

Called to Be Faithful

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Somewhere in every life, along its twisting curving path, we find ourselves wondering if we would not be better off somewhere else doing something different, as if with the flip of the channel we could live a parallel life. Except that changing life is never that simple. And so we live on with our foibles and our insecurities. We make do for one more day in a job that is less than satisfying, or a relationship that is worn and fraying, or caring for aging parents as we juggle the needs of two households. In every niche of life, we may find ourselves dealing with difficult people, listening to others' woes, wondering if anyone cares. Like

the prophet Jeremiah, we can feel we've been duped by the Lord God.

We don't need to go looking for crosses. They come our way. And it is our crosses that allow us to save our lives by losing our lives. It is these very same lives from which we wish we could escape that bring us to holiness, if for no other reason than that we *do* struggle not to have our own way all the time. Spirituality has been defined as an inner set of values by which we live an outer set of circumstances. As people of faith, we try to do just that: to live in the style of Jesus. Somehow, it seems that God brings us to places we should be. ●

Reflect

What does it mean to be faithful in the circumstances of your life?

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—frmhodes@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 September 2

4:30PM † Edmund "Trey" Eisenhower by M/M Richard Baker **MA**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday September 3

8:30AM † Elaine Schoenborn by Friends **MI**
10:30AM † Daniel Drong by Todd Davis Family **MA**
4:30PM † Sherman Hecksel by Ruth Hecksel..... **MI**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday September 4 No Mass

Tuesday September 5

9:00AM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by M/M John Grotenrath **MA**
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday September 6

9:00AM † Margaret Jonio by Anonymous **MI**
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

Thursday September 7

9:00AM † Gene Hodges & Kay Hodges by Children..... **MA**

Friday September 8

9:00AM † Eugene LeMieux by Joe LeMieux & Family **MI**

Saturday September 9

4:30PM † Karen Goodno by M/M Rob Rander **MA**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday September 10

8:30AM † Jamie Thomas by Mark & Val Patterson **MI**
10:30AM † Pat O'Connor by M/M Jim Lothschutz **MA**
4:30PM † Kay 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

	Sep 10 / 8:30 AM	Sep 10 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Bryson Lindberg Melena Lindberg	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Jennifer DeMull Chris Albrecht Joe Hitchings Zach Nelson Jennie Taylor Peter Nielsen	NEED TWO
Lector	Cindy Lindberg	Mark Phillips
Sacristan	Judy Driedger	Sue DeVos
Ushers	Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich Wade Lindberg Mary Bueche	NEED TWO
Music	Anna Jonaitis	Anna Jonaitis

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	September 9 - 4:30PM	September 10 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Need Two	Noah Davis Calvin Davis
Precious Body	Lisa Potts Butch Schoenborn Rose Mary Schoenborn	Deacon Tom Margie Jirous Need One
Precious Blood	Michelle Lampe Austin Lampe Deb Hapon Julie Lothschutz	Christina Withers Need Three
Hospitality	Bryson Potts MJ Potts Matt Potts Madison Potts	Rick Leale Jeanne Leale Leonard Horter Need One
Lector	Steve Lamp	Geary Farrell
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

Labor Day Blessing

Bless, O God, all those who labor. Whether they are compensated by paycheck or pride, let them know their true worth in your eyes. May all workers be gifted with a sense of service to the common good and graced with the satisfaction of a job well done. Thank you for those whose work provides protection, comfort, healing, and relief from suffering and stress. May all of our labors be for your goodness and glory.
Amen



St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Scrip numbers will be updated next week.

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!

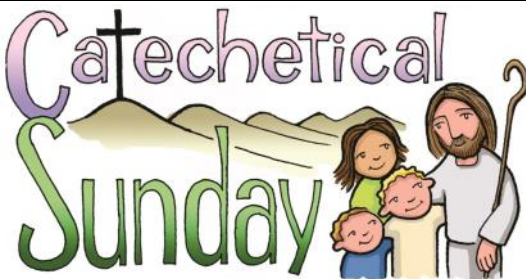


St. Michael's Faith Formation

Catechetical Sunday is September 17. The blessing of Catechists will be at the 8:30 AM Mass.

