



Saint Mary

Reverend Fr. Bosco Padamattummal, Administrator
Deacon Dennis Walters

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WEEKEND MASSES:

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 6, 2018 "No Partiality" Deacon Dennis Walters

On Sunday, April 29th after 10:30 Mass, the Youth Group gathered in the Fr. Fisher Hall for a game of Fear Factor. The purpose of the game was to teach them that when they have Jesus, they have nothing to fear.



On Monday, April 30th during Religious Education classes Fr. Bosco and the students spent some time outdoors picking up sticks and trash in the yard of the Parish Center to prepare for lawn mowing.

“Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, ‘In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation, whoever fears Him and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him.’”

At Easter Vigil 2001, Sue and I had the privilege of assisting at the reception into the Catholic Church of fifty-two members of an African-American Pentecostal congregation. I was the sponsor for their pastor, Alex Jones, and Sue was the sponsor for his sister Gwen. His three children and their families also came into the Church. There were so many others that both of us had to sponsor more than one person, which caused a gigantic melee in the sanctuary. It was one of the most glory-filled moments of my life.

The whole group had completed RCIA at St. Suzanne’s, an all-white parish, because it was physically closest to Maranatha Church from which Pastor Jones’s congregation had come. That was convenient for them, but burdensome for St. Suzanne’s. The parish was so small at the time that the rear pews had been removed for coffee and doughnuts, and so elderly that some ushers used walkers. Overnight, the size of the parish doubled. To have fifty-two young, hand-clapping Pentecostals suddenly join them was — to say the least — a shock to the parish.

This example might give some insight into the situation Peter faced

when, at the Lord’s bidding, he welcomed into Christianity a unit commander of the Roman army of occupation, his whole household, and probably several of their friends. Peter and his companions, all Jews, had never before done the unlawful thing of entering the home of Gentiles, accepting their hospitality, and fraternizing with them. But when the Holy Spirit poured out on them the same charismatic gifts of tongues and praise as He had on themselves, Peter had no other choice but to welcome them into the Church on an equal footing with himself. His decision would grow the Church, but it would pose problems for him and for them.

Criticism for his decision was swift in coming. According to the Acts of the Apostles, Peter twice had to answer complaints of Jewish Christians about receiving Gentiles into Christianity without circumcising them first. As for the newly baptized Gentiles, their new faith demanded getting used to a way of life very different from the paganism they grew up in; for example, they had to learn new forms of worship, and practice forms of moral self-control foreign to their culture.

Examples like these give some traction to Jesus’ command for Christians to love one another. Love can’t be an abstraction or an ideal when a group of strangers with outlandish customs and habits suddenly enters the peaceful life of

PARISH CALENDAR

Mass Intentions, [Requested by], and Parish Activities

SAT., MAY 5	EASTER WEEKDAY/BVM/First Saturday
Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21 (290)	8:30 am First Saturday Mass: ☩ <i>Frank Tomko</i> <i>[Inge and Peter Roncoli]</i> No Confession Today 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: ☩ <i>Bernita Aiuto</i> <i>[William and Astrida Panches]</i>
SUN., MAY 6	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17 (56) Pss II	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>First Communicants</i> First Communion Reception following 10:30 am Mass
MON., MAY 7	EASTER WEEKDAY
Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26—16:4a (291)	12:10 pm Mass: ☩ <i>Bernita Aiuto</i> <i>[Dianne Schwab]</i> 3:30 pm Religious Education—PC
TUES., MAY 8	EASTER WEEKDAY
Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11 (292)	8:30 am Mass: <i>INT: Erin Hawley and the Good Health of her Twins</i> <i>[Noreen Burnett]</i>
WED., MAY 9	EASTER WEEKDAY
Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Jn 16:12-15 (293)	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Joseph Fitzgerald</i> <i>[Doug and Diane Rickert]</i> 7:00 pm Finance Council Meeting—RCR
THU., MAY 10	EASTER WEEKDAY/St. Damien de Veuster
Acts 18:1-8/Jn 16:16-20 (294)	7:00 pm Mass: ☩ <i>Richard Krzyzaniak</i> <i>[His Family]</i> May Crowning before 7:00 pm Mass
FRI., MAY 11	EASTER WEEKDAY
Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23 (295)	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Anita Dubois</i> <i>[Noreen Burnett]</i>
SAT., MAY 12	EASTER WEEKDAY/BVM/Sts. Nereus, Achilleus and Pancras
Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28 (296)	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: <i>INT: Erin Hawley and the Good Health of her Twins</i> <i>[Noreen Burnett]</i>
SUN., MAY 13	ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20 (58) Pss Prop	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Joseph Fitzgerald a Birthday Remembrance</i> <i>[His Wife and Family]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>For the People</i> Coffee Hour following each Sunday Mass



