



Saint Mary

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



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • JANUARY 15, 2017

We are Witnesses BY DEACON DENNIS WALTERS

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” That is how John the Baptist introduces the arrival of the world’s true Savior.

The evangelist John is the only New Testament writer who refers to Jesus as “the Lamb.” That figure occurs twice in the Gospel of John, both times out of the Baptist’s mouth, and twenty-eight times in the Book of Revelation. In the Gospel, the expression is a metaphor for Jesus as a sin offering, a whole burnt offering, the only one that truly atones for the sin of the world.

The paragraph in your Missalette that introduces today’s readings distinguishes between a herald and a witness. John the Baptist fulfilled both roles. During Advent, John acted as a herald, urging his audience to “repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!” But now he points to a living human being that he has both seen and encountered, and he is giving testimony to that encounter. Let’s look a little more deeply into it.

John’s witness begins when he sees Jesus coming toward him. The incident takes place after John acknowledges to the Pharisees that he is not the Messiah everyone is waiting for. Instead of explaining himself

further, John tells them to look at the One coming toward them all. A good witness shifts the audience’s attention from himself to Jesus.

Next, John identifies who He is: here comes the Lamb of God, who will remove the sin of the world. That description would certainly have startled his audience, but it accomplished two goals: one, to arouse curiosity about this man approaching them; and two, to highlight what makes Jesus’ arrival so important for them. Then John clarifies why he does what he’s doing: “As I told you, he is the reason I baptize, so as to make Him known to Israel.” From this, we understand that a good witness identifies what he’s witnessing to and, if necessary, why he’s testifying.

Third, the Baptist describes how he came to know the person he’s testifying to. He begins with a “before” statement: formerly, “I myself did not know Him.” His mission had been up to now somewhat in the dark; he had never met the person whose advent he was announcing — only that it was near. Then comes how the Baptist knew what to expect: the Holy Spirit told him to look for someone “on whom you see the Spirit descend and

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Youth group



Despite being on vacation from school, the St. Mary’s Youth Group still took time out for Jesus. On December 20th they went to St. Louis Center to spread some joy at the Ugly Christmas Sweater Dance Party. On December 30th they gathered to

celebrate Jesus’ birthday at the Parish Center. The next event will be on Sunday, January 22nd beginning with youth participation in Mass followed by a meeting.

PARISH CALENDAR	
Mass Intentions, [Requested by], and Parish Activities	
SAT., JAN. 14	Ordinary Weekday/BVM
Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: <i>INT: Fr. John Lehner for a Healthy New Year [Donna Hnizdor]</i>
SUN., JAN. 15	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: <i>For the People [Janet and Bill Shurtliff]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>✠ Lewis William Shurtliff [Janet and Bill Shurtliff]</i> 12:00 pm First Communion Class—PC
MON., JAN. 16	Ordinary Weekday
Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 2:18-22	No Mass Today in Manchester
TUES., JAN. 17	St. Anthony, (memorial)
Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c/Mk 2:23-28	No Mass Today in Manchester
WED., JAN. 18	Ordinary Weekday
Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 3:1-6	8:30 am Mass: <i>INT: For the People, 105th Anniversary of Church Consecration [St. Mary Manchester Parish]</i>
THUR., JAN. 19	Ordinary Weekday
Heb 7:25-8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Mk 3:7-12	8:30 am Mass: <i>✠ Ed Haller [Chris Kanta]</i>
FRI., JAN. 20	Ordinary Weekday/Sts. Fabian and Sebastian (opt. mem.)
Heb 8:6-13, 11/Ps 85:8, 10-14/Mk 3:13-19	8:30 am Mass: <i>INT: Mary McKenzie [Noreen Burnett]</i>
SAT., JAN. 21	St. Agnes, (memorial)
Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 3:20-21	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: <i>INT: Happy 46th Anniversary to Rick and Peg Frederick [Bill and Sandi Kwolek]</i>
SUN., JAN. 22	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: <i>For the People</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>✠ Franklin Shurtliff [Janet and Bill Shurtliff]</i> 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Youth Group—PC

DEACON DENNIS' ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:

remain.” This is followed by the act of recognition: “I saw it after I baptized Him with water.” After that will come the follow-up, what impact the encounter made on the Baptist: “He must increase, I must decrease.”

