



# St. Mary St. Michael

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



## Pastor: Rev. Michael Hodges

[frmhodes@grpriests.org](mailto:frmhodes@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**  
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**Parish Secretary**  
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**Director of Faith Formation**  
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**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)

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Friday ..... 9:00AM to 4:00PM

**Deacon**  
Tom Roberts  
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Brenda Kilpatrick  
616.837.6363

**St Michael Prayer Line**  
Chris Albrecht  
616-403-7110  
Judy Driedger  
616-899-2470

**Director of O.C.I.A**  
Cliff Kozminski  
616.437.5318

**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 27

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

## Sunday September 28

8:30AM † Caroline Idziak by Bob Idziak ..... MI  
 10:30AM † Gordon Powers by Family ..... MA

**Monday September 29** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

**Tuesday October 1** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

**Wednesday October 2** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

**Thursday October 2** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

**Friday October 3** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

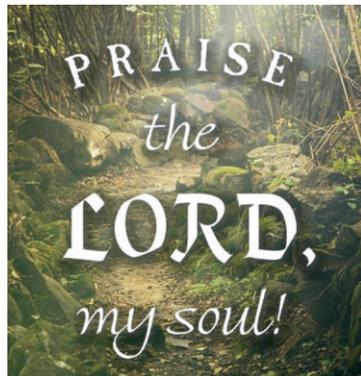
## Saturday October 4

4:00PM † Sherman & S.J. Hecksel by Ruth Hecksel ..... MI  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

## Sunday October 5

8:30AM † Troy Spencer by Arlyn & Louann Doornbos ..... MI  
 10:30AM † Ken Zarbeck by M/M Gary Karr ..... MA

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



## Scripture Readings for the Week of September 28, 2025

**Sunday** **Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

**Monday** **Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels**  
 Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5; Jn 1:47-51

**Tuesday** **Memorial of Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church**  
 Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 9:51-56

**Wednesday** **Memorial of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**  
 Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Lk 9:57-62

**Thursday** **Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels**  
 Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 18:1-5, 10

**Friday** Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9; Lk 10:13-16

**Saturday** **Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi**  
 Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-35, 36-37; Lk 10:17-24

**Sunday** **Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10

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

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Oct 4—4:00PM	Oct 5 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Adalyn Taylor Clare Taylor
Eucharistic Ministers	NEED THREE	Deacon Tom Debbie Veneklas Mary Guilbault Rob Guilbault Jeff Johnson Denise Nelson Rosemary Weigel
Lector	Mark Phillips	Chris Albrecht
Sacristan	Jane Vitunskas	Jane Vitunskas
Ushers	Mary Bueche Dan Schneider	Ed Irwin Wade Lindberg Greg Helsen Joe Meerman
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

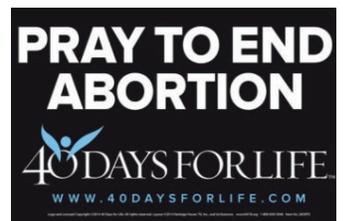
## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	October 5—10:30AM
Sacristan	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Eli Earle Sadie Earle Casimir Lothschutz
Precious Body	Deacon Tom Nettie Leale Need One
Precious Blood	Becky Warners Bruce Kamp Need Two
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko

## 40 Days for Life!

### Would you be willing to pray for one hour?

40 Days for Life is a unique pro-life effort that consists of 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil in front of abortion clinics. This will be the 32nd campaign in Grand Rapids, and it will take place in front of **Planned Parenthood- Grand Rapids**, This facility provides the abortion pill and refers for abortions. Dozens of area churches have adopted a day of prayer. **Our parish family has chosen Friday, October 17, 2025** ~ Would you be willing to pray for one hour to fill in the time slots to pray to end abortion? We will need 2 prayer volunteers from 7 am till 7 pm throughout the day. This is a powerful and proven effective way to close abortion centers and show the Mother's that we are praying and thinking about them and their babies. Please consider a hour of your time~ If you are unable to attend that day you may go to the clinic and pray any time! Thank you for your commitment to LIFE! God bless!



