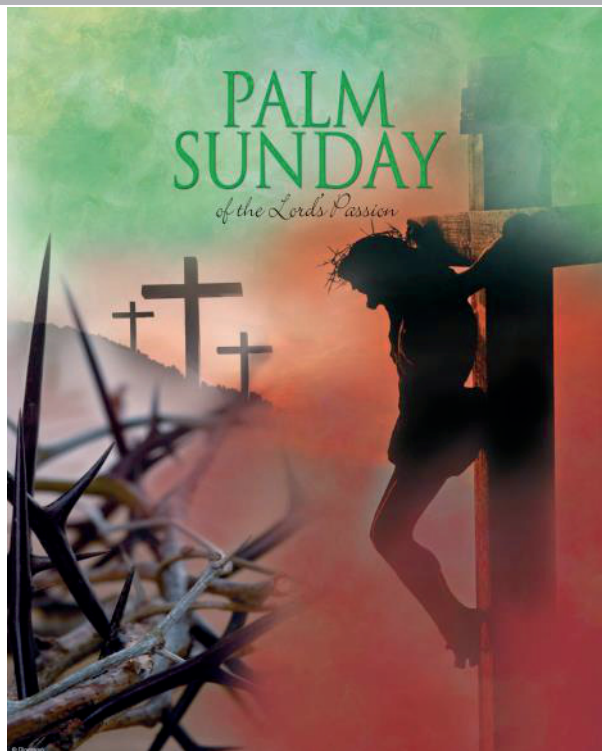


# Saint Mary's Church

15164 Juniper Dr. Marne, MI 49435 / 616.677.3934 / [www.saintmarysmarne.org](http://www.saintmarysmarne.org)

*April 2, 2023 ~ Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord*



## **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@gpriests.org](mailto:frmhodges@gpriests.org)

616.677.3934

*For emergency please call: 616.745.1409*

## **Deacon:**

Deacon Tom Roberts / [troberts@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:troberts@saintmarysmarne.org)

616.677.3934

## **Business Manager:**

Todd Kline / [businessmanager@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:businessmanager@saintmarysmarne.org)

## **Parish Secretary:**

Cathie VanGessel / [secretary@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:secretary@saintmarysmarne.org)

## **Director of Religious Education:**

Rebecca Chicklon / [dre@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:dre@saintmarysmarne.org)

616.677.5065

## **Youth Minister—Life Teen grades 9-12**

Rebecca Chicklon / [dre@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto: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](mailto:gkarr@saintmarysmarne.org)

## **Music Director:**

Dr. Bernie Stanko 616.490.3836 /

[berniestanko@hotmail.com](mailto:berniestanko@hotmail.com)

## **Pastoral Council:**

Sharon Davis, Becky Warners,

Vito Dolci, Geary Farrell, Doug Frantz

## **Finance Council:**

Lisa Bradley, Jose Gomez, Todd Kline,

Scott Lampe, Mel Northup

**Martha League:** Parish Office: 616.677.3934

*(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](mailto:bfa1414@yahoo.com)

## **Our Cluster Parish:**

St Michael's - 17150 - 88th Avenue

Coopersville, MI 49404

616.384.4026

[www.saintmichaels.us](http://www.saintmichaels.us)

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday April 1

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

### Sunday April 2 Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord

8:30AM † Bob & Carol Powers  
by David & Lisa Wilbur **MI**  
10:30AM † Ruth Kasul by Kelly Kasul **MA**  
4:30PM † Bob & Carol Powers  
by David & Lisa Wilbur **MI**

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—4:00 PM - St Michael

### Monday April 3 NO MASS

### Tuesday April 4 NO MASS

### Wednesday April 5 NO MASS

### Thursday April 6 Mass of The Lord's Supper

*followed by Night Watch until 10PM*

7:00PM Our Parish Family **MA**  
7:00PM † Nathan Syrek by the Syrek Family **MI**

### Friday April 7 Good Friday

3:00PM Our Parish Family **MA**  
3:00PM Our Parish Family **MI**  
8:00PM Tenebrae' Service **MA**

### Saturday April 8 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

9:00PM Our Parish Family **MA**  
9:00PM Our Parish Family **MI**

### Sunday April 9 Easter Sunday of The Resurrection of The Lord

9:30AM † Jack Mahn by Chris Albrecht **MI**  
10:30AM Our Parish Family **MA**

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

## Readings for the Week

### Sunday

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Procession: Mt 21:1-11

At Mass: Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

### Monday

Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11

### Tuesday

Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 & 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

