

July 20, 2025 • The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

# St. Mary St. Michael

15164 Juniper Dr., Marne MI 49435  
616.677.3934 • [www.saintmarysmarne.org](http://www.saintmarysmarne.org)

17150 88th Ave., Coopersville, MI 49404  
616.384.4026 • [www.saintmichaels.us](http://www.saintmichaels.us)



**Pastor: Rev. Michael Hodges**

[frmhodges@grpriests.org](mailto:frmhodges@grpriests.org) • For emergencies please call: 616.745.1409

## **Saint Mary Parish Staff**

### **St. Mary Parish Office Hours**

**Monday** ..... 9:00AM - 4:30PM  
**Tuesday** ..... 9:00AM - 4:30PM  
**Wednesday** 9:00AM - 11:30AM  
**Thursday** .... 9:00AM to 4:30PM  
**Friday** ..... Closed

### **Deacon**

Tom Roberts  
[troberts@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:troberts@saintmarysmarne.org)

### **Business Manager**

Todd Kline  
[businessmanager@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:businessmanager@saintmarysmarne.org)

### **Parish Secretary**

Cathie VanGessel  
[secretary@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:secretary@saintmarysmarne.org)

### **Director of Faith Formation**

Debbie Veneklase  
[dre@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:dre@saintmarysmarne.org)

### **Director of O.C.I.A**

#### **Adult Bible Study**

Jill Brown

#### **Maintenance**

Jim Looks

#### **Custodian**

Marian Looks

#### **Liturgical Minister**

Gary Karr  
[gkarr@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:gkarr@saintmarysmarne.org)

#### **Music Director**

Dr. Bernie Stanko  
616.490.3836  
[berniestanko@hotmail.com](mailto:berniestanko@hotmail.com)

#### **St Mary Prayer Line**

616.677.3934 or  
Linda at 677.3269  
For evening requests call  
Darlene 616.453.0157 or  
email [bfa1414@yahoo.com](mailto:bfa1414@yahoo.com)

## **Saint Michael Parish Staff**

### **St. Michael Office Hours**

**Monday** ..... 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
**Tuesday** ..... 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
**Wednesday**... 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
**Thursday** ..... Closed  
**Friday** ..... 9:00AM to 4:00PM

### **Deacon**

Tom Roberts  
[troberts@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:troberts@saintmarysmarne.org)

### **Business Manager**

Todd Kline  
[bsmgr@saintmichaels.us](mailto:bsmgr@saintmichaels.us)

### **Parish Secretary**

Beki Rotman  
[secretary@saintmichaels.us](mailto:secretary@saintmichaels.us)

### **Director of Faith Formation**

Debbie Veneklase  
[childrensministry@saintmichaels.us](mailto:childrensministry@saintmichaels.us)

### **Director of O.C.I.A**

Cliff Kozminski  
616.437.5318

#### **Maintenance**

David Goosen

#### **Custodian**

Carol Reens

#### **Liturgical Minister**

Kevin Kilpatrick  
[liturgy@saintmichaels.us](mailto:liturgy@saintmichaels.us)

#### **Scrip Coordinator**

Brenda Kilpatrick  
616.837.6363

#### **St Michael**

#### **Prayer Line**

Chris Albrecht  
616-403-7110  
Judy Driedger  
616-899-2470

## **Weekend Mass Schedule**

**Saturday** ..... 4:00PM • St Michael  
**Sunday** ..... 8:30AM • St Michael  
**Sunday** ..... 10:30AM • St Mary

## **Weekday Mass Schedule**

**Tuesday** ..... 12:00PM • St Mary  
*Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30PM*  
**Wednesday** ..... 12:00PM • St Michael  
*Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30PM*  
**Thursday** ..... 12:00PM • St Mary  
**Friday** ..... 12:00PM • St Michael

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Tuesday and**  
**Thursday** ..... 12:30PM to 1:30PM • St. Mary  
**Wednesday and**  
**Friday** ..... 12:30PM to 1:30PM • St. Michael  
**Saturday** ..... 3:00PM to 3:45PM • St. Michael

# Mass Schedule & Intentions

## Saturday July 19

4:00PM † Steven Rohen by Norm & Barb Rohen .....MI  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

## Sunday July 20

8:30AM † Barbara Bellamy by Dave & Sharon Carlson .....MI  
10:30AM † Chuck Klein by M/M John Hansknecht.....MA

## Monday July 21 No Mass

## Tuesday July 22

12:00PM † Eleanor May by M/M Duanne Perrin.....MA  
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

