



Coming of Age, Coming of Faith

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It is said we never become a believer before age thirty-five. I don't think there is anything magical about that age. Some in their seventies still have not yet come to be people of faith, and there are those who, at a very young age, seem to have entrusted their lives to God. What the age of thirty-five does say, however, is that most people need to have lived a while and experienced a few ups and downs to recognize there is a power in their lives greater than themselves.

This week's Gospel story of the man born blind encapsulates a lifelong journey of coming to see who Jesus is, compressed into a few days. When asked who cured him of blindness, the man first says the man Jesus did it. Brought to testify before the Pharisees, he says that Jesus must be a prophet. Confronted by the

Pharisees a second time, he testifies that Jesus must be of God. Finally, when he sees Jesus again, he calls him Lord, a name for God. The story is a parable of sorts about how we come to have faith, to see with new and different eyes.

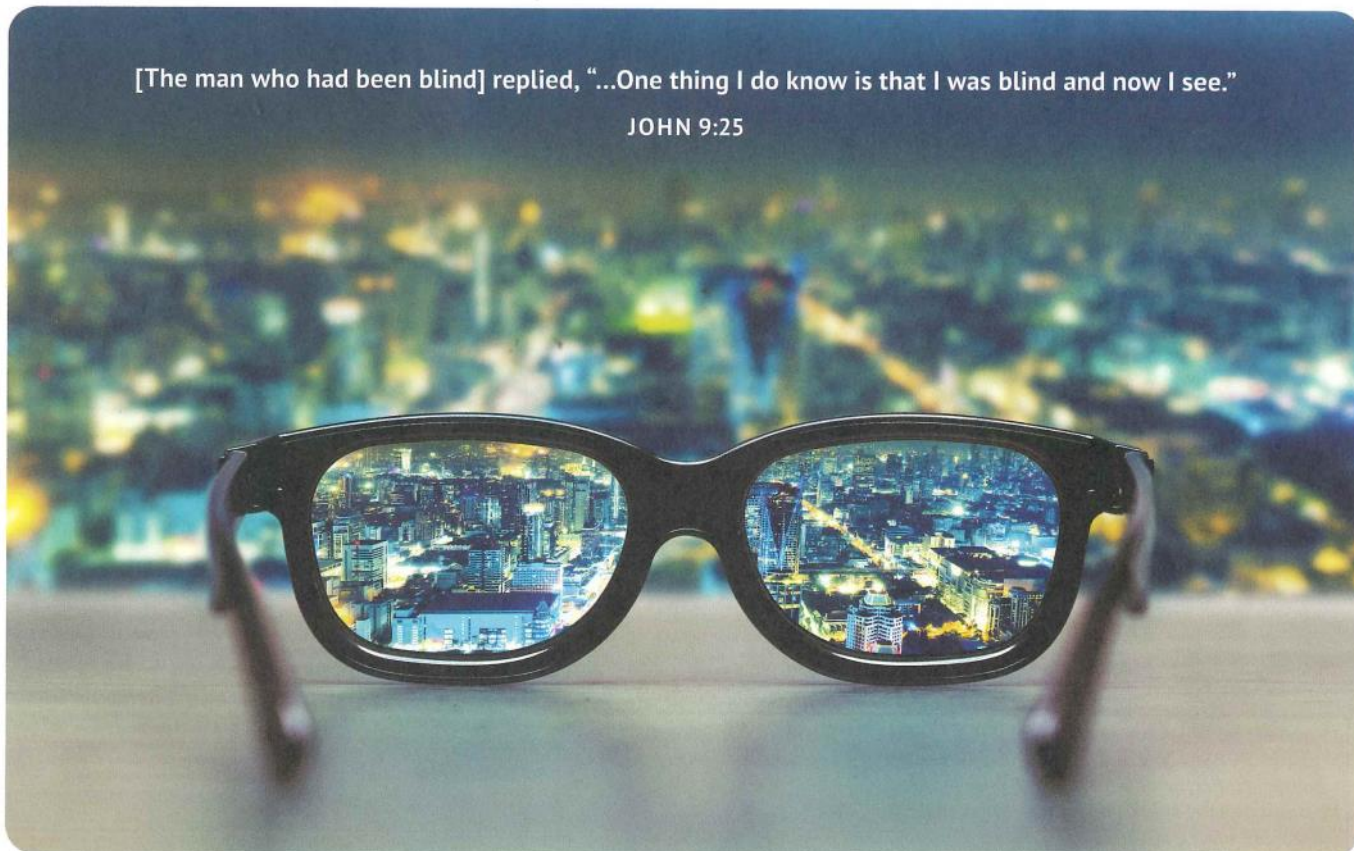
Faith involves trusting, sometimes trusting an unseen Power who feels absent at times; about surrendering control over our lives to God, as we come to see in an entirely new way. It can take a lifetime to begin seeing in such a way. ●

