



# Saint Mary

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



Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time — November 4, 2018  
 “Not Far from the Kingdom?” Deacon Dennis Walters

In today’s Gospel, a scribe asks Jesus what is the greatest commandment in the Law, and Jesus replies by citing not one but two commandments: you shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, mind, and soul (Deut. 6), and you shall love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19). The scribe then offers an approving commentary on why these two commandments are the greatest, the most important, and the most worthwhile. Whereupon Jesus gives the scribe what at first sounds like a compliment: “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

Wait a minute! Not far? That means that the scribe is not in the kingdom of God. What seems to be missing?

What seems to be missing is a basic commitment to Jesus Himself. In context, the scribe has overheard how well Jesus answers His critics, and so he’s impressed. He asks his question perhaps out of curiosity as to how Jesus will answer and, when the answer is satisfactory, has the chutzpah to congratulate the Son of God on getting it right. Of all the scribes mentioned in the Gospels, he seems to be one of the few good ones. But he is not one of Jesus’ disciples; he has no committed relationship with Jesus, which is what keeps him not far from the kingdom.

We shouldn’t discount the scribe’s comment, however. There really is something more important than sacrifice. One can always use sacrifice — any kind of formal worship — as a way of keeping God at a distance, or of manipulating Him to salve our conscience. The prophets often reminded Israel that obedience was better than sacrifice, and the chief command to be obeyed was the command God gave to love Him wholeheartedly.

Understanding the importance of the two commandments of love is good; it’s a high ideal; but until it’s put into effect, that’s all it is — an ideal. Holding that ideal puts us in a good place, but (like the scribe) just “not far from the kingdom of God.”

We’re coming to the time of year when the liturgy begins

reminding us of the “four last things”: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. All of us know that we will one day die, hopefully after many years in the future. When we come before Jesus on the day of our death, it’s worth considering how He will see us. Will He be impressed with how nice we are toward others, or what fun we are to be around? Will He appreciate our sports record, our business accomplishments, the awards we received, or the degrees we earned? Perhaps these things will mean something to Him. But my guess is that Jesus will ignore these and ask us just one question: how well did you love Me?

Love requires commitment more than feeling. To tell someone in all seriousness that you love him is to invest in a relationship, one that involves a conscious choice, and one that takes a good deal of maintenance. The quality of the relationship depends on the level of investment. The two great commandments suggest the level God expects; namely, our whole selves.

That’s more than a high ideal. To love someone with your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole mind, and all your strength sets a high standard. That’s the standard God expects for our love of Him. Unless we love God that much, we will remain “not far from the kingdom of God.”

Most of us probably don’t think of ourselves as very good lovers. And we’re right. We’re not. If it seems impossibly demanding of God to expect us to love Someone we can’t see with our whole selves, the second commandment gives us a standard that’s perhaps more doable: we’re to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan

identifies who our neighbor is; essentially, anyone we’re near, even an enemy. The commandment means that I extend to this person the same care and concern I give myself. A true love of neighbor goes beyond even the Golden Rule (doing for others what I want them to do for me). It’s an investment in my neighbor — more than a one-time good deed. It means



We are truly blessed to have Kevin and Lisa Dobis as part of our Parish family. They give so much for the good of our Parish. Recently they completed upgrades to the Fish Fry shed. Thank you so much.

