

# Saint Mary's Church

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

*June 25, 2023 ~ The 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time*



## **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 24

4:30PM † Paul Brown by Katy Pfaff and Family ..... **MA**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

## Sunday June 25

8:30AM † Don & John Tasker by Dave & Pat Goosen ..... **MI**  
10:30AM † Pat O'Connor by M/M Jim Jirous ..... **MA**  
4:30PM Thanksgiving to Sean Roush & Chris Albrecht ..... **MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

**Monday June 26** No Mass

## Tuesday June 27

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

## Wednesday June 28

† Sherm Hecksel by Joe & Katie Walker & Family ..... **MI**  
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

## Thursday June 29

9:00AM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by M/M John Grotenrath ..... **MA**

## Friday June 30

9:00AM † Margaret Jonio by A Loved One ..... **MI**

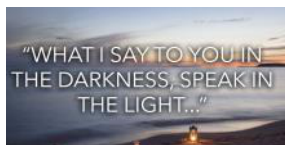
## Saturday July 1

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

## Sunday July 2

8:30AM † Emil O'Bradovich by Family ..... **MI**  
10:30AM † Joseph Harlett by M/M Jim Harlett ..... **MA**  
4:30PM † Edna Schumaker by Curt & Joan Kutchin ..... **MI**  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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



## For the Week of June 25, 2023

**Sunday** Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jer 20:10-13; Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33

**Monday** Gn 12:1-9; Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 & 22; Mt 7:1-5

**Tuesday** Memorial of Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
Gn 13:2, 5-18; Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5; Mt 7:6, 12-14

**Wednesday** Memorial of Saint Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr  
Gn 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 7:15-20

**Thursday** Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles  
Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Gal 1: 11-20; Jn 21: 15-19  
Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

**Friday** Memorial of the First martyrs of the Church of Rome  
Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Mt 8:1-4

**Saturday** Memorial of Saint Junipero Serra, Priest  
Gn 18:1-15; Lk 1:36-47, 48-49, 50 & 53, 54-55; Mt 8:5-17

**Sunday** Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a; Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42

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## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	July 2 / 8:30 AM	July 2 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Bryson Lindberg Clare Taylor	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Jennifer DeMull Joe Hitchings Debbie Veneklas Paul Schmidt Kenny Harker Rosemary Weigel NEED ONE	NEED TWO
Lector	Chris Albrecht	Carol Reens
Sacristan	Judy Driedger	NEED ONE
Ushers	Calvin Lindberg Pete Nielsen Curt DeVos Ed Irwin	NEED TWO
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	July 1 - 4:30PM	July 2- 10:30AM
Sacristan	Matt Karr	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Lauren LeMieux Ty Ricord
Precious Body	Geary Farrell Julie Lothschutz Angie Hanks	Janette Ney Paul Madura Need One
Precious Blood	Butch Schoenborn Rosemary Schoenborn Michelle Lampe Austin Lampe	Margie Jirous Need Three
Hospitality	Jeff Schneider Need Three	Leonard Horter Jeanne Leale Rick Leale Need One
Lector	Steve Lampe	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko



**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
**in Ordinary Time**

"Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father."

Matthew 10:32

© 2023  
Christ Calling His First Disciples by Adam Elmer, 183

## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### 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)

### 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).

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



### Fr. Mike's Musings



In Roman Catholicism the leaders of worship and the custodian/administrator of the Sacraments of the Church are called priests, and ancient term to denote persons delegated to be the spiritual guide or touchstone for a system of belief. Faith traditions throughout the history of the world and its peoples have relied on priests to guide believers in transitory journeys from whatever realm the system in question holds to be the goal of both the temporal and spiritual existence in the universe. Therefore, it is not unusual for this term for a spiritual master to have been adopted by those who adhere to the beliefs and tenets of Catholic Christianity. But there are in fact o forms of priesthood that exists within the Church, and both forms have a heritage that predates the existence of either Christianity or Catholicism—the “priesthood of the faithful” and the “sacramental priesthood”.

The word “priest” comes from the Greek “presbyteros”, meaning “elder”, and refers to one who is authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion, one who is mediator between the people and the Divine. In the Old Testament priests came from families that could trace their lineage directly to Aaron, the brother of Moses, or generally to the tribe of Levi. As consecrated ministers they held a special place for leading the people in worship. But there was also a “priesthood of the people” as all of the Hebrew people were dedicated to God and were expected to participate in the sacrificial rites conducted by the consecrated priests.

The early Church knew that Jesus established and ordained priesthood through His delegation of the Twelve Apostles to minister to the growing number of His disciples, the ordinary believers. But this Church also recognized a “priesthood of the faithful” in accordance with the traditions of their Jewish forebearers. This form of priest was tasked by virtue of their Baptism to give witness to their faith in Christ through their lives and interactions in the world. What they lacked, however, was the direct mandate and responsibility to continue Christ’s mission through the administration of the Sacraments as was given to the original Apostles.