### Wednesday

Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 & 33-34; Mt 26:14-25

### Thursday

Holy Thursday Evening Mass: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

### Friday

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Is 52:13--53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42

### Saturday

Easter Vigil

Gn 1:1—2:2 or Gn 1:1, 26-31a; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22; Gn 22:1-18 or Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Ex 14:15—15:1; Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Rom 6:3-11; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mt 28:1-10

### Sunday

The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or Lk 24:13-35



**Prayer for Holy Week**— Lord Jesus Christ, in this sacred and solemn week when we see again the depth and mystery of your redeeming love, help us to follow where you go, to stop where you stumble, to listen when you cry, to hurt as you suffer, to bow our heads in sorrow as you die, so that, when you are raised to life again, we may share in your endless joy. Amen

### St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

Altar Servers				
Eucharistic Ministers				
Lector				
Sacristan				
Music				

Please contact the Parish Office to see or volunteer for our Holy Week Schedule of Liturgical Ministers

### St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	Holy Thursday April 6-7PM	Good Friday April 7-3PM	Holy Saturday April 8-9PM	Easter April 9-10:30AM
Sacristan				
Altar Servers	Noah Davis Hannah Davis Calvin Davis	Need Three	Need Three	Noah Davis Hannah Davis Calvin Davis
Eucharistic Ministers	Lori Rander Rob Rander M Kirkwood Geary Farrell Vito Dolci Margie Jirous	M Kirkwood Vito Dolci Nettie Leale Geary Farrell Margie Jirous	Paul Madura Steve Lampe Michelle Lampe	Bruce Kamp L Greenland Margie Jirous Janette Ney C Withers B Petruskas L Petruskas
Hospitality Ministers	Matt Karr Need One	Matt Karr Need One	Jim Looks Marian Looks	Megan G. Lauren G.
Lector	Rita Carmody	Doug Frantz	Rita Carmody Geary Farrell Vito Dolci Need One	Angie Hanks
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### ATTENTION! ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST:

As part of the Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Walkowiak has mandated retraining for all Extraordinary Ministers in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. This training will include updated Diocesan Norms. Our nearest training session will be offered at **Saint Mary's/Spring Lake on Saturday, April 29 at 10:00am.**

If you are unable to attend on this date a full schedule of trainings from which you can choose are available on the webpage of the diocesan Office for Worship at <https://grdiocese.org/ministries/worship-3/>

Whether you serve during Mass or minister to the sick, we are all asked to register at that website for the session you plan to attend. If you are not yet a Eucharistic Minister but are being led to this ministry, this session will be an excellent introductory training. Contact Kevin at St Michaels or Gary at St Marys for more details or with help registering.

### 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!



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

**Service Project:** Are you interested in doing a Lenten/Holy Week Service Project during spring break?

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

#### Family Activity for Youth

Please pray for those who will be initiated into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil.

Have your family take a walk around your parish's Stations of the Cross. The stations mark Jesus' difficult journey to the place where he was crucified. Notice the many people who helped Jesus when he needed it.

#### Questions or comments

Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at 616-677-5065 or [dre@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:dre@saintmarysmarne.org)



### Please Pray for our Engaged Couple

**Marissa McDonald & Christopher Barczak**  
October 7, 2023 (St Mary)

Lord God, the source of all love, the wise plan of your providence has brought these young people together. As they prepare themselves for the sacrament of marriage and pray for your grace, grant that, strengthened by your blessing, they may grow in their respect for one another and cherish each other with a sincere love. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen



### Fr. Mike's Musings

This week we begin the final leg of our Lenten journey toward welcoming the Risen Christ at the Easter celebration. This is 'Palm/Passion Sunday' where we recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem at the beginning of the Jewish Passover. Being an observant Jew, Jesus delegates some of His disciples to go and find a suitable place where they can celebrate the Passover seder (meal). It is at this "Last Supper" that we have the Lord instituting the sacrament that serves as the source and summit of our Catholic faith. Also, at this meal are sown the seeds of future dissolution in the Christian community, a divide that centers on this very sacrament. Is it Christ really present among us in the accidental guise of bread and wine, miraculously transformed into His Body and Blood? Or is it merely a symbolic remembrance of an historical act?

For someone who is not in union with the Catholic Church, receiving the Eucharist would be a conscientiously false. Likewise, Catholics should not receive communion at Protestant churches. Partaking in the Sacrament of the Eucharist is truly a blessing and an important part of a person's life. In fact, the First Holy Communion of a Catholic person is a huge occasion and milestone. It is essentially the time that we are receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

The form for the Eucharist is when the priest repeats the words of Jesus saying: "This is my Body..." and "This is my Blood...." And now the matter is no longer wheat bread and grape wine.