Deacon Dennis' article continued from page 1

**PARISH CALENDAR**

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

SAT., NOV 3	ORDINARY WEEKDAY/BVM/St. Martin de Porres
Eph 4:7-16/Lk 13:1-9 (478)	8:30 am First Saturday Mass: ☩ <i>Bridie Finneran [Burnett Family]</i> 3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: <i>INT: Holy Souls [Claudia Damian]</i>
SUN., NOV 4	THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
Jer 31:7-9/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52 (149) Pss II	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Lucas Millenbach [The Achtenberg Family]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>For the People</i>
MON., NOV 5	ORDINARY WEEKDAY
Phil 2:1-4/Lk 14:12-14 (485)	12:10 pm Mass: ☩ <i>Nicolette Hnizdor Smith, Birthday Remembrance [Her Sister, Donna Hnizdor]</i> 3:30 pm Religious Education—PC 7:00 pm KofC Requiem Mass: ☩ <i>Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus</i>
TUES., NOV 6	ORDINARY WEEKDAY
Phil 2:5-11/Lk 14:15-24 (486)	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Leona Braun [Mike and Chris Kuryvial]</i>
WED., NOV 7	ORDINARY WEEKDAY
Phil 2:12-18/Lk 14:25-33 (487)	8:30 am Mass: <i>INT: For Improved Health of Anthony Landini [Jim and Ella Landini]</i> 4:00 pm Staff Meeting—FFH 7:00 pm Pastoral Council Meeting—FFH
THU., NOV 8	ORDINARY WEEKDAY
Phil 3:3-8a/Lk 15:1-10 (488)	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>William Bondy [John and Tina Doyle and Family]</i>
FRI., NOV 9	DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA
Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22 (671) Pss Prop	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Florence Remski [John and Tina Doyle and Family]</i> 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal—Choir Loft
SAT., NOV 10	ST. LEO THE GREAT
Phil 4:10-19/Lk 16:9-15 (490)	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: ☩ <i>MJ Kidd, 17th Anniversary [Alice Kidd, Loving Wife]</i>
SUN., NOV 11	THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
1 Kgs 17:10-16/Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44 (155) Pss	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Christine Marie Hessling [The Hessling Family]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>For the People</i> Coffee Hour after each Sunday Mass—FFH



**Please Pray for:**

- Eileen & Leon Ball
- Duane Beuerle
- Ann Harwood
- Sally Irvin
- Thomas Kladzyk
- Denise Kratz
- Betsy Kripas

- Jim Maisano
- Ron Panches
- Cody Simpson
- Gabriel Tieno
- Eddie and Judi Walz
- Rest of the Soul:**
- +Cecile Ouedraogo
- +Angelo Tonde

establishing a relationship with the neighbor, one that involves extending myself to someone else, being generous with my time, compassion, resources, and person. Love of neighbor doesn't equal love of God; but love of neighbor done out of love of God is a good indicator of how well I love God.

Even at that, the standard of love may seem impossibly high. I suspect that it's so high because God wants it that way. Frankly, we need God's help to love at all. The last thing we want is to remain "not far from the kingdom of God" by failing at least to make the effort. I think it's a good idea from time to time to tell God that we love Him. Say the words. Out loud. Doing so in all seriousness establishes and reinforces our commitment to Him as His disciple. It also puts us in a position to ask for — even demand — the ability to love Him and our neighbor consistently, to love well, and to take delight in loving.

Jesus warns that without Him we can do nothing, yet still commands us to love Him with everything we have. Impossible, on our own strength. Very possible with His. We should say every day, "I love You, my Lord and my God. Help me to love You as You love." ☞

**AREA NEWS**

**Chilly Chili Closing Celebration** Ann Arbor 49 Days for Life invites you to 3100 Professional Dr. Ann Arbor November 4th for the final 7 laps of the Jericho March. The first lap begins at 8am. The final lap will begin at 2pm followed by a short program, fellowship and CHILI

**Stephen's Ministry** On Saturday, November 10th Saint Francis of Assisi in Ann Arbor is hosting a Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M., refreshments will be served. This workshop teaches church leaders and other members about the Stephen Series, a ministry system that equips and mobilizes laypeople for effective caring ministry. For more information, or to register for the Workshop, call Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600.

A special Anniversary Mass will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas in East Lansing on November 10th at 4:30 pm for married couples celebrating their first anniversary in 2018 as well as for all couples celebrating a significant anniversary (10th, 15th, 20th, 25th etc.). In addition, all couples celebrating any wedding anniversary of 60 years or more are invited. A cake and punch reception will follow the Mass.

**Arts & Craft Show** Saturday, November 17th at St. Martha Parish, 1100 W. Grand River, Okemos, MI 48864 is soliciting vendors for the annual Holiday Heaven Arts & Craft Show which is from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Vendors who have handcrafted items to sell may apply for this show. Please contact Margo Vuchetich at 517-881-7975 or e-mail tvuchetich@gmail.com for information.

**Nun Run** for young women age 16-40 to come and see what Religious/Consecrated life is like November 17th. Contact Dawn Hausmann at 517-342-2506 for more information.

