



When he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

MATTHEW 21:10–11



The Art of Dying

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When I was much younger and idealistic, I might have been ready to die for some worthy cause. Friends about my age had the same experience. There was something romantic about giving our lives then. Something glorious—or so we thought. There was the brotherhood and sisterhood of us all, peace and non-violence, nuclear arms opposition, equal opportunities for education and housing. Many of us now over fifty thought we would lay down our lives for any one of those dreams.

For some of us, things have changed. We've grown older and, perhaps, wiser, and it seems we're not so eager to die anymore. The glamor has been tarnished, and, for some, the romance

has turned from infatuation to disillusion. Death seems like a tragedy, continually rearing its strength to destroy in full or in part the fruit of our lives.

Yet death continues to remain the only doorway into real life. Without death there is no life—in this life or in any life. For that reason, then, one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well, something we also need to teach our children. It takes a lifetime to learn how to die for one another, and that is why our young people need a community of adults who seek to master the art of dying. It is also why, for one long week,

we tell the story of Jesus and of how, for the sake of us all, he did not back away from death. ●

Reflect

Who has sacrificed for you? Have you "paid it forward" with gratitude?

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
Prayerline: Chris Albrecht, 616.403.7110

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	Holy Thursday April 6-7PM	Good Friday April 7-3PM	Holy Saturday April 8-9PM	Easter April 9-10:30AM
Sacristan				
Altar Servers	Need Three	Need Three	Need Three	Noah Davis Hannah Davis Calvin Davis
Eucharistic Ministers	Lori Rander Rob Rander M Kirkwood Geary Farrell Vito Dolci Margie Jirous	M Kirkwood Vito Dolci Nettie Leale Geary Farrell Margie Jirous	Steve Lampe Michelle Lampe	Bruce Kamp L Greenland Margie Jirous Janette Ney C Withers
Hospitality Ministers	Need Two	Need Two	Jim Looks Marian Looks	Megan G. Lauren G.
Lector	Need one	Doug Frantz	Rita Carmody Geary Farrell Vito Dolci Need One	Angie Hanks
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

Mass Intentions

Saturday April 1
4:30PM † Frank Lampe by M/M Jerry May **MA**

**Sunday April 2 Palm Sunday of
The Passion of The Lord**
8:30AM † Bob & Carol Powers
by David & Lisa Wilbur **MI**
10:30AM † Ruth Kasul by Kelly Kasul **MA**
4:30PM † Bob & Carol Powers
by David & Lisa Wilbur **MI**

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

Monday April 3 NO MASS

Tuesday April 4 NO MASS

Wednesday April 5 NO MASS

Thursday April 6 Mass of The Lord's Supper
followed by Night Watch until 10PM
7:00PM Our Parish Family **MA**
7:00PM † Nathan Syrek by the Syrek Family **MI**

Friday April 7 Good Friday
3:00PM Our Parish Family **MA**
3:00PM Our Parish Family **MI**
8:00PM Tenebrae' Service **MA**

Saturday April 8 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
9:00PM Our Parish Family **MA**
9:00PM Out Parish Family **MI**

**Sunday April 9 Easter Sunday of The Resurrection of
The Lord**
9:30AM † Jack Mahn by Chris Albrecht **MI**
10:30AM Our Parish Family **MA**

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

Readings for the Week

Sunday Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Procession: Mt 21:1-11
At Mass: Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

Monday Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 & 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 & 33-34; Mt 26:14-25

Thursday Holy Thursday Evening Mass: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

Friday Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
Is 52:13--53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday Easter Vigil
Gn 1:1—2:2 or Gn 1:1, 26-31a; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22; Gn 22:1-18 or Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Ex 14:15—15:1; Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Rom 6:3-11; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mt 28:1-10

Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord
Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or Lk 24:13-35



Prayer for Holy Week—

Lord Jesus Christ, in this sacred and solemn week when we see again the depth and mystery of your redeeming love, help us to follow where you go, to stop where you stumble, to listen when you cry, to hurt as you suffer, to bow our heads in sorrow as you die, so that, when you are raised to life again, we may share in your endless joy. Amen ("Celebrating God's Presence" UCPH 2000)

St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Scrip totals will be updated next week.

