



Spring Cleaning Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When Jesus cleansed the temple, he cleared it of all the sacrificial animals and foreign coins that cluttered that holy place. He also shifted the focus of where we find God made present—from a building to himself. “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). Saint Paul tells us that we, too, are God’s temple because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. So it makes sense that Jesus also wants to clear our lives of all that clutters them so that we might grow in his image.

Such decluttering happens when youthful freedom and partying are left behind because we hear some inner call to settle down and contribute to life. It happens when young couples begin to raise a family and trade in sporty cars and fashionable lifestyles for baby furniture and SUVs. It happens in middle age when in the midst of building a life we change the blueprint. The weight of illness will shift our perspectives as well, when worries about life’s details turn dispensable because what we once thought was important becomes clutter in need of being cleared out.

None of this comes about because of some user manual for daily living, but rather because we sense an invitation from Jesus to reassess our lives—to join him in clearing out the clutter in order to take care of what is essential. It is a strange sort of wisdom that flows from a source deeper than ourselves. If not for that powerful force of God’s Spirit clearing the temples of our lives, we would never become the people God created us to be. ●

Reflect

*What might be cluttering
your life right now?*



While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

JOHN 2:23

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 March 2

4:30PM † Winnie Spencer by M/M Tom Kline.....MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday March 3

8:30AM † Bobby Raczkiewicz by Pam RaczkiewiczMI
10:30AM † Rhonda Grabinski by M/M Dave Benedetti.....MA
4:30PM Our Parish FamilyMI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday March 4 No Mass

Tuesday March 5

9:00AM † Agnes Schwartz by
Carol Umlor, Sandy Bistersky & Jim BisterskyMA
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday March 6 No Mass

Thursday March 7

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

Friday March 8

9:00AM † Edna Schumaker by Ann Cramer.....MI

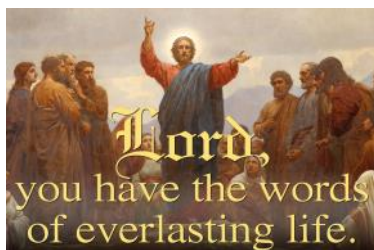
Saturday March 9

4:30PM † Winnie Spencer by M/M Jim Harlett.....MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday March 10

8:30AM † Anita Bouchard-Brown by M/M Kurt BouchardMI
10:30AM † Deceased Members of Our Parish FamilyMA
4:30PM Our Parish FamilyMI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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

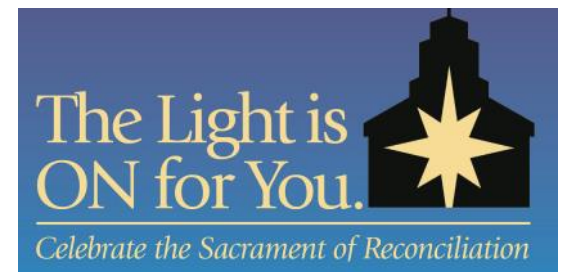


St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Mar 10 / 8:30 AM	Mar 10 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Adalyn Taylor Clare Taylor	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Jennifer DeMull Kenny Harker Zack Nelson Paul Schmidt Jennie Taylor Debbie Veneklas	Deacon Tom Andrew Bonter
Lector	Joe Meerman	Carol Reens
Sacristan	Chris Albrecht	NEED ONE
Ushers	Ed Irwin Wade Lindberg Jim Ponshair Curt DeVos	NEED TWO
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	March 9 - 4:30PM	March 10- 10:30AM
Sacristan	Vito Dolci	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Need Two Need Two	Ty Ricord Sela Ricord
Precious Body	Deacon Tom Angie Hanks Paul Madura	Deacon Tom Bruce Kamp Need One
Precious Blood	Mary Kirkwood Geary Farrell Breton Petrauskas Keith Anderson	Margie Jirous Becky Warners Janette Ney Need One
Hospitality	Matt Karr	Leonard Horter Nettie Leale Need Two
Lector	Nicolette Looks	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko



As we begin the season of Lent, the Diocese of Grand Rapids will once again offer a special opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

"The Light is ON for You:

An Evening of Penance" Thursday, March 14 5 - 8 p.m. in almost every parish of the diocese

Visit GRdiocese.org/penance for details

Wed, March 13 at St Michael 2PM- 5PM

Thurs, March 14 at St Mary from 5PM-8PM

Additional Opportunities for Confessions during Lent.

