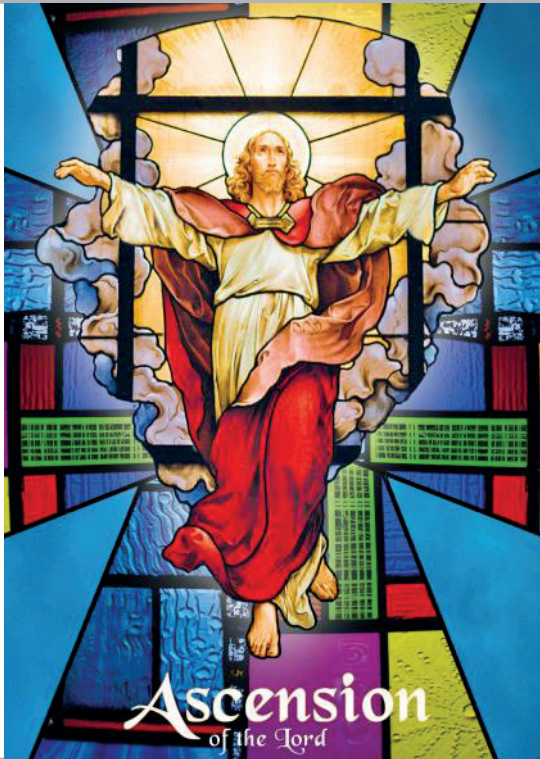


Saint Mary's Church

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

May 21, 2023 ~ The Ascension of the Lord / 7th Sunday of Easter



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

Tuesday 2:00 PM—3:00 PM St Mary

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

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, 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

Our Cluster Parish:

St Michael's - 17150 - 88th Avenue
Coopersville, MI 49404
616.384.4026
www.saintmichaels.us

Mass Intentions

Saturday May 20

4:30PM For our 2023 Graduates **MA**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday May 21

8:30AM † Merlin & Angela Steffes by Lawrence & Sherri Lenhart .. **MI**
10:30AM For our First Communicants **MA**
4:30PM † Nancy Phillips by Mark & Donna Phillips & Family **MI**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday May 22 NO MASS

Tuesday May 23

9:00AM † Robert Wetherbee by Knights of Columbus #11581 . **MA**
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday May 24

† Deceased members of our Parish Family **MI**
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

Thursday May 25

9:00AM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by Winnie Spencer **MA**

Friday May 26

9:00AM † John VanDenBrink by Larry & Sheri Lenhart **MI**

Saturday May 27

4:30PM † Carmen Dietrich by M/M Jim Harlett **MA**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday May 28

8:30AM † Jamie Thomas by Mark & Val Patterson **MI**
10:30AM † Pat OConnor by M/M Joe Jirous **MA**
4:30PM † Waldon & Nancy Phillips by Mark & Donna Phillips **MI**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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



For the Week of May 21, 2023

Sunday Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

Monday Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious
Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday Venerable Bede, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Gregory VII, Pope, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, Virgin
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a & 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday Memorial of Saint Philip Neri, Priest
Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5 and 7; Jn 21:20-25

Sunday Pentecost Sunday
Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b Or Ez 37:1-4 or Jl 3:1-5;
Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 20, 30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

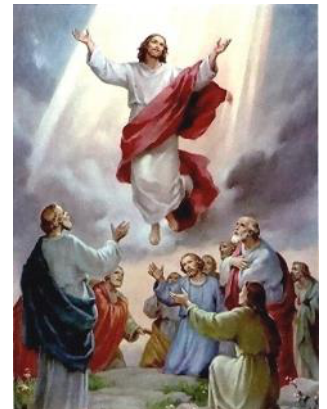
	May 28 / 8:30 AM	May 28 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Alivia Kosten Clare Taylor	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Sharon Carlson Denise Nelson Paul Schmidt Chris Albrecht NEED TWO	Deacon Tom NEED ONE
Lector	Melanie Mayse	Carol Reens
Sacristan	Rosemary Weigel	Karen Helsen
Ushers	Wade Lindberg Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich Ed Irwin	Greg Helsen NEED ONE
Music	Anna Jonaitis	Anna Jonaitis