## 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: \$55,055.00 (109%)

**Balance: \$4,539.00 OVER- THANK YOU!**

Participation: 107 of 260 Active - Households (42%)

#### St Michael

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$52,297.00

Total Pledges Made: \$41,330.00 (79%)

Balance: \$10,967.00

Participation: 98 of 255 - Active Households (38%)

Totals as of September 15, 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

### Wedding Anniversary Mass

Together with your families, the Diocese of Grand Rapids honors the faithful witness to your vocation of marriage and wishes to celebrate with you. Bishop Walkowiak is inviting **all couples celebrating milestone anniversaries** to join him on **Sunday, Oct. 5 at the 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew** (301 Sheldon Blvd., Grand Rapids) for this annual celebration. A simple reception will immediately follow. Please RSVP by scanning the QR code or calling Lauren Vandervort at 616-246-0588.



### Together is where we belong

If you have been away, Whatever your reasons are, there's one thing you should know ... you've been missed. Come back to the place where you can be fed. If you have friends or loved ones who have been away, invite them back. Our Cluster parishes are places of welcome where the love of Christ is shared in community, service, and sacrament. Gather with us! Come back to Mass. The Doors are Open! Together is where we belong!

### Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

### Fr Mike's Musings



In August 1999, an article was published in Readers Digest commenting on the difficulties of parenting. In the article, the author remarked that she still remembers a piece of advice she heard some years earlier which continues to inspire her to give her best to her children. The advice was given by St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta. She had given a speech about her work with the sick and dying and orphans in India. Afterwards, a member of the audience, who seemingly wanted to assist her in her great work, asked her: "You have done so much to make the world a better place. What can we do?" St. Teresa smiled and simply said: "Love your children." Not pleased with her answer, the questioner was about to speak again when St. Teresa raised her hand and continued: "There are other things you can do, but that is the best. Love your children. Love your children as much as you can. That is the best."

That is indeed beautiful and inspiring advice. Not only is it beautiful and inspiring advice for parents but for everyone because we are all called to love. You might ask, "How do we love?" There are many possible answers, but one answer is given to us when St. Paul writes:

*"I . . . urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace." –Ephesians 4:1-3*

Paul implores us to lead a life worthy of our call. Our call is to love. That is the vocation of a Christian.

A good parent, or spouse, or child builds up and gives encouragement. Parents give money to their children, but good parents give their children something more. What? The following gives some of the answer:

If children live with tolerance,  
They learn to be patient.

If children live with encouragement,  
They learn confidence.

If children live with praise,  
They learn to appreciate.

If children live with fairness,  
They learn justice.

If children live with acceptance and friendship,  
They learn to find love in the world.

This advice is also beautiful and is not only valuable for parents but can be beneficial for everyone we encounter in our lives.

### Happy Birthday Fr. Mike ~ October 3

Fr Mike,

May God bless you in a special way today for the love and concern with which you minister to all those entrusted to your care. May your life be filled with God's good gifts, abundant joy and heaven's peace. Thank you for all you do for our Parish Cluster Family. Happy Birthday!



# 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 will start on Sunday, October 5th.**

This is the Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Luke 16:19-31. This powerful story teaches children about the importance of compassion, heavenly reward, and how our choices matter not just for this life, but for eternity.

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

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

Welcome back! Faith Formation students!  
 Classes have started, but it is not too late to join us.

Forms are available online or in the Narthex.  
 Register ONLINE HERE:

<https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/religious-education-elementary>

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

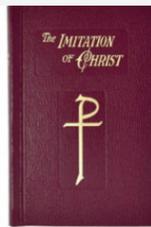
## High School Students

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](mailto:dre@saintmarysmarne.org) or 616-677- 3934

## Women's Book Club

All Ladies of St Mary's and St Michael's are welcome to join in our 2nd book study **Tuesday, 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



## Save the Dates

Oct 3	Happy Birthday Fr. Mike
Oct 5	Cookies After Mass
Oct 11	COR- 7AM Community Room
Oct 12	Knights of Columbus Breakfast & Blood Drive 8:30AM-12:30PM
Oct 14	Our Lady of Fatima Guild Meeting 7PM Community Room
Oct 25	COR- 7AM Community Room
Oct 27	Fr Mike Ordination of Priesthood Anniversary- 13years
Nov 2	Cookies After Mass

## Welcome

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

**Evelyn Sue Elenbaas**

Baptized on September 28, 2025

Daughter of Joe and Rachel (Berg) Elenbaas

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!