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.



Help Wanted — St. Michael's is looking for someone interested in a part-time general/preventive maintenance position. Duties include light general/preventative maintenance, basic repair and the coordination of outside contractor support. The hours would be approximately 5-10 hours per week, as needed. The schedule could be 2-3 hours a day, 2-3 days a week. This would be a great job for a retired person. Please call the parish office if interested.

CSA 2023 — Thank you for your gifts to 2023 Catholic Services Appeal! Your generous support funds essential diocesan ministries that strengthen us in Christ. Our parish goal for 2023 is \$59,280.00 and 100% participation, which means every parishioner should return their pledge card. To date, we have pledged \$23,570.00 (or 39.76%) toward our goal. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.

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. Today's Liturgy celebrates both Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his passion and death. I encourage your family to take a moment and really look at a crucifix. Ask your child to look at Jesus' outstretched arms. Explain that this is how much Jesus loves us- so much that he spread his arms wide on the cross. The cross is a symbol of God's eternal love for us. **We will not have CLW on April 2 and 9th due to Spring Break. CLW will resume on April 16th.**

Elementary Faith Formation: This program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:15- 7:30 pm. **We will not have class on April 5th due to Spring Break. Have a fun and safe time! Faith Formation will resume on April 12th.**

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 April 2 and 9 due to Spring Break. Class will resume on April 16th.**

St. Michael's Parish Family

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



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Ron Racziewicz
by Pam Racziewicz



What is it? The PaperGator® is a fundraiser where St. Michael's is paid to collect paper products for recycling.

What CAN go in the bins?

Newsprint
Catalogs/Magazines
Junk Mail
Phone Books
Office/School paper
Hard and soft cover books

What CANNOT go in the bins?

Paperboard
(Grocery Item boxes)
Plastic
Metal
Trash
Glass
Cardboard

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.

Knights of Columbus News

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who donated items for Bunny Business and to those who helped prepare, stuff, and deliver Easter baskets. We especially would like to thank Dr. David Shabluk for donating 100 toothbrushes & toothpaste again this year. We have such a wonderful and caring parish, along with a great community. Thank you so much for your generosity, it is truly appreciated! The baskets are distributed to needy families by Coopersville Cares.

Giving Back to God

March 26, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$2,774.00
Loose Cash	\$258.00
Children's Envelopes	\$28.25
Total	\$3,060.25
Building Fund	\$5.00
Financial Assistance	25.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$170.00

Thank you for your continued support!

April 2, 2023 ~ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Cluster News and Community News and Events

ATTENTION! ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST:

As part of the Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Walkowiak has mandated retraining for all Extraordinary Ministers in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. This training will include updated Diocesan Norms. Our nearest training session will be offered at **Saint Mary's/Spring Lake on Saturday, April 29 at 10:00am.**

If you are unable to attend on this date a full schedule of trainings from which you can choose are available on the webpage of the diocesan Office for Worship at <https://grdiocese.org/ministries/worship-3/>

Whether you serve during Mass or minister to the sick, we are all asked to register at that website for the session you plan to attend. If you are not yet a Eucharistic Minister but are being led to this ministry, this session will be an excellent introductory training. Contact Kevin at St Michaels or Gary at St Marys for more details or with help registering.

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/Holy Week Service Project during spring break?

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

Family Activity for Youth

Please pray for those who will be initiated into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil.

Have your family take a walk around your parish's Stations of the Cross. The stations mark Jesus' difficult journey to the place where he was crucified. Notice the many people who helped Jesus when he needed it.

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

This week we begin the final leg of our Lenten journey toward welcoming the Risen Christ at the Easter celebration. This is 'Palm/Passion Sunday' where we recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem at the beginning of the Jewish Passover. Being an observant Jew, Jesus delegates some of His disciples to go and find a suitable place where they can celebrate the Passover seder (meal). It is at this "Last Supper" that we have the Lord instituting the sacrament that serves as the source and summit of our Catholic faith. Also, at this meal are sown the seeds of future dissolution in the Christian community, a divide that centers on this very sacrament. Is it Christ really present among us in the accidental guise of bread and wine, miraculously transformed into His Body and Blood? Or is it merely a symbolic remembrance of an historical act?

