



## A Haunting Question

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**“W**hat are you looking for?” asks Jesus of the two disciples who come to see who he is and what he is about. They are Jesus’ first words in John’s Gospel, and that’s what the entire Gospel of John is about, an answer to that piercing question.

I spent the week living with that question, never really finding an answer that seemed to fit, or perhaps I got too many answers, all of them somehow falling short. Why do I spend an hour early each morning sitting in the silence? I read some Scripture, but then mostly I sit with the silence. Many are the times when my mind drifts to other times and places and daydreams. Sometimes the silence is scattered with boredom; at other times it stumbles with prayerful words; and sometimes in the silence I look for answers to the plaguing whys of life. Mostly, though, I sit in the silence. I’d like to call it prayer, but then I wonder if I’m simply floundering in wishful thinking. So I return to that haunting question—“What are you looking for?”

I think perhaps the answer is similar to what I look for when I gather with friends. Sometimes the get-together is engaging, but not always. Sometimes it is memorable, but not always. Sometimes we just hang out, and that can be enough. Ultimately relationships keep me grounded. That also is why I spend time in the silence. It’s what I’m looking for when I pray—to be in relationship with God, to be grounded lest I drift away and grow lost. ●

**[Eli] said to Samuel,  
“Go to sleep, and if you are  
called, reply, ‘Speak, LORD,  
for your servant is listening.’”**

**1 SAMUEL 3:9**

### Reflect

**When you pray,  
what are you looking for?**



# 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 January 13

4:30PM † Dorothy Schwallier by M/M Tom Schwallier ..... **MA**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

### Sunday January 14

8:30AM † Louis & Rose Goosen by Dave & Pat Goosen ..... **MI**  
10:30AM † Winnie Spencer by Mel Snowdin ..... **MA**  
4:30PM † Winnie Spencer by Mary Bueche ..... **MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

### Monday January 15 No Mass

### Tuesday January 16

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

### Wednesday January 17

9:00AM † Sherm Hecksel by Doris Klein ..... **MI**  
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

### Thursday January 18

9:00AM Our Parish Family ..... **MA**

### Friday January 19

9:00AM † Joan Hitchings by Joe Hitchings ..... **MI**

### Saturday January 20

4:30PM † Dr. James Stewart by Knight of Columbus #11581 ... **MA**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

### Sunday January 21

8:30AM † Janine VanderKlok by M/M Kurt Bouchard ..... **MI**  
10:30AM † Floyd Bradley by Lisa Bradley ..... **MA**  
4:30PM † Edna Schumaker by Mike & Terrie Kluting ..... **MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

**MA**=St. Mary

**MI**=St. Michael's

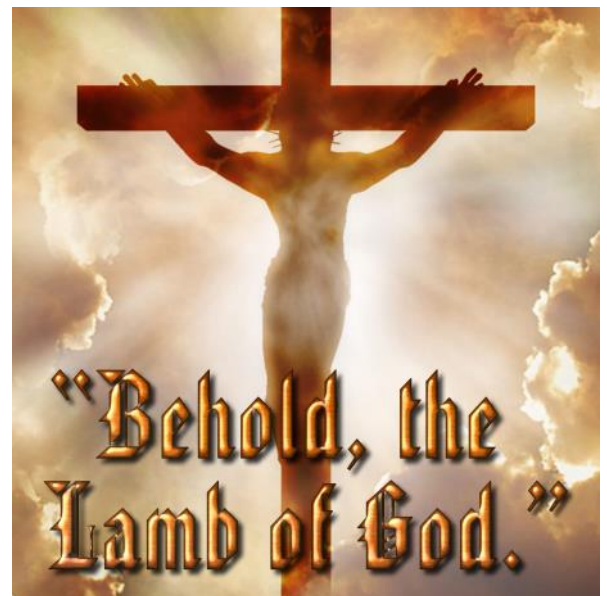
Here am I, Lord;  
I come to do your will.

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Jan 21 / 8:30 AM	Jan 21 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Adalyn Taylor Clare Taylor	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Sharon Carlson Rosemary Weigel Zack Nelson Cindy Lindberg Denise Nelson Peter Nielsen Jennie Taylor	NEED TWO
Lector	Jeff Johnson	Joe LeMieux
Sacristan	Chris Albrecht	NEED ONE
Ushers	Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich Joe Meerman Peter Nielsen	NEED TWO
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	January 20 - 4:30PM	January 21- 10:30AM
Sacristan	Matt Karr	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Isaac Patterson Lucas Patterson	Peter Lothschutz Need One
Precious Body	Need One Geary Farrell Breton Petrauskas	Christina Withers Paul Madura Bruce Kamp
Precious Blood	Sara Patterson Mary Kirkwood Keith Anderson Need One	Becky Warners Margie Jirous Janette Ney Need One
Hospitality	Need Four	Jim Looks Marian Looks Anthony Leale Nettie Leale
Lector	Vito Dolci	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko





## St. Michael's Parish News



**Scrip News**— Scrip totals will be updated next week.

## 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. **The Hebrew word "Messiah" means the same as the Greek word "Christ." The Hebrew word "Rabbi" means "teacher."**



**Elementary Faith Formation:** The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:15- 7:30 pm. **Families are asked to join us on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> for Eucharist Adoration at 6:15 pm in the church. Adoration will last about 30 minutes then students will go to class.**

**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. Class resumes today.

**Ladies' Craft Night**— Whether you enjoy scrapbooking, stamping, knitting, cutting labels, or just need a night out, come to the Family Center on Friday, January 19, from 6:30-11 PM. All are welcome, and there is no cost to attend.



**CSA 2023** — Thank you for your gifts to 2023 Catholic Services Appeal! Your generous support funds essential diocesan ministries that strengthen us in Christ. Our parish goal for 2023 is \$59,280.00 and 100% participation, which means every parishioner should return their pledge card. To date, we have pledged \$44,875 (or 75.70%) toward our goal. We still have \$14,405.00 to go to reach this goal. If you haven't already contributed, please consider doing so soon. Any remaining balance at the end of the campaign will come out of our general operating funds. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.

## St. Michael's Parish Family

**Remembers in Their Prayers:** Kevin Johnson, Anne Pols, Alexandria Gordon, George Langlois, Brooke Campbell, Linda Abel-Carroll, Jackie May, 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 special intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners

**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!

## Men's Retreat —

All men are welcomed to join us for our annual men's retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, Michigan. The retreat will be hosted the weekend of January 26-28.

*The retreat Theme this year is The gift of the Eucharist: Retreat for Revival*

Suggested Donation is \$200.00. "Knights of Columbus Scholarship funds" are available, please feel free to privately contact Fr. Michael Hodges for more information. Car pooling will also be available.

For more information about the Retreat house. <https://www.stfrancis.ws/weekend-retreats>.

If you are interested in attending, contact Mark Phillips 616-550-2766. Or Joe LeMieux 616-888-9106.

## Giving Back to God

January 7, 2024

Adult Envelopes	\$5,404.00
Loose Cash	\$166.00
Children's Envelopes	\$17.00
Online Giving	\$1,080.00
Holy Day	\$390.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,057.00</b>
Building Fund	\$115.00

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## 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.



**January 14, 2024 ~ The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### Thank You From Fr. Mike

My dear friends of St Mary & St Michael Parishes. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone that took the time to send me cards and gifts, I appreciate everyone of you. I would also like to thank our liturgical ministers, musicians and church decorators. You all did a wonderful job making sure the church was beautiful and all of the Masses ran smoothly. May God bless you all and May our 2024 be filled with Peace and Many Blessings. Humbly, Fr Mike

### Thank You From Deacon Tom

Happy New Year!

Cindy and I want to thank both St Mary's and St Michael's parishioners for the beautiful cards, well wishes, and gifts this Christmas Season. Your outpouring of love, prayers and support mean so much to our ministry. We are blessed to be called to serve both parishes and humbled by the Grace and Mercy of Our Lord and Saviour. May 2024 bring us Peace, Good Health and Joy! Shalom, Deacon Tom



Sunday  
January

21

8:30 AM – 1:00 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

\*All donors will receive FREE breakfast!

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

\*Walk ins welcome, as schedule allows!

Not sure if you're eligible to donate blood? Call  
866.642.5663 to find out!



### 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

Maria Goretti was born in 1890 in Italy, the daughter of Luigi and Assunta Goretti. Nine years later in 1899, her father Luigi began to work for a farmer south of Rome and made a deal with a Mr. Serenelli that his family would share the same house with the Serenelli family, also laborers for the same farmer. Maria's father Luigi died of malaria.



In June 1902 Mr. Serenelli's son, Alessandro, began to cause trouble for Maria. He began to boss her around and to make advances towards her which she shrugged off. Her big mistake was the she did not tell her mother because she did not want to cause trouble. The following month he decided that he would be denied no longer. Alessandro motioned her towards the bedroom but she refused shouting, "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!" He stabbed her fourteen times.

While being taken to a hospital she told everything. In the nearby hospital she underwent twenty hours of surgery without anesthesia. During that time she forgave Alessandro and prayed for him. On the following day she died. She was not yet twelve years old. Alessandro was sentenced to thirty years hard labor.