## 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 - Oct 12

Blood Drive is 8:30AM to 1:00PM  
 Breakfast will be served 9AM till noon.-  
 Breakfast Cost-  
 \$10.00 Adults,  
 \$8.00 Seniors,  
 \$5.00 Kids  
 Come out and support our Knights!



Pre-Register here: Oct 12

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

## 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: Oct 14, Nov 11 & Dec 9 at 7PM.**

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

## Giving Back to God

<b>Mass: Attendance</b> 9/21	<b>131</b>
Adult Contributions	\$2226.00
Children Contributions	\$5.12
Loose Contributions	\$284.00
Capital Improvement	\$525.00
Online Giving	\$1550.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4590.12</b>
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$511.38
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	+2810.00

**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 our 7 families that purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$74.75.



### 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. **Classes have started. It is not too late to join us.**



### 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. Today's Gospel story, God's eternal judgment has everything to do with how we use wealth in this life and whether we attend to those less fortunate in our midst. Our temptation is to explain away a story like this and to remove its blatant depiction of how God will ultimately vindicate the cause of the poor.

**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. Registration forms are in the back of church and on the parish website. **Classes have started, but It is not too late to join us.**

**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. Classes start today, but it is not too late to join us.



**St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp**  
for +Pete & Marge Ferwerda  
by Pam Raczkiewicz

## 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!

There will be a festival wrap-up meeting on October 5, after the 8:30 AM Mass. Anyone is invited to attend.



We are pleased to welcome a newly baptized child of God!  
**Josephine Lynne Kluting**  
daughter of Robert & Katherine Kluting

**Baptized on September 14, 2025**

## Giving Back to God

September 20/21

<b>Mass Attendance:</b> 9/21- 4:00PM:	79
<b>Mass Attendance:</b> 9/22: 8:30 PM	121
Adult Envelopes	\$3,067.00
Loose Cash	\$212.47
Children's Envelopes	\$10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,289.47</b>
Building Fund	\$25.00
<i>Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget</i>	\$5,339.37
<i>Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual</i>	+\$7,903.55

**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 28, 2025 ~ The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

## Choices Here Are Choices Hereafter

If there is any Gospel we can identify with today, it should be this one. Almost every time we turn on the television set, we have the poor man of this story lying, not at our doorstep, but in our living room. How many times in the past few years have we literally had starving adults and children from the famine-ridden countries presented to us in living color as we watched the news? And how often in a single week does the television screen bring to within a few feet of our eyes the vivid physical and spiritual needs of the people in our own country, our own city? And what do we do about it? Realistically, what can we do about it? How can we take seriously the point of this Gospel without just feeling uselessly, ineffectively guilty?

First, what is the point of the Gospel? The rich man is not condemned for being rich. He is condemned for not sharing—and ultimately for not caring. When Abraham says to him, “Between you and us there is fixed a great abyss,” he is giving the key to the whole story. That same abyss existed on earth between the rich man and the poor man. The rich man wanted it that way. He saw the difference between his way of life and the poor man’s, between his abundance and the poor man’s need, and he did nothing to bridge the gap.

The rule was already established on earth by the rich man himself: “Those who might wish to cross from here to you cannot do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.” Americans could write these words on a billboard and plant it on the Mexican border!

The point of the Gospel is that the choices we make here are the choices we make for hereafter. If we choose for ourselves isolation from other people on this earth, insulation from the poor and the needy, then we are choosing this for the next life also. If we choose to be one with other people, to be concerned about others as we are about ourselves, and to enter into a community of sharing with everyone God made, then we will be one with others in the next life, sharing in the celebration that God has prepared for all his children.