It is time to register for Faith Formation. Attention families with children ages 3 through grades 8.

Please registered your child for Faith Formation. You can find registration forms on the parish website and forms are also located in the church narthex. Contact Debbie if you have any questions (616)384-4026.



Children's Liturgy of the Word: program is offered on Sunday during 8:30 Mass. Children 3-9 years old are welcome to join us each week as we pray, read and explore the Sunday Gospel from a child's viewpoint. We include the Gospel Acclamation so children understand the importance of preparing our mind and heart for the Gospel reading. CLW **will start on 9/24.**

Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:15- 7:30 pm. Registration forms are in the back of church and on the parish website. **Classes start on 9/20.**

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. **Classes will begin on 9/24.**



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Merlin & Angela Steffes
by the Steffes Family

St. Michael's Parish Family

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

Finance Council — The Finance Council has an opening that needs to be filled. 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.

Parish Directory — We will be updating our parish directory this year, and we want you to be included! This will be done in-house, by a parishioner at St. Mary's. Please email a photo you'd like included to secretary@saintmichaels.us or call the Parish Office to set up a time to come in and have Beki take your photo for you. This directory will be available online, only to parishioners with a password. Hard copies will also be available for purchase.



Preliminary numbers show this year's festival was a huge success! Thank you again for all the hours of volunteer work that went into this event! Thank you to Cindy and Jennifer Lindberg, our co-chairs, for ALL their efforts. Please watch upcoming bulletins for the breakdown of all the financials.



Giving Back to God

August 27, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$3,771.00
Loose Cash	\$195.00
Children's Envelopes	\$10.00
Holy Day (the Assumption)	\$80.00
Total	\$4,056.00

Thank you for your continued support!

September 3, 2023 ~ The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cluster News and Community News and Events

Made for More with Christopher West

Oct 17- 7-9:30PM -St Mary's - Spring Lake, MI

Where do we come from and where are we going? These questions are DECISIVE for understanding what it means to be human and how to orient our lives and our actions toward authentic fulfillment. Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they creatively weave together dynamic presentations with live music, movie clips, YouTube videos, and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. You will come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will instill in you the sheer wonder and joy of being alive. Learn more: <https://www.stmarysl.org/made-for-more.html>
Purchase tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/made-for-more-spring-lake-mi-tickets-616079990837>

Michigan Catholic Women's Conference

Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. - Lansing Center

Women from across Michigan are invited to come together to focus on their faith and experience the fellowship of sisterhood in Christ Jesus. Be encouraged and inspired to ignite your spirit and grow in faith with inspirational Catholic speakers, praise and worship music, and the celebration of Mass with the bishops of Michigan. Tickets: \$72.50; seniors (62+) and students, \$65. Learn more and reserve your tickets at michigancwc.org. **Bus transportation is available from Grand Rapids and Spring Lake.** Cost is \$15 (in addition to your conference ticket). Reserve your seat at rebrand.ly/mwc23bus

Please Pray for our Engaged Couples

Marissa McDonald & Christopher Barczak

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

Julia Delaney & Logan Brouwer

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

Rachel Berg & Joseph Elenbaas

.....September 21, 2024 (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



Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry (6-12 Grade)

Youth Ministry will resume in the fall. Feel free to contact Rebecca for more details.

6th-12th grade youth are invited to help with the St. Mary Parish Picnic. If interested, please contact our Director of Youth Ministry, Rebecca Chicklon at the contact information listed below.

Questions or comments

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

Fr. Mike's Musings



"Back-to-School" is a time of great excitement, but also a time of great anxiety. For many families, it means having to adjust to a new routine, one that's often more demanding and stressful than the one they left behind. But it's also an opportunity. An opportunity to make a fresh start, to learn new things, and to grow up and become your best self. That's why we've put together this list of sermons for kids who are going back to school! These sermons will help you focus on the positive things that can come from starting over—like learning something new or making new friends—and help you find ways to embrace the change instead of fearing it. Back to school is a time of new beginnings. It's a time to start fresh, make new friends, and get ready for the year ahead. But it can also be a stressful time of year. We all have so much going on—we're working on new projects at work, we're trying to get our homes organized before the holidays hit us like a freight train, and we're just plain busy.