After six years in prison he was near despair and one night in 1910 Maria appeared to him in his cell. She smiled and was surrounded by lilies, symbols of purity. That was a turning point in Alessandro's life and he regained his peace. His first deed after release from prison was to visit Maria's mother and ask her pardon. He accompanied her to Christmas Mass in the parish church where he spoke before the congregation, acknowledging his sin and asking forgiveness from God and the community. He took up work in a Capuchin monastery as a gardener.

In 1947 Maria Goretti was beatified. Her mother was present at her beatification. In June 1950 Pope Pius XII canonized Maria Goretti declaring her to be a saint and martyr before a huge crowd of up to 500,000 people. Her mother was once again present, along with her four children. Alessandro was also present.

In May 1970 Alessandro Serenelli died. He had left the following letter found amongst his belongings written in 1961:

*I'm nearly 80 years old. I'm about to depart. Looking back at my past, I can see that in my early youth, I chose a bad path which led me to ruin myself. My behavior was influenced by print, mass-media and bad examples which are followed by the majority of young people without even thinking. And I did the same. I was not worried. There were a lot of generous and devoted people who surrounded me, but I paid no attention to them because a violent force blinded me and pushed me toward a wrong way of life... Now, that memory represents something horrible for me. Maria Goretti, now a Saint, was my good Angel, sent to me through Providence to guide and save me. I still have impressed upon my heart her words of rebuke and of pardon... I am serenely waiting to witness the vision of God... I hope this letter that I write can teach others the happy lesson of avoiding evil and of always following the right path, like little children. I feel that religion with its precepts is not something we can live without, but rather it is the real comfort, the real strength in life and the only safe way in every circumstance, even the most painful ones of life."*

This story reminds us that the body is destined for resurrection and eternal life, that our body is not our own but belongs to God since we were baptized and that Jesus paid a very high price for each of our bodies, we have been bought and paid for by Jesus as St. Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthians. There is a cult of the body now. But what will happen to the body? It will die. What will happen then? It will have to be buried. Alessandro Serenelli paid a price for giving in to lustful desire, because God created sex not for lust but for marriage and the re-creation of life and there are always consequences for not waiting.

How many people who get into trouble say, "Nobody told me. If I had known I would have made a different decision." God is not making rules just to restrict us but because He loves us and wants to protect us. We can say 'Yes' to God's love or to turn our backs. If we have fallen God is always there to forgive us and pick us up again. We do not have to travel a path of regret and suffering as Alessandro did. We can follow the path of joy and light. We know what is right and what is not.

### Meal Train for Fr Mike

**Scheduling now for 2024!** 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>

**January 14, 2024 ~ The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## St. Mary's Parish News

### St Mary Religious Education

#### Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

During 10:30AM Mass.

Today is the second Sunday in Ordinary Time. The color of the season is green, a sign of hope and new life. It represents the growth we experience as we walk with Jesus. This is our time of growing in faith.

#### Religious Education Classes -

1st-7th Grade

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

*Families are asked to join us on Wednesday, January 17th at 7pm in the church to pray the Rosary. Following the Rosary students will be dismissed from the Church. We hope to see you there.*



#### 8th Grade -

#### Confirmation Classes

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

#### Questions or comments:

Please contact the Parish Office. 616.677.3934 or dre@saintmarysmarne.org

### Warming Drive

Our Lady of Fatima Guild will be having a warming drive during the month of January. Warm Hats, socks, gloves/mittens, scarves and GENTLY used coats will be collected to donate to In the Image, Mel Trotter Ministries and Coopersville Cares. A collection box will be in the Narthex. Thank you for your support.



### 2023 Church Contributions

2023 Contribution Statements will be available in the Narthex no later than January 28. Please pick up after Mass or during parish open office hours. If you would like yours mailed or emailed, please call the parish office. Thank You. **Please Note: In an effort to save money on postage we will only mail statements if requested.**



### 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. **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 - February 1 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.**

#### SAVE THE DATE! Breakfast & Blood Drive - Feb 4, 2024

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



**Knight Person of the Month for January - Matt Karr**

**Knight Family of the Month for January - Dave & Vicki Benedetti**

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!



### Save the Date - Feb 10, 2024

The St Mary Valentine Dinner and Dance is Back. Grab your special date and invite your friends to Enjoy an adults only evening with a delicious catered dinner and night of dancing. Music will be provided by the Band -The Big Dogs. Tickets available after Mass. . (must be 21 to attend)



### Winter Weather Closings

When there is inclement weather and 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.

