

ST. MARY, CAUSE OF OUR JOY

8200 N WAYNE RD., WESTLAND | 734-425-4421 | WWW.STMARYCOOJ.ORG

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's
daughter was healed from that hour. - Mt 15:28

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Aug. 17	8:30am	Evert Tam Req. by Virginia & Jim Josefa Apduhan Req. by Virginia & Jim Alim Chiong Req. by Virginia & Jim Henry Derus Req. by Graziano Canini
Wed. Aug. 19	Noon	Pat & Leon Goonis Req. by Family For Dr. Lloyd Crews Req. by John & Julie Barile For Lillian Vannest Req. by John & Judy Barile
Thurs. Aug. 20	8:30am	Ursula Harris Req. by John & Julie Barile Bob Henry Req. by John & Julie Barile
Fri. Aug. 21	8:30am	Henry Derus Req. by Graziano Canini Kenneth Fischer Req. by Parents
Sat. Aug. 22	4:30pm	Ann Walton Req. by Joyce Urouhar
Sun. Aug. 23	8am	Irene Mullins Req. by Marlene & Jerry Chwalek Deceased Members of the Marciniak Family
	10am	For Our Parish Family Rita Zarnowski Req. by Debbie DeVitis and family Theo Lenart Req. by Jane Lenart
	Noon	Joe Scanga Req. by Mother, Sara Amber Storm Barr on her birthday Req. by Family Bill & Emily Gnacke on their 49th Wedding Anniversary

Readings for the week of August 16, 2020

Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 /Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28
Monday: Ez 24:15-24/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 /Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab /Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 /Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 /Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 /Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 /Mt 23:1-12
Next Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 /Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Steve Anderson
Marilyn Barlage
Kelly Beaudry
Jerry Borycz
Boyington Family
Cathy Burdis
Jim Burns
Jack Cyrul
Mary Lou Demaree
Eileen Durham
Faith Falzon
Ashley Aaron Farkas
Janet Fleis
Mike Fusco
Deb Gorski
Dawn Griffith

Sivad Howard
Ellen Howell
Evangeline Kabacinski
John Kaminsky
Susan Kelly
Joan Klein
Bob & Dolly Kluba
Jon Kolar
John Kolar
Lucy Kollar
John Krokosky
John Lardin
Patricia Lickman
Barabara Martin
Dennis & Kathy McCann
Selena Montez

Debbie Moore
Leo Mysiewicz
Margaret Newman
Diane Novotny
Amber Nunn
Henry Pardo
Patrick Patton
Geraldyn Pawlaczyk
Deb Pietszak
Kathryn Piotrowski
Annette Puczkowski
Kim Quinn
Debbie Robarge
Bill & Rose Rodriguez
Florence & Ed Rysztak
Grace Rysztak

Emma Scaramella
Andy Scheich
Tom Shafer
Jack & Nancy Shea
Dianne Shekell
Delores Stark
Natalie Tanana
Mary Tavana
Helen Tasiemski
Susan Thompson
George & Jackie Tindall
Roberta Troher
Doris Urbanski
Cathy West
Nicole Zapinski
Joseph Zasa

If there are any names that can be removed from our Prayer List, please let us know by calling **734-425-4421**.

OUR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

CPT Joey Saunders, U.S. Marines; **Joseph David Onadia**, U.S. Navy; **PVT Marcus Rodriguez**, U.S. Army

Parish Mission Statement

The Parish of St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, inspired by Mary's "Yes" and led by the Holy Spirit, strives to be a faith-filled community, joyfully welcoming all to witness and to celebrate the Gospel.



*Heavenly Father,
welcome Home those whom you
have called from this world,
especially:*

Pauline Sultana

*and all the souls of our faithful.
May they rest in peace. Amen*

NOTES FROM PAUL

This past week, on August 13th, Father Shafique had an important anniversary. On August 13, 1993 a disturbed man came into St. Thomas the Apostle Minor Seminary in Faisalabad, Pakistan and shot Fr. Shafique (who was still a seminarian at the time), and an employee of the Seminary. The employee, Mr. Francine, did not survive the ordeal, (may his soul rest in peace), but Fr. Shafique, who had been shot six times, found help and made it to a hospital. Father's wounds were so bad that they did not know if he would survive the night, but he put his trust in Mother Mary to heal and protect him. Through the Blessed Virgin's intercession he not only survived the night, but miraculously was able to attend his Ordination the following month.

Father speaks of August 13th as a second birthday, the day that he was involved in a present day miracle. Please join me in thanking God the Almighty, and Mother Mary, for watching over our pastor, and protecting him. I would also ask that they likewise guide, protect and support all of you in your lives.

Below we have reprinted a 2015 article from the Detroit Catholic in this bulletin if you would like to know more about how this miracle changed Father's life.