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

**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

P A R I S H N E W S

*Parish Family Birthdays*

Nov 5 ..... Bruce Sommers  
 Nov 6 ..... Susan Tervo  
 Nov 7 ..... Aidan Doyle  
 Nov 7 ..... Denise Nesteruk  
 Nov 9 ..... Dianna Roberts  
 Nov 10 ..... Matthew Burch

COFFEE HOUR  
 SUNDAY, NOV 11TH

Sponsored by  
 Religious  
 Education  
 Students



*Altar Flowers*

for the week of  
 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH  
 In Loving Memory of  
 † Robert Hagerman  
 His Family



Sanctuary  
 Lamps

are burning this week for:  
 1) INT: For the protection of  
 Sylvie & Scott Strong's family  
 in Burkina-Faso, Africa  
 (Donna Hnizdor)  
 2) In Loving Memory of my  
 Mother, † Leona Braun  
 (Margaret Smith)



**St. Mary Roman  
 Catholic Church  
 Stewardship**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION  
 Sunday, October 21, 2018**

Sunday Envelopes..... \$2,998.00  
 Loose Cash & Checks..... \$137.00  
 Welcome Envelopes..... \$43.00  
 All Souls' ..... \$25.00  
 All Saint's ..... \$25.00  
 eGiving ..... \$35.00  
 Weekly toward budget .... \$3,263.00  
 Weekly goal ..... \$5,300.00  
 Amt. **BELOW** goal ..... \$2,037.00

**OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Building and Maintenance... \$50.00  
 Word Mission Sunday..... \$345.00  
 Poor Box ..... \$32.08  
 Votive Candles..... \$26.00

**Knights' News**

The Knights of Columbus would like to invite all parishioners to honor deceased members of Council 4354 at All Souls' Day Mass. A special Mass in their honor will be held on **Monday, November 5th at 7 pm** where names of deceased members will be read.

If any Parishioner or community member is in need of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the KofC or call Grand Knight Jim Burch at 517-240-3406. The KofC's purpose is to help those in our community thru Charity, Faith, Fraternalism and Patriotism. For more information about the KofC please check out our new website: <http://kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/index.asp?CNO=4354>

**Diocesan Marriage Day**

The Diocese has requested that on the weekend of **November 10th-11th**, at all Masses in every parish, that all married couples receive a special blessing by the presiding priest. So all newlyweds and those couples with experience should attend Mass together for the blessing.

**Altar Society Wreath Sale**

If you did not get an order form in last week's bulletin for the Wreath Sale, there are some in the church lobby. We will be taking orders until **Sunday, November 11th**. Besides wreaths, we also offer centerpieces, grave blankets, grave pillows, and easels for the wreaths. Please put your prepaid order in the collection basket or the labeled box in the lobby.

**Formed**

We're pleased to announce the availability of FORMED, an online service for accessing thousands of Catholic videos, audios and eBooks On Demand anytime, anywhere! As a member, you will have access to entertaining movies, inspiring audio talks, informative bible studies, and much more. We are providing this resource free of charge to help our members learn and grow in their faith. You will also be able to easily access any featured content

that we are promoting within our community from time to time. Sign up for **FREE**, just visit: <https://stmarymanchester.formed.org>. Download the free iOS or Android app to put FORMED on your smartphone or tablet. If you need further assistance, contact the Parish Office or Deacon Dennis.

**Decorating Committee**

The Christmas Holiday Decorating committee will begin planning for this year. We have received a generous financial donation to enhance our décor. All who have been on the committee in the past and anyone who may want to be part of the team this year should contact Sue Fielder at [sfielder@umich.edu](mailto:sfielder@umich.edu) or 734-428-8816.

**SLC Aktion Club to Sell Cards**

The residents of the St. Louis Center Aktion Club design and sell a Christmas Card each year to raise funds to support children in third world countries that are dying because they lack access to tetanus shots. Since so many people have helped SLC residents over the years they take great pride in being able to help others. They will be present following Masses the weekend of **December 1st-2nd**.

**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. Victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Lansing is Cheryl Williams-HECKSEL 888.308.6252 or [cwilliamshecksel@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:cwilliamshecksel@dioceseoflansing.org).

In addition, you may also report through the law enforcement toll-free reporting hotline at (844) 324-3374 (M-F 8 am-5 pm) or by email at [aginvestigations@michigan.gov](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov)