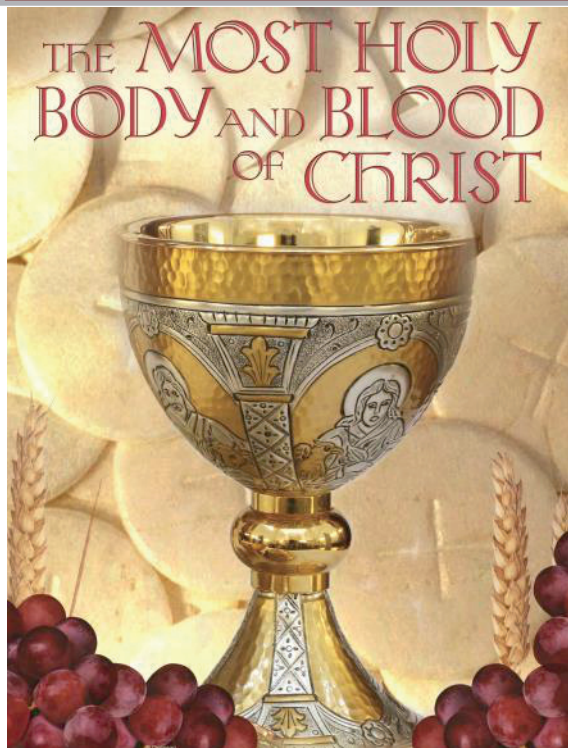


# Saint Mary's Church

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

June 11, 2023 ~ The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)



## 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](mailto:frmhodges@grpriests.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

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 June 10

4:30PM † Kurt Kline by M/M Jack Kline..... **MA**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

## Sunday June 11

8:30AM † Lucille O'Bradovich by the O'Bradovich Family ..... **MI**  
10:30AM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by M/M Jim Harlett ..... **MA**  
4:30PM † Alice Goll by Joe Hitchings ..... **MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

**Monday June 12** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

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

## Wednesday June 14

† Merlin Steffes by Joan Rich & Mary Baker ..... **MI**  
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

## Thursday June 15

9:00AM † Bette Lipski by Knights of Columbus #11581 ..... **MA**

## Friday June 16

9:00AM Special Intentions of the David & Lisa Wilbur Family ..... **MI**

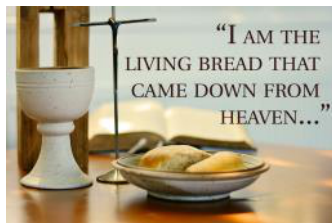
## Saturday June 17

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

## Sunday June 18

8:30AM † Henry Smith by Dennis & Sue Smith ..... **MI**  
10:30AM All Fathers of The Parish ..... **MA**  
4:30PM † Carmen (Goosen) Dietrich by Dave & Pat Goosen .... **MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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



## For the Week of June 11, 2023

**Sunday** Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ  
Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58

**Tuesday** Memorial of Saint Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
2 Cor 1:18-22; Ps 119:129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135; Mt 5:13-16

**Wednesday** 2 Cor 3:4-11; Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 8, 9; Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday** 2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 5:20-26

**Friday** Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Dt 7:6-11; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 10; 1 Jn 4:7-16; Mt 11:25-30

**Saturday** Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
2 Cor 5:14-21; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 2:41-51

**Sunday** Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Ex 19:2-6a; Ps 100: 1-2, 3, 5; Rom 5:6-11; Mt 9:36—10:8

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	June 18 / 8:30 AM	June 18 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Bryson Lindberg Clare Taylor	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Debbie Veneklas Andrew Bonter Denise Nelson Jennifer DeMull Joe Hitchings Kenny Harker	Ken Schwallier Greg Helsen
Lector	Cindy Lindberg	Mark Phillips
Sacristan	Chris Albrecht	Karen Helsen
Ushers	Wade Lindberg Ed Irwin Jim Ponschair Mary Bueche	Greg Helsen NEED ONE
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