Reflect

*Where am I on the journey of faith?
How open are my eyes?*

[The man who had been blind] replied, "...One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

JOHN 9:25



Saint Michael's Catholic Church

17150 - 88th Ave, Coopersville, MI 49404
Parish Office: 616-384-4026

Saint Michael's Catholic Community is a family challenged by Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to care for others and to become the body Of Christ through worship, hospitality and service.

Pastor: Fr. Michael Hodges—frmhodges@grpriests.org
Deacon: Deacon Tom Roberts—troberts@saintmarysmarne.org

For more information on staff, councils, ministries and schedules, visit our website : www.saintmichaels.us

Mass Intentions

Saturday March 18

4:30PM † Bob Bacon by Ed SteffesMA

Sunday March 19

8:30AM † Mary Jo Busman by Dave BusmanMI

10:30AM † Robert Karr by M/M Gary KarrMA

4:30PM † Edna Schumaker by Erma ArmockMI

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

Monday March 20 NO MASS

Tuesday March 21

9:00AM † Mary Klein by Ruth BrownMA

Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm

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

Wednesday March 22

9:00AM † Margaret Jonio by Ray & Mary SpeiglMI

Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm

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

Thursday March 23

9:00AM † Tom Schneider by Lonnie SchneiderMA

Friday March 24

9:00AM † Steven Rohen by FamilyMI

Saturday March 25

4:30PM † Julia Karr by M/M Gary KarrMA

Sunday March 26

8:30AM † Anita Bouchard-Brown by M/M Kurt BouchardMI

10:30AM † Pat O'Connor by Lisa BradleyMA

4:30PM † Sherm Hecksel by Curt & Joan Kutchin & FamilyMI

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

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

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

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Mar 26 / 8:30 AM	Mar 26 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Bryson Lindberg Melena Lindberg Pete Nielsen	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Sharon Carlson Joe Hitchings Amber Nelson Kenny Harker	Deacon Tom Greg Helsen
Lector	Dennis Zimmer	Carol Reens
CLW	Cindy L. & Cheri B.	NO CLW
Sacristan	Sue DeVos	Karen Helsen
Ushers	Calvin Lindberg Mary Bueche Curt DeVos Jim Ponshair	Greg Helsen NEED ONE
Music	Anna Jonaitis	Anna Jonaitis

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	Mar 25 - 4:30PM	Mar 26 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Noah Davis Hannah Davis
Host	Deacon Tom Lauren Petrauskas Breton Petrauskas	Deacon Tom Bruce Kamp Janette Ney
Cup	Vito Dolci Kay Willcome Geary Farrell Angie Hanks	Margie Jirous Christina Withers Becky Warners Need One
Hospitality Ministers	Scott Lampe Jeff Schneider Need Two	Leonard Horter Rick Leale Jeanne Leale Need One
Lector	Need One	Jessica Pabst
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

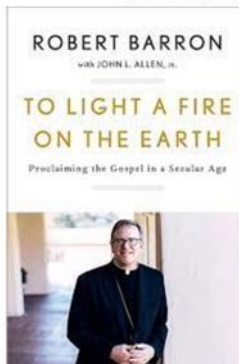
To Light a Fire on the Earth: Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age

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 13 families that purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$100.86.

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. Friday, March 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— Friday, March 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 performed a miracle that healed a man who has been blind since birth. Jesus corrects His disciples' misconceptions about sin and suffering, then grants this man an ability he has never had before. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of 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. **We will not have class on March 26. 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 +Mary Jo Busman
by Dave Busman & Family

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. So far we have pledged \$5,760.00 (or 9.72%) toward our goal. Please join us in this important work!

Giving Back to God

March 12, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$3,756.00
Loose Cash	\$142.00
Children's Envelopes	\$18.60
Total	\$3,916.60
Building Fund	\$75.00
Endowment Fund	\$5.00

Thank you for your continued support!

March 19, 2023 ~ 4th Sunday of Lent

The Light is ON for You.

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation



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

Service Project: Are you interested in doing a Lenten Service Project?

Shine Rally: March 26, 1-6:30 p.m.

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



Family Activity for Youth

Lenten Family Activity: Ask the members of your family to close their eyes for part of the Mass. Encourage them to pay attention to things they can smell, taste, hear, and feel. After Mass, discuss what you observed when you couldn't see.

Questions or comments

Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at

616-677-5065 or dre@saintmarysmarne.org

Please Pray for our Engaged Couple

Marissa McDonald & Christopher Barczak

October 7, 2023 (St Mary)

Lord God, the source of all love, the wise plan of your providence has brought these young people together. As they prepare themselves for the sacrament of marriage and pray for your grace, grant that, strengthened by your blessing, they may grow in their respect for one another and cherish each other with a sincere love. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen



Fr. Mike's Musings

The Eucharist: Part I

If any of us happens to be a contestant on 'Jeopardy' and the clue, we are given is: "The Catholic belief that ordinary bread and wine are supernaturally changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ." Hopefully we can all reply: "What is Transubstantiation" – the idea that during Mass, the bread and wine used for Communion become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ – the Eucharistic belief that is central to the Catholic faith. Indeed, the Catholic Church teaches that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.



A Pew Research Center survey finds that most self-described Catholics don't believe this core teaching. In fact, nearly seven-in-ten Catholics (69%) say they personally believe that during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine used in Communion "are symbols of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ." Just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that "during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the Body and Blood of Jesus."

In addition to asking Catholics what they believe about the Eucharist, the new survey also included a question that tested whether Catholics know what the Church teaches on the subject. Most Catholics who believe that the bread and wine are symbolic do not know that the Church holds that Transubstantiation occurs. Approximately one-in-five Catholics (22%) reject the idea of Transubstantiation, even though they know about the Church's teaching. The vast majority of those who believe that the bread and wine actually become the Body and Blood of Christ – 28% of all Catholics – do know that this is what the Church teaches. A small share of Catholics (3%) professes to believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist despite not fully knowing the Church's teaching on Transubstantiation.

The Catholic doctrine of the Real Presence is the belief that Jesus Christ is literally, not symbolically, present in the Holy Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist because Jesus tells us this is true in the Bible: "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from Heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from Heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh. The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (John 6:48-56).

The doctrine of the Real Presence that Catholics believe today was believed by the earliest Christians. This miracle of God's physical presence to us at every Mass is the truest testament to Christ's love for us and His desire for each of us to have a personal relationship with Him. If Jesus were only speaking symbolically about eating His flesh and drinking His blood, as non-believers and skeptics say, then what He really meant was "whoever persecutes and assaults me will have eternal life" — which, of course, makes nonsense of the previous passage. Bread and wine are not normal or natural symbols of flesh and blood. To call a man a "fox" is an understandable symbol for cleverness. To call a man "bread" is not an understandable symbol, without some explanation. Either the symbols would have been clearly explained (which is not the case) or Jesus spoke literally (which is the case). Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, meaning that what appears to be bread and wine is really Jesus' Body and Blood—not just a symbolic representation.

