



[Jesus said,] "Stay awake,
for you know neither the day nor the hour."

MATTHEW 25:13



The Light of Wisdom

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The dark of night can unsettle and frighten children, but darkness can disturb adults, too. It's not so much the feeling when the lights go off that unsettles us grownups as it is the dark of uncertainty. We graduate from school and wonder what to do with our lives. Should we stay in a relationship? How do we find meaning again in the midst of grief and the loss of someone we love? And sometimes most of all, where is God when we need God? We may even wonder whether to believe. At such times, we bump and bruise our way through the obstacles that life's darknesses cause.

Leonard Cohen's song "Anthem" echoes a note of hope when we feel lost in the dark as he sings about how light always seems to find a way to seep in between the cracks of our everyday living. Like stars that are visible only at night, new opportunities are often most readily recognized when we find ourselves stumbling through the dark.

Long before Leonard Cohen, Jesus told the parable of ten virgins, some wise and some foolish. In the midst of that story, he tells of a bridegroom who comes to the waiting virgin attendants at midnight. In other words, it is the Lord God who comes into our lives in the darkest times, if only we are wise enough to recognize such a coming.

How then to negotiate the darkness? Stay the course. In time, wisdom reveals a path. Trust that light will come, all in God's time and not ours. Finally, wisdom always comes in the darkest of times, seldom when our lives are bright as day. ●

Reflect

*When and how has God entered into
your darkness?*

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 November 11

4:30PM † Janet Felker by M/M Dave Hastings MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday November 12

8:30AM † Arden Bouchard by Kurt & Margaret Bouchard MI
10:30AM † Monica Zahm by M.N Joe Lothschutz MA
4:30PM † Merlin Steffes by M/M Joe Schweitzer MI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday November 13 No Mass

Tuesday November 14

9:00AM † Mark Madson by M/M Larry Antcliff MA
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday November 15

9:00AM † John Laug by Ruth Hecksel MI
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

Thursday November 16

9:00AM † Rita Goosen by M/M Dennis Goosen MA

Friday November 17

9:00AM † John VanDenBrink by Jim & Janice Holtrop MI

Saturday November 18

4:30PM † Paul Brown by M/M Dave Hastings MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday November 19

8:30AM † Marie Johnson by Ted Johnson & Family MI
10:30AM † Sandy Klein by M/M J Hansknecht MA
4:30PM † Michael Karbon by the Wendt's MI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

MA=St. Mary

MI=St. Michael's

Please Note: When there is a Funeral Mass or inclement weather (where Coopersville and/or Kenowa Hills Public Schools are closed.) Daily Mass will be cancelled. The Mass intention for that day will be rescheduled at our earliest opportunity.

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Nov 19 / 8:30 AM	Nov 19 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Adalyn Taylor Clare Taylor	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Jennifer DeMull Chris Albrecht Jeff Johnson Andrew Bonter Zack Nelson Debbie Veneklas Mark Phillips	NEED TWO
Lector	Cindy Lindberg	Joe LeMieux
Sacristan	Rosemary Weigel	Sue DeVos
Ushers	Wade Lindberg Ed Irwin Joe Meerman Mary Bueche	NEED TWO
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	November 18 - 4:30PM	November 19 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Matt Karr	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Need Two	Lauren LeMieux Ty Ricord
Precious Body	Deacon Tom Sara Patterson Need One	Janette Ney Margie Jirous Bruce Kamp
Precious Blood	Geary Farrell Mary Kirkwood Need Two	Need Four
Hospitality	Need Four	Anthony Leale Nettie Leale Leonard Horter Need One
Lector	Vito Dolci	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

Thanksgiving Mass Schedule

Please make plans to join us to praise God and give
Thanks for our great blessings.

Wednesday, Nov 22, 6PM at St Mary

Thanksgiving Eve Mass, Grocery Collection & Annual
St Mary's Slideshow

Thursday, Nov 23, 9AM at St Michael -

Thanksgiving Day Mass

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving, we ask your blessings
on our family, our friends, our home, our health and on the
food we eat.

We thank you for this time
together and the many gifts
that you have given us.
Help us to remember in this
time of bounty those less
fortunate. And may your love
consume us all that we might
share your glory.
Amen



St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Thank you to our 11 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$165.24.

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. For more info, call the Parish Office at 616-384-4026.



