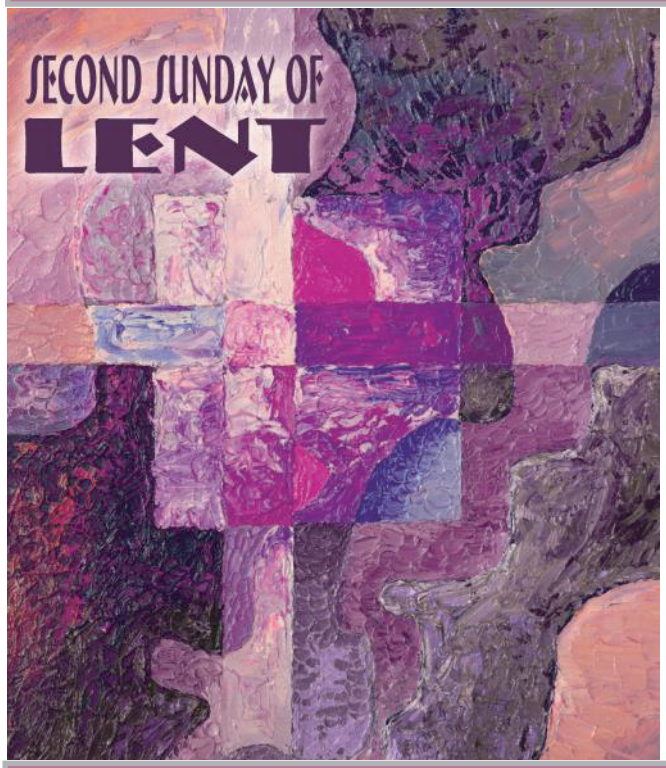
# Saint Mary's Church

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

*March 5, 2023 ~ The Second Sunday of Lent*




**Weekend Mass Schedule:**
Saturday 4:30PM St Mary
Sunday 8:30AM St Michael
Sunday 10:30AM St Mary
Sunday 4:30PM St Michael
**Weekday Mass Schedule:**
Tuesday 9AM St Mary
*Adoration begins after Mass until 2:00 pm*
Wednesday 9AM - St Michael
*Adoration begins after Mass until 2:00 pm*
Thursday 9:00 AM St Mary
Friday 9:00 AM St Michael
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**
Saturday 3:30 PM—4:15PM-St Mary
Sunday 3:00PM -4:00PM St Michael
Wednesday 2:00 PM—3:00 PM St Michael
*(or anytime by appt. please call parish office)*
**St. Mary Parish Office**
Monday - 8:00AM - 4:30PM
Tuesday - 8:00AM - 4:30PM
Wednesday - 8:00AM - 11:30AM
Thursday - 8:00AM to 4:30PM

***St Mary's Mission Statement**: We, the Roman Catholic community of St. Mary's, by our baptism have become the People of God, dedicated to living and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are a community built on faith and the sharing of individual talents, abilities and skills for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by prayer and the sacraments, we continue the mission of Jesus to reveal God's presence in all of human life.*

**Pastor:**
Rev. Michael Hodges / frmhodges@grpriests.org
616.677.3934
*For emergency please call: 616.745.1409*

**Deacon:**
Deacon Tom Roberts / troberts@saintmarysmarne.org
616.677.3934

**Business Manager:**
Todd Kline / businessmanager@saintmarysmarne.org

**Parish Secretary:**
Cathie VanGessel / secretary@saintmarysmarne.org

**Director of Religious Education:**
Rebecca Chicklon / dre@saintmarysmarne.org
616.677.5065

**Youth Minister—Life Teen grades 9-12**
Rebecca Chicklon / dre@saintmarysmarne.org
616.677.5065

**Director of R.C.I.A:** Jill Brown-616.677.3934

**Maintenance/Custodian:** Jim & Marian Looks: 677.3934

**Liturgical Minister:**
Gary Karr / 616.677.3934 / gkarr@saintmarysmarne.org

**Music Director:**
Dr. Bernie Stanko 616.490.3836 /
berniestanko@hotmail.com

**Pastoral Council:**
Sharon Davis, Becky Warners,
Vito Dolci, Geary Farrell, Doug Frantz

**Finance Council:**
Lisa Bradley, Jose Gomez, Ruth Kasul,
Todd Kline, Scott Lampe, Mel Northup

**Martha League:** Parish Office: 16.677.3934
(assistance with meals during illness or injury)

**Prayer Line:**
Parish Office 616.677.3934
or Linda at 677.3269 for evening requests
call Darlene 616.453.0157
or email: bfa1414@yahoo.com