Kids are our future. And it's up to us all to make sure they get the right start in life. Even if we are not a parent or teacher ourselves, we recognize the critical role of helping kids to start off life with confidence. But what can we do? A speech from a famous athlete or politician can sometimes help, but their words may not reach everyone. An inspirational quote from an author or movie character can be effective too, but it may not always hit the mark for all students. As an educator and religious leader, I have always found that the Scriptures have always been a treasure trove of confidence-building wisdom—even in the days when I had little religious belief in my own life. Not surprisingly I had little confidence as well, consulting the Word of God changed that for me, as a student and as a teacher.

We do not have to be afraid. We can run to God with all of our struggles, fears and joys. Even in our failures, he will be there for us. In Romans 8:38-39, Paul talks about running to God as if it were a race or an athletic event—like we could win some kind of prize by doing so. But I think that's the best way to view prayer: like a race or game where we are running towards our Creator and keeping Him at "First Place" in our hearts and minds no matter what else may happen around us.

In 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul tells Timothy that God has not given us a spirit of fear. As His children who have been made new in Christ through Baptism and Confirmation, we should know that we have nothing to be afraid of as our children return to school. We know that no matter how big school may seem or how many people try to bring us down, with God's help, we can overcome anything that the world throws at us. And if we reflect that same Godly love and protection to those who seek to bring us down. Maybe, just maybe, they will come closer to God in their lives and we will have made a friend from an enemy. Truly a challenge to be embraced, no feared.

God has made us to be just the way we are, and that's a good thing. I know it doesn't seem like a good thing when kids make fun of the fact that we may wear glasses or that our hair is frizzy or that we are large in either height or weight or whatever else others use to try to bolster themselves. God wants us all to be happy, and He made us all with our personalities, our talents and skills—even those things we're not so great at—because He wants us to learn from them and grow stronger every day by loving ourselves in spite of others' criticism.

Fred Rogers (Mister Rogers), himself a Presbyterian minister, said it best when he told his young viewers that "I like you just the way you are." This is what God is telling us all through the Scriptures. This is why we should not be afraid when beginning a new journey in life, in this case, going back to school. We have no reason to fear if we believe that God is with us and He does indeed love us just the way we are.

*"To be, or not to be, that is the question,
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take Arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing, end them..."
(Hamlet, Act III Scene I)*

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 your 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>

St. Mary's Parish News

Religious Education

Religious Education meets on Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m. and will begin **September 27**. First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation Prep is offered through Religious Education.

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

Questions or comments:

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

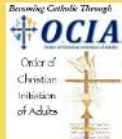
High School Youth Ministry

See Cluster Page for more information.

The OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation For Adults

is ready to begin weekly classes in preparation for receiving sacraments of initiation in the spring. Anybody (either baptized or unbaptized) who is interested in joining the Catholic Church should contact the parish office for more information, as should any person who was baptized Catholic but did not receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Please encourage anyone you know who may be interested.



Parish Directory

We are in the process of creating a NEW Parish Directory. We want YOU and your family to be included. Please send or drop off a family picture to the Parish Office. Contact Cathie 616.677.3934 for more info.

Save the Dates

Sep 10	St Mary Parish Picnic
Sept 30 & Oct 1	Knights of Columbus Scrap Metal Drive Parish Hall Parking Lot
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: \$45,230.00 (87%)

Balance: \$6,604.00

Participation: 119 of 292 Active Households (40%)

Totals as of August 29, 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



St Mary's Parish FAMILY REUNION Mass & Picnic - Sept 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 or SALAD 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. **Food will be served from 12:30PM to 2:30PM Please RSVP... Sign Up Sheets in the Narthex.**

Questions call the Parish Office

The LAST Planning Meeting will be held in the community room on Tuesday, September 5 at 7PM.