## Wednesday July 23

12:00PM † Kathie Poelma by Ruth Hecksel .....MI  
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

## Thursday July 24

12:00M † James Potts by Knights of Columbus #11581 .....MA  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

## Friday July 25

12:00PM † Joan Nemecek by Joe Hitchings .....MI  
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

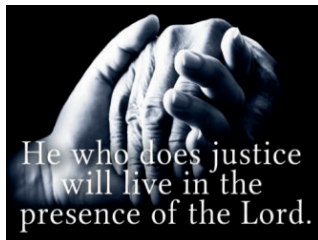
## Saturday July 26

4:00PM † Richard & Marie Barkel by Ray & Kathy Maka.....MI  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

## Sunday July 27

8:30AM † Paula Raczkiewicz-Kelly by Pam Raczkiewicz.....MI  
10:30AM † Chuck Klein by M/M Larry Antcliff.....MA

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



## Scripture Readings for the Week of July 20, 2025

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Gn 18:1-10a; Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42
<b>Monday</b>	Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 12:38-42
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene</b> Sgs 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
<b>Wednesday</b>	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28; Mt 13:1-9
<b>Thursday</b>	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Mt 13:10-17
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Feast of Saint James, Apostle</b> 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Mt 20:20-28
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Mt 13:24-30
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Gn 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	July 26 —4:00PM	July 27 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Bryson Lindberg Reid Lindberg
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Sue Felicioni NEED ONE	Deacon Tom Debbie Veneklas Chris Albrecht Denise Nelson Jennie Taylor Kenny Harker Peter Nielsen
Lector	Rob Guilbault	Mary Guilbault
Sacristan	Sue DeVos	Rosemary Weigel
Ushers	NEED TWO	Wade Lindberg Ed Irwin Curt DeVos Duane Snowdin
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	July 27 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Need one
Altar Servers	Noah Davis Calvin Davis Eli Earle
Precious Body	Deacon Tom Nettie Leale Need one
Precious Blood	Becky Warners Bruce Kamp Geary Farrell
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko

## Pray for Vocations

O God,  
hear our prayer  
and let our cry come to You.  
Bless the Diocese of Grand Rapids  
with many vocations to the  
priesthood, diaconate,  
and religious life.

Give Your sons and daughters  
the confidence to  
accept Your call,  
and the love to follow always  
in the footsteps of  
Your beloved Son  
with courage and dedication  
to Your will.

Amen.

## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### Catholic Service Appeal - 2025

Thank you for your gifts to 2025 Catholic Services Appeal! Your generous support funds essential diocesan ministries that strengthen us in Christ. Every gift, regardless of the amount, is important in this effort. Our parish goal for 2025 is:  
Thank you for your stewardship!

#### St Mary

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$50,516.00

Total Pledges Made: \$43,855.00 (87%)

Balance: \$6,661.00

Participation: 89 of 260 Active - Households (35%)

#### St Michael

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$52,297.00

Total Pledges Made: \$ 29,910.00 (57%)

Balance: \$22,387.00

Participation: 75 of 255 - Active Households (29%)

Totals as of July 14, 2025

Please keep in mind that any amount raised over our goal is returned 100% to the parish. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.



### Will you help us Top off the Truck?

Diapers are a basic need, and the cost of diapers can be a financial burden to many families. That's why Catholic Charities West Michigan is hosting its second "Top Off the Truck" diaper drive event for St. Gianna's No Cost Baby Boutique!

In 2024 alone, 4,500 families and 7,430 children entered the doors of St. Gianna's seeking support.

Please consider helping parents and children in need by topping off our truck with these essential diapers!

July 30 - 2-6 p.m.

St. Gianna's No Cost Baby Boutique,  
1400 Plainfield Ave. NE, Grand Rapids

For more information,

please visit [cwestmi.org/top-off-the-truck/](http://cwestmi.org/top-off-the-truck/)

### Fr Mike's Musings



Some say that they work hard, don't harm anyone, so that makes them a good Christian, although they admit that they don't pray. I would probably respond, "If you do your work well, you don't harm anyone, but you don't pray, what is the difference between you and a computer?" No difference.

Computers work well, harm no one, and don't pray. We can get so busy that we forget what life is about. We can get so involved in pursuing the things money can buy that we forget the things money can't buy. Jesus never said to work always, but He did say to pray always (Luke 18:1). We are not meant to be workaholics.

