

Saint Mary's Church

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

August 6, 2023 ~ *The Transfiguration of The Lord*



Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday 4:30PM St Mary

Sunday 8:30AM St Michael

Sunday 10:30AM St Mary

Sunday 4:30PM St Michael

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Tuesday 9AM St Mary

Adoration begins after Mass until 2:00 pm

Wednesday 9AM - St Michael

Adoration begins after Mass until 2:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 AM St Mary

Friday 9:00 AM St Michael

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 3:30 PM—4:15PM-St Mary

Sunday 3:00PM -4:00PM St Michael

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 August 5

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

Sunday August 6

8:30AM † Pete & Marge Ferwerda by Pam Raczkiewicz **MI**
10:30AM † Pat O'Connor by Margie Jirous **MA**
4:30PM † Edna Schumaker by Norma Umlor **MI**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday August 7..... No Mass

Tuesday August 8

† Monica Zahm by M/M Duane Perrin **MA**
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday August 9

† Jamie Thomas by Richard & Mary Baker **MI**
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael

Thursday August 10

9:00AM † Gene Hodges by His Children **MA**

Friday August 11

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

Saturday August 12

4:30PM † Judy Wensink by M/M Duane Perrin **MA**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday August 13

8:30AM † Al Spencer by Winne Spencer & Family **MI**
10:30AM † Bruce LeMieux by Mary LeMieux and Family **MA**
4:30PM † Gene Hodges by Fr. Mike **MI**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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

For the Week of August 6, 2023

Sunday Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

Monday Memorials of Saint Sixtus II, Pope and Martyr and Companions, and Saint Cajetan, Priest
Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday Memorial of Saint Dominic, Priest
Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr
Nm 13:1-2, 25 – 14:1, 26a-29a, 34-35; Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23; Mt 15:21-28

Thursday Feast of Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9; Jn 12:24-26

Friday Memorial of Saint Clare, Virgin
Dt 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 & 21; Mt 16:24-28

Saturday Memorial of Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
Dt 6:4-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 & 51; Mt 17:14-20

Sunday Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

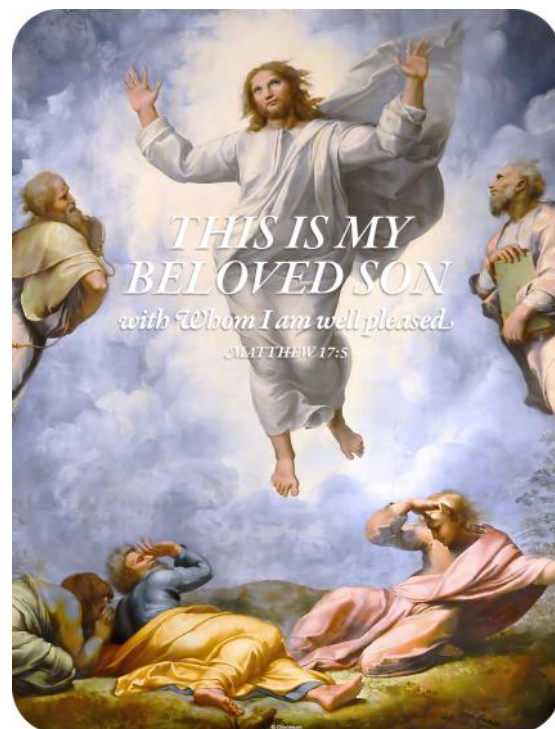
View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Aug 13 / 8:30 AM	Aug 13 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Melena Lindberg Lauren Meerman	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Denise Parish Zach Nelson Andrew Bonter Cindy Lindberg Joe Hitchings Rosemary Weigel	NEED TWO
Lector	Kevin Schumaker	Carol Reens
Sacristan	Judy Driedger	NEED ONE
Ushers	Ed Irwin Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich Jim Ponshair	NEED TWO
Music	Anna Jonaitis	Anna Jonaitis

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	August 12 - 4:30PM	August 13 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Vito Dolci	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Noah Davis Calvin Davis
Precious Body	Kathy Gomez Jose Gomez Julie Lothschutz	Deacon Tom Jim Looks Marian Looks
Precious Blood	Mary Kirkwood Kay Willcome Deb Hapon Need One	Margie Jirous Becky Warners Janette Ney Need One
Hospitality	Steve Lampe Austin Lampe Michelle Lampe Need One	Bruce Kamp Marcia Kamp Leonard Horter Need One
Lector	Geary Farrell	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko



Cluster News and Community News and Events

Baby Bottle Drive Update ~ THANK YOU

Dear Fr. Hodges and the St. Mary's & St Michael's Parish Community, Thank you from HELP Pregnancy Aid for the Baby Bottle Collection this spring which collected over \$3000 dollars. The generous support given to our mission of serving women and families of our community, is a meaningful way to celebrate LIFE. Because of this generous help we are able to walk alongside families who are struggling and in need of assistance in a significant way. HELP averages over 360 clients a month so your thoughtfulness goes a long way and makes a big impact in the community. May the blessings you bestow on us return to you a hundredfold. Thank you, Paula Veneklasen HELP Pregnancy

Diocesan Assembly 2023:

Share your Encounter

Catholics of the diocese are invited to participate in Diocesan Assembly 2023: **Saturday, Sept. 30 - 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.** on at Cathedral Square Center. This year's keynote speaker will be Father René Constanza, CSP, president of the Paulist Fathers and former rector/pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew and executive director of the Catholic Information Center. The conference will be offered in-person and online. The in-person and livestreamed sessions will be presented concurrently in English and Spanish. Cost of the in-person event is \$15 (includes lunch) Registration to attend via livestream is free. For registration info:

Contact Jen at jbaxter@grdiocese.org

Please Pray for our Engaged Couples

Christian Hall & Kayleigh Kutchin

.....August 25, 2023 (St Michael)

Marissa McDonald & Christopher Barczak

.....October 7, 2023 (St Mary)

Julia Delaney & Logan Brouwer

.....April 13, 2024 (Cathedral of St Andrew)

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 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 Rebecca. 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



In the past couple of weeks, I have had the honor of officiating at the marriages of two young couples at St. Michael's. The joy and anticipation of the bride and groom was palpable. But so also was the nervousness and possible trepidation about what exactly they were doing. The lack of surety that most of us have when making major moves in our lives. A genuine leap of faith into the unknown.

What is marriage? What is marriage really like? Statistics suggest that "happily ever after" occurs no more than 50% of the time, considering how many couples divorce. Is marriage like the movies, and, if so, which movies? There are so many possibilities! How many marriages are like their parents' marriage? Is that a good thing? What do we think marriage is really like? And why do we think that? Because of what we've read? or dreamed about? Because of our experiences with dating, or because of what we've seen or heard from couples?

Marriage is a pretty common experience. It's all around us; it's existed through most of human history and in almost all cultures. Most people get married at some point in their life. Why do they do that? What are they looking for? What do they hope to get? Why not just live together? Or date forever?

It doesn't matter whether people are single, playing the field, celibate, hooking up, commitment-phobic, in a serious relationship, recovering from a breakup, living together, married, divorced, or widowed. The thoughts and assumptions and opinions and values that each person has about marriage are guiding their actions and influencing their relationships every day. There are lots of words that can be used to characterize those thoughts, such as ideas, dreams, judgments, presumptions, evaluations, or conclusions. Some of those beliefs may be "spot on" and others may be "off the wall."

Experience suggests that a fair number of people, including clergy, have expectations and beliefs about marriage that aren't very realistic. There are lots of ways to say that: messy thinking, distorted cognition, denial, ignorance, and false conclusions, to name a few. And if people start with unrealistic expectations, they are likely to end up very disappointed, whether they are starting to date or in a long-term relationship. They may then experience incongruity between their lived experience and what they expect, or hope for, want, or need; the expectations don't match up with your reality. In addition, American society has radically increased its general expectations of marriage so that many people are looking for the one person who can fulfill their every want and need and provide them with a very high level of life satisfaction until they die.

Over the centuries humanity has collected a large number of irrational beliefs and ideas. We call them myths because they are widely held but false or flawed ideas. Like some myths, they contain some truth (or people would not have held onto them). Therefore, myths continue to guide personal and social behavior. When people believe a "myth" about marriage, it influences how they select the people they date, who they choose to marry and how they interact with their spouse.

A cautionary note; at some point, we may think to ourselves or hear someone assert that "**X is not a myth!**" We may have heard someone sincerely state that myth, or perhaps we've read it on the internet somewhere, or maybe we know couples like that, and it doesn't seem to be a problem. It's just possible that we believe that myth yourself, and that can be a shock. Just because we can't see that it's a problem doesn't mean it isn't.