**Our Cluster Parish:**
St Michael's - 17150 - 88th Avenue
Coopersville, MI 49404
616.384.4026
www.saintmichaels.us

# Mass Intentions

**Saturday March 4**
4:30PM † Frank Lampe by M/M Jerry May .....MA

**Sunday March 5**
8:30AM † Brent Beuschel by Dave & Sharon Carlson .....MI
10:30AM † Mary Klein by Family ..... MA
4:30PM † Margaret Jonio by Kathy Bliss .....MI
*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—4:00 PM - St Michael*

**Monday March 6 NO MASS**

**Tuesday March 7**
9:00AM † Jeff LeMieux by M/M Joe Lothschutz..... MA
*Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm*
*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—4:00 PM*

**Wednesday March 8 NO MASS, ADORATION OR CONFESSION**

**Thursday March 9**
9:00AM † Pat O'Connor by M/M Larry Antcliff ..... MA

**Friday March 10**
9:00AM † Jeff LeMieux by Joe Hitchings .....MI

**Saturday March 11**
4:30PM † Joyce Yost by The Janet McKnight-Perks Family .....MA

**Sunday March 12**
8:30AM † Bobby Raczkiewicz by Pam Raczkiewicz .....MI
10:30AM † Rick Lothschutz by M/M Steve Steffes..... MA
4:30PM † Evelyn Kirkwood by Chris Albrecht & Family .....MI
*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—4:00 PM - St Michael*

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

***Please Note:*** *When there is inclement weather (where Coopersville Public Schools or Kenowa Hills Public Schools are closed) The Parish Offices will be closed and all events scheduled for that day will be cancelled. Daily Mass will also be cancelled. The Mass intention for that day will be rescheduled at our earliest opportunity.*
*Additionally, when a Funeral Mass has been scheduled, Daily Mass will be cancelled*

**For the Week of March 5, 2023**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday | Second Sunday of Lent<br>Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9 |
| Monday | Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11 & 13; Lk 6:36-38 |
| Tuesday | Memorial of Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs<br>Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 & 23; Mt 23:1-12 |
| Wednesday | Saint John of God, Religious<br>Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28 |
| Thursday | Saint Frances of Rome, Religious<br>Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk 16:19-31 |
| Friday | Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43. 45-46 |
| Saturday | Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 |
| Sunday | Third Sunday of Lent<br>Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 |

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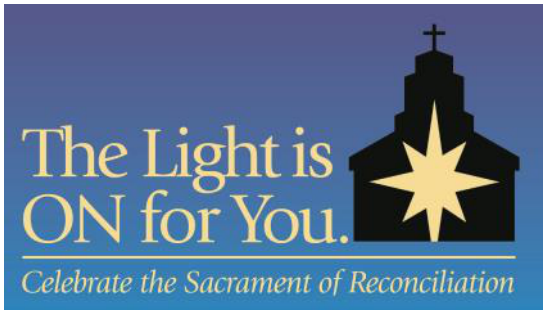
## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

| | Mar 12 / 8:30 AM | Mar 12 / 4:30 PM |
|---|---|---|
| Altar Servers | Peter Nielsen<br>Bryson Lindberg<br>Melena Lindberg | Molly Jonaitis<br>Madelyn Jonaitis |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Denise Parish<br>Cindy Lindberg<br>Melanie Mayse<br>Rosemary Weigel<br>Andrew Bonter | Ken Schwallier<br>NEED ONE |
| Lector | Joe Meerman | Joe LeMieux |
| CLW | | |
| Sacristan | Chris Albrecht | NEED ONE |
| Ushers | Wade Lindberg<br>Mary Bueche<br>Curt DeVos<br>Duane Snowdin | Bob Jonaitis<br>NEED ONE |
| Music | Craig Bleckley | Craig Bleckley |