In the Gospel for this week Martha was distracted with all the serving while Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to Him. No doubt Martha would describe herself as someone who did her work well and didn't harm anyone. But it did not bring her peace of mind; she was vexed with her sister, but Jesus was not entirely satisfied with her either:

Clearly, working well and harming no one is not nearly as good as also spending time with Jesus. Martha learned that Jesus would be much happier if she spent time with Him rather than trying to impress Him by running all over the house doing chores. We would be much more pleasing to Jesus if we spent time with him in prayer every day as well as doing good, rather than being a do-gooder who does not pray. We should strive to spend a substantial amount of time in prayer every day, at least as much time as we spend working to achieve the things that do not promise happiness, or that we can carry with us into the next life. Two minutes, three minutes, or five minutes is not enough.

Time spent in prayer is not time wasted. It is the most fruitful time of all. For beginners, prayer may not be easy but for those who persevere, it is certainly rewarding. We live such busy lives that sometimes we might not even be aware of what is really going on deep within us. We only become aware when we take the time to quiet down, contemplate, and pray.

Usually, people call the awareness during prayer of what is happening deep within them "distractions", but these distractions are often messages to help us get our lives in order. Distractions can be of many kinds. If something painful from the past keeps popping into our head during prayer, that may signal that God wants to give us the grace of healing that wound in prayer. That wound is an obstacle to our closeness with God and needs to be healed. Then we must ask God in prayer to heal that wound. Whatever emotions or desires arise in our mind during prayer may be a message to us to bring that matter before the Lord to have it resolved. When we meet Jesus in prayer we will be uplifted and have a much more enjoyable life.

The time that we sacrifice in prayer is time that serves as a form of spiritual "profit". And this is profit that we can most certainly carry with us into the next life.

**"Martha, Martha, you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part, it is not to be taken from her"** (Luke 10:41-42)

### Have You Been Struggling in Your Marriage?

Are you feeling lost, alone, or disconnected from your spouse? Do frustration, anger, or constant arguments seem to overshadow your relationship? Maybe you've stopped communicating altogether, or talking feels like it only makes things worse.

There is hope. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) offers a lifeline for marriages in distress. This program provides practical tools to help couples heal, rediscover love, and rebuild a stronger, more fulfilling relationship.

Join us for the next Retrouvaille weekend: Sept. 12-14

To learn more, register, or sponsor a couple, contact us:

p. 616-980-6029

e. [retrograndrapids@gmail.com](mailto:retrograndrapids@gmail.com)

www. [retrouvaille.org](http://retrouvaille.org)

### Diocesan Employment Opportunities

**We're looking for you!**

Catholic schools, parishes, affiliated organizations, and the diocese are hiring!

See available opportunities at: [grdiocese.org/employment/](http://grdiocese.org/employment/)

### Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



Michigan

[CatholicMatch.com/goMI](http://CatholicMatch.com/goMI)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

**July 20, 2025 ~ The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)



## St. Mary's Parish News

### St Mary Faith Formation

**Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW):**  
**Pre-School thru 2nd Grade During 10:30 AM Mass.**  
**CLW is on Summer break.**

This is the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
 In Luke 10:38-42, Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha, highlighting the importance of prioritizing time with God over busyness. We are reminded to always put listening to Jesus first.

**1st-7th Grade Faith Formation Classes -**  
**Wednesdays at Hall / 6:00- 7:30pm**

**8th Grade - Confirmation Classes -**  
**Wednesdays at Hall / 6:00- 7:30pm**

**Faith Formation classes will be on break until the fall.**



**Registration is now open for the 2025/2026 school year.** Forms are available online or in the Narthex.

**Register ONLINE HERE:** <https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/religious-education-elementary>

Classes resume in September. We are working on class lists and ordering books and supplies. To help us get an accurate number of students, please take a minute and register your child(ren) today.

**For more information** or any questions on any of these programs Please contact Debbie Veneklas at [dre@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:dre@saintmarysmarne.org) or 616.677.3934

### VBS News

We had a **AWESOME** week this year at VBS! The enthusiasm and faithful community of the kids and volunteers were great. This past week the students embarked on an exciting journey through the life of Christ. The children had a fun time learning and celebrating The Liturgical Seasons. This years VBS Chores For Change raised \$372.16 for Our Lady of Fatima Guild. The funds will go toward their annual school supply drive. Great job students! Thank you to all of our VBS'S who raised the money through chores. Thanks to all who helped set up and to the station leaders, crew leaders, kitchen crew, and the many behind-the-scenes volunteers who helped wherever they were needed throughout the week! A special Thank You to everyone who donated items to this program. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you! Cindy Lindberg & Debbie Veneklas



