

St. Mary St. Michael

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17150 88th Ave., Coopersville, MI 49404
616.384.4026 • www.saintmichaels.us



Pastor: Rev. Michael Hodges

frmhodes@grpriests.org • For emergencies please call: 616.745.1409

Saint Mary Parish Staff

St. Mary Parish Office Hours
Monday9:00AM - 4:30PM
Tuesday9:00AM - 4:30PM
Wednesday 9:00AM - 11:30AM
Thursday 9:00AM to 4:30PM
Friday Closed

Deacon
Tom Roberts
troberts@saintmarysmarne.org

Business Manager
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Adult Bible Study
Jill Brown
Maintenance
Jim Looks
Custodian
Marian Looks
Liturgical Minister
Gary Karr
gakarr@saintmarysmarne.org

Music Director
Dr. Bernie Stanko
616.490.3836
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

Saint Michael Parish Staff

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

Deacon
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Custodian
Carol Reens
Liturgical Minister
Kevin Kilpatrick
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 August 16

4:00PM † Al & Winnie Spencer by The Spencer Family MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday August 17

8:30AM † John Kirkwood by Chris Albrecht MI
 10:30AM † Agnes Schwartz by Leon Schwartz.....

Monday August 18 No Mass

Tuesday August 19 Communion Service

12:00PM † Chuck Klein by The Host Family MA
 Adoration begins after Communion Service until 3:30pm

Wednesday August 20 Communion Service

12:00PM † Becky Schmidt by Marcy Goosen MI
 Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm

Thursday August 21 Communion Service

12:00M † Matt Potts by M/M Rob Rander MA

Friday August 22 Communion Service

12:00PM Our Parish Family MA

Saturday August 23

4:00PM † Steven Anderson by Ray & Kathie Maka MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday August 24

8:30AM † Chuck Albrecht by Chris Albrecht MI
 10:30AM † Chuck Klein by Family MA

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



Scripture Readings for the Week of August 17, 2025

Sunday	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53
Monday	Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44; Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday	Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday	Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 20:1-16
Thursday	Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope Jgs 11:29-39a; Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mt 22:1-14
Friday	Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10; Mt 22:34-40
Saturday	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11, 4:13-17; Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Mt 23:1-12
Sunday	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1, 2; Heb 12: 5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Aug 23—4:00PM	Aug 24 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Kenzie Harker Melena Lindberg
Eucharistic Ministers	Sue Felicioni Veronica Schumaker NEED ONE	Deacon Tom Debbie Veneklase Chris Albrecht Joe Hitchings Denise Nelson Peter Nielsen Kenny Harker Greg Helsen
Lector	Sue DeVos	Dennis Zimmer
Sacristan	Cindy Bleckley	Rosemary Weigel
Ushers	NEED TWO	Ed Irwin Curt DeVos Joe Meerman Wade Lindberg
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	August 24 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Need one
Altar Servers	Sela Ricord Ty Ricord Eli Earle
Precious Body	Deacon Tom Margie Jirous Need Two
Precious Blood	Nettie Leale Geary Farrell Becky Warners Need One
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	John Klein
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: \$52,455.00 (104%)

Balance: \$1939.00 OVER- THANK YOU!

Participation: 101 of 260 Active - Households (39%)

St Michael

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$52,297.00

Total Pledges Made: \$ 35,260.00 (68%)

Balance: \$17,037.00

Participation: 86 of 255 - Active Households (34%)

Totals as of August 12, 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.



**STRENGTHENED IN CHRIST,
RESPONDING WITH JOY.**

Diocese of Grand Rapids
Catholic Services Appeal

Women's Book Club

All Ladies of St Mary's and St Michael's are welcome to join in our 2nd book study beginning Tuesday, September 16th, at 10am in St Mary Church Community Room.

