



# Saint Mary

Reverend Fr. Bosco Padamattummal, Administrator  
Deacon Dennis Walters

210 West Main Street, Manchester, MI 48158

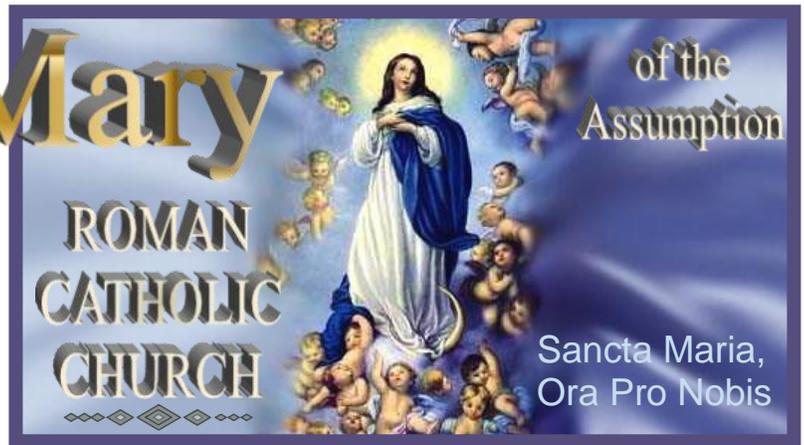
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**WEEKEND MASSES:**

Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am



## 23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME • SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

### Follower or Disciple?

BY DEACON DENNIS WALTERS

Luke provides a telling lead-in to today’s Gospel: “Great crowds were traveling with Jesus.” The sentence could also be translated, “Large mobs were tagging along with Jesus,” rather like groupies hanging around a rock star. Jesus’ coming through town was a diversion from the humdrum business of everyday life. A traveling preacher provided entertainment; he was a distraction, an event, someone to see and be seen with.

And so Jesus turns on His audience. It would appear that He was aware of His entertainment value and may have become tired of it. While He would not have been offended by people’s coming to hear what He had to say and then go back home — after all, what He had to say might touch the hearts of some in the crowd — He was less interested in those who accompanied Him than He was in those who would follow Him.

There’s a difference between accompanying and following. Jesus wants to make disciples. It’s fine if people want to tag along with Him as a charismatic rabbi, but they shouldn’t fool themselves into thinking they’re following Him as a disciple. There’s a cost to that. So He confronts His audience and lays out in shocking language how great the cost is.

The first shocker is the cost in personal relationships. A disciple of Jesus must hate his parents, his siblings, and even

his own life. The word hate here is a Semitic idiom; it means to turn away from something or someone. It can mean to detest (as we would understand the word), but in this context it means abandoning even the most basic human attachments. It also appears to contradict the commandments — certainly the commandment to honor your father and mother. In a society that valued family above everything else, telling a would-be disciple to turn away from family and even his own self to follow Jesus is asking a great deal indeed.

The second shocker is worse. “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.” Everyone in Jesus’ day was familiar with crucifixion and knew what carrying a cross meant. His audience must have wondered whether Jesus was being literal or metaphorical. At the very least, however, the audience would have understood Him to say that His disciple would share His fate, whatever that was, and the implication was that that fate involved some kind of death. (In hindsight, we know that the cross was literal in Jesus’ case, as it was for many of His original disciples.)

Lest some enthusiast in His audience should tell himself, “I can do all that, I’m willing,” Jesus warns him not to start what he can’t finish. The first analogy about building a tower refers to the type of person who makes a commitment but then gives up when the going gets tough. The result would

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH WAS A BUSY DAY FOR OUR PARISH. MANY ATTENDED THE ANNUAL PICNIC AT CARR PARK WHILE THE CATECHISTS WERE BUSY GETTING PREPARED FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES; ESPECIALLY LEARNING TO PROTECT GOD’S CHILDREN WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE VIRTUS PROGRAM.

