

St. Mary St. Michael

15164 Juniper Dr., Marne MI 49435
616.677.3934 • www.saintmarysmarne.org

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



Pastor: Rev. Michael Hodges

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

Saint Mary Parish Staff

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

Deacon
Tom Roberts
troberts@saintmarysmarne.org

Business Manager
Todd Kline
businessmanager@saintmarysmarne.org

Parish Secretary
Cathie VanGessel
secretary@saintmarysmarne.org

Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Veneklas
dre@saintmarysmarne.org

Maintenance
Jim Looks

Custodian
Marian Looks

Liturgical Minister
Gary Karr
gkarr@saintmarysmarne.org

Music Director
Dr. Bernie Stanko
616.490.3836
berniestanko@hotmail.com

St Mary Prayer Line
616.677.3934 or
Linda at 677.3269
For evening requests call
Darlene 616.453.0157 or
email bfa1414@yahoo.com

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Deacon
Tom Roberts
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Custodian
Carol Reens

Liturgical Minister
Kevin Kilpatrick
liturgy@saintmichaels.us

Scrip Coordinator
Brenda Kilpatrick
616.837.6363

St Michael Prayer Line
Chris
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 December 6

4:00PM † Chuck Albrecht by Chris Albrecht.....MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday December 7

8:30AM † Nathan Syrek by the Syrek Family.....MI
 10:30AM † Richard Swanson by M/M Gary Karr.....MA

Monday December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

12:00PM Our Parish Family.....MI
 6:00PM Our Parish Family.....MA

Tuesday December 9

12:00PM † Stanley "Buck" Chesla by M/M Duane Perrin.....MA
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

Wednesday December 10

12:00PM † Jack O'Bradovich by the O'Bradovich Family.....MI
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

Thursday December 11

12:00PM † Jim Potts by Robbie Gross.....MA
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

Friday December 12

12:00PM † Kathie Poelma by KofC #9909.....MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

Saturday December 13

4:00PM † Rory Byrne by Mom and Dad.....MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday December 14

8:30AM † Rebecca Centilli by Kurt & Margaret Bouchard.....MI
 10:30AM † Jimmy Schneider by Family.....MA
 3:00PM Christmas Hymn Sing Along.....MA

Winter Weather Reminder.... When there is inclement weather and Coopersville and/or Kenowa Hills Schools are closed. All Parish Events and Daily Mass will be cancelled that day. The Mass intention for that day will be rescheduled at our earliest opportunity. The Parish Office will be closed. Staff will be working from home and respond to emails and voicemails through out the day.

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 7, 2025

Sunday Second Sunday of Advent
 Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rm 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Monday Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12-1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
 Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent
 Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

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St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Dec 13—4:00PM	Dec 14 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Dylan Ranney NEED ONE	Bryson Lindberg Reid Lindberg
Eucharistic Ministers	NEED THREE	Deacon Tom Cindy Lindberg Joe Hitchings Denise Nelson Peter Nielsen Jennie Taylor NEED ONE
Lector	Sue DeVos	Jeff Johnson
Sacristan	Cindy Bleckley	Judy Driedger
Ushers	Ray Maka NEED ONE	Ed Irwin Duane Snowdin Wade Lindberg Jim Ponshair
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	December 14 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Casimir Lothschutz Peter Lothschutz
Precious Body	Deacon Tom Nettie Leale Bruce Kamp
Precious Blood	Geary Farrell Margie Jirous Becky Warners Need One
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko

Second Sunday

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Matthew 3:3



Cluster News and Community News and Events

Advent Lecture Series

Scripture Roots of the Sacraments

Led by Fr. Michael Hodges. St Mary Community Room
Mondays- December 8, 15 - 7-8:30PM
 .All are Welcome. (no registration needed)

The Sacraments



Baptism Confirmation Eucharist Reconciliation Matrimony Holy Orders Anointing of the Sick

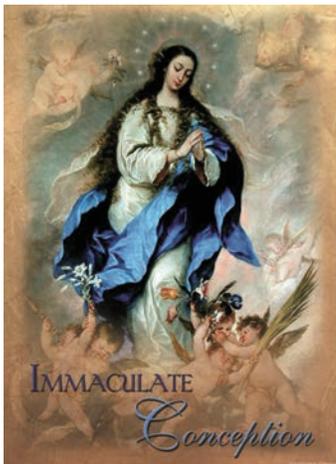
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Schedule:

