



Saint Mary

Reverend Fr. Bosco Padamattummal, Administrator
Deacon Dennis Walters

210 West Main Street, Manchester, MI 48158

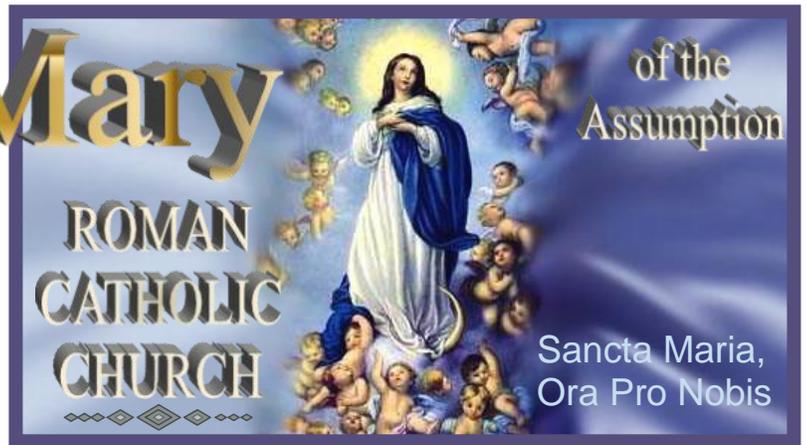
Phone: (734) 428-8811

Email: stmarymanchester@gmail.com

Website: stmarymanchester.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

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



27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME • OCTOBER 2, 2016

Breathing Together

BY DEACON DENNIS WALTERS

Book publishers know that a catchy title sells books. One title from forty years ago still holds my attention: *The Conspiracy of God*. The title has a double meaning. The one most people think of immediately is a plot that two or more people hatch to do something; they conspire together for some purpose. The other meaning comes from the Latin origin of the word conspiracy: con-spirare, to breathe together. It refers to how the breath of God breathes within us, enabling us to get through tough times. All three readings in today's liturgy conspire to urge us toward persevering faith.

Take our first reading. The prophet Habakkuk faced a problem we know from the evening news - that of violence and ruin. In his day, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was bombarding Jerusalem, and he had no plans to spare anyone, young or old, man or woman. Ruin and devastation rained down everywhere — like the images we see of Aleppo, shelled for years now, buildings destroyed, hospitals targeted, children burned by chemicals. Strife is not far from us either, with our politics in shambles and our freedoms

threatened. Habakkuk demands to know why God doesn't do anything. The answer is that God has a plan and it presses forward. Habakkuk must wait and allow it to work itself out. God reminds him that the one who holds onto faith will live.

Perhaps the scariest time of my life as a husband and father unfolded while I was doing some serious job hunting for the first time. I had been married for ten years, had four children, and had finished my graduate studies. Armed with a new degree, I needed to find full-time work quickly. Five long months of searching passed. Then I landed what I thought was a dream job in a technical firm — only to lose it after three months. I started asking God Habakkuk's question: How long, O Lord?

St. Paul's letter to Timothy urges his young protégé to "fan into a flame" the leadership gifts that the Holy Spirit has breathed into him. Conditions in Ephesus, where Timothy — young, reserved, and unsure of himself — led the Christian community, were apparently deteriorating. To encourage him, Paul uses an analogy that those of us understand



Rowing down the Raisin River were the members of the St. Mary Youth Group on Sunday, September 25th. Nobody was completely immersed in the river, but everyone had a great time filled with many laughs.

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Mass Intentions, [Requested by], and Parish Activities

