

Saint Mary's Church

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

July 23, 2023 ~ The 16th 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@gpriests.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 July 22

4:30PM † Sarah Hapon by Family **MA**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday July 23

8:30AM † Jack Kirkwood by Chris & the late Chuck Albrecht ... **MI**
 10:30AM † Judy Drong by The Todd Davis Family **MA**
 4:30PM † Merlin Steffes by Norm & Barb Rohen **MI**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday July 24 No Mass

Tuesday July 25

† Pat O'Connor by Jim Fritz **MA**
 Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday July 26

† Chuck Albrecht by Mary VanDenBrink **MI**
 Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

Thursday July 27

9:00AM † Bette Lipski by M/M Dennis Bochniak **MA**

Friday July 28

9:00AM † John VanDenBrink by Greg & Andrea Steffes **MI**

Saturday July 29

4:30PM † Betty Oziemkiewicz by Sue Zolinski **MA**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday July 30

8:30AM † Art & Evelyn Schmidt by Joan Hecksel & Family **MI**
 10:30AM † Gordon Powers by Family **MA**
 4:30PM † Carl Goosen by Marcy Goosen **MI**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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



For the Week of July 23, 2023

Sunday Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 or Mt 13:24-30

Monday Memorial of Sharbel Makhluf, Priest
 Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday Feast of Saint James, Apostle
 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Mt 20:20-28

Wednesday Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28; Mt 13:1-9;
 Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Dan 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Mt 13:10-17

Thursday Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 13:18-23

Friday Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus
 Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Saturday Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 I Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130;
 Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 or
 Mt 13:44-46

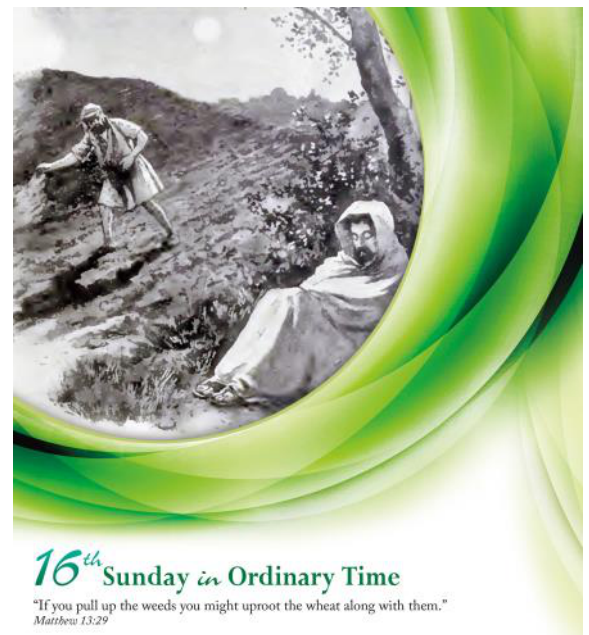
View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	July 30 / 8:30 AM	July 30 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Lauren Meerman Melena Lindberg	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Cindy Lindberg Joe Hitchings Zach Nelson Debbie Veneklas Jennifer DeMull Paul Schmidt Rosemary Weigel	NEED TWO
Lector	Carl Pohlman	Carol Reens
Sacristan	Chris Albrecht	NEED ONE
Ushers	Mary Bueche Jim Ponshair Ed Irwin NEED ONE	NEED TWO
Music	Anna Jonaitis	Anna Jonaitis

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	July 29 - 4:30PM	July 30- 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Ty Ricord Lauren LeMieux
Precious Body	Lori Rander Rob Rander Deb Hapon	Deacon Tom Christina Withers Paul Madura
Precious Blood	Matt Karr Austin Lampe Michell Lampe Mary Kirkwood	Janette Ney Becky Warners Jim Fritz Geary Farrell
Hospitality	Need Four	Leonard Horter Bruce Kamp Marcia Kamp Need One
Lector	Steve Lampe	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko



Cluster News and Community News and Events

Mass of Hope, Health & Healing

Healing Mass with The Sacrament of the Sick. **Friday, August 4 at 7PM** at St Mary. All are welcome. Please come and receive the healing power of God.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"

Matthew 11:28



Coopersville Cares Benefit Sale

Friday, **August 18** and Saturday, **August 19** at the Grace Lutheran Church - 300 E. Cleveland. Donations of good usable clothing, toys, furniture and household items will be needed. Please remember this sale and start collection items that you will be willing to donate the week of the Sale.