Recent popes, especially Pope Francis, have all said that what the Church needs is witnesses, people who have met Jesus, have come to know Him, and will tell others about Him. We are being called on to testify. We all know lots of people who have abandoned the teachings of the faith, or who try to explain away the Church’s doctrines. Many of us don’t want to discuss religion in our families, because we dislike arguments or because we don’t feel confident about explaining the faith. But no one can challenge the experience of a witness. You can debate doctrine, but it’s much harder to refute personal testimony.

The question many of us have is, do I have a testimony to give? Of course, if you haven’t met Jesus personally you can’t be a witness. But if you are a faithful Catholic and have come to love your faith, you have a story to tell. You don’t need dramatic conversion experiences, or ecstatic visions, or miraculous events that validate your faith. All you need is evidence of a growing (even if gradual) love for Jesus Christ and His Church. David Mills, a Catholic blogger, quotes St. Peter’s point that Christians should be able to “give a reason for the hope that is in you,” and then comments:

“The reason for the hope that is in them might be their encounter with Our Lord in the Mass, or in adoration, or their experience of being cleansed of their sins in the confessional. It might be lighting a candle and saying a prayer at a shrine on a weekday afternoon, or sitting quietly before the Sacrament, or the rosary, or their holy cards, or their Miraculous Medal. It could be almost anything.”

Those are experiences anyone can give a reason for, and you don’t need to know much theology.

People like stories. Each witness tells the story of a personal encounter — what the situation was like before the encounter, what led up to it, then the encounter itself, and lastly what difference the encounter has made in the witness’s life.

Perhaps you understand your faith and feel confident about explaining it when asked. Perhaps you’re curious about why the Church believes what she does, so you educate yourself about doctrines to be ready for tough questions. That’s good. But even better is a testimony from a witness who has a story to tell. Because it says that, if you met the Lord, I can too.

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” That’s how John the Baptist introduced the world’s true Savior. It’s how we should introduce Him, too. ☞

Dear St. Mary's and Fr. Bosco ~
Thank you for the donation to Teresa Kanga's fund raiser. The money will be used to help her & her children. Her chemo is to slow the cancer but will not cure her, so please keep praying for her. Again, thank you for your support of Teresa and her children. -Sheri Marotz & Julie

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: 517-993-0291 or email nlc@resurrectionlansing.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.



This Week We’re Praying for:
Christel, Inge Roncoli’s sister
Teresa Kanga
Liesel Lamparter

P A R I S H N E W S

Friendly Reminder

First Holy Communion class will meet TODAY, **Sunday, January 15th** in the Parish Center at 12:00 pm. The class that was missed due to the weather will be rescheduled.

Mass Schedule Change

Please note that while Fr. Bosco is in India, Masses will not be held on Mondays and Tuesdays. The regular schedule will resume on **Monday, January 30th**.

Men's Retreat

Men of St. Mary's, you are invited to a men's retreat at the St. Francis Retreat



Altar Flowers
for the week of
SUNDAY, JAN 15TH
are sponsored by
June Faubion & Carol Moretto
In Memory of Zofia Krajews

Center in DeWitt **February 24th-26th**. The theme of the retreat is "Mass Matters: We Are Called to Glory." Suggested offering for the retreat is \$175 for the three days. You can register by calling 866-669-8321 or online at www.stfrancis.ws.

Special Collection

Remember to use your envelope for the "Worldwide Evangelization Appeal." Our contributions to this appeal help support the pastoral, charitable, educational and social works which the Church undertakes in Latin America, the Holy Land, Eastern Europe, and Africa. Please consider the needs and give as generously as you are able.

