



## Learning How to Die

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**I**t has been pointed out that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well, that is, to go where we would rather not go, to love when we know it will cost, to offer ourselves even when we know we will be used. If we die a bit every day, sometimes with struggle and sacrifice in those situations that may call for such, then at our final moment we will be able to stand before that specter face to face and not run, simply because we have met before and have been able to walk away the victor.

Dying well does not mean we do so without fear. Courage blossoms when we stand in a field of fear. Even the Lord Jesus “offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears” to God, as the Letter to the Hebrews notes. Dying well does not mean we do so cleanly. Dying is often messy, and it is always an uprooting that disrupts and scatters everything nearby.

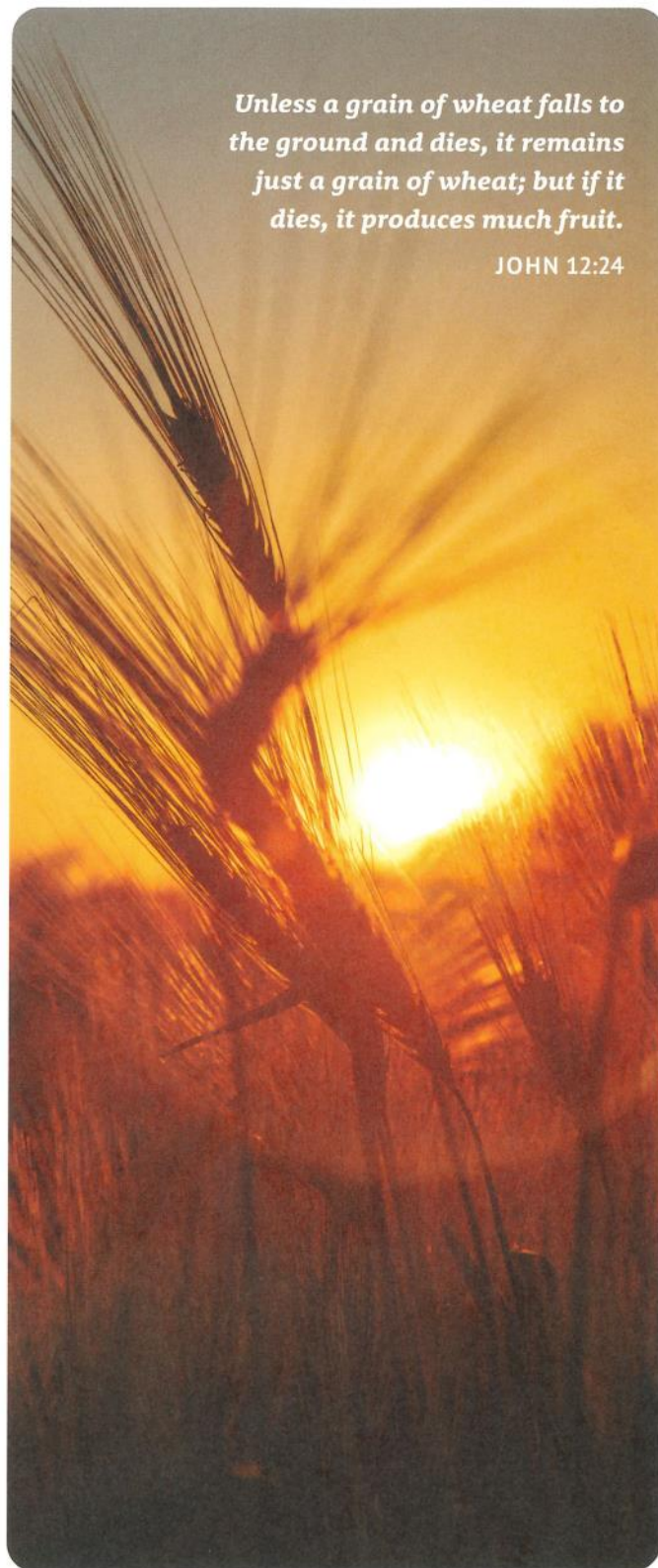
Nor does dying well mean we do so in control of the event. That is what is so devastating about death. It has complete and total control. At its best and at its worst the only way to die well is to say “yes” to it every time it demands our submission. And like the eye of stillness at the center of the hurricane, it is at the heart of death where we embrace resurrection and where the holy offers life. It is where we can have a deep encounter with the Lord Jesus. ●