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

| | March 11 4:30PM | March 12 10:30 AM |
|---|---|---|
| Sacristan | Matt Karr | Gary Karr |
| Altar Servers | Kassidy Britt<br>MaKaelyn Britt | Lauren LeMieux<br>Ty Ricord |
| Host | Deacon Tom<br>Vito Dolci<br>Breton Petrauskas | Margie Jirous<br>Becky Earners<br>Bruce Kamp |
| Cup | Jose Gomez<br>Kathy Gomez<br>Keith Anderson<br>Lauren Petrauskas | Janette Ney<br>Need Three |
| Hospitality Ministers | Jeff Schneider<br>Scott Lampe<br>Steve Lampe<br>Austin Lampe | Anthony Leale<br>Nettie Leale<br>Leonard Horter<br>Need One |
| Lector | Doug Frantz | Geary Farrell |
| Music | Bernie Stanko | Bernie Stanko |

# Cluster News and Community News and Events




As we begin the season of Lent, the Diocese of Grand Rapids will once again offer a special opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

**"The Light is ON for You:**
**An Evening of Penance" Thursday, March 23**
**5 - 8 p.m. in almost every parish of the diocese**
Visit GRdiocese.org/penance for details
***Wed, March 22 at St Michael 2PM- 5PM***
***Thurs, March 23 at St Mary from 5PM-8PM***

***Additional Opportunities for Confessions during Lent.***
Tuesdays - 2PM-4PM - St Mary
Wednesdays - 2PM-4PM - St Michael
Saturdays -3:30PM-4:15- St Mary
Sundays - 3:00PM-4:00PM - St Michael

## Youth Ministry

**High School Youth Ministry**
**(9-12 Grade)**

**Weekly gatherings:** are offered and help teens grow in faith. These gatherings include, food, games, topic and activities. Friends welcome!

**Retreat:** March 24-25 at Camp Roger. Registration deadline has passed but if space is open you may still be able to register.

**Middle School Youth Ministry**
**(6-8 Grade)**

**Are you looking for something to do this Lent?**

**Service Project:** Are you interested in helping with a Lenten Project ?

**Shine Rally:** March 26, 1-6:30 p.m. Registration due by March 8.

For details or to register for any of the above events please contact Rebecca.

**Family Activity for Youth**

**Lenten Family Activity**: Before Mass, challenge each family member to recognize one thing in the church, or a part of the liturgy, that has changed during Lent. If someone needs help, recommend that he or she pay attention to the Church's decorations, the priest's vestments, the Mass responses, or the music. After Mass, share what you each noticed.

**Questions or comments**

Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at 616-677-5065 or re@saintmarysmarne.org

## Fr. Mike's Musings

**Baptism: Part I**

Because Christ is truly present through the sacraments, they will always have an effect in our lives. But, we must approach the sacraments with faith and devotion. We need the eyes of faith to look beyond the signs of the sacraments to the reality they contain, and devoted hearts to focus on and reveal Christ's presence. We must be able to recognize in the sacraments of His Church that the risen Christ is giving another chance—new life.

There are few events more moving than the birth of a child. As the parents hold this life in their arms, they may be filled with boundless faith in God, hope for their child, and love for one another. Life progresses quickly, and faith can be lost, brights hopes dashed, and loved diluted and weakened. Many want to believe that we can be "reborn" to a new life where faith, hope, and love is never diminished. How easily we forget that Jesus came among us to offer such an opportunity.

By the grace of God the Father any person can achieve rebirth to a life that is eternal. This is what we commonly know as **Baptism**. This sacrament unites to the life of Jesus Christ Himself and opens the path to the other sacraments, and ultimately eternal life through the Holy Spirit.

What does baptism do for us? First, it bestows God's forgiveness of our original sin. As baptism gives life to believers, it also serves to bring "death" to sin. As St. Paul writes in his Letter to the Romans (6:4): *"We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death…"*

Second, baptism marks us formally as God's adopted children. This new life through Christ is known as "sanctifying grace". It is the Father's love, which gives our good actions a sense of holiness and offers us the pledge of eternal life. This sanctifying grace thus opens us to God's overt assistance, "actual grace", which aids us overcoming temptations and to live our lives in imitation of Christ in thought, words, and deeds. We can equate actual grace to what human parents do for their own children; protecting from harm, nourishing them physically and emotionally, teaching them; all of the things we need to grow and mature into productive, happy people.

Third, baptism enters us into a union with God. He wants to be with us always and joins us into the trinitarian love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through the sacrament. The Church teaches that in baptism we are given the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity (from the Latin: Caritas=Love). It is with this virtues as part of our being that our union with God is nourished and will grow throughout our lifetime.

Fourth, baptism confers membership in the Church, the Body of Christ. This identity will have implications in the sacrament of the Eucharist which will be discussed in a later column. As for the sacrament of baptism this membership is highlighted again by St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians (12:13): *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body."* The "one body" being the Body of Christ on earth—the Church.