Behold Him: Youth Adoration Night

All students entering grades 6-9 are invited to join us on Thursday, July 27 from 6-7:30 p.m. for an evening of worship at West Catholic High School. Those who attend will have a unique opportunity to participate in adoration with other students from across the diocese! RSVP today at grwestcatholic.org/youthadoration.

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



Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry (6-12 Grade)

Summer Activities for Youth

Summer is more than half way over!

There are just a couple more Youth

Ministry events left this summer. Event

info, 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 Re-

becca. Middle School Youth are those entering 6-8

grade this 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



Fr. Mike's Musings

Over the past few weeks, I have been discussing the whys and the wherefores of the ordained priesthood in Roman Catholicism.

We (priests) are a special segment of the Church population, and as such have been entrusted and empowered with a variety of duties, traditional practices, and even gestures that are unique to our ministry and provide the significance of the task of continually bringing Christ to His people, and to the world. Sometimes these faculties are subverted, either through ignorance or obstinance, and this can lead to confusion about one's professed faith, and the role that each of us, clergy and laity, have in that faith.



A discussion that is common in Catholic parishes between the more orthodox members of the parish and the more "progressive" members is whether or not the faithful should use the Orans Posture during the 'Our Father'. When such a question comes up, the obvious solution is to go to the rubrics. Unfortunately, in this case, the General Instruction on the Roman Missal (GIRM) is relatively silent on the topic. Because of the GIRM's silence, many people have taken this to mean that the faithful may do whatever they want. However, this is not the case. In the document, "Instruction On Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priests", issued by the Vatican in August of 1997, it is noted:

"In eucharistic celebrations deacons and non-ordained members of the faithful may not pronounce prayers — e.g., especially the Eucharistic prayers, with its concluding doxology — or any other parts of the liturgy reserved to the priest.

Neither may deacons or non-ordained members of the faithful use gestures or actions which are proper to the same priest celebrant.

It is a grave abuse for any member of the non-ordained faithful to "quasi preside" at the Mass while leaving only that minimal participation to the priest which is necessary to secure validity" (Section 6, Paragraph 2).

What the above statement means is that we may not say the Eucharistic prayers along with the priest — believe it or not, I occasionally see people mouthing the words along with me every week. More importantly to this topic, this also means the faithful may not use the same gestures that are reserved for the priest-celebrant. As mentioned above, the "GIRM" is silent with regard to the posture of the faithful during the Our Father, however, the Roman Missal (the book of prayers for Mass used by the priest) states that the celebrant is to pray the 'Our Father' with hands extended. The faithful are not to use gestures or actions proper to the priest-celebrant. Using this argument, one would think that the rubrics could be used to appeal to the faithful. Unfortunately, many of the faithful view the rubrics as another set of rules and those of us who wish to enforce the rubrics are no better than the modern-day Pharisees.

In that regard, let us look instead to another reason why the Orans Posture and the holding of hands are not appropriate gestures for the faithful during 'Our Father'. This prayer takes place during the 'Liturgy of the Eucharist'. This time of prayer and offering is directed to God, as is the entire Mass, but more specifically during the 'Liturgy of the Eucharist'. As it is directed toward God, the extending and/or holding of hands creates a horizontal emphasis (keeping it among us) on the prayer, as opposed to the vertical emphasis (directing it to God) that it demands. Many people who prefer hand holding or the Orans Posture argue that the 'Our Father' is a community prayer, and as such holding and/or extending hands is a visible sign of that community. However, the 'Our Father' is a community prayer, not because we hold or extend our hands, but because we pray it together as the Body of Christ!

In late-1958 the faithful were given permission to pray the 'Our Father' with the priest. However, the faithful maintained the same posture as before - standing, with their hands folded in prayer. Prior to this, the priest prayed the 'Our Father' on behalf of the faithful. The Orans Posture is representative of praying on behalf of others. The next time you are at Mass, watch the priest's gestures closely. Anytime he offers prayers on behalf of the faithful, he uses the Orans Posture. Anytime he is offering other prayers, his hands are folded together. Having a better understanding of what particular gestures mean will lead to a better understanding of the Liturgy. It is of the utmost importance that we treat the Mass with the respect it deserves. This is not the time nor the place to get creative and inject one's own style and preferences.

St. Mary's Parish News

Religious Education

Religious Education meets on Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m. and will resume in September.

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 or 616-677-5065

High School Youth Ministry

See Cluster Page for more information.



