



[Moses said,] "If I find favor with you,
Lord, please, Lord, come along in our company."

EXODUS 34:9

God Up There, God Down Here

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Which of these images best describes your God: gardener, friend, policeman, Santa Claus, magician, doctor, lover, parent, judge, the Force?

Theologically, God is both transcendent and immanent, up there and down here. In other words, God is powerful, majestic, awesome, and all-knowing but always close, caring for us, forgiving, and comforting. Most of us lean toward one or the other in our spirituality. Whichever image you choose will tell you something about how you usually relate to God. None of the images are necessarily right or wrong unless it locks us into relating to God in only one way.

Our tendency to relate to God as either transcendent or immanent may influence our preference for liturgical style. If we view God primarily as transcendent, we will tend to appreciate the Mass as a sacrifice, celebrated formally with processions, incense, and majestic music.

If we tend to relate to God as more immanent, we will tend to appreciate the Mass as a eucharistic meal with the community gathered around the altar table singing simpler music. As God is both transcendent and immanent, we should not have to choose. The ideal liturgical style would incorporate something of both transcendence and immanence.

Today's story of Moses, who climbs Mount Sinai and there bows down in worship before God, is a story of the transcendence of God—majestic, powerful, awesome to behold. Today's gospel is of an immanent God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son, not to condemn it but to save it. ●

Reflect

***Is your personal prayer to God "up there"
or to God "walking with me"?***

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday June 3

4:30PM † Robert Wetherbee by Janice Beuschel.....**MA**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday June 4

8:30AM † Jim Drake by Joan Drake**MI**
10:30AM † Bob Bacon by Doug & Sue McKay**MA**
4:30PM † Michael Marz by Joe Hitchings.....**MI**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday June 5 No Mass

Tuesday June 6 No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Wednesday June 7 No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Thursday June 8 No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Friday June 9 No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Saturday June 10

4:30PM † Kurt Kline by M/M Jack Kline.....**MA**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday June 11

8:30AM † Lucille O'Bradovich by the O'Bradovich Family**MI**
10:30AM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by M/M Jim Harlett**MA**
4:30PM † Alice Goll by Joe Hitchings.....**MI**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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



St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

| | June 11 / 8:30 AM | June 11 / 4:30 PM |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Altar Servers | Alivia Kosten Lauren Meerman | NEED TWO |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Denise Parish Paul Schmidt Chris Albrecht Sharon Carlson Jennie Taylor Peter Nielsen NEED ONE | NEED TWO |
| Lector | Joe Meerman | Carol Reens |
| Sacristan | Rosemary Weigel | NEED ONE |
| Ushers | Calvin Lindberg Ray Maka Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich | NEED TWO |
| Music | Anna Jonaitis | Anna Jonaitis |

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

| | June 10 - 4:30PM | June 11 - 10:30AM |
|----------------|---|---|
| Sacristan | Need One | Gary Karr |
| Altar Servers | Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt | Lauren LeMieux Ty Ricord |
| Precious Body | Deacon Tom Deb Hapon Mary Kirkwood | Jim Looks Marian Looks Christina Withers |
| Precious Blood | Butch Schoenborn Rose Mary Schoenborn Angie Hanks Need One | Janette Ney Becky Warners Marigie Jirous Geary Farrell |
| Hospitality | Austin Lampe Michelle Lampe Steve Lampe Jeff Schneider | Jeanne Leale Rick Leale Leonard Horter Need One |
| Lector | Vito Dolci | Rita Carmody |
| Music | Bernie Stanko | Bernie Stanko |

Prayer for Holy Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday is a moveable feast celebrated a week after Pentecost Sunday. Also known as Holy Trinity Sunday, Trinity Sunday honors the most fundamental of Christian beliefs—belief in the Holy Trinity. The human mind can never fully understand the mystery of the Trinity, but we can sum it up in the following formula: God is three Persons in one Nature. There is only one God, and the three Persons of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—are all equally God, and They cannot be divided.

Glory be to the Father,
Who by His almighty power
and love created me,
making me in the image and
likeness of God.

Glory be to the Son,
Who by His Precious Blood
delivered me from hell,
and opened for me the gates
of heaven.

Glory be to the Holy Spirit,
Who has sanctified me in the sacrament of Baptism,
and continues to sanctify me by the graces I receive daily
from His bounty. Glory be to the Three adorable
Persons of the Holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.



St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Thank you to our 10 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$71.91.

Save the date —

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

July 24-28th, from 6-8:30 pm.