Tuesdays - 2PM-4PM - St Mary

Wednesdays - 2PM-4PM - St Michael

Saturdays - 3:30PM-4:15 - St Mary

Sundays - 3:30PM-4:15PM - St Michael

St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Thank you to our 11 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$107.55.

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, Marvin Hecksel, Payton Patterson, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

St. Michael's Ladies' Tea Party —

For women of all ages. This is a free event. Saturday, April 13 10:30-12:30pm in the Family Center. Come for brunch, entertainment and some Spiritual tea. Seating is limited. Pre-registration is required no later than April 5. Contact the parish office to register.



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 reacts angrily to those who have given in to greed and made his father's house a marketplace. Church is a sacred place designated to worshipping the one true God.



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.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Paula Raczkiewicz
by Pam Raczkiewicz

Knights of Columbus News

St. Michael's Knights of Columbus is pleased to announce that we will be filling 100 Easter baskets for Coopersville Cares and needy families. We will fill baskets on Sunday, March 17 following the 8:30 Mass. We currently have plenty of Easter baskets, and small stuffed animals. Candy and



other "fillers" would be nice. Please put them in the Easter Bunny Basket in the glass hallway. Candy must be packaged and individually wrapped.

One of the neat things about "Bunny Business" is having young children from our parish to help fill the baskets. They have a sense of "helping others" by providing Easter baskets to needy children. Adults to help and walk through with the children will be needed as well as workers to bag, tie, and deliver the baskets to Coopersville Cares.

Giving Back to God

February 25, 2024

Adult Envelopes	\$8,503.00
Loose Cash	\$173.00
Children's Envelopes	\$20.50
Total	\$8,696.50
Endowment Fund	\$20.00

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. **There will be an Open House on Tuesday, March 12, from 6-7 PM.**



March 3, 2024 ~ The 3rd Sunday of Lent

Cluster News and Community News and Events

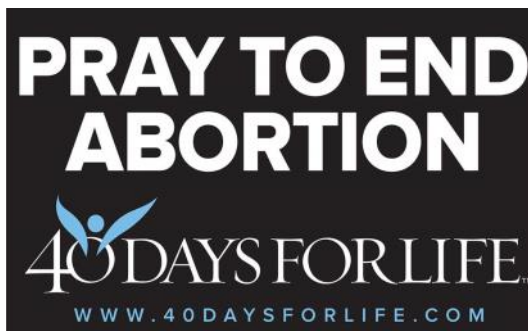
40 Days for Life ~ March 8, 2024

Would you be willing to pray for one hour?

40 Days for Life is a unique pro-life effort that consists of 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil in front of abortion clinics. This will be the 29th campaign in Grand Rapids, and it will take place in front of Planned Parenthood- 425 Cherry Street SE Grand Rapids. This facility provides the abortion pill and refers for abortions. Dozens of area churches have adopted a day of prayer.

Our parish family has chosen Friday, March 8, 2024

We need 2 prayer volunteers from 7 am till 7 pm throughout the day. This is a powerful and proven effective way to close abortion centers and show the Mother's that we are praying and thinking about them and their babies. Please consider a hour of your time~ If you are unable to attend that day you may go to the clinic and pray any time! Thank you for your commitment to LIFE!



Sensory Sensitive Easter Egg Hunt for Special Needs Families

This event is for families with special needs. individuals of any age to come and enjoy this fully inclusive and accessible event! Families will be given a fun, decorated indoor space to hunt for eggs without the overwhelming crowds. Eggs can then be turned in for a giant prize egg filled with goodies for the whole family! Snacks and drinks will be available, as well as a quiet area set aside with calming activities

Families are asked to RSVP by Tuesday, March 19



Priesthood Discernment Meetings

Discernment is a time of obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding. If you are considering the priesthood, the Diocese of Grand Rapids invites you to meet with other young men (ages 16+) to gather and discern God's will for your life. Meetings will take place from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Parish, 750 Gladstone Dr. S.E., East Grand Rapids and are offered on the following **Sundays in 2024: March 10, and April 21**. Just show

up or email Pattie Reynolds, preynolds@grdiocese.org, to RSVP. Questions? Contact Father Stephen Durkee, director of priestly vocations, sdurkee@grdiocese.org

Fr Mike's Musings



Having promoted the Old Testament up to now we must admit that there is a progression from the Old to the New Testament whereby legalistic observance is superseded by new perception of the spirit of love which underlies the Law and must be the true yardstick of its application into our faith lives. Dei Verbum, the Second Vatican Council's "Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation", says the books of the Old Testament show us authentic divine teaching although they contain matters imperfect and provisional.

