



...While they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

LUKE 24:15-16

## Not Just a Walk in the Park

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A multiple-choice question:** Life is (a) purgatory, (b) a party, (c) drudgery, (d) a maze, (e) a trial. Many of us might be inclined to answer, "All of the above." Life takes us along many paths, through many fields, and down many blind alleys.

The Camino de Santiago is a hiking trail of about 500 miles that begins in France, makes its way through Spain, and ends at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where tradition has it that the remains of St. James are buried. Many walk the journey to discover who they are and what their lives are about. Walking ten to fifteen miles a day with little to think about other than one's life tends to turn the hike into a pilgrimage that thousands have made over the centuries for just that purpose. The pilgrimage is arduous, often plagued with rain, blisters, shin splints, and a discovery of how to

travel light. But then, such is all of life.

This week's Emmaus Gospel recounts a similar journey compressed into one day. Like life, it begins in confusion, is scattered with insights and revelations about what has just taken place and ends with the discovery that the Lord has been the one walking with them. Faith does not solve one's problems nor eliminate one's difficulties. It does help us understand life and find meaning in the midst of it all, and somehow it brings us to realize that we do not travel alone, making the journey worthwhile and blessed. ●

### Reflect

**What has made you realize that  
the Lord walks with you?**

# 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@gpriests.org](mailto:frmhodges@gpriests.org)  
Deacon: Deacon Tom Roberts—[troberts@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:troberts@saintmarysmarne.org)

For more information on staff, councils, ministries and schedules,  
visit our website : [www.saintmichaels.us](http://www.saintmichaels.us)  
Prayerline: Chris Albrecht, 616.403.7110

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday April 22

4:30PM † Ruth Kasul by Knights of Columbus #11581 ..... **MA**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

### Sunday April 23

8:30AM † Carl Goosen by Dave & Pat Goosen ..... **MI**  
10:30AM † Bob Bacon by Donna Scheidel ..... **MA**  
4:30PM † Jamie Thomas by John & Denise Anderson ..... **MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

### Monday April 24 NO MASS

### Tuesday April 25

9:00AM Fr Mike by a Parishioner ..... **MA**  
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

### Wednesday April 26

† Joanne Kluting by Dave & Lori Hastings Family ..... **MI**  
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

### Thursday April 27

9:00AM † Janet Felker by Ruth Brown ..... **MA**

### Friday April 28

9:00AM † Edna Schumaker by Arno & Judy Driedger ..... **MI**

### Saturday April 29

4:30PM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by M/M Arlyn Doornbos ..... **MA**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

### Sunday April 30

8:30AM † Hunter Bajema by Dave & Sharon Carlson ..... **MI**  
10:30AM Our Confirmation Candidates ..... **MA**  
4:30PM † John VanDenBrink by Greg & Andrea Steffes ..... **MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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



## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Apr 30 / 8:30 AM	Apr 30 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Lauren Meerman Alivia Kosten	Molly Jonaitis Madelyn Jonaitis
Eucharistic Ministers	Debbie Venekase Carolyn Johnson Jeff Johnson Chris Albrecht Zach Nelson NEED TWO	Greg Helsen NEED ONE
Lector	Andrew Bonter	Mark Phillips
CLW	Debbie V. & Cheri B.	NO CLW
Sacristan	Sue DeVos	Karen Helsen
Ushers	Mary Bueche Wade Lindberg Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich	Bob Jonaitis Greg Helsen
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	Apr 29 - 4:30PM	Apr 30 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Need Two	Noah Davis Hannah Davis
Host	Deacon Tom Rob Rander Lori Rander	Bruce Kamp Need Two
Cup	Lisa Potts Deb Hapon Vito Dolci Geary Farrell	Janette Ney Margie Jirous Christina Withers Need One
Hospitality	Madison Potts Bryson Potts MJ Potts Need One	Rick Leale Jeanne Leale Leonard Horter Need One
Lector	Angie Hanks	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

## 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 - Saturday, April 29 at 10am.**

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.



## St. Michael's Parish News



**Scrip News—** Thank you to the 16 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$170.96. Kohl's is temporarily unavailable. The cards in the box currently may be used to pay your Kohl's charge card. The new Kohl's can no longer be used to pay credit card balances.