**Mass Intentions, [Requested by], and Parish Activities**

<b>SAT., SEPT. 3</b>		<b>FIRST SATURDAY/St. Gregory the Great (mem.)</b>
1 Cor 4: 6b-15/ Ps 145: 17-18. 19-20. 21/ Lk 6: 1-5	<b>8:30 am Mass: INT: Douglas Muldoon</b> [John & Tina Doyle and Family]	<b>3:30-4:30 pm Confession</b> <b>5:00 pm Vigil Mass: INT: Mary McKenzie</b> [Noreen Burnett]
<b>SUN., SEPT. 4</b>		<b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>
Wis 9: 13-18b/ Ps 90: 3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14-17 (1)/ Phlm 9-10. 12-17/ Lk 14: 25-33	<b>8:00-8:15 am Confession</b> <b>8:30 am Mass: ☩ Rita O'Dowd</b> [Noreen Burnett]	<b>10:00-10:15 am Confession</b> <b>10:30 am Mass: For the People</b>
<b>MON., SEPT. 5</b>		<b>Ordinary Weekday/Labor Day</b>
1 Cor 5: 1-8/ Ps 5: 5-6. 7. 12/ Lk 6: 6-11, Labor Day Proper Mass: Blessing of Human Labor	<b>No Mass today</b>	
<b>TUES., SEPT. 6</b>		<b>Ordinary Weekday</b>
1 Cor 6: 1-11/ Ps 149: 1b-2. 3-4. 5-6a and 9b/ Lk 6: 12-19	<b>8:30 am Mass: ☩ Joe and ☩ Opal Maloney</b> [The Maloney Family]	
<b>WED., SEPT. 7</b>		<b>Ordinary Weekday</b>
1 Cor 7: 25-31/ Ps 45: 11-12. 14-15. 16-17/ Lk 6: 20-26	<b>8:30 am Mass: INT: Joachim and Emilienne Ramde Wedding Anniversary</b> [Scott and Sylvie Strong]	
	<b>4:00 pm Staff Meeting—FFH</b> <b>7:00 pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting—FFH</b>	
<b>THUR., SEPT. 8</b>		<b>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (feast)</b>
Mi 5: 1-4a or Rom 8: 28-30/ Ps 13: 6ab. 6c/ Mt 1: 1-16. 18-23	<b>8:30 am Mass: ☩ Paul A. Antonelli</b> [Deacon Larry and Nancy Lindsey]	
	<b>7:00 pm RCIA Begins—FFH</b>	
<b>FRI., SEPT. 9</b>		<b>St. Peter Claver (memorial)</b>
1 Cor 9: 16-19. 22b-27/ Ps 84: 3. 4. 5-6. 12/ Lk 6: 39-42	<b>8:30 am Mass: ☩ Souls in Purgatory</b> [Scott and Sylvie Strong]	
<b>SAT., SEPT. 10</b>		<b>Ordinary Weekday/BVM</b>
1 Cor 10: 14-22/ Ps 116: 12-13. 17-18/ Lk 6: 43-49	<b>3:30-4:30 pm Confession</b>	<b>5:00 pm Vigil Mass: ☩ Wanda Antieau, First Anniversary</b> [Alice Kidd]
<b>SUN., SEPT. 11</b>		<b>TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>
Ex 32: 7-11. 13-14/ Ps 51: 3-4. 12-13. 17. 19/ 1 Tm 1: 12-17/ Lk 15: 1-32	<b>Patriot Day</b> <b>8:00-8:15 am Confession</b> <b>8:30 am Mass: INT: Tom and Ruth Burch</b> [Children of Tom and Ruth Burch]	
	<b>10:00-10:15 am Confession</b> <b>10:30 am Mass: For the People</b>	

**A R E A N E W S**

**For more news, including events in parishes throughout the area, please visit our website: [stmarymanchester.org](http://stmarymanchester.org)**

**DEACON DENNIS' ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:**

expose the person to ridicule as a quitter. The second analogy about the king considering war says that each potential disciple should examine himself. Does he have the inner resources for discipleship, does he have what it takes? Because what it takes is the ability to renounce all his possessions — both what he owns and what owns him.

At this point, it might be useful to clarify that word disciple. A disciple is a learner, a student, someone in formation to acquire some kind of discipline. The discipline may be a physical skill like mastering a technique. It may be a social skill like arguing a case in court. It may even be learning a new mindset, like learning the need for constant practice. With Jesus, the disciple is learning to become someone new, someone like God the Son.