### Reflect

*Can you accept the little deaths  
along the way as preparation  
for the final passing from this life?*

*Unless a grain of wheat falls to  
the ground and dies, it remains  
just a grain of wheat; but if it  
dies, it produces much fruit.*

JOHN 12:24



# 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](mailto:frmhodges@grpriests.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 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 Mais .....**MA**  
4:30PM Our Parish Family .....**MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

### Monday March 18 No Mass

### Tuesday March 19

9:00AM Thanksgiving for Tom Knauf Family Terri Schoenborn .....**MA**  
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

### Wednesday March 20

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

### Thursday March 21

9:00AM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by Rachel Bowens.....**MA**

### Friday March 22

9:00AM † Steven Rohen by Norm & Barb Rohen.....**MI**

### Saturday March 23

4:30PM † Mary Klein by Family .....**MA**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

### Sunday March 24 Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord

8:30AM † Bob & Carol Powers by David & Lisa Wilbur.....**MI**  
10:30AM † Winnie Spencer by Bill Oziemkiewicz.....**MA**  
4:30PM Our Parish Family .....**MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

**MA**=St. Mary

**MI**=St. Michael's

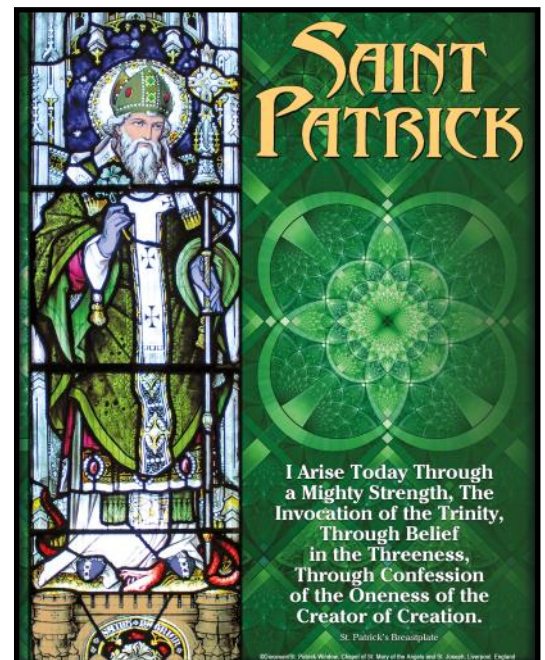


## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Mar 24 / 8:30 AM	Mar 24 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Bryson Lindberg Melena Lindberg Kenzie Harker	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Andrew Bonter Kenny Harker Mark Phillips Zack Nelson Chris Albrecht NEED ONE	Cindy Bleckley NEED ONE
Lector	Cindy Lindberg Carl Pohlman	Carol Reens NEED ONE
Sacristan	Rosemary Weigel	Cindy Bleckley
Ushers	Mary Bueche Ed Irwin Ray Maka Curt DeVos	NEED TWO
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	March 23 - 4:30PM	March 24- 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Isaac Patterson Lucas Patterson	Madeline Serge Lauren LeMieux
Precious Body	Michelle Lampe Austin Lampe Steve Lampe	Deacon Tom Christina Withers Bruce Kamp
Precious Blood	Vito Dolci Mary Kirkwood Geary Farrell Angie Hanks	Margie Jirous Janette Ney Becky Warners Need One
Hospitality	Jeff Schneider Need Three	Leonard Horter Nettie Leale Need Two
Lector	Sara Patterson	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko





## St. Michael's Parish News



**Scrip News**— Thank you to our 16 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$87.85.

**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 fifth Sunday of Lent. This Gospel is the Scrutiny year A. When Jesus arrives in Bethany, he learns that Lazarus is dead and has been in his tomb for four days. Jesus enters the tomb and performs a miracle, raising Lazarus from the dead. It was witnessed by Lazarus's sister Martha. The story of Lazarus tells us that Jesus has power over life and death.