Jesus always confirmed the validity of the Ten Commandments but relativized the importance of the oral Jewish laws. The Jewish cleanliness rules are to be found in the book of Leviticus, those on clean and unclean food in Leviticus Chapter 11 are a good example of this relativization. In dramatic contrast to the cleanliness rules in Leviticus, Jesus in Mark 7:14-23 pronounced all foods to be clean. Contact with a corpse made one unclean according to Numbers 19:11-19 but Jesus took the dead daughter of Jairus by the hand (Luke 8:54 and Matthew Chapter 9). Jesus also took liberty with regard to the Sabbath laws by curing others and allowing His disciples to pick corn on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3.6 and Matthew Chapter 12 and Luke Chapter 6).

According to Leviticus Chapters 13-14 leprosy and skin diseases made one unclean but Jesus touched the lepers when healing them (Mark 1:40-45 and Matthew Chapter 8 and Luke Chapter 5). We do not see the laws about priests and sacrifices being observed in the New Testament, but the moral teaching of the Prophets is still considered valid. But most of the Old Testament does have a value on its own and should not be devalued merely because it is composed before the time of Jesus and the early Church.

If we never read the Old Testament we would miss out on a fine and edifying piece of literature. Most people, Christian and non-Christian alike, agree that the Book of Job is the finest reflection on the mystery of human suffering. There are some Old Testament passages which children especially love: think of how popular the musical "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is or the animated film "Prince of Egypt".

If you have not already found your favorite passages in the Old Testament, I hope you do during this course of re-reading the scriptures, and I hope you enjoy your reading of the Old Testament and that it strengthens you in your relationship with God. St. Augustine encapsulates the relationship between the Old and New Testaments with a beautiful analysis of the two: "The New is concealed in the Old Testament, the Old is revealed in the New." Christians trace their lineage from the Jews, and the Jews recorded their faith history in the Old Testament. To disregard the Old Testament is to disregard ourselves as a people of faith, rooted in the past that prefigures and guides us to our future destiny in and through Jesus Christ, the Lord.

Outdoor Stations of the Cross Friday, March 22 at 7PM

Join us on the Meditation Path at St Mary Church Grounds as we Pray The Stations of the Cross Friday, March 22 at 7PM .

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus Councils #11581 & #9909

(weather pending / incase of rain or snow prayer service will be moved inside the church)



March 3, 2024 ~ The 3rd Sunday of Lent

St. Mary's Parish News

St Mary Religious Education

Thanks again to all of the Religious Education students who participated in the "Live" Stations of the Cross. A big thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. Great job! More Pictures available here:



<https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/photoalbums/living-stations-of-the-cross-2024>

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

This is the Third Sunday in Lent. In today's Gospel Jesus is angry that the people have seemingly forgotten to respect the Temple of God. It is to be a place of honoring God without all the distractions. Jesus has come to rid everything that was keeping the people from God. Jesus wants us to eliminate the unimportant stuff in our lives. All the stuff or things that distract us and keep us from God.

Religious Education Classes

1st-7th Grade

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

Please join us on Wednesday, March 6 in the church at 6:30pm for Eucharistic Adoration. Come and spend time **sitting in the presence of our Lord and Savior.**

8th Grade -Confirmation Classes

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

Questions or comments:

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

Thank You Saint Mary Parish Family

A special thank you to Father Mike Hodges and Deacon Tom Roberts for all of the support during Agnes' illness and passing. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the funeral mass. It was beautiful. The luncheon crew put on a very nice luncheon. Thank you everyone during this hard time. Leon F. Schwartz



Knights of Columbus #11581 News

CALLING ALL ADULT MALE PARISHIONERS:

The **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** would like to have you as a member of their council. Do you think you're too busy to join? Your time commitments includes church activities that you may already be supporting, such as Choir, Hospitality ministry, Eucharistic ministry, etc. Just keep doing the things you are already doing, nothing more. **Being a Knight should compliment your life, not complicate it.** Get involved only when you have time. If you are bust, that's OK.

Just being a member is helpful and shows your support. Ask a Knight to sign up or do it online at KofC.org / RobRander82@gmail.com / 616.283.7483

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: robrander82@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 - March 7 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.

