



# 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  
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**Maintenance**  
Jim Looks

**Custodian**  
Marian Looks

**Liturgical Minister**  
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[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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**Deacon**  
Tom Roberts  
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616.837.6363

**St Michael Prayer Line**  
Chris  
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 October 18

4:00PM † Kathie Poelma by Larry & Diane VanDussen.....MI  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

## Sunday October 19

8:30AM † Sherman & S.J. Hecksel by Ruth Hecksel .....MI  
 10:30AM † Janet Farrell by M/M Jack Roberts.....MA

## Monday October 20 No Mass

## Tuesday October 21

12:00PM † Jim Potts by M/M Jose' Gomez .....MA  
 Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

## Wednesday October 22

12:00PM † Carl Goosen by Dave & Pat Goosen.....MI  
 Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

## Thursday October 23

12:00PM † Tanya Mitchel by Friends .....MA  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

## Friday October 24

12:00PM † Noella Mahn by Chris Albrecht.....MI  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

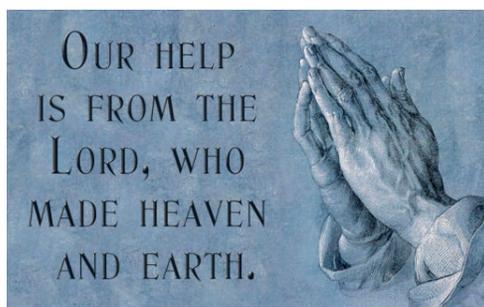
## Saturday October 25

4:00PM † Rory Byrne by Marcy Goosen .....MI  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

## Sunday October 26

8:30AM † Jack VanderKlok by Kurt & Margaret Bouchard .....MI  
 10:30AM † Donald Swanson by M/M Gary Karr .....MA

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



### Scripture Readings for the Week of October 19, 2025

Sunday Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Ex 17:8-13; Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; 2 Tm 3:14-4:2; Lk 18:1-8

Monday Rom 4:20-25; Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75; Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17; Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8; Lk 12:39-48

Thursday Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 12:49-53

Friday Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94; Lk 12:54-59

Saturday Rom 8:1-11; Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 13:1-9

Sunday Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Sir 35:12-14; 16-18; Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14

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

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Oct 25—4:00PM	Oct 26 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Dylan Ranney NEED ONE	Aiden Rogers Melena Lindberg
Eucharistic Ministers	Rob Guilbault NEED TWO	Sharon Carlson Zack Nelson Jennie Taylor Chris Albrecht Kenny Harker NEED ONE
Lector	Mary Guilbault	Carol Reens
Sacristan	NEED ONE	Rosemary Weigel
Ushers	Ray Maka NEED ONE	Peter Nielsen Greg Helsen Curt DeVos Calvin Lindberg
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	October 26—10:30AM
Sacristan	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Eli Earle Sadie Earle Lauren LeMieux
Precious Body	Mary Kirkwood Geary Farrell Christina Withers
Precious Blood	Becky Warners June Stevenson Need Two
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	Nicolette Looks
Music	Bernie Stanko

## World Mission Sunday 2025

### "Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples"

As the Church prepares to celebrate World Mission Sunday 2025, on October 19, Pope Francis has given us a powerful theme that resonates deeply in this Jubilee Year: **"Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples."** In his message, the Holy Father reminds us that hope is at the heart of the Christian mission, calling every baptized person to be **"messengers and builders of hope"** in a world that often finds itself overshadowed by uncertainty and despair. Reflecting on the significance of this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis urges us to keep our gaze fixed on Christ, the center of history, emphasizing that His mission continues today through the Church: *"Through his disciples, sent to all peoples and mystically accompanied by him, the Lord Jesus continues his ministry of hope for humanity. He still bends over all those who are poor, afflicted, despairing and oppressed, and pours upon their wounds the balm of consolation and the wine of hope."* Click [here](#) to read the entire message. Learn more about [World Mission Sunday 2025](#).



## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### HELP PREGNANCY AID BLACKTHORN CELTIC MUSIC BAND EVENT

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025**

The West Michigan Ladies AOH and Knights of Columbus invite you to an evening with a mix of Irish tunes and storytelling brews! The dinner and concert will be held Saturday, October 25, 2025 with doors opening at 5:30pm, dinner at 6:30pm, and the concert at 7:30pm. The event will be held at the KC Event Center, 5830 Clyde Park Ave SW, Wyoming. Tickets are \$50 per person and include dinner and the concert (cash bar available). Call 616.986.1298, email [blackthorvening@gmail.com](mailto:blackthorvening@gmail.com), or scan the QR code for tickets. Concert, raffle, and auction proceeds will benefit HELP Pregnancy Aid, for large baby safety items.

#### Mass of Christ the Healer – Oct. 26

The Diocese of Grand Rapids' annual Mass of Christ the Healer will be celebrated on Oct. 26 at the 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew.

All who work in health care, including physicians, nurses, dietary staff, administrative staff, maintenance staff, etc. are invited to join Bishop Walkowiak for this celebration of grace and in gratitude for their service. Please wear your white coat or uniform so we may recognize your service. Coffee and donuts will follow Mass. For those unable to attend in person, Mass will be televised on FOX 17, and livestreamed on the diocesan website, [grdiocese.org](http://grdiocese.org), and YouTube (@GRDiocese).

#### Catholic Service Appeal - 2025

##### 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: \$42,380.00 (81%)

Balance: \$9,917.00

Participation: 100 of 255 - Active Households (39%)

Totals as of October 13, 2025

Thank you for your stewardship!

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.



### Fr Mike's Musings



In this week's Gospel parable, a widow has suffered an injustice of some kind, and she keeps pestering a judge until she will get justice. The judge is certainly not a model person as he doesn't respect God or people but because the widow keeps pestering him, he decides for the sake of peace to give her justice. As people listened to this parable they would have laughed because there is humor in it that we do not see in the English translation. Luke wrote his Gospel in Greek and in the Greek the judge said he would give the woman what she wanted because otherwise he feared she would give him a black eye. Perhaps we are to imagine a pious elderly lady giving a thump to the judge. What Jesus wants us to understand is if an unjust judge, who cares neither about God nor others, will give that widow justice because she keeps pestering him, how much more will our heavenly Father assist those in trouble.

Jesus did not say everything would be resolved immediately but He did say to remain with God in prayer until it is resolved. There is suffering in waiting for the answer, but we are to remain with God in prayer during that suffering while awaiting resolution. When bad things happen, like what happened to that poor widow in the parable, some blame God and as a result turn away from God because we humans can be very strange in our reactions sometimes. We find it very difficult to separate pain and suffering and bad things that happen to us from God in the sense that we sometimes blame God. But God did not do whatever happened to the widow and if ever there is a temptation to turn from God because of pain and suffering turning ever more to God, is what will help.

When the Apostles were in the boat and there was a storm, they went to Jesus and asked for His help. That incident is an example for us. When the storm hits, go to Jesus even more. Like that widow not giving the judge rest, remain with Jesus in prayer. He is the one who can help us through a storm as we await the Father's answer. So, pray every day. Make Jesus a special part of the day. When someone has a particularly difficult suffering, they may in a moment of desperation wonder if God loves them. But Jesus loves us more than we can ever imagine. Receive His love in prayer every day. Just as we have to feed our bodies, we also need to feed our prayer, and we can feed our prayer with our spiritual reading and reading the Bible. One way is to read a paragraph from one of the Gospels as we begin to pray, and then reflect on it and allow it to help us enter into prayer and Jesus to enter into us.

Just as we sometimes have to wait patiently for an answer, God has to move slowly and patiently with us, waiting for us to give ourselves fully to Him. Moses raised his hands in prayer in the First Reading, during a war, although being waged in self-defense. God had to patiently and gradually teach our ancestors that war is not how to accomplish things—a lesson we still have not learned. Passages from the Old Testament, such as the First Reading, are a reminder to us to be humble because God sometimes has to slowly teach us, and God too exhibits patience, waiting for us to be patient in awaiting His answer and accepting without question His boundless love.

#### Mass for God's Children

**Nov. 3 | 7 p.m. Cathedral of Saint Andrew**

The Diocese of Grand Rapids invites anyone who has experienced the loss of a child before baptism to this special Mass, including parents, grandparents, siblings, relatives and friends. A memorial rose with a naming card will be provided for families who have lost a child(ren). If you would like to reserve a memorial rose, contact Lauren Vandervort at 616.288.0588

#### Walking with Moms in Need

A mother in need may be closer than you realize- perhaps in your parish, your community, or your home. Every parish should know where to turn when a mom needs help. Inspired by St. John Paul II's call to build a culture of life, Walking with Moms in Need works to increase our outreach to pregnant and parenting women facing difficulties. **Join us to learn how you can start a Walking with Moms in Need initiative in your parish! On Thursday, Nov. 20, Catholic Charities West Michigan will be hosting a training for the WWMIN initiative at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish from 1-4 p.m.** The training covers the five phases of developing the WWMIN resource to serve moms through your parish, including learning how to build a core outreach team. The need for support is growing. Not involved in WWMIN yet? RSVP for the training or direct any questions to Sally Cranson at [scranson@ccwestmi.org](mailto:scranson@ccwestmi.org) by November 13.

### Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

**October 19, 2025 ~ The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

# St. Mary's Parish News

## St Mary Faith Formation

**Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW):**  
**Pre-School thru 2nd Grade During 10:30 AM Mass.**  
 This is the Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
 Luke 18:1-8 . Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. At the core of the Parable of the Persistent Widow is a lesson about the significance of persistence and faithfulness in prayer. Persistence in prayer is vital because it demonstrates our unwavering trust in God, even during trying times.

**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.**

For more information or any questions on any of these programs Please contact Debbie Veneklas at dre@saintmarysmarne.org or 616.677.3934

## In Memory of our Loved Ones

During the month of November we take the time to remember our deceased loved ones. Everyone is invited to bring in a **framed picture** of your deceased loved ones to be on display in church for All Souls Day Masses and through out the month of November. Please drop off pictures to the parish office or leave in the designated area in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

**Sunday, November 2-All Souls Day Mass Schedule**  
**8:30AM St Michael**  
**10:30AM St. Mary**

## Looking Ahead-Save the Dates

Oct 25	COR- 7AM Community Room
Oct 27	Fr Mike Ordination of Priesthood Anniversary- 13years
Nov 2	Cookies After Mass - Volunteers needed
Nov 11	Our Lady of Fatima Guild Meeting 7PM Community Room
Nov 22	COR- 7AM Community Room
Nov 26	Thanksgiving Eve Mass-Grocery Collection, Annual Slide Show 6PM St Mary
Nov 30	Advent by Candlelight 6:30 Parish Hall
Dec 1	Fr Mike Lecture Series- Scripture Roots of the Sacraments. 7PM- Community Room
Dec 6	Cookies After Mass - Volunteers needed
Dec 7	COR- 7AM Community Room
Dec 8	Fr Mike Lecture Series- Scripture Roots of the Sacraments. 7PM- Community Room
Dec 9	Our Lady of Fatima Guild Meeting 7PM Community Room
Dec 13	COR- 7AM Community Room
Dec 14	Christmas Hymn Sing Along -3PM
Dec 15	Fr Mike Lecture Series- Scripture Roots of the Sacraments. 7PM- Community Room

## Knights of Columbus #11581 News

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



**COR Pray Group - October 25, 7AM, Community Room -**

All men are invited to attend.

### Knight of the Month

Knight Person of the Month- October: Mark & Debbie Veneklas  
 Knight Family of the Month- October: Doug Frantz

The Knight Person / Family of the month is a way of recognizing someone who has gone above and beyond, or done something extra for the council or our church community. Congratulations and Thank you for service and commitment to our Parish Family!

**Monthly Charitable Donation-** Cross Catholic Outreach



Knights of Columbus  
 Council #11581

## Sobie Meats Gift Card Charity Raffle

St. Mary's Church, Marne • License # X12847  
 Drawing - November 6th, 7:30 pm  
 Tickets \$10 or 3 for \$20



**Just In Time  
 For Your  
 Holiday  
 Festivities**

**1st Prize \$250 Gift Card**  
**2nd Prize \$150 Gift Card**  
**3rd Prize \$100 Gift Card**

Proceeds to help fund our council's charitable giving



and more

## Giving Back to God

<b>Mass: Attendance</b>	10/12	<b>172</b>
Adult Contributions		\$3683.00
Children Contributions		\$44.00
Loose Contributions		\$220.75
Capital Improvement		\$70.00
Online Giving		\$1210.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5227.75</b>
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget		\$5517.00
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual		+5089.00

**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 15 families that purchased Scrip this week. Our Scrip total will be updated next week.



## St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Becky Schmidt  
by Larry & Diane VanDussen



### 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, Debbie Venekase, 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: **Classes have started. It is not too late to join us.**

**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 reflection – Did you know that Jesus told lots of stories when He was on earth as a way to teach us? Jesus' stories are called parables. A parable is a simple story that tells a lesson. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable to help teach us that God has a special love for those who are humble and modest and poor. Jesus invites us to come with all of our flaws and sins to receive His forgiveness and everlasting love.

**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 have started, but it is not too late to join us.



## Knights of Columbus

Have you ever attended the Halloween event at St. Michael's? The Knights of Columbus is hosting a haunted hayride with pumpkin carving on Oct. 25 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM.

A "spook"tacular family activity of carving pumpkins, enjoying a hayride (possibly a little haunted), hot dogs, snack and hot chocolate for our ghoulish guests!

Admission to this fa"boo"lous event is one or more non-perishable food item(s) per person – benefiting Coopersville Cares.

If anyone is interested in helping with decorations, serving hot dogs and hot chocolate, or adding a little "scary" to the hayride route, please contact Randy Mergener @ 616-460-8461

## Giving Back to God

October 11/12

<b>Mass Attendance:</b> 10/11– 4:00PM:	69
<b>Mass Attendance:</b> 10/12: 8:30 PM	160
Adult Envelopes	\$4,828.00
Loose Cash	\$376.00
Children's Envelopes	\$11.30
Online Giving	\$1,295.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,510.30</b>
Building Fund	\$50.00
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5,420.00
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual	+\$4,255.26

**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.



**October 19, 2025 ~ The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

## Why Keep Asking?

Nobody likes to be nagged or hounded. Parents get annoyed with a child who won't take no for an answer but keeps begging over and over for the same thing.

But in this Gospel our Lord encourages us to do just that with the Father. "Keep asking," he says, "Bug him to death!" Why is that?

It could be that God invented the answering machine before we did, and he just filters out unwanted calls! But a better answer is that there are reasons why God sometimes delays answering prayers. And the first of these reasons is that we ourselves need to persevere in prayer.

A first principle in understanding God is that God always desires what is for our good—and not only for our good, but for our greatest good. He is a loving Father, not just an indulgent Father. And even when he gives us what we ask for, he does it in the way that will let us get the most good out of it.

A second principle is that what God responds to in prayer is faith. The more faith we bring to our prayer, the more God is liable to answer it. And the reason for this is already given in the first principle above: the best thing we can get out of our prayer, out of any prayer, is an increase in faith—and hope, and love. Nothing we ask for will benefit us as much, or for as long, as an increased sharing in God's divine life, which is grace, and which is measured on earth by faith, hope and love. Whatever increases faith, hope and love within us increases our sharing in God's divine life. Nothing we can ask for is better for us than this. And, as we will see below, persevering in prayer increases our faith.