### 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: \$46,480.00 (90%)

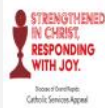
**Balance: \$5,354.00**

Participation: 122 of 292 Active Households (42%)

Totals as of January 4, 2024

**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.**



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

Attendance at Mass:		12/30-1/1	1/6-1/7
Dec 30 4:30PM:	<b>92</b>	Dec 31 10:30AM:	<b>157</b>
Jan 1 10:30AM:	<b>52</b>		
Jan 6 4:30PM:	<b>87</b>	Jan 7 10:30AM:	<b>142</b>
Adult Contributions		\$13,296.00	\$4253.00
Children Contributions		\$9.25	\$18.00
Loose Contributions		\$182.00	\$135.00
Capital Improvement			\$10.00
Online Giving		\$1940.00	\$100.00
Holy Day-Solemnity of Mary		\$271.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,698.25</b>	<b>\$4516.00</b>
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget		n/a	\$5368.32
Budget vs Actual to Date (since July 1)		n/a	+\$10,728.06

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

**St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week**  
**CUSTOM CAULKING & WATERPROOFING INC.**

customcaulking.com ~ 616.677.3999

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!**

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





**St. Mary's and St. Michael's  
Valentine's Dinner and Dance**

**Hosted at St. Mary's Parish Hall  
Saturday, February 10, 2024**

**The parish hall will open at 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.  
Dancing will follow until 11:00 p.m.**

**The activities for the evening include...**

**Catered dinner  
Dancing to the music of Big Dogs Band  
Cash Bar available  
Dressy Attire is requested**

**Tickets are \$75 per couple.  
Tickets are available after all masses the weekends of  
January 20-21 and January 27-28**

**Or by calling:**

**David and Sara Lothschutz 616-340-91630  
Anthony and Theresa Serge 616-389-4742**



**\*\*This is a 21 and older only event\*\***



# Dear Padre,

*If St. Matthew was an apostle, why do we have Gospels from other writers who were not apostles of Jesus? Since he knew Jesus personally, wouldn't his Gospel be the definitive one?*

There are two assumptions that need to be addressed. One is that the Apostle Matthew is the same as the evangelist Matthew. The book's title, the Gospel According to Matthew, was added to the text in the second century. Whether it was written by the same Matthew or someone else, it still traces back to the experience of the apostles. The Scriptures are the inspired word of God, and Christians can rely on the truth of the Gospel message through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

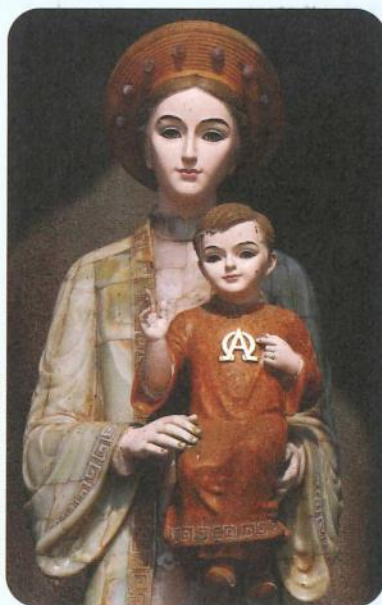
The other assumption is that one Gospel is somehow more "definitive." All four Gospels are the inspired word of God. A Gospel is not a history of the life of Christ. It is a collection of stories that each evangelist arranged in a specific way so that they would make sense to a particular audience. For the Gospel of Matthew, the audience was predominantly Jewish, but these Jewish Christians were being excluded from mainstream Judaism and perhaps were wondering among themselves if Jesus was really the Messiah for whom they had waited so long. Matthew's Gospel asserts repeatedly that Jesus is a true Israelite who fulfills Old Testament prophecies, while also reinterpreting the Law of Moses in a new direction that includes all nations. ●



FRESCO OF APOSTLE ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST BY PIETRO GAGLIARDI / RENATA SEDMAKOVA

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS



GODONGPHOTO / SHUTTERSTOCK

*May the Virgin Mary help us make of our lives a hymn of praise to God in response to his call and in the humble and joyful fulfillment of his will. But let us remember this: there was a moment in each of our lives in which God made himself present more strongly, with a call.*

ANGELUS, ROME,  
JANUARY 17, 2021

**DAYbreaks** Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections and prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more. Available from Liguori Publications.



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### MONDAY

January 15

Weekday

1 Sm 15:16-23

Mk 2:18-22

### TUESDAY

January 16

Weekday

1 Sm 16:1-13

Mk 2:23-28

### WEDNESDAY

January 17

St. Anthony, Abbot

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37,

40-51

Mk 3:1-6

### THURSDAY

January 18

Weekday

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7

Mk 3:7-12

### FRIDAY

January 19

Weekday

1 Sm 24:3-21

Mk 3:13-19

### SATURDAY

January 20

Weekday

2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19,

23-27

Mk 3:20-21

### SUNDAY

January 21

Third Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Jon 3:1-5, 10

1 Cor 7:29-31

Mk 1:14-20