Save the Dates

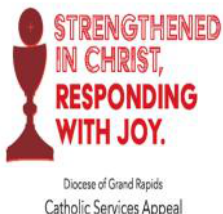
July - Aug	School Supply Drive
August 4	Mass of Hope, Health and Healing St Mary 7PM
August 22	Back to School Bash-Vets Park 5PM
August 27	St Michael Parish Festival
Sep 10	St Mary Parish Picnic
Oct 8	Knights of Columbus Council #11581 Breakfast & Blood Drive
Oct 24	Flute Recital - St Mary 7:30PM
Nov 3	Mass of Hope, Health & Healing St Mary 7:00PM

Help Wanted

Catholic schools, parishes, affiliated organizations, and the diocese are hiring! Visit the diocesan website to see available opportunities, and check back regularly for new openings: <https://grdiocese.org/employment/>

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
CSA 2023 Pledge Goal: \$51,834.00
 Total Pledges Made: \$37,860.00 (73%)
 Balance: \$13,974.00
 Participation: 105 of 292 Active Households (36%)
 Totals as of July 10, 2023
 Thank you for your stewardship



School Supply Drive

Our Lady of Fatima Guild is hosting their annual school supply drive. Donations of backpacks, lunch boxes, pencils, notebooks, markers, and other school supplies would be appreciated. Donations will be collected July 22- through Aug 14. There will be a box in the Narthex to place your donations.



Parish Picnic Planning Meeting ~ July 25-6PM

There will be a planning meeting on Tuesday, July 25 at 6PM. Meeting will be held in the church community room. The planning committee **NEEDS YOUR HELP** to make this picnic successful. Please plan on attending the meeting to see what you can do to help your parish picnic. Thank You. The picnic is currently planned for Sunday, September 10 beginning with outdoor Mass at the cemetery altar at 10:30AM.



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 have THREE open dates in August. Can you take one of them? It really is as easy as making an extra serving of whatever you are making for dinner. Put it in a microwavable container and drop it off at the Parish Office on our way to (or home) from work.. (Sign up online: or call the parish office) <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/8vv97n>



Knights of Columbus #11581 News

Knights of the Month

Knight Person of the Month for July - Jim Harlett

Knight Family of the Month for July - Jim & Peggy Lothschutz

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



To learn more about the Knights of Columbus' activities and what they do to support our parish community, the surrounding area and the world, please contact Grand Knight: Rob Rander at: roblander82@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.

Next Council Meeting - August 3 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.

Save the Date: October 8

Community Breakfast and Blood Drive Register here: https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/rive_schedule/149333



Giving Back to God

	July 15/16
Regular Contributions	\$4009.00
Capital Improvement	\$61.00
Online Contributions	\$1355.00
Children's Contributions	\$26.41
Total	\$5451.41

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

STEHOUWER'S FROZEN FOODS INC.

2055 Bristol Ave. ~ 616.453.2471 ~ stehouwerfrozenfoods.com

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 13 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$111.90.

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

July 24-28th, 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 \$41,425.00 (or 70%) 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 +John VanDenBrink
by his wife

Congratulations to Joe Heminger & Laura Wierman who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage here at St. Michael's yesterday, Saturday, July 22, 2023



Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7



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, kids' tent, grocery wheel . . . something for all ages! We will need many volunteers to help out. Sign-up sheets are in the glass hallway. There will be another festival meeting on August 13, after 8:30 AM Mass.

Large Raffle: We are looking for a chairperson to lead this important event. Raffle tickets will be available after Masses. We are asking that each family try to sell at least 2 packets.

Mini Raffle: You may bring donated items into the office during regular hours. If you would like to donate money for the committee to purchase items, please do so by August 20.

Pie Collections: We will take a special collection for pies on August 6 and August 13.

Please contact our co-chairs, Cindy Lindberg (616-822-1213) or Jenny Lindberg (616-862-3588), with any questions.

Giving Back to God

July 16, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$3,536.00
Loose Cash	\$272.00
Children's Envelopes	\$12.31
Online Giving	\$760.00
Total	\$4,580.31
Building Fund	\$25.00
Financial Assistance	\$35.00

Thank you for your continued support!

July 23, 2023 ~ The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Time in God's View

Smallness limits everything: vision, perspective, generosity, even our ability to forgive. We see the small picture and panic; God sees the whole picture and waits. We condemn and hurt each other because we are weak and scared; God is lenient and merciful because God is all-powerful. "...[A]nd with great forbearance you govern us; / for you have power to act whenever you choose."