There are two stumbling blocks for Christians; the Eucharist and the Cross. These are the same mysteries that have been a cause of division for centuries. The Catechism of the Catholic Church notes:

"The first announcement of the Eucharist divided the disciples, just as the announcement of the Passion scandalized them: "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" The Eucharist and the Cross are stumbling blocks. It is the same mystery, and it never ceases to be an occasion of division. "Will you also go away?": the Lord's question echoes through the ages, as a loving invitation to discover that only He has "the words of eternal life" and that to receive in faith the gift of His Eucharist is to receive the Lord Himself." (1336)

Catholicism has been sometimes described as a very materialistic religion. This is because Catholics take created reality seriously. Karl Rahner, S.J., once called Catholic Christians "the most sublime of materialists" because they "neither can nor should conceive of any ultimate fullness of the spirit and of reality without thinking too of matter enduring as well in a state of final perfection." Far from being concerned with a narrow, spiritualized understanding of salvation, about "getting saved," Catholics see grace everywhere, disclosed in nature, symbols, stories, and persons.

One of the documents of Vatican II, 'Presbyterorum Ordinis' (Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests) addresses the so-called "materialism" inherent in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

"The other sacraments, as well as with every ministry of the Church and every work of the apostolate, are tied together with the Eucharist and are directed toward it. The Most Blessed Eucharist contains the entire spiritual boon of the Church, that is, Christ himself, our Pasch and living bread, by the action of the Holy Spirit through his very flesh vital and vitalizing, giving life to men who are thus invited and encouraged to offer themselves, their labors and all created things together with him. In this light the Eucharist shows itself as the source and apex of the whole work of the preaching of the Gospel."

The great classic works of Catholic theologians and artists tend to emphasize the presence of God in the world, while the classic works of Protestant theologians tend to emphasize the absence of God from the world. Catholics tend to stress the immanence of God, Protestants God's transcendence. Created reality is itself sacramental, revealing the presence of God, hinted at in a forest of metaphors and lurking in human love. Catholicism sees the body as holy. It honors the Sacred Heart of Jesus, His virgin mother Mary, and her chaste spouse Joseph.

Most of all, the Church draws life from the Body and Blood of Jesus, present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The Eucharist has long been the center of Catholic life, uniting His disciples through his body for the life of the world. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said, "The Church is the celebration of the Eucharist; the Eucharist is the Church; they do not simply stand side by side; they are one and the same."



## Religious Education

### Annual Easter Egg Hunt:

Candy donations needed. Please consider dropping off Easter candy to the box in the Narthex. Thank you!

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Sunday following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Is your family interested in participating? If so, please contact Rebecca to sign up.



### Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Dismisses and meets during 10:30 a.m. Mass. There will be no Children's Liturgy of the Word on April 2 and 9 due to Spring Break/ Easter Sunday. Children's Liturgy will resume on April 16.



### This Sunday's Gospel Reflection:

In the liturgies of Holy Week, we Christians join Jesus in the last meal he shares with his friends. We accompany him through his torturous death at the hands of the Romans. We experience the stunned amazement of Jesus' first followers as they discover his new life with them, after his rising on Easter. Ever since then, Christians have seen Easter as a new day, an eighth day of God's creation. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday immerse us in the key events of Jesus' life. In these ancient liturgies we journey into the heart of Christian faith: Jesus, who poured out his love for us even unto death, and God who raises us to new life. Consider making this week a time to explore Jesus' love for us and show our love to Him by engaging in the Holy week liturgies and devotions.



**Questions of the Week:** What are your memories of Holy Week? Why does Jesus pour out his life for us?

### Family Holy Week Activities:

Please pray for Julia who will become a new Catholic during the Easter Vigil. Please consider making her a welcome and congratulations card as a family or have each family member make her one. You may present your card or cards to her following the Easter Vigil or your welcome to get the card(s) to Rebecca to give to her.

Have your family take a walk around your parish's Stations of the Cross. The stations mark Jesus' difficult journey to the place where he was crucified. Notice the many people who helped Jesus when he needed it.

### Questions or comments:

Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at [dre@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:dre@saintmarysmarne.org) or 616-677-5065



### High School Youth Ministry

SEE CLUSTER PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

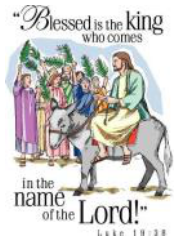
## St Mary Parish Prayer Line

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](mailto: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.

