

Many of the Samaritans...began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done."

JOHN 4:39

## A Fountain of Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**he lovelorn column in the local newspaper shared a letter from someone who felt adrift. She had everything she needed or wanted—a marriage, a job, a home. Yet she felt there had to be more to life, but she didn't know what it was or where to go. She wondered, *Could anyone help me?*

Like the woman from Samaria who happened upon Jesus when she came looking for water at the local well, she and the letter writer were both eager for "living water." The woman at the well would then no longer need to come each day for her household needs, and the letter writer would have her deeper thirsts quenched. Both wanted something more out of life, not unlike most people at one time or another.

### Reflect

***When and where have you found grace in an "unexpected place"?***

Long before Jesus encountered the woman at the well, the people who were led by Moses through the desert grumbled to him about their thirst, which triggered Moses to grumble to God about the people. The result was finding water in the desert, the most unlikely of places. As a result, they realized that God was taking care of them, that God was ultimately their source of life.

We may decide what will bring new life—a new relationship, a new job, a new home. Yet just as often the answer comes from totally unexpected sources: the deserts of our lives. Also just as often, we somehow miss the answer. When we do recognize it, however, we say, "Thanks be to God." ●

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday March 11

4:30PM † Joyce Yost by The Janet McKnight-Perks Family .....MA

## Sunday March 12

8:30AM † Bobby Raczkiwicz by Pam Raczkiwicz .....MI

10:30AM † Rick Lothschutz by M/M Steve Steffes ..... MA

4:30PM † Evelyn Kirkwood by Chris Albrecht & Family .....MI

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—4:00 PM - St Michael*

## Monday March 13 NO MASS

## Tuesday March 14

9:00AM † Mary Klein by Terri Schoenborn.....MA

*Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm*

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—4:00 PM*

## Wednesday March 15

9:00AM † Steven Rohen by Family.....MI

*Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm*

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—4:00 PM*

## Thursday March 16

9:00AM † Pat O'Connor by M/M Jerry Willcome .....MA

## Friday March 17

9:00AM † John VanDenBrink by Jerry, Kay & Paul Willcome .....MI

## Saturday March 18

4:30PM † Bob Bacon by Ed Steffes.....MA

## Sunday March 19

8:30AM † MaryJo Busman by Dave Busman .....MI

10:30AM † Robert Karr by M/M Gary Karr ..... MA

4:30PM † Edna Schumaker by Erma Armock .....MI

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—4:00 PM - St Michael*

MA=St. Mary MI=St. Michael's

*IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,  
HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS.*

**Please Note:** When there is inclement weather (where Coopersville Public Schools or Kenowa Hills Public Schools are closed) The Parish Offices will be closed and all events scheduled for that day will be cancelled. Daily Mass will also be cancelled. The Mass intention for that day will be rescheduled at our earliest opportunity. Additionally, when a Funeral Mass has been scheduled, Daily Mass will be cancelled

## For the Week of March 12, 2023

Sunday Third Sunday of Lent  
Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

Monday 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday Saint Patrick, Bishop  
Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 & 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday Saint Cyril, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent  
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Mar 19 / 8:30 AM	Mar 19 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Alivia Kosten Clare Taylor	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Jeff Johnson Carolyn Johnson Jennie Taylor Paul Schmidt	NEED TWO
Lector	Melanie Mayse	Mark Phillips
CLW	Debbie V. & Jennie T.	NO CLW
Sacristan	Judy Driedger	Sue DeVos
Ushers	Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich Joe Meerman Ed Irwin	NEED TWO
Music	Jennifer Mapes	Craig Bleckley

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	Mar 18 - 4:30PM	Mar 19 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Jose Gomez	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Need Two	Calvin Davis Noah Davis
Host	Angie Hanks Paul Madura Kay Willcome	Deacon Tom Christina Withers Bruce Kamp
Cup	Julie Lothschutz Austin Lampe Michelle Lampe Mary Kirkwood	Margie Jirous Becky Warners Janette Ney Geary Farrell
Hospitality Ministers	MJ Potts Lisa Potts Madison Potts Bryson Potts	Jim Looks Marian Looks Anthony Leale Nettie Leale
Lector	Kathy Gomez	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

