



Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when
the time will come.

MARK 13:33



How Has God Shaped You?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

S

ometimes it seems as if life is a laboratory of designed experiments on how to become human, all of them allotted ten-year blocks.

Have you noticed how nine- and ten-year-olds can be easy to be around? Then about the time we've gotten being a kid down to a science, life begins to move us into adolescence. We want to be independent and responsible, but we don't yet have all the skills. We have sexual feelings, but we're expected not to act on them. About the time we reach adulthood and move into our twenties, it seems we can finally do what we want, but then we might drink too much, spend too much, drive too fast, and party too long. Once we begin to settle down around year thirty, we have to learn how to live with another person. One likes it warm, the other cool. One seeks to save, the other spends. One is a homebody, the other enjoys going out on the town. By the time we've gotten to our sixties and seventies, we may have figured out life, but by then we've used up most of our energy.

What's going on?

Faith suggests it's the hand of God shaping us into the sort of persons we're meant to be. "Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you our potter: we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:7). Advent may be a time to figure out how God is acting in your life now and look back to see that God was shaping you all along. ●

Reflect

What did you learn in your last ten-year block of 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—frmhodges@gpriests.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 December 2

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

Sunday December 3

8:30AM † Nathan Syrek by the Syrek Family MI
10:30AM † Jeff LeMieux by Roseanne Lynch MA
4:30PM † Jeff LeMieux by Jon and Nancy Dorwin MI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday December 4 No Mass

Tuesday December 5

9:00AM Our Parish Family MA
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday December 6

9:00AM † Jack O'Bradovich by Family MI
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

Thursday December 7

9:00AM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by M/M Joe Pulte MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Friday December 8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00AM † Chuck Albrecht by Chris Albrecht MI
6:00PM Our Parish Family MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:00 PM—1:00 PM - St. Michael

Saturday December 9

4:30PM Our Parish Family MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday December 10

8:30AM † Chuck Albrecht by Chris Albrecht MI
10:30AM † Monica Zahm by Family MA
4:30PM † Sherman Hecksel by Dave & Lori Hastings 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

	Dec 10 / 8:30 AM	Dec 10 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Adalyn Taylor Clare Taylor	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Chris Albrecht Jennie Taylor Peter Nielsen Sharon Carlson Paul Schmidt Rosemary Weigel	NEED TWO
Lector	Carl Pohlman	Carol Reens
Sacristan	Jane Vituskas	NEED ONE
Ushers	Curt DeVos Ray Maka Jim Ponshair Calvin Lindberg	NEED TWO
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	December 9 - 4:30PM	December 10 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Isaac Patterson Lucas Patterson	Madeline Serge Ty Ricord
Precious Body	Julie Lothschutz Breton Petrauskas Need One	Deacon Tom Jim Looks Marian Looks
Precious Blood	Vito Dolci Mary Kirkwood Sara Patterson Keith Anderson	Janette Ney Christina Withers Becky Warners Margie Jirous
Hospitality	Need Four	Anthony Leale Nettie Leale Leonard Horter Need One
Lector	Geary Farrell	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

First Sunday

Stay awake! For you do
not know on which day
your Lord will come.

Matthew 24:42



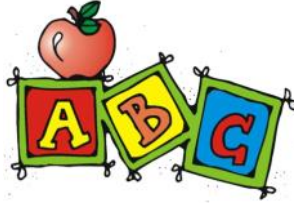
St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Thank you to our 13 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$139.69. Last day to order Scrip for Christmas is Dec. 17, no later than 10AM!

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. Advent: we start preparing for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the second coming. We light a candle each week that represents the four weeks of Advent Season. Each candle has a specific meaning related to the birth of Christ.



Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:15- 7:30 pm. Our Second grade students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 6, 2023.

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. There will not be class today, due to Thanksgiving. Please donate to the Middle School's Giving Tree. Thank you!

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 Carl Goosen
by Marcy Goosen

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, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

We are pleased to welcome a newly baptized child of God!



*Bennett Simon
LeMieux*

son of
Jacob & Sarah LeMieux

Baptized on November 26, 2023

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.



Giving Back to God

November 26, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$2,969.00
Loose Cash	\$303.00
Children's Envelopes	\$13.04
Total	\$3,285.04
Cemetery Care	\$45.00
Building Fund	\$20.00
Endowment Fund	\$20.00
CCHD	\$31.00

Thank you for your continued support!