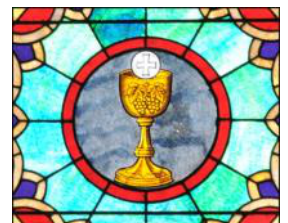
## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	June 17 - 4:30PM	June 18 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Need Two	Hannah Davis Calvin Davis
Precious Body	Matt Karr Lori Rander Rob Rander	Deacon Tom Margie Jirous Bruce Kamp
Precious Blood	Julie Lothschutz Geary Farrell Angie Hanks Deb Hapon	Christina Withers Janette Ney Need Two
Hospitality	Austin Lampe Steve Lampe Michelle Lampe Megan Greenland	Jeanne Leale Rick Leale Anthony Leale Nettie Leale
Lector	Doug Frantz	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

## The Most Holy Body & Blood Christ (Corpus Christi Sunday)

"While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many.'" Where the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ is not observed as a holy day, it is assigned to the Sunday after Trinity Sunday, which is then considered its proper day in the calendar.

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever. Amen



## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### Confident Kids Event

**Saturday, Aug. 19, 1 - 4 p.m.**

Catholic Charities West Michigan (CCWM) hosts Confident Kids, a day for children in foster care to celebrate their unique identities, diversity, and feel truly special. CCWM will provide all children in its foster care program haircuts, styles, braiding, and back to school supplies. The event will also help educate current foster parents in areas of cultural competence, how to enable children of all backgrounds to connect with diverse leaders in the community, and how to empower children to feel confident. Every day, Catholic Charities cares for 300 children in foster care. To learn more, contact Karol Maurer, [kmaurer@ccwestmi.org](mailto:kmaurer@ccwestmi.org).

**HOW TO HELP:** To donate school and hair care supplies, or learn about sponsorship opportunities, email Karol at [kmaurer@ccwestmi.org](mailto:kmaurer@ccwestmi.org). To volunteer on August 19, email Davina Bryan at [dbryan@ccwestmi.org](mailto:dbryan@ccwestmi.org).

### Prison & Jail Ministry Informational Sessions

We are actively seeking volunteers to help us offer weekly Catholic services including Masses, Communion services, RCIA classes and prayer services within 21 correctional facilities across our 11-county diocese. Join Bishop Walkowiak and more than 50 active volunteers in this vital ministry to the incarcerated.

Want to learn more? Please attend an upcoming informational session.

**When:** Monday, June 26

Two identical sessions, come to either one:  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 6 - 9 p.m.

**Where:** Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Ave. S., Grand Rapids, MI [Register Now](#) or visit [grdiocese.org/prison-and-jail-ministry/](http://grdiocese.org/prison-and-jail-ministry/) to learn more.

**Questions:** Tricia Worrell, program director, 616-475-1255 or [tworrell@grdiocese.org](mailto:tworrell@grdiocese.org)

## Youth Ministry

### 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](mailto:dre@saintmarysmarne.org)



### Fr. Mike's Musings



The growing shortage of foodstuffs and the attendant rise in prices has been sending waves of apprehension throughout the world. For many it is not a question of simply tightening their belts, but of day-to-day survival. Those of us fortunate enough to be where food is relatively plentiful and to have more than adequate means to purchase it still should remain concerned about our less-fortunate brethren around the globe. So, it is only natural that the subject of food would be on our minds as we celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ—Corpus Christi.

The scripture reading for this weekend do not ignore the plight of the hungry and the importance of food for survival, but they emphasize the spiritual meaning of the sustenance that God provides to His people. The First Reading states that man does not live by bread alone. Jesus quotes this passage from Deuteronomy when He rejected the temptations of the Devil in the wilderness as He was preparing to begin His ministry. Thus, the poor of the world have a God-given right to both tangible and spiritual bread and wine. The "poor" being not only those in material poverty, but also those lacking in faith and spiritual fortitude.

Most of the people reading this article will have partaken of the Eucharist at the weekend Masses. You will have received the Body and Blood of Christ, a great privilege as well as a great challenge. The privilege is due to the fact that we are the recipients of God's inestimable gift of faith. Jesus is with us and within us through the Eucharistic presence. Before we receive this sacred meal we collectively proclaim: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." Jesus responds (albeit silently): "I know that you are unworthy but come forward nevertheless; trust that my grace is sufficient for you. Take my Body and my Blood unto yourself."

