



## When Will We Be Satisfied?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In 1992, *Forbes* magazine published an issue titled “Why Do We Feel So Bad When We Have It So Good?” It featured articles by such luminaries as newsman Dan Rather, President George H. W. Bush, and author John Updike. Many of the writers reflected upon our passion for more and our hunger to live in affluence and how that fails to satisfy. In so many ways, we as a nation find ourselves seeking distractions from living with ourselves lest we be confronted by our ultimate loneliness. As a nation we are addicted to entertainment and smartphones, to drugs and pornography, to finding something new. We are confronted by rising suicide rates and a pervasive, deep-seated anger. Why are we not satisfied?

John the Baptist called the people of his day to repent, which is another way of asking them—and us—to look at life differently. Advent is really about getting in touch with our deep longing for more, a part of our human condition that ultimately is only satisfied by God. We have been created to long for more, a longing that feels like loneliness, a longing that seeks to be satisfied. In the end, we can only find a sense of peace in the midst of such longing by accepting that it can never be fully satisfied in this life. Like the spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous, accepting rather than fleeing from our human reality becomes a path to new life. ●

### Reflect

*How do you deal with loneliness and a longing for more out of life?*

John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

MARK 1:4



# 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](mailto:frmhodges@gpriests.org)  
Deacon: Deacon Tom Roberts—[troberts@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:troberts@saintmarysmarne.org)

For more information on staff, councils, ministries and schedules,  
visit our website : [www.saintmichaels.us](http://www.saintmichaels.us)  
Prayerline: Chris Albrecht, 616.403.7110 or Judy Driedger, 616.899.2470

## Mass Intentions

### 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

### Monday December 11 No Mass

### Tuesday December 12

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 13

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

### Thursday December 14

9:00AM Our Parish Family ..... **MA**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

### Friday December 15

9:00AM † Al Spencer by Arlyn & Louann Doornbos ..... **MI**  
6:00PM Our Parish Family ..... **MA**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:00 PM—1:00 PM - St. Michael

### Saturday December 16

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

### Sunday December 17

8:30AM † John VanDenBrink by The Merlin Steffes Family ..... **MI**  
10:30AM † Betty Ozeimkiewicz by M/M Joe Pulte ..... **MA**  
4:30PM † Carl Goosen by Marcy Goosen ..... **MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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

**Please Note:** When there is inclement weather (where Coopersville Public Schools or Kenowa Hills Public Schools are closed) The Parish Offices will be closed and all events scheduled for that day will be cancelled. Daily Mass will also be cancelled. The Mass intention for that day will be rescheduled at our earliest opportunity.  
Additionally, when a Funeral Mass has been scheduled, Daily Mass will be cancelled

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Dec 17 / 8:30 AM	Dec 17 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Alivia Kosten Hyde Kosten Lauren Meerman	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Joe Hitchings Jeff Johnson Kenny Harker Jennifer DeMull Mark Phillips Debbie Veneklas	Deacon Tom NEED ONE
Lector	Chris Albrecht	Joe LeMieux
Sacristan	Rosemary Weigel	NEED ONE
Ushers	Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich Wade Lindberg Peter Nielsen	NEED TWO
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	December 16 - 4:30PM	December 17 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Vito Dolci	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Peter Lothschutz Casmir Lothschutz
Precious Body	Deacon Tom Need Two	Deacon Tom Janette Ney Becky Warners
Precious Blood	Geary Farrell Keith Anderson Breton Petrauskas Angie Hanks	Julie Lothschutz Margie Jirous Need Two
Hospitality	Need Four	Anthony Leale Nettie Leale Leonard Horter Need One
Lector	Doug Frantz	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

*Second Sunday*

Prepare the way of the  
Lord, make straight  
his paths.

Matthew 3:3





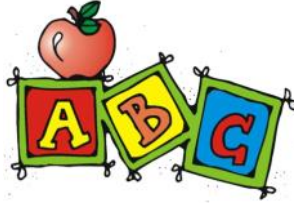
## St. Michael's Parish News



**Scrip News**— Thank you to our 12 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$262.43. 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. We are called to repent, to turn away from ways of living that are not in right relationship with one another and with God. John the Baptist was the last in a line of prophets calling God's people back to live their lives according to God's mandates. His words are for the people of his time and for us today.



**Elementary Faith Formation:** The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:15- 7:30 pm.

**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.

**The Giving Tree:** Thank you to all of St. Michael's parishioners who so generously donate to our giving tree. Your help in supporting Coopersville Cares is greatly appreciated. May God bless you as you have blessed others. Merry Christmas!