Altar Flowers

There are opportunities to sponsor the flowers on the Altar. The minimum donation is \$30. The flowers can be offered for your special intention or in honor or memory of a loved one. Contact the parish office.

Sanctuary Lamps

are burning this week for:

- 1) ☩ Ed and ☩ Dorothy Kirk (Judy and Eddie Walz)
- 2) INT: Members of the Prayer Tree (Jim and Ella Landini)

Parish Family Birthdays

Jan 14	.....Matthew Radze
Jan 15	.....Robert Scharpenberg
Jan 16	.....Berkeley Tistle
Jan 18	.....Michelle Dettling
Jan 18	.....Ginny Johnson
Jan 18	.....Laurie McGee
Jan 18	.....Joel Tobias
Jan 18	.....Maxwell Woods
Jan 19	.....William Nashif
Jan 20	.....Jeffery Sangster
Jan 20	.....Jesse Sangster
Jan 20	.....Donald Scaglione
Jan 21	.....Sherman Hazelton
Jan 21	.....Trent Line
Jan 22	.....Harold Robertson

A R E A N E W S

Cry to the Lord with one Voice annual concert for Unity and Prayer for Life is **Wednesday, January 18th** at 7:30 pm. St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 530 Elizabeth St, Ann Arbor.

Family Life Services will be having a free movie night on **Thursday, January 19th**, at 7:00 PM at Grace Bible Church, 1300 S. Maple Rd, Ann Arbor. The movie is "Bella."

The Catholic Men's Movement meet this month on **Thursday, January 19th** which is the day before the inauguration of President-Elect Trump and his new administration. We will gather to pray that the Hand of God will be upon them as we start this new chapter in the life of our country. All men are welcome to attend. We will begin with Mass at 7:30 pm at Christ the King Catholic Church, 4000 Ave Maria Dr., Ann Arbor 48105.

Take Some Time for Your Marriage -You are invited to a new marriage retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center on January **20th** from 5:15-9:15pm entitled: "Learning to Love Each Other in the Little Things." Daily life can strengthen or weaken your marriage depending on your shared focus. Learn ways to deepen your love and commitment you promised each other on your wedding day. Enjoy an evening together. \$60 per couple and includes dinner and handouts. Info and registration at www.stfrancis.ws/ or 517-669-8321. Directed by Tony Sperendi.

March for Life with Grand Rapids RTL. Seats are still available. Contact Betsey for more info: elizabethbesteman@yahoo.com

The Called and Gifted Workshop will teach participants about the charisms given to you by the Holy Spirit at Baptism and start you on a process of lifelong discernment. The workshop is offered at the following locations:

January 27-28 – Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

February 3-4 - St. John the Evangelist, Jackson

February 10-11 - St. Thomas the Apostle, Ann Arbor

See <http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/evangelization-lay-formation> for more details.

The Diocesan Men's Retreat, The Man Event, will be held at Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center on Saturday, February 25th 10 am-5 pm.

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

LIGHT A CANDLE FOR LIFE!



Saturday, Jan 21st-
Sunday Jan 22nd
place a candle on
your porch at dusk to
commemorate the 57
million babies lost to
abortion in the USA.



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Sunday Envelopes	.....\$3,968.60
Loose Cash & Checks	.....\$163.75
Welcome Envelopes	.....\$666.00
eGiving	.....\$146.88
All Saints	.....\$5.00
Immaculate Conception	.....\$10.00
Solemnity of Mary	.....\$710.00
Christmas Decorations	.....\$5.00
Fuel	.....\$460.00
Christmas	.....\$135.00

Weekly toward budget	.....\$6,270.23
Weekly goal	.....\$5,300.00
Amt. ABOVE goal	.....\$970.23

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Building and Maintenance	..\$388.60
Worldwide Evangelization	...\$30.00
Poor Box	.....\$84.84
Votive Candle Receipts	.....\$46.00