



Saint Mary

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



24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME • SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

The Heart of a Father

BY FR. BOSCO PADAMATTUMMAL

We are presented in today's Gospel with an overwhelming picture of God. It is a picture that we could never have guessed ourselves and, in spite of Jesus' words, it is a picture that many of us still find difficult to accept in its fullness. There is a vast difference between the picture of God in the Old Testament and the New Testament. The First Reading, which is from the book of Exodus, portrays a God that is more like ourselves. We see a God bent on taking vengeance on His idolatrous, treacherous and stiff-necked people. It is only by a kind of blackmail on Moses' part that God is moved. How can God, asks Moses, wipe out a people who, in the presence of the Gentiles, He has so dramatically liberated? How can God go back on his solemn promise that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would be "as many as the stars of heaven"? So the Lord, reluctantly it seems, holds back the arm of His justified anger.

In the Gospel, we are given a picture of how God looks upon the sinful person. He will go to any length to bring the sinner back to a loving relationship with

Himself. We usually call the story, "The Prodigal Son". But it is rather the story of the Generous Father. It is the father who is the central figure. He gives generously of his own belongings to his younger son who squanders everything for his pleasure. But the father waits and watches for his return. He is never angry and he never condemns. It is a very different image from the First Reading. When the son finally "comes to his senses", and shamefully makes his way home, he is overwhelmed by his father's love and affection. Nothing is too good to be brought out to celebrate the return of the boy who "was dead and has come to life again".



The most powerful illustration of the love God has for His children is the Prodigal Son. Always remember that no matter what you do, God is quick to forgive those who seek His forgiveness. He will never forsake you.

I told you in the beginning this is a picture of love and forgiveness we might find difficult to imitate. Imagine if one of your family were to squander all the family wealth in such a way, say, by reckless gambling or indulging in drugs. What kind of a welcome could he expect on his return? It is likely that most of us can identify much more easily with the elder son. He was a "good boy", dutifully serving his father without thought of personal reward. Naturally, he feels strong resentment at the extraordinary treatment his "black sheep" of a brother

Mass Intentions, [Requested by], and Parish Activities

SAT., SEPT. 10 ORDINARY WEEKDAY/BVM	
116: 12-13. 17-18/ Lk 6: 43-49	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: ☩ <i>Wanda Antieau, First Anniversary [Alice Kidd]</i>
SUN., SEPT. 11 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
Ex 32: 7-11. 13-14/ Ps 51: 3-4. 12-13. 17. 19/ 1 Tm 1: 12-17/ Lk 15: 1-32	Patriot Day 8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: <i>INT: Tom and Ruth Burch [Children of Tom and Ruth Burch]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>For the People Knights of Columbus Breakfast after 10:30 Mass</i>
MON., SEPT. 12 Ordinary Weekday/Holy Name of Mary	
1 Cor 11:17-26,33/ Ps 40:7-8a,8b-9,10,17/ Lk 7:1-10	12:10 pm Mass: ☩ <i>Florence Tomko [Frank Tomko]</i> 3:30-5:00 pm Religious Ed Grades 1-8 meet at PC
TUES., SEPT. 13 St. John Chrysostom (mem.)	
1 Cor 12:12-14,27-31a/ Ps 100:1b-2,3,4,5/ Lk 7:11-17	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Bishop Kenneth J. Povish, 3rd Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing [St. Mary Manchester Parish]</i>
WED., SEPT. 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross (feast)	
Nm 21:4b-9/ Ps 78:1bc-2,34-35,36-37,38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Rita O'Dowd [Noreen Burnett]</i> 7:00 pm KofC 4th Degree Assembly Meeting—PC
THUR., SEPT. 15 Our Lady of Sorrows (mem.)	
1Cor 15:1-11/ Ps 118:1b-2,16ab-17,28/(opt.)Stabat Mater/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35	8:30 am Mass: <i>INT: Mary McKenzie [Noreen Burnett]</i> 7:00 pm Altar Society Meeting and Potluck—FFH 7:00 pm RCIA—PC
FRI., SEPT. 16 Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian (mem.)	
1 Cor 15:12-20/ Ps 17:1bcd,6-7,8b and 15/ Lk 8:1-3	8:30 am Mass: ☩ <i>Dennis Dimond [Donna Maloney]</i>
SAT., SEPT. 17 Ordinary Weekday/BVM/St. Robert Bellarmine	
1 Cor 15:35-37,42-49/ Ps 56*10c-12,13-14/ Lk 8:4-15	8:00 am-8:00 pm Men's Retreat—PUSJ 3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: ☩ <i>William Boyd [The Boyd Family]</i>
SUN., SEPT. 18 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
Am 8:4-7/ Ps 113:1-2,4-6,7-8/ 1 Tm 2:1-8/ Lk 16:1-13	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: <i>INT: Mary McKenzie [Noreen Burnett]</i> 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: <i>For the People</i>

A R E A N E W S

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

FR. BOSCO'S ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:

gets. How can the father act like this? It is simply not just!