God Bless you,
Paul Zbytowski
Pastoral Associate

— It was 1993, and Fr. Shafique Masih was about to become a priest in the tumultuous diocese of Faisalabad, Pakistan. That alone was enough to put his life in danger. “You know the story of what’s going on in Pakistan,” Fr. Masih, administrator of St. Jude Parish in Detroit and vicar of the Archdiocese of Detroit’s Renaissance Vicariate, said during a recent interview with *The Michigan Catholic*. “Especially the minorities, we are suffering a lot. The Christians are suffering.” In an attack on his life, Fr. Masih was shot and his friend killed in the 2 percent minority Christian country, where believers in Christ are regarded by many as “kaffirs” — or “nonbelievers” — and treated without rights as third-class citizens. “It was a miracle in my life (that I survived), I will say that,” Fr. Masih said. “There are so many sufferings we are going through, but 1993 changed my vision: what they are doing, we should not do the same thing. We should be able to work for peace.”

Before Fr. Masih came to Detroit in 2011, he spent nearly two decades doing just that in his native land, working for interreligious dialogue and taking up a mission of peace on behalf of his friends and neighbors, both Muslim and Christian. But suffering was never far off, and a devastating attack on his own parish in August 2009 left nine people burned to death and 160 homes destroyed in the village of Korian and city of Gorja in central Pakistan.

The “Gorja Massacre,” as it came to be known, was carried out by the hands of Islamic militants after, according to reports, a group of children were unwittingly playing with newspapers on which verses of the Qur’an were printed. Fr. Masih says religion was a pretext for the attack, which “started with a dispute about business” but “took the form of a religious dispute” as cover.



Fr. Shafique Masih, right, received a warm welcome from his former parishioners in Gojra, Pakistan, when he visited his native country. During the visit, Fr. Masih was able to meet and forgive an assailant who shot him 22 years ago.

Continued on page 6.

Queen's Quotes from Religious Formation

Reminder to our 2019/2020 First Communion Families...

Tomorrow, Monday, August 17th from 4:30pm -6:00pm I invite parents of our 2019/2020 second grade class to pick up a packet of information for our Communion celebration on Saturday, September 12th at the 4:30pm Mass. I will be outside by the Parish Office building taking the necessary safety cautions to distribute these packets; Drive up only. If this date and time will not work for your family, please call and we can schedule a different time.

This week's recommendation... please take a day or evening and pray the rosary or one decade of the rosary for our country. We are living in a time of crisis and need the hand of Jesus. Let's pray to keep the evil one away.

May God be our strength.

Peace, Love, and Prayers,

Sabrina Queen

Today's jokes...

What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet? Supplies!!!

How do dinosaurs pay their bills? With Tyrannosaurus checks!!!

Why did the Apatosaurus devour the factory? Because she was a plant eater!!!

Lol! Have a great week!





St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy

8200 N. Wayne Road,
Westland, Michigan 48185

Phone: **734-425-4421**

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Fax: 734-425-0650

Rectory Phone: (weekends & emergencies
only please) **734-421-6544**

Website: www.stmarycooj.org



St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy

Office Hours—closed for now
Monday to Thursday: 8:00am–4:00pm
Friday: 8:00am–Noon

Mass Schedule

MON, THURS & FRI	8:30 am
WED	12:00 Noon
SAT	4:30 pm
SUN	8:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 Noon

Confession

Saturdays: 3:30pm

Baptisms

Please call our Parish Office during regular business hours. Parish membership and preparation class required.

Marriage

Arrangements must be made by registered parishioner at least six months in advance to allow sufficient time for instructions and preparation.

Anointing of Sick and Ministry to Homebound

Our pastor is available to visit upon request.

RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

For those interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church. Please call the office.

Hearing Devices are available. Please see our music director in the choir area.

Bulletin Articles due by 9 am on Monday (5 days prior to publication). Submitted bulletin content is subject to approval.

DIRECTORY

PASTOR

Fr. Shafique Masih **Ext. 213**
pastor@stmarycooj.org

PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Fr. Joe Plawecki

DEACON Jim Hensel
(Deacon Emeritus)

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Brittany Murray (weekends)

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QUESTIONS: PPC@stmarycooj.org

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Vice Chair:	Art Regner	Michael Gluth	Nancy Smith
Secretary:	Pat Slusarz	Suzanne Price	Chris VanHoet

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or Call the Michigan Department of Human Services at: 855-444-3911 any time

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Youth Ministry Parking lot Fireside Chats continue in the church parking lot on Monday evenings from 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Teens are asked to bring their own chair. Bottled water and individual size snacks will be provided along with supplies to make your own s'mores. Meetings will be canceled in case of rain or storms.

