



Late Bloomers

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

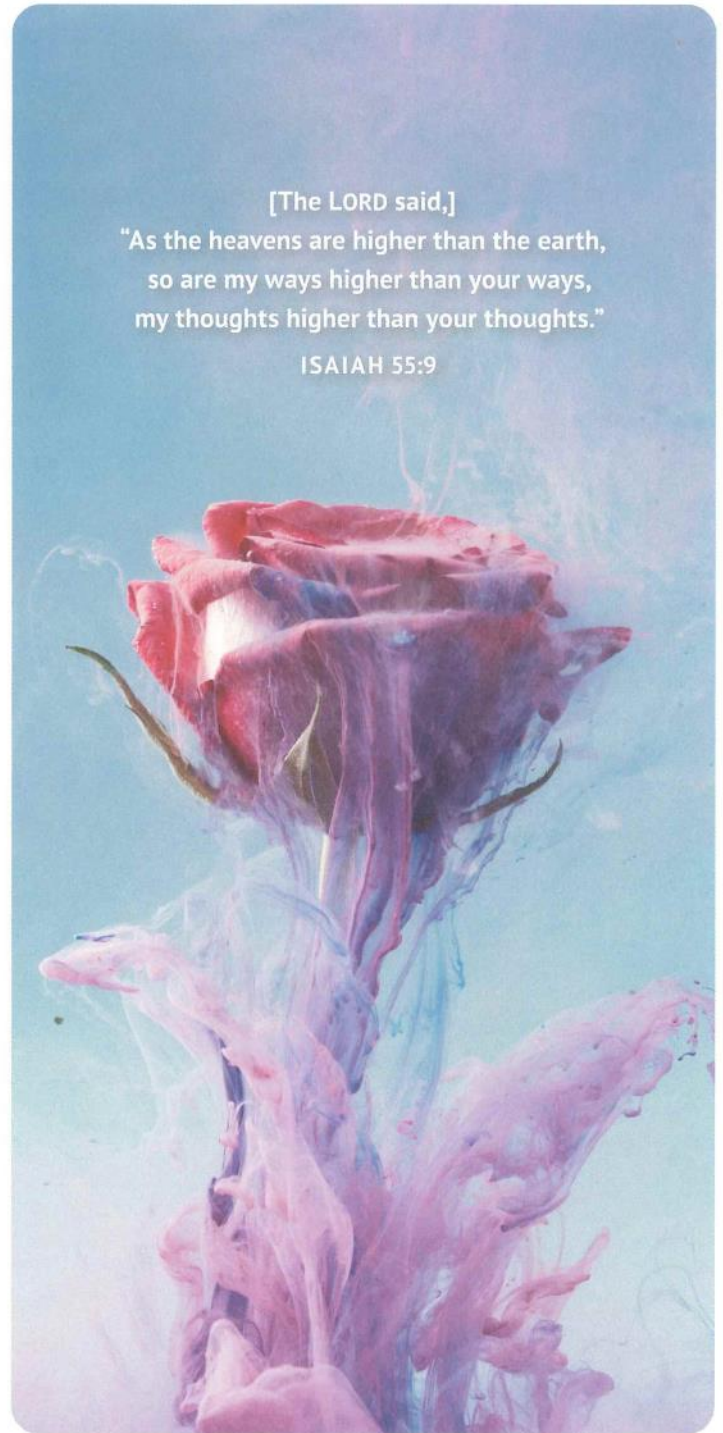
Human beings grow and mature at different paces. Turning twenty-one is no marker of maturity. We've all known the ten-year-old whom people say is already an old man because of how he thinks and acts. Just as surely, we've known the forty-year-old who still acts and dresses like a teenager. If this is true with human growth, would it not be true as well with growth in faith?

This Sunday's parable of the landowner who pays all his laborers the same even though they have not all worked the same amount of time often sparks the comment that it's not good business sense. But the parable is not about business. It's about how we all come to faith at different times in life, all according to God's plan, not ours. Why then do some complain about deathbed conversions as being unfair? Who's to say when someone finally catches up to God's love and goodness? Too often human wisdom and divine wisdom spin in different worlds.

Pope Benedict XVI once commented on this Gospel's wisdom and how we should be patient with young people as they seek the sacraments. Jesus was patient with us, he said, so we should follow his lead. Federico Lombardi, SJ, the Vatican spokesman for Pope Benedict, reported that the pope had commented, "I used to be more strict about this, but the example of Christ led me to become more welcoming in cases in which, perhaps, there is not a mature and solid faith, but there is a glimmer, a desire of communion with the Church." ●

[The LORD said,]
"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

ISAIAH 55:9



Reflect

Has your faith matured over the years, or have you stopped growing?