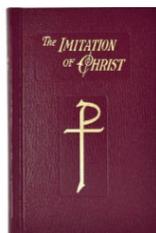
The Imitations of Christ, by

Thomas à Kempis Originally written

between 1418 and 1427 this spiritual

classic is timeless. Its popularity is enduring because the principals resonate with believers across different eras and denominations. The Imitation of Christ is easy to read. The structure of short, digestible chapters makes it great as a daily devotional or for meditation. Overall, the book emphasizes a practical and inward-focused approach to the Christian life. It focuses on personal holiness and imitating Christ's virtues in daily actions studying topics such as humility, love of God, detachment of worldly desires, acceptance of suffering etc while emphasizing the interior life cultivating a rich personal relationship with God....and much more.

Call Mary Guilbault with any questions and to sign up. 810-387-4461.



Fr Mike's Musings



The Cardinal of Paris, Jean-Marie Lustiger, (1926-2007) has a most interesting story to tell. He was born a Jew to a Polish family living in Paris and running a store. His first name was originally 'Aaron'. His family considered any Jew who converted to Catholicism an abomination. Although there was a lot of anti-Semitism, he understood many Christians were not anti-Semites. His best friend in school was a Christian. When war between France and Germany was threatening during the Second World War, his parents decided for his safety to send him to a Catholic family in Orléans south of Paris.

The Catholic family hosting him did not try to convert him, but their example inspired him as did the churches in Orléans which he visited merely out of curiosity at first. When he read a Bible, he was very impressed by how the Old Testament flowed seamlessly into the New Testament and the links between the suffering Messiah and suffering Israel were naturally connected. On Holy Thursday, he visited the cathedral in Orléans but did not know what was being celebrated there. He returned the next day, Good Friday. The cathedral was empty, and he experienced that emptiness also. There and then he decided that he wanted to be baptized. Just before the German invasion of France in 1940, he told his parents he wanted to be baptized a Catholic. During the Nazi persecution of the Jews in France, his father left Paris to look for a place elsewhere for the family. Unfortunately, his mother was denounced as a Jew by a neighbor and was sent to Auschwitz, never to return.

The Lustiger family is an example of a family being divided because of Jesus. This is precisely what Jesus meant in the Gospel when He said that He came not to bring peace but division. Why would Jesus say that He came not to bring peace but division? There are times when we must stand up for Jesus and be counted, but there may also be others who will not stand up for Jesus and be counted and so division results. No one wants or likes division. We would all prefer unity but when some people have found Jesus and are changed, like Aaron Lustiger, they can no longer live as they used to but also must witness the pains of what this divisions can bring--in Aaron's case the loss of his mother. (He could not openly defend his mother lest he be arrested as well. Cardinal Lustiger carried this guilt for the rest of his days.) Others who have not yet found Jesus do not understand and ridicule and insult those who have. There is pain in division; the one who has found Jesus is changed and no longer follows the status quo and may be ridiculed. This could happen in any family. It is happening in schools all over the country--students mocking other students because they go to Mass, adhering to morals and teachings against what is deemed "popular" or "with it".

It is necessary now more than ever to stand up for Jesus even if it causes division. All that is needed for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing. Remember what Jesus has told us: "If anyone openly declares himself for me in the presence of men, the Son of Man will declare himself for him in the presence of God's angels. But the man who disowns me in the presence of men, will be disowned in the presence of God's angels." (Luke 12:8-9) Jesus Himself suffered because of the division over Him; it cost Jesus His life to bring about the Kingdom of God. When young people go to Mass it costs them--the mockery of their peers. We have to be courageous at all times.

Do not be embarrassed to admit that you follow Jesus, that you go to Mass. What does it matter if your reputation suffers? It is the ones who mock who really are the weak ones, and they are weak and mock because they have not found Jesus. Pray for them that they may come to know Jesus. They have nothing to lose and everything to gain by finding Him and taking Him into their hearts.

"Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy, which was still in the future, He endured the Cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it..." (Hebrews 12:2)

Meal Train for Fr Mike

We have created a Meal Train to help Fr Mike while he is home recuperating. Visit this link <https://mealtrain.com/631558> Please sign up: 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 rectory. Please have meal fully cooked in a microwavable container. (Fr Mike does not use his oven) The container will be cleaned and returned to the church community room for you to pick up. Meals can be dropped off at the rectory on the covered front porch. There will be a tote to place the meal in. (if the 4-5PM drop off time does not work for you, please call the parish office to make other drop off arrangements that are more convenient for you. THANK YOU.



Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

**Edward
Jones**

Dana Belliel
Financial Advisor
616.784.9622

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

August 17, 2025 ~ The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

View this bulletin online at 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 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In Luke 12:49-53, Jesus explains that his message will bring division, even within families, because choosing to follow him means choosing God's way, which can clash with the ways of the world and even close family members. This doesn't mean Jesus is against family, but that following him requires a different way of living that might not be understood or accepted by everyone, even those closest to you.

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 or 616.677.3934

St Mary Choir

Choir practice will resume again on **Wed, Sept 3 at 7pm** in church. We are always looking for new members. People who love to sing and are not afraid of the weekly commitment are encouraged to join us. If interested, please talk to Bernie after any Mass. For further information please contact our Music Director Bernie Stanko at (616) 490-3836 and leave a message.

Or by email: berniestanko@hotmail.com



Parish Office Hours

Please Note:

Cathie is on vacation Aug 18-24.

The parish office will be open limited hours during this time.

Please call before visiting the office. For emergencies please call: 616.745.1409. All emails will be responded to when I return to the office on Monday, Aug 25. Thank You.



Welcome

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

Elizabeth (Libby) Jo Petrauskas

Baptized on August 17, 2025

Daughter of Bret and Lauren (Bartush) Petrauskas

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!



St Mary Parish Picnic News

The Next Planning Meeting will be on **Tuesday, August 19 at 6PM**. The Meeting will be held in the church community room. Please plan on attending the meeting to see what you can do to help your parish picnic.



St Mary's Mass & Parish Family Picnic September 7.

Join your parish family (past & present) for an afternoon of **FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!** Grilled Hamburgers & Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Chips and Punch & Punch will be provided.. (food will be served from 12:30-2:00PM) Please bring a **DESSERT** to share.. All are Welcome! Come and Visit... Stop by and say HI to your old friends and make some new friends. 50/50 Raffles, BINGO, Yard Games, LIVE Music, Cake Walk and More... 10:30AM Mass at the Cemetery Altar. (Please bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, Mass will be celebrated inside) Picnic Reunion will be at the Parish Hall at 12PM. Please RSVP... Sign Up Sheets in the Narthex. Questions call the Parish Office or email secretary@saintmarysmarne.org

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 / Phone 616-780-4941

Upcoming Blood Drive & Community Breakfast

Pre-Register here: Oct 12

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11598498

Blood Drive is 8:30AM to 12:30PM

Breakfast will be served 9AM till noon.-

Breakfast Cost-\$10.00 Adults,

\$8.00 Seniors,

\$5.00 Kids -



Giving Back to God

Mass: Attendance 8/10- 10:30AM:	131
Adult Contributions	\$2700.00
Children Contributions	\$7.13
Loose Contributions	\$151.00
Capital Improvement	\$225.00
Online Giving	\$1405.00
Total	\$4488.13
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5438.27
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	+\$1782.24

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

St. Michael's Parish News

Scrip News— Thank you to the 12 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$146.21.



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 VBS 2025: True North

We had an ultimate Alaskan adventure at VBS. The northern lights glowed over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. A sight that we will not soon forget. We had a fun time learning we can trust and rely on God in a wild world.

Thank you to the Station Leaders, Crew Leaders, Kitchen Crew, decorators and to the many behind-the-scenes volunteers who helped wherever they were needed throughout the week! Thank you all for helping make this program a special time of spiritual growth for the children! A special thank you to everyone who helped transform our facility into a Christ-centered landscape. All your time and talents really showed! Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to our VBS program. It is greatly appreciated.

