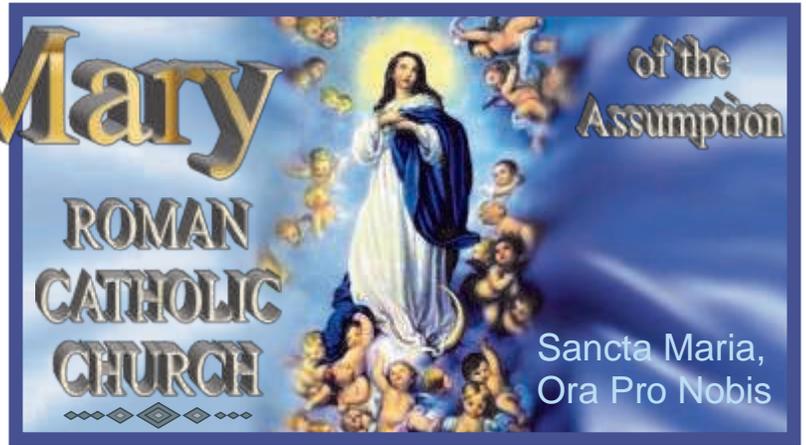




Saint Mary

Reverend Fr. Bosco Padamattummal, Administrator
 Deacon Dennis Walters
 210 West Main Street, Manchester, MI 48158
 Phone: (734) 428-8811
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 WEEKEND MASSES:
 Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am



25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME • SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

Transforming Eternal Life with our Earthly Gifts

BY FR. BOSCO PADAMATTUMMAL

In order to better understand this parable, we need to look at the context in which it was presented. The Parable of the Unjust Steward is the fourth story given in a series that begins in Luke 15. "Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." His personal reputation was solid so they attacked through association. If a man hangs around with sinners, well then obviously he has something in common with them; he, too, must be a sinner! Jesus responds by telling four parables. 1. The first is the Parable of the Lost Sheep 2. The second story is the Parable of the Lost Coin 3. The Parable of the Prodigal Son 4. Finally, we arrive at the fourth story in today's Gospel, the Parable of the Unjust Servant. While we might be confused by the story, keep in mind that the Pharisees and scribes understood the point. They knew that Jesus was talking about them.

There are about 40 parables that our Lord told, this one is a parable that has to do with money. It's a really shocking story because the characters in this story are, to one degree or another, relatively bad. One of them is very bad. The rest are

complicit with his evil. Even the man who is supposed to be the hero in this story is really flawed because he commends this bad man and the people who were complicit in the evil. It is a really strange thing, in one sense, to tell a story where everybody is relatively corrupted, but that is exactly the point that our Lord is making. Jesus taught from normal, routine aspects of life. All His parables were from his audience's everyday life which made them easy for them to understand. So, there were times when He used even evil people to make His point. All of this serves to become an illustration of how we should live, as believers and God's people.

This parable is placed here right after the story of the prodigal son because this is a prodigal manager. Prodigal means "wasteful." The son wasted everything and didn't provide for his future. Here is a man who wasted the assets that he had control of, but did provide for his future. The rich man comes to know about it and called the manager and he said, "Give an accounting of your management for you can no longer be manager." In other words, "you are fired." The steward doesn't defend himself, he's losing his job. He's losing his home because in those ancient times they lived on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Once again our Parish was well represented for the Senior Mass and luncheon at Immaculate Conception in Milan September 8th. Everyone came away from the event nourished both in body and Soul. Thank you so much for your participation.



The Youth Group kicked off the year with a Mexican Fiesta on Sunday, September 11th. They are looking forward to a great year. Please keep them in your prayers as they navigate daily life in this difficult age.

Mass Intentions, [Requested by], and Parish Activities

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: †William Boyd [The Boyd Family]
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: INT: Mary McKenzie [Noreen Burnett] 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: For the People
MON., SEPT. 19 Ordinary Weekday/St. Januarius (opt. mem.)	
Prv 3:27-34/ Ps 15:23a. 3bc-4ab. 5/ Lk 8:16-18	12:10 pm Mass: †Florence Tomko [Frank Tomko] 3:30-5:00 pm Religious Ed Grades 1-8 meet at PC
TUES., SEPT. 20 Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon & Paul Chong Hasang (mem.)	
Prv 21: 1-6. 10-13/ Ps 119: 1. 27. 30. 34. 35. 44/ Lk 8: 19-2	8:30 am Mass: †William Merriman [Tom and Ruth Burch]
WED., SEPT. 21 St. Matthew (feast)	
Eph 4:1-7. 11-13/ Ps 19:2-3. 4-5/ Mt 9:9-13	8:30 am Mass: INT: Charito Alforque's Healing [Rufo and Menchie Valenzuela] 7:00 pm Finance Council Meeting— Rectory 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal—Choir Loft
THUR., SEPT. 22 Ordinary Weekday	
Ecc1 1:2-11/ Ps 90:3- 4. 5-6. 12-13. 14 and 17bc/ Lk 9:7-9	8:30 am Mass: †Vivian Gemler [The Irvin Family] 7:00 pm RCIA –FFH
FRI., SEPT. 23 St. Pio of Pietrelcina (mem.)	
Ecc1 3:1-11/ Ps 144:1b and 2abc. 3-4/ Lk 9:18-22	8:30 am Mass: † Douglas Muldoon [John and Tina Doyle and Family]
SAT., SEPT. 24 Ordinary Weekday/BVM	
Ecc1 11: 9 – 12:8/ Ps 90:3-4. 5-6. 12-13.14 and 17/ Lk 9:43b-45	3:30-4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Vigil Mass: †Nicholas Hnizdor (20th Anniversary) [Donna Hnizdor]
SUN., SEPT. 25 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
Am 6:1a. 4-7/ Ps 146:7. 8-9. 9-10 (1b)/ 1 Tm 6:11-16/ Lk 16:19-31	8:00-8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass: For the People 10:00-10:15 am Confession 10:30 am Mass: INT: Mary McKenzie [Noreen Burnett] 11:30 am Youth Group Canoe Trip 1:00 pm Confirmation Orientation—PC

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

the estate where they served. He's losing his income, and he's losing his reputation because now everybody is going to know that he was incompetent, mismanaging, irresponsible and wasteful. So he is going to discount all their debts so that they will be obligated to this steward. He will have a place to live and food to eat. He does not want to do manual labor—he can keep up this kind of “white collar” job to secure his future. The discount is huge. No questions are asked about whether this is the wish of the owner. He worked the situation to secure his future, to benefit his future comfort. By reducing the debts, he indebted everybody to him. He had done them immense good. They are now obligated to him for his great generosity. This is how the world operates. That's what Jesus says, “This is how the sons of this age operate. “They're shrewder than the sons of light.” In other words, Jesus' disciples -- often referred to as “children of light” -- could learn something about acting prudently from the “children of this age.” Instead of using “dishonest wealth” to exploit others, disciples are to use wealth to “make friends for themselves.” If friendships are based on reciprocal and egalitarian relationships, then releasing other people's debts not only enriches them, but also establishes a new kind of reciprocity with them.

Dear brothers and sisters, even though the steward in this parable is still a sinner who is looking out for his own interests, he models behavior the disciples can emulate. Instead of simply being a victim of circumstance, he transforms a bad situation into one that benefits him and others. Jesus is teaching us today to be “shrewd” to secure the eternal life with the gifts that He has given to us in this life. ☞



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 woman in the United States now has a Victim Advocate Coordinator who is available to offer support for your needs, to help make a formal complaint of abuse for the diocese and to arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative if you desire. The Victim Advocate Coordinator for the Diocese of Lansing is:

Adrienne Rowland, LMSW, ACSW
1-888-308-4252
arowland@dioceseoflansing.org



SEPTEMBER 28 – NOVEMBER 6

SAVE LIVES and MAKE HISTORY!

Protect mothers and children by joining the largest nationwide pro-life mobilization in history

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
Ann Arbor

- Vigil location: Outside of the Planned Parenthood abortion center at 3100 Professional Dr., Ann Arbor, MI
- Vigil hours: 9 AM – 9 PM daily
- Local contact: Janice Wothers, 734-657-8936, 40daysforlifearrbor@gmail.com
- Learn more and get involved at: 40daysforlife.com/annarbor

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

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.

P A R I S H N E W S

Choir Rehearsal

The Choir will be singing at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, September 25th. We will be meeting in the choir loft at 7pm for rehearsal on Wednesday, September 21st. If you have any questions, please contact Benjamin at 428-0007.

Confirmation Orientation

There will be a mandatory Confirmation Orientation meeting on Sunday, September 25th from 12-1 at the Parish Center. Please bring your registration, sacrament certificates, and the name of your sponsor. If you have not already done so, please contact Melissa Yekulis at: myekulis.dre@gmail.com to notify her that you will be attending.

Rowing Down the River

The Parish Youth Group will be going on a canoe trip on Sunday September 25th. It is necessary to have all registration materials on file to participate in this event. The forms are available at the Religious Ed office at the Parish Center or on the parish website. Please contact Monica Kominars with questions or to RSVP 734-428-8785.

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.

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

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

St. Louis Center Car Show will be held on the grounds of St. Louis Center Sunday, September 18th from 10:00am-3:00pm. Bring out your car to show off, or just bring the family to enjoy the fun. Visit http://bit.ly/2ccd16Q for more info.

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.

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!

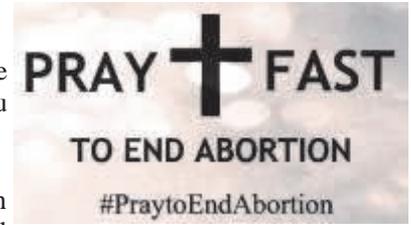
An Evening with Eric Genius—A Road Less Traveled Tour at St. Mary Chelsea 14200 E. Old US Hwy 12, Chelsea MI Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 7:00pm. Join us for a benefit concert supporting his ministry that

brings inspiration to those who are 'the least in society' in an effort to elevate their human condition, bring inspiration, recognize their innate dignity and give hope.

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.

The 2016 Walk for Life is almost here! Family Life Services Clinic and Pregnancy Center is raising money for the moms and babies in our community Saturday, October 8, 2016 at Concordia University. There is something for everyone - a Walk, a 5k Race (age 10+), a Kids Sprint (ages 4-9), and a Diaper Dash (3 and under). To register: www.flswalkforlife.com or call: 734-434-3088

"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.



Parish Family Birthdays table listing names and dates from Sept 17 to Sept 23.

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship WEEKLY COLLECTION Sunday, September 4, 2016. Includes list of contributions and other contributions.

This Week We're Praying for: Kathy Shelton