### Save the Date Parish Picnic - September 7



Volunteer / Informational  
 Meeting - August 19 -6 PM - Church  
 Community Room

### Knights of Columbus #11581 News

How to become a Knight: You can enroll in the Knights of Columbus immediately as an "Online Member" by scanning the QR Code. Once you complete and submit the form on that page a local council will contact you. For additional Information or to learn more about what the Knights do, Contact Grand Knight: Bruce Kamp [b.kamp@charter.net](mailto:b.kamp@charter.net) / Phone 616-780-4941



#### **Upcoming Blood Drive & Community Breakfast**

**Pre-Register here:**

**Oct 12**

[https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/11598498](https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11598498)



#### **Cor- Prayer, Formation & Fraternity for Men**

The men of Knights of Columbus 11581 are excited to share the implementation of Cor, a new formation and fraternal opportunity for the men of our parish. Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Cor will be held the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 7:00 am in the St. Mary's community room. This is open to all men of our parish cluster, not just knights. If you have any questions, please reach out to Robert L at 616.292.5964

**Upcoming COR Dates: July 26, Aug 9, 23-7AM - Community Room**

#### **Knight Person of the Month- July: Carl Spence**

#### **Knight Family of the Month- July: The Todd Davis Family**

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!



### Funeral Luncheon Ministry

Sadly, after 2 years of passionately leading up the funeral luncheons, Kelly Spence has given us notice that she will be stepping down from that role. Kelly and her crew of volunteers not only prepared and served a wonderful lunch, but they also provided much needed love, support and empathy to the grieving families. We have greatly appreciated her dedication to providing luncheons to our parish families in their times of need. With that being said, and after some brainstorming with Fr Mike, We will be making a few changes to the Funeral Luncheon Ministry.. We invite you to attend an informal meeting to discuss our ideas for the future of this ministry. We would love to hear your feedback.. Please join us: Tuesday, July 29 at 11AM.. (stay for 12PM Mass after the meeting if you are able)

### School Supply Drive

Our Lady of Fatima Guild is hosting their annual school supply drive. Donations of backpacks, lunch boxes, pencils, notebooks, markers, and other school supplies would be appreciated. *Donations will be collected July 20 through Aug 10.* There will be a box in the Narthex to place your donations.



### Giving Back to God

<b>Mass: Attendance 7/13- 10:30AM:</b>	<b>146</b>
Adult Contributions	\$3660.00
Children Contributions	\$15.97
Loose Contributions	\$236.00
Capital Improvement	\$225.00
Online Giving	\$1470.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5606.97</b>
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5396.55
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	+\$2361.30

**Thank you** for your continued support and generosity! To donate now, open your phone camera, scan the QR code and follow instructions.



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

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)

## St. Michael's Parish News

**Scrip News**— Thank you to the 10 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$52.70. Fr. Mike has requested a new line item for Scrip. You can now have your profit go toward the purchase of new hymnals.



### 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, Pat Harlett, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

## St. Michael's Faith Formation

**Faith Formation Registration** school year 2025-2026: Attention families with children ages 3 through grades 12. You can find registration forms on the parish website and forms are also located in the church narthex.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** We are currently on Summer Break. We will see you in September. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus visits the home of his friends, Mary and Martha. Martha is busy getting everything ready for Jesus, like preparing food. Mary is sitting quietly at Jesus' feet, listening to him talk. Martha gets a little frustrated because she's working hard, and Mary isn't helping. She asks Jesus if he minds that Mary isn't helping her. Jesus gently tells Martha that Mary has chosen what is more important. He explains that spending time with him, listening to his words, is the most important thing. This story teaches us that it's good to serve others and help out, but it's even more important to spend time with Jesus, listen to his words, and learn from him.

**Elementary Faith Formation:** The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:00- 7:30 pm.

**Middle School Faith Formation:** Grades 6, 7 and 8 meet on Sundays from 9:45-11:15am. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation. Our programs are on Summer break. Class will resume in September.

## St. Michael's Catholic Church

### 2025 Vacation Bible School

**Date:** Monday, July 28 – Thursday, July 31

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.



### 2025 Vacation Bible School: Explore mountains of fun!

This year we will guide children through an engaging journey of faith, focusing on the theme of friendship with God amidst the beauty of Alaska's wilderness.

It's hard to find your way in a world gone wild. But we have Jesus—our "True North!" Together, let's give kids a rock-solid foundation and point them to Jesus - their unmovable, unshakable friend forever!

Registration forms are in the narthex and on parish website. Many volunteers are needed! This is a great way to help our parish and get involved. If interested, please contact Debbie Veneklas with any questions. (616) 384-4026.