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	May 27 - 4:30PM	May 28 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Jose Gomez	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Noah Davis Hannah Davis
Host	Deacon Tom Rob Rander Lori Rander	Deacon Tom Bruce Kamp Geary Farrell
Cup	Lisa Potts Mary Kirkwood Deb Hapon Julie Lothschutz	Jim fritz Janette Ney Christina Withers Becky Warners
Hospitality	Michelle Lampe Austin Lampe Steve Lampe Need One	Jim Looks Marian Looks Leonard Horter Need One
Lector	Vito Dolci	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

Prayer Meditation for The Ascension of The Lord

O Lord Jesus, I adore you, Son of Mary, my Saviour and my Brother, for You are God. I follow You in my thoughts, O first-fruits of our race, as I hope one day by Your grace to follow You in my person into heavenly glory. Until then, do not let me neglect the earthly task which You have given me. Let me labour diligently all my life with a greater appreciation for the present. Let me realize that only by accomplishing true human fulfillment can I attain Divine fulfillment and ascend to You at the completion of my work. Amen



Cluster News and Community News and Events

Mother's Day/ Father's Day PREGNANCY HELP Baby Bottle Drive!



Please pick up a Baby Bottle from the Narthex and fill it with your "extra change!" (dollar bills and checks are also welcome) Please return Father's Day Weekend. Thank You! Supporting the drive will benefit HELP's ministry in so many ways: Keeping them supplied with some of the most needed baby essentials such as pack-n-plays, diapers, wipes, formula, bottles, baby wash, lotion etc. They provide walk-in hours for a free ultrasound for those who are abortion minded; this service has the cost of providing a qualified ultrasound tech on staff. Thank You!

INTO THE MYSTERY

Saturday, June 10 | 9:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Sturges Sports & Fitness Center, Aquinas College
Join your Catholic brothers and sisters for a day of renewal, unity and adventure as we transition into the parish year of the National Eucharistic Revival. To learn more, visit gdiocese.org/eucharistic-revival



Fr. Mike's Musings



Please Note:

Fr Mike will be away from the office Tuesday, May 30- Tuesday, June 13. He will return to the office on Wednesday June 14. Please be sure to make appointment prior to those days if you need to speak with him. During the time he is away, if an emergency arises, please call the emergency line 1.616.745.1409. We do have priests available during that time if needed.

Mass Schedule for that time.

Monday, May 29- Memorial Day Mass - 8:00 AM at St Mary Cemetery Altar

Tuesday, May 30 - No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Wednesday, May 31 - No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Thursday, June 1 - No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Friday, June 2 - No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Saturday, June 3 -

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - Mass 4:30 - St Mary

Sunday, June 4

Mass - 8:30AM- St Michael

Mass- 10:30AM St Mary

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - Mass 4:30PM - St Michael

Monday, June 5 NO Mass

Tuesday, June 6 - No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Wednesday, June 7 - No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Thursday, June 8 - No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Friday, June 9 - No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Saturday, June 10

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - Mass 4:30 - St Mary

Sunday, June 11

Mass - 8:30AM- St Michael

Mass- 10:30AM St Mary

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - Mass 4:30PM - St Michael

Monday, June 12 NO Mass

Tuesday, June 13 - No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

Youth Ministry



Congrats to our 14 High School Graduates from both St. Mary and St. Michael!

Youth Ministry (6-12 Grade)

Summer Activities for Youth

Youth may engage in a Mission Trip, Steubenville Trip, help with Vacation Bible School, Michigan Adventure Trip and engage in Parish service projects and other fun day trips! Some of these options are for High School aged Youth and some are for Middle School Youth and some are for both. Dates and times have been sent out in email, If you're not on the Youth Ministry email and would like to be please contact Rebecca. After May 21, Middle School Youth are those entering 6-8 grade next fall and High School Youth are those entering 9th grade through 12 grade next fall, as well as, those newly graduated. For more information and/or dates please contact Rebecca.



Questions or comments

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

Meal Train for Fr Mike

Fr Mike has been enjoying his weekly homemade meals from our Parish Family. THANK YOU to everyone that has prepared a meal for him. It is very much appreciated. We do have a few open spots. Please take a moment to see if there is a date that would work for you to drop off a meal. It does not have to be fancy, he is very easy to please! 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)

Made for More Event ~ Oct 17, 2023 ~ 7-9:30PM

Join us for a very well done nationally known event called, Made for More. Made for More is about Theology of the Body. Guest Speaker; Christopher West. This event is for all adults but is also good for families with teens. St. Mary and St. Michael are co-hosting this event with St. Mary, Spring Lake, MI. For more information please contact Rebecca Chicklon or Debbie Veneklas Debbie: 616-384-4026 or childrensministry@stmichaels.us Rebecca: 616-677-5065 or dre@saintmarysmarne.org



Please Pray for our Engaged Couples

Joe Heminger & Laura Wierman.....July 22, 2023 (St Michael)
Wyatt VanDyke & Olivia Killebrew..... July 29, 2023 (St Michael)
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

May 21, 2023 ~ The Ascension of The Lord / 7th Sunday of Easter

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Mary's Parish News

Religious Education

Congratulations to all the children who made their First Communion! Please continue to pray for them. Especially pray that they will receive Jesus in the Eucharist regularly for the rest of their lives.

Donations needed:

Please consider making a donation for Vacation Bible School by donating snacks, gift cards and other items needed. Thank you!

Vacation Bible School

There are many ways for teens and adults to serve. Teens entering 6th grade next fall and older are invited to serve on the VBS team. VBS is for children entering Pre-school-5th grade aged children.

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Has ended and will resume again in the fall. A big thank you to our amazing Miss Carmody!

Questions or comments:

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

High School Youth Ministry

See Cluster Page for more information.



Memorial Day Mass

Monday, May 29 — 8AM

Fr. Mike will be celebrating Mass outside at the St. Mary cemetery altar. (Incase of inclement weather, Mass will be moved indoors.) Please bring a chair. Please join us to pray for our beloved dead, especially those who were killed in the line of duty.



Adopt-A-Garden

Thank you to everyone that volunteered to Adopt a Garden area on the church grounds. We appreciate you! We have 3 areas that still need to be claimed.. If you can help or would like more information, please contact the parish office.



Save the Dates

June 10-15	Vacation Bible School
August 4	Mass of Hope, Health and Healing
Sep 10	Parish Picnic
Sept 12-16	Parish Directory Pictures- Watch for Sign Ups and more Info.
October 8	Knights of Columbus Councils Breakfast & Blood Drive

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.

Catholic Service Appeal 2023

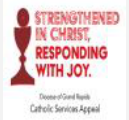
Our Catholic faith is a gift that unites our parish family with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Grand Rapids and in the universal Church. When we give to the CSA, we are supporting individuals and families in our parishes, in our communities, and beyond. Our goal is 100% participation, which means a completed pledge card from every household regardless of your level of participation. Remember that any amount collected over the goal will stay in the parish. If you have not responded, please do so as soon as possible. Learn more at GRdiocese.org/CSA

CSA 2023 Pledge Goal: \$51,834.00

Total Pledges Made: \$23,360.00 (45%) Balance: \$28,474.00

Participation: 72 of 292 Active Households (25%)

Totals as of May 15, 2023 **Thank you for your stewardship!**



Knights of Columbus #11581 News

Knight Person of the Month for May- Randy Graftema

Knight Family of the Month for May - Jim & Annette Lown

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 the church community. Congratulations and Thank You for your service and commitment to our Parish Family!

Last chance to buy your tickets for the Blackstone Grill Raffle will be after Masses on May 27/28.

Drawing will be June 1.

For more info please visit:

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



Proceeds to help fund our council's charitable giving

Congratulations to our First Communicants

Sunday May 21-St Mary

Congratulations to our second graders, who received Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Eucharist.

Clara, Ellerie, Faith, Hunter, Hyde, Isla, Madeline, Peter, Tucker

Let us pray that they will always know Jesus' love for them and go out and share that love with everyone they meet.