For someone who is not in union with the Catholic Church, receiving the Eucharist would be a conscientiously false. Likewise, Catholics should not receive communion at Protestant churches. Partaking in the Sacrament of the Eucharist is truly a blessing and an important part of a person's life. In fact, the First Holy Communion of a Catholic person is a huge occasion and milestone. It is essentially the time that we are receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

The form for the Eucharist is when the priest repeats the words of Jesus saying: "This is my Body..." and "This is my Blood...." And now the matter is no longer wheat bread and grape wine.

There are two stumbling blocks for Christians; the Eucharist and the Cross. These are the same mysteries that have been a cause of division for centuries. The Catechism of the Catholic Church notes:

"The first announcement of the Eucharist divided the disciples, just as the announcement of the Passion scandalized them: "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" The Eucharist and the Cross are stumbling blocks. It is the same mystery, and it never ceases to be an occasion of division. "Will you also go away?": the Lord's question echoes through the ages, as a loving invitation to discover that only He has "the words of eternal life" and that to receive in faith the gift of His Eucharist is to receive the Lord Himself." (1336)

Catholicism has been sometimes described as a very materialistic religion. This is because Catholics take created reality seriously. Karl Rahner, S.J., once called Catholic Christians "the most sublime of materialists" because they "neither can nor should conceive of any ultimate fullness of the spirit and of reality without thinking too of matter enduring as well in a state of final perfection." Far from being concerned with a narrow, spiritualized understanding of salvation, about "getting saved," Catholics see grace everywhere, disclosed in nature, symbols, stories, and persons.

One of the documents of Vatican II, 'Presbyterorum Ordinis' (Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests) addresses the so-called "materialism" inherent in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

"The other sacraments, as well as with every ministry of the Church and every work of the apostolate, are tied together with the Eucharist and are directed toward it. The Most Blessed Eucharist contains the entire spiritual boon of the Church, that is, Christ himself, our Pasch and living bread, by the action of the Holy Spirit through his very flesh vital and vitalizing, giving life to men who are thus invited and encouraged to offer themselves, their labors and all created things together with him. In this light the Eucharist shows itself as the source and apex of the whole work of the preaching of the Gospel."

The great classic works of Catholic theologians and artists tend to emphasize the presence of God in the world, while the classic works of Protestant theologians tend to emphasize the absence of God from the world. Catholics tend to stress the immanence of God, Protestants God's transcendence. Created reality is itself sacramental, revealing the presence of God, hinted at in a forest of metaphors and lurking in human love. Catholicism sees the body as holy. It honors the Sacred Heart of Jesus, His virgin mother Mary, and her chaste spouse Joseph.

Most of all, the Church draws life from the Body and Blood of Jesus, present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The Eucharist has long been the center of Catholic life, uniting His disciples through his body for the life of the world. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said, "The Church is the celebration of the Eucharist; the Eucharist is the Church; they do not simply stand side by side; they are one and the same."



Religious Education

Annual Easter Egg Hunt:

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

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Sunday following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Is your family interested in participating? If so, please contact Rebecca to sign up.



Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Dismisses and meets during 10:30 a.m. Mass. There will be no Children's Liturgy of the Word on April 2 and 9 due to Spring Break/ Easter Sunday. Children's Liturgy will resume on April 16.



This Sunday's Gospel Reflection:

In the liturgies of Holy Week, we Christians join Jesus in the last meal he shares with his friends. We accompany him through his torturous death at the hands of the Romans. We experience the stunned amazement of Jesus' first followers as they discover his new life with them, after his rising on Easter. Ever since then, Christians have seen Easter as a new day, an eighth day of God's creation. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday immerse us in the key events of Jesus' life. In these ancient liturgies we journey into the heart of Christian faith: Jesus, who poured out his love for us even unto death, and God who raises us to new life. Consider making this week a time to explore Jesus' love for us and show our love to Him by engaging in the Holy week liturgies and devotions.