**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 +Bobby Racziewicz  
by Pam Racziewicz

## 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 today, following the 8:30 Mass. We currently have plenty of Easter baskets, and small stuffed animals.



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.

### Parish Prayer Line—

If you would like to request a prayer for our parish prayer line please contact Chris Albrecht at 616-403-7110 or Judy Driedger at 616-899-2470.



## Giving Back to God

March 10, 2024

Adult Envelopes	\$4,000.00
Loose Cash	\$265.00
Children's Envelopes	\$18.25
Online Giving	\$1,120.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,403.25</b>
Building Fund	\$80.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$296.00

**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.



## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### 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 / incase of rain or snow prayer service will be moved inside the church)

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



**Holy Thursday** - March 28 / Mass of The Lord's Supper  
7:00PM at St Mary (Fr. Mike Hodges)  
Followed by Night Watch until 10:00pm  
7:00PM at St Michael (Msgr. Louis Stasker)  
Followed by Night Watch until 10:00pm

**Good Friday** - March 29  
3:00PM at St Mary - (Fr. Mike Hodges)  
3:00PM at St Michael - (Msgr. Louis Stasker)  
8:00PM at St Mary - Tenebrae Service with Gary Karr

**Holy Saturday** - March 30  
9:00PM Easter Vigil at St Mary (Fr. Mike Hodges)  
9:00PM Easter Vigil at St Michael (Msgr. Louis Stasker)

**Easter Sunday** - March 31 /  
Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord  
9:30AM at St Michael (Msgr. Louis Stasker)  
10:30AM at St Mary (Fr. Mike Hodges)

**Divine Mercy Sunday** - Sunday - April 7 at St Michael  
4:15PM, Divine Mercy Chaplet  
4:30PM, Mass

**Prayer for Holy Week—** Lord Jesus Christ, in this sacred and solemn week when we see again the depth and mystery of your redeeming love, help us to follow where you go, to stop where you stumble, to listen when you cry, to hurt as you suffer, to bow our heads in sorrow as you die, so that, when you are raised to life again, we may share in your endless joy. Amen

### Fr Mike's Musings



A recent Pew Research Center survey finds that most self-described Catholics don't believe the Church's core teaching on the Real Presence in the elements of the Eucharist. In fact, nearly seven-in-ten Catholics (69%) say they personally believe that during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine used in Communion are symbols of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that during Mass, the bread and wine actually become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

In addition to asking Catholics what they believe about the Eucharist, the new survey also included a question that tested whether Catholics know what the Church teaches on the subject. Most Catholics who believe that the bread and wine are symbolic do not know that the Church holds that Transubstantiation occurs. Approximately one-in-five Catholics (22%) reject the idea of Transubstantiation, even though they know about the Church's teaching. The vast majority of those who believe that the bread and wine actually become the Body and Blood of Christ – 28% of all Catholics – do know that this is what the Church teaches. A small share of Catholics (3%) professes to believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist despite not fully knowing the Church's teaching on Transubstantiation.

The Catholic doctrine of the Real Presence is the belief that Jesus Christ is literally, not symbolically, present in the Holy Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist because Jesus tells us this is true in the Bible: "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from Heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from Heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh. The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him'" (John 6:48-56).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, it is an expression of the unity among all those in communion with the Catholic Church throughout the world, who maintain the belief in the Real Eucharistic Presence of Christ. Therefore, only those who believe in the Real Presence may participate in this sacrament of oneness with Christ and His Church. Catholics believe that we cannot celebrate this unifying sacrament with other Christians while there are still disagreements about the Eucharist itself. However, Catholics pray for the day when we can reconcile with other Christians and share in the unity of God's people through the Holy Eucharist.