I am the bread of life...whoever eats this bread will live forever.



Congratulations to our 2023 High Graduates

Graduation Mass & Blessing-May 20, St Mary

Prayer for our Graduates:

May you have WISDOM in heart and mind, SUCCESS in every challenge you find, COURAGE to seek life's purpose for you, BELIEF in yourself to make it come true STRENGTH, to do your best and endure, and the guiding light of FAITH to ensure that wherever you go, whatever you do, God's LOVE will always see you through. Amen



Giving Back to God

	May 13/14
Regular Contributions	\$4190.00
Capital Improvement	\$100.00
Online Contributions	\$2065.00
Children's Contributions	\$28.00
Total	\$6383.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

RODENHOUSE BODY SHOP

Vaughn & Patty Stevens ~ 3949 Remembrance Rd ~ 616.453.4547

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

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

St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Thank you to our 16 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$247.91.

Save the date —
2023 Vacation Bible School:
STELLAR, SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!
 July 24-28th, from 6-8:30 pm.
 Contact Debbie Veneklas with any questions. 616-384-4026.



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 \$35,650 (or 60%) 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 now on summer break. CLW will resume in September. Thank you Catechists and helpers for the dedication and talents you share with the children of our parish! Join us for Vacation Bible School July 24-28. Theme is **STELLAR, SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!**

Elementary Faith Formation: Thank you catechists and helpers for your dedication in sharing our Catholic faith with the Faith Formation students! Your generosity of giving your time and talent is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Our program is on summer break and classes will resume in the fall. Our First Communicants were welcomed to the Lord's Table last Sunday. **Jordyn, Kensington, Hunter, Aiden, Piper, Viktor and Clara**, may Jesus' gift of the Eucharist inspire your joyful hearts to serve God. *We are very proud of you!*



Middle School Faith Formation: Grades 6, 7 and 8 is on Summer Break. Thank you Catechists for helping to catechize the students. Class will resume in September.

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, Payton Patterson, Winnie Spencer, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp



for + Carmen Dietrich
 by Bob & Linda Rogers

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

Supporting our Seminarians — We encourage St. Michael's parishioners to pray for an send cards or letters to the following seminarians: 1) Mr. Casey Kreiner, Mundelein Seminary, 750 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Casey is in the 1st phase of formation, the "Spirituality Year." 2) Mr. Charlie Leidel, Mundelein Seminary, 1000 E Maple Ave., Mundelein, IL 60060. Charlie is a First-Year theologian. 3) Mr. Greg Wasinski, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105. Greg is in his 2nd year of college at St. John Vianney College Seminary at the University of St. Thomas.



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

Giving Back to God

May 14, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$4,426.00
Loose Cash	\$193.00
Holy Day	\$30.00
Children's Envelopes	\$22.00
Total	\$4,671.00
Financial Assistance	\$10.00
Building Fund	\$115.00

Thank you for your continued support!

May 21, 2023 ~ The Ascension of The Lord / 7th Sunday of Easter

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

"The Lord Be With You"

Before Jesus ascended into heaven he did two things: He sent his disciples to carry out his mission in the world: "Go... and make disciples of all nations..." (see Matthew 28: 19) and he promised to be with them and to work with them forever: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (see Matthew 28:20).

What does Jesus mean when he says "I am with you"? An echo of this is one of the most frequent expressions in the Mass: "The Lord be with you!" It is the same expression as our English departure-prayer, good-bye, which is an abridgment of "God be with you." This wish became such a standard Christian expression that we have stopped paying attention to what it means. Even when we do think what we are saying, we may not be conscious of the depth and mystery we as Church express when we use those words.

"The Lord be with you" is both a prayer and a reminder. It reminds us that by grace the Lord is with us. But he doesn't just watch over us and hover above us to be our guide and help. The Lord is not with us just as a companion, the way human beings often are with each other. The Lord is with us within us! He is with us as only he can be: sharing his life with us, sharing our actions with us, speaking and smiling and touching and working through us, with us and in us.