NEED HELP?

ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION: Right-to-Life MI Hotline 1-800-57WOMAN or visit www.optionline.org

"AA" group meets Fridays & Sundays at 7:00 pm - Emanuel Church kitchen.

"PROJECT RACHEL" (post-abortion reconciliation and healing) Call the confidential phone line: 517-993-0291 or email nlc@resurrectionlansing.org

"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 517-342-2596



Please Pray for:

Bonnie Bernard
Al (Junior) Cowhy
Rosemary Hamilton
Herman Hessling

Betsy Kripas
Isabelle Money
Jeff Nagy
Susan Rubal
Connie Schaffer

Betty Walkowe
Eddie Walz

Rest of the Soul of:

+Alfie Evans

your comfortable community, expecting to be welcomed there. As Peter and his companions discovered, loving one another sometimes has to be learned very quickly, and both sides have lots to learn.

Jesus' command to love calls for obedience. We obey by choosing to love; and, if all goes well, feelings of love will follow. Further, Jesus' command to love has a qualifier: "Love as I have loved you." That means that the standard of our love for others is not what we think is good or appropriate, but what Jesus shows as His love for us; namely, laying down our lives for each other. It's not comfortable, it's not convenient, but it's how we imitate God.

Peter came to Cornelius's house in response to a vision, in which God said that what He calls clean Peter was not to call unclean. In effect, God was telling him that he had to lay down his view of what was okay. God shows no partiality: His love — and therefore ours — extends to everyone, including (perhaps especially) people we'd rather not have to deal with. The love God commands is more than simply tolerating others, living our own private lives and hoping others live theirs. I used to tell people in a prayer group I led, "If you love me, bother me." I've gotten away from that, but I need to return to it. Loving others means bothering and being bothered.

Peter's decision to include Gentiles in what had been Jewish Christianity fulfilled the biblical vision in which "the Nations" would join Israel. The first Christians knew those Scriptures, but now they were expected to make that happen. The process did create problems; everyone from the Church's leaders on down needed to learn through experience what God meant by "showing no partiality; rather, in every nation, whoever fears Him and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him." Uncomfortable, yes; inconvenient, yes. But what a glad inconvenience.

In the Fall, we plan to run another Alpha Course, and it's possible that some people very different from us might decide to enter the Church through St. Mary's. While I don't expect anything like what happened at St. Suzanne's in 2001 to happen here, their experience tells us something. If it turned out that all of the Pentecostals in town were to come into the Church here with their families, we could expect that everything at St. Mary's would change. There would be a lot more noise. Even the liturgy would change — it might become a lot more exuberant. Of course, they would have to adapt to Catholic ways. But how would we adapt? Our job would be to incorporate them into our Catholic family and love them there. Would we? ☞

Pray the Rosary
30 minutes before each weekend Mass
throughout the
Month of May

Intention May 12-13th
For mothers, both living and
deceased, for all of the guidance they
have given us.

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

P A R I S H N E W S

Parish Family Birthdays

May 5.....Denise Boehmer
 May 6.....Mark Gemler
 May 6.....Mary Sandoval
 May 7.....Jessica Coltre
 May 7.....Alden Rohwer
 May 8.....Paige Bourland
 May 9.....Jacob Miller
 May 11.....Patrick Wallace
 May 12.....William Emmons
 May 13.....Karen McNamara

Sanctuary

Lamps

are burning this week for:
 1) ☩Fran and ☩Earl Bersuder
 (Gerald and Mary Shaw)

Altar Flowers

for the week of
 SUNDAY, MAY 6TH

☩ Joseph Fitzgerald, a Birthday
 Remembrance
 sponsored by
 His loving wife, Pat Fitzgerald



**COFFEE HOUR
 NEXT SUNDAY,
 MAY 13TH**

Sponsored by
 Knights of
 Columbus.