## To Light a Fire on the Earth: Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age

*Presentation will be led by Fr. Michael Hodges*

**St Michael & St Mary Parish Cluster**

**2023 Lenten Evangelization Event**

**Dates: March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023 Time: 6:30PM - 8:30PM**

**St Michael's Catholic Church- Family Center**

**17150 88th Ave, Coopersville, MI 49404**



### Schedule:

6:30PM Presentation  
7:30PM Refreshments  
7:45PM Q/A Discussion  
8:30PM Adjourn

*As secularism gains influence, and increasing numbers see religion as dull and backward, Robert Barron wants to illuminate how beautiful, intelligent, and relevant the Catholic faith is. Touching on everything from Jesus to prayer, science, movies, atheism, the spiritual life, the fate of Church in modern times, beauty, art, and social media, Bishop Barron reveals why the Church matters today and how Catholics can intelligently engage a skeptical world.*

**Did you miss last week? No Problem,  
Join us this week. All are Welcome!**



## St. Michael's Parish News



**Scrip News**— Thank you to our 11 families that purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$147.66.

### St. Michael's Ladies' Tea Party —

for women of all ages. Saturday, April 22th 10:30-12:30pm in the Family Center. Come for brunch, entertainment and some Spiritual tea. Seating is limited. Pre-registration is required no later than April 18. Contact the parish office to register.



## Knights of Columbus News

**St. Michael's Fish Dinners**— Dinner includes: Deep fried fish OR baked fish, fries, rolls, coleslaw, green beans, dessert and beverage; grilled cheese sandwich also available. Fridays, March 17 and 24, from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. PRICES: Adults - \$13.00, Children – Ages 6 -10 - \$6.00, Children under 6 – Free. If you'd like to donate a dessert, please bring a "sweet treat" with you on Friday night! Come check out our gluten-free options and jalapeño poppers, too!



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**— Fridays, March 17 and 24, at St. Michaels, at 7PM following the Fish Dinner.

**Bunny Business is Back in Business!** We will be collecting candy, Easter baskets, blow bubbles, chalk, coloring books, crayons, books and small stuffed animals for the next few weeks. If you would prefer to donate cash, the committee will purchase needed items. There will be a container for all donations in the glass hallway. Please mark your calendar to help stuff Easter baskets for Coopersville Cares on March 26th, in the Family Center, after the 8:30 Mass. With your help, the Knights of Columbus hope to stuff 100 baskets again this year.

## St. Michael's Faith Formation

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Our program is offered during Sunday morning Mass. Children 3-9 years old are welcome to join us each week as we pray, read and explore the Sunday Gospel from a child's viewpoint. We include the Gospel Acclamation so children understand the importance of preparing our mind and heart for the Gospel reading. In today's Gospel Jesus offered the Samaritan woman a different kind of water. He was offering her the water of eternal life.

**Elementary Faith Formation:** This program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:15- 7:30 pm. **Please keep our First Communion students in your prayers as we prepare to make their First Holy Communion in May.**

**Middle School Faith Formation:** Grades 6, 7 and 8 will meet on Sundays after the 8:30am Mass, from 9:45 to 11:15 in the Youth Room. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation during that time. **Eighth grade Confirmation students are to attend The Shine Youth Rally on Sunday, March 26 from 12:30-6:30 pm.**



### St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Bobby Racziewicz  
by Pam Racziewicz

### St. Michael's Parish Family

#### Remembers in Their Prayers:

Kevin Johnson, Anne Pols, Alexandria Gordon, George Langlois, Brooke Campbell, Linda Abel-Carroll, Jackie May, Marvin Hecksel, Dennis Goosen, Jean Mayse, Ken Heflin, Winnie Spencer, Alice Goll, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

## St. Michael's Preschool

Have you considered St. Michael's Preschool for your child or grandchild? If not, you should! Come see what a great experience St. Michael's Preschool can provide.



Come meet our Director/Teacher, Cindy Lindberg! Preschool meets on MWF from 8:45—11:45 am (Mon. 8:45am-2:30pm for 4-year-olds). For more info, call the Parish Office at 616-384-4026.

**CSA 2023** — If you have already turned in your CSA pledge card, thank you! If you haven't had the chance yet, please return your CSA pledge card this week to the parish office or make your pledge online at GRdiocese.org.

Our participation in the CSA as individuals and as a parish enables us to unite with all Catholics in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Through the blessings we've received, together we are able to fund important work that benefits our parish and diocesan programs that supports individuals, families, and communities throughout our 11 counties. Every gift, regardless of the amount, is important in this effort.

Our parish goal for 2023 is \$59,280.00 and 100% participation, which means every parishioner should return their pledge card. Please join us in this important work!