SAT., OCT. 1	
FIRST SATURDAY/St. Therese of Lisieux (mem.)	
Jb 42: 1-3, 5-6, 12-17/ Ps 119:66,71,75, 91, 125.130/ Lk 10:17-24	8:30 am Mass: INT: Special Intention of Noreen Burnett [Noreen Burnett] 3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: † Harriet Van Riper, Mother of Alice Kidd [Alice Kidd]
SUN., OCT. 2	
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME	
Hb 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4/ Ps 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/ 2 Tm 1: 6-8, 13-14/ Lk 17: 5-10	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: For the People 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: † Clarence and † Margaret Fiedler in Memory of their Wedding Anniversary [The Lynn Niehaus Family] 12:00 pm First Holy Communion Class—PC
MON., OCT. 3	
Ordinary Weekday	
Gal 1: 6-12/ Ps 111: 1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c/ Lk 10: 25-37	8:30 am Mass: INT Mary McKenzie [Noreen Burnett] 3:30-5:00 pm Religious Ed Grades 1-8 meet at PC
TUES., OCT. 4	
St. Francis of Assisi (mem.)	
Gal 1: 13-24/ Ps 139: 1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c- 15/ Lk 10: 38-42	No Mass Today in Manchester Priests Convocation
WED., OCT. 5	
Ordinary Weekday	
Gal 2: 1-2, 7-14/ Ps 117:1bc, 2/ Lk 11: 1-4	No Mass Today in Manchester Priests Convocation 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Church
THUR., OCT. 6	
Ordinary Weekday/St. Bruno; Bl. Marie –Rose Durocher (opt. mem.)	
Gal 3:1-5/ Ps 1: 69-70, 71-72,73-75/ Lk 11:5-13	No Mass Today in Manchester Priests Convocation 7:00 pm RCIA –FFH
FRI., OCT. 7	
FIRST FRIDAY/ Our Lady of the Rosary (mem.)	
Gal 3: 7-14/ Ps 111: 1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Lk 11: 15-26	8:30 am Mass: † Paul Antonelli [Mike and Geneva Huzjak] Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 8:30 am Mass until 10 pm Benediction 8:00-9:00 pm Confession
SAT., OCT. 8	
Ordinary Weekday/BVM	
Gal 3: 22-29/ Ps 105: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Lk 11: 27-28	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: † Paul Antonelli [Deacon Larry and Nancy Lindsey]
SUN., OCT. 9	
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME	
2 Kgs 5: 14-17/ Ps 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4/ 2 Tm 2: 8- 13/ Lk 17: 11-19	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: † William Boyd [The Boyd Family] 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: For the People 11:30 am Youth Group—PC 12:00 pm Pet Blessing—Church Steps Coffee Hour After Each Mass

PROMISE TO PROTECT - PLEDGE TO HEAL

If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church ...

Please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. Every diocese in the United States now has a Victim Assistance Coordinator who is available to obtain support for your needs, to help make a formal complaint of abuse to the diocese, and to arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative if you desire. The Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Lansing is:

Adrienne Rowland, LMSW, ACSW
1-888-308-6252
arowlandvac@dioceseoflansing.org



**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

DEACON DENNIS' ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:

who have ever tried to keep a reluctant fire going: blow on the coals persistently and you may coax them to erupt back into flame. Paul urges him, "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but of power and love and self-control." So breathe with the Spirit you have.

Seven more months of unemployment and welfare were in store for me. During that time, I sent out volumes of resumes, researched companies, and followed up leads. Although I tried some networking, I feared that it was pointless. I even took a class on job hunting, where I discovered in practice interviews that I was terrible at "selling myself" to an employer. The counselors told me what Paul was telling Timothy: get hold of your fear. You're good at what you do, so project a little power, friendliness, and self-confidence.

In today's Gospel, the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith. His response is not encouraging: "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." Note the grammar of Jesus' reply: if you had, you could, and it would. In short, they don't have that faith. But — he says — you don't need much, just a little. The important thing is to revive the little you have. Blow on it.

During that seven months, I feared I was losing the little faith I had. This job search was stretching into a year. I had six mouths to feed and rent to pay. Welfare wasn't going to last much longer. To keep faith alive, I would haunt places where I could pray, especially before the Eucharist. I went to Mass often and prayed long, worried prayers. I even sang hymns to myself; one of these was a song I'd heard called "Jesus Never Fails." I clung to that one. Once, when I asked Jesus why I got a good job only to lose it after three months, I sensed him telling me, "I gave you that job in order to give you the next one." And, as it turned out, that's just what happened. The job hunt ended when I was hired, in part, because I'd had the job I lost.

All of us live lives based on faith. We need to learn to trust it. As Habakkuk points out, God's plans have their own time. His ways are not our ways. He makes haste slowly. From his point of view, plans never develop late, there is no delay even if it feels that way to us. It's when we decide to hurry things along that we get results we don't want. "The rash one has no integrity," the prophet says: his plans fall apart. The just person — the one who trusts God over the long haul and maintains faith — will live through the difficulties.

We sometimes need to "take a deep breath." The life of faith is a conspiracy. God is one conspirator. He breathes in us. We are co-conspirators when we persevere by keeping breathing along with Him. ☞

P A R I S H N E W S

Pray the Rosary

Traditionally the Church honors Mary during the month of October under the title, Our Lady of the Rosary. Please join your Parish Family a half an hour before each of the weekend Masses to pray the Rosary.

