

[Jesus] was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

MATTHEW 17:2

The Gift of Mystery

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In life there are moments that some call **transcendence**, when the divine shines through the human and the veil that seems to cloak another world falls ever so briefly to reveal that there are not two worlds but only one wrapped in mystery. That is what took place on a mountaintop when Peter, James, and John realized that this Jesus with whom they talked and walked and shared meals, this friend, this very ordinary one, was so much more, was extraordinary, was “of God.” While real, it seemed better not to tell anyone about what they had seen.

Are there also moments in our lives when the human glows with the divine, when we come to realize more clearly than ever before that there is another power at play in life than you yourself? Most assuredly. While we are powerless to create such experiences of transcendence, more than 100 years ago the psychologist William James described such moments when they do occur. He identified four qualities in such experiences: 1) they seem closer to being emotional than intellectual or cognitive; 2) they tend to bring us new understandings of life and of what is, akin to insights, though they cannot be found in a book or be taught; 3) they tend to be very brief, a few seconds for most people; and 4) there is a sense of being sustained by a superior power. This was the apostles’ experience of the transfiguration, the feast we celebrate today. ●

Reflect

Have you had an experience of the transcendent that changed 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@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 or Judy Driedger, 616.899.2470

Mass Intentions

Saturday August 5

4:30PM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by Family **MA**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday August 6

8:30AM † Pete & Marge Ferwerda by Pam Raczkiewicz **MI**
10:30AM † Pat O'Connor by Margie Jirous **MA**
4:30PM † Edna Schumaker by Norma Umlor **MI**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday August 7..... No Mass

Tuesday August 8

† Monica Zahm by M/M Duane Perrin **MA**
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday August 9

† Jamie Thomas by Richard & Mary Baker **MI**
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

Thursday August 10

9:00AM † Gene Hodges by His Children **MA**

Friday August 11

9:00AM † John VanDenBrink by Larry & Sheri Lenhart **MI**

Saturday August 12

4:30PM † Judy Wensink by M/M Duane Perrin **MA**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday August 13

8:30AM † Al Spencer by Winne Spencer & Family **MI**
10:30AM † Bruce LeMieux by Mary LeMieux and Family **MA**
4:30PM † Gene Hodges by Fr. Mike **MI**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

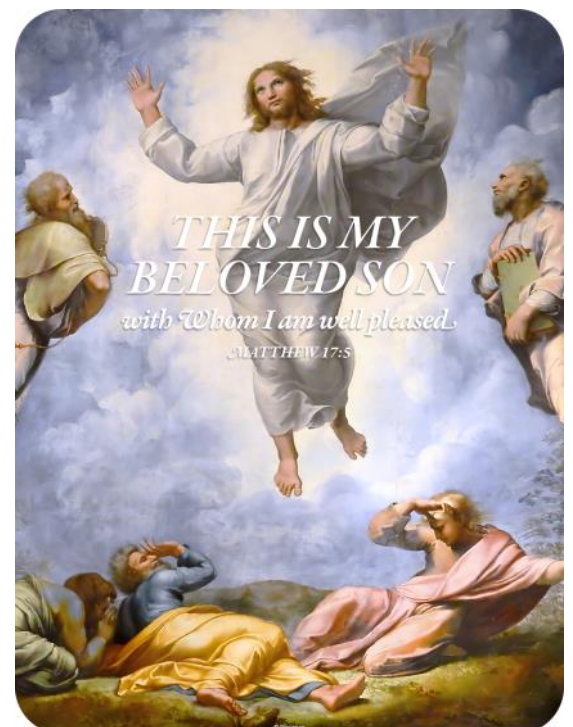
MA=St. Mary **MI**=St. Michael's

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Aug 13 / 8:30 AM	Aug 13 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Melena Lindberg Lauren Meerman	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Denise Parish Zach Nelson Andrew Bonter Cindy Lindberg Joe Hitchings Rosemary Weigel	NEED TWO
Lector	Kevin Schumaker	Carol Reens
Sacristan	Judy Driedger	NEED ONE
Ushers	Ed Irwin Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich Jim Ponshair	NEED TWO
Music	Anna Jonaitis	Anna Jonaitis

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	August 12 - 4:30PM	August 13 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Vito Dolci	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Noah Davis Calvin Davis
Precious Body	Kathy Gomez Jose Gomez Julie Lothschutz	Deacon Tom Jim Looks Marian Looks
Precious Blood	Mary Kirkwood Kay Willcome Deb Hapon Need One	Margie Jirous Becky Warners Janette Ney Need One
Hospitality	Steve Lampe Austin Lampe Michelle Lampe Need One	Bruce Kamp Marcia Kamp Leonard Horter Need One
Lector	Geary Farrell	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko



St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Thank you to our 8 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$104.73.



