

St. Mary St. Michael



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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
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Business Manager
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Parish Secretary
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Director of O.C.I.A
Adult Bible Study
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Maintenance
Jim Looks
Custodian
Marian Looks
Liturgical Minister
Gary Karr
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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

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Deacon
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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 30

4:00PM † Kurt Kline by Jack & Peggy Kline MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday August 31

8:30AM † Larry Schumaker by John & Denise Anderson MI
 10:30AM † Adeline Lothschutz
 by Ben & Rachel Lothschutz and Family MA

Monday September 1 No Mass

Tuesday September 2 Communion Service & Adoration

12:00PM † Jim Potts by M/M Rob Rander MA
 Adoration begins after Communion Service until 3:30pm

Wednesday September 3 Communion Service & Adoration

12:00PM † Earl & Mary Ann Meerman by the Syrek Family MI
 Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm

Thursday September 4 Communion Service

12:00M † Chuck Klein by Knights of Columbus #4404 MA

Friday September 5 Communion Service

12:00PM † Frances Holmes by Paul & the late Becky Schmidt MA

Saturday September 6

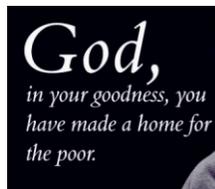
4:00PM † Jack Riordan by Dan & Mary MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday September 7

8:30AM † John Laug by the Laug Family MI
 10:30AM † Kay Hodges by Family MA

MA=St. Mary

MI=St. Michael's



Scripture Readings for the Week of August 31, 2025

Sunday Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

Monday I Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13; Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday I Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
 Col 1: 1-8; Ps 52: 10, 11; Lk 4:38-44

Thursday Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11

Friday Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 5:33-39

Saturday Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8; Lk 6:1-5

Sunday Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Sep 6—4:00PM	Sep 7 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Adalyn Taylor Clare Taylor
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom NEED TWO	Deacon Tom Kenny Harker Mary Guilbault Rob Guilbault Denise Nelson Rosemary Weigel Chris Albrecht
Lector	Sue DeVos	Jeff Johnson
Sacristan	Jane Vitunskas	Jane Vitunskas
Ushers	Mary Bueche Dan Schneider	Wade Lindberg Curt DeVos Greg Helsen Ed Irwin
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	September 7 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Lauren Serge Madeline Serge Lauren LeMieux
Precious Body	Deacon Tom Nettie Leale Becky Warners
Precious Blood	Margie Jirous Christina Withers Jim Fritz Mary Kirkwood
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	Geary Farrell
Music	Bernie Stanko

Labor Day Blessing

Bless, O God, all those who labor. Whether they are compensated by paycheck or pride, let them know their true worth in your eyes. May all workers be gifted with a sense of service to the common good and graced with the satisfaction of a job well done. Thank you for those whose work provides protection, comfort, healing, and relief from suffering and stress. May all of our labors be for your goodness and glory.
 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: \$53,955.00 (107%)

Balance: \$3,439.00 OVER- THANK YOU!

Participation: 105 of 260 Active - Households (41%)

St Michael

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$52,297.00

Total Pledges Made: \$ 36,130.00 (69%)

Balance: \$16,167.00

Participation: 91 of 255 - Active Households (36%)

Totals as of August 26, 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.**

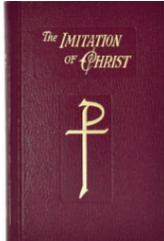
Diocese of Grand Rapids
Catholic Services Appeal

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. 810-397-4461



Fr Mike's Musings



Christ took up the tools of a carpenter, working with human hands for most of His life on earth. As we recall the image of Christ the worker, I invite you to reflect with me on the implications of this image for the observance of Labor Day. Each Labor Day, I cannot help but recall the memory of my parents. My father and mother worked tirelessly to provide for their family. They both worked long hours in low-paying jobs (truck driver and grocery clerk); they were honorable and determined people. Their work made the difference between having a roof over our heads and food on the table or having to "beg" for sustenance through government welfare programs (something my father would not ever consider).

Work is, in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, "a fundamental dimension of Man's existence on earth" --*Laborem Exercens*, The Church, in reflecting on the dignity and purpose of human work, offers the faithful a rich vein of social teaching. Among the teachings the Church commends for reflection, criteria for judgment and action:

1. The economy exists for the person, not the person for the economy.
2. A fundamental moral measure of any economy is how the poor and vulnerable are faring.
3. All people have a right to life and to secure the necessities of life (e.g. food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, safe environment, economic security).
4. All people have the right to economic initiative, to productive work, to just wages and benefit, to decent working conditions, as well as to organize and join unions or other associations.