## Giving Back to God

March 5, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$5,220.00
Loose Cash	\$179.00
Online Giving	\$810.00
Children's Envelopes	\$16.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,225.25</b>
Building Fund	\$215.00
Endowment Fund	\$20.00

*Thank you for your continued support!*

**March 12, 2023 ~ 3rd Sunday of Lent**

### The Light is ON for You.

*Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation*



As we begin the season of Lent, the Diocese of Grand Rapids will once again offer a special opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

**"The Light is ON for You:**

**An Evening of Penance" Thursday, March 23 5 - 8 p.m. in almost every parish of the diocese**

Visit [GRdiocese.org/penance](http://GRdiocese.org/penance) for details

**Wed, March 22 at St Michael 2PM- 5PM**

**Thurs, March 23 at St Mary from 5PM-8PM**

**Additional Opportunities for Confessions during Lent.**

Tuesdays - 2PM-4PM - St Mary

Wednesdays - 2PM-4PM - St Michael

Saturdays - 3:30PM-4:15 - St Mary

Sundays - 3:00PM-4:00PM - St Michael

## Youth Ministry

### High School Youth Ministry (9-12 Grade)

**Weekly gatherings:** are offered and help teens grow in faith. These gatherings include, food, games, topic and activities. Friends welcome!

### Middle School Youth Ministry (6-8 Grade)

**Are you looking for something to do this Lent?**

**Service Project:** Are you interested in helping with a Lenten Project ?

**Shine Rally:** March 26, 1-6:30 p.m. Registration due by March 8.

For details or to register for any of the above events please contact Rebecca.

### Family Activity for Youth

**Lenten Family Activity:** Before Mass, challenge each family member to recognize one thing in the church, or a part of the liturgy, that has changed during Lent. If someone needs help, recommend that he or she pay attention to the Church's decorations, the priest's vestments, the Mass responses, or the music. After Mass, share what you each noticed.

### Questions or comments

Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at 616-677-5065 or [dre@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:dre@saintmarysmarne.org)



## Fr. Mike's Musings

### Baptism: Part 2

In the post-Resurrection era of the Church when people had first heard the Gospel proclaimed and professed their faith in Jesus they would immediately be baptized. But when the persecutions from the Roman authorities and the elders of the Jerusalem Temple began in earnest, the Church required that a set period of instruction in the faith be given before the sacrament was administered. The reason being that if done were to recant their faith in the face of torture and death it would reflect an initial lack of true faith in Christ and would have made a mockery of the sacrament--"faithful when convenient". As most early baptisms were adults the season of Easter became the time of choice for the newly instructed catechumens to fully enter the faith through Baptism, Confirmation, and the reception of the Eucharist. This same model exists today in the RCIA program which culminates in the full initiation of catechumens in to the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

As Christianity expanded, infant baptism became more common. This would not have seemed strange as the practice of baptizing entire families was the norm throughout the early years of the Church. Infant baptism is rooted in the Gospel example of Jesus welcoming the children into His presence. It is a sign that we are all "children" of God by virtue of baptism, whether actual children or more along in years. This "new" practice can also be traced to the Jewish practice of initiating young boys into their faith through circumcision eight days after their birth. For Jewish converts the baptism of infants would have been familiar and acceptable, over time this would be the norm for most Christians until the start of the Protestant Reformation. Parents who bring their children to be baptized must be fully aware of the responsibilities that are expected of them, chief of which is a serious intention of raising the children in the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith. In the baptismal rite parent make a solemn promise before God and the witnesses in their parish community that they will carry-out this responsibility. Parents pray for and with their children, be the primary teachers of the faith by word and example and guide them along the way in their faith lives to the other sacraments of the Church. If the parents become lax in this carrying through on the promises or simply fail to raise their families in the Catholic faith, they, like their ancient forebearers in the Church (see above) make a mockery of the sacraments of the Church and actively deny their children the promises and graces of God acquired in baptism. To give moral and actual support to parents in this great undertaking the presence of godparents/sponsors is vital. They not only represent the faith community outside of the primary family, but also teach their godchildren by their own example of the faith in word and in practice. And should an unforeseen event befall the parents, the godparents take on the responsibility of raising the children in the faith until the age of majority is reached (16-18 years old).

Regardless of the age a person is at the time of their baptism there are certain essentials that must be present for the sacrament to be effective and valid. Water and sincere devotion to the faith are the root elements of the baptismal rite, with these are other features which hearken to the ancient lineage of the Church as well as securing a firm joining of the divine and the earthly aspects of the "newborn" Christian.