We recently finished watching the 2016 Summer Olympics and cheered at the achievements of athletes who competed for and won medals. Behind each athlete, even the most skilled, was a coach. After each event, the coach would take the athlete aside, reinforce what was good in the performance, critique shortcomings, suggest improvements, and demand more practice. No coach wants to handle an athlete who thinks he's God's gift to mankind, who refuses to allow himself to be formed. All coaches want an athlete who is willing to take correction and do things the way the coach requires.

So when Jesus says that His disciple must be willing to renounce all his possessions, He's saying that such a person must lay down what he thinks he knows, leave behind whatever he's hanging onto, and accept constant and lifelong discipline. A disciple of Jesus is not a saint, but is learning to become one. A disciple knows he's not strong enough to build the tower or engage the enemy; he needs to gain strength. That comes not from tagging along with Jesus, but from following Him.

Many Catholics who attend church regularly probably regard themselves as disciples. Those who think so should compare their self-image with what Jesus demands in a disciple. Can they renounce social relationships that hinder them from following him? Can they reject illusions about their own worth and regard themselves as undergoing formation? Can they become spiritually poor, to make room for riches only God can provide?

If they can't, they're tagging along, not following. Jesus demands everything from His followers. He has enough groupies. He wants disciples.

Which are you? ☞

**Amazing Grays**

Are you 55 or wish you were?

Come to the 12:10 Mass the second Monday of each month followed by food and fellowship in Fr. Fisher Hall.

**All are welcome!**

There are no strangers here; only friends you haven't yet met. ~ William Butler Yeats

**The Fr. Riccardo Challenge:** Please take few moments to listen to Fr. Riccardo's homily on prayer and fasting for our nation. <http://bit.ly/2aWHare>

**4th Annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children** prayer vigil 11:00am – noon, **Saturday, September 10, 2016** at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, 2520 W. Willow, Lansing. Be a witness to a "LOVE THAT IS STRONGER THAN DEATH." Contact Lenore R. O'Jibway, 517-896-6739 or via e-mail to: lojpl@yahoo.com

**Catholic Men's Night** - Dan Dolsen, founder and creator of The Fatherhood Project ([www.buildinggreatdads.org](http://www.buildinggreatdads.org)), will be the speaker at the Catholic Men's Night on Thursday, **September 15, 2016** at 7:00pm. The meeting will be in Christ the King Catholic Church, 4000 Ave Maria Dr. Ann Arbor 48105. Call 734-930-4524 or visit: [www.catholic-men.org](http://www.catholic-men.org) for additional information.

**Intercessory All Night Prayer and Praise Vigil—Friday, Sept. 16th** at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 2415 Bagley St., Flint

MI 48504. Begins with Mass at 8 pm – ends with 8 am Mass Saturday morning. For more information please contact Maureen at 517-420-2214 or Mary at 734-717-2565

**Single Women's Retreat:** Abundant Life - **Sat, September 17, 2016**, 10:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. at the Siena Heights Weber Center. Register online at [www.webercenter.org](http://www.webercenter.org) or by calling 517-266-4000.

**The Manchester Non-Profit Round Table**, hosted by the Community Resource Center, will gather on **Tuesday, September 20th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall (under the library). Please join us prepared to report on recent projects and share your current activities. Let us know if we can volunteer to help!

**Free Dawn Farms Educational Series** will begin in **October**. There are programs for adults, teens and families on topics relating to addiction and recovery. Please contact 734/485-8725 or [info@dawnfarm.org](mailto:info@dawnfarm.org) for more information or visit [dawnfarm.org](http://dawnfarm.org)

PARISH NEWS

ORDINARY TIME

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers & Ushers: If there are any times in October or November that you cannot serve, please call me no later than today, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2016, to let me know. Remember that there is All Saints Day and Thanksgiving Day that will need your participation also. Thank You for ALL that you do ~ call Marja Warner at 428-9506 or email her at marja@rc.net.

Mass & Luncheon for Seniors

The Washtenaw Catholic Council on Aging and the Diocese of Lansing have scheduled the annual Senior Parishioners' Recognition at Immaculate Conception of Milan on Thursday, September 8, 2016. Mass will be at 11am. Though our parish is small, we had the most participants at this event last year. Please consider joining us again. We will be meeting at church at 10am to carpool to Milan. Call Dianne Schwab to RSVP 734-428-8976.