The Church's teachings rightly remind us of the value of work: work enhances our human dignity, it is needed to form and maintain a family, and it contributes to the common good of our local, national and global communities.

Workers today, like my parents, know the value of what they do in order to provide for themselves and their families and to contribute to the development of society. Yet they also know the difficulties and challenges their work can bring, especially the need to balance time spent at work with time spent at home with their families. Yet amidst all of the difficulties, we are called lived with hope. They are not alone. The Lord is with them. My parents saw to our drawing near to the Lord every Sunday at Mass. My father, although not a Catholic, saw great value in the saving message of Jesus Christ, and always laid a premium on the importance of the family, the so-called "domestic church".

This Labor Day, let us reflect on the value of work and on how we recognize and respect the dignity of all workers. And like those who labored and prayed before us, let us be first and foremost people of faith, hope, and charity for these are what provide the framework for strong and lasting families, the true profit of our labors.

Pray for our Priests - September 23

The priests of the diocese attend a retreat together every fall. This fall convocation is an important time away from their parishes to build camaraderie, pray together, engage in continuing formation and celebrate milestone anniversaries. Let us gather as a Catholic community during this time to pray for our shepherds. Check with GRdiocese.org to find open times for prayer in churches across the diocese.

St Mary will offer Rosary and Prayer Service at 12PM and 6PM on Tuesday, Sept. 23 . Please Join us.



Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

Receive Christ's Forgiveness and Mercy

"The sacrament of Reconciliation is not only a magnificent spiritual gift, but also a decisive, essential and fundamental step on our journey of faith. There, we allow the Lord to erase our sins, to heal our hearts, to raise us up, to embrace us and to reveal to us his tender and compassionate countenance" (*Spes non confundit*, 23). In addition to regularly scheduled confession times in our parishes, Bishop Walkowiak will preside at a **penance service at West Catholic High School in Grand Rapids on Sept. 16 from 6-8 p.m.**

August 31, 2025 ~ The 22nd 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 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time. In Luke 14:1-14, Jesus teaches children about humility and serving other. He tells a story about a dinner party where people try to sit in the "best seats" to look important, but Jesus explains that the ones who try to make themselves look important will be humbled, while those who act humbly will be honored by God.

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

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

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 Sept 24. 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

High School Students

Are you still in high school and have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation? We invite you to join our Confirmation Preparation Classes, where you will grow in our Catholic faith, learn more about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and be ready to complete your initiation into the Church. Classes will begin soon, and all high school students are welcome. Come journey with other young people as you take this important step in Catholicism. **"Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."** For more information or to register, please contact our DRE Debbie Veneklas at dre@saintmarysmarne.org or 616-677- 3934

Our Lady of Fatima Guild - Meeting

OUR LADY OF FATIMA GUILD: is a service-oriented group dedicated to praying the Rosary and helping people in need. Those who benefit from the Guild are St. Mary's Parish and area organizations. Help is given in many forms: food, clothing, money, friendship, Christmas Cards, and gifts. Funds are raised from member donations and Ladies Advent by Candlelight as well as drives conducted to collect items for the different organizations in need. Meetings are held in the Community Room monthly from September through December at 7PM on the second Tuesday of the month. Meetings consist of praying the Rosary, Guild matters, and fellowship. **All ladies of the parish are invited to join.** For more information call Lori Rander 616-215-6524 or the Parish Office. **Please plan on joining us: Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11 & Dec 9 at 7PM.**

Save the date: Advent by Candlelight-Nov 30, 2025

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. Contact our Music Director Bernie Stanko at (616) 490-3836 Or by email: berniestanko@hotmail.com for more info.

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

Knight Person of the Month- August: Joe Lothschutz

Knight Family of the Month- August: Gary & Mary Karr 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 your for service and commitment to our Parish Family!

Monthly Charitable Donation-

Help Pregnancy Aid, Gianna's No Cost Baby Boutique and Coats for Kids

Fall (self-serve) Scrap Metal Drive - September 25-29

Trash Bin will be in the Parish Hall Parking Lot.

All proceeds benefit the K of C charitable donations.

Start saving your scrap now.