St. Michael's Faith Formation

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 this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we need to be prepared to welcome Him. **There will not be class Sunday, Nov. 26th due to Thanksgiving.**



Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:15- 7:30 pm. **There will not be class Wednesday, November 22nd, due to Thanksgiving. Have a safe and wonderful holiday.**

Middle School Faith Formation: Grades 6, 7 and 8 will meet on Sundays after the 8:30 am Mass from 9:45 to 11:15 in the Youth Room. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation. Please keep our Confirmation Candidates in your prayers as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 3:00 pm. at the Cathedral of St. Andrew. There will not be class on Sunday, November 26th, due to Thanksgiving.**

The Giving Tree: St. Michael's Middle School Faith Formation's has the Giving Tree in the Glass hallway. Parishioners are asked to take off as many ornaments as you would like and purchase a gift for the age listed on the tag. Please place these unwrapped presents in a bag and return them under the Giving Tree. The teens are often overlooked because they can be hard to buy for. We have a great solution. You can purchase a \$10.00 gift card from St. Michael's scrip program and place in the gift card box under the giving tree. You will be giving in two ways. All gifts need to be turned in no later than December 10th, so they can be delivered to Coopersville Cares. Thank you for your support and generosity. May God bless you as you have blessed others.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for Veterans & Servicemembers
by Jane Vitunskas



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.

Coffee and Donut Servers Needed!

Please sign up in the family center. Contact the parish office with ?'s or to volunteer to be scheduled on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. There are complete instructions posted in the kitchen if you are a new server.



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. Please email or have your photo taken by December 1, if possible. *Hard copies of the directory will eventually be available for purchase.*



Giving Back to God

November 5, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$4,765.00
Loose Cash	\$261.00
Children's Envelopes	\$35.35
Online Giving	\$955.00
Holy Day	\$135.00
Total	\$6,151.35
Cemetery Care	\$541.00
Building Fund	\$955.00
Financial Assistance	\$10.00

Thank you for your continued support!

November 12, 2023 ~ The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cluster News and Community News and Events

St. Mary's & St. Michael's Parishes - National March for Life Trip

Washington DC / January 18-21, 2024

This year's trip is open to all! Let's fill a bus! I will be working with the Right to Life of Grand Rapids as I've done in past years. Any high school-aged students are welcome to join us! I will be coordinating a special side group to ensure a fabulous experience for them. Contact me for special pricing and permission slips.

Schedule: Information Packet with exact information will arrive in January.

Thursday, Jan. 18: Depart early morning via coach bus,
Friday, Jan. 19: March for Life: 11:00 am Pre-Rally Concert, 12:00 pm Rally, 1:00 pm March. Visit Congressmen's offices. Possibly a Night tour of DC may be available. Spend night at hotel

Saturday, Jan. 20: Sightseeing – free time!
Depart DC approx. 6:00 pm for overnight bus travel back to Grand Rapids (between 6:00 – 8:00 am arrival Sunday morning back in GR)

Cost: Due upon sign up.

\$ 395 per person – 4 people per room

\$ 440 per person – 3 people per room

\$ 525 per person – 2 people per room

I will coordinate arranging the rooms/requests to share rooms. I can place you in a room with others to reduce your cost. Rate Includes: bus transportation to/from DC, hotel, tip for driver, DC night tour

Deadline to Sign-up/Pay: December 10, 2023

If you are interested contact Sue Smith to sign-up, make payment, or for more information. Cellphone: 616.446.6390 Email: ssmith@jarvishandling.com

Fr. Mike's Musings



This past week we celebrated the memory of our beloved decesses on November 2, 'All Souls Day'. A practice many parishes have is to either have a Mass in the parish cemetery (if there is one), or set a space aside for the placement of photos of family members who have recently passed-on alongside a book where the names of those who have died in the past year. A practice that I have adopted is to locate and consecrate cemetery sections that have been designated as the burial sites for those who did not have the means to cover their own funerary expenses, the so-called 'Potters Field', and for those children who were either stillborn, had died at birth, or had died before they were baptized. Older cemeteries such as the one at St. Mary commonly had a section set aside for this purpose as the indigent may or may not have been baptized and as noted, these children were not. Under the old statutes of Canon Law, and for centuries previous, those not cleansed of the stain of original sin could not rest within the confines of consecrated cemeteries, churchyards, or parish-owned crypts.

In the doctrine of original sin everyone is born with a sinful nature. So, with this inherited fault already weighing on the human soul, what happens to babies who die without having been cleansed through baptism? Do babies go to Hell? Do they go to Heaven? Do they go someplace in between? St. Augustine believed that unbaptized infants share in the common positive misery of the damned (i.e., Hell), and the very most that St. Augustine concedes is that their punishment is the mildest of all.

Eight hundred years after Augustine, a French philosopher named Peter Abelaard said dead infants went to a "cooler" (not as hot) place on the edge of Hell. He called this place the 'Limbo of Infants'. The word limbo comes from the Latin word *limbus* meaning edge. St. Thomas Aquinas reaffirmed this somewhat in his writings on salvation.