Contact Debbie Veneklas with any questions. 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 \$39,050 (or 65.87%) toward our goal. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.



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. Now enrolling for the 2023-24 school year!



St. Michael's Faith Formation

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Our program is now on summer break. CLW will resume in September. Thank you Catechists and helpers for the dedication and talents you share with the children of our parish! Join us for Vacation Bible School July 24-28. Theme is **STELLAR, SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!**

Elementary Faith Formation: Thank you catechists and helpers for your dedication in sharing our Catholic faith with the Faith Formation students! Your generosity of giving your time and talent is greatly appreciated! Thank you! Our program is on summer break and classes will resume in the fall.

Middle School Faith Formation: Grades 6, 7 and 8 is on Summer Break. Thank you Catechists for helping to catechize the students. Class will resume in September.

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, Payton Patterson, Winnie Spencer, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for the special intentions of our Parish Cluster Family

Finance Council —

The Finance Council will have an opening that will need to be filled, beginning in July, 2023. If you are interested in this position, please contact the Business Manager, Cindy Lindberg, at (616) 384-4026 or bsmgr@saintmichaels.us. You may contact Cindy or Fr. Mike if you have any questions or would like to discuss the opening.



The Parish Office — will be closed on Monday, June 5, and will re-open for the rest of the week on Tuesday. The secretary's hours this week will be Tu, Wed, Th and Fri, 9am-4pm, with lunch from 12-1pm. There will be no daily Mass on Wednesday and Friday, and no Adoration or Confession on Wednesday. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please call the Parish Office with any questions or concerns, or to make an appointment with Fr. Mike when he returns.



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

Giving Back to God

May 28, 2023

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Adult Envelopes | \$2,771.00 |
| Loose Cash | \$620.00 |
| Holy Day | \$25.00 |
| Children's Envelopes | \$10.25 |
| Total | \$3,688.25 |

Thank you for your continued support!

June 4, 2023 ~ The Most Holy Trinity

Cluster News and Community News and Events

Mother's Day/ Father's Day PREGNANCY HELP Baby Bottle Drive!



Please pick up a Baby Bottle from the Narthex and fill it with your "extra change!" (dollar bills and checks are also welcome) Please return Father's Day Weekend. Thank You!

Volunteer Driver - God's Kitchen!

Catholic Charities West Michigan is looking for a volunteer (age 18+) to help deliver meals to homes on Wednesday mornings for God's Kitchen. Routes vary and cover NE, NW, SE, and SW Grand Rapids and take less than one hour to complete. This volunteer role would be perfect for someone looking for a consistent way to be involved at God's Kitchen and help us get meals out to those in need. If you are interested, please contact Davina Bryan at dbryan@ccwestmi.org or 616.306.8330.

Prison & Jail Ministry Informational Sessions

We are actively seeking volunteers to help us offer weekly Catholic services including Masses, Communion services, RCIA classes and prayer services within 21 correctional facilities across our 11-county diocese. Join Bishop Walkowiak and more than 50 active volunteers in this vital ministry to the incarcerated. Want to learn more? Please attend an upcoming informational session.

When: Monday, June 26

Two identical sessions, come to either one:
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 6 - 9 p.m.

Where: Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Ave. S., Grand Rapids, MI [Register Now](#) or visit grdiocese.org/prison-and-jail-ministry/ to learn more.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry (6-12 Grade) Summer Activities for Youth

Youth may engage in a Mission Trip, Steubenville Trip, help with Vacation Bible School, Michigan Adventure Trip and 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. Dates and times have been sent out in email, if you're not on the Youth Ministry email and would like to be please contact Rebecca. 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.

Questions or comments

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



Fr. Mike's Musings

Into the Mystery: A Day of Eucharistic Renewal, Unity, and Adventure

In the past couple of months, our Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Committee has worked hard to plan for the June 10th, Into the Mystery: A Day of Eucharistic Renewal, Unity, and Adventure..

This event is a mini-Eucharistic Congress for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. It desires to gather Catholics throughout 11-counties of Michigan for a daylong celebration of our unity in faith as we transition to the parish year of the national Eucharistic Revival. The day will include a Mass, talks by Father Jonathan Kelly, rector of St. John Vianney College Seminary, Missionary Meg Hunter-Kilmer, opportunities for going to confession, and a Eucharistic procession to publicly witness to our faith.

As most of you are aware, in late 2019, a Pew Study indicated what many had long suspected. Few Catholics, approximately 30 percent, fully believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. This stark reality moved the Bishops of the United States into action. More than an event or a program, they envisioned a true revival to rediscover "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, 11).