Festival News

Come one, come all! Our Parish Festival is August 24, 2025! We will have a large raffle, chicken dinner, country store, mini-affle, kids' tent, grocery wheel . . . something for all ages! We will need many volunteers to help out. Look for sign-up sheets in the glass hallway!!

Large Raffle: Raffle tickets will be available after Masses. We are asking that each family try to sell at least 2 packets. If you would like to buy some from the people handing them out, you may.

Mini Raffle: You may bring donated items into the office during regular hours. Think of how you can donate— a service (babysitting, baked goods once a month, etc), experiences (zoo, museums, etc), crafts that you have made, etc. If you would like to donate money for the committee to purchase items, please do so by today.

Country Store: The following is meant to be suggestions only: any and all baked goods, canned preserves, pickles, fruits, homemade jewelry, wood work, books, produce and herbs from your garden, honey, homemade soap. If you aren't sure it is appropriate for the Country Store, please call Mary Turbessi 231-865-3468 or Cindy Lindberg.

Grocery Wheel: Please take a grocery bag and fill with non-perishable items or cleaning supplies for the Grocery Wheel. Return by August 22.

Beverage/Snack Tent: Please call or text Kelli Ferguson at (616) 437-5194 to donate pop, water, chips or money to purchase these items. *Please donate pop cases and cases of the 16.9 oz of water. We've noticed the preferred types of pop are Mountain Dew, Coke, Diet Coke, RC, Root Beer, Sprite and Pepsi.*

Bingo: Donations of small items (\$5 or less) for bingo prizes i.e. golf balls, towels, hair & beauty items, lotions, nail clippers, fans, etc.

Please contact our co-chairs, Cindy Lindberg (616) 822-1213 or Cindy Bleckley (616) 460-2004 with any questions.

***Save your paper and plastic grocery bags. Please place them in the container in the glass hallway.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Caroline Idziak
by Bob Idziak

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.

Attention parents of 1st or 7th graders:

First graders' Parents! Do you know of a child that is attending first grade at a public school this fall? Please have their families contact the Parish Office now so that we can be sure to sign them up for Wednesday night classes. If a child is anticipating receiving their First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation, they will have to complete one year of Catechism class prior to preparing for these sacraments in second grade.

Do you have a seventh grader or know one? Confirmation preparation begins in the seventh grade. If you know a student in seventh grade this fall, please spread the word to their parents now. They can still attend Faith Formation class.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: We are currently on Summer Break. We will see you in September. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the image of fire to show the intensity and transformative power of his message. It's like a fire that burns away what's not good for us and purifies us.

Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:00- 7:30 pm. Class will resume on Wednesday, September 17th.

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 on Sunday, September 28th.

Giving Back to God

August 9/10 2025

Mass: Attendance 8/9- 4:00PM:	84
Mass: Attendance 8/10- 8:30AM:	139
Adult Envelopes	\$3,527.00
Loose Cash	\$204.00
Children's Envelopes	5.00
Total	\$3,736.00
Building Fund	\$2,020.00
Pie Collection	\$414.00
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$+6,963.00
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual	\$5,206.24

Thank you for your continued support!

August 17, 2025 ~ The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Making God Our God

In this Gospel Jesus seems to contradict the word of God! Saint Paul says Jesus came “to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one” under his headship (Ephesians 1:10). Now Jesus says he came to bring not peace, but division! And everyone who tries to follow Jesus experiences the same thing. Our religion makes us want to be united in love with every person on earth, but in fact it breaks up families, alienates us from our friends, causes us to lose our jobs, and even becomes the banner under which nations and factions go to war. Is this what Jesus came to do?

The psychologists use the phrase “tough love,” which means that sometimes the most loving thing to do for people is to make them face truth and live in reality—even if reality means suffering the very painful consequences of their own choices. Parents are sometimes urged, as a last resort, to put drug-addicted children out of the house, because in reality, in truth, anyone who chooses addiction has already rejected family life and is just refusing to face it.