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

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 \$43,625.00 (or 73.59%) 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.

Elementary Faith Formation: Grades 1-5 are now on Summer Break. Classes will resume in September.

Middle School Faith Formation: Grades 6, 7 and 8 are on Summer Break. Classes 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 +Carl Goosen
by Marcy Goosen and Family



St. Michael's Chicken Dinner

Come one, come all. Our parish festival is August 27, 2023! We will have big raffle, chicken dinner, mini-affle, kids' tent, grocery wheel . . . something for all ages! We will need many volunteers to help out. Sign-up sheets are in the glass hallway. There will be another festival meeting on August 13, after 8:30 AM Mass.

Large Raffle: We are looking for a chairperson to lead this important event. Raffle tickets will be available after Masses. We are asking that each family try to sell at least 2 packets.

Mini Raffle: You may bring donated items into the office during regular hours. If you would like to donate money for the committee to purchase items, please do so by August 20.

Kitchen: In need of donations — 2 large decaf canisters of coffee; 2 large regular canisters of coffee; fresh cherry tomatoes; 1 jug of bleach; 1 large bottle of dish soap.

Country Store: The following is meant to be suggestions only: any and all baked goods, canned preserves, pickles, fruits, homemade jewelry, greeting cards, quilts, wood work, ceramics, homemade doll clothes, produce and herbs from your garden, honey, homemade soap. And books are always welcomed! If you aren't sure it is appropriate for the Country Store, please call Mary Turbessi 231-865-3468 or Cindy Lindberg

Pie Collections: We will take a special collection for pies today and August 13.

Please contact our co-chairs, Cindy Lindberg (616-822-1213) or Jenny Lindberg (616-862-3588), with any questions.

Giving Back to God

July 30, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$2,893.00
Loose Cash	\$229.00
Children's Envelopes	\$11.90
Online Giving	\$760.00
Total	\$3,893.90
Pie Collection	\$45.00

Thank you for your continued support!

August 6, 2023 ~ The Transfiguration of the Lord

Cluster News and Community News and Events

Baby Bottle Drive Update ~ THANK YOU

Dear Fr. Hodges and the St. Mary's & St Michael's Parish Community, Thank you from HELP Pregnancy Aid for the Baby Bottle Collection this spring which collected over \$3000 dollars. The generous support given to our mission of serving women and families of our community, is a meaningful way to celebrate LIFE. Because of this generous help we are able to walk alongside families who are struggling and in need of assistance in a significant way. HELP averages over 360 clients a month so your thoughtfulness goes a long way and makes a big impact in the community. May the blessings you bestow on us return to you a hundredfold. Thank you, Paula Veneklasen HELP Pregnancy

Diocesan Assembly 2023:

Share your Encounter

Catholics of the diocese are invited to participate in Diocesan Assembly 2023: **Saturday, Sept. 30 - 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.** on at Cathedral Square Center. This year's keynote speaker will be Father René Constanza, CSP, president of the Paulist Fathers and former rector/pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew and executive director of the Catholic Information Center. The conference will be offered in-person and online. The in-person and livestreamed sessions will be presented concurrently in English and Spanish. Cost of the in-person event is \$15 (includes lunch) Registration to attend via livestream is free. For registration info:

Contact Jen at jbaxter@grdiocese.org

Please Pray for our Engaged Couples

Christian Hall & Kayleigh Kutchin

.....August 25, 2023 (St Michael)

Marissa McDonald & Christopher Barczak

.....October 7, 2023 (St Mary)

Julia Delaney & Logan Brouwer

.....April 13, 2024 (Cathedral of St Andrew)

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



Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry (6-12 Grade)

Summer is more than half way over! There are just a couple more Youth Ministry events left this summer. Event info, 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. Middle School Youth are those entering 6-8 grade this 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



In the past couple of weeks, I have had the honor of officiating at the marriages of two young couples at St. Michael's. The joy and anticipation of the bride and groom was palpable. But so also was the nervousness and possible trepidation about what exactly they were doing. The lack of surety that most of us have when making major moves in our lives. A genuine leap of faith into the unknown.

What is marriage? What is marriage really like? Statistics suggest that "happily ever after" occurs no more than 50% of the time, considering how many couples divorce. Is marriage like the movies, and, if so, which movies? There are so many possibilities! How many marriages are like their parents' marriage? Is that a good thing? What do we think marriage is really like? And why do we think that? Because of what we've read? or dreamed about? Because of our experiences with dating, or because of what we've seen or heard from couples?

Marriage is a pretty common experience. It's all around us; it's existed through most of human history and in almost all cultures. Most people get married at some point in their life. Why do they do that? What are they looking for? What do they hope to get? Why not just live together? Or date forever?