The Eucharist is a challenge because it dares us to live in imitation of Jesus, in the service of others. It dares us to give our lives in love as He has done. This challenge is issued to all baptized Catholic Christians, not just those in religious life or the so-called "professional" believers. We are to take what we have been given, the Lord Himself, and share His love with all we encounter in life.

There is a story related to me by one of my instructors in seminary, Fr. Patrick O'Malley, that tells of a young man he encountered early in his priesthood (ca. 1960). This man never came forward at Communion although he was always at Mass on Sunday morning. He would leave at Communion, only to arrive at the church for Mass on the following Sunday. Fr. O'Malley took him aside one morning and asked why he never received the Eucharist. The young man answered honestly, but somewhat sheepishly: "I know that if I were to receive, I would have to change my ways." I am certain that Fr. O'Malley challenged students and congregation members with this tale right up to his dying day in 2011.

When we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we are indeed called to change our ways. We are called to enter even deeper into a sense of holiness and take on a greater concern for others. This challenging feast marks our re-entry into "Ordinary Time" in the Church's calendar, but this seasonal name is somewhat misleading. It is a time to fully put our faith into action. For many this will prove to be "extraordinary", to say the least. But it is what is required of us when we enter in communion with the Lord present in the Eucharist—His most precious Body and Blood.

### 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!



## Please Pray for our Engaged Couples

**Joe Heminger & Laura Wierman**.....July 22, 2023 (St Michael)  
**Wyatt VanDyke & Olivia Killebrew**..... July 29, 2023 (St Michael)  
**Christian Hall & Kayleigh Kutchin** ..... August 25, 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*

**June 11, 2023 ~ The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)**

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



## St. Mary's Parish News

  
CHURCH OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED  
June 12

### Religious Education

#### VBS Donations: P

lease consider making a donation for Vacation Bible School by donating snacks, gift cards and other items needed. All donations needed by 12 p.m. Sunday, June 11 Thank you!



#### Vacation Bible School:

VBS begins this week! VBS is for children aged 4 years old-to entering 5th grade and will be held June 12-15, 6-8:30 p.m. Please contact Rebecca for more information or to register. Teens entering 6th grade next fall and older are invited to serve on the VBS team. Roles available are decoration and set up, Craft Station Assistant and take down and clean up.

**2023-24 Sacrament Prep:** It's time to save your child's spot for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation preparation. Please contact Rebecca Chicklon to register. Thank you.

#### 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 information.

### Catholic Service Appeal 2023

Thank you for your gifts to 2023 Catholic Services Appeal!

Your generous support funds essential diocesan ministries that strengthen us in Christ. 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](http://GRdiocese.org/CSA)

**CSA 2023 Pledge Goal: \$51,834.00**

Total Pledges Made: \$35,860.00 (70%)

Balance: \$15,974.00

Participation: 98 of 292 Active Households (34%)

Totals as of June 6, 2023

*Thank you for your stewardship*



### Save the Dates

June 12-15	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

### Funeral Luncheon Ministry - Volunteer Opportunities

The Funeral Lunch Ministry would love to welcome you to join a team of compassionate individuals who provide a caring presence for families and friends dealing with the death of a loved one. What a rewarding opportunity for volunteers of this ministry to offer their sympathy to grieving family members through their gifts of time and service. Family and friends of the deceased are so grateful and appreciative of the efforts taken to create a relaxing environment so they may share a meal together on a difficult day. There are various opportunities to get involved. Be part of our funeral ministry by preparing a salad or dessert for a funeral luncheon. You will be called on a rotational basis and asked to prepare a salad or dessert and deliver it to the Parish Hall the morning of the funeral. Many people who work days can participate in this ministry by dropping their dish off on their way to work. Volunteers are also needed for setting the tables, preparing the food, serving the meal, and lastly, cleaning up. These opportunities are needed throughout the year and are based on each volunteer's availability. If you would like more information or would like to be added to the list of volunteers to be called, Please contact the parish office.



