

***And this is the verdict,
that the light came into the world,
but people preferred darkness to light,
because their works were evil.***

JOHN 3:19

The Saving Game

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

A long time ago, I came across a piece that I still remember because it's pretty much a commentary on how life is for most of us. It goes something like this: At the age of ten, we think we can live forever. When we're twenty, we think we can save the world. When the big thirty rolls around, we think we can save the company. When the fortieth birthday arrives, we think we can save our children. Then, when we're fifty, we think we can at least save our marriage. And by the time we're sixty, we think we should just save aluminum cans.

A bit flippant perhaps, but it reminds me that even given my own best efforts, I really do not save much of anything. It is always God who does the saving, not me.

It's a conversation replayed in our heads again and

again. We find ourselves unwittingly thinking that if we do all the right things, when we die and go to heaven, then God will have to take us in. If we say the right prayers and follow all the rules, then we will have earned salvation. Yet then we will have saved ourselves and there will have been no need for God's gracious goodness. Then we will have lifted ourselves up by our own bootstraps and not by the Lord Jesus.

Then we will proclaim ourselves as the light to overcome darkness, and it will not be the death and resurrection of the Lord which does so. ●

Reflect

***How have you been saved and
how do you need saving now?***

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

Mass Intentions

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

Monday March 11 No Mass

Tuesday March 12

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

Wednesday March 13

9:00AM † Our Parish FamilyMI
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

Thursday March 14

9:00AM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by Rachel Bowens.....MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 5:00 PM—8:00 PM - St. Mary

Friday March 15

9:00AM † Ernie Vadas by a friendMI

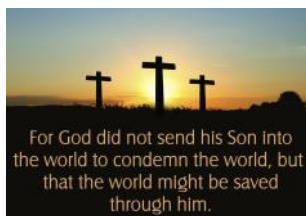
Saturday March 16

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

Sunday March 17

8:30AM † Mary Jo Busman by Dave Busman.....MI
10:30AM † Agnes Schwartz by M/M Bob MaisMA
4:30PM Our Parish FamilyMI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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

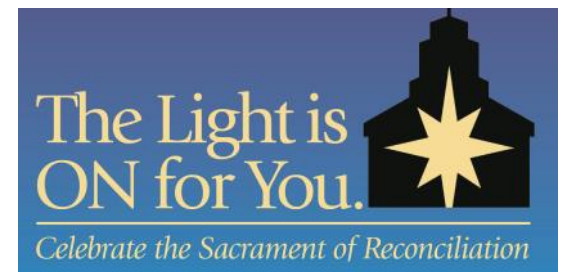


St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Mar 17 / 8:30 AM	Mar 17 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Lauren Meerman Alivia Kosten Hyde Kosten	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Sharon Carlson Chris Albrecht Rosemary Weigel Joe Hitchings Jeff Johnson Denise Nelson Peter Nielsen	NEED TWO
Lector	Lyndsey Kosten	Mark Phillips
Sacristan	Jane Vitunskas	NEED ONE
Ushers	Joe Meerman Calvin Lindberg Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich	NEED TWO
Music	Greg Kelly	NEED ONE

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	March 16 - 4:30PM	March 17- 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Isaac Patterson Lucas Patterson	Ty Ricord Sela Ricord
Precious Body	Sara Patterson Deacon Tom Steve Lampe	Christina Withers Paul Madura Bruce Kamp
Precious Blood	Keith Anderson Michelle Lampe Austin Lampe Angie Hanks	Becky Warners Janette Ney Margie Jirous Geary Farrell
Hospitality	Jeff Schneider Need Three	Jim Looks Marian Looks Leonard Horter Nettie Leale
Lector	Vito Dolci	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko



Spend Time with God this Week!

Here's your last-minute reminder that our parish is participating in
"The Light is ON for You: An Evening of Penance"
Join Father Mike in the confessional as we prepare for the Lord's resurrection.

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—Scrip totals will be updated next week.

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. This year's entertainment will be an Irish dance team. 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. The fourth Sunday of Lent year B reading is John 3:16 is, perhaps the most familiar verse in all Scripture. We see it everywhere, even at sporting events. John 3:16, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.



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

First Communion Retreat: A retreat for both student and parents will be held on Saturday, March 16th from 9:00 am-12:00 noon. We will start in church. Contact Debbie Veneklasé if you cannot attend.

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 +Bobby 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

March 3, 2024

Adult Envelopes	\$4,196.00
Loose Cash	\$197.00
Children's Envelopes	\$7.00
Total	\$4,400.00
Endowment Fund	\$10.00
Building Fund	\$955.00
Cemetery Care	\$10.00

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 10, 2024 ~ The 4th Sunday of Lent

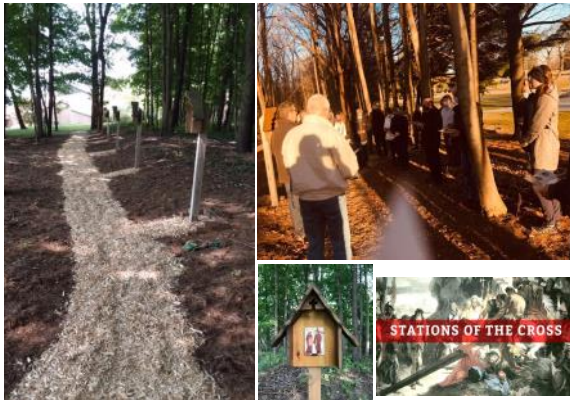


The Soup Supper tradition is of gathering to pray and share a simple meal during Lent. At this meal we share by placing our abundance in a common pot, eating less ourselves, and bringing the surplus to those in need. This year, we will enjoy two simple soups and bread. And there will be a "pot" at the 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.

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

Join us on the Meditation Path on St Mary Church Grounds as we Pray The Stations of the Cross
Hosted by the Knights of Columbus Councils #11581 & #9909.

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



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



A familiar sign waved by spectators at sporting events in hopes that television cameras will transmit their message is:

"John 3:16." A favorite of many Christians, this verse states: *"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life."* Taken from its context in the Gospel of John this verse presents a heartwarming thought. The fuller literary context, as heard in today's reading, darkens the picture: *"people loved darkness rather than light"* (John 3:19). For John, the term "world" carries a negative meaning.

The world is at odds with Jesus and with His Spirit. Worse, it hates Jesus and those who believe in and follow after Him. That the inhabitants of the world prefer darkness to light earning them the name *"children of darkness"*. For this reason, Jesus refuses to pray for the world; instead, He defeats the world (John 16:33).

Contemporary Christians, like those who wave the "John 3:16" signs at sporting events, ought to heed the caution against the naiveté that this passage sometimes engenders. The world is not exclusively neutral, nor is it patiently awaiting the 'Good News'. There are many who are actively hostile to Jesus, to Christianity and its message. Encountering the disbelief of the "world" was a shocking experience for the early Christians. This knowledge should help their contemporary descendants to be forewarned and forearmed.

Today's scripture verses are selected from a more extensive discussion that Jesus had with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and religious authority. He was attracted to Jesus but approaches Him at night suggests that Nicodemus was trying to hide this interest. Anyone at all familiar with the niose Middle Eastern world where privacy is practically non-existent can sympathize with Nicodemus' strategy to protect his reputation, his honor. Once ruined or lost, a reputation and one's honor cannot be regained. To his credit, though, Nicodemus seems to have pondered and perhaps even pursued his interest in Jesus further, no doubt in discussion with others.

Later in the Gospel, Jesus' statements in the Temple prompt a divided response in His audience. Some believe, and others want to arrest Him for blasphemy. The chief priests and some of the Pharisees are disappointed, and they taunt and insult the Temple police for not arresting Jesus. At this moment, Nicodemus exposes himself to shame by defending Jesus' right to a hearing, something we should all take note of in our current age. Shame is not long in coming: *"Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you?"* ask his fellow Pharisees derisively. Nicodemus the night visitor has now gone one step further, to daytime defender of Jesus, at least indirectly.

The final appearance of Nicodemus in John's Gospel makes his spiritual journey appear to be complete. When Jesus dies, Nicodemus comes forward publicly with myrrh and aloes to anoint the body. He joins Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple of Jesus who feared the Temple authorities, and both of them see to the burial of Jesus. This final appearance of Nicodemus illustrates the passages of John 3:14: *"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life,"* and John 12:32: *"And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself."* Lent is an opportune time to redirect one's path to Jesus, defend and continue His mission, and to be lifted up with Him to eternal life.

Let's Come Together to Discuss the Church's Life and Mission.

Our diocese continue its efforts to listen to the voices of the faithful. Your thoughts, concerns, opinions, and overall experience of the Catholic Church are vital in our continued effort to adore God and serve His people.

Please join us for a listening session so we can come together to discuss the Church's life and mission as part of the Synod on Synodality.

The sessions will be:

Tues., March 12, St. Patrick – St. Anthony Parish, Grand Haven, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Wed., March 20, Catholic Newman Center, Big Rapids, 6—7:30 p.m.



St. Mary's Parish News

St Mary Religious Education

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

During 10:30AM Mass.

This is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. In today's Gospel we hear one of the most common Scriptural references:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

Even though we are weak and sinful people, God still chooses to give us the amazing gift of His merciful love in His Son, Jesus.

Religious Education Classes

1st-7th Grade

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

Thank you to everyone who joined us this past Wednesday for Eucharistic Adoration. This Lenten season, may we all spend more time in prayer and reflection in the presence of our Lord and Savior, sitting in the presence of our Lord and Savior.

8th Grade -Confirmation Classes

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

Confirmation Student have a Field trip to go watch the movie Cabrini. We will meet at St. Mary's Sunday March 10 at 2:15.

Questions or comments:

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

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 March 19.**

Office@CoopersvilleUMC.org



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.**

Welcome

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

Zoey Jane Parris

Baptized on March 9, 2024

Daughter of Matthew and Jenna (Owens) Parris



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

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 - April 4 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.

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



Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7PM During Lent

Mar 15 -Led by Pastoral Council

Mar 22 - Led by Knights of Columbus Councils #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.



Giving Back to God Time, Talent & Treasure

Attendance at Mass: Mar 2 / 4:30PM: 91 Mar 3 /10:30AM: 162	March 2 / 3
Adult Contributions	\$3888.00
Children Contributions	\$21.41
Loose Contributions	\$302.00
Capital Improvement	\$405.00
Online Giving	\$2,160.00
Total	\$6776.41
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5655.76
Budget vs Actual to Date (since July 1)	+6351.22

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

EDWARD JONES

Dana Belliel-Financial Advisor 616.784.9622

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

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

St. Michael's Preschool



NOW ENROLLING!

Slots are filling up fast - don't wait!

*Join us for a year of learning, fun,
life-long friendships and growing!*

Open House: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 6-7 PM
Come explore the classroom and meet Mrs. Lindberg!

preschool@saintmichaels.us



St. Michael's Ladies' Tea Party

for women of all ages!



Saturday, April 13th, 2024

10:30am-12:30pm



St. Michael's Family Center

Come for brunch and entertainment

(Gluten-free options available)

Come dressed in your Tea Party best!

There will be plenty of props for your Photo Ops!



Pre-registration required, before Friday, April 5th (**limited seating**).

Put registration in Sunday collection, drop off at the parish office,
or email childrensministry@saintmichaels.us.

Contact the parish office with questions, 616.384.4026.

Name _____

Phone _____

Number Attending _____

Food Allergies? _____



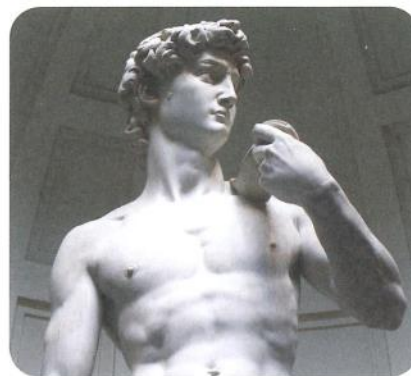
Dear Padre,

In the Church's eyes, what constitutes pornography? Art museums have statues of nude men and women, some of which are quite explicit. Is the only difference the respectability of the venue?

The "respectability" of the location or publisher doesn't matter. A product is pornographic if it was created to sexually arouse users of the product regardless of the venue. Michelangelo's intention in carving his famous statue of David was not to arouse the people who look at it, so the Church does not call it pornography.

Pornography has existed for centuries, but it didn't arrive in our homes uninvited until recently. People with internet access are regularly confronted by pornographic images and literature, and many find it a very powerful temptation. In response, the US bishops issued a helpful document, which is available online at usccb.org: *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*.

From this document: "Using and/or producing pornography is a sin against chastity and against human dignity....The sin of pornography needs the Lord's forgiveness and should be confessed in the sacrament of penance. Pornography objectifies people and brings hurt and pain. It is an illusory substitute for real relationships and intimacy, which in the end bring true joy. Many good people struggle with the sin of pornography and [strive] to cultivate chastity. You are not alone. Jesus is with you, the Church offers you love and support. Trust in the Lord's mercy and his power to free and heal you." ●



MICHELANGELO'S DAVID / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

If God is the God of life...

then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in his Name.

If God is the God of peace...

then it is wrong for us to wage war in his Name.

If God is the God of love...

then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters.

PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF WAR, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021



MONDAY

March 11
Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17-21
Jn 4:43-54

TUESDAY

March 12
Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1-9, 12
Jn 5:1-16

WEDNESDAY

March 13
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8-15
Jn 5:17-30

THURSDAY

March 14
Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7-14
Jn 5:31-47

FRIDAY

March 15
Lenten Weekday
Wis 2:1a, 12-22
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

SATURDAY

March 16
Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18-20
Jn 7:40-53

SUNDAY

March 17
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31-34
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33

Timely Topics Viewed with a Catholic Perspective
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