**We are looking for donations for VBS. If you are willing to make a donation for teen snacks, please contact Debbie at 616-384-4026.**



## St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Kathie Poelma  
by the Poelma Family

## Festival News

### Save the Date for Festival:

August 24, 2025

Now is the time to begin thinking about how you can volunteer or contribute to the festival! Please grab a couple packets of large raffle tickets after Mass to sell to your friends and family!



## Can You Help?

Prison and Jail Ministry of the Diocese of Grand Rapids is collecting items for the Michigan Department Of Corrections Offenders Success Reentry Summit. The summit offers individuals on parole and probation the opportunity to meet with support service providers. Items being requested include the following:

**Wallets and gift cards** to Salons/barbershops and restaurants that do not serve alcohol.

**New Backpacks, bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths. Toiletries, such as shampoo, conditioners, body wash and lotion.**

Items can be placed in the collection box in the back of church until Wednesday July 23. Thank you for your help!

## Giving Back to God

July 12/13 2025

<b>Mass: Attendance</b> 7/12– 4:00PM:	104
<b>Mass: Attendance</b> 7/13 8:30AM:	209
Adult Envelopes	\$3,871.00
Loose Cash	\$463.50
Children's Envelopes	\$9.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,343.50</b>
Building Fund	\$25.00
<i>Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget</i>	\$5,042.00
<i>Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual</i>	+\$1,004.17

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**Online Giving** — Now there's an even more convenient way to contribute to St. Michael's! To donate now, open your phone camera, scan the QR code and follow instructions.

Or text the word GIVE to: 616-384-5011.



**July 20, 2025 ~ The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)

## Baptism Makes Us Christ

**M**artha and Mary show us two attitudes that people who love Jesus can choose to take.

This is not a choice between different vocations in life—life in a monastery, for example, or life in the busy marketplace of this world. Nor is it a choice between personality types: Martha, the “organizing type,” or Mary, the kind of person who prefers to just rest in quiet relatedness to others. What Mary chooses is called “better,” and it is a choice we are all urged by Jesus to make, regardless of our personalities or particular vocation within the Church.

What Jesus is teaching here is the attitude we should take toward himself, his Church and his religion—in other words, toward life itself.

For Martha life consists of “getting it done,” and she understands the Church as the organization Jesus founded to get done the things he came to do. To be “religious” is to participate in the Church’s activities in order to help accomplish her goals. Jesus is someone to work for.

Mary, on the other hand, understands life the way the catechism taught it: “We were created to know God, to love him, and to serve him”—in that order. First, we need to know God, because it is the only way to love him. And the service he wants of us presupposes deep, personal knowledge and love. To serve Jesus Christ as he desires, we have to be intimate with him. Christianity, then, is first and foremost a consecration to seeking knowledge and love of God through intimacy with Jesus Christ.

But intimacy with Jesus Christ is not something that can be achieved just through human efforts—because it is not just human intimacy. We believe that we are baptized into this intimacy by being baptized into union with Jesus in one shared life: his life. It is a mystical union, a mystery, the mystery of grace.

Our intimacy with Jesus is not just the fruit of reflecting on his words, his life, his example. It presupposes this, of course, and requires it; but the real source of our intimacy with him is in the fact that we have been baptized “into Christ,” into his Body, into the life of grace which is a sharing in the divine life of God.

The Mass expresses this. The Mass begins with the “Liturgy of the Word,” when we read the Scriptures, sing and

JULY 20, 2025

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Genesis 18:1-10; Colossians 1:24-28;  
Luke 10:38-42

pray together as an expression of our faith that Jesus is present among us, speaking to us now through his word, calling us to give expression to the Spirit who is rejoicing within us. We never celebrate Mass without readings from the Scriptures. Then we move into the “Liturgy of the Eucharist.” This begins with the Offertory, when we offer ourselves to God under the form of bread and wine, as we offered our human lives to him at Baptism, in order to be transformed more and more into Christ as his real Body on earth. John Paul II, quoting Saint Augustine, wrote: “By the work of the Spirit, Baptism radically configures the faithful to Christ in the Paschal Mystery of death and resurrection; it ‘clothes us’ in Christ’ (cf. Galatians 3:27). ‘Let us rejoice and give thanks,’ exclaims Saint Augustine speaking to the baptized, ‘for we have become not only Christians, but Christ. Marvel and rejoice: we have become Christ!’” (*The Splendor of Truth*, no. 21).