On Friday, August 21 our high school youth group teens will be volunteering from 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. (please note this slight time change in the start time) with Gleaners Community Food Bank My Neighborhood Mobile Grocery Program at the Thomas Taylor Senior Apartments in Westland. Teens must complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire upon arrival and bring and wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth. Masks must be worn for the entire shift. Please do not volunteer if you are ill, experiencing symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, rash, have had a fever within the past 24 hours, have been in close contact with someone with COVID in the past 14 days, or traveled on a plane in the past 14 days. There is limited space and you must pre-register with Carol Nelius. Additional details will be given once you sign up.

We continue to make ongoing plans for the remainder of the summer months. If you want to make sure you have the most current information on what is happening in youth ministry, please contact me so I can add you to our flocknote emails and text message communications.

Carol Nelius,
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Email: youthministry@stmarycooj.org
Text or Call: 734-765-5525

ELECTRONIC ONLINE GIVING

We appreciate everyone's patience and support during these challenging times. Therefore, please consider registering for Online Giving to make your contributions to St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy. We also welcome your contributions dropped off at the parish mailbox or by mailing. Thank you for your continued support!

To begin, go to our website - www.stmarycooj.org - Click on "Support St Mary" then click "Online Giving" in the drop down box. Click the big blue DONATE button. Follow the simple directions.

If you have any questions or need assistance with set up, please contact the parish office at 734-425-4421.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Offertory	Actual	Budget	Variance
08/09/20	12,063	9,195	\$ 2,868
08/02/20	8,672	9,195	\$ (524)
07/26/20	6,760	9,195	\$ (2,435)
07/19/20	7,405	9,195	\$ (1,791)

THANK YOU

Fiscal Year	Actual	Budget	Variance
FY 20-21	\$ 56,451	\$ 55,168	\$ 1,284
FY 19-20	\$ 58,370	\$ 65,760	\$ (7,390)

The Dispensation From the Sunday Obligation to Attend Mass is Granted to All the Faithful Through Sunday, September 6, 2020

Those older than 65 years old (the recommended CDC age), with a compromised health condition or caring for the sick in any way, are encouraged to stay home. *Anyone who is ill, has a temperature, cough, etc., should definitely stay home as an act of justice to the whole community.*

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy
8200 N Wayne Rd
Westland, MI 48185
Social Hall

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020

9:00am to 3:00pm

To schedule an appointment log onto RedCrossBlood.org
sponsor code:

stmarycauseofourjoy
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Questions? Call Don Yokley at 734-306-0823

Give blood August 1-31 and you'll automatically be entered for a chance to win a trip for four to Cedar Point or Knott's Berry Farm! Includes travel, hotel, park admission and more! Terms and conditions apply, visit rcblood.org/CedarFair for details.



STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

Saturday
4:30pm

Sunday
9:00am & 11:00am

Please note these changes.

FOOD PANTRY AND TOILETRY DRIVE

St. Mary, COOJ in partnership with St. Thomas the Apostle have an ongoing non-perishable food and non-food/toiletry drive to help those less fortunate in our community. Please bring your donations to the shopping cart in the gathering space. Thank you for your continued donations!

**PLEASE ONLY NON-PARISHABLES
(No bread, fruits or vegetables)**

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Our Little Free Pantry is finally here! We hope everyone in our community will use this box, both to bring food, but also to take food when they need a little help.

Look for it next to our office building! Please check items donated for expiration dates! Thank you!



Continued from page 3

It drew international condemnation, including from many Muslims, and a statement from Pope Benedict XVI describing the attacks as “senseless.” “I was not present there the day it happened. I was in Scotland, but I flew back at once to be with my people,” Fr. Masih said. “The blasphemy laws, if anybody speaks against the Prophet Muhammad or against Islam is a straight death sentence, no court or anything. Anybody can come and kill you even.” Although judicial executions for violations of the government’s blasphemy laws are rare, those accused often become targets of public violence. Although dozens were arrested in connection with the Gojra massacre, few if any were convicted. Appointed by the Pakistani government to oversee the rebuilding of homes with help from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Fr. Masih increasingly found himself the target of personal threats for his efforts to defend the rights of his parishioners.

“In Pakistan, the priest is everything for the community,” he said. “Our communities belong to a very poor class, so the priest is looked at as a social worker, a politician, a voice for his people. As a leader, you have to speak on their behalf, and that’s what I was doing.” Before long, however, Fr. Masih’s bishop decided it was too dangerous for him to remain in Pakistan, and with the help of Bishop Donald Hanchon in Detroit, Fr. Masih made his way to Michigan in August 2011. Fr. Masih said despite trying to live in peace, Pakistani Christians are viewed with intense suspicion by the local Taliban, especially when it comes to international events.