Coopersville Cares Benefit Sale

Thursday's Early Bird Sale, \$5 admission, Aug. 17, 2023, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday free admission, Friday, Aug. 18, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.-noon - At Grace Lutheran Church, 300 E. Cleveland We will be able to accept donations at Grace Lutheran Church On; Tuesday and Wednesday - Aug 15 & 16 - 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. (please do not drop off prior to these dates or times) Coopersville Cares is a nonprofit charitable organization, dedicated to assisting area residents in need. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time, please contact Christy at kcalderink@gmail.com

Meal Train for Fr Mike

Have you signed up yet? It really is as easy as making an extra serving of whatever you are preparing your family for dinner. Put it in a microwavable container and drop it off at the Parish Office on our way to (or home) from work.. Or call the office to make special drop off arrangements. (Sign up online: or call the parish office)

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/8vv97n>

August 6, 2023 ~ The Transfiguration of the Lord

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.

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.



Save the Dates

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
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Eve Mass, Grocery Collection
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Day Mass

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.

CSA 2023 Pledge Goal: \$51,834.00

Total Pledges Made: \$41,410.00 (80%)

Balance: \$10,424.00

Participation: 110 of 292 Active Households (38%)

Totals as of July 31, 2023

Thank you for your stewardship

Please Note, if we do not reach the parish goal set by the diocese, the shortage will need to come out of our church operating account. Please help us reach our goal and send in your pledge card this week! If you have returned your CSA pledge card, thank you! If you have not responded, please do so as soon as possible



Transfiguration of the Lord ~ August 6, 2023

The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord recalls the revelation of Christ's glory on Mount Tabor in the presence of three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John. Christ was transfigured before their eyes, shining with divine light, and He was joined by Moses and Elijah, representing the Old Testament Law and the prophets. The Transfiguration occurred in the early months of the year after Jesus revealed to His disciples that He would be put to death in Jerusalem and before He made His way to Jerusalem for the events of His Passion during Holy Week.

Prayer: O God, who in the glorious Transfiguration of your Only Begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of faith by the witness of the Fathers and wonderfully prefigured our full adoption to sonship, grant, we pray, to your servants, that, listening to the voice of your beloved Son, we may merit to become co-heirs with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Parish Picnic Planning Meeting ~ August 8-6PM

THANK YOU SO MUCH to everyone that attended the Parish Picnic Meeting. It was a great turn out with a lot of great ideas. The Next Planning Meeting will be on **Tuesday, August 8 at 6PM**. The Meeting will be held in the church community room. Please plan on attending the meeting to see what you can do to help your parish picnic.

Be sure to save the date for Our

St Mary's Parish FAMILY REUNION Mass & Picnic

It will be **Sunday, September 10**. Join your parish

family (past & present) for an afternoon of

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN! Grilled Hamburgers &

Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Chips and

Punch & Punch will be provided.. Please bring a DESSERT to share..

All are Welcome! Come and Visit... Stop by and say HI to your old friends and make some new friends. 50/50 Raffles, Yard Games, LIVE Music, Cake Walk and More...

10:30AM Mass at the Cemetery Altar. (Please bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement

weather, Mass will be celebrated inside) Picnic Reunion will be at the Parish Hall at

12PM. Please RSVP... Sign Up Sheets in the Narthex. Questions call the Parish Office

or email secretary@saintmarysmarne.org



Knights of Columbus #11581 News

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: 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.

Next Meeting - September 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 29/30
Regular Contributions	\$3868.25
Capital Improvement	\$200.00
Online Contributions	\$620.00
Children's Contributions	\$12.00
Total	\$4700.25

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

THE STONE ZONE

14100 Ironwood Dr. ~ 616.677.3112

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

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

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Thank you to our 8 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$104.73.



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

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 \$43,625.00 (or 73.59%) 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 +Carl Goosen
by Marcy Goosen and Family



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.

Kitchen: In need of donations — 2 large decaf canisters of coffee; 2 large regular canisters of coffee; fresh cherry tomatoes; 1 jug of bleach; 1 large bottle of dish soap.

Country Store: The following is meant to be suggestions only: any and all baked goods, canned preserves, pickles, fruits, homemade jewelry, greeting cards, quilts, wood work, ceramics, home-made doll clothes, produce and herbs from your garden, honey, homemade soap. And books are always welcomed! If you aren't sure it is appropriate for the Country Store, please call Mary Turbessi 231-865-3468 or Cindy Lindberg

Pie Collections: We will take a special collection for pies today 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 30, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$2,893.00
Loose Cash	\$229.00
Children's Envelopes	\$11.90
Online Giving	\$760.00
Total	\$3,893.90
Pie Collection	\$45.00

Thank you for your continued support!