As the Mass continues through the Eucharistic Prayer and the Consecration/Elevation, we who are the Body of Christ offer ourselves “in him” as members of the body he offers on the cross. We offer ourselves as Christ to the Father for the life of the world. Finally, the Mass ends with Communion, when Jesus gives himself to us as the food and life of our souls to be one with us as we are sent out to be his presence in the world.

All of this says to us that the real goal of our lives and of our religion is to be united to Jesus Christ in the intimacy of one shared life, sharing by grace in his mind, his heart, his desires, his power, his mission on earth. Our religion is to grow into union with Jesus so that we might act in union with him, as members of his Body on earth.





Baptism both enables and dedicates us to do this. Baptism gives union.

Our religion is to live out what we celebrate at Mass: to reflect on Scripture and more: to offer ourselves for continual transformation as Christ's real Body on earth. As "Mary," united with Jesus in mind and heart and will, in the intimacy of one shared life, we do all the things "Martha" is concerned about without leaving our Lord's feet, without ceasing to "listen to his words." His words are also in our hearts, and we keep listening to them there.

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

---

### Sixteenth Week of the Year

***Pray daily:** Lord Jesus, you loved me enough to ask me to be your own body. You have shared your heart and your Spirit with me. I want to love you so much that in every word and action of my life my body will be yours. Help me to give to you what I have received. Amen.*

**Monday:** Matthew 12:38-42: Jesus said, "An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet." Are you aware, on a daily basis, that Jesus counts on you to be the sign and proof of his resurrection? What is visible in your way of living that just does not make sense unless you see yourself as the risen Body of Christ?

**Tuesday:** Matthew 12:46-50: Stretching out his hand toward his disciples, Jesus said, "here are my mother and my brothers." Do you feel you have the same claim on Jesus that his mother and brothers had? Do you let him have the same claim on you? How does this show in your life?

**Wednesday:** Matthew 13:1-9: Jesus told the parable, "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up." Do you look upon the words of Jesus as seeds growing within you? What fruit are they bearing? How do you nurture them?

**Thursday:** Matthew 13:10-17: Jesus said, "Blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it." What do you see and hear that the great prophets did not? Do you try to do more than they did because of it? In what ways?

**Friday:** Matthew 13:18-23: Jesus said, explaining the parable of the sower, "The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." Which of these two descriptions do you relate to more? What, in the concrete, makes you feel this way?

**Saturday:** Matthew 13:24-30: The slaves of the household-er came to him and said, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then did these weeds come from?" Which of your actions make it difficult for you to see yourself as Christ's embodied presence on earth? Are they so unacceptable to Jesus that he would like to root them out at any cost? How do fear and pressure inhibit growth into the fullness of free, personal, loving dedication to God?

## LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

---

**As Christian:** Each day for a week, say to yourself when you wake and before every new action, "I am the embodied presence of Jesus here." Act accordingly.

**As Disciple:** Read just the first chapter of John Paul II's letter, *The Splendor of Truth*. It may be the shortest, deepest explanation in existence of what it means to be a Christian.

**As Prophet:** Find a way to remind yourself over and over again all day that you are the embodied presence of Jesus. Try to make your every word, choice and action consistent with this truth.

**As Priest:** Whenever you are called upon this week to do something difficult or to sacrifice yourself for others, say with Jesus, "My flesh for the life of the world!" and give yourself to it as Jesus gave himself to the cross.

**As King:** Every place you go, every room you enter this week, take responsibility for what is going on there. Do what you can do to bring everything into conformity with the values of Christ. Use Jesus' means (persuasion and love, not intimidation or force).