St Mary Adult Choir

Choir practice will begin on Thursday, September 7 at 7pm. Anyone high school age or older is invited to join us. If interested, please talk to Bernie after any Mass. For further information please contact our Music Director Bernie Stanko at (616) 490-3836 and leave a message. Or, by email: berniestanko@hotmail.com



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 Parish Hall.

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

Scrap Metal Drive - September 30 & October 1

St. Mary's - Marne Hall Parking Lot - SELF SERVE

Community Breakfast and Blood Drive - October 8

Register here::

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



Saint Mary Short Sleeve T-Shirt and Long Sleeve Crewneck Sweatshirt Sale!

Short Sleeve T-Shirts

\$15.00 Youth - S-XL & Adult -S-XL

\$18.00 2XL, 3XL

Crewneck Sweatshirt

\$25.00 Youth - S-XL & Adult - S-XL

\$28.00 2XL, 3XL

Samples & Order Forms available in the Narthex and Online.

Deadline to receive order and payment Sept.15.



Share your FAITH & spread Our Church Mission!

Giving Back to God

	August 27/28
Regular Contributions	\$4471.00
Capital Improvement	\$150.00
Online Contributions	n/a
Children's Contributions	\$13.80
Total	\$4634.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

GEORGE HOFACKER LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT

3633 4 Mile Rd NW ~ 616.784.2998

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

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

Dear Padre,

Are we supposed to pray a specific prayer after we genuflect and kneel in the pew before we take our seats? What about after Communion?

There is no particular prayer to say when we genuflect, enter the pew, and kneel for a while. Genuflecting and kneeling are powerful expressions and prayers in themselves—we kneel only to God. But these gestures can become mere routine unless we accompany them with a moment of awareness and recollection and maybe a prayer like, “I adore you, O Christ, and I bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.”

Neither are there required prayers to say in the moments after holy Communion as we return to the pew. But this is a most special time. “Holy souls endeavor to remain as long as possible in prayer after Communion,” wrote St. Alphonsus Liguori in *The Holy Eucharist*. “There is no prayer more agreeable to God, or more profitable to the soul, than that which is made during the thanksgiving after Communion.” Eucharist is from the Greek *eukharistia*, which means “thanksgiving,” and this is a time for giving thanks. We remain silently focused on the astonishing passion and affection of our Lord in giving himself to us to eat and make part of ourselves. So much depends on awareness; so much depends on gratitude. Prayer books may help us enter a time of thanksgiving. But we can also say simply, “Jesus, I love you.” ●



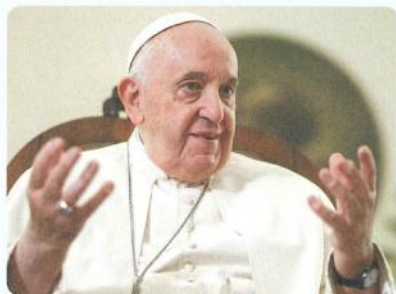
CNS PHOTO/MICHELE BABYAK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
September 4 Weekday	September 5 Weekday	September 6 Weekday	September 7 Weekday	September 8 Weekday	September 9 Weekday	September 10 Weekday
1 Thes 4:13–18 Lk 4:16–30	1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11 Lk 4:31–37	Col 1:1–8 Lk 4:38–44	Col 1:9–14 Lk 5:1–11	<i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Mi 5:1–4a or Rom 8:28–30 Mt 1:1–16, 18– 23 or 1:18–23	<i>St. Peter Claver, Priest</i> Col 1:21–23 Lk 6:1–5	<i>Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Ez 33:7–9 Rom 13:8–10 Mt 18:15–20



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us make sure that the cross hanging on the wall at home, or that little one that we wear around our neck, is a sign of our wish to be united with Christ in lovingly serving our brothers and sisters, especially the littlest and most fragile. The cross is the holy sign of God's love.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 30, 2020

CNS PHOTO/ANTONELLO NUSCA, AMERICA MEDIA