Mass Intentions

Saturday September 23

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

Sunday September 24

8:30AM † Mary Klein by Char Kluting **MI**
 10:30AM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by Joe Kline **MA**
 4:30PM † Edna Schumaker by Mike & Terri Kluting **MI**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday September 25 No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Tuesday September 26 No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Wednesday September 27 No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Thursday September 28 No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions
 6:30PM Pray for Our Priests Rosary & Silent Prayer **MA**

Friday September 29 No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

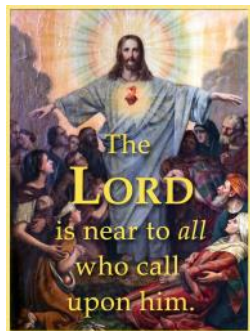
Saturday September 30

4:30PM † Sandy Klein by The Knights of Columbus #11581 **MA**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday October 1

8:30AM † Mary Klein by Char Kluting **MI**
 10:30AM † Rick Lothschutz by M/M Jim May **MA**
 4:30PM † Edna Schumaker by Mike & Terri Kluting **MI**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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



Scripture Readings For the Week of September 24, 2023

Sunday Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

Monday Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday Memorial of Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
 Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest
 Ezr 9:5-9; Tobit 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday Memorial of Saint Wenclaus, Martyr and Saint Lawrence Ruiz, and Companions, Martyrs
 Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; Lk 9:7-9

Friday Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels
 Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5; Jn 1:47-51

Saturday Memorial of Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Phil 2:1-11 or Phil 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Oct 1 / 8:30 AM	Oct 1 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Adalyn Taylor Melena Lindberg Kenzie Harker	Madelyn Jonaitis Molly Jonaitis
Eucharistic Ministers	Sharon Carlson Andrew Bonter Kenny Harker Denise Nelson Peter Nielsen Paul Schmidt NEED ONE	Greg Helsen Ken Schwallier
Lector	Jeff Johnson	Joe LeMieux
Sacristan	Chris Albrecht	Karen Helsen
Ushers	Ed Irwin Curt DeVos Joe Meerman Mary Bueche	Greg Helsen Bob Jonaitis
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	September 30 - 4:30PM	October 1 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Vito Dolci	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	MaKaelyn Britt Kassidy Britt	Lauren LeMieux Ty Ricord
Precious Body	Julie Lothschutz Mary Kirkwood Angie Hanks	Jim Looks Marian Looks Geary Farrell
Precious Blood	Sara Patterson Butch Schoenborn Rose Mary Schoenborn Kay Willcome	Christina Withers Becky Warners Margie Jirous Janette Ney
Hospitality	Need Four	Nettie Leale Rick Leale Jeanne Leale Rick Leale
Lector	Doug Frantz	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

25th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

"Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous? Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."
 Matthew 20:15-16

St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Scrip totals will be updated next week.

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.



St. Michael's Faith Formation

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



Attention parents of 1st or 7th graders: 1st graders' Parents! Do you know of a child that is attending 1st grade at a public school this fall? Please have their families contact the Parish Office now so that we can be sure to sign them up for Wednesday night classes. If a child is anticipating receiving their First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation, they will have to complete one year of Catechism class prior to preparing for these sacraments in second grade. Do you have a 7th grader or know one? Confirmation preparation begins in the 7th grade. If you know a student in 7th grade this fall, please spread the word to their parents now. They can still attend Faith Formation class.

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. In today's Gospel we learn that we should not feel jealous but be happy that God loves us all the same and he wants us all to be a part of his Kingdom. It does not matter if you've been working for God's Kingdom your whole life or if you have been doing so only a short time. In God's eyes we are all equal.

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 started this past Wednesday, but it is not too late to join us.** Contact Debbie if you have any questions. (616) 384-4026.

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 begin today.**



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Pete & Marge Ferwerda
by Pam Raczkiewicz

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

Ladies' Craft Night

Whether you enjoy scrapbooking, stamping, knitting, cutting labels, or just need a night out, come to the Family Center on Friday, September 29, from 6:30-11 PM. All are welcome, and there is no cost to attend.



A Fun Night of Trivia



At St. Michael's, on Oct. 7, 7-9 PM. Teams of 8 or less, please bring a snack to share and your own drink. Signup in the glass hallway.