<b>THROOP FUNERAL HOME</b> 214 Church Coopersville <b>837-8161</b>	<b>CONTRACT ELECTRIC CO., INC.</b> • RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL 59 Years in Business <b>784-2393</b>	<b>SUPERIOR MONUMENT</b> <i>"High Quality Granite &amp; Bronze Grave Markers At Affordable Prices"</i> Ruth Brown, Parishioner <b>2470 ARTHUR 677-5921</b>	<b>GEORGE HOFACKER</b> LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT Residential-Commercial Lawn Equip. Sales • Service • Sharpening TRY BEFORE YOU BUY SNAPPER - ARIENS - HONDA GRASSHOPPER - DIXIECHOPPS Complete Engine Rebuilding Service <b>3633 4 MILE RD. NW 784-2998</b>	<b>FOX CHEVROLET</b> <small>Only the Best.</small>  Nick Bravata BGavin@foxmotors.com www.foxchevrolet.com <b>616-891-8104</b> <b>NEW &amp; USED CARS TRUCKS • LEASING</b>  5977 ALPINE • COMSTOCK PARK 632 E MAIN ST. • CALEDONIA	<b>Arsulowicz Brothers MORTUARIES INC.</b> <i>"Family Owned &amp; Operated"</i> <b>458-1297</b> PRE-ARRANGEMENTS AVAILABLE <b>David M. Shabluk, D.D.S. Marielle May, D.D.S.</b> GENERAL DENTISTRY 706 W. Randal Street Coopersville, MI 49404 Office Hours by Appointment <b>616 837-6521</b>
<b>THE STONE ZONE</b> Sales & Custom Cutting of: Limestone • Marble • Slate also Building & Landscape Stone <b>677-3112</b> 14100 IRONWOOD DR.	 <b>THE PICKLE BACK</b> <b>616-677-5180</b> Downtown, Marne	<b>"Salt Is All We Do!"</b>  <b>Chulski's Salt Service</b> 616-677-1700 616-677-3893 res: 616-677-5164 Commercial and Residential • Prompt Delivery • Water Softener Salts • Pool Salt • Deicing Salts/24 Hour Availability • Quantity Discounts • Competitive Prices • Locally Owned and Operated www.chulskisaltservice.com	<b>SOBIE MEATS</b> <b>Let Us MEAT Your Needs</b> TIM & TERESA SOBIE Locally raised beef & pork Tues 9-6 • Wed-Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-3 • Closed Sun-Mon <b>3450 Remembrance Rd. NW</b> <b>Good Ol' Fashioned Service! 616-453-7201</b> BEEF • PORK • CHICKEN • STEAKS • KIELBASA • SAUSAGES • JERKY • BACON	<b>Let Us MEAT Your Needs</b> TIM & TERESA SOBIE Locally raised beef & pork Tues 9-6 • Wed-Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-3 • Closed Sun-Mon <b>3450 Remembrance Rd. NW</b> <b>Good Ol' Fashioned Service! 616-453-7201</b> BEEF • PORK • CHICKEN • STEAKS • KIELBASA • SAUSAGES • JERKY • BACON	<b>David M. Shabluk, D.D.S. Marielle May, D.D.S.</b> GENERAL DENTISTRY 706 W. Randal Street Coopersville, MI 49404 Office Hours by Appointment <b>616 837-6521</b>
<b>ZokoeTEAM</b> <b>five star</b> REAL ESTATE LEADERS 250 LAKE MICHIGAN DR. GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49534 <b>616-901-9632</b> ZOKOETEAM.COM <i>"OUR WORK ISN'T DONE TILL EVERY CLIENT FEELS LIKE FAMILY"</i>	<b>THE PICKLE BACK</b> <b>616-677-5180</b> Downtown, Marne	<b>CUSTOM CAULKING</b> CustomCaulking.com <b>616-677-3999</b>	<b>SOBIE MEATS</b> <b>Let Us MEAT Your Needs</b> TIM & TERESA SOBIE Locally raised beef & pork Tues 9-6 • Wed-Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-3 • Closed Sun-Mon <b>3450 Remembrance Rd. NW</b> <b>Good Ol' Fashioned Service! 616-453-7201</b> BEEF • PORK • CHICKEN • STEAKS • KIELBASA • SAUSAGES • JERKY • BACON	<b>Let Us MEAT Your Needs</b> TIM & TERESA SOBIE Locally raised beef & pork Tues 9-6 • Wed-Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-3 • Closed Sun-Mon <b>3450 Remembrance Rd. NW</b> <b>Good Ol' Fashioned Service! 616-453-7201</b> BEEF • PORK • CHICKEN • STEAKS • KIELBASA • SAUSAGES • JERKY • BACON	<b>Let Us MEAT Your Needs</b> TIM & TERESA SOBIE Locally raised beef & pork Tues 9-6 • Wed-Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-3 • Closed Sun-Mon <b>3450 Remembrance Rd. NW</b> <b>Good Ol' Fashioned Service! 616-453-7201</b> BEEF • PORK • CHICKEN • STEAKS • KIELBASA • SAUSAGES • JERKY • BACON