Monday, December 8 - 12:00PM ~ St. Michael
 Monday, December 8 - 6:00PM ~ St. Mary

Prayer for The Immaculate Conception

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen



Christmas Hymn Sing Along

Sunday, December 14
3:00 PM- St Mary -Marne

If you love to sing Christmas Hymns or to be surrounded by others who do, please join us for this free event.
 All are Welcome.
Christmas Hymn Sing Along
 with organ, piano, over 20 flutes and your voices.

Advent Family Prayer

God of Love,
 Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
 He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent. As we wait and prepare for his coming.
 We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen
 Author Unknown



Additional Advent Resources Available at NO COST to you in the Narthex.

- "Little BLUE Books" will enrich your Advent season with daily prayer & reflections.
- "The Word Among Us" includes Daily Scripture readings and prayers from the Liturgy. Free Mass Supplement, Daily meditation based on the Mass. Practical featured articles on Advent and the saints.

Christmas Mass Schedule

The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas Eve Vigil)

Wednesday, Dec 24
 4:00PM , 7:00PM ~ St. Mary - Msgr. Louis Stasker
 4:00PM, 7:00PM ~ St. Michael - Fr. Michael Hodges

The Nativity of The Lord

Thursday, Dec 25 Christmas Day
 8:30AM ~ St. Michael - Fr. Michael Hodges
 10:30AM ~ St. Mary - Msgr. Louis Stasker

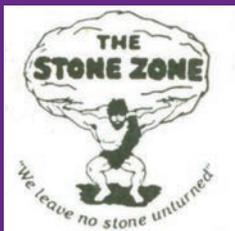
The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31 6:00PM ~ St. Michael- Fr. Michael Hodges
 Thursday, January 1 12:00PM ~ St. Mary - Fr. Michael Hodges

Please Join us ~ All are Welcome



Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

Winter Weather Reminder

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December 7, 2025 ~ The Second Sunday of Advent

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.

1st-7th Grade Faith Formation Classes -

Wednesdays at Hall / 6:00- 7:30pm

8th Grade - Confirmation Classes -

Wednesdays at Hall / 6:00- 7:30pm

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

Prayers for Debbie

Continued prayers of healing, peace and strength for Debbie (our friend and Religious Education Director) as she begins treatment for Chronic Myeloid Leukemia. Heavenly Father, we commend our friend Debbie to your loving care. Please touch her with your healing hand to restore her strength, comfort her heart, and bring her peace. May she feel your presence and know your love as she recovers. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

A message from Debbie: I would like to thank everyone for their well wishes, cards, and prayers. It is all greatly appreciated. Thank you!
Debbie Veneklase and family

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is now up in the Narthex.. This year we will be helping two local organizations within the diocese. HELP Pregnancy and The Prison, Jail & Juvenile Detention Center Ministry. Parishioners are asked to take a tag off of the tree and replace it with one of the ornaments provided and purchase the requested item listed on the tag. Please return these items **UNWRAPPED** and place under the tree with the ORIGINAL gift tag attached to the item no later than **Sunday, Dec 14. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!** If you have questions or would like to help with this ministry, please contact: Rob and Lori Rander (616) 215-6524



Thank You.....

to the **Our Lady of Fatima Guild** for their generous donation for the Purple Poinsettias for the Advent Season. And Special Thanks to Becky W. for her artistic talents decorating our church through out the liturgical seasons. We appreciate you all!



Looking Ahead- Save the Dates

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
Dec 21	Decorate the Church for the Christmas Season- 11:30AM

Welcome

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

Annalise Rae Lothschutz

Baptized on December 7, 2025

Daughter of Ben and Rachel (Burke) Lothschutz

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!



Our Lady of Fatima Guild Meeting - December 9

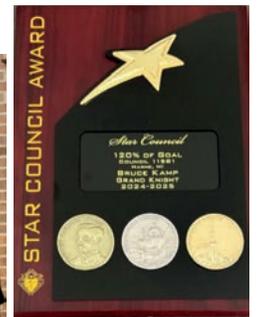
OUR LADY OF FATIMA GUILD: is a service-oriented group dedicated to praying the Rosary and helping people in need. Meetings consist of praying the Rosary, Guild matters, and fellowship. **All ladies of the parish are invited to join. December 9, 7PM in the Church Community Room**

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



Congratulations to The Knights of Columbus Council #11581 for receiving the **Star Council Award**. The Star Council Award recognizes outstanding achievement in membership, insurance and programming. This is all made possible by our awesome council members and the support of our parish family and community. Thank You.



We Need You! - Sunday, December 21

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season. We will decorate after Mass Sunday, December 21. **NO** experience needed. Adults and Children of all ages are encouraged to help. Many hands make light work. We will have refreshments available for those that volunteer. **THANK YOU** in advance for making our church beautiful for the Christmas Season.



Giving Back to God

Mass: Attendance	Nov 23 – 202	Nov 30 – 121
Adult Contributions	\$2644.80	\$2637.22
Children Contributions	\$29.00	\$6.00
Loose Contributions	\$152.00	\$106.00
Capital Improvement	\$10.00	
Online Giving	\$935.00	\$495.00
Total	\$3770.80	\$3244.22
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5630.98	\$5707.21
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	+1813.53	-\$2168.25

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

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Michael's Parish News

Scrip News— Thank you to the 20 families who purchased Scrip over the last two weeks. Our total profit was \$142. Please remember to buy your Christmas gift cards through Scrip. We are now carrying various \$5 and \$10 cards, which are perfect for the Giving Tree. Also, we are carrying Cabela's \$25 for the Christmas season.



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 Veneklas, Ken Heflin, Marvin Hecksel, Payton Patterson, Pat Harlett, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

Giving Back to God

Mass: Attendance	Nov 23: 4 PM – 85 8:30 AM — 177	Nov 30: 4 PM – 113 8:30 AM — 85
Adult Contributions	\$2,996.00	\$2,603.08
Children Contributions	\$15.11	\$7.00
Loose Contributions	\$292.00	\$168.00
Total	\$3,303.11	\$2,778.08
CCHD	\$120.00	0.00
Cemetery Fund	\$370.00	\$280.00
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5,601.89	\$5,679.59
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	+\$2,732.91	-\$864.36

Would you like to be a part of our Adult Christmas Choir?

All are welcome, and we'd love to have you! Practices will be held on Sundays, December 14 and 21 at 6 PM in the church. Contact Craig Bleckley with any questions or for more information (616) 460-3143.



Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. There are 1st and 2nd place prizes for each group.

The levels of competition are:

- Kindergarten
- Grades 1 and 2,
- Grades 3 and 4
- Grades 5 and 6 and
- Grades 7 and 8.

All posters should contain our motto, "Keep Christ in Christmas" Please do not put your name on the front of the poster.

There are posters available in the Glass Hallway with entry forms taped to the back, and instructions. Posters are due back at St. Michaels by Dec. 28.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Deceased members of the Dreffs & Goosen Families by Marcy Goosen

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Today, December 7, from 9:30—11:30 a.m.

Adults, \$12.00; Children 6-12, \$7; Under 6, free;

Immediate Family Max: \$33

Come support the Knights and their efforts!

St. Michael's Faith Formation

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.

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.

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. Please donate to the Middle School's Giving. Thank you! Contact Debbie if you have any questions (616) 384-4026.

The Giving Tree – St. Michael's Middle School Faith Formation's has the Giving Tree is in the Glass hallway. Parishioners are asked to take off as many ornaments as you would like and purchase a gift for the age listed on the tag. Please place these unwrapped presents in a bag and return them under the Giving Tree. The teens are often overlooked because they can be hard to buy for. We have a great solution. You can purchase a \$10.00 gift card from St. Michael's scrip program and place in in the gift card box under the giving tree. You will be giving in two ways. All gifts need to be turned in no later than December 8th, so they can be delivered to Coopersville Cares. Thank you for your support and generosity. May God bless you as you have blessed others.