### Save the date —

**2023 Vacation Bible School:  
STELLAR, SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!**

July 24-28<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8:30 pm.

Contact Debbie Veneklas with any questions. 616-384-4026.



We are pleased to welcome a newly baptized child of God!

**Adelaide Josephine Derr**

daughter of Steve & Kelli Derr

**Baptized on April 16, 2023**

## 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 we pray, read and explore the Sunday Gospel from a child's viewpoint. We include the Gospel Acclamation so that children understand the importance of preparing our mind and heart for the Gospel reading. Today's Gospel Jesus appears to two more disciples, who were walking on a road to Emmaus. They were feeling sad because Jesus had died. Jesus came near them and started walking with them. They did not recognize that their companion was Jesus, until the breaking of the bread. Jesus was alive and he had saved them through his dying and rising. Indeed, He has saved the world.

**Elementary Faith Formation:** This program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:15- 7:30 pm. **Our program ends on Wednesday, April 26 with an end of the year celebration for all students and their families. Parents and siblings are asked to join us at 6:15 pm for a children's Mass. There will be an ice cream social immediately following. Let us end the school year with faith, fun and fellowship!** Please pray for our First Communicants as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion: Jordyn, Kensington, Hunter, Aiden, Piper and Viktor.

**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. Please keep our Confirmation Candidates in your prayers as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation: Elijah, Maxwell, Alivia, Dylan, Aurora and Klara. They will be confirmed at The Cathedral of St. Andrews on April 30, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

## 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, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.



## St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Joanne Kluting  
by Dave & Lori Hastings

## 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 —** 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 \$29,580.00 (or 49.89%) toward our goal. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.

## 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.

## Giving Back to God

**April 16, 2023**

Adult Envelopes	\$4,621.00
Loose Cash	\$187.00
Children's Envelopes	\$12.25
Holy Day	\$70.00
Online Giving	\$570.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,460.25</b>
Building Fund	\$1,045.00
Financial Assistance	\$25.00
Easter Flower Memorial	\$50.00

*Thank you for your continued support!*

**April 23, 2023 ~ Third Sunday of Easter**

## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### INTO THE MYSTERY

**Sat. June 10 | 9:30 – 5:30 p.m. Aquinas College**

Join Catholics from across the diocese for a day to celebrate our unity in faith and sacrament. The special day, called Into the Mystery will strengthen the foundation of your faith through the following opportunities:

- Celebrate Mass with Bishop Walkowiak
- Experience the Lord's mercy in the sacrament of confession
- Join the public Eucharistic procession
- Explore the Vatican display of Eucharistic Miracles
- Participate in Eucharistic Adoration in Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel

This event marks the transition into the parish year of the National Eucharistic Revival. Join us for this daylong celebration and stay afterward for a festival with live music and food available from local food trucks! Registration is \$10/person or \$40/household. To learn more, visit [grdiocese.org/eucharistic-revival](http://grdiocese.org/eucharistic-revival)

### Explore Priesthood Discernment Group

The Explore Priesthood Group is a discernment opportunity sponsored by the diocesan Office of Priestly Vocations. Each month, young men (ages 16 – 35) are invited to gather and discern God's will for their lives. Time for prayer and reflection will be held monthly at St. Stephen Parish in East Grand Rapids from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. ***This year's final discernment opportunity is April 23.***

Questions? Please email Fr. Stephen Durkee, director of priestly vocations, [sdurkee@grdiocese.org](mailto:sdurkee@grdiocese.org). To RSVP, please email Pattie Reynolds at [preynolds@grdiocese.org](mailto:preynolds@grdiocese.org).

## Youth Ministry

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

**Weekly gatherings** are offered every weekend. These gatherings include, food, games, topic and activities. Friends welcome!

**\*\*\*For dates and times please contact Rebecca**



### Summer Activities for Youth

This summer youth may engage in a Mission Trip, Steubenville Trip, help with Vacation Bible School, engage in Parish service projects and other fun day trips! Some of these options are for High School aged Youth and some are for Middle School Youth and some are for both. After May 21, Middle School Youth are those entering 6-8 grade next fall and High School Youth are those entering 9th grade through 12 grade next fall, as well as, those newly graduated. For more information and/or dates please contact Rebecca.

**\*\*\*For dates and times please contact Rebecca**

### Questions or comments

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



### Fr. Mike's Musings



During the Holy Week liturgies there is a practice of the 'Washing of the Feet' which is done on Holy Thursday. It has always been my policy and practice to include those young people who are going to be receiving their First Communion later in the Spring in this rite. Sometimes, as it happened this year, I need to fill the empty seats with teens who are preparing for their Confirmation. On the surface this might appear to be dismissive of the Confirmation candidates (use only as a last resort). This is unfair as the journey these young people are undertaking is just as important as any of the other sacramental actions that we Catholics hold to so dearly in our faith lives.

Just as Baptism gives new life, Eucharist nourishes life, and Reconciliation restores life when it is broken, Confirmation strengthens that life by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is about strengthening what God has given, and continues to give, to His sons and daughters.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is not the Catholic equivalent to the Jewish bar mitzvah. Confirmation is not a "coming of age" celebration. True, most young people are just beginning to pass into early adulthood when they receive the sacrament. But Confirmation is not about coming of age. Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation does not mark the end of formal religious education. We never outgrow a need for a deeper knowledge and appreciation of our faith.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is not a rite of passage, nor a graduation from religion class, nor a ratification of a personal faith choice. Rather, it's all about what God is doing for us, not what we are doing for Him.

So, what is God doing? Strengthening the Divine life which He gave at Baptism, nourishing us in the Eucharist, and reconciling with us in Penance. Why? So that the individual can better defend and witness to the faith through the gifts and workings of the Holy Spirit. And there are—and will be—many situations where we are called upon to defend and witness to our faith. And we need all the help we can get.

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit completes the grace of Baptism and offers the newly confirmed strength as a true witness of Christ. Thus, the newly confirmed is more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

Except when there is a danger of death, anyone who is baptized and has the use of reason, is properly instructed and disposed, and can renew their baptismal commitment, is able to be confirmed. The proper age for reception of the sacrament is at the age of reason. Perhaps the requirement that one be "properly disposed" is the key to when the sacrament is received. Proper disposition refers to the recipient's willingness to cooperate with the gifts of the sacrament, which can happen at almost any age. But nowhere is the sacrament described as a ratification of the recipient's choice or decision about the faith. Rather, it is the gifts of the Holy Spirit offered to give the recipient the courage and strength to witness and serve—two responsibilities implied in Baptism—which are the grace and focus of the sacrament.

Thus, it is important not to view the Sacrament of Confirmation as a "rite of passage", a ratification of a personal choice, or a graduation from religious instruction. Rather, it is to be viewed, as are all the sacraments, as a distinctive working of God in a person's life. Perhaps we don't recognize these qualities as gifts of strength because they have become a part of our Christian living and appear quite natural—a fact that affirms how closely the Holy Spirit works with us.

### Mass of Hope, Health & Healing

Healing Mass with The Sacrament of the Sick. **Friday, May 5 at 7PM** at St Mary. All are welcome. Please come and receive the healing power of God.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"*  
*Matthew 11:28*



### 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.



**April 23, 2023 ~ Third Sunday of Easter**

## Religious Education

**Save the date:** Vacation Bible School will be held June 10-15 and there are many ways for teens and adults to serve. Teens entering 6th grade next fall and older are invited to serve on the VBS team. VBS will be for Pre-school-5th grade aged children.

### Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Meets in the Community Room during 10:30 a.m. Mass



Sunday's Gospel tells every Christian's story. Two friends of Jesus meet a stranger. They are sad, afraid, and confused because the one they thought would make Israel great, Jesus, is dead. Their lives have fallen apart; their dreams are shattered. The stranger listens and then explains how Israel's prophets said the Messiah would have to suffer. The two feel their hearts burn with new hope; they ask the stranger to stay for dinner. When he blesses bread and gives it to them, they recognize Jesus. In the life of each Christian, things fall apart and dreams die. This is often when Jesus' journey through death to new life begins to make sense. The Easter Jesus continues to walk with us always as the friend whose love we remember when we hear his story and break bread as he asked. Jesus continues to be close to us today.