Blessed oil (Oil of the Catechumen) and Chrism signify the comfort and strength to be found through the Holy Spirit. The baptismal candle is a sign of the "light of Christ" that resides in our hearts and guides us on the right path to God's Kingdom. The white garment that is worn for the baptism reflects the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians: "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." (3:27) White being the color of purity and joy for we are now cleansed of the stain of Original Sin. It is not by coincidence that these same elements of baptism are also present at our departure from this life in the Catholic funeral rite. Our faith lives on earth have come around completely and we are now entering into a journey into the eternal, armed with the protection and graces given to us at baptism.

Catholics believe that baptism frees us from slavery to sin, unites us to Christ' death and Resurrection, incorporates us into the life of the Church, and sets on the right path to eternal salvation. This is God's gift to His children and cannot be earned or bought, but baptism is a gift that invites a response. It is birth to a new life following and imitating Jesus Christ. It is not yet salvation complete, it is the beginning of a life-long journey to achieving that promise, only to be realized when we enter Christ's full presence in the Father's Heavenly Kingdom.





## St. Mary's Parish News

### Religious Education

#### This Sunday's Gospel Reflection:

We help build the Kingdom. Jesus astounded the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well by asking her for a drink. She could hardly believe that he, a Jew, would take a drink from a Samaritan, or that he, a man, would request a drink politely from a woman. In the Bible, wells are places where courtships happen. Jesus makes friends with the Samaritan woman, not so she will be his wife, but so she will believe in him, the Messiah and Savior of the world. This woman not only believes but becomes a disciple to the people of her town. The Samaritans were outsiders to the Jews. The Assyrians defeated the 10 northern tribes of Israel and moved tribes from their part of the world into Samaria. Five tribes that worshiped other gods settled the cities of Samaria. These tribes intermarried with the Samaritans, so Jews regarded Samaritans as people who no longer worshiped Yahweh, the God of Israel. When Jesus tells the woman she has had five husbands, he is saying that her ancestors have worshiped five false gods. What convinced the woman Jesus is the Messiah is that Jesus is reaching out to Samaritans after seven centuries of them being outsiders. Jesus tells the woman that not only is there a well in the ground where she can get water—she also has a well inside her, a place where spirit gushes up instead of water. This Holy Spirit is also inside of us and makes us seek to know God. All who believe in Jesus share the gift of God's Spirit, now and forever. .

#### Questions of the Week:

Why does Jesus talk to the Samaritan woman?  
How do you share the Good News of Jesus with others?

**Family Lenten Activity:** Search for all of the places where holy water is available in your church (the baptismal font, for example). Holy water is sometimes called "living water" because the Holy Spirit lives in it. Bless yourselves with holy water before leaving the church.

#### Children's Liturgy of the Word:

dismisses and meets during 10:30 a.m. Mass.

#### Questions or comments

Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at  
dre@saintmarysmarne.org or 616-677-5065

### Stations of the Cross

#### Fridays at 7PM During Lent

Mar 17 - Led by Adult Bible Study  
Mar 24 - Led by Youth Ministry Group  
Mar 31 - Led by Knights of Columbus  
Councils #11581 & #9909 at the Outdoor  
Meditation Path



***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by Your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.***

### St Mary Parish Prayer Line

If you would like to request a prayer for our parish prayer line please contact the parish office or Linda at 677.3269. For evening requests call Darlene 453.0157 or email: bfa1414@yahoo.com Please continue to pray for all of our sick, hospitalized & homebound parishioners and all of the personal intentions that St Mary's Parish parishioners hold close to their hearts.

### Knights of Columbus #11581

Knight Person of the Month for March - Bruce Kamp  
Knight Family of the Month for March Mike & Cathie VanGessel



The Knight Person / Family of the month is a way of recognizing someone who has gone above and beyond, or done something extra for the council or the church community. Congratulations and Thank You for your service and commitment to our Parish Family!

### JOIN US FOR A SOUP SUPPER Sat. March 25 ~ 5:30PM

An Evening of Food and Fellowship ~ ALL ARE WELCOME!



Variety of Soups, Homemade Breads & Beverages.

NO COST to attend. Donations will be accepted and the proceeds given to The St. Marys Christian Service Fund

PLEASE RSVP by March 19

Sign Up form is available in the Narthex or call Cathie at the parish office 677.3934.