### Knights of Columbus #11581 News

#### Congratulations to LISA BRADLEY..

#### She is the WINNER of the Blackstone Grill Raffle!

THANK you to everyone that purchased tickets.

Your donations go towards all of the local Charites the Knights support. Special thanks to Anderson Design for printing and designing the raffle tickets and flyers.

*To learn more about the Knights of Columbus' activities and what they do to support our parish community and the surrounding area, please contact Grand Knight: Rob Rander at: [robrander82@gmail.com](mailto:robrander82@gmail.com) or come to a General Membership Meeting. Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in St Mary's Parish Hall. **Due to the Holiday & Fair Week, July's meeting has been changed to July 13-7PM** For more info please visit: <https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/knights-of-columbus>*

#### Knights of the Month

Knight Person of the Month for June - Steve Lampe

Knight Family of the Month for June - Jeff & Karen Emelander

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!

#### Save the Date: October 8

Community Breakfast and Blood Drive Register here:

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



### Giving Back to God

	June 3/4
Regular Contributions	\$6520.00
Capital Improvement	\$345.00
Online Contributions	\$890.00
Children's Contributions	\$11.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7766.00</b>

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

### St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

#### PHIL BROWN WELDING CORP.

4750 8 Mile Rd. NW, Conklin ~ 616.784.3046

**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 9 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$72.59.

### 2023 Vacation Bible School — **STELLAR: SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!**

July 24-28<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8:30 pm.

Registration forms are in the narthex and on parish website. Many volunteers are needed! If interested please contact Debbie Veneklas with any questions. (616)384-4026 We are looking for donations for VBS. If you are willing to make a donation for teen snacks, please contact Debbie at 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 \$39,050 (or 65.87%) toward our goal. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.



## 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. Now enrolling for the 2023-24 school year!



## St. Michael's Faith Formation

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Our program is now on summer break. CLW will resume in September.

**Elementary Faith Formation:** Grades 1-5 are now on Summer Break. Classes will resume in September.

**Middle School Faith Formation:** Grades 6, 7 and 8 are on Summer Break. Classes 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 the special intentions of our Parish Cluster Family

### Finance Council —

The Finance Council will have an opening that will need to be filled, beginning in July, 2023. If you are interested in this position, please contact the Business Manager, Cindy Lindberg, at (616) 384-4026 or bsmgr@saintmichaels.us. You may contact Cindy or Fr. Mike if you have any questions or would like to discuss the opening.



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

### Church Chuckle —

A priest is walking down the street one day, when he notices a small boy trying to use the doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach.

After watching the boy's efforts for some time the priest walks across the street up to the little fellow and rings the doorbell.

Kneeling down next to the child, the priest smiles and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Run!"

## Giving Back to God

June 4, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$4,591.00
Loose Cash	\$186.01
Holy Day	\$20.00
Children's Envelopes	\$41.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,838.01</b>
Building Fund	\$650.00
Endowment Fund	\$25.00

*Thank you for your continued support!*

**June 11, 2023 ~ The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)**

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

## Flesh That Gives Life

**W**hen Jesus took bread and wine at the Last Supper, preparing to say the words which would transform them into his Body and Blood and establish the sacrament of Eucharist forever, he knew he was bringing to fulfillment a thousand-year promise. In the desert, centuries before, God had fed his people with a strange food that rained down from heaven. The people called it manna, which means, "What is this?" (See Exodus 16:15). This was the preview of an even more mysterious food from heaven, which Jesus was now preparing to give: his flesh for the life of the world.

The Eucharist is a clear sign of an incomprehensible reality. The mystery it speaks is beyond our understanding, but the blessing it promises is obvious to the smallest child. The greatest genius could not explain the Eucharist, but only a fool would fail to make use of it. Even while our wondering hearts repeat, "What is this?" we are able to "taste and see that the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8).

