same sex attraction.	"AA" group meets Tuesdays at 7:00 pm - United Methodist Church, 501 Ann Arbor St. "Encourage" is a separate support group for the families and friends of 'Courage' clients. Call 810-231-9199 ext. 202
"Project Rachel" (post-abortive reconciliation and healing) Call the confidential phone line: 517-993-0291 or email nlc@resurrectionlansing.org	For more news and events in the area, please visit our website: stmarymanchester.org

Prayer Tree Note: Please let us know of any status updates regarding people who are being prayed for.

Please Pray for:	
Charles Gaylord	Lee Ann Vitali
Seth Goodell	Bobbie Muldoon
Tony Ignacio	Scott Sangster
Jamie Powers	Colonel Gary Dettling
Cindy Kelly	Alba Pinzani
Cindy and Paul Wills	Delores Oakley
Arlette Tieno	Cindy Marie Remski
Bonnie Greenwald	Janet Shurtliff
Jean Rose	David Gaylord
Melody Elder	Danielle Lopez
Gregory Damian	Joe Schim and his family
Claudia Damian	Amber and Colby
Walter Faubion	The Repose of the Soul:
Charles and Mary Gaylord	† Helen Mastie Shurtliff
Michael Cummings	† Ray Kemner
Rose Pratt	† Gabriel Tieno
Mike Gibbons	† Suzanne Bandé



Parish and Area News

Seeking Altar Servers

Fr. Bosco would like to invite the men and boys of the parish who have already received First Holy Communion to consider serving the parish as altar servers. The training will be provided. Please contact Fr. Bosco if you have any questions.

Going to Chicago?

Consider transporting our parish chimes. The 21 Deagan chimes that used to hang near the pipe organ in the choir loft are currently being stored in my office. They need to be transported to Century Mallet Instrument Services in downtown Chicago where they will be re-tuned to the pipe organ. If anyone is traveling to Chicago via car and has room to transport these chimes (the longest is approximately 4 feet long), it would be greatly appreciated and save the parish a large amount of money on shipping costs. Please contact Benjamin Dahl at stmarymanchesterchoir@gmail.com or call the parish office if you can help.

Upcoming Choir Rehearsals

The Church Choir will now have rehearsals in the choir loft at 7 pm. Christmas rehearsals will be Mondays: **Nov. 28th** at 7 pm, **Dec. 5th** at 7:15 pm, **Dec. 12th and 19th** at 7 pm, and **Sat. Dec. 24th** at 10:45 pm for Mass at Midnight on **Dec. 25th**. Please let Benjamin know if you have any scheduling conflicts.

Endow Small Group

Endow, a small groups study for women in their 20s and 30s, is studying and discussing Humane Vitae, Pope JP II's encyclical on human life. Meetings start at 7:00pm in the Fr. Fisher Hall. We will meet on **Nov. 22nd**, and **Dec 13th and 27th**. For any questions, contact Katie Gouwens at katierem@gmail.com.

Faith and Fellowship

Amazing Greys will be hosting an Advent luncheon on **Sunday, November 27th**, the First Sunday of Advent, in the Fr. Fisher Hall following 10:30am Mass. There will be plenty of time to socialize and learn a little about the season of Advent. This will be a potluck. Contact Connie Schaffer with questions 734-428-7271.

Young Adult Retreat: Wonderfully Made

Fr. John Whitlock and Dawn Hausman are offering a young adult retreat for men and women, ages 18-39 called: Wonderfully Made: God's Design for Men and Women on **December 2nd-4th** at St. Francis retreat center. We will be exploring St. John Paul II's work the Theology of the Body. For more information or to register. Use the following link: <https://www.eventbee.com/v/yadewitt#/tickets>

Calling all St. Mary's Bakers/Crafters!!

It is time once again for Manchester's very own Christmas in the Village. Michelle Dettling is chairperson again this year and will be manning our tables at Manchester United Methodist Church on **December 3rd**. This is a very fun event and an important fundraiser. Please prayerfully consider donating your baked goods/crafts for this event. Contact Michelle at 734-255-8939 or michelledettling@gmail.com for more info. if you have any questions. Baked goods can be dropped off Friday the 2nd or by 9am Saturday. Please remember we are unable to accept refrigerated baked goods. Wrap all donations ready to sell and marked with name of food and price please. There will be a sheet to fill out when you drop the items off so we know who donated and what you brought. God Bless you! And thank you in advance.

St. Andrew Catholic School

Enrollment for St. Andrew Catholic School is now open. Please visit the school website for more information: standrewsaline.org/school The gift catalog is also posted on the website. If you click the GIVE icon, you will arrive at the school's donation page. There are four ways in which to donate. The gift catalog is packed with "must haves" for the school, but also several wants. Dan and Pat Simonelli have graciously pledged a matching fund for the school. There is another matching fund from FaithFirst Foundation. For general donations, please consider choosing a match fund option. The scholarship fund is set up to help families who will need financial assistance. Any donation is greatly appreciated.



*St. Mary
Roman Catholic
Church
Stewardship*

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Sunday, November 6, 2022

Sunday Envelopes(66)	\$5,662.00
Loose Cash & Checks.....	\$94.00
Welcome Envelopes(2).....	\$16.00
E-Giving(5).....	\$433.72
All Saints Day(21)	\$613.00
All Souls Day (4)	\$105.00

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Weekly toward budget.....	\$6,923.72
Weekly goal.....	\$5,300.00
Amt. ABOVE goal.....	\$1,623.72

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OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Buildings & Maintenance(11)	\$460.00
E-Giving Mission(1)	\$150.00
Triennial Military (34).....	\$1,023.00
Poor Box.....	\$60.00
Votive Candles	\$34.00

Sanctuary Lamps

are burning this week for:

1. † Denise Dresch
(Marge Scully)
2. † Pauline Flowers, mother
of Mike Flowers & Sherry
Bradenberry
(Tim & Kim Gouwens)

Parish Family Birthdays

Nov 19	Mary Herschelmann
Nov 20	Curt Fielder
.....	Sandi Kwolek
Nov 21	Samantha Kominars
Nov 24	Edith Irene Dahll
Nov 25	Debra Line
.....	Karin Villarreal
Nov 26	Dee Dee Sahakian
.....	Nancy Walkowe
Nov 28	Richard Fahey
.....	Rory McGoff

Altar Flowers

November 20, 2022

- † Blanche Blackney
[June Faubion]