INTO THE MYSTERY-NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, June 10 | 9:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Will you be there? Into The Mystery is only a week away! Join Catholics from across the diocese to strengthen your faith through Mass with Bishop Walkowiak, learning from two engaging speakers, and participating in a public Eucharistic procession! Registration is just \$10/person or \$40 for a family. Come for all or a portion of the day. All ages are welcome!

Register Here: grdiocese.org/eucharistic-revival



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

Please Note:

Fr Mike will be away from the office Tuesday, May 30- Tuesday, June 13. He will return to the office on Wednesday June 14. Please be sure to make appointment prior to those days if you need to speak with him. During the time he is away, if an emergency arises, please call the emergency line 1.616.745.1409. We do have priests available during that time if needed. Mass Schedule for that time.

June 5 - June 9 - No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Saturday, June 10 - Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - Mass 4:30 - St Mary

Sunday, June 11

Mass - 8:30AM- St Michael

Mass- 10:30AM St Mary

Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - Mass 4:30PM - St Michael

Monday, June 12 -13 No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

St Mary Parish Office will be closed - June 8, 9, 12
St Michael Parish Office will be closed - June 5

Made for More Event

Join us for a very well done nationally known event called, Made for More. Made for More is about Theology of the Body. Guest Speaker; Christopher West. This event is for all adults but is also good for families with teens. St. Mary and St. Michael are co-hosting this event with St. Mary, Spring Lake, MI. For more information please contact Rebecca Chicklon or Debbie Veneklas Debbie: 616-384-4026 or childrensministry@stmichaels.us Rebecca: 616-677-5065 or dre@saintmarysmarne.org



Please Pray for our Engaged Couples

Joe Heminger & Laura Wierman.....July 22, 2023 (St Michael)
Wyatt VanDyke & Olivia Killebrew..... July 29, 2023 (St Michael)
Christian Hall & Kayleigh Kutchin August 25, 2023 (St Michael)
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

June 4, 2023 ~ The Most Holy Trinity

St. Mary's Parish News

Religious Education

Congratulations

to all our Graduates! My God be with you as you enter this next step in life. Act as if everything depends on you, trust as if everything depends on God. Go forth and set the world on fire. ~St. Ignatius of Loyola

VBS Donations:

Please consider making a donation for Vacation Bible School by donating snacks, gift cards and other items needed. Thank you!

Vacation Bible School:

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. The VBS Team will serve June 10-16. VBS is for children aged 4 years old-to entering 5th grade and will be held June 12-15, 6-8:30 p.m.

2023-24 Sacrament Prep: It's time to save your child's spot for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation preparation. Please contact Rebecca Chicklon to register. Thank you.

Questions or comments:

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

High School Youth Ministry

See Cluster Page for more information.



Catholic Service Appeal 2023

Thank you for your gifts to 2023 Catholic Services Appeal! Your generous support funds essential diocesan ministries that strengthen us in Christ. Remember that any amount collected over the goal will stay in the parish. If you have not responded, please do so as soon as possible. Learn more at GRdiocese.org/CSA

CSA 2023 Pledge Goal: \$51,834.00

Total Pledges Made: \$34,760.00 (58%) Balance: \$17,074.00

Participation: 93 of 292 Active Households (32%)

Totals as of May 30, 2023 **Thank you for your stewardship!**



Knights of Columbus #11581 News

Congratulations to the newly elected 2023/24 K of C Council #11581 Officers

Grand Knight Rob Rander
Deputy Grand Knight Bruce Kamp
Recorder Doug Frantz
Treasurer Joe Lothschutz
Chancellor Gary Karr
Advocate Steve Lampe
Warden Matt Karr
Inside Guard Jim Lown
Outside Guard Jim Kulhawik
Trustee 3 Carl Spence
Trustee 2 Dave Benedetti
Trustee 1 Jim Lothschutz
Financial Secretary Paul Lothschutz

To learn more about the Knights of Columbus' activities and what they do to support our parish community, the surrounding area, please contact Grand Knight: Rob Rander at: robrand-er82@gmail.com or come to a General Membership Meeting. Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in St Mary's Parish Hall. For more info please visit: <https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/knights-of-columbus>

October 8 -

Community Breakfast and Blood Drive

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



Stay Connected & Informed

Do we have the right personal information on file? Did you get rid of your land line? Do you have a new cell phone number? Do we have your most recent email address on file? Are you getting your "Church News" emails from the office? If not, be sure to call the Parish Office and update your contact information with us.