“We (the Christians) are the people of this soil, we are the sons and daughters, but if anything happens in the USA or from the West, they think the Christians are doing it against Islam,” said Fr. Masih, with an obvious emotion in his voice. “So we become the victims. They attack us, they attack our houses. We are the target, the minority.”

The situation deteriorated so badly in 1998, Fr. Masih’s ordaining bishop, Faisalabad Bishop John Joseph, committed suicide to protest the cruel and unfair treatment of Christians in their homeland, including a man condemned to death on trumped-up blasphemy charges, an event that still affects the priest to this day. Because of their shared sufferings, Catholics and Protestants are close in Pakistan, Fr. Masih said. A daily reminder is the name he and most Christians share. “At the end of our name in Pakistan is ‘Masih,’ which means ‘Messiah,’ or ‘Christ,’” said Fr. Masih, whose full name is Shafique Hadyat Masih. “Your name is Joseph, but it’s Joseph Masih, or Sahir Masih. Masih is our ID in Pakistan. Their names start or end with Muhammad, but ours end with Masih. You are Christian, you belong to Christ. That is the meaning of Masih.”

Fr. Masih said the Christian community in Pakistan has a strong faith, but despite having many Muslim friends, attracting converts is virtually impossible. “(Conversion) is very, very difficult,” he said. “Because even sometimes when they convert, it is kept very secret because the Muslims will not tolerate it.” Despite the constant fear, though, conversions from Christianity to Islam are just as rare, Fr. Masih said. “We received Christianity from the missionaries. They came with the seed and gave us the real faith,” said Fr. Masih, whose family converted from Hinduism in the late 1800s. “In our culture, if you are Christian, you are strong in faith. It’s the hardships and sufferings that make for a strong, committed Christian in Pakistan. “A lot of times, our Muslim friends will say, ‘Why don’t you convert to Islam?’” he continued. “Pakistan is 98 percent Muslim; you are with them day and night. But we believe the Holy Spirit always guides us how to be more faithful to your call and your commitment. Praise the Lord, this is a great blessing. If you become a Muslim, they can give a lot of land and this and that, a lot of temptation, but the poor always appreciate the faith. When you have nothing, you appreciate everything.

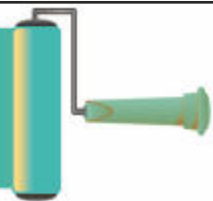
After four years away from home, Fr. Masih returned to Pakistan for two weeks in early May to visit family and friends at his former parish, Sacred Heart, in Gojra. Seeing so many familiar faces was spiritually gratifying, he said, but it was a chance encounter with a man he hadn’t seen in 22 years — and likely never wanted to see again — that provided the greatest gift. He wasn’t expecting the opportunity to forgive the man who shot him in 1993, but that’s how grace works sometimes. “When I went back home, I was in my former parish having a meeting, and this person happened to be there,” said Fr. Masih. “I faced him face to face after 22 years.” Fighting through anger, compassion and speechlessness, the priest admitted he could “barely control” his emotions. “It was so difficult what to do with this fellow. I was so impatient, but I was praying to the Lord, ‘Give me courage. Give me what to tell him.’ I wanted to grab him and tell him what he had done to me 22 years ago, but I prayed to God, ‘Give me the courage,’” he said. Fr. Masih said the man didn’t say much, but the Lord answered his prayer.

“I was able to heal myself and talk to him. I didn’t say any hard word; I just said hello to him. Whether he felt something, I don’t know, but I felt that God really gave me the courage and patience to see the circumstances and be able to overcome,” he said. “I just told him, ‘I forgive you,’ but he was not able to say anything.” Fr. Masih believes the man converted to Christianity — which would be a miracle in itself, although he doesn’t know the circumstances or details — but he called the opportunity for forgiveness “amazing.” “I had already forgiven him, but I had not seen him in 22 years,” he said. “I will say it was a miracle that I was able to come out of my feelings about the situation and witness that if Jesus loves us, why shouldn’t we love our enemies? That was a wonderful experience I had.” There’s a tendency toward anger and bitterness on the part of victims, Fr. Masih said — he didn’t tell his nephews out of concern for how they might have reacted — but despite that, the priest still feels a higher calling and duty as a Christian, even if the odds are still stacked against his brothers and sisters in Pakistan.

“Our culture is a revenge culture,” he said. “We’re ready to fight. But being a priest, being a believer, I should be different. I was able to witness that I was able to do it, to forgive him.” He knows that’s the only way to lasting peace. “When I was leaving, I said (to my parishioners at St. Jude), we need your prayers,” Fr. Masih said. “Please pray for them because I know many families are still suffering. Prayers can save us.” —Michael Stechschulte June 11, 2015

“This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118, 24)

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