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, it is an expression of the unity among all those in communion with the Catholic Church throughout the world, who maintain the belief in the Real Eucharistic Presence of Christ. Therefore, only those who believe in the Real Presence may participate in this sacrament of oneness with Christ and His Church. Catholics believe that we cannot celebrate this unifying sacrament with other Christians while there are still disagreements about the Eucharist itself. However, Catholics pray for the day when we can reconcile with other Christians and share in the unity of God's people through the Holy Eucharist.

St. Mary's Parish News

Religious Education

Annual Easter Egg Hunt:

Candy donations needed. Please consider dropping off Easter candy to the box in the Narthex. Thank you!

Is your family interested in participating in the Easter Egg Hunt? If so, please contact Rebecca to RSVP.



Children's Liturgy of the Word:

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



This Sunday's Gospel Reflection:

Jesus invites the man born blind to see in two ways. First, Jesus heals his physical sight. Jesus opens the man's eyes to see birds, flowers, faces, and sunlight coming through trees. The man born blind also comes to see that Jesus must be from God if he can open a blind man's eyes. This is a second way of seeing: seeing and believing in Jesus, who brings us God's love and healing. Jesus invites us to use our eyes for both kinds of seeing—first to see the wonders of creation and of people, and second, to see God's love and goodness in these wonders and in his healing actions. May you see and appreciate together as a family the wonders of God's creation and the wonder each person is, and explore what Jesus wants us to see and believe about who He is.



Questions of the Week:

What in the story of the man born blind's journey to faith in Jesus is like your own faith journey? If you were blind and could suddenly see, who or what would you be most excited to see?

Family Lenten Activity: Instruct the members of your family to close their eyes for part of the Mass. Encourage them to pay attention to things they can smell, taste, hear, and feel. After Mass, discuss what you observed when you couldn't see.

Questions or comments:

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

High School Youth Ministry

SEE CLUSTER PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

Meal Train for Fr Mike

Don't worry, Fr Mike is not sick or have an accident, 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.



St Mary Parish Prayer Line

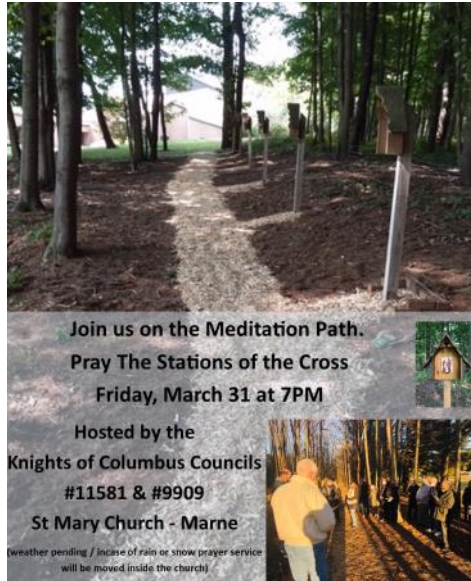
If you would like to request a prayer for our parish prayer line please contact the parish office or Linda at 677.3269. For evening requests call Darlene 453.0157 or email: bfa1414@yahoo.com Please continue to pray for all of our sick, hospitalized & homebound parishioners and all of the personal intentions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

Knights of Columbus #11581 News

Upcoming Events:

March 25 - 1PM - Grounds Clean Up (bring yard tools, rakes, wheelbarrow, etc)
March 32 - 7PM - Stations of the Cross on the Outside Meditation Path
April 1 & April 2 - Tootsie Roll Drive after all Masses - *The donations are helping to recognize the dignity of every person and helps provide people with intellectual and physical disabilities in our community more resources to live a happy life.*

The St Mary's Knights meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00PM in the Parish Hall. For more info please contact Grand Knight Rob Rander: roblander82@gmail.com or visit: <https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/knights-of-columbus>



Join us on the Meditation Path.
Pray The Stations of the Cross
Friday, March 31 at 7PM