Save the Dates

| | |
|------------|--|
| June 12-15 | Vacation Bible School |
| August 4 | Mass of Hope, Health and Healing |
| Sep 10 | Parish Picnic |
| Sept 12-16 | Parish Directory Pictures- Watch for Sign Ups and more Info. |
| October 8 | Knights of Columbus Councils Breakfast & Blood Drive |

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.

Meal Train for Fr Mike

Fr Mike has been enjoying his weekly homemade meals from our Parish Family. THANK YOU to everyone that has prepared a meal for him. It is very much appreciated. We do have a few open spots. Please take a moment to see if there is a date that would work for you to drop off a meal. It does not have to be fancy, he is very easy to please! 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)

Giving Back to God

| | May 27/28 |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Regular Contributions | \$3664.05 |
| Capital Improvement | \$20.00 |
| Online Contributions | \$985.00 |
| Children's Contributions | \$4.25 |
| Total | \$4673.30 |

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

SUPERIOR MONUMENT

2470 Arthur ~ 616.677.5921 ~ Ruth Brown

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

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

WE ARE MADE FOR MORE.

A Q&A WITH CHRISTOPHER WEST AND MIKE MANGIONE

As parishes and families try to keep up with a fast-moving world where the definition and purpose of our humanity seem to constantly change, an eye-opening and breathtakingly beautiful national touring event called **Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land** is coming to **St. Mary's, 406 E Savidge St. Spring Lake, MI at 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 17, 2023.**

"Where do we come from and where are we going? If we don't have compelling answers to these questions, we have no orientation in our lives," says Christopher West, world-renowned teacher of St. John Paul II's liberating vision of human life and love called "Theology of the Body."

The event, led by West and internationally touring folk/Americana musician Mike Mangione, will dive deeply into life's deepest questions and provide both grounding and great hope.

"This is not just a lecture or a talk," insists West. "It's an evening of beauty and reflection that weaves music, video, images and the spoken word into a message of hope that there really is a banquet of love that corresponds to the deepest hunger of our hearts."

West and Mangione recently spoke to the media about some of these clues and much more, including the transformation they hope takes place in those who attend **Made for More**. **The evening is hosted by St. Mary's.**

What is Made for More? Why is this your



Christopher West (left) and Mike Mangione.

focus?

Christopher West: We call it **Made for More** because we yearn for so much more than what the world is telling us. The world understands that we are creatures of hunger and passion, but they lead us to what I call "the fast food gospel," which is the promise of immediate gratification for that hunger. Many people think Christianity, on the other hand, is an invitation to a "starvation diet." No! That's not the Gospel. Christianity is an invitation to an infinite feast of life-giving love, and that's what this event is all about.

Mike Mangione: It's a presentation meant to meet you where you are and bring you to a place of communion. It is the culmination of Christopher's 25 years in this work, my 15 in music and our friendship. It is a conversation through sight and sound about how God reveals himself through creation and how our

desires are meant to draw us closer to Him. It is a special and unique opportunity coming to your area.

It is my focus because it addresses the question of what it means to be human, Christian, Catholic right at a crucial moment in our history. We really need to look at these questions before we lose ourselves and slip into a stale state of indifference as a culture.

How is it different from other Catholic presentations?

MM: It is broad and relevant to all types of people. "Catholic talks" tend to be more on a specific element of the Catholic tradition/faith. This talk will be focused on the human heart no matter where it has been before. This presentation uses sight, sound, video, music, and images to reveal, teach and enable us to experience something communally as a group.

CW: Catholicism is a sensual religion – meaning, we experience the divine in and through our bodies, through our senses. And this event is designed to engage your senses, to wake them up and enable a new way of seeing, of hearing, of experiencing the world.

Mike, what is your role in the event? What are you trying to convey through your music?

MM: I am a co-creator as well as the musician for the event. My goal is to facilitate an experience that is communal between presenters, recipients and the Holy Spirit. I call it the Holy Campfire experience ... where we can all gather around and discuss the deepest mysteries of what it means to be human and be part of the human mystery. It is sometimes easier to achieve this with music because, like most art forms, it is often felt first and understood later. My aim is to create an event that brings the audience into the experience rather than just simply watching a talk.

Christopher, what are you trying to convey through your presentation?

CW: We're taking people on a journey through some particular words of Christ. We start with: "They look but do not see." So we've been trained to look at the world, but not see it; to look at the human body, for instance, but not see it. All of creation has a message, and Jesus says, "Come and become one who sees." He's in the business of giving sight to the blind.