The most solemn and significant response we make during the whole Mass is the Great Amen that concludes the Eucharistic Prayer. In this Amen we own—express union of heart with—everything the ordained priest has said during the Eucharistic Prayer. And the words which invite this Amen are always the same: "Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever."

This is what "The Lord be with you" means. It is the recall of what each one of us as a Christian has recog-

MAY 18 OR MAY 21, 2023

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23;
Matthew 28:16-20

nized and celebrated during the Mass: that in everything we do we are acting "through him, with him, and in him" because we are one with him and he is acting through us, with us and in us at every moment of our lives. "The Lord be with you!" sums up the Mass. To say it to each other is to say in one phrase everything we say to God and to one another in the Mass, because being with Christ as his Body on earth is the fruit of his passion and the commitment we make in response to it. This is the Christian life.

To be with him is to be dedicated to Christ's mission.

It is to accept Jesus' words to the Father, "As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world" (John 17: 18). And it is to accept this mission knowing that the world as Saint John uses the word is an environment alien to the gospel, even closed and at times hostile to it. To go

into the world is to go as the Lamb of God, expecting the sacrifice. It is to offer one's body as the bread is offered at Mass, to become the bread of life for others: blessed and broken and given for the life of the world.

We do this by offering the truth of Christ embodied in our lives. We offer proof of the Good News by maintaining the purity of our ideals within a culture where deadly poison and the demonic assail us daily (see Mark 16:17-18). Our resistance is the sign of Christ's presence.

This is scary. The prospect of his passion made Jesus

*To be with God
is to be dedicated to
Christ's mission.*



sweat blood beforehand. He even asked the Father to take this mission away from him. If we don't feel eager to confront the world of business and politics or even of family and social life with the differentness of lives lived in radical witness to the gospel, that does not mean we love less, any more than Jesus' feelings diminished his love. Love consists in choices, not feelings. And our strength comes from trust in our union with Christ, not from any confidence we feel in ourselves. That is why Jesus told his disciples not to begin their mission until they were "clothed with power from on high" by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49).

And it is why we keep saying to each other, "The Lord be with you!" It reminds us that the Lord is with us and within us to be our strength.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Seventh Week of Easter

***Pray daily:** Father, help us keep in mind that Christ our Savior lives with you in glory and has promised to remain with us until the end of time. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.*

Monday: John 16:29-33. "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" In what ways do you know peace consciously from the fact that Jesus has conquered the world?

Tuesday: John 17:1-11. Jesus prayed about his disciples: "[T]hey have believed that you sent me...and I have been glorified in them." How does your faith glorify Jesus, make his victory visible?

Wednesday: John 17:11-19. "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." How can you stay conscious that you have been consecrated to carry Jesus' word, his truth, into your world of work, family and social life?

Thursday: John 17:20-26. "The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we

are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one." How does your intimacy with Christ and your union with others reveal in you the glory that was in Jesus?

Friday: John 21:15-19. Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?... Tend my sheep." Which of Jesus' sheep are you tending? When and how? Are you aware that Jesus values your love for him?

Saturday: John 21:20-25. "But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." Do you believe God has more to teach you beyond what you already know? Do you want to learn more?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Glorify Jesus by selecting something specific to help you stay in touch with "eternal life": regular Reconciliation, a weekday Mass, a break with some sin.

As Disciple: Glorify Jesus by opening yourself in some way to knowing God more deeply; for example, make a retreat, read a spiritual book, meditate through the rosary.

As Prophet: Glorify Jesus by incorporating into your life style something to show that you do not "belong to this world." Identify and challenge racist or sexist language; defend someone who is criticized unfairly.

As Priest: Glorify Jesus by consciously uniting yourself to Jesus on the cross. Believe that by enduring "in him" some suffering that you cannot escape you are contributing to the redemption of the world.

As King: Glorify Jesus by trying to change something in your environment that does not reflect the ideals of Christ. When you wake up each morning, make the sign of the cross on your lips as a reminder that you are "consecrated in truth" to have a life-giving influence on everyone around you. Try respectfully and peacefully to improve something that needs improving; do not yield to fear that the "world will hate you" because of it.

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