This Gospel is not just a call to give alms to the poor. It is a call to accept what Jesus Christ came to do. It is a call

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Amos 6:1, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16;  
Luke 16:19-31

to surrender in faith to the wisdom of the mystery, the plan God was pleased to decree in Christ, to be carried out in the fullness of time: namely, to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under Christ’s headship (see Ephesians 1:9-10). To accept this Gospel means we accept this plan, agree with its wisdom, see it as good, embrace it for ourselves, and work with Jesus to bring about this oneness, this community on earth.

We don’t respond to this Gospel just by helping the poor. We could do that and still live with a mental abyss between them and us, just as the poor could accept help from the rich without accepting the rich themselves. What Jesus is condemning is the attitude itself of division, of selfenclosedness, of separate worlds to live in. He accepts no distinctions between rich and poor, educated and uneducated, between one race and another, between one nationality and another. For Jesus there are not blacks and whites, Vietnamese and Cambodians, North Americans and Latin Americans, college graduates and illiterates, members of our particular club and non-members. There are only people created in love by the Father and called to be one in Christ as members of the same Body, children of God the Father, sharers in the same Holy Spirit; people called to be one with God and with each other and to celebrate this oneness forever together in heaven. To reject this oneness on earth is to reject it in heaven. And not to express it on earth is to reject it.

Before we ask, “What can I share and with whom?”



perhaps we should ask, “Do I accept God’s basic plan? Do I see Christian living as sharing? Am I willing to be one community with others and to share what I have and am?”

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK’S GOSPELS

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### Twenty-Sixth Week of the Year

***Pray daily:** Lord, you love every member of the human race and you want us to love one another. You want us all to be one family, brothers and sisters to each other. Show me how I am blocking what you desire. Show me how to help you make it happen. Amen.*

**Monday:** Luke 9:46-50: Jesus took a little child and put it by his side, and said, “Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For the least among all of you is the greatest.” Would you welcome a renowned research scientist who wanted to emigrate from Mexico? Would you welcome just as much an unskilled laborer? What is your basis for accepting or not accepting immigrants? Is it the same as Christ’s?

**Tuesday:** Luke 9:51-56: Jesus sent messengers ahead of him. On the way they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his reception there, but they would not welcome him because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem. Have you ever failed to welcome people because of where they come from? (Country? Ethnic group? Part of town?) Do you refuse to give people a hearing because of where you think they are headed?

**Wednesday:** Luke 9:57-62: Someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus answered him, “Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.” Why could Jesus not have found lodging in any house he came to? Under what conditions could any member of the Body of Christ find lodging in your house?

**Thursday:** Luke 10:1-12: Jesus said to those he sent on mission, “Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, ‘The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.’” What kind of reception do guest preachers or speak-

ers get in your parish? Do you welcome them in the only way that is real, by going to hear them? Do you take part in everything your parish offers to help you grow in understanding and response to the Gospel?

**Friday:** Luke 10:13-16: Jesus said, “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.” How many people would be at Mass every morning if they knew and believed that the real body and blood of Jesus Christ were offered to them there? Do you have any faults for which the Lord will condemn you, not because you had them, but because you didn’t use the means he offered you to overcome them?

**Saturday:** Luke 10:17-24: Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants.” Do you assume that the educated, successful people in our society are the ones who know how to live? Do you accept their values in your lifestyle? Do you believe they are the ones who know God best?

## LIVING THIS WEEK’S GOSPELS

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**As Christian:** Write on a piece of paper, “I consider my family on this earth to be...” and complete the sentence.

**As Disciple:** Read Vatican II’s decree on the missionary activity of the Church (“Ad Gentes”). Use it to deepen your spirit of openness to all the needs of all people, at home and abroad.

**As Prophet:** For just this week, in some place where you have a picture of a family member, put next to it a picture of a starving child or adult from a developing country.

**As Priest:** Each day this week give comfort, help, or a friendly gesture to someone you normally don’t think of being in relationship with.

**As King:** Think seriously about how your buying habits encourage or discourage exploitation of the poor, unhealthy products on the market, environmental devastation.

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