The great battle between lightness and darkness is particularly intense in the world today. The meaning of our humanity is being eclipsed. The goal of this event is really to help turn the lights on for people, so they can see the mystery of God revealed through all of creation, and especially through our own humanity, our own bodies as male and female. Through that "coming to see," our eyes are opened in stunning new ways to God's plan for creation and for our own lives.

Mike, what is the "dance" between your music and Christopher's presentation?

MM: There are places music can go that the spoken word cannot. There is so much

happening at once: lyrics, melody, instrumentation etc. All of these things can combine into a potent force that can pierce the heart. Sometimes the spoken word can tease out very clear ideas in a way that music never can. Combined, if done correctly, you can create a full head and heart experience. We try to create an experience where Christopher sets up a thought or a vision and then the music helps to prayerfully reflect upon it.

Is Made for More just for adults and parents? Or can youth attend?

MM: **Made For More** is for everyone who is ready to ponder the questions "Who am I, what am I, and where am I going?" This event is for married, single, celibate, Catholic, non-Catholic, devout, skeptic, youth and ... experienced.

Why is art and beauty essential to the event?

CW: Art is the language of the heart and the heart is wired for beauty, but, sadly, a lot of us are anesthetized in the modern world. "Anesthetized" actually means "numb to beauty." We want to wake people up to beauty, and through that, help people get in touch with their deepest yearnings. That's where we discover the great mystery we are all part of.

How can Made for More transform a parish? How can it help the priest and parish leadership?

MM: **Made for More** can tenderize the hearts and dig the furrows for the Holy Spirit to drop seeds and cultivate. We provide post-event resources that help those seeds take root and potentially grow into something beautiful and life-giving. Any seeds dropped in the right conditions can provide an abundant harvest.

What would you like attendees to come away feeling?

MM: Empathy, affirmation and hope.

CW: That they're not crazy to yearn for more than what this world offers. They're not crazy to want to be loved and affirmed as they are, behind the masks, warts and all. They're not crazy to imagine a world where every tear is wiped from the eye and every cry of the heart is answered. It's called "the promised land," and we want to give people a vision of it.

MADE FOR MORE
VISIONS OF THE PROMISED LAND

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023 at 7 p.m.

St. Mary's

406 E Savidge St.
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Tickets: \$25 available at:

M4MMI.

EVENTBRITE.COM

Dear Padre,

Two relatives of mine died from a disease for which they never sought treatment. Both said, “God will heal me if that is his will.” Wouldn’t God have wanted them to see a doctor?

It is safe to say that God would have them see a doctor. Does doing so compromise our faith in God? No. Throughout all of salvation history, God has relied on human beings to be his instruments, his messengers. While we believe in God, who can and has acted miraculously throughout history, these moments are exceptions, not the rule. Ordinarily, God’s work is done by human hands. The spread of the gospel itself has come about through people who have responded to God in faith.

Part of this gospel story is the healing ministry of Jesus. Christianity has from the beginning taken up Jesus’ ministry of healing and attempted to restore health to the sick, not only through prayer and the sacraments but also through institutions that care for the sick and the dying. Even as we recognize that our primary relationship is with God, we must also see that caring for our lives and our health, gifts from that same God, is a responsible way to receive and be good stewards of these gifts.

Think of the training, knowledge, and experience that doctors, nurses, and all other health-care practitioners have spent years attaining. Is not their work a miracle of God’s love when it brings healing, restoration, and renewal? ●

Excerpted from *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices: 50 Questions from the Pews*; © 2011 Liguori Publications / DearPadre.org



HYPHEN STORY / SHUTTERSTOCK

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| June 5 <i>St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr</i> Tb 1:3; 2:1b-8 Mk 12:1-12 | June 6 <i>Weekday</i> Tb 2:9-14 Mk 12:13-17 | June 7 <i>Weekday</i> Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a Mk 12:18-27 | June 8 <i>Weekday</i> Tb 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a Mk 12:28-34 | June 9 <i>Weekday</i> Tb 11:5-17 Mk 12:35-37 | June 10 <i>Weekday</i> Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20 Mk 12:38-44 | June 11 <i>Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)</i> Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a 1 Cor 10:16-17 Jn 6:51-58 |

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Today we can ask ourselves...do I, who profess faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, truly believe that I need others in order to live, that I need to give myself to others, that I need to serve others? Do I affirm this in words or do I affirm it with my life?

ANGELUS, ST. PETER’S SQUARE, JUNE 12, 2022

CNS PHOTO/DAVE HRBACEK, THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT