



St. Mary St. Michael

15164 Juniper Dr., Marne MI 49435
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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

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Tom Roberts
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Adult Bible Study**
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Jim Looks

Custodian
Marian Looks

Liturgical Minister
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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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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 September 6

4:00PM † Jack Riordan by Dan & MaryMI
 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 FamilyMA

Monday September 8 No Mass

Tuesday September 9 Communion Service & Adoration

12:00PM † Gloria TenEyck by M/M Rob RanderMA
 Adoration begins after Communion Service until 3:30pm

Wednesday September 10 Communion Service & Adoration

12:00PM † Cathy Bonter by the Kutchin Family.....MI
 Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm

Thursday September 11

11:00AM Funeral Mass for Stanley "Buck" CheslaMA

Friday September 12 Communion Service

12:00PM † Jamie Wright by Joe HitchingsMA

Saturday September 13

4:00PM † Sherry Maslowski by the Maslowski Family.....MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday September 14

8:30AM † Elaine Schoenborn by School FriendsMI
 10:30AM † Matt Potts by M/M Paul KirkwoodMA

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



Scripture Readings for the Week of September 7, 2025

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

Monday Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6ab, 6c; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

Tuesday Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest
 Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 6:27-38

Friday 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5 and 6-7; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
 Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Sep 13—4:00PM	Sep 14 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Dylan Ranney NEED ONE	Kenzie Harker Melena Lindberg
Eucharistic Ministers	Veronica Schumaker NEED TWO	Jennifer DeMull Sharon Carlson Joe Hitchings Jennie Taylor Zack Nelson Jeff Johnson Peter Nielsen
Lector	Kevin Schumaker	Joe Meerman
Sacristan	Sue DeVos	Judy Driedger
Ushers	NEED TWO	Dan Schneider Mary Bueche Jim Ponshair Calvin Lindberg
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	September 14 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Madeline Serge Peter Lothschutz Lauren Serge
Precious Body	Geary Farrell June Stevenson Need One
Precious Blood	Margie Jirous Christina Withers Need two
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	Robert Lothschutz
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: \$54,055.00 (107%)

Balance: \$3,539.00 OVER- THANK YOU!

Participation: 106 of 260 Active - Households (41%)

St Michael

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$52,297.00

Total Pledges Made: \$ 36,230.00 (69%)

Balance: \$16,067.00

Participation: 92 of 255 - Active Households (36%)

Totals as of September 2, 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.

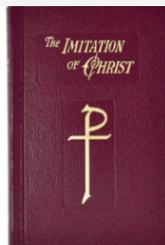


**STRENGTHENED IN CHRIST,
RESPONDING WITH JOY.**

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. Call Mary Guilbault with any questions and to sign up. 810-397-4461



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.**

Fr Mike's Musings



It's that time of year, again, when the morning air has a chill crispness to it, and the school hallways are lined with bookbags full of fresh spiral notebooks, binders still blank of the doodles of midwinter boredom and the ever-present i-Pads. Pencils have been sharpened, erasers are not yet lost, and PB and J sandwiches and snacks are tucked into their reliable spots. Some kids are going back to school in sweaters, some, for reasons only they know, are still clad in shorts and sandals. Soon they will be crunching over the newly dropped leaves under their feet. These first days of a new school year might be called the most bracing (for me they are a time of fond memories and melancholy—I still miss my classroom and students); the weather begins to cool, the leaves turn, the school buses lumber by, and it all brings with it feelings of such hope and possibility, tempered with just a little fear. What new challenges are before these youngsters, and how will they meet them?

As someone who did not benefit from a Catholic education, I still would like to focus on the work of our parochial and diocesan schools. There are so many success stories and hard-working principals, teachers, parents' groups and pastors who believe in the 'Good News' of Catholic education and the continual struggle to find fresh, creative ways to keep schools alive and flourishing.

Certainly not every young person can or does enjoy their Catholic education, every generation has its malcontents (and they are usually, and reliably, unhappy about all schools, in general). Yet despite tales of "ugly uniforms" and "strict teachers" and "prayers before everything!" America's Catholic schools have been and continue to be of value; in many places they offer sound, relatively affordable alternatives to families whose children are trapped in failing, or even dangerous, urban public schools.

It is true that the Church relies on her schools for great faith formation and youth ministry programs, from preschool through university, it is a dynamic tool of evangelization within the Church itself. But for a growing number of non-Catholic students, our schools are becoming a source of public formation; training a thoughtful, able citizenry capable of thinking critically within broad perspectives, throughout the country. This is a commodity that is increasingly rare in our society where polarization and iron-bound ideology have supplanted informed rhetorical debate and dialogue. The leaves are still crunching underfoot, but many things have changed since my school days—as a student and a teacher. Still, the mission of a school for students, public or parochial, is the same: to provide knowledge in both theoretical and practical subjects, to instill common moral principles and a sense of civility, and (at least in the parochial system) to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and to embolden our young people to live out their faith in their families and communities.