It is important for us to remember the context in which these stories were spoken. The passage opens by saying, "The tax collectors and sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say." The passage seems to be speaking on two interrelated levels. The first is the contrast between the behavior of the religiously self-righteous and those who were seen as moral outsiders by them. The second is between Jesus' own people (represented by the elder son who scrupulously followed the rules of his father's house) and the "pagans" seen as both amoral and immoral (represented by the younger son indulging in all kinds of depraved behavior).

There are two key words here: they are "seeking" to "hear" Him. Anyone – no matter what their past or present behavior may be – who is genuinely "seeking" Jesus and wants to "hear" what He has to say will be joyfully welcomed by Him. Jesus can see in these people gathered around him that they are people seeking, people eager to learn and to change. In the eyes of the self-righteous, as a rabbi, Jesus was defiling Himself by eating with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus does not deal with such criticism by giving long theological explanations. He tells a story. In this case, He tells two stories. There is the story of the sheep, perhaps a rebellious maverick, which has wandered far from the flock. The shepherd does not rest until he has found it and brought it back. There is no punishment but rather an invitation to the neighbors to join in celebrating the reunion. There is the woman, presumably poor, who loses a coin she can ill afford to be without. Again, the emphasis is on the joy shared with the neighbors on finding what had been lost. Their message is abundantly clear: God loves everyone and wishes them to turn to Him. If they do, there is a huge welcome for them. ☜

Amazing Greys
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 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>

Ave Maria University Scholarships and Free Visit High School seniors are invited to apply for a 4 year \$28,000 scholarship to AMU in Naples FL. There is also the opportunity for a campus visit **November 10-13th**. Please visit avemarifoundation.org for more information.

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

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 contact Maureen at 517-420-2214 or Mary at 734-717-2565

Single Women's Retreat: Abundant Life - Sat, September 17, 2016, 10:00 am—3:30 pm at the Siena Heights Weber Center. Register online at 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 pm 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 for more information or visit dawnfarm.org

Ann Arbor 40 Days for Life Kick-Off Rally is on **Sunday, September 25th** beginning at 2 pm. The keynote speaker will be Pro-Life attorney Erin Elizabeth Mersino. Come out to 3100 Professional Drive in Ann Arbor. The Rally will be in front of Planned Parenthood. Show your support for the unborn

P A R I S H N E W S

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!

Amazing Greys

All parishioners 55 and older are invited to join the Amazing Greys group which meets on the 2nd Monday of the month for Mass and fellowship. Our first gathering will be on Monday, September 12th. Please come to the 12:10 pm Mass and join us for a potluck luncheon afterwards in the Fr. Fisher Hall. This is a great time to build a strong community of support, especially for those whose lives have had dramatic changes.

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.

Called by Name

The Diocese of Lansing is holding a special evangelization assembly at the Summit Sports Complex in Dimondale. Please mark your calendars for October 20-21 for an enlivening opportunity to grow in your faith and learn how to share it with others. Registration information will be made available soon.

The Altar Flowers for the week of, SUNDAY, SEPT 11TH are sponsored by Pat and Joe Fitzgerald For the Health of our Family and our Country

Sanctuary Lamps are burning this week for: 1) INT of Fr. Bosco (St. Mary's Altar Society)

Table with 2 columns: Date and Name. Title: Parish Family Birthdays. Rows include Sept 10 (Kay Hartman, Lisa Reppert, Jim Warner), Sept 11 (Carol Selecki, Ethan Woods), Sept 13 (Lawrence Schwab), Sept 14 (Carol Kurasz, Cecilia Niehaus, Melissa Yekulis), Sept 15 (Kaitlin Kurasz), Sept 17 (Allison Reppert, Barbara Fielder, Danielle Dettling), Sept 18 (Leonard VanBogelen, Marlene Lentz).

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship WEEKLY COLLECTION Sunday, August 21, 2016. List of donations: Sunday Envelopes \$3,960.30, Loose Cash & Checks \$296.00, Welcome Envelopes \$18.00, Kids Envelopes \$1.00, Assumption \$95.00, Weekly toward budget \$4,370.30, Weekly goal \$5,300.00, Amt. below goal \$929.70. OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS: Building and Maintenance \$5.00, Poor Box \$9.05, Votive Candle Receipts \$42.00, Peter's Pence \$80.00.

This Week We're Praying for: John Huber, Brother of Sarah Laskowski, Joachim Ramde, Father of Sylvie Strong

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