Fortunately, Catholics don't agree with either Augustine or Abelaard any longer. In the 1980 "Instruction on Children's Baptism", the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reaffirmed that: "with regard to children who die without having received baptism, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God." Trusting a lost child to the mercy of God is a lot more compassionate than condemning them to Hell or having them stuck for eternity in a space where they are neither damned nor saved—they just are.

The undeniable truth is God gives grace to all of us, young and old alike. We are not judged by how good or bad we are. We are judged by our response to Jesus. So what happens to babies who die? Do babies go to Hell on account of original sin? This question has led to much confusion and handwringing. It has caused some to abandon the faith (because God is cruel) and others to embrace universalism (because a good God could never do this). Uncertainty over their children leaves parents riddled with anxiety and prone to deception. Bad questions lead to bad responses. What would Jesus say if He was asked about babies and young children? He would say "The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16) However, because we have swallowed so much mumbo-jumbo, we doubt whether the Kingdom really does belong to such as these.

We have been fed the Augustinian lie that babies are bad to the bone. We've heard the Calvinist trollop that infants are depraved little sinners. Some say that babies will be judged according to the light of their revelation. But how much revelation does a newborn have? What about a miscarried baby? Others say God looks into the baby's future and judges them for what they would've done. This is absurd. The baby died. They didn't do anything. How can a just God judge them for what they were not able to do?

What happens to babies and children who die young? They go to be with Jesus. EVERY, SINGLE, ONE—no exceptions! If an infant or child has been lost, we can be 100% certain about this. We should not listen to those comfortless frowners who say a child is unredeemed and condemned but trust the One who said His Kingdom belonged to such as these. It is a mistake to say babies to say babies are sinful and damned or righteous and holy. So how do we deal with verses that say things like "... without holiness no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14)? We don't. We give those verses to God and trust in His wisdom and mercy.

Happily, God's mercy is vast beyond all comprehension. His mercy trumps any judgment that may come against children. If we could see Heaven right now, we would find that it is full of the "lost" children--deceased babies, HIV babies, aborted babies, and miscarried babies. I don't know what age they are in Heaven, but I firmly believe that they are there. Because if grace is for anyone, it is for babies and children such as these.

Blood Drive

Monday
November

20

2:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.



St. Vincent de Paul Hall
Community Blood Drive

Blood drive will be held in the Hall
21130 32nd Ave.
Conklin, MI 49403

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED:
Call 866-642-5663, or scan the QR code.

*Walk ins welcome, as schedule allows!

Give blood, get noodles! Receive a coupon for a buy one, get one half off entrée from Noodles & Company, while supplies last. -PLUS- All attempting donors will be entered for a chance to win 1 of 3 DIY project prizes valued at \$2500.*

*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Ends 11/20/23. Open to legal residents only. 18+. Ends 11/20/23. One drawing. Three (3) winners. Enter by blood donation or online. See Official Rules and online entry form at www.bloodcenter.com. Sponsor: Versiti, Inc., 538 N. 18th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233.



Please Pray for our Engaged Couples

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



St. Mary's Parish News

St Mary Religious Education

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) During 10:30AM Mass.

All children pre-school through 2nd grade are encouraged to join Miss Carmody for an age-appropriate experience of sacred scripture. Children are dismissed after the opening prayer and gather in the community room to hear the readings and reflect on the Gospel. Children return to Mass during the offering.



Religious Education Classes

1st-7th Grade

Wednesdays at Hall / 6:15- 7:30pm

8th Grade -Confirmation Classes

Wednesdays at Hall / 6:15- 7:30pm

St. Mary's Confirmation Mass will be at The Cathedral of St. Andrew's on Sunday, April 28, 2023 at 3:00 pm. Please pray for our Confirmation students as they prepare for this sacrament.

Schedule

All Dates / Times are subject to change.

Please watch for updates from your catechist.

Nov. 12- Children's Liturgy of the Word -CLW

Nov.15- Rel Ed Classes

Nov.19 - Children's Liturgy of the Word -CLW

Nov.22- No Rel Ed Classes, Happy Thanksgiving!

Questions or comments:

Please contact the Parish Office. 616.677.3934

or dre@saintmarys.marne.org

Thanksgiving Eve Mass ~ November 22 at 7PM

Fr Mike will be celebrating Mass and The Knights of Columbus will be collecting much needed items for our annual Grocery Collection. We will also watch a short slideshow from the past year's activities here at St. Mary's Parish. Grocery Bags will be collected during the offertory. Groceries will be distributed to local families in need by Coopersville Cares.



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 - December 7 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.