Any school will reflect something of the society in which we are all part, a society that is often restless, hurt, living without hope. We live in a world that believes if we increase our income or have lots of toys, the truth of who we are will be made clear. And yet, we Catholics should know that is not true, that in the end material things do not matter. Our Catholic schools understand that the God-gifted human mind, when taught to wonder, can transcend our worldly concerns and assist the Lord in healing and helping to make all things new—personally, intellectually, socially, etc.

Please pray for all those students, educators, parents, and pastors who dedicate themselves to preserving and adapting Catholic schools for our time and for the future. Pray for the rededication of the public systems to the purpose of true education—the instilling of knowledge, skills, and social mores. And as the new school year begins, may God bless and keep us all.

(NOTE: This was written before the horrible circumstances in Minneapolis were known, however the sentiment remains and is even strengthened by this event.)

Learn how to bring faith into your home year-round

Sept. 17, 6-8 p.m. Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Ave. S., Grand Rapids Parent Speaker Series with Kendra Tierney

For 20 years, Kendra Tierney has been using food, prayer, and conversation to teach kids about the Catholic faith in a way that's true, beautiful, and engaging. Start the school year off strong by joining Kendra, author of *A Little Book About Confession for Children* and *The Catholic All Year Compendium*, to learn more about how to bring faith into your home year-round. In her spare time, she blogs about Catholic living, amongst other things, at CatholicAllYear.com, sharing a glimpse of big family life and how the Catholic faith looks in her home. This free event is for all parents! Child care is available, but requires an RSVP: rebrand.ly/CatholicAllYearEvent

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

September 7, 2025 ~ The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

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-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. In Luke 14: 25-33, Jesus is not telling children to literally hate their families but rather teaching that following him is the most important choice we can ever make. The commitment to Jesus must be so strong that everything else, even our love for our family, looks small by comparison. He uses two parables to explain that becoming his disciple is a serious decision that requires a thoughtful commitment.

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

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. All are Welcome.

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



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.

Upcoming Dates: Sept 13, 27 Oct 11, 25, Nov 8, 22, Dec 13

Fall Scrap Metal Drive - (self-serve) 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.



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 mor 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

Giving Back to God

Mass: Attendance	8/31	142
Adult Contributions		\$3950.00
Children Contributions		\$21.00
Loose Contributions		\$125.00
Capital Improvement		
Online Giving		\$1320.00
Total		\$5416.00
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget		\$5464.62
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual		+1474.27

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— Scrip totals will be updated next week.



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 for the 2025-2026 school year is now enrolling. Attention families with children ages 3 through grades 8. 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: CLW program is offered on Sunday during 8:30 Masses. Children 3-9 years old are welcome to join us each week as we pray, read and explore the Sunday Gospel from a child's viewpoint. We include the Gospel Acclamation so children understand the importance of preparing our mind and heart for the Gospel reading. CLW will resume on September 28th. This Sunday is The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. What is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross? It's a special Catholic feast day on September 14th. It celebrates three main things: Saint Helena finding the True Cross. The dedication of churches built where Jesus suffered and was buried. The triumph of the Cross when it was returned to Jerusalem.

Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:00- 7:30 pm in the parish school. Class will resume on Wednesday, September 17th. Contact Debbie if you have any questions (616) 384-4026.

Middle School Faith Formation: Grades 6, 7 and 8 meet on Sundays from 9:45-11:15am in the Youth Room. 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!



What is it? The PaperGator® is a fundraiser where St. Michael's is paid to collect paper products for recycling.

What CAN go in the bins?

Newsprint
Catalogs/Magazines
Junk Mail
Phone Books
Office/School paper
Hard and soft cover books

What CANNOT go in the bins?

Paperboard (Grocery Item boxes)
Plastic
Metal
Trash
Glass
Cardboard

Giving Back to God

August 30/31

Mass Attendance: 8/30- 4:00PM:	54
Mass Attendance: 8/31: 8:30 PM	100
Adult Envelopes	\$2,293.00
Loose Cash	\$170.00
Children's Envelopes	\$3.53
Total	\$2,466.53
<i>Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget</i>	\$5,363.43
<i>Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual</i>	+ \$3,590.94

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.



September 7, 2025 ~ The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Pricing the Kingdom: Appreciating Grace

A Lutheran minister, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, coined the phrase “cheap grace.” He had the right. He gave his life under the Nazis in witness to the value he placed on grace.

“Cheap grace” is not really grace we get cheaply, because all grace is a free gift. And even if we gave everything we have for grace, it would be cheap at the price. “Cheap grace” means grace we ourselves value cheaply because we think it asks very little of us. We make grace cheap in our own eyes—and in the eyes of others—by living as if grace demanded little or no change in the way we live our lives.