There is a life that does not have to end in physical death. It is a "rebirth" to life which cannot be destroyed because it is firmly rooted in the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love—virtues given to us by God who is eternal, and who desires eternal life for His children.

Baptism in the practice of the Church in our current age hasn't lost its meaning when originally instituted by Jesus in His own baptism by John in the Jordan. But the preparation and means have evolved over the centuries has evolved so that the sacrament can be more fully understood and appreciated by the faithful in their lives as members of His Body, the Church. This growth in understanding will be discussed in **Baptism: Part II** in next week's installment of "Fr. Mike's Musings". Good day and God Bless.

## Knights of Columbus News

**St. Mary's Knights of Columbus #11581-** The St Mary's Knights meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00PM in the Parish Hall. For more info please contact Grand Knight Rob Rander: robrander82@gmail.com or visit: https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/knights-of-columbus

***Next Breakfast & Blood Drive: October 8***

**St. Michael's Knights of Columbus #9909 -** The St. Michael's Knights meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit https://saintmichaels.us/knights-of-columbus-9909

# St. Mary's Parish News

## Religious Education

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:**
dismisses and meets during 10:30 a.m. Mass.

**This Sunday's Gospel Reflection**:
Jesus calls us to shine. When we shine at something, we do well. Our real selves and real abilities come through. The word "shine" can help us understand the meaning of Jesus' Transfiguration. In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus shines. Jesus is transfigured before his friends. His face becomes as dazzling as the sun; his clothes radiate bright light. This Gospel is a vision of Jesus' divinity shining through his humanity. In this vision, Peter, James, and John see Jesus is one of Israel's great prophets, standing with Moses and Elijah. They glimpse for a moment who they are following as they journey to Jerusalem where Jesus will face conflict. We remember on the 2nd Sunday of Lent the whole of Jesus' story. In Jerusalem he suffers, dies, and on the third day rises to new life. This vision of Jesus' transfigured in glory tells all of us to remember Jesus' risen, shining self. Jesus calls us and gives us the power to shine like him, now and forever. We are God's beloved sons and daughters, too.

Question of the Week:
What do the brightness of Jesus' face and the whiteness of his clothes show about Jesus?

Lenten Family Activity: Before Mass, challenge each family member to recognize one thing in the church, or a part of the liturgy, that has changed during Lent. If someone needs help, recommend that he or she pay attention to the Church's decorations, the priest's vestments, the Mass responses, or the music. After Mass, share what you each noticed.

**Questions or comments**
Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at 616-677-5065 or dre@saintmarysmarne.org

**High School Youth Ministry**
SEE CLUSTER PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

## Stations of the Cross
## Fridays at 7PM During Lent

Mar 10- Led by Religious Ed Classes
Mar 17 - Led by Adult Bible Study
Mar 24 - Led by Youth Ministry Group
Mar 31 - Led by Knights of Columbus Councils #11581 & #9909 at the Outdoor Meditation Path

***We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by Your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.***

## St Mary Parish Prayer Line

If you would like to request a prayer for our parish prayer line please contact the parish office or Linda at 677.3269 . For evening requests call Darlene 453.0157 or email: bfa1414@yahoo.com *Please continue to pray for all of our sick, hospitalized & homebound parishioners and all of the personal intentions that St Mary's Parish parishioners hold close to their hearts.*

## Did you Know?

Our monstrance at Saint Mary has just returned from an 18 week-long restoration. Please take the time to see it. It is holding Christ during adoration every Tuesday. It was given to the parish in memory of Aaron and Irena Finerman in 1958. It has long served as the throne of the Body of Christ during Adoration. It was showing the effects of many years of service. The gold was worn off in places from the elevation during exhibition, and general wear. During Lent, the Altar Society and Lady's Guild will be leading a fundraiser for the $1900.00 cost of the restoration. All donations over this cost will be used for the maintenance of other Eucharistic vessels (many of them are also showing the effects of many years of honorable service.) Thank you, Fr Mike & Gary Karr

## Giving Back to God

| | Feb 25/26 |
|---|---|
| Regular Contributions | $3744.00 |
| Capital Improvement | $5.00 |
| Online Contributions | $305.00 |
| Children's Contributions | $27.50 |
| Ash Wednesday | $386.00 |
| **Total** | **$4467.50** |