Jesus tells us at the front end that anyone who chooses him is already rejecting, by that very fact, any bond with any other person which is in competition with him. This is the first commandment: “You shall not have other gods beside me.” Jesus will not accept to be the person we love the most in this world, with others running a close second or third. He will not accept to be first in a field of ten, or five, or even two.

If anyone else is in the field, we are not loving Jesus as God, as who he really is. The love we have for Jesus must be unique, in a class by itself. We don't love God, our family and our friends, in that order. We

AUGUST 17, 2025

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10;
Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53

*If we choose to love
God, we are by that very
fact excluding everyone
else from even being in
competition with him.*

must love God with our whole hearts, with nothing held back, nothing kept in reserve for other people, causes or commitments. The love we give to him is not divided between him and anyone else. If we choose to love God, we are by that very fact excluding everyone else from even being in competition with him. That is reality.

Does this mean we cannot love other people? Or cannot love them deeply, passionately? No, it does not. We can love others enough to lay down our lives for them, enough to commit our whole lives to them forever. But it means that any commitment we have to any other person must be “in Christ”—must be a commitment, not alongside of our commitment to Jesus, not in addition to it, but within it. We can only commit ourselves to doing for others, and to being for others, what we can as part of our commit-

ment to Jesus. And any act which cannot be an expression of our commitment to Jesus cannot be thought of as included in our commitment to other people.

Jesus calls us to love one another as he himself loves



us (see John 15:12). Marriage, Saint Paul teaches, is an image of the relationship we have with Jesus and one way of living it out on earth. The Christian commitment to spouse and children is part of the commitment married persons have to Jesus. The same is true of the commitment friends have to each other or patriots to their country. Any commitment made and lived within one's commitment to Jesus is not in competition with him; any other commitment is. And anything we are asked to do as an act of married love, of friendship or of patriotism, if it falls outside of our commitment to Jesus, is not an authentic expression of our love, our friendship, or our loyalty to others. It is idolatry.

If we speak a truth that others find difficult to hear, we can lose our friends. If we refuse to follow a policy or conform to a way of acting that is taken for granted where we work, or by all the people we go out with, we may find that we just don't "fit in" anymore—even that we are avoided and ostracized. If we insist on doing what we really believe Jesus is calling us to do, we may find ourselves alone because no one will do it with us. Then we experience Jesus as causing division. But the truth is, there is no lasting peace or unity except under Christ's headship. Every other bond, every other experience of closeness or of unity is illusion.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Twentieth Week of the Year

Pray daily: Lord, teach me to love you with my whole mind and heart and strength, and to love everything and everyone else on earth as part of my love for you. Amen.

Monday: Matthew 19:16-22: Jesus said, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." What do you cling to for security, power, prestige? At what price?

Tuesday: Matthew 19:23-30: Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones,

judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Do you believe that true victory comes through vulnerability?

Wednesday: Matthew 20:1-6: Going out about five o'clock, he found others standing around, and said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" How can you stay conscious all day that your living is working for the Kingdom?

Thursday: Matthew 22:1-14: "Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find." How many people are at the wedding feast because of you? Whom could you invite?

Friday: Matthew 22:34-40: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment." How do you show your love physically for God? How did he show his love for you?

Saturday: Matthew 23:1-12: "Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven." Do you unthinkingly let any authority or relationship (family, friends, state) rule your life without referring everything to God?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Wear something as a sign that your body belongs to Jesus Christ.

As Disciple: Make a list of the actions of Jesus that made use of power (not counting miracles of healing) or force.

As Prophet: When, how in your life do you most display your human power to others? Ask how you could change this to rely on what Jesus relied on.

As Priest: "Offer your body as a living sacrifice to God" in some physical act that you consciously do as a sacrifice in love for someone else.

As King: In one column list the ways you or others act through power, force or rely on authority or prestige to accomplish something. In another column list alternate ways of accomplishing what you want through humility, vulnerability, persuasion, self-sacrifice, love.

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