Even when our prayer is that grace be given to another, the most loving way God can answer us is to let our prayer bring us to greater growth in grace at the same time it brings grace to the other. Of course, when we pray for someone else, another factor enters in: God won't force grace on anyone, and the other may not be ready to accept the grace we are asking God to give. Then we have to keep praying, not until God is ready to give, but until the other is ready to receive.

This last reason applies also to the prayer we make

OCTOBER 19, 2025

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Exodus 17:8-13;  
2 Timothy 3:14 to 4:2; Luke 18:1-8

for ourselves: sometimes we ask God for graces we are not yet ready to receive. When that happens, God may make us wait, so that, by persevering in prayer, we will get more in touch with our own hearts, come to realize more clearly just what it is we want and how much we want it, and grow to a deeper faith and trust in God.

This brings us to our third principle: we grow in grace by letting grace express itself in our human acts. We grow in faith by expressing faith in action—and praying is one of those actions. We grow in hope by making choices based on trust in God's promises, choices which make clear that the good which God holds out to us is the good that we are most deeply hoping for in life. And we grow in love by giving expression to our love in deeds. Whatever moves us, then, to give expression to our faith, our hope, our love, is what helps us to grow in grace.

Among the things that move us most frequently to express our faith, our hope, our love, are our desires—those desires that drive us to go to God in prayer. If we are honest, we have to admit that without these desires we might hardly speak to God at all! The old saying, "If you want to learn to pray, go to sea" applies to more than sailors. We pray when we are in need, when we want something. And these needs, these desires push us to our initial contact with God. Later, when we have come to appreciate God more, we might seek him out just to read and reflect on his words, just to get to know him better. But this is a different level of prayer. The prayer Jesus talks about in this Gospel, however, is the prayer of petition. And



persevering in the prayer of petition is a way to grow in grace: in faith, in hope and in love.

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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### Twenty-Ninth Week of the Year

*Pray daily: Lord, I know your love. I know you desire nothing more than to help me in every way I will accept. Teach me to trust you, and to grow in trust by praying to you constantly for everything I desire. I know that your answers will form your desires. Thank you. Amen.*

**Monday:** Luke 12:13-21: Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" Why did Jesus not answer this person's prayer? Do you ever feel in your prayer that you are asking for the wrong thing?

**Tuesday:** Luke 12:35-38: Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks." If this is the attitude and stance of your heart, what will you be praying for most of the time?

**Wednesday:** Luke 12:39-48: Jesus said, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." How much knowledge of God's revelation have you been given, compared to the rest of the human race? How many do not know the Bible at all? How many have lost part of Christ's teaching by breaking off from the Church? How many have received only the barest religious instruction? Because of what you have known, what would God expect you to pray for?

**Thursday:** Luke 12:49-53: Jesus said, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" Do you share Jesus' desire? Do you feel it when you pray, "Thy kingdom come!"? How much do you pray that

the people in your family, your parish, where you work, where you live, will grow in knowledge and love of God?

**Friday:** Luke 12:54-59: Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" How much time do you spend listening to weather reports each day? How much do you spend reading the words of Christ which teach you to recognize what is going on in your world? Is it more useful to you to know about approaching storms or to understand the winds that are blowing across the Church in the wake of Vatican II?

**Saturday:** Luke 13:1-9: A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So, he said to the gardener, "Cut it down." The gardener replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it." What fruit is our Lord receiving from you? Is it proportionate to the gifts of knowledge and grace he has given you? What could you do this year to increase your fruitfulness?

## LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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**As Christian:** Each day this week say the Our Father, conscious that each petition echoes a desire of Christ's heart. Unite your desires to his.

**As Disciple:** Begin reading the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part Four, entitled "Christian Prayer."

**As Prophet:** When you are with a group of people who profess to be religious, suggest you begin what you are doing with a prayer. Use only a prayer that is acceptable to all; for example, do not pray to Jesus with non-Christians present.

**As Priest:** Consciously offer up Jesus on the cross in Eucharist for the needs of your time, your circle of friends and acquaintances.

**As King:** Make prayer together a part of your family life. If you are not living in family, think about joining or forming a group that prays together.

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