SAVE THE DATE! Next Blood Drive & Donuts - June 2, 2024



Meal Train for Fr Mike

Scheduling now for March & April 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> **Thank you to everyone that has dropped off a meal to Fr Mike. He appreciates your thoughtfulness and generosity.**

Giving Back to God Time, Talent & Treasure

Attendance at Mass:	Feb24/25
Feb 24/4:30PM:84 Feb 25/10:30AM:152	
Adult Contributions	\$3090.00
Children Contributions	\$13.00
Loose Contributions	\$134.00
Capital Improvement	\$335.00
Online Giving	\$1130.00
Total	\$4702.00
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5680.27
Budget vs Actual to Date (since July 1)	+6095.36

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

PUTT PUTTS BAR

The Fischer Family ~ 616.774.9129 ~ 1148 W Fulton

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!



March 16, 2024 at 5:30PM

An Evening of Food and Fellowship ~ ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Soup Super tradition is of gathering to pray and share a simple meal during Lent. At this meal we share by placing our abundance in a common pot, eating less ourselves, and bringing the surplus to those in need.

This year, we will enjoy two simple soups and bread. And there will be a "pot" at the door for contributions to the Saint Mary Parish Christian Service Fund (Poor Box).

PLEASE RSVP by March 10

Sign Up form is available in the Narthex or call Cathie at the parish office 677.3934.

Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7PM During Lent

Mar 8 - Led by Gary Karr

Mar 15 -Led by Pastoral Council

Mar 22 - Led by Knights of Columbus Coun-

cils #1158 & #9909 at the Outdoor Meditation Path

We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by Your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



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



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

March 3, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another." (1 Jn 4:11)

The way we love others testifies to God's presence in the world. Jesus cared for the needy, the poor, sinners, the sick, and those who were possessed. Like Christ, we must love in an authentic and merciful manner.

One way you can reveal Christ's love to others is through the annual **Catholic Relief Services Collection**. **We will participate in this special collection next weekend, March 9/10.**

By participating in this collection, you support Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Holy Father's Relief Fund, and four other agencies of the United States Bishops. These organizations aid victims of persecution and natural disasters, provide legal services to poor immigrants, and advocate for the powerless.

Since we are made in God's image, our vocation is to love. Please reflect upon how you can support the collection this year. To learn more about how your gift will change lives, please visit uscgb.org/catholic-relief. Thank you for your generous support of the Catholic Relief Services Collection!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids

FISH DINNERS

Fridays during Lent at St. Michael's



Sponsored by:

ST. MICHAEL'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #9909

Dinner includes:

Deep Fried Fish OR Baked Fish

French fries, tater tots, rolls, coleslaw, green beans, dessert and beverage

Grilled cheese sandwich also available

WHEN: The First (6) Fridays during Lent (beginning Feb 16)
TIME: 5:30 – 7:00 PM
WHERE: St. Michael's Family Center
PRICE: Adults - \$13.00
Children – Ages 6-10 - \$6.00
Children under 6 – Free

FISH DINNER DATES

Feb 16

Feb 23

Mar 1

Mar 8

Mar 15

Mar 22

(No Fish Dinner on Good Friday, Mar 29)

TAKE A BREAK! LET US DO YOUR LENTEN COOKING
JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP
Stations of the Cross to follow at 7 PM

Dear Padre,

My thoughts are my worst enemy. Sometimes they turn to lust and anger. When I recognize what I am thinking, I pray to Jesus and Mary, but I still struggle. What else can I do?

When angry and lustful thoughts enter our consciousness, we should say a prayer and turn our mind to something else. Such thoughts become sins only when we deliberately encourage them or when we make plans to commit the sin. The thoughts themselves are temptations, not sins.

Continue to put your trust in Jesus and Mary, and try to focus on what is good and peaceful. You might also consider what you are letting into your thoughts or imagination: What are you watching on TV or the internet? What music are you listening to? What are you reading? Are those helping to shape your thoughts and imagination in a new direction, or are they contributing to the problem?

A good thing to turn your attention to is God's word in Scripture. You might want to memorize all or part of the following New Testament verse: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8). Peacefully reflect on these words when troubled by temptation. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Lent
2 Kgs 5:1–15ab	Dn 3:25, 34–43	Dt 4:1, 5–9	Jer 7:23–28	Hos 14:2–10	Hos 6:1–6	2 Chr 36:14–16, 19–23
Lk 4:24–30	Mt 18:21–35	Mt 5:17–19	Lk 11:14–23	Mk 12:28–34	Lk 18:9–14	Eph 2:4–10
						Jn 3:14–21



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Father sent [his Son] to cleanse the temple: not only the Temple of stone, but above all the temple of our heart. Jesus could not tolerate his Father's house becoming a marketplace (see John 2:16); neither does he want our hearts to be places of turmoil, disorder, and confusion.

HOMILY, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021