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

September 17, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$3,358.00
Loose Cash	\$158.00
Children's Envelopes	\$8.25
Total	\$3,524.25
Building Fund	\$25.00
Endowment Fund	\$30.00

Thank you for your continued support!

September 24, 2023 ~ The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cluster News and Community News and Events

Venerate the Relic of St. Jude at its ONLY Grand Rapids Stop - October 9

The arm of St. Jude the Apostle is currently on pilgrimage around the United States – the first time it has left Italy. The faithful of the Diocese of Grand Rapids will have an opportunity to venerate and pray with the relic at its West Michigan stop:

Oct. 9 - Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Grand Rapids, Veneration Begins: 1 p.m. / Mass in honor of Saint Jude: 7 p.m. / Veneration Ends: 10 p.m.

To see the full pilgrimage schedule, including a handful of stops in the Diocese of Lansing:

<https://apostleoftheimpossible.com/tour-schedule/>

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 michiganwc.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.

Made for More

with Christopher West and Mike Mangione is Oct. 17. Tickets are available on line and you may contact Rebecca to purchase them as well.

Questions or comments

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



Fr. Mike's Musings



A common question that pastors or funeral planners are asked when dealing with family members of deceased parishioners or who are preparing for their own passing is: "Should Catholics be buried in a Catholic Cemetery?" While there is no mandate, it is highly recommended. It is a natural choice for those who share the same faith in life to continue that sense of community in death. When it comes to the issue of death, the sensibilities and needs of Catholics are unique and call for certain practices in the handling and care of the remains of the deceased. Therefore, in the blessed grounds of a Catholic cemetery, there are safeguards – mandated by the Church's Canon Law – which guarantee permanence, reverence, and respect for the remains of the deceased. But, again, it is not a requirement. My gravesite in Carson City is in the city cemetery next to my parents and grandparents, not across the road in Maryknoll Cemetery where one would naturally expect a priest to be interred.

Another question about Catholic burial practices is: "Who may be buried in a Catholic cemetery?" For this question there are set rules and requirements.

Non-Catholic spouses or relatives of Catholics who purchase the right of burial in a Catholic cemetery can be buried there. Catholic cemeteries have a long tradition of dedicated service to the Catholic community including non-Catholic's spouses, children, parents and other relatives.

Are people of all nationalities welcome? Of course. Remember that the very definition of 'Catholic' is 'Universal', meaning everyone regardless of ethnicity or language. Unfortunately, in the past human prejudices have dictated how a cemetery was laid-out regarding these differences.

To use Maryknoll Cemetery in my hometown as an example, there is a small area in the Northeast section of the grounds that was once dedicated solely to the burial of Hispanics. Even today it is called "Mexican Corner". The rest of the grounds were for the use of Anglos and Irish parishioners of St. Mary's (although there is a very small grouping on the North side comprised of Polish families).

Can someone who committed suicide be buried in a Catholic cemetery? Yes. It is recognized that those who die from the act of suicide deserve understanding and compassion. The deceased may have been suffering from a serious psychological issue or overwhelming fear and confusion. Therefore, the Church offers funeral and burial rites for those who have died as a result of suicide.

Fortunately, the "bad old days" of denying proper burial to suicides, divorced persons, and unbaptized children are long-gone and the idea has, hopefully, forever been chucked into the trash bin of history.

A tradition in the history of cemeteries that has faded in practice is the setting aside a portion of the grounds for the establishing of a "Potter's Field". This section would have been dedicated to the interment of indigent or unknown persons who could not have otherwise been able to purchase a gravesite of their own.

This practice has its roots in Scripture as detailed in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 27 verses 3-8. The purchase of the potter's field for the burial of foreigners by the Temple authorities with Judas' returned monies is seen as his repentance for the betrayal of Christ, and therefore is an act of reconciliation. The continued practice in the early Church is keeping with the sacramental nature of caring for the dead as well as seeing to the charitable care of our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

If there was such a practice at St. Mary in Marne (St. Michael's cemetery is too recent) please inform the parish office. This ground is unconsecrated as it was also the place where unbaptized children were buried. It is my practice, and that of many other priests, to consecrate the ground and to include those buried there in our prayers. It is a part of our charitable concern for our deceased brothers and sisters, and for those children who never had a chance to enjoy a full life on earth.