The Second Vatican Council in the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church taught that the baptized faithful are deemed to be a “common priesthood”. This state differs from the ordained priesthood but still participates in the continuing mission and ministry of Jesus. The faithful exercise their “common priesthood” by joining in the offering of the Mass and the Sacraments, through prayer and a devotional life, and by witnessing Christ in the world through that life of faith.

This implication of faith means that Catholics come to Mass not as mere spectators, but as people who are offering their lives to God through their belief in Christ. This also means that our prayers are part of the priestly prayers offered in the Eucharistic sacrifice. Whether we are praying individually or communally, we are joining ourselves directly to Jesus who always is at our side.

The “common priesthood” or “priesthood of the faithful” means that Christ depends on his current-day disciples to continue his mission on earth. All of our thoughts, words, and actions are to become a part of and a witness to the loving action of God among His people in the world. Paired with the actions and prayers of the “sacramental priesthood”, the desire of God to bring all peoples to Himself through Christ can come to fruition, but only if this role is embraced and implemented fully by those who realize their role in the continuing mission of Jesus Christ and His Church.

### PREGNANCY HELP

#### Baby Bottle Drive!

**Please return Bottles Next 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 25, 2023 ~ The 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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



## St. Mary's Parish News

### Religious Education

**Thank you to VBS Team for making the 2023 Marvelous Mystery VBS a great success! Also, again thank you to everyone who made donations to VBS!**



#### 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.

**Religious Education meets on Wednesdays and will resume in the fall.**

**Children's Liturgy of the Word meets during the 10:30 a.m. Mass and will resume in the fall.**

#### 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.

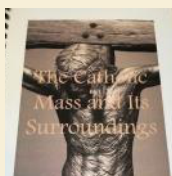
### Thank You Volunteers!

WOW... have you seen the church grounds lately? Jim has worked "volunteered" endlessly to remove, trim, plant, edge, weed, spread woodchips, water and more... We have had many other volunteers also help to clean-up many of the garden areas around the grounds.. GREAT thanks go out to Jim, Pat, Jim, Marian, Peggy (and grand kids) , Jean (and kids). Scott, Lisa, Karen, Jeff, Rob, Lori, Steve... and the many others that have showed up to volunteer their time and talents.. Many hands make light work and we appreciate you all very much! This is a work in progress and will continue to need helpers to maintain.. Please reach out to the parish office if you would like to help..



### The Catholic Mass and It's Surroundings

Booklets are available in the Narthex. These booklets were designed, printed and donated by a parishioner. It explains the WHAT, WHY And HOW of the Catholic Mass and all of it's surroundings. This is a very informative and nicely written booklet..



### A Message from Kay Willcome

Kay Willcome would like to THANK everyone from the Parish Community for all of the cards, prayers, words of encouragement and help given to her and her family through her recent heart surgery. Kay is recovering at home and appreciates the continued prayers.



### Knights of Columbus #11581 News

#### 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)



### 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: \$37,210.00 (72%)

Balance: \$14,624.00

Participation: 101 of 292 Active Households (35%)

Totals as of June 19, 2023

**Thank you for your stewardship**



### Save the Dates

<b>August 4</b>	Mass of Hope, Health and Healing
<b>Sep 10</b>	Parish Picnic
<b>Sept 12-16</b>	Parish Directory Pictures- Watch for Sign Ups and more Info.
<b>October 8</b>	Knights of Columbus Councils Breakfast & Blood Drive

### Giving Back to God

	June 17/18
Regular Contributions	\$3884.00
Capital Improvement	\$175.00
Online Contributions	\$815.00
Children's Contributions	\$8.18
Vacation Bible School Mass	\$23.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4905.88</b>

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

**St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week**  
**ARSULOWICZ BROTHERS MORTUARIES INC.**

616.458.1297

**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 15 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$214.06.

### 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 \$40,050 (or 67.56%) 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.



**Parish Directory** — We will be updating our parish directory this year, and we want you to be included! Stay tuned for more details to come on our photo-taking schedule!



### St. Michael's Chicken Dinner

Come one, come all. Our parish festival is August 27, 2023!

We will have big raffle, chicken dinner, mini-affle, kid's tent, grocery wheel . . . something for all ages! We will need many volunteers to help out. This year, we are looking for a lead chairperson for the large raffle. Please contact our co-chairs, Cindy Lindberg (616-822-1213) or Jenny Lindberg (616-862-3588), to see how you can volunteer to make this year's festival a huge success!