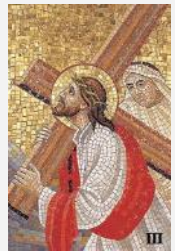
Hosted by the
Knights of Columbus Councils
#11581 & #9909
St Mary Church - Marne

(weather pending / in case of rain or snow prayer service will be moved inside the church)

Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7PM During Lent

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.*



Save the Dates

March 20, 27	To Light A Fire On Earth- Lenten Parish Cluster Presentation 6:30PM to 8:30PM St Michael Family Center
March 23	The Light is On for You, An Evening of Penance (Diocese Wide) 5:00PM to 8:00PM St Mary
March 24	Stations of the Cross / 7PM St Mary / 7PM St Michael
March 25	Soup Supper / 5:30PM St Mary Parish Hall
March 31	OUTSIDE Stations of the Cross at The St Mary Meditation Path Hosted by the Knights of Columbus Councils #11581 & 9909)

Giving Back to God

	March 11/12
Regular Contributions	\$5378.80
Capital Improvement	\$175.00
Online Contributions	\$2145.41
Children's Contributions	\$15.80
Total	\$7715.01

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

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

Dear Padre,

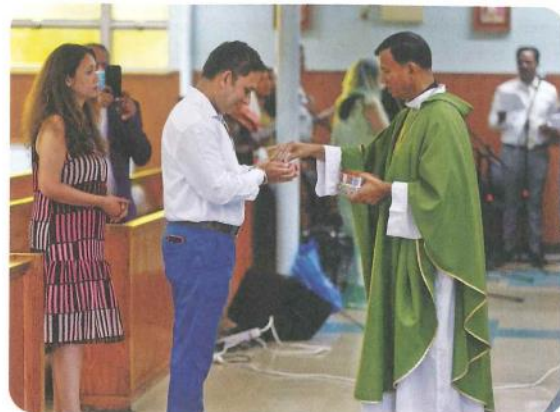
Why should I bother to be more religious? I'm a good person. Isn't that enough to get me into heaven?

When asked for advice about how people should decide on a vocation, St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, said they should do an imagination exercise. "Imagine that you are on your deathbed," he said. "From that point of view what would you wish you had done in your life?" That is still good advice.

Here's another exercise: Imagine you have a grandmother who is completely generous and caring toward you. Throughout your childhood, she was always there for you. But as a teen you belittled her and, in effect, told her that all she had offered is worthless to you. In a saner moment, won't you feel terrible about how you treated her?

Our life with God is much the same. God has given us absolutely everything, from our existence to every breath we take. God has also given us a way to know him through his Son, Jesus (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 73). And one way we know Jesus is through the Church and the celebration of the sacraments (CCC 1085). To refuse these gifts, to say, "I am already a good person. I don't need these gifts from God" is a bit presumptuous, don't you think?

To be "religious" is not just an outward show of piety. It's the way we have been given to learn God's language: the language of forgiveness, of faith, hope, and love. ●



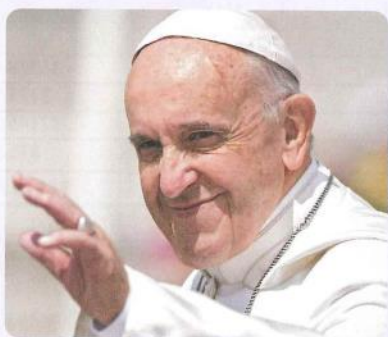
CNS PHOTO/REGORY A. SHENITZ

Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 20 <i>St. Joseph</i> 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 / Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a	March 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16	March 22 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30	March 23 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ex 32:7-14 Jn 5:31-47	March 24 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	March 25 <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	March 26 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> Ez 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We complain about things that are wrong in society, in the Church, in the world, without first questioning ourselves....Every fruitful, positive change must begin from ourselves. If we are blind, we cannot claim to be guides and teachers for others: indeed, a blind person cannot lead another blind person....

ANGELUS, FEBRUARY 27, 2022