Cor continues this fall as we begin a series on "The Mission of the Family". Inspired by the "Into the Breach" video series, "The Mission of the Family" places a special focus on the spiritual battle that occurs within our own families. St. John Paul II said that "the future of the world and the Church passes through the family." Men are called in a particular way to lead their families in the faith. All men are invited for fellowship, discussion, and prayer on Saturday, September 13th from 7:00 to 8:30 am in the Community Room. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Cor will be held the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, and new members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please reach out to Robert Lothschutz at 616-292-5964.

Giving Back to God

Mass: Attendance 8/17	181
Adult Contributions	\$3540.00
Children Contributions	\$23.25
Loose Contributions	\$151.00
Capital Improvement	\$85.00
Online Giving	\$810.00
Holy Day	\$505.00
Total	\$5114.25

Mass: Attendance 8/24	171
Adult Contributions	\$3105.00
Children Contributions	\$8.25
Loose Contributions	\$142.00
Capital Improvement	
Online Giving	\$1705.00
Total	\$4960.25
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5460.00
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	+629.27

Thanks to the generous support of YOU, our parishioners (and visitors) we are able to offer a place to worship God, resources for growing your faith, and provide assistance to community members in need. Please know that your contributions are both necessary and greatly appreciated! 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 our 16 families that purchased Scrip over the last two weeks. Our total profit was \$119.41. We will no longer be carrying Michael's gift cards in stock. Amazon \$100 and all Shell cards are on back order. Sorry for the inconvenience.



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.



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. This Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us a story that teaches us to be his disciple, you must love him more than anyone or anything else, even your own life and family, and be willing to sacrifice and carry your own burdens (your "cross"). Jesus is saying that being his disciple requires you to be willing to give up all your possessions and worldly things if they get in the way of your relationship with him.

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.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Caroline Idziak
by Bob Idziak

Thank You!

Thank You!! Thank you to EVERYONE who worked so tirelessly to make this year's festival a big success. We will have final numbers to report in the coming weeks, but we could not have pulled it off without the efforts of our co-chairpeople Cindy Bleckley and Cindy Lindberg, and the countless volunteers who gave of their time, talent and treasures. Thank You!

Thank you to all who recently donated items to the Prison Ministry Program! It helped to accomplish the our mission below.

Reentry Resource Summit— On Thursday, Aug. 7, Prison and Jail Ministry again hosted and sponsored the Michigan Department of Corrections Kent County Justice Involved Resource Summit for returning citizens. This annual summit offered 77 individuals, on parole or probation, the opportunity to meet with 24 support service providers and participate in a free raffle.

The large number of raffle donations from parish-ees and individuals in our community allowed us to give away the following, not only at the Kent County Summit but at the Muskegon and Montcalm summits as well: 6 Chromebooks, 1 bike with bike helmet and bike lock , 71 backpacks filled with towels and toiletries, 8 wallets containing gift cards, 39 additional gift cards.

Giving Back to God

August 16/17 2025 AND August 23/24

Attendance: 8/16 & 8/23– 4:00PM:	104 & 96
Attendance 8/17 & 8/24– 8:30AM:	162 & 132
Adult Envelopes	\$4,790.00
Loose Cash	\$647.30
Children's Envelopes	\$60.80
Holy Day	\$295.00
Total	\$5,793.10
Building Fund	\$25.00
Pie Collection	\$180.00
Aid for Gaza	\$190.00
<i>Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget</i>	\$5,305.43
<i>Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual</i>	+\$5,352.76

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.



August 31, 2025 ~ The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

The Fulfilling Life

Jesus came to be “good news” to us. We should expect the way of life he teaches then to be not just good, but new. Today’s Gospel is a good example of this.

It is just natural—“normal”—for us to put ourselves first. Television commercials assume that most people want to be admired, to attract favorable attention in a crowd, to be looked up to as successful. The technique of the commercials is to keep showing us attractive, successful people using the products they are trying to sell so that we will begin to identify attractiveness and success with using their products. The commercials keep doing this, so apparently it works.

Jesus doesn’t use underhanded suggestion. He tells us outright what he is proposing, so that we can freely and consciously choose. Jesus doesn’t want to manipulate us. He wants us to use our intellects and our wills and respond to him as conscious, free human beings.

And so, in this Gospel, he tells us straightforwardly that our way of seeking admiration and satisfaction is all wrong. He does not say it is evil; he just says it won’t work.