Jesus never said grace was cheap in this sense. Grace is a free gift, but it calls for everything in return—or better, in response. Grace is the gift of sharing in God’s own life. The only appropriate response to this gift is to “sacrifice” everything that is human in order to live on the level of God (see Romans 12:1-2).

Sacrifice is an interesting word. We think it means “to give up, to lose.” Actually, the word comes from the Latin phrase *sacrum face re*, which means, “to make sacred or holy.” And to be “sacred” or “holy” means to be “set apart,” consecrated to some special use. Chalices, for example, are “sacred” or “holy” because they are set apart for liturgical use only; they cannot be used as wine glasses at a party.

God is the holiest of all beings, not because he is set apart, but because he is apart; he is on a totally different plane of existence. What God does is “holy” because it is on a completely different level of activity from what created beings do. And when we were made holy at Baptism, we were given a share in the life of God and consecrated to do what God does: to live and act on the level of God.

This means that every Christian is in a most radical way “set apart” from this world. We no longer “belong” to the world as we did before. We do not exist to contribute just to the goals of this world, but to bring everything on earth to that fulfillment which is

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 9:13-18; Philemon 9-10, 12-17;
Luke 14:25-33

found in the kingdom of God, under the headship of Jesus Christ. This means that our relationship to this world—to everything and everyone in it, to all of its goals, activities and rules—is totally different. We are a chosen race, a holy nation, a people set apart. The gift of grace consecrates us to “be holy as God is holy” (see 1 Peter I:13 to 2:25). Not to see this is to not appreciate grace.

Jesus isn’t telling us in this Gospel that the holy, the Christian thing to do is to turn our backs on our families, give up everything we own, and look for ways to turn our lives into a constant cross. He is saying that Baptism has already radically changed our relationship to our families and to every human being on earth. Because we are baptized “into Christ” to be his Body on earth, we are “holy,” set apart in a special way, and every human relationship we have or form on earth is on a totally different plane from our new relationship to God and to the work of his kingdom. We don’t love anyone less than before, but our love for God, our dedication to him, our consecration to him, puts even the deepest human love on a radically secondary plane. Even more so, our commitment to God and to the work of his kingdom frees us from any attachment to or concern about money and possessions. We are not dedicated to earning or to having things on earth; we are “set apart” for God and the work of God. This is the consequence of our Baptism; it is the



change worked in us by grace.

We only experience the faith we express. We only experience hope and love in the measure that we express these in our choices, in our actions. We experience grace by letting grace express itself in our lives. We experience the holiness Christ gives us by being “holy,” “sacrificed” to the work of God in everything we do. To accept this is to accept a new goal in life that guides every choice we make.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Twenty-Third Week of the Year

Pray daily: Lord, I offered my body to you at Baptism to be a “living sacrifice to God.” Teach me to understand that I will experience the new life of Baptism in the measure I die to every goal except knowing you more intimately, loving you more passionately, and serving you more effectively. Give me the courage to live. Amen.

Monday: Luke 6:6-11: Jesus asked the Pharisees, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?” When do you help people by showing them marks of respect? When do you damage them?

Tuesday: Luke 6:12-19: When day came, Jesus called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles. What special marks of status did Jesus give to his twelve apostles? Is it the same in the Church today? How has this affected your thinking?

Wednesday: Luke 6:20-26: Raising his eyes toward his disciples Jesus said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.” Is it really possible to set your heart on amassing riches on this earth and still have it focused on the treasure Jesus gives? Which treasure do you think about more often?

Thursday: Luke 6:27-38: Jesus said to his disciples, “The measure you give will be the measure you get back.” How much are you getting out of your religion?

Out of Mass? Out of Scripture reading? How much are you putting into your religion? Into Mass? Into learning from Jesus?

Friday: Luke 6:39-42: Jesus said, “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit?” How much enlightenment is your faith giving to your life? How clearly do you see God? Whose guidance are you following from day to day? How much time do you spend learning from Jesus?

Saturday: Luke 6:43-49: “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit.” Is the “fruit of the Holy Spirit” evident in your life: love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, fidelity, generosity, gentleness and self-control? To experience the fruit of the Spirit, what must you do to live by the Spirit?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Write out a deed, a contract, giving everything you have to Jesus Christ. Mention the main items specifically. See how you feel doing it. Ask yourself what it means in practice.

As Disciple: Read John Paul II’s inspired interpretation of Jesus’ command, “Go, sell your possessions and give the money to the poor.” It is in “The Splendor of Truth,” chapter 1, nos. 16-19.

As Prophet: Think of what most frequently makes you impatient or angry. If possible, just give up for a week the value you are defending. Sacrifice it to love of neighbor. In your mind make a gift of it to whomever annoys you.

As Priest: Take the risk of praying out loud with someone—in your own words if you can.

As King: Ask yourself where you think you are getting off too easy—at home, at work, in your social obligations, in your parish, in your civic duty. Make the demands on yourself that you think others should make.

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