It doesn't matter whether people are single, playing the field, celibate, hooking up, commitment-phobic, in a serious relationship, recovering from a breakup, living together, married, divorced, or widowed. The thoughts and assumptions and opinions and values that each person has about marriage are guiding their actions and influencing their relationships every day. There are lots of words that can be used to characterize those thoughts, such as ideas, dreams, judgments, presumptions, evaluations, or conclusions. Some of those beliefs may be "spot on" and others may be "off the wall."

Experience suggests that a fair number of people, including clergy, have expectations and beliefs about marriage that aren't very realistic. There are lots of ways to say that: messy thinking, distorted cognition, denial, ignorance, and false conclusions, to name a few. And if people start with unrealistic expectations, they are likely to end up very disappointed, whether they are starting to date or in a long-term relationship. They may then experience incongruity between their lived experience and what they expect, or hope for, want, or need; the expectations don't match up with your reality. In addition, American society has radically increased its general expectations of marriage so that many people are looking for the one person who can fulfill their every want and need and provide them with a very high level of life satisfaction until they die.

Over the centuries humanity has collected a large number of irrational beliefs and ideas. We call them myths because they are widely held but false or flawed ideas. Like some myths, they contain some truth (or people would not have held onto them). Therefore, myths continue to guide personal and social behavior. When people believe a "myth" about marriage, it influences how they select the people they date, who they choose to marry and how they interact with their spouse.

A cautionary note; at some point, we may think to ourselves or hear someone assert that "**X is not a myth!**" We may have heard someone sincerely state that myth, or perhaps we've read it on the internet somewhere, or maybe we know couples like that, and it doesn't seem to be a problem. It's just possible that we believe that myth yourself, and that can be a shock. Just because we can't see that it's a problem doesn't mean it isn't.

Coopersville Cares Benefit Sale

Thursday's Early Bird Sale, \$5 admission, Aug. 17, 2023, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday free admission, Friday, Aug. 18, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.-noon - At Grace Lutheran Church, 300 E. Cleveland We will be able to accept donations at Grace Lutheran Church On; Tuesday and Wednesday - Aug 15 & 16 - 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. (please do not drop off prior to these dates or times) Coopersville Cares is a nonprofit charitable organization, dedicated to assisting area residents in need. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time, please contact Christy at kcalderink@gmail.com

Meal Train for Fr Mike

Have you signed up yet? It really is as easy as making an extra serving of whatever you are preparing your family for dinner. Put it in a microwavable container and drop it off at the Parish Office on our way to (or home) from work.. Or call the office to make special drop off arrangements. (Sign up online: or call the parish office)

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/8vv97n>

August 6, 2023 ~ The Transfiguration of the Lord

St. Mary's Parish News

Religious Education

Religious Education meets on Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m. and will resume in September.

Children's Liturgy of the Word meets during the 10:30 a.m. Mass and will resume in the fall.

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.

School Supply Drive

Our Lady of Fatima Guild is hosting their annual school supply drive. Donations of backpacks, lunch boxes, pencils, notebooks, markers, and other school supplies would be appreciated.

Donations will be collected July 22- through Aug 14.

There will be a box in the Narthex to place your donations.



Save the Dates

August 22	Back to School Bash-Vets Park 5PM
August 27	St Michael Parish Festival
Sep 10	St Mary Parish Picnic
Oct 8	Knights of Columbus Council #11581 Breakfast & Blood Drive
Oct 24	Flute Recital - St Mary 7:30PM
Nov 3	Mass of Hope, Health & Healing St Mary 7:00PM
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Eve Mass, Grocery Collection
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Day Mass

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.

CSA 2023 Pledge Goal: \$51,834.00

Total Pledges Made: \$41,410.00 (80%)

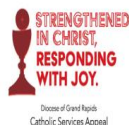
Balance: \$10,424.00

Participation: 110 of 292 Active Households (38%)

Totals as of July 31, 2023

Thank you for your stewardship

Please Note, if we do not reach the parish goal set by the diocese, the shortage will need to come out of our church operating account. Please help us reach our goal and send in your pledge card this week! If you have returned your CSA pledge card, thank you! If you have not responded, please do so as soon as possible



Transfiguration of the Lord ~ August 6, 2020

The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord recalls the revelation of Christ's glory on Mount Tabor in the presence of three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John. Christ was transfigured before their eyes, shining with divine light, and He was joined by Moses and Elijah, representing the Old Testament Law and the prophets. The Transfiguration occurred in the early months of the year after Jesus revealed to His disciples that He would be put to death in Jerusalem and before He made His way to Jerusalem for the events of His Passion during Holy Week.