**Thank you for your continued support and generosity!**

## St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

**SCHNEIDER TIRE OUTLET, INC.**
1454 Franklin St. Marne ~ 616.677.5202
**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!**

## Welcome to the Cluster Parishes of St. Mary and St. Michael

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## St. Michael's Parish News

**Scrip News—** Thank you to our 11 families that purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was $64.28.

## Knights of Columbus News

**St. Michael's Fish Dinners—** Dinner includes: Deep fried fish OR baked fish, fries, rolls, coleslaw, green beans, dessert and beverage; grilled cheese sandwich also available. Fridays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. PRICES: Adults - $13.00, Children – Ages 6-10 - $6.00, Children under 6 – Free. If you'd like to donate a dessert, please bring a "sweet treat" with you on Friday night!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS— Fridays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, at St. Michaels, at 7PM following the Fish Dinner.**

**Bunny Business is Back in Business!** We will be collecting candy, Easter baskets, blow bubbles, chalk, coloring books, crayons, books and small stuffed animals for the next few weeks. If you would prefer to donate cash, the committee will purchase needed items. There will be a container for all donations in the glass hallway. Please mark your calendar to help stuff Easter baskets for Coopersville Cares on March 26th, in the Family Center, after the 8:30 Mass. With your help, the Knights of Columbus hope to stuff 100 baskets again this year.

## St. Michael's Faith Formation

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Our program is offered during Sunday morning Mass. 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. In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear that while praying on the mountain Jesus' face changed and it was shining like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. This is called transfiguration. God reminded us that Jesus is his beloved Son, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him. Listen to what he says!" We can show God that we are listening to what Jesus teaches us by choosing to do the right thing when we are tempted to do wrong.

**Elementary Faith Formation:** This program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:15- 7:30 pm. **First Communion Retreat: A retreat for both student and parents will be held on Saturday, March 11, from 9:00 am-12:00 noon.** We will start in church. Contact Debbie Veneklase if you cannot attend.

**Middle School Faith Formation:** Grades 6, 7 and 8 will meet on Sundays after the 8:30am Mass, from 9:45 to 11:15 in the Youth Room. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation during that time. **Eighth grade Confirmation students are to attend The Shine Youth Rally on Sunday, March 26 from 12:30-6:30 pm.**

## St. Michael's Parish Family

**Remembers in Their Prayers**: Kevin Johnson, Anne Pols, Alexandria Gordon, George Langlois, Brooke Campbell, Linda Abel-Carroll, Jackie May, Marvin Hecksel, Carmen Dietrich, Dennis Goosen, Jean Mayse, Ken Heflin, Winnie Spencer, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

## St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Bobby Raczkiewicz
by Pam Raczkiewicz

## St. Michael's Preschool

Have you considered St. Michael's Preschool for your child or grandchild? If not, you should! Come see what a great experience St. Michael's Preschool can provide. Come meet our Director/Teacher, Cindy Lindberg! Preschool meets on MWF from 8:45—11:45 am (Mon. 8:45am-2:30pm for 4-year-olds). For more info, call the Parish Office at 616-384-4026.

## Reminder —

Please remember, there will be no Mass, Adoration or Confession this Wednesday, March 8. If you need to make a private appointment with Fr. Mike, please call the Parish Office at 616-384-4026.

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? | What CANNOT go in the bins? |
|---|---|
| Newsprint | Paperboard |
| Catalogs/Magazines | (Grocery Item boxes) |
| Junk Mail | Plastic |
| Phone Books | Metal |
| Office/School paper | Trash |
| Hard and soft cover books | Glass |
| | Cardboard |

## Giving Back to God

| February 26, 2023 | |
|---|---|
| Adult Envelopes | $8,531.00 |
| Loose Cash | $193.00 |
| Children's Envelopes | $25.25 |
| **Total** | **$8,749.25** |
| Building Fund | $55.00 |
| Financial Assistance | $5.00 |
| Endowment Fund | $20.00 |

***Thank you for your continued support!***

LIVING GOD'S WORD

DAVID M. KNIGHT

# Man of the Promise

**MARCH 5, 2023**

**2ND SUNDAY OF LENT**

Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9

Abraham was chosen by God to be the father of the Jewish race. To be born a Jew meant to be born a descendant of Abraham. It was only through their relationship with Abraham that the Chosen People shared in God's first covenant and promises. God told Abraham, "This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you...." (see Genesis 17:1-23).