Jesus doesn’t really say that we should stop seeking admiration and satisfaction. We would probably distort that to mean we should just not let people see that this is what we are seeking. We want to dress, for example, in a way that will make us look important without looking like we are trying to look important! That is the key to good dressing. We want people to think we are better than everybody else but not that we want to be thought better than anybody else. That is the key to human relations. But Jesus says these keys don’t really work.

Jesus doesn’t just say not to take the first place; he says to go to the last place. He doesn’t just say not to give a party for our own satisfaction; he says that when we give a party we should give it for “the beggars, the crippled, the lame and the blind.” He doesn’t just say not to seek admiration and self-satisfaction. He says

AUGUST 31, 2025

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29;
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24; Luke 14:1-14

to positively seek out and do what the world thinks is humiliating and unsatisfying. And he says this is the way to be authentically admired and satisfied. This is the way that works.

It will only work, of course, if we do exactly what he says. If we only want to look like we are being humble so that we will be honored, that won’t work. Jesus doesn’t say to just head for the lowest place, waiting to be called back; he says to take the lowest place. Go for it. He doesn’t say to put on a party for the poor and lonely in order to impress our “friends, relatives and wealthy neighbor;” he says to really serve the poor. Go to the lonely. And he insists that this is the way to be admired and satisfied.

This is a call to call the world in error. Jesus invites us to believe, and to proclaim by our actions, that what most people seem to be admired for is not really very admirable; that what most people look to for satisfaction is not really satisfying. Jesus teaches that prestige is seldom given to the people who really should be admired, and that the “successful” are very seldom satisfied by their success.

What is truly admirable is to forget all about being admired and to just serve people in their need. What is truly satisfying is to forget about one’s own satisfaction and just try to make other people happy. Jesus taught this by word and he taught it by example. He taught it as the way—the only way—to fulfillment. And it is



the exact opposite of what is taken for granted in the world: in our culture and in every culture.

What this really tells us is that to be a Christian does not mean just keeping a higher set of rules. It means changing our whole vision of human life. Jesus came to teach us what to desire, what to value, what to aim for in life. This is the “good news.” We don’t understand how good it is until we recognize that it is news.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Twenty-Second Week of the Year

Pray daily: Lord, I believe that you are the Teacher of Life—the only true teacher of what is true and good and satisfying. Give me the trust to follow what you say so that I might see where it leads. Amen.

Monday: Luke 4:16-30: Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings.” Do you really believe that Jesus teaches the way to be happy on this earth as well as in heaven? How hard are you trying to learn everything you can about the way he says we should live?

Tuesday: Luke 4:31-37: Jesus taught them on the sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching. Does Jesus still teach on the sabbath? Where? Are you astonished at his teaching? Are you listening for something new and challenging?

Wednesday: Luke 4:38-44: Jesus said to his disciples, “To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God for I was sent for this purpose.” What do you use Jesus for? Do you just interact with him when something is wrong? How much time do you spend listening to him proclaim the Good News? How can you hear him doing this?

Thursday: Luke 5:1-11: After Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” After you hear Jesus speaking—at Mass, or through the Scriptures, or

through other people—do you “put out into deep water” to reflect on what you have heard? If not, will your nets ever be filled?

Friday: Luke 5:33-39: Jesus said, “New wine must be poured into fresh wineskins.” Does Jesus’ teaching excite you? Does it go to your head like wine? Could it be that you are not prepared to receive it because you need to put your whole life on a different basis?

Saturday: Luke 6:1-5: Some Pharisees said to Jesus, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?” He said to them in reply, “Have you not read what David did when he and those who were with him were hungry?” Have you read that story? Are you less interested in the word of God than the Pharisees were?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Make a list of your friends. How many could qualify as “the beggars, the crippled, the lame and the blind”?

As Disciple: Each time you see a commercial on television this week, try to imagine Jesus urging you to buy the same product, using the same motivation. Draw your own conclusions.

As Prophet: Try to avoid receiving any signs of special respect given, not because of what you are as a person, but because of your position or social status. Whatever signs of respect you give to others because of their position, give the same or the equivalent to the people you deal with who have the least prestige.

As Priest: Each day this week perform some gesture like that of Jesus when he washed his disciples’ feet.

As King: Call into question, at least in your own mind, and if possible in conversation with others, the protocol and the hierarchy of status symbols where you work. Do the same for your school, the Church, society in general. How do they affect people? How much are you contributing to whatever damage they do?

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