Change in Masses

Please note that this week is the annual Priests' Convocation. Fr. Bosco will be attending and has adjusted the daily Mass schedule for this week only. Monday Mass will be at 8:30 am instead of 12:10 pm and there will be now mass in Manchester on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. The normal Mass schedule will resume on Friday, October 7th which is also First Friday and our monthly period of Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please come and spend some time before the Lord.

Coffee Hour

Join your parish family for fellowship and refreshments after each of the Masses next Sunday, October 9th in the Fr. Fisher Hall.

Pet Blessing

To honor St. Francis of Assisi on his feast day, Fr. Bosco will be blessing our pets. They have been given to us as gifts from God and need His blessings too. The blessing will take place on the steps of the church Sunday, October 9th at 12pm.

Walking Toward Eternity

"Walking Towards Eternity" is an inspiring series designed by Jeff Cavins with DVD presentation to help to develop and nurture our faith life. Through daily prayer and meditation with scripture in the small groups discussion, as we did here in our parish "33 to Morning Glory" and "Consoling the Heart of Jesus" retreats, you will be drawn into an intimate and life-changing encounter with Christ. This series introduces seven key virtues and outlines practical steps for living them out in your life. Join us for "Walking Toward Eternity" at St. Mary's Parish in Manchester beginning October 11th at 7 PM and continue every Tuesday for 8 weeks. For more information please call the office (734) 428-8811.

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.

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.

A R E A N E W S

October 2nd is Life Chain Sunday! Visit www.lifechain.net to find a location near you!

"Voiceless" is coming to Lansing on Friday, Oct. 7th at 7 pm. Join the Office of Marriage and Family Life, the Diocese of Lansing and the New Life Center at NCG Theater, Eastwood Towne Center, 2500 Showtime Dr. for this fundraiser. Contact Cecelia for more information and tickets 517-993-0291 or nlc@resurrectionlansing.org

"The Wisdom of St. Therese the Little Flower." Let her "little way of spiritual childhood" draw you more deeply into the merciful heart of Jesus. October 8th or October 17th at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt. Cost is \$65. Directed by Tony Sperendi.

Register at 517-669-8321 or www.stfrancis.ws.

St. Louis Center will be hosting the 'Taste of Chelsea' at St. Mary Parish Hall in Chelsea on Saturday, October 8th beginning at 5:30pm. Tickets are \$40/person in advance and \$45 at the door. Call Joe at 734-475-8430 to reserve your tickets today!

Annual Mattress, Pillow and Sheet Sale in the St. John's Gym will be on Sunday, October 9th 12-5 pm. If you have any questions call Val Doane 517-784-1714.

Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist will be hosting a discernment retreat for women ages 16-34. Frs. Gary and Todd Koenigsnecht will be leading the retreat October 29-30th. Please visit sistersofmary.org to register.

The Altar Flowers



for the week of, SUNDAY, OCT 2ND are sponsored by Frank Tomko and Linda McGee

In Memory of Florence Tomko

Sanctuary Lamps

are burning this week for:

- 1) Michael Scully on his 6th Anniversary (Marge Scully and Family)
2) Paula Boglarsky My Godmother (Kelly Flaherty)

Parish Family Birthdays

- Oct 2.....Ronald Fielder
Oct 5.....Orlynn Kouba
Oct 6.....Brody Brochue
Oct 6.....Carol Moretto
Oct 6.....James Achtenberg
Oct 7.....Martin Brogley
Oct 7.....Mike Schmitt
Oct 7.....Timothy Timoszyk
Oct 8.....Larry McGee
Oct 8.....Sharon Fairbanks

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Sunday, September 18, 2016

- Sunday Envelopes\$4,448.00
Loose Cash & Checks\$217.96
Welcome Envelopes.....\$121.00
Kids Envelopes.....\$3.28

- Weekly toward budget.....\$4,822.00
Weekly goal.....\$5,300.00
Amt. below goal\$478.00

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Building and Maintenance ...\$85.00
American Evangelization\$50.00
Poor Box.....\$11.25
Votive Candle Receipts\$113.00

This Week We're Praying for:

Barb Madaj

For more news, including events in parishes throughout the area, please visit our website: stmarymanchester.org