## Giving Back to God

June 18, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$3,406.00
Loose Cash	\$222.00
Children's Envelopes	\$12.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,640.00</b>
Building Fund	\$45.00
Financial Assistance	\$20.00

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**June 25, 2023 ~ The 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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# LIVING GOD'S WORD

DAVID M.  
KNIGHT

## Light in Darkness

Jesus called us the light of the world. On the day of our Baptism a candle, lit from the paschal candle, which symbolizes Christ, was given to us or to our godparents. We were instructed to keep the light of faith brightly burning until the day of Christ's return.

On that day the light of Christ was enkindled in our hearts; we became bearers of his light to the world. We were sent to let his light shine in us like a lamp set on a lampstand or a city built on a hill; to proclaim from the housetops what is whispered in our hearts; to speak in the light of day what we hear in the quiet darkness of our hours of prayer.

The light in us is a light shining in the darkness. We are sent into a world which loves the darkness of its own distorted light; a world of false values and distorted priorities; a world where people have "loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19); a world which rejected Jesus, the Light of the world, and prefers to live in darkness and the gloom of death. This world will reject us as soon as we let the light within us illumine the darkness of its ways.

All around us, like Jeremiah, we will hear "many whispering." Our situation may not be as terrifying as what Jeremiah faced: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him! / ... Perhaps he can be enticed, / and we can prevail against him, / and take our revenge on him." But we will be able to respond with Jeremiah, "The word of the LORD has become for me/ a reproach and derision all day long... All my close friends are watching for me to stumble" (20:8, 10). The light that shines in the darkness is not welcome in a world that prefers darkness to light. It is

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Jeremiah 20:10-13; Romans 5:12-15;  
Matthew 10:26-33

only the pure of heart who will see God.

But Jesus tells us, "[H]ave no fear... Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul... Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows." If we acknowledge Jesus before others, he will acknowledge us before his heavenly Father.

We live in an age of cover-ups. Evil is done in high places; laws are broken by those sworn to uphold them. Truth is suppressed while half-truths are fashioned into lies; news stories are slanted. Reputations are dragged through the mud and "dirty tricks" seem to be a part of every political campaign. Often, the higher one rises in business or politics, the lower one's

credibility falls. We are accustomed to the "administrative lie." We easily disregard "official versions." We know that news reports and commercials are financed by the same people and that money speaks louder than truth. But Jesus tells us, "nothing is covered up

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*As the words of Jesus  
are made flesh in us,  
we become the light and  
renewal of the world.*





that will not be uncovered...nothing secret that will not become known." John's Gospel tells us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (1:5).

Saint Paul reminds us: "[S]in came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned." In the same way, through one person, Jesus Christ, life came into the world, and his life is the light of the human race, the true light, which enlightens everyone. The life Jesus gives is spreading to all because his light is shining in all who believe. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

The world was not created in darkness. The darkness of any society is created by innumerable individual acts of sin: of deception, distortion and deliberate entry into darkness which become a way of life. In the same way, society can be brought into light and life by innumerable individual acts of witness. As the words of Jesus are made flesh in us, we become the light and renewal of the world.

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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### Twelfth Week of the Year

***Pray daily:** Lord, you are the light of the world, and you send us to be the light of the world. Let me love your light. Call me out of darkness into discipleship. Invite me to learn your heart. Amen.*

**Monday:** Matthew 7:1-5. "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged." Do you judge the policies, customs and behavior of your society by the light of Christ's teachings or by what is accepted practice?

**Tuesday:** Matthew 7:6, 12-14. "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." Is this the standard you use in dealing with others at home? At work? In your social life? In the city?

**Wednesday:** Matthew 7:15-20. "You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or

figs from thistles?" How do you pick your models? By their achievement of success in this world? By their popularity? Their social prestige? What does Jesus mean by "their fruits"?

**Thursday:** Matthew 7:21-29. "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock." If you build your life on what others do, what they think or expect of you, what are you building on? How long can it last?

**Friday:** Matthew 8:1-4. A man suffering from leprosy approached, knelt before Jesus, and said, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." Do you want this for yourself? Do you believe Jesus can do it? That he wants to? Have you asked him to do it? When?

**Saturday:** Matthew 8:5-17. Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." Would you be willing to accept this deal? To what extent do you believe in and base your life on Jesus' promises?

## LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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**As Christian:** Each day do one thing consciously and deliberately according to Christ's ideals that is a "break" with what is taken for granted in our society or in your own milieu.

**As Disciple:** Each morning read a few verses from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5—7) and try to live them out that day.

**As Prophet:** Each day this week try to give those around you a "clue" that you are a Christian, without saying it in words.

**As Priest:** Look into your heart; see what gifts you have for helping people and then consciously use one gift each day to minister to someone.

**As King:** For one day, notice who the people are who influence your decisions and behavior. Count how many times it is Jesus.

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