## Palm Sunday ~ April 2

Holy Day of Obligation ~ Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage.

**Prayer for Palm Sunday** Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen



## Knights of Columbus #11581 News

### Upcoming Events:

April 1 & April 2 - Tootsie Roll Drive after all Masses - The donations are helping to recognize the dignity of every person and helps provide people with intellectual and physical disabilities in our community more resources to live a happy life.

April 13 - Monthly Meeting 7PM-Parish Hall

**PLEASE NOTE: DATE CHANGE**

October 8 - Community Breakfast and Blood Drive Register here:

[https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/149333](https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/149333)

For more info please contact Grand Knight Rob Rander: [robrander82@gmail.com](mailto:robrander82@gmail.com)

or visit:

<https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/knights-of-columbus>



Knights of Columbus  
Council #11581

Look For Our  
**Upcoming Raffle**  
Ticket sales start after Easter  
Drawing to be held June 1st



Proceeds to help fund our council's charitable giving



## Meal Train for Fr Mike

The office has received many requests to provide Fr Mike a homecooked meal, (Don't worry, he is not sick or have an accident) we have created an online MEAL TRAIN to coordinate this effort. If you would like to cook a meal for Fr Mike, please sign up here:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/8vv97n> (or call the parish office)

This is great opportunity to show our appreciation to Fr Mike for all he does for our Parish Cluster.



## Giving Back to God

	March 25/26
Regular Contributions	\$5228.00
Capital Improvement	\$125.00
Online Contributions	\$1360.00
Children's Contributions	\$41.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6754.00</b>

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

**St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week**  
**COOPERSVILLE HEATING & COOLING**

Mark Janose 616.837.1312 ~ Don Janose 616.292.3344

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!**

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

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

## St. Michael's Parish News



**Scrip News**— Scrip totals will be updated next week.

### St. Michael's Ladies' Tea Party —

for women of all ages. Saturday, April 22th 10:30-12:30pm in the Family Center. Come for brunch, entertainment and some Spiritual tea. Seating is limited. Pre-registration is required no later than April 18. Contact the parish office to register.



**Help Wanted** — St. Michael's is looking for someone interested in a part-time general/preventive maintenance position. Duties include light general/preventative maintenance, basic repair and the coordination of outside contractor support. The hours would be approximately 5-10 hours per week, as needed. The schedule could be 2-3 hours a day, 2-3 days a week. This would be a great job for a retired person. Please call the parish office if interested.

**CSA 2023** — Thank you for your gifts to 2023 Catholic Services Appeal! Your generous support funds essential diocesan ministries that strengthen us in Christ. Our parish goal for 2023 is \$59,280.00 and 100% participation, which means every parishioner should return their pledge card. To date, we have pledged \$23,570.00 (or 39.76%) toward our goal. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.

## 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. Today's Liturgy celebrates both Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his passion and death. I encourage your family to take a moment and really look at a crucifix. Ask your child to look at Jesus' outstretched arms. Explain that this is how much Jesus loves us- so much that he spread his arms wide on the cross. The cross is a symbol of God's eternal love for us. **We will not have CLW on April 2 and 9th due to Spring Break. CLW will resume on April 16th.**

**Elementary Faith Formation:** This program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:15- 7:30 pm. **We will not have class on April 5th due to Spring Break. Have a fun and safe time! Faith Formation will resume on April 12th.**

**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. **We will not have class on April 2 and 9 due to Spring Break. Class will resume on April 16th.**

### St. Michael's Parish Family

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



## St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Ron Racziewicz  
by Pam Racziewicz



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

#### What CAN go in the bins?

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

#### What CANNOT go in the bins?

Paperboard  
(Grocery Item boxes)  
Plastic  
Metal  
Trash  
Glass  
Cardboard

## 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.

## Knights of Columbus News

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who donated items for Bunny Business and to those who helped prepare, stuff, and deliver Easter baskets. We especially would like to thank Dr. David Shabluk for donating 100 toothbrushes & toothpaste again this year. We have such a wonderful and caring parish, along with a great community. Thank you so much for your generosity, it is truly appreciated! The baskets are distributed to needy families by Coopersville Cares.