August 6, 2023 ~ The Transfiguration of the Lord

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Jesus Is Victory

The Transfiguration takes place right after Jesus reveals to his disciples that he is not going to save the world in the way they expect, but by dying on the cross—and that anyone who accepts him as Savior must “carry the cross,” which means to accept those particular consequences of the sin of the world which happen to fall on us and to respond with love. The power Jesus uses to save the world is the power he gives us to love back, no matter what happens to us.

In this context, after Jesus has revealed the scandalous way in which he is going to save the world, the Father speaks again, as he did at the beginning of Jesus’ mission (Luke 3:22, Matthew 3:17) to confirm that Jesus is truly the “Son of God,” the Savior he promised to send.

The Transfiguration revealed Jesus in an extraordinary way as the promised “Son of God.” His glory as God actually shone out through his human body. But Jesus is also revealed to us as Savior in a constant stream of very ordinary incidents—or which appear to be ordinary until we reflect on them.

“Son of David”: Isn’t it true that our whole experience of life is different because we know that Jesus has come to fulfill all God’s promises to us? Through him we know the beginning and end of our existence. We know that human life and suffering are intelligible. We know that the teachings we live by are not just human speculation. We know that in the ministry of the Church Jesus Christ acts with authority and power to teach us, strengthen and heal us. We know that death itself has no real power over us. And all of this is because Jesus has come as the promised “Son of David.”

“Jesus”: We realize the significance for us of the name “Jesus,” “God saves,” in every ordinary experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament embodies the words, “You are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.”

“Son of God”: We don’t have to see Jesus transfig-

AUGUST 6, 2023

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 10ab;
2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9

ured on a mountaintop to experience the presence of the divine. Every time we genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament, every time we receive Jesus in Communion, we know that we are in a live encounter with Jesus as “Son of God.” Our adoration of him in faith is also our acknowledgment and our assurance of the power that is his to save us from sin and death. Jesus is a divine Savior who gives divine life and “baptizes with the Holy Spirit,” giving us power to live on the level of God.

“Emmanuel”: Jesus is God present to us in human ways. His human words in Scripture speak to our hearts. His human actions recorded there reveal his personality to us as truly as if we were physically present witnessing them. He teaches and ministers to us still in his human Body on earth, the Church. Every sacrament is an encounter with Jesus acting humanly to bless us, as is every experience of Jesus acting in and through another human being by grace. These are all experiences of “Emmanuel,” “God-with-us.”

“Universal Lord”: Jesus is not restricted to one culture or language, or even to religious symbols alone. He uses a multitude of “stars” to lead us to himself as he led the Magi. Through how many signs, symbols, chance encounters and events does he inspire us, guide and enlighten us every day? If we are alert to his action in our lives, we experience him daily as the “Universal Lord” whose messenger voices, like the stars themselves, extend from one end of the universe



to the other, addressing every human heart.

The Transfiguration was a mystical vision. But if we look with eyes of faith at our environment, everything is transfigured. Then we will see the glory of Jesus shining through our everyday experience, and we will know him for the Savior he is.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Eighteenth Week of the Year

***Pray daily:** God our Father, gifts without measure flow from your goodness to bring us your peace. Our life is your gift. Guide our life's journey, for only your love makes us whole. Keep us strong in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Monday: Matthew 14:22-36. Peter said to him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." When did you most recently take the risk of responding to something you thought might be an inspiration from God? How did you feel afterwards?

Tuesday: Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14. Jesus said, "[I]t is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but... what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Are you as careful about what comes out of your mouth as you are about what goes into it?

Wednesday: Matthew 15:21-28. Jesus said, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Has Jesus ever refused to give himself to you? Have you ever refused to give yourself to someone you did not think was worth it?

Thursday: Matthew 16:13-23. "From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." When do you accept pain,

trouble or sacrifices for others? What is your attitude toward this?

Friday: Matthew 16:24-28. "[W]hat will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?" Do you see the Eucharist as nourishing your life? For what are you willing to trade or give up Eucharist?

Saturday: Matthew 17:14-20. "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." Have you given up on anybody? How much have you prayed for that person?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Ask what could separate you from the love of Christ. Do something about it.

As Disciple: Take as much time each day as you take for your coffee just to sit down and let Jesus feed you with his words.

As Prophet: Target one person each day for whom you will do something freely, with no conditions before or after, just to give the kind of love God gives to you.

As Priest: Name something that you have to share, no matter how small or insignificant, and share it with someone, asking God to multiply its effect. You can share your faith, your gifts of ministry or your material resources.

As King: Identify something in your environment-at home, at work, in your circle of friends, in your city-that you have come to accept as hopeless. Ask if there is one thing, no matter how small, that you can do to make the situation better. Draw strength from what Saint Paul wrote: "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

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