God's actions give us insight into the divine heart, and the Scripture interprets those actions for us. God's example teaches us that "the upright must be kind." God fills us with hope, because he gives time for repentance, conversion and growth. When we are inclined to judge others, therefore, we should "meditate on his goodness"; when we feel guilty, we should "count on his mercy."

Jesus put this teaching into parables that teach us to include the dimension of *time* whenever we make judgments about people whether as individuals or as Church. Time is for growth. Only over a period of time can we see whether growth is taking place. Only after people have had time to grow and change can we make a final judgment about them. And only God knows when anyone's time is enough, which is one reason why only God can judge.

To teach us not to write off the power of God's grace working in the Church, or in groups or individuals within it (ourselves, the priests, the hierarchy), Jesus compares the Kingdom of God on earth to a field in which a farmer sowed good seed. But an enemy came and sowed weeds—literally "darnel," a plant that looks like wheat. When the farmer's overzealous servants heard of this, they wanted to go and root up the weeds, but the farmer told them there was no way to know

JULY 23, 2023

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:26-27;
Matthew 13:24-43

whether a plant was weed or wheat until it matured. "Let both of them grow together until the harvest," he said. Only then could they tell which each one was.

We sometimes want to clean out all the "bad guys" in the Church—all except ourselves, of course. We may write off the older members because they are fixed in their ways and the young because they are not fixed in ours! We write ourselves off because we do not see within us any power to change that gives us hope. We write off the Church because we do not see anything

happening to change things that need to be changed.

But we are small. We have very limited perception of both space and time. One thing we care about passionately can fill our whole screen. If we focus intensely on one problem, everything else goes out of focus. All time and space get reduced

to the here and now. If it is not happening now, and especially if it won't happen in our lifetime, it might as well not happen—as if history were not important once it ceases to affect our lives.

Jesus urges us to "look at the big picture, to get a wide angle lens. The Church existed before you were born and will continue to exist after you are in heav-

*We have very limited
perception of both
space and time.*



en. God has more time than you do; the game is not over for the Church when the clock stops for you. Do what you can while you are in the game, contribute all the points you can, but keep the big picture in mind. Do not reduce the universe to what you can see or all history to what takes place in your short span of time.”

When we write anyone off, we are just experiencing how small we are. We reduce a whole person to one fault; a whole life to one mistake, a whole group of people to one false value they accept. But God, who “searches the heart,” sees the Holy Spirit at work deep within each of us, helping us “in our weakness,” praying “with sighs too deep for words” for what we do not even know we desire. God sees the Church as a seed growing, leaven working, a woman in labor; God waits for “the whole Christ” to be born.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Sixteenth Week of the Year

***Pray daily:** Father, let the gift of your life continue to grow in us, drawing us from death to faith, hope and love. Keep us alive in Christ Jesus, watchful in prayer and true to his teaching until your glory is revealed in us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Monday: Matthew 12:38-42. “The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!” Are you constantly reconsidering your values and behavior as you grow in understanding of Jesus?

Tuesday: Matthew 12:46-50. “For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” How do you treat Jesus as a brother? How could you?

Wednesday: Matthew 13:1-9. “Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” What makes a person “good soil” for the word of God? Are you? What fruit shows in your life?

Thursday: Matthew 13:10-17. “Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.” In what ways are you using the Scriptures in order to understand Jesus better?

Friday: Matthew 13:18-23. “But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” What does it take to understand Christ’s words? Which do you understand best? Least?

Saturday: Matthew 13:24-30. Jesus said, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.” How often have you rejected someone instead of waiting for the person to change?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Identify three influences from your environment that have led you into destructive behavior. Then find something in the example or teaching of Jesus that would counteract these influences.

As Disciple: Set aside a ten-minute period each day to let Christ sow the seed of his words in your mind.

As Prophet: Decide on one thing, large or small, in your life-style that you can change into something that bears positive witness to the values Jesus taught.

As Priest: Take one step this week to make your friends, family members or fellow parishioners into “good soil” for Jesus’ ideas to grow. For example, suggest a prayer before some common activity or start a discussion on some issue that involves attitudes and values.

As King: For one day, be alert to all the seeds sown in your mind from various sources, especially advertisements. Decide which seeds are good for your spiritual health and which are not. Take one step to clean up the environment, filtering out all harmful input to the senses.

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