Questions of the Week: What are your memories of Holy Week? Why does Jesus pour out his life for us?

Family Holy Week Activities:

Please pray for Julia who will become a new Catholic during the Easter Vigil. Please consider making her a welcome and congratulations card as a family or have each family member make her one. You may present your card or cards to her following the Easter Vigil or your welcome to get the card(s) to Rebecca to give to her.

Have your family take a walk around your parish's Stations of the Cross. The stations mark Jesus' difficult journey to the place where he was crucified. Notice the many people who helped Jesus when he needed it.

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

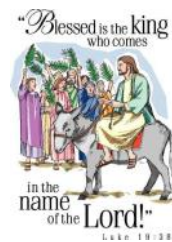
St Mary Parish Prayer Line

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.

Palm Sunday ~ April 2

Holy Day of Obligation ~ Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage.

Prayer for Palm Sunday Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen



Knights of Columbus #11581 News

Upcoming Events:

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.

April 13 - Monthly Meeting 7PM-Parish Hall

PLEASE NOTE: DATE CHANGE

October 8 - Community Breakfast and Blood Drive Register here:

https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/149333

For more info please contact Grand Knight Rob Rander: robrander82@gmail.com

or visit:

<https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/knights-of-columbus>



Look For Our
Upcoming Raffle
Ticket sales start after Easter
Drawing to be held June 1st



Proceeds to help fund our council's charitable giving



Meal Train for Fr Mike

The office has received many requests to provide Fr Mike a homecooked meal, (Don't worry, he is not sick or have an accident) 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 25/26
Regular Contributions	
Capital Improvement	
Online Contribution	Unavailable at this time
Children's Contributions	
Total	

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week
COOPERSVILLE HEATING & COOLING

Mark Janose 616.837.1312 ~ Don Janose 616.292.3344

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

Dear Padre,

Why do we call Jesus “the Lamb of God”? How did Jesus get that name, and why do we refer to him as a lamb? Doesn’t that make him sound weak and helpless?

A lamb was a common animal of sacrifice for the Jews. The Passover account talks about sacrificing an unblemished lamb to God and eating its flesh so the people would have strength for the journey to the Promised Land.

Jesus is the perfect, unblemished sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven and we are made children of God. The Father provides Jesus as the sacrifice, and so Jesus is the Lamb of God, the sacrificial offering made because God loves us. Jesus chose to sacrifice himself according to the Father’s plan. “He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8). Jesus gave himself into our hands so we could be caressed by the hands of God.

Like the Passover lamb, the Lamb of God is food for us. We “eat his body” and “drink his blood.” This food and drink gives us strength for our journey of faith. The food we receive from Jesus, the Lamb, is the nourishment we need to do as St. Paul begs the Philippians—and us—to do: “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). ●



REMIJA SEMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We are preparing to celebrate the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ over sin and death—over sin and death—not over someone and against someone else. But today, there is a war. Why do we want to win like this...?

There are only losses this way.

Why not allow him to win?

ANGELUS, APRIL 10, 2022

MONDAY

April 3
Monday of Holy Week
Is 42:1–7
Jn 12:1–11

TUESDAY

April 4
Tuesday of Holy Week
Is 49:1–6
Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

WEDNESDAY

April 5
Wednesday of Holy Week
Is 50:4–9a
Mt 26:14–25

THURSDAY

April 6
Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)
Chrism Mass:
Is 61:1–3a, 6a, 8b–9
Rv 1:5–8
Lk 4:16–21

Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper:
Ex 12:1–8, 11–14
1 Cor 11:23–26
Jn 13:1–15

FRIDAY

April 7
Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
Is 52:13–53:12
Heb 4:14–16; 5:7–9
Jn 18:1–19:42

SATURDAY

April 8
Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
Gn 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a
Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18
Ex 14:15–15:1
Is 54:5–14
Is 55:1–11
Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4
Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28
Rom 6:3–11
Mt 28:1–10

SUNDAY

April 9
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Acts 10:34a, 37–43
Col 3:1–4 or 1 Cor 5:6b–8
Jn 20:1–9 or Mt 28:1–10

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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