December 3, 2023 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Cluster News and Community News and Events

This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival by Bishop Robert Barron

- Thursday, December 7 - 7:00-8:30PM
St Mary Community Room
- Thursday, December 14 - 7:00-8:30PM
St Mary Community Room
Adoration / Holy Hour will be held prior to the 12/14 presentation from 6PM-7PM

Fr. Michael Hodges will lead a presentation offering a threefold analysis of the Eucharist as sacred meal, sacrifice, and Real Presence, helping us to understand the sacrament of Jesus' Body and Blood more thoroughly so that they might fall in love with him more completely.

Discover the profound truth flowing out of Jesus' words at the Last Supper: "Take, eat; this is my body. . . . Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant."

Books will be provided.. Free Will Offering
Seating is limited to the first 175 people.

Please RSVP to 616.677.3934

(secretary@saintmarysmarne.org)

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.

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

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



Fr Mike's Musings

As Bob Dylan noted in his third album in 1964: *The times they are a changin'* (nod to Bishop Barron), But are they? How is it we know? These questions arise because we all have different ways of gauging and reacting to time. Just as some have varying reactions to the Word of God and the message it conveys.

According to Jesus, nobody knows about "that day or hour" in which the Son of Man will return, neither the angels in Heaven, nor Jesus Himself, but only the Father. Yet Jesus assured His audience that they would not "pass away until all these things have taken place." His repeated exhortation, "keep awake, stay alert," highlights the urgency of the situation.

To appreciate Jesus' exhortation, a modern Western reader needs to understand the Middle Eastern view of time. Mediterranean cultures are oriented primarily to the present. Future events are very difficult to imagine and nearly impossible to grasp. Activities that do not have to take place at the present moment (e.g., cooking the next meal, getting dressed to start the day) are routinely put off. For the Spaniards there is *mañana*, and for the Italians, *domani*. Even Jesus reminded His followers not to "worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today" (Matthew 6:34).

So what is the point in today's Gospel? Jesus has announced an event that is imminent, along with its accompanying signs. But none of these signs was yet visible to his listeners, and the normal cultural tendency would be to put such an exhortation and event out of mind. People with a strong cultural orientation to the present need to be nudged to think more about the future, even if only tomorrow, just as Americans whose cultural orientation is primarily toward the future need to be reminded to think about the present, today, this very moment. Mark's Jesus urges his listeners and subsequent generations of believers to be ever watchful for the return of a beloved family member. It is, after all, a fact of our faith: the beloved Master will indeed return and expect to be welcomed by family in a fitting fashion. Are we ready?

The words of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark may be read not only as a warning about the end times, but as a challenge for us to live in the present, to engage life now, to be attentive to the moment at hand. It is the call of Advent itself. Be awake! Do not put off the opening of your life to God.

Denial and postponement are especially true in the matter of our sins, those wounds that we somehow inflict upon ourselves and others. Repression of the truth is common. Admission and reform are rare. We project, we accuse, we complain, we evade, we distract ourselves. We are not as adept at confession. In our own age, we have made a science of escape and sleep. Rather than live at that sharp edge of life, awake and alert, we pretend that we have no sin. 'There is nothing wrong with me, no change required. Others need the help.'

The theme of Advent is not "let's pretend." It is "get real." Here and now. Make real the need for God. Make real God's entry. Make real the Word—not just as a text or a story, but as a disclosure of truth. Not only is God revealed to us. You and I, here and now, are revealed to ourselves. Every Advent is an opportunity. Together, we might once again experience the Word of God taking flesh in us. And having allowed God such profound entry, we may find ourselves giving birth anew to the Word in our world.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Holy Day of Obligation ~
Friday, December 8.**

Mass Schedule:

9AM - St Michael / 6PM - St Mary

Prayer for The Immaculate Conception

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.



December 3, 2023 ~ The First Sunday of Advent

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



Please remember to RSVP for the Religious Education Family Christmas Celebration by Wednesday, Dec 6th.

6:15PM -7:30PM-Parish Hall - Refreshments Provided

The Children will be performing the Nativity & Singing.

Please RSVP to your child's teacher on or before Dec 6

Family Name: _____

Number of People Attending: _____

Dietary Restrictions/Allergies: _____

Schedule

All Dates / Times are subject to change.

Please watch for updates from your catechist.