Prayer: O God, who in the glorious Transfiguration of your Only Begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of faith by the witness of the Fathers and wonderfully prefigured our full adoption to sonship, grant, we pray, to your servants, that, listening to the voice of your beloved Son, we may merit to become co-heirs with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Parish Picnic Planning Meeting ~ August 8-6PM

THANK YOU SO MUCH to everyone that attended the Parish Picnic Meeting. It was a great turn out with a lot of great ideas. The Next Planning Meeting will be on **Tuesday, August 8 at 6PM**. The Meeting will be held in the church community room. Please plan on attending the meeting to see what you can do to help your parish picnic.

Be sure to save the date for Our

St Mary's Parish FAMILY REUNION Mass & Picnic

It will be **Sunday, September 10**. Join your parish

family (past & present) for an afternoon of

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN! Grilled Hamburgers &

Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Chips and

Punch & Punch will be provided.. Please bring a DESSERT to share..

All are Welcome! Come and Visit... Stop by and say HI to your old friends and make some new friends. 50/50 Raffles, Yard Games, LIVE Music, Cake Walk and More...

10:30AM Mass at the Cemetery Altar. (Please bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement

weather, Mass will be celebrated inside) Picnic Reunion will be at the Parish Hall at

12PM. Please RSVP... Sign Up Sheets in the Narthex. Questions call the Parish Office

or email secretary@saintmarysmarne.org



Knights of Columbus #11581 News

To learn more about the Knights of Columbus' activities and what they do to support our parish community, the surrounding area and the world, please contact Grand Knight: Rob Rander at: robrander82@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.

Next Meeting - September at 7PM at the Parish Hall.

Save the Date: October 8

Community Breakfast and Blood Drive Register here:

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



Giving Back to God

	July 29/30
Regular Contributions	\$3868.25
Capital Improvement	\$200.00
Online Contributions	\$620.00
Children's Contributions	\$12.00
Total	\$4700.25

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

THE STONE ZONE

14100 Ironwood Dr. ~ 616.677.3112

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

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

Dear Padre,

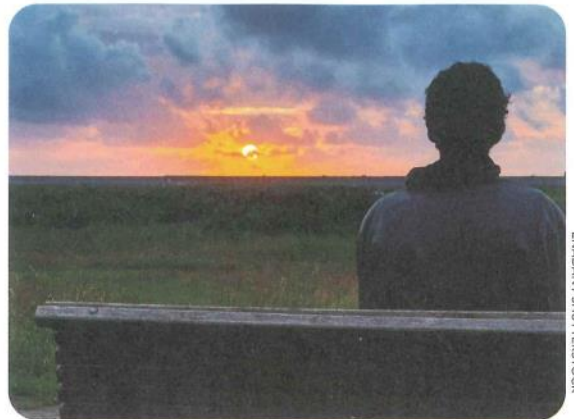
For the past year or so I have been trying to pray on a regular basis, but I am constantly distracted. My mind wanders so easily. Do you have any suggestions?

Distractions in prayer are an inescapable part of the human condition and the result of our imagination. Even great saints experienced distractions in prayer, and some of their suggestions may help. When St. Thérèse of Lisieux struggled with prayer, she would recite an Our Father or a Hail Mary or read from the Gospels. Praying an act of faith or returning to God's presence and love can turn our focus away from other concerns, but even then, distractions may still arise.

When we become aware of them, we should calmly renew our focus and continue our prayer. Saint Teresa of Ávila offers this guidance: "We should not be distressed by reason of our thoughts, nor allow ourselves to be worried by them....The thing is inevitable, therefore do not let it disturb or grieve you" (*The Interior Castle*). No matter how often distractions return or how long they last, they are not sinful. Rather, they are opportunities to show God that we are sincere about praying.

Saint Alphonsus, another great teacher of prayer, reminds us that prayer is necessary, beneficial, and always possible. Hang in there, he says, because the devil would like nothing better than for you to stop praying. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



EMADAN / SHUTTERSTOCK

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
August 7	August 8	August 9	August 10	August 11	August 12	August 13
Weekday	St. Dominic, Priest	Weekday	St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr	St. Clare, Virgin	Weekday	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Nm 11:4b-15	Nm 12:1-13	Nm 13:1-2,	2 Cor 9:6-10	Dt 4:32-40	Dt 6:4-13	1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a
Mt 14:13-21	Mt 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14	25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35 Mt 15:21-28	Jn 12:24-26	Mt 16:24-28	Mt 17:14-20	Rom 9:1-5 Mt 14:22-33



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We have not seen with our own eyes the face of Jesus shining like the sun. However, we too were given the Word of Salvation, faith was given to us, and we have experienced the joy of meeting Jesus in different ways. Jesus also says to us: "Rise, and have no fear" (Matthew 17:7).

ANGELUS, MARCH 8, 2020