

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

Third Sunday of Advent - December 11, 2022

“Having Doubts? Turn to Jesus!” Fr. Bosco Padamattummal

In our Gospel reading for today we turn our attention to the great prophet known as John the Baptist. Interestingly, John doesn't actually make an appearance in the text, but his disciples speak for him and Jesus speaks about him.

As the text begins, we're told that John is in prison. As you might recall, John was put in prison by King Herod after John had unapologetically preached against some of the things that Herod had been doing. The beginning of our text says this: “John heard in prison about the deeds of Christ, he sent word by his disciples to ask Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” (Mt 10:2-3). Just because John is a great prophet doesn't mean that he never experienced doubts. After all, later in the chapter, Jesus refers to John as “Elijah who is to come.” The great prophet Elijah had a habit of doing incredible miracles and preaching strong messages and then almost immediately running away in fear and doubt. If the great prophet Elijah could doubt, so could John.

He preached strong messages of repentance proclaiming that the Messiah was coming. John proclaimed that the great Day of the Lord was near when the Lord would come and judge His people for their sins. But John wasn't even suffering for that message. He was in prison because he had upset King Herod by preaching about something which didn't even relate to his primary mission of preparing the way for the Messiah. John

preached a strong message of repentance.

Jesus came in quiet humility forgiving sins and associating with tax collectors and sinners. You can understand why John might have been experiencing doubts—Jesus was not working the way that he thought He should. And so, he sends his disciples to ask Jesus: “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” Notice how Jesus responds to this doubt-filled question. He responds in reassurance. Beginning in verse 4, we read: “And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me’” (Mt 11:4-6).

Jesus points to the numerous prophecies that are being fulfilled in His ministry, clear signs of the Messiah foretold by Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound” (Is 61:1). But perhaps this prophecy is part of the reason why John was struggling.

Part of the Messiah's mission is “to proclaim liberty to the captives” and “the opening of the prison to those who are bound.” Yet here John sits in prison. And we know what's going to come of John's imprisonment, he's going to die there. And yet, Jesus says, “Blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” That is to say, the one who is not offended by Jesus will be eternally blessed. Jesus makes it clear that the one who does not succumb to his doubts and give up his faith entirely will be eternally blessed. And so, Jesus sent this message by way of John's disciples in order to reassure him to strengthen his faith and dispel his doubts.

So, what about you and me? We live in a situation not terribly different from John the Baptist. The brokenness and troubles around us are very real. Every day we see it in one form or another. We see people around us suffering from economic hardships. We might even see loved ones dying of cancer or some other horrible illness. And it doesn't take much to cause us to start experiencing doubts Jesus is not working the way we think He should. Are you really in control? Why don't you do

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PARISH CALENDAR	
<i>Mass Intentions, [Requested By], Parish Activities</i>	
SAT., DECEMBER 10	Advent Weekday/Our Lady of Loretto
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: †Alfred & †Lorraine Kwolek <i>[Bill & Sandy Kwolek]</i>
SUN., DECEMBER 11	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11	Confessions 8:00-8:15am and 10:00-10:15am 8:30 am Mass: For the people 10:30 am Mass: †Joseph & †Helen Gernsek <i>[Martin & Kathy Brogley]</i>
MON., DECEMBER 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 (690A), or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary	12:10 pm Mass: † Duane Beuerle <i>[Elizabeth Beuerle]</i> 3:30-4:45 pm Religious Education K-8 - PC 7:00 pm Advent Penance Service - St. Andrew 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Choir Loft
TUES., DECEMBER 13	St. Lucy, Virgin And Martyr
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32	8:30 am Mass: † Mary Kay Wheeler <i>[Nancy Wahl]</i> 7:00 pm Advent Penance Service - St. Joseph 7:00 pm ENDOW young women's group - FFH
WED., DECEMBER 14	St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor
Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Lk 7:18b-23	8:30 am Mass: † Dick Krzyzaniak <i>[His loving wife Shirley Krzyzaniak]</i> 7:00 pm Advent Penance Service - St. Mary Chelsea 7:00 pm Pastoral Council Meeting - FFH
THURS., DECEMBER 15	Advent Weekday
Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30	8:30 am Mass: In loving memory of † Victoria Curley <i>[John Curley Family]</i> 7:00 pm Advent Penance Service - St. Mary Manchester
FRI., DECEMBER 16	Advent Weekday
Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36	8:30 am Mass: † Joyce Stein <i>[Carol Westfall & Lon Nordeen]</i>
SAT., DECEMBER 17	Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: For the People 6:00 pm Family Movie Night - FFH
SUN., DECEMBER 18	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24	Confessions 8:00-8:15am and 10:00-10:15am 8:30 am Mass: †Oscar & †Daisy Walz <i>[Judy Walz]</i> 10:30 am Mass: †David Roncoli <i>[Martin & Kathy Brogley]</i>

something? We would like Jesus to give us an explanation of why He allows so much evil and brokenness in the world. We would like Him to fix all of our loved ones' brokenness and troubles as well as our own brokenness and troubles.

But instead, He simply reassures us. He strengthens our faith and dispels our doubts by sending us messengers to tell us what is there to be heard and seen. New believers are brought into the family of faith in every corner of this world. Lives are changed by the message of the Gospel. Baptisms are administered. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated. God's Word is preached, and all the while our faith is strengthened. This may seem like nothing in comparison to what we would like to see. We would like to see homelessness eradicated. We would like to see economic hardships done away with. We would like to see physical illness cured. In the midst of our doubts, the Lord doesn't give us what we want, He gives us what we need—the message of eternal blessing and life with Him.

So, what does Jesus want us to do when we experience doubts? He wants us to listen to His messengers. Dear brothers and sisters, John the Baptist teaches us that in our doubts, we turn to Jesus and just like John the Baptist, when we experience doubts, we turn to our Lord's messengers who bring us His word. ❖

Need Help?

Alternatives to Abortion: Call (734)994-8863 or the 24-hour hotline 800-712-HELP or visit arbor.woman.com/abortion/	"AA" group meets Tuesdays at 7:00 pm - United Methodist Church, 501 Ann Arbor St.
"Courage" is a Catholic (endorsed by Diocese) spiritual support group for those struggling with same sex attraction.	"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

Please Pray for:

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| Dr. Gunjan Shah | Walter Faubion |
| Terry Salyer | Michael Cummings |
| Janice Emmons | Rose Pratt |
| Scott Sangster | Mike Gibbons |
| Angela Lee and unborn child | Lee Ann Vitali |
| Katy Conners and Teddy | Bobbie Muldoon |
| Charles Gaylord | Colonel Gary Dettling |
| Seth Goodell | Alba Pinzani |
| Tony Ignacio | Delores Oakley |
| Jamie Powers | Cindy Marie Remski |
| Cindy and Paul Wills | David Gaylord |
| Arlette Tieno | Joe Schim and his family |
| Bonnie Greenwald | Amber and Colby |
| Jean Rose | The Repose of the Soul:
† Isabel Lopez |

Advent Penance Services

- Monday, December 12th - St. Andrew, Saline
- Tuesday, December 13th - St. Joseph, Dexter
- Wednesday, December 14th - St. Mary, Chelsea
- Thursday, December 15th - St. Mary, Manchester

Services begin at 7pm each evening

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

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.

Items Available in the Church

For your spiritual and giving needs, you will find several choices in the vestibule for your convenience:

- **Parish Family Newsletters** - If you did not get a copy of the quarterly newsletter in the mail, copies are available for you to take or share.
- **Calendar Fundraiser** - University of Michigan calendars donated by the artist, Bill Shurtliff, are available for a gift to the Parish of \$10.
- **Altar Flowers** - The sign-up sheet to reserve altar flowers for the 2023 calendar year is now available. Simply fill out your desired information on the form provided.
- **Decorate your car** - "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets are available for \$5/each. They can be found in the church vestibule. Place payment in the box provided.
- **Help Fill the Crib** - Please help families in need this Advent season by contributing to our material goods collection for Family Life Services of Ypsilanti. Please place donations in the porta-crib in the vestibule **December 8th-19th**. Needed client items: diapers, Enfamil powdered formula, baby wipes, baby wash, and more. A complete list of needs available in the vestibule.
- **Liturgical Calendars** - 2023 liturgical calendars are available for free, a gift from the Parish and Eineder Funeral Homes.
- **Memorial Poinsettias** - We will be ordering poinsettias for the Christmas Masses from the Flower Garden. The cost is \$20 each, please place your order no later than **December 19th**. Order forms are in the vestibule. Please contact Sue Fielder at 734-972-5652 or sfielder@umich.edu if you have any questions.

Upcoming Choir Rehearsals

The Church Choir will now have rehearsals in the choir loft. Christmas rehearsals will be Mondays: **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.

Remember the Church

You don't have to wait until the last day of the year to make a year end contribution. If you would like to make a year end gift to the parish, please make sure they arrive at the office by **Friday, December 30th**.

Christkindlmarkt is back!

St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor will be hosting its second outdoor German Christmas market on **Sunday, December 11th** 4:30-8:30pm in the St. Thomas Church Plaza, 530 Elizabeth St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. This traditional outdoor German market will consist of bratwurst, fried potatoes, drinks, fellowship and more! All food items will be sold at a minimal cost. Please bring cash! It will be the quickest and easiest means of payment.

Children's Christmas Play

It's not too late to be a part of the Christmas Eve children's play. Rehearsals are immediately following 10:30 am Mass. Please contact Megan Young for more information: jmyoung_horses@gmail.com or 734-216-6641.

Decorating Help Needed

The Holiday Decorating Committee is recruiting volunteers to help decorate for Christmas. We will be working on **Friday, December 23rd** to bring the decorations from the rectory attic and basement, decorate in the Church, the rectory porch, put up the outdoor creche, and string lights on the outdoor trees. We will monitor the weather and select a date and time to work outside when most convenient. Please contact Sue Fielder at 734-972-5652 or sfielder@umich.edu if you are available to help.



*St. Mary
Roman Catholic
Church
Stewardship*

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Sunday, November 27, 2022

Sunday Envelopes(53)	\$5,650.07
Loose Cash & Checks.....	\$245.00
E-Giving(14).....	\$1,094.03
Christmas Décor(4).....	\$105.00

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Weekly toward budget.....	\$7,094.10
Weekly goal.....	\$5,300.00
Amt. ABOVE goal.....	\$1,794.10

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OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Buildings & Maintenance(2)	\$35.00
Catholic Schools (2)	\$35.00
Triennial Military (1).....	\$150.00
Evangelization Fund.....	\$1,944.00
Poor Box.....	\$272.00
Votive Candles	\$41.00

Sanctuary Lamps

are burning this week for:

1. In loving memory of
✠ Esther Kuyda
(Gerald & Mary Shaw)
2. In loving memory of my
mom, ✠ Bernita Aiuto
(Kathy Cornell)

Parish Family Birthdays

Dec 11	Jan Little
Dec 13	Ella Landini
Dec 14	Shirley Krzyzaniak
.....	Michael McFarland
Dec 15	Sheila Doyle
.....	Ted Szufnar
Dec 16	Eric Beuerle
.....	Mary Frances Fielder
.....	Christine Kanta
Dec 17	Bethel Ball
.....	Nancy Cocco

Church Fundraiser

- University of Michigan
- Calendars by Bill Shurtliff