Dec. 3 - Children's Liturgy of the Word -CLW

Dec. 6 - Rel Ed Classes

Dec 9 – **Second grade student and parent retreat. 9am -noon in the Community room**

Dec. 10 - Children's Liturgy of the Word -CLW

Dec. 13 - Rel Ed Family Christmas Celebration

Questions or comments:

Please contact the Parish Office. 616.677.3934

or dre@saintmarysmaerne.org

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: \$45,880.00 (89%)

Balance: \$5,954.00

Participation: 120 of 292 Active Households (41%)

Totals as of November 7, 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 ASAP. If you have returned your CSA pledge card, thank you!



Christmas Giving Tree

Parishioners are asked to take a tag off of the tree and purchase the items listed on the tag. Please return these items in a wrapped box or a gift bag with the ORIGINAL tag attached to the Giving Tree no later than Sunday, December 10. The tags on the giving tree provide gifts for the 101 residents of Dwelling Place Apartments in Grand Rapids.

Advent

Advent Family Prayer: God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.

He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,

As we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen

- Author Unknown

Individual Confession Times During Advent-

Come receive the healing power of God

- Tuesdays: 2:00PM to 3:00PM ~ St. Mary
- Wednesdays 2:00PM to 3:00PM ~ St. Michael
- Thursdays: 2:00PM to 3:00PM ~ St. Mary
- Fridays: 12:00PM to 1:00PM St. Michael
- Saturdays: 3:30PM to 4:15PM ~ St. Mary
- Sundays 3:30PM to 4:15PM ~ St. Michael

Additional Advent Resources

Available at NO COST to you in the Narthex.

- "Little BLUE Books" (Six Minute Reflections) will enrich your Advent season with prayer and reflections on the practices of the season.
- "The Word Among Us" includes Daily Scripture readings and prayers from the Liturgy. Free Mass Supplement, Daily meditations based on the Mass. Practical featured articles on Advent and the saints.

Holy Hour - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

December 14 - 6PM to 7PM - St Mary

Complete Advent Schedule: <https://files.ecatholic.com/6844/documents/2023/10/Advent%20Schedule%202023FINAL-1.pdf?t=1698756764000>



Stay Connected & Informed

Do we have the right personal information on file? Did you get rid of your land line?

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

Giving Back to God ~ Time, Talent & Treasure

Attendance at Mass: Nov 18/19 4:30PM: <u>84</u> 10:30AM: <u>163</u>	Nov 18/19	Nov 25/26
Attendance at Mass: Nov 25/26 4:30PM: <u>86</u> 10:30AM: <u>154</u>		
Adult Contributions	\$3116.00	\$5328.00
Children Contributions	\$22.00	\$15.00
Loose Contributions	\$137.58	\$197.00
Capital Improvement	\$150.00	\$5055.00
Online Giving	\$1885.00	n/a
Capital Campaign for Human Development	\$372.00	\$150.00
Total	\$4822.58	\$10,745.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

PHIL BROWN WELDING CORP.

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

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

Dear Padre,

Why are the Gospels Matthew and Mark so alike? Why did the Church keep both Gospels when so much of Mark seems to be a mirror image of Matthew?

The Gospels were written over time and used by the faithful when they gathered for worship. They read the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus collected by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Christian communities were often great distances from one another. A community may have had access to only one of these accounts. There is considerable similarity because the Gospel writers depended on one another. All three Gospels include some of the same incidents. Each also has incidents or details unique to that Gospel.

This first page of the Gospel of Mark is from a fourteenth-century Armenian illuminated manuscript painting by Sargis Pitsak.



These were not the only accounts written about the life and ministry of Jesus. At some point, the Church had to decide which should be considered the inspired word of God. There were four accounts that were widely used: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. With their similarities and differences, the Church accepted these four accounts as Gospel—the Good News. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7	December 8	December 9	December 10
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Advent Weekday	Second Sunday of Advent
Is 2:1-5	Is 11:1-10	Is 25:6-10a	Is 26:1-6	Gn 3:9-15, 20	Is 30:19-21, 23-26	Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Mt 8:5-11	Lk 10:21-24	Mt 15:29-37	Mt 7:21, 24-27	Eph 1:3-6, 11-12	Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8	2 Pt 3:8-14
				Lk 1:26-38		Mk 1:1-8

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] ...is at the door to our heart. He knocks. Do you know how to listen to the Lord...who has come today to visit you...? He came to Bethlehem, he will come at the end of the world, but every day he comes to us. Be attentive, look at what you feel in your heart when the Lord knocks.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 29, 2020