Coffee Hour

The Knights of Columbus will be preparing breakfast and hosting the first coffee hour of the season after each Mass on Sunday, September 11th. Please join your parish family for refreshments and fellowship. This is a great opportunity to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ.

First Communion Orientation

There will be a First Communion Orientation meeting for families on Sunday, September 11th from 12-1 at the Parish Center. If your child is in second grade or older and has not received the sacrament, he/she is welcome to join us. Please RSVP with Melissa Yekulis at the Parish Center at 428-7211 or by email: myekulis.dre@gmail.com.

Men's Retreat

Men's Retreat registration is going on now. Registration forms are available on the parish website and in the vestibule of the church. We need to know how many plan to attend, so please fill out a form no later than September 11th, whether you decide to pay now or later, and either leave the completed form in the vestibule or drop it off at the parish office. Older teens are welcome!

Religious Education Begins

Please mark your calendars, the first day of Religious Ed classes for grades 1-8 will be on Monday, September 12th. Please turn in your registration forms ASAP! We look forward to seeing you at the Parish Center at 3:30pm.

Cathedral Holy Hour

A Holy Hour is scheduled at St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing on Sunday, September 18th to provide opportunities for the faithful to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Door during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Holy Hour will include Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. The Cathedral will be open at 2:30pm, with the Holy Hour at 3:00pm.

House Blessing

The "Year of Mercy" is an opportune time for a House Blessing. Fr. Bosco has visited many families already and would like to bring this beautiful blessing to your home too. Please contact Fr. Bosco on his cell phone (734-707-3657) to make an appointment.

Mission Accomplished!

Many thanks to all of the parishioners who contributed to the success of our Summer Fundraising for Religious Education. We raised \$276 from the pizza kit sales, \$345.94 from the bulb sales, and an additional \$975 in donations. In total, we raised \$1596.94, which will cover the cost of workbooks for the 2017-2018 school year AND cover the cost of shirts for this year. Thank you for your generosity to our children. We are all in your debt!

Sanctuary Lamps

Sanctuary Lamps are the special candles which burn in every Roman Catholic Church to remind us of the Real Presence of Jesus present in the Tabernacle. Your prayer intentions can be added to burn for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The prayer intentions for the Sanctuary Lamps are for one week, from Saturday to Saturday. Cards to send are also available. Contact the parish office if you are interested. The customary donation is \$12.

The Altar Flowers for the week of, SUNDAY, SEPT 4TH are sponsored by Margie Kuboff In Honor of Don Russel's Birthday

Sanctuary Lamps are burning this week for: 1) Jim Warner, Happy Birthday! (Your Lovely Wife) 2) For the Repose of the Soul of Naaba Tigre, Grandfather of Sylvie Strong (Inge and Peter Roncoli)

Table with 2 columns: Date and Name. Parish Family Birthdays: Sept 3...Dominic Bargaradi, Sept 4...Timothy Miller, Sept 7...Logan Reppert, Sept 8...Frank Remski, Sept 9...Cassidy Sangster, Sept 10...Kay Hartman, Sept 11...Carol Selecki

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship WEEKLY COLLECTION Sunday, August 14, 2016 Sunday Envelopes \$4,233.60 Loose Cash & Checks \$494.51 Welcome Envelopes \$5.00 Kids Envelopes \$1.00 Assumption \$180.00 Weekly toward budget \$4,914.11 Weekly goal \$5,300.00 Amt. below goal \$385.89 OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS: Building and Maintenance \$200.00 Poor Box \$20.16 Votive Candle Receipts \$39.00 Peter's Pence \$522.00

This Week We're Praying for: Leon Ball Douglas Muldoon Kathy Shelton The Repose of the Soul of: Alexander Brandon Doyle

NEED HELP? ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION: Right-to-Life MI Hotline 1-800-57WOMAN Or visit www.optionline.org

NEED HELP? "AA" group meets Friday & Sunday nights at 7:00 pm in the Emanuel church kitchen.

NEED HELP? "COURAGE" is a Catholic (endorsed by Diocese) spiritual support group for those struggling with same sex attraction. "ENCOURAGE" is a separate support group for families and friends. Call 517-342-2596

NEED HELP? PROJECT RACHEL (post-abortion reconciliation and healing) Call the confidential phone line: 517-993-0231 or email nlc@resurrectionlansing.org