## 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.

## St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for Carl Goosen  
by Marcy Goosen

**Photo Directory** — If you haven't already turned in your family photo for our directory, please do so ASAP. You may email a photo to: [secretary@saintmichaels.us](mailto:secretary@saintmichaels.us) or call the office (616) 384.4026 to schedule a time to stop in and have a simple photo taken by Beki. It is not too late to take part, and we want all to be included!

**Thank You** — We wish to thank Fr. Mike, Msgr. Lou, Deacon Tom, Kevin Kilpatrick, Craig Bleckley, the musicians and Eucharistic Ministers for the beautiful Mass in honor of our mom, Winnie. Thank you to Dennis Zimmer for leading the rosary at the visitation. A special thank you to the members of St. Michael's parish for their prayers for mom these past three years. We so appreciated them. Our family wishes to thank all those who donated food and served the funeral luncheon. Winnie would have been so proud of you, and it was delicious.

Thank you and God Bless you,  
The Spencer Family

## Decorating for Christmas —

Due to Christmas Eve falling on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this year, we will be decorating the church for our Christmas Masses after the 8:30 AM Mass on Sunday, December 24. If you are able, please come to help out. There will be much to do in a short amount of time.



## Giving Back to God

December 3, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$4,486.00
Loose Cash	\$327.00
Children's Envelopes	\$14.00
Holy Day	\$5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,832.00</b>
Building Fund	\$165.00
Endowment Fund	\$20.00

*Thank you for your continued support!*

**December 10, 2023 ~ Second Sunday of Advent**

## Cluster News and Community News and Events

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

Thursday, December 14 - 7-8:30PM

**ADORATION / HOLY HOUR**

**will be held prior to the 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**



### Advent Confession Times

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

**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



### 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



"I want patience and I want it now," or so the joke goes. Fine. But we must remember, the purpose of Advent is to wait. Did you ever stay awake on Christmas Eve as a child and sneak into a hiding place in order to see the Christmas tree being decorated? I surely did. I was impatient. We kids also had big felt stockings hung on each of the doors to our rooms and I remember during the night trying to keep an eye open to see Santa putting goodies into it. Did I keep my eyes open all night? No. I woke in the morning to find a bulging stocking, mysteriously full, having arrived by magic. So, I had gone to sleep instead of patiently spying. Patience is not often a virtue of the young.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, the Jesuit poet, has a poem on patience that speaks to Advent.

**Patience, hard thing! The hard thing but to pray, but bid for, patience is! Patience who asks, wants war, wants wounds; weary His times, His tasks; to do without, take tosses, and obey.** (Patience is difficult because it grows only in adversity.)

**Rare patience roots in these and, these away, Nowhere. Natural heart's -ivy, Patience masks our ruins of wrecked past purpose. There she basks purple eyes and seas of liquid leaves all day.**

(Like ivy it gradually covers the failures of our lives with quiet beauty.)

**We hear our hearts grate on themselves; it kills to bruise them dearer. Yet the rebellious wills of us we do bid God bend to Him even so.**

(Our hearts are like stones chafing on each other, bruising themselves at a greater cost. Yet, we ask God to bend our defiant wills to Him.)

**And where is He who more and more distills delicious kindness?—He is patient. Patience fills His crisp combs, and that comes those ways we know.** (Comparison of God to the bees who—patiently—fill up honeycombs.)

Our most beloved plans and purposes often come to ruin, just like ancient buildings. But patience resembles beautiful ivy, Hopkins says, gradually spreading its way over the rubble, making it a picture of quiet composure. The phrase, "purple eyes and seas of liquid leaves," doesn't just remind us of how ivy looks, it bathes us in the luxury, the peace and the relief of such a sight. Hopkins portrays patience as "delicious kindness," a honey that fills the combs of our lives. A gift to us.

God's kindness provides us with comfort and also time to prepare—an allowance of days, weeks, years, and even a lifetime—to get ready, to desire, and gradually, along the way, to receive. With patience. Even though infants demand their every wish be granted right now, our adult humanity is simply too deep to get an instant fill-up.

If there were nothing worth waiting for, then patience would be silly. The birth of Christ into this world and into our hearts is well worth the wait. We know that His birth has happened already. But also, in a surprising way, it has not happened at all. We are still uncharitable to our neighbors. We still hide the truth from those who love us. We envy and lust after what is not ours, and there is horrendous evil all around us in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We need the birth of Jesus into our hearts, into the world. And so we bask in the patience of Advent.