December 7, 2025 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Human Acts Reveal Grace

Isaiah presents a promise of divine goodness expressed in human acts, a vision of joy that gives hope. A human Messiah will come, “a shoot...from the stump of Jesse.” The “spirit of the LORD” will be visible in him through behavior which reveals what today we call the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude and fear of the Lord. Divine power will be evident in the fruit of the Messiah’s mission: The wolf shall live with the lamb; “they will not hurt or destroy...for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” Grace will be visible.

John the Baptizer holds out the same hope and gives the same message, but his emphasis is different. He focuses on what we should do to let the grace and power of God appear in our lives: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.... Bear fruit worthy of repentance.... Every tree...that does not bear good fruit is cut down.” John calls people to express their response in human actions by being baptized and confessing their sins. He expresses his own faith by dressing in camel skins and living on locusts and wild honey.

What John shows us is Jesus impacting our lives like a meteor smacking into a planet. “The Messiah is here! The Reign of God is at hand! Wake up! Change! Get moving! Do something about it!” John believes in our ability to choose and respond, in the importance of our making human choices and acting on them. John presents Jesus Christ as the one who comes to bring us to life, to spark us into action. Jesus’ coming stimulates and activates our human powers.

But all is not human action here. John boldly an-

*We grow in love by
letting our love for
God take flesh in all
our words and actions*

DECEMBER 7, 2025

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9;
Matthew 3:1-12

nounces the action of God: “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” The “fruitful tree” is not the person who performs good acts, but the one who performs divine acts. Like the fruit of Mary’s womb, the fruit of our lives must be divine—the fruit of the Holy Spirit acting within us, acting through our human actions.

Jesus is God made man: fully human and fully divine. We who are the Body of Christ on earth are called to be fully human and fully divine in everything we do—by letting God, who dwells within us and anoints us with divine grace, be reflected in everything we do. We live the life of grace; we grow in grace by letting it express itself in and through our human actions. We grow in faith by letting our faith in Christ’s teachings reveal itself in our lifestyle. We grow in hope by letting hope in Christ’s promises guide our choices. We grow in love by letting our love for God take flesh in all our words and actions.

Saint Paul teaches that the source of our unity as a community is our common effort and encouragement



of each other to live out what we believe. We will neither always agree on what we should do nor succeed in doing it; but if we have patience and encourage one another, we will be able to live in harmony “in accordance with Christ Jesus.”

To accept our humanness means accepting ourselves as imperfect and incomplete yet intended to grow toward perfection. Jesus, the shoot growing up from the “stump of Jesse,” represents God’s power acting in human events; this gives us hope (see Romans 14:1-15:13).

Paul’s practical advice is to read Scripture. “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.” In Scripture God expresses to us divine truth in human words. By making human efforts to understand God’s human words, we grow in union with God. Then God’s grace will be visible in us.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Second Week of Advent

Pray daily: Lord, you came to share completely in our human condition except for sin. Give me a desire to share completely in your divine life. Draw me to study your mind and heart. Amen.

Monday: Luke 1:26-38 (Immaculate Conception). “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.” The Immaculate Conception requires us to believe that human beings have a part to play in redeeming the world. Is there anything new God is calling you to that you’ve been afraid to say ‘yes’ to?

Tuesday: Matthew 18:12-14. “If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?” Do you know any Christian who feels alienated from the Christian com-

munity? What can you do to show that person God’s love, concern and invitation?

Wednesday: Matthew 11:28-30. “For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Is it a crushing burden to try to live on God’s level in all we do? What makes it light?

Thursday: Matthew 11:11-15. “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” What have we received from God that is greater than anything we could receive from our greatest efforts at prayer and fasting?

Friday: Luke 1:38-47 (Our Lady of Guadalupe). Elizabeth cried out, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” How are you blessed? How does your life bear divine fruit?

Saturday: Matthew 17:10-13. “I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him.” What things are happening in the Church that you might not recognize as God’s divine action?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: When the water is added to the wine at Mass, ask God to join your humanity to Jesus’ divinity, totally and intimately.

As Disciple: Put a copy of the Bible in some visible place at home or at work to remind you to live out in daily life what you believe.

As Prophet: Each day this week make one choice that is a conscious, deliberate response to something Jesus said or did.

As Priest: Make a list of principles drawn from Jesus’ teaching that really are a unifying rule of life in your family or circle of friends.

As King: Ask what fruit you have borne for the Kingdom of God in your professional, social and family life.

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