Saint Paul begins his second letter to Timothy by recalling God's promise to give life to the whole human race through Jesus, according to the plan God made "before the ages began" (see 2 Timothy I: 1, 9). The grace, the favor of God is held out to us "in Christ Jesus." It is through our relationship with him that we share in God's New Covenant and its promises.

Jesus, however, did not have an impressive presence on earth while walking the roads of Galilee. He was an ordinary man, dressed in ordinary clothes, who traveled on foot and generally attracted the poor and uneducated as followers. The large crowds that followed Jesus were usually small by our standards: small enough for Jesus to teach them while sitting down, without a microphone. Important people, like the Sanhedrin leader Nicodemus, were afraid to be seen with him. When a low-ranking Roman officer asked for a cure, Jesus was amazed. Mostly, he was a small-time preacher on a small-town circuit.

*God invites us to look at Jesus in his glory: to see his face shining like the sun*

Today Jesus is still not that prominent. He does not have high visibility in most countries' national life. And when he does, in the person of the pope or Church dignitaries, it may be because they are using the same status symbols (private jets, motorcades, clothing, protocol) that other political figures use. But in most of Jesus' ministry today—his quiet influence on family and social life, business and politics; the daily initiatives and decisions of all the members of his Body; his daily presence through everyone engaged in teaching, preaching and healing ministries—Jesus keeps a very low profile, so low that many people hardly notice his presence.

That is why God gave us the Transfiguration and why we celebrate this liturgy. Here, as on the mountain of the Transfiguration, God invites us to look at Jesus in his glory: to see his face shining like the sun, to hear the Father saying to us, "This is my Son, the Beloved...listen to him!" In the liturgy Jesus is recognized for what he truly is: the Good News, the Light of the world, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, the Bread of Life. In the liturgy bread and wine, ordinary things, symbols of ourselves and of our ordinary lives, are given back to us transfigured, transformed into Eucharist, into the Bread of Life and our spiritual drink. The

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host and the chalice are held up to us, lifted up as Jesus was on the cross, and a voice proclaims, "This is my body. This is the cup of my blood. Take this, all of you. Eat. Drink." And we adore.

After the Transfiguration, Jesus said to his disciples, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." Now Jesus is risen. Now is the time to proclaim him to the world as what he is: the Savior, the Lord, the fulfillment of all God's promises, Abraham's descendant in whom "all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

It is time for us to focus our own hearts on the grace given to us in Christ Jesus, "who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." It is time to look, to see and to believe.

## Reflecting on This Week's Gospels

### Second Week of Lent

> ***Pray daily:*** *God our Father, help us to hear your Son. Enlighten us with your word, that we may find the way to your glory. Grant us this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**Monday:** Luke 6:36-38. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." The expression "be merciful" means to come to the aid of another out of a sense of relationship. On the basis of Jesus' teaching, can you see every person as God the Father does and treat every person as a brother or sister? How will doing this change your life?

**Tuesday:** Matthew 23:1-12. "The greatest among you will be your servant." Can you serve everyone, wherever you are, whatever you are doing? What are you seeking in your work, social and family life, civic involvement or participation in your parish? Is it service?

**Wednesday:** Matthew 20:17-28. "...[T]he Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." How is Jesus serving you now? [n what ways are others sacrificing themselves for you? How are you responding?

**Thursday:** Luke 16:19-31. "And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table." Who would gladly receive from you a "scrap" of notice or attention, a smile, a thoughtful act or some help you can give? Whom do you know who is "covered with sores" wounded by life experiences? How can you help?

**Friday:** Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46. "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone;/ this was the Lord's doing,/ and it is amazing in our eyes'?" Is Jesus the cornerstone of your life, the key to everything you think, say and do? Have you rejected him in favor of building your life around something else, some other goal, value, program or attitude? If you stopped believing in Jesus, tomorrow, what concrete things would you change in your life-style?

**Saturday:** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. "But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." When people sin against you, insulting or treating you unjustly, is your first reaction to defend yourself? To get even? Or do you pray that they will be converted and "come to life"?

## Several Suggestions for Lent

**Prayer:** Put the Bible on your pillow. Read one line before going to sleep each night and again on waking up.

**Fasting:** Pick one activity of your day that you enjoy. Decide not to satisfy yourself by doing that until you have done something kind for someone else.

**Almsgiving:** Each time someone (including God!) is nice to you or does you a favor, do something right away for someone else.

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