### Meal Train for Fr Mike

Don't worry, Fr Mike is not sick or have an accident, but the office has received many requests to provide him a homecooked meal, so we have created an online MEAL TRAIN to coordinate this effort.

If you would like to cook a meal for Fr Mike, please sign up here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/8vv97n>

(or call the parish office) This is great opportunity to show our appreciation to Fr Mike for all he does for our Parish Cluster.



### Giving Back to God

	March 4/5
Regular Contributions	\$360.00
Capital Improvement	\$500.00
Online Contributions	\$2175.00
Children's Contributions	\$13.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8048.02</b>

**Thank you for your continued support and generosity!**

### St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

**BROUWER TREE SERVICE, LLC.**

616.784.7086 ~ 4653 Gibbs NW

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!**

**Welcome to the Cluster Parishes of St. Mary and St. Michael**



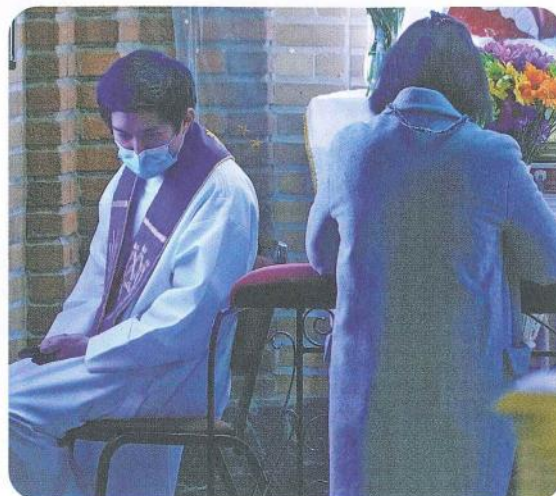
# Dear Padre,

*I have done some really terrible things in my life. When I did them, I didn't think anything about them, but now I feel very guilty. Can God really forgive me?*

As we Redemptorists like to say, "With God there is plentiful redemption." God's mercy is everlasting and overflowing in its abundance. As we continue in Lent, let's remember that Easter is the sign that God forgave even the great sin of the crucifixion of his only Son. Time and time again throughout the Scriptures, Jesus demonstrates this bountiful mercy. He forgave Zacchaeus, the tax collector. He forgave the woman caught in adultery. He was tender with the Samaritan woman we hear about in today's Gospel. He spent his days living among and forgiving all manner of sinners. He even forgave Peter's great denial. The Church has named a multitude of saints, but note that in 2,000 years it has never declared anyone to be definitively condemned to eternal punishment. There is hope and mercy for all.

No matter how great the sin, God will forgive it. All you have to do is ask for mercy sincerely. All that takes is a repentant heart. From the tone of your message, you are truly sorry. Find a priest with whom you are comfortable and ask him to celebrate with you the sacrament of reconciliation. If you don't know how to go to confession, just ask. The priest will help you. Be at peace. ●

**Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

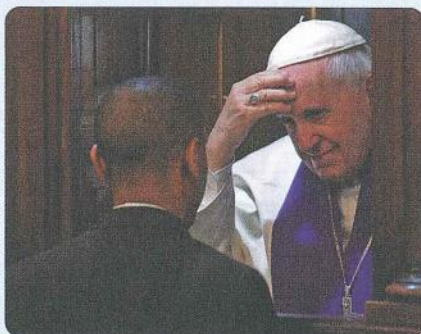


CNS PHOTO/REGINA A. SHENITZ

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 13	March 14	March 15	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Lent
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab	Dn 3:25, 34-43	Dt 4:1, 5-9	Jer 7:23-28	Hos 14:2-10	Hos 6:1-6	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Lk 4:24-30	Mt 18:21-35	Mt 5:17-19	Lk 11:14-23	Mk 12:28-34	Lk 18:9-14	Eph 5:8-14
						Jn 9:1-41

## Know Someone Overly Anxious about Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit [ScrupulousAnonymous.org](http://ScrupulousAnonymous.org).



CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*We all have the right to be forgiven. All of us....Forgiveness is a "right" in the sense that God, in the Paschal Mystery of Christ, has given it in a total and irreversible way to every person willing to accept it with a humble and repentant heart.*

ADDRESS AT A COURSE ORGANIZED BY APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY,  
MARCH 25, 2022



**Liguori**  
PUBLICATIONS  
A Redemptorist Ministry

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