Meal Train for Fr Mike

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

Wedding Anniversary Mass ~ Oct. 22 at 10AM Mass

Together with your families, the Church in the Diocese of Grand Rapids honors the faithful witness to your vocation of marriage and wishes to celebrate with you. Bishop Walkowiak is inviting **all couples celebrating milestone anniversaries** to join him at the **10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew** for this annual celebration. A simple reception will immediately follow. Please RSVP by calling your parish office.

September 24, 2023 ~ The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Mary's Parish News

Religious Education

Religious Education meets on Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m. and will begin September 27.



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

The Made for More Event with Christopher West and Mike Mangione is Oct. 17. Tickets are available on line and will be sold after Masses.

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.

RCIA-

Rite 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.

St Mary Adult Choir

Choir practice is on Thursdays at 7pm. Anyone high school age or older is invited to join us. For further information please contact our Music Director Bernie Stanko at (616) 490-3836 and leave a message.

Save the Dates

Sep 26	Pray for Our Priests- Rosary 6:30-7:30PM
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



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: roblander82@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 - October 5 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



Knight Person of the Month for September - Bruce Kamp

Knight Family of the Month for September - Vito & Jeanne Dolci

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!



Sobie Meats - Gift Card Raffle- License #X08274

1st Place \$250.00 Gift Card

2nd Place \$150.00 Gift Card

3rd Place \$100.00 Gift Card

Tickets are \$10.00 for One Ticket or \$20.00 for Three Tickets-

Drawing will be November 2 - 8PM

Special Thanks to Tim & Teresa Sobie for their help with this raffle!



Parish Directory

We are in the process of creating a NEW Parish Directory. We want YOU and your family to be included. Please email a photo you'd like included to: secretary@saintmarysmarne.org or call the Parish Office to set up a time to come in and have Cathie take your photo for you. Contact Cathie 616.677.3934 for more info.

Pray for Our Priests ~ September 26- 6:30PM to 7:30PM

Every year the priests of our diocese attend a retreat together: fall convocation is an important time away from their parishes to build camaraderie, pray together, engage in continuing formation, and celebrate milestone anniversaries. While they're away, the faithful of our diocese are invited to gather in community to pray in a special way for our shepherds. It is a beautiful night around the diocese praying for our priests. A rosary will be led in participating churches at 6:30 p.m. followed by a time for silent prayer. Please pray fervently for our priests.



St Mary-Marne will participate again this year. Geary F. will lead the rosary at 6:30PM.

Please Note: Due to the Convocation, there will be a change in the weekly Mass schedule.

Please see page one of the bulletin for the weekly schedule.

Giving Back to God

	September 16/17
Regular Contributions	\$2625.00
Capital Improvement	\$125.00
Online Contributions	\$1805.00
Children's Contributions	\$33.00
Total	\$4588.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week
PUTT PUTTS BAR ~ The Fischer Family

1616.774.9129 ~ 1148 W. Fulton

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

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

Dear Padre,

When can I take photographs in church? During my niece's baptism, I was told to put my camera away. We have a confirmation and a wedding coming up, and I don't want to get in trouble again.

Reverence and courtesy are the issues here. Reverence keeps in mind that what is real about baptism and all the sacraments does not come out in photos. Courtesy notes that other folks are trying to enter into the awe and joy of the mystery, and people taking photographs can get in the way or distract.

Parishes differ in rules and regulations. Many parishes prohibit the taking of pictures. Certainly taking flash pictures is annoying in a way that taking available-light photos is not. But even with nonflash pictures, the photographer is trying to get around people and into a good spot.

Weddings call for photos from approved photographers. In most United States cultures, photos at funeral Masses are out of place. However, there are exceptions, such as the situation of an infirm woman who was unable to attend her sister's funeral. She was extremely upset until her niece thought to record it with her phone. The pastor had no problem with this solution.

No matter what the situation, it is always best to check with the parish office before the event. If it is permitted, get a few good pictures and then be sure to close your eyes in prayer so you can see what is really going on. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
September 25 Weekday Ezr 1:1-6 Lk 8:16-18	September 26 Weekday Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20 Lk 8:19-21	September 27 St. Vincent de Paul, Priest Ezr 9:5-9 Lk 9:1-6	September 28 Weekday Hg 1:1-8 Lk 9:7-9	September 29 Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a Jn 1:47-51	September 30 St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a Lk 9:43b-45	October 1 Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ez 18:25-28 Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 Mt 21:28-32



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus wants to make us contemplate the gaze of that landowner: the gaze with which he looks upon each of the laborers searching for work and calls them to go to his vineyard....It is a gaze which calls, invites one to get up and begin a journey because he wants life for each of us.

ANGELUS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017