We need not understand the Eucharist fully to receive it, but we must receive Eucharist to appreciate it. The Eucharist is given to be experienced. Those who receive it frequently will recognize it for what it is: Jesus' flesh for the life of the world: Eucharist is available to all who believe; Eucharist is experience for all who receive.

The promise implicit in the manna was made explicit by Jesus when he said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The meaning is clear: Jesus is food. His body is food that gives life. And the life his body nourishes in us will continue forever. "Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me." The Eucharist is the living Body-of Jesus given to us as food: his flesh for the life of the world.

Jesus added: "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them." Eucharist is interpen-

**JUNE 11, 2023**

**BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a;  
1 Corinthians 10:16-17; John 6:51-58

etration. It is union. It is closeness. It is sharing in the thoughts of Jesus Christ, in his desires, in his passion to be one with us, to be united to us. It is an embrace of love. In Eucharist Jesus gives us his body, his flesh, to penetrate our being, to expand our hearts, to fill us with his life and make us one with him. In Eucharist Christ says to us, "Open your inmost self to me, receive me, take me into your body, be one with me, surrender to my passion, let down your defenses, abandon yourself to unrestrained union with me, give yourself to me as I am giving to you, receive my body, be my body, eat my flesh and be my flesh-my flesh for the life of the world!"

We receive Eucharist in the context of celebrating the passion of Jesus Christ: the passion in which he delivered himself to torture and death for us that we might have life in an ecstasy of joy with him, with the Father, the Spirit and with all who have given themselves to be Christ and be "in Christ" forever. But our ecstasy comes from his agony; our possession of God from his surrender to men. In the Eucharist we celebrate life through death, conquest through surrender, total fulfillment through total abandonment.

Before we receive Jesus in Communion, we are invited to unite ourselves with Jesus, "the Lamb of God," offered for the sins of the world; to offer ourselves with him and in him "so that sins might be forgiven;" to offer ourselves in love to friends and enemies alike; to offer ourselves in vulnerability and defenselessness that all divisions might be overcome; to die as many grains of





wheat to become one bread; to unite ourselves to him in his act of love on the cross and to give our flesh with his: one body, one flesh, for the life of the world.

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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### Tenth Week of the Year

***Pray daily:** Father, you sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us holy. Through them may we come to know the mystery of your life. Help us to worship you, one God in three Persons, by proclaiming and living our faith in you. Amen.*

**Monday:** Matthew 5:1-12. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." How does the recognition of our inadequacy help us to grow in faith? In hope? In love?

**Tuesday:** Matthew 5:13-16. "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?... You are the light of the world... [L]et your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." When, where, how is your faith reflected in your actions? Do you experience this as life?

**Wednesday:** Matthew 5:17-19. "[W]hoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Which commandments is Jesus talking about here? Why does it take far more faith to believe in Jesus' commandments than in the Ten Commandments God gave through Moses?

**Thursday:** Matthew 5:20-26. "...if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift [before the altar] and go; first be reconciled

with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift." When you seek reconciliation with someone, how is this an act of emptying yourself as Jesus did in his Incarnation?

**Friday:** Matthew 5:27-32. "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away..." How does your faith make your priorities different from those of the society in which you live?

**Saturday:** Matthew 5:33-37. "Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times.... But I say to you " How would you describe the difference between the Sinai Covenant (Ten Commandments) and the New Law of Jesus?

## LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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**As Christian:** Let Christ save you from some fault by raising you to a divine level. For example, avoid unkind words by dedicating your speech to God each morning, dedicating yourself to give life by expressing to others Jesus' love.

**As Disciple:** Search the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5- 7) for three examples of the way Jesus calls us to act, not just as good human beings, but on the level of God.

**As Prophet:** Do one specific thing-at home, at work, in your social life-which will reveal the grace "of our Lord Jesus Christ" in you.

**As Priest:** Consciously show the love of God to one person each day at work and at home. If you live alone, show it to yourself!

**As King:** Make a list of the people you deal with regularly. Note the ones with whom you experience the "fellowship (communion) of the Holy Spirit." Ask what you can do to increase your union of mind, heart and will with the others.

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