<b>catholicmatch</b> Michigan CatholicMatch.com/goMI	Residential • Industrial • Municipal • Commercial  <b>Raymer</b> WATER SUPPLY CONTRACTORS WELLS & PUMPS 1357 Comstock St. • Marne <b>616-677-2751</b> www.raymerwaterwells.com	Developers of Underground Water Supply Since 1890  <b>Raymer</b> WATER SUPPLY CONTRACTORS WELLS & PUMPS 1357 Comstock St. • Marne <b>616-677-2751</b> www.raymerwaterwells.com	 <b>PVL OIL CO.</b> COOPERSVILLE, MI 49404 <b>616-837-6633</b> Tim and Ed Alt	 <b>RIDGE HEATING &amp; COOLING</b> Relationship-based business at an affordable price Rinke-Family Owned Parishioners <b>616.520.8505</b> RidgeHeatandCool.com	<b>RIDGE HEATING &amp; COOLING</b> Relationship-based business at an affordable price Rinke-Family Owned Parishioners <b>616.520.8505</b> RidgeHeatandCool.com
 <b>River City Insurance Group</b> Auto, Home, Life, Farm, Medicare Plans <b>616-677-3136</b> 14637 16th Ave. • Marne, MI 49435	Specializing in Service  <b>CHC</b> Coopersville Heating & Cooling Mark Janose (616) 837-1312 Don Janose (616) 292-3344	 <b>Putt Bar</b> GRAND RAPIDS MI <i>You're Only a Stranger Once! C'mon Down and Say Hi!</i> <b>The Fischer Family 774-9129 • 1148 W Fulton</b>	IN LOVING MEMORY OF <b>Russell Smith</b>	Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will For further information, please call the parish office.	Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will For further information, please call the parish office.
<b>Edward Jones</b>		You talk. We listen. In person. Here for you. Dana Belliel   Financial Advisor   6440 Alpine Ave N W Suite 1   Comstock Park, MI 49321   616-784-9622 > edwardjones.com Member SIPC MKT-58940-A AECSPAD			
 <b>The App for Catholic Life Every Day</b> www.myParishApp.com Available for Apple and Android	<b>VITO DOLCI REAL ESTATE</b>  Parishioner <b>616.791.1010</b> vito@dolcigroup.com dolcigroup.com 	 <b>SCHNEIDER TIRE OUTLET, INC.</b> <b>NOKIAN TYRES</b> schneidertire.com	 <b>KSpence Homes</b> From the shore to the city <b>CITY2SHORE GATEWAY GROUP</b> Kelly Spence REALTOR® Parishioner 5596 Lake Michigan Dr Allendale, MI 49401 C: 616-250-1203 kelly@kspencehomes.com kspencehomes.com		
 <b>Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.</b> Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/1216 ...or scan DISCOVERMASS	 <b>WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL</b>  Dynamic. Excellence-Driven. <b>GRWESTCATHOLIC.ORG</b>	 <b>EWTN</b> Global Catholic Radio <b>TUNE IN</b>	Kelly Spence REALTOR® Parishioner 5596 Lake Michigan Dr Allendale, MI 49401 C: 616-250-1203 kelly@kspencehomes.com kspencehomes.com		
<b>NOW HIRING / ESTAMOS CONTRATANDO</b> <b>SALES REPRESENTATIVE</b> Join Our Family • Diocesan.com/Careers	<b>DIOCESAN</b> Catholic Life Every Day PUT YOUR FAITH TO WORK. <b>SALES REPRESENTATIVE</b> Join Our Family • Diocesan.com/Careers	Support your LOCAL Catholic radio station by donating your car, truck, boat or camper to Holy Family Radio and our parish will receive a portion of the proceeds!  <b>Holy Family RADIO</b> We will take care of all the paperwork and expense of moving the vehicle! 1140 AM 98.3 FM 91.5 FM 89.7 FM GRAND RAPIDS GRAND RAPIDS KALAMAZOO BATTLE CREEK STREAMING AT HPRIVE.NET ANYWHERE, ANYTIME Call 844-33-RADIO (844-337-2346)			
 <b>#ThankYouForYourPriesthood</b>	<b>HERITAGE</b> Life Story Funeral Homes ALT & SHAWMUT HILLS CHAPEL VAN STRIEN • CRESTON CHAPEL <b>616-453-8263</b>	<b>VAUGHN &amp; PATTY STEVENS</b> 3949 Remembrance Rd. www.rodenhouse.com <b>453-4547 • Fax: 453-6406</b>			
<b>HERITAGE</b> Life Story Funeral Homes ALT & SHAWMUT HILLS CHAPEL VAN STRIEN • CRESTON CHAPEL <b>616-453-8263</b>	<b>ADVERTISE HERE</b> Promote your Business <b>Andrew Beadling</b> AND support your Parish. <b>616-446-6892</b>	 <b>Rodenhouse Body Shop</b> 3949 Remembrance Rd. www.rodenhouse.com <b>453-4547 • Fax: 453-6406</b>			