Breakfast & Blood Drive - Feb 11, 2024

Knight Person of the Month for November - Carl Spence

Knight Family of the Month for November - Geary & Darlene Farrell

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 our church community. Congratulations and Thank you for service and commitment to our Parish Family!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Sobie Gift Card

Raffle Winners! THANK you to everyone that purchased tickets! Special thanks to Tim & Teresa Sobie. Proceeds go toward funding our council's charitable causes.

1st Place \$250.00 Gift Card - Jeff Emelander

2nd Place - \$150.00 Gift Card - Jim Snow

3rd Place - \$100.00 Gift Card - Sheli LeMieux



Welcome

We are pleased to **welcome** our newly baptized child of God into the St Mary's parish family

Hallie Virginia Petruskas

Baptized on November 12, 2023

Daughter of Breton & Lauren (Bartush) Petruskas

Through this baptism you have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life. Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father. Congratulations and May God Bless you All!



Save the Date - Advent by Candlelight

(formerly Christmas by Candlelight) will be held on

Sunday, December 3, at 6:30PM

Ladies of the community and their Middle School or older daughters are invited to come and start the Advent season with a beautiful candlelit evening. Music of the season be provided by

Mary Skusa. Tickets will be on sale the middle of November. If you are interested in decorating a table, please e-mail or call Lori Rander, lrander81@gmail.com



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: \$45,730.00 (89%)

Balance: \$6,104.00

Participation: 120 of 292 Active Households (41%)

Totals as of October 15, 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



Giving Back to God ~ Time, Talent & Treasure

Attendance at Mass: Nov 4/5	4:30PM: <u>81</u>	10:30AM: <u>159</u>	Nov 4/5
Adult Contributions			\$4124.50
Children Contributions			\$28.00
Loose Contributions			\$1525.00
Capital Improvement			\$150.00
Online Giving			\$1820.00
Attendance: All Saints Day <u>176</u> All Saints Day <u>24</u> Healing Mass <u>17</u>			\$686.00
Total			\$8333.50
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget			\$5,434.00
Budget vs Actual to Date (since July 1)			+1584.13

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week
COOPERSVILLE HEATING & COOLING

Mel Janose 616.837.1312 Don Janose 616.292.3344

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

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

Dear Padre,

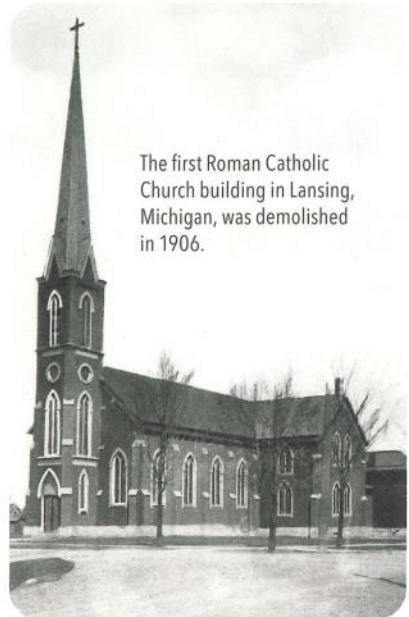
I was taught that Catholic churches are built on consecrated ground. How can a church be torn down and replaced by a shopping mall if it's sacred ground?

Church buildings are blessed and considered by the Church to be sacred places. But when they're damaged and can no longer be repaired or their repair is impractical or they no longer effectively serve their purpose for the faithful of God, the bishop can remove that blessing. By doing this, the bishop opens them for nonsacred use. Subsequently, they can be torn down or sold, as long as the new purpose is not scandalous to the people of God.

In the end, what is truly sacred is not the brick and mortar or even the soil, but the purpose for which they were built. Churches are blessed and declared sacred because we perform sacred rituals within them. When those rituals are no longer being performed in that location, there is no longer a need for them to be declared sacred.

When a church is closed, it is often a sad event. Many people carry deep emotional ties to their parish churches. But a diocese cannot always maintain all of its churches. Catholic populations shift, local needs change. Money is limited, and good stewardship demands that bishops sometimes make the difficult decision to close or merge parishes. Remember what is truly important and of ultimate and sacred value—our worship and service of God. ●

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR / DearPadre.org



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
November 13 <i>St. Frances</i> <i>Xavier Cabrini, Virgin</i> Wis 1:1-7 Lk 17:1-6	November 14 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 2:23-3:9 Lk 17:7-10	November 15 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 6:1-11 Lk 17:11-19	November 16 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 7:22b-8:1 Lk 17:20-25	November 17 <i>St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious</i> Wis 13:1-9 Lk 17:26-37	November 18 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9 Lk 18:1-8	November 19 <i>Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 1 Thes 5:1-6 Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus wants to tell us that we must be prepared for the encounter with him. Not only for the final encounter, but also for the everyday great and small encounters, with a view to that encounter for which the lamp of faith is not enough; we also need the oil of charity and good works.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 8, 2020