### 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

**December 10, 2023 ~ The Second Sunday of Advent**

## 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

#### Schedule

All Dates / Times are subject to change.

Please watch for updates from your catechist.

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

Dec. 13 - **Rel Ed Family Christmas Celebration Begins at 6:15PM**

Dec. 17 - No -CLW- Christmas break.

Dec. 20 - No Rel Ed Classes- Merry Christmas!

#### Questions or comments:

Please contact the Parish Office. 616.677.3934  
or dre@saintmarys.marne.org

### Winter Weather Closings

**REMINDER:** When there is inclement weather (where Coopersville Public Schools or Kenowa Hills Public Schools are closed) The Parish Offices will be closed and all events scheduled for that day will be cancelled. Daily Mass will also be cancelled. The Mass intention for that day will be rescheduled at our earliest opportunity.



### Advent Resources

Available at **NO COST** to you in the Narthex.

- "Little BLUE Books" -Six Minute Reflections
- "The Word Among Us" includes Daily Scripture readings and prayers from the Liturgy. Free Mass Supplement, Daily meditations based on the Mass.
- "One Bread Body" - Daily Readings, Prayers and Reflections

### 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!**



### OCIA

#### Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

We ask for your prayers for Marissa Barczak who made a public step on December 10 in the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome. She has completed her period of Inquiry and is now a part of the Church in the Order of Catechumens. With your continued prayerful support she will grow in her faith and relationship with God, and our faith community.

#### Prayer for OCIA Candidates

Lord and God, you know the secrets of our hearts and reward us for the good we do. Look kindly on the efforts and the progress of those who seek to complete their initiation into the Church. Strengthen them on their way; increase their faith and hope; and accept their repentance. Open to them your goodness and justice, and lead them to share in your sacraments on Earth until they finally enjoy your presence in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



### Knights of Columbus #11581 News

#### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHT

We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and role models and to put charity and community first.

#### Why you should become a Knight?

If you're interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you.

**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](mailto:roblander82@gmail.com) or come to a General Membership Meeting. Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in St Mary's Parish Hall. **Next Meeting - January 4 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.**

**Breakfast & Blood Drive - Feb 11, 2024**

**Register :** [https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/156075](https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/156075)



### Meal Train for Fr Mike

THANK YOU to everyone that has cooked a meal for Fr Mike. He has appreciated and has been enjoying his homecooked meals. Have you signed up yet? We are starting to book up the new year. 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>

## Giving Back to God ~ Time, Talent & Treasure

Attendance at Mass: Dec 4/5	4:30PM: <b>86</b> 10:30AM: <b>155</b>	Dec 4/5
Adult Contributions		\$5599.43
Children Contributions		\$12.00
Loose Contributions		\$123.00
Capital Improvement		\$835.00
Online Giving		\$2545.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$9114.43</b>
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget		\$5486.13
Budget vs Actual to Date (since July 1)		-\$393.29

**Thank you for your continued support and generosity!**

### St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

**FOX CHEVROLET**

[foxchevrolet.com](http://foxchevrolet.com) ~ 616.891.8104

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!**

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



# Dear Padre,

***Do Catholics have to marry in the Church? If a couple decides to marry outside of the Church, are they still allowed to receive Communion and other sacraments?***

Catholics are obligated to follow the laws of the Church, including those laws regarding marriage. If a Catholic marries outside the Church, meaning that they did not follow Church law, then they may not receive the other sacraments until their marriage has been witnessed by the Church.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony for the couple, but it is also a ceremony for the Church. The Christian community is called upon to witness the ceremony, with the bishop, priest, or deacon called upon to bless the union in the name of the Church. The Church can dispense from the form, that is, the place of the wedding, for good cause, and does so when necessary. When a dispensation from the law is granted, then the person has followed the marriage laws of the Church and is free to receive the sacraments.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony in which a sacrament is conferred. While the park may be pretty or the church down the street may be bigger, neither is a sufficient reason to ignore marriage law and marry outside the Church. ●

***The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org***



MDY EDWARDS / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit [ScrupulousAnonymous.org](http://ScrupulousAnonymous.org).

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15	December 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19	December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	December 17 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***In the Bible [conversion] means, first and foremost, to change direction and orientation; and thus also to change one's way of thinking. In the moral and spiritual life, to convert means to turn oneself from evil to good, from sin to love of God. And this is what the Baptist was teaching.***

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 6, 2020