**St. Mary Roman
 Catholic Church
 Stewardship**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION
 Sunday, April 22, 2018**

Sunday Envelopes \$5,424.00
 Loose Cash & Checks \$95.50
 Welcome Envelopes \$56.00
 Easter \$45.00
 Easter Décor \$20.00

Weekly toward budget..... \$5,640.50
 Weekly goal..... \$5,300.00
 Amt. ABOVE goal \$340.50

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Catholic Relief Services..... \$10.00
 Building and Maintenance... \$70.00
 Poor Box..... \$15.26
 Votive Candles..... \$35.00

May, Month of Mary

May is the month of Mary. To show our devotion to the Holy Mother of God, we will crown the statue of Mary on Thursday, May 10th before the 7:00 pm Mass. Children of the parish especially First Communicants will participate in the Crowning. Please arrive by 6:45 pm if you plan to participate.

Coffee Hour Next Week

Please join us next Sunday after each Mass for coffee hour. The Knights of Columbus will be serving a special Mothers' Day selection in honor of all mothers.

Prayers for Our Confirmation Candidates

Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates as they prepare for Confirmation at the Cathedral on Sunday, May 20th. Please remember in your prayers: Anthony Bargardi, Libbey Burch, Javi Castillo-Miller, Megan Dobis, Brigid Doyle, and Celeste Sangster.

Small Cross Powerful Message

The Knights of Columbus want to help you spread Christianity in the area by placing a simple white cross in your yard. These simple crosses are visible signs of our faith in Jesus. The Knights make these crosses and they can be purchased at the Flower Garden in Manchester for a donation of \$5.00.

May, Month of the Rosary

Praying the Rosary ~ May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary and we will be reciting the Rosary 30 minutes before each of the weekend Masses. Please come early to unite in prayer with the parish family. If you have questions call Marja Warner at 734-428-9506.

Sponsor Altar Flowers

A reminder that we have the opportunity each weekend to sponsor the flowers on the Altar. There is a minimum donation of \$40, and the flowers can be in memory of a loved one, for the intentions of or to honor someone, or for a special occasion. A sign-up sheet is in the main vestibule with dates available in May. Or contact the parish office for more information.

Make your Gift Today!

Thank you to everyone who has made a gift or pledge commitment to our Diocesan Services Appeal. Our gifts to DSA enable our diocese to provide services crucial to our parish. If you have not yet made a gift or a pledge, I invite you to do so today. Gift envelopes are available in church or the parish office. Or you may submit your gift online at www.dioceseoflansing.org/dsa. Your DSA gift will support the vital services and ministries that help bring the love of Christ to all we encounter.

AREA NEWS

Diocesan Task Force on Race and Catholic Schools next listening session and meeting will be at 5:00pm, **Wednesday, May 9th**, at Queens, 1111 Carlton Blvd, Jackson.

Scrap Metal Drive Sharon United Methodist Church **Saturday, May 12th** 8am-noon. All proceeds benefit Sharon outreach efforts! Pick-up is available by calling 734-428-0996

Perennial Plant Sale at St. Joseph Dexter **Saturday, May 19th** 10 am-6 pm. There will be a variety of Michigan hardy plants, trees and shrubs \$1-\$5. 6805 Mast Road, Dexter, MI 48130

2018 DSA Prayer

Loving and gracious God, we praise you and we thank you for the bountiful gifts that you have bestowed upon us. Instill in us the courage to "Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord." Help us to understand that we are called to discipleship, to grow actively in faith and to go and share the good news with the world. Please bless our unified efforts and help us to bring Christ's love to all we encounter. Give us the grace to be generous in our support of the Diocesan Services Appeal, so that we may faithfully participate as missionary disciples in the work of Your Holy Church.

Amen.