**Question of the Week:** How is the experience of Jesus' friends on the way to Emmaus like your experience of Jesus?

### Questions or comments:

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



### High School Youth Ministry

SEE CLUSTER PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

## Catholic Service Appeal 2023

This week, you will receive a letter from Bishop Walkowiak asking you to make your commitment to support the work of our diocesan programs and ministries through the Catholic Services Appeal. These are ministries that benefit us all but are difficult for any one parish to provide on its own. Your gift to the CSA enables the Catholic Church to reach out to people in our 11 counties in a variety of ways, including through seminarian and deacon formation; youth programming; support for the homebound and incarcerated; families who are struggling; the hungry, and the homeless. Through the CSA, we all work together to care for the Church by sharing the gifts God has granted us. Our parish goal for 2023 is \$51,834.00 and 100% participation, which means every parishioner should return their pledge card. Please join us in this important work!



Diocese of Grand Rapids  
Catholic Services Appeal

## Knights of Columbus #11581 News

### Charity Raffle Ticket Sales after all Masses.

Win a 28inch Blackstone Grill and accessories.  
Tickets will sell for \$10 each or 3 for \$20.

### Upcoming Events:

May 4 at 7PM- Monthly Council Meeting  
October 8 - Community Breakfast and Blood Drive

Register here:

[https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/149333](https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/149333)

### Knight Person of the Month

for April - Jim Anderson

### Knight Family of the Month

for April - Butch & Rosemary Schoenborn

*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!*

For more info please contact Grand Knight Rob Rander:

roblander82@gmail.com or visit: <https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/knights-of-columbus>



## Charity Raffle Just in Time for Summer

St. Mary's Church, Marne • License # X08274  
Drawing - June 1st, 7:30 pm  
Tickets \$10 or 3 for \$20



Proceeds to help fund our council's charitable giving



## 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*



## 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.

## Giving Back to God

	April 15/16
Regular Contributions	\$5789.00
Capital Improvement	\$460.00
Online Contributions	\$1120.00
Children's Contributions	\$28.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7397.60</b>

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

## St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

**VANDYKEN MECHANICAL, INC.**

4275 Spartan Industrial Dr. ~ 616.224.7030

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!**

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



# Dear Padre,

***Our planet's condition is now a serious problem.  
Why is climate change hardly mentioned in homilies?***

Many people view climate change as a political issue more than a religious one. As such, some homilists avoid controversial, politicized topics altogether; others are selective in preaching about them; still others tend to use the pulpit as a soapbox for a single political issue or a variety of them. Moreover, preachers themselves are not apolitical, nor are they all centrist in their ideologies. Like those in the pews, homilists have biases, too.

So how did climate change become so politicized? Despite decades of substantial evidence from many respected scientific experts, confusion exists about climate change because the issue's scope is massive and hard to digest, international cooperation is mandatory, and polar-opposite opinions of politicians and their followers are often intransigent. Nevertheless, Pope Francis convened an international conference in 2019 to look at how religions can help the world reach sustainable ecological goals by 2030 to, he said, repair "the damage we have done. No branch of science or form of wisdom should be overlooked, and this includes religions and the languages particular to them."

Thus, according to the Pope, "religious voices" play a crucial role in addressing the serious condition of our planet. Inasmuch as religion has a fundamental responsibility to offer people faith and hope in a better world—and homilies help believers find meaning and purpose—taking action and speaking out about humanity's well-being are becoming less optional. ●



CHAMASORN JELE / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 24 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 6:8–15 Jn 6:22–29	April 25 <i>St. Mark, Evangelist</i> 1 Pt 5:5b–14 Mk 16:15–20	April 26 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 8:1b–8 Jn 6:35–40	April 27 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 8:26–40 Jn 6:44–51	April 28 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 9:1–20 Jn 6:52–59	April 29 <i>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i> Acts 9:31–42 Jn 6:60–69	April 30 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 2:14a, 36–41 1 Pt 2:20b–25 Jn 10:1–10



GIULIO NAPOLITANO / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***The adversity that we are experiencing with the pandemic, and that we already feel in climate change, must spur us on, must drive us to innovation, to invention, to seek new paths. We do not come out of a crisis the same, we come out better or worse.***

**VIDEO MESSAGE TO MARK EARTH DAY, APRIL 22, 2021**