Because the Eucharist is so important, the Church teaches that there are certain requirements someone must meet to be able to receive the Eucharist at Mass.

The person must be baptized Catholic (Eastern Orthodox are also allowed to receive).

The person must be in a state of grace and has been through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (i.e. not be aware of any unconfessed mortal sins).

The person must have fasted for at least one hour before receiving the Eucharist. Drinking water is okay, but for anything else to be acceptable, it must be medically necessary.

The Eucharist is a great gift that allows us an unparalleled union with Jesus Christ. However, another element of the communion in the Eucharist is communion with the Church. When we receive the Eucharist, we are saying, "I am in communion with the Church that has been entrusted with this Eucharist."

### 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

**March 17, 2024 ~ The 5th Sunday of Lent**



## St. Mary's Parish News

### St Mary Religious Education

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

During 10:30AM Mass.

This is the Fifth Sunday in Lent. In today's Gospel we heard the story of Lazarus.

Happy St. Patrick day. Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of Ireland

#### Religious Education Classes

1st-7th Grade

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

#### 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

### 2nd Grader Retreat ~ March 9, 2024.

Please continue to pray for them as they prepare to make their First Communion.



### 8th Grade Outing ~ March 10, 2024.

Confirmation Students (and family members) attended the Cabrini Movie.



### 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**

**Knight Person of the Month for April Bruce Kamp**

**Knight Family of the Month for April Jim & Joellen Anderson**

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 your for service and commitment to our Parish Family!



### 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: Mar 9 / 4:30PM: 122 Mar 10 /10:30AM: 132	March 9/10
Adult Contributions	\$6437.00
Children Contributions	\$9.25
Loose Contributions	\$321.00
Capital Improvement	\$330.00
Online Giving	\$1155.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$794.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9046.25</b>
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5514.93
Budget vs Actual to Date (since July 1)	+8303.52

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

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

**BROUWER TREE SERVICE, LLC.**

Residential & Commercial ~ 616.784.7086

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!**

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

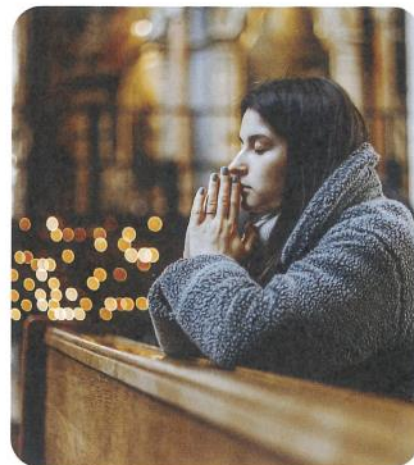
# Dear Padre,

## *What is the difference between temptation and sin?*

The temptations of Jesus, as they are recorded in the Gospels (Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1, and Matthew 4:1), give us the proper direction with regard to sin and temptation. Jesus was tempted three times, but he did not sin. More than that, Jesus put his trust in God during the temptations. Jesus' message is clear: if you feel tempted, call out to God!

The Church teaches that sin is a deliberative process. Temptation is something that happens to you without your consent: a thought or desire pops into your mind. For temptation to become a sin, you have to entertain that thought or desire, or plan to act on it, or do it. That's when temptation "turns a corner" and becomes sin.

Although the sacrament of penance is available throughout the year, the Church places a special emphasis on it during Lent. There may be a communal penance service in your area. Perhaps you can commit now to participating in the service. If it's been a while since you've been to confession or you're not sure what to do or say, just tell the priest. He will show you. ●



ANNA NASS / SHUTTERSTOCK

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 18 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62 Jn 8:1-11	March 19 <i>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a	March 20 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Jn 8:31-42	March 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Gn 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59	March 22 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42	March 23 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56	March 24 <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

### **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).



## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

*We are called to take on the paschal law of losing life in order to receive it renewed and eternal. And what does losing life mean?.... It means to think less about oneself, about personal interests and to know how to "see" and to meet the needs of our neighbors, especially the least of them.*

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 18, 2018