## Giving Back to God

March 26, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$2,774.00
Loose Cash	\$258.00
Children's Envelopes	\$28.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,060.25</b>
Building Fund	\$5.00
Financial Assistance	25.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$170.00

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**April 2, 2023 ~ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

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

## An Unassuming Triumph

The key word in Matthew's report of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is *praus*, which is translated as "meek," "humble" or "without display." Jesus' entry is seen as the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy: "Lo, your king comes to you; / ...humble [*praus*], and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." This text includes the king among the "lowly," the poor in spirit "whose poverty did not allow them the arrogance and assertiveness of the wealthy but imposed habitual and servile deference." The way Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem proclaimed him as one of these; "This was the only type of Messianic claim Jesus would publicly profess—the claim to be the Messiah who was one of the lowly" (*Jerome Biblical Commentary*, Prentice-Hall, 1968, 30:43, 142).

The description of Jesus as humble or lowly is very important because this entry into Jerusalem was the only triumphal entry that Jesus, the Son of David, would ever make into David's city. Perhaps Jesus' disciples saw this entry as a preview of the triumphal procession they would have once he defeated all his enemies and took over the government as king. But this was all there would ever be. Jesus would never reign on earth as the Messiah-king they expected. And that is the whole point: He was born poor and lowly, would die poor and lowly and never intended to become anything else. His Kingdom would be a reign established by no other power than the power of truth and love.

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was in fact a victory parade. He entered as king to establish his reign. But he would triumph by being defeated; he would establish

APRIL 2, 2023

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S  
PASSION

Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-7;  
Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

his reign by dying; the only throne he would ever have on this earth was the cross. If we are going to join the crowd in shouting "Hosanna"—as we do at the *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy) of every Mass—we ought to know what kind of Messiah we are accepting. The only Messiah who comes "in the name of the Lord" intends to win by losing, to give life by dying, to conquer by loving and to reign by identifying himself with the poor and powerless.

This is not ancient history; this is now. Jesus still refuses to save the world with what we recognize as power. He still does not use divine force to wipe out disease, crime, poverty, oppression or error. He still tries to convert rather than to control. He still chooses to love instead of trying to look good. As a result, his Church and his followers

on earth make him look like a loser. Jesus still identifies himself not only with the powerless but also with sinners. He works through sinful people: popes, bishops, clergy and laity. He uses a Church which is still trying to understand the gospel after two thou-

**Jesus still identifies  
himself not only  
with the powerless  
but also with sinners.**



sand years of learning by trial and error. Jesus works through human intelligence, teaching truth at a human pace to those who seek rather than impose truth on everyone with a blast of divine enlightenment. He works through human freedom, allowing evil to have its way until evildoers freely turn away from sin. Jesus respects human nature so much that the only way he will establish his reign on earth is through human beings freely cooperating with him, freely uniting themselves to him in mind, will and action.

At Baptism we were anointed as “kings” or sharers in the kingship of Christ through stewardship. We were consecrated to work with him to establish his life-giving reign over every area and activity of human life. But since Jesus chose to respect freedom rather than use force, to convert rather than control, the condition for working with him is a commitment to unconditional perseverance. We must keep trying to transform society, to renew human life on earth through love and powerlessness—regardless of visible results—while, as we say at Mass, “we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.”

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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### Holy Week

***Pray daily:** Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your Son to be born of a woman and to die on a cross, so that through the obedience of one man estrangement might be dissolved for all. Guide our minds by his truth and strengthen our lives by the example of his death, that we may live in union with you in the kingdom of your promise. Amen.*

**Monday:** John 12:1-11. Jesus said, “You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.” How do you find Jesus in prayer? In the poor?

**Tuesday:** John 13:21-33, 36-38. Jesus asked Peter, “Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me

three times.” When do you take risks because of faith and love for Christ?

**Wednesday:** Matthew 26:14-25. Jesus said, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.” In what ways do you express one thing in liturgy and something quite different at work or in your social life?

**Holy Thursday:** John 13:1-15. “And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God...poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel.” Then Jesus said to the apostles, “If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example...” Do you live your life in service to others—at home, at work, in social and civic life? Is your attitude always one of humble service, not wanting to be first, not asking to be served? Do you recognize and reverence Christ in other people as you do in the Eucharist?

**Good Friday:** John: 18:1-19:42. Jesus answered Pilate: “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.” How do you testify to the truth through your words and actions at home, at work, in your social and civic life? Is your witness changing things? Is it causing hostility?

## SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR LENT

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**Prayer:** Try to spend Holy Week in greater reflection and quiet. Participate in the Easter Triduum services: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

**Fasting:** Think about Jesus’ Passion, seeing his love expressed. Ask yourself, “What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What will I do for Christ?”

**Almsgiving:** Ask what contribution you can make to improve conditions at home, at work, in your social life, in your city or country. How can you help bring people together into unity and peace according to Christ’s desire? (See Ephesians 1:9-10.)

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