

# Saint Mary's Church

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

October 1, 2023 ~ The 26th 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 3:30PM -4:15PM 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:

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

**Director of R.C.I.A:** Jill Brown-616.677.3934

**Adult Bible Study:** 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 September 30

4:30PM † Sandy Klein by The Knights of Columbus #11581 ..... MA  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

## Sunday October 1

8:30AM † Mary Klein by Char Kluting ..... MI  
10:30AM † Rick Lothschutz by M/M Jim May ..... MA  
4:30PM † Edna Schumaker by Mary VanDenBrink ..... MI  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

**Monday October 2** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

**Tuesday October 3** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

**Wednesday October 4** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

**Thursday October 5** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

**Friday October 6** No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

## Saturday October 7

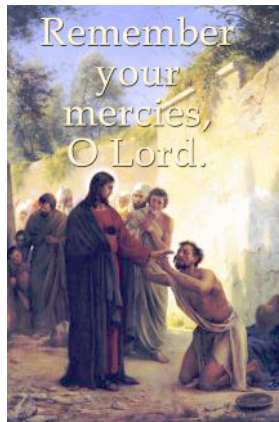
4:30PM † Fr. Mel Fox by The Knights of Columbus #11581 ..... MA  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

## Sunday October 8

8:30AM † John VanDenBrink by The Merlin Steffes Family ..... MI  
10:30AM † Ken Zarbeck by M/M Gary Kary ..... MA  
4:30PM † Dale Konyndyk by Dave & Lori Hastings ..... MI  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

MA=St. Mary

MI=St. Michael's



## Scripture Readings For the Week of October 1, 2023

**Sunday** Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Phil 2:1-11 or Phil 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

**Monday** Memorial of the Guardian Angels  
Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 & 22-23; Mt 18:1-5, 10

**Tuesday** Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 9:51-56

**Wednesday** Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi  
Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Lk 9:57-62

**Thursday** Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin  
Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Lk 10:1-12

**Friday** Saint Bruno, Priest and Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, Virgin  
Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9; Lk 10:13-16

**Saturday** Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary  
Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-35, 36-37; Lk 10:17-24

**Sunday** Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

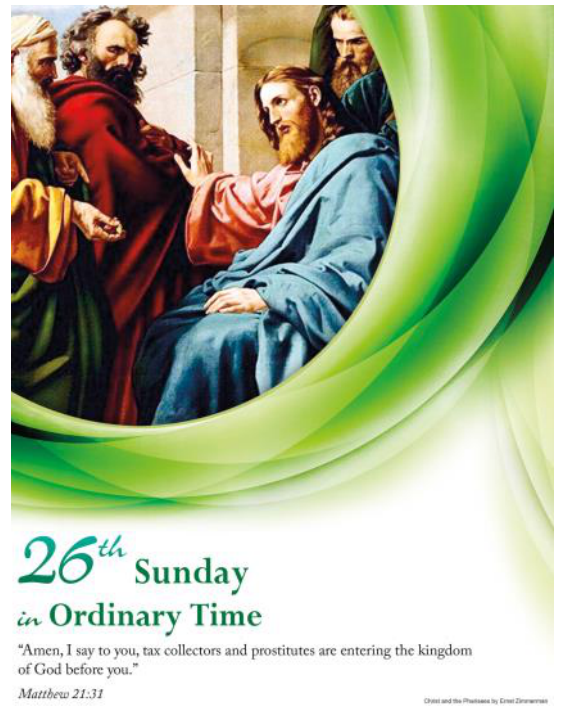
View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

|                       | Oct 8 / 8:30 AM  | Oct 8 / 4:30 PM |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| Altar Servers         | Adalyn Taylor<br>Clare Taylor  | NEED TWO        |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Jeff Johnson<br>Jennifer DeMull<br>Joe Hitchings<br>Debbie Veneklas<br>Jennie Taylor<br>Rosemary Weigel<br>Zack Nelson | NEED TWO        |
| Lector                | Chris Albrecht   | Mark Phillips   |
| Sacristan             | Judy Driedger  | Sue DeVos       |
| Ushers                | Ray Maka<br>Jim Ponshair<br>Dave Tronovich<br>Deb Tronovich  | NEED TWO        |
| Music                 | Anna Jonaitis  | Anna Jonaitis   |

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

|                | October 7 - 4:30PM  | October 8 - 10:30AM                                      |
|----------------|---|--|
| Sacristan      | Need One  | Gary Karr  |
| Altar Servers  | Bryson Potts<br>MJ Potts  | Noah Davis<br>Calvin Davis                               |
| Precious Body  | Angie Hanks<br>Keith Anderson<br>Geary Farrell                      | Becky Warners<br>Janette Ney<br>Margie Jirouos           |
| Precious Blood | Matt Karr<br>Lisa Potts<br>Butch Schoenborn<br>Rose Mary Schoenborn | Christina Withers<br>Need Three                          |
| Hospitality    | Scott Lampe<br>Need Four  | Rick Leale<br>Jeanne Leale<br>Leonard Horter<br>Need One |
| Lector         | Sara Patterson  | Need One   |
| Music          | Bernie Stanko   | Bernie Stanko  |



26<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

"Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."

Matthew 21:31

Christ and the Pharisees by Ernst Dürer  
© Dürer



## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### Made for More with Christopher West

**Oct 17- 7-9:30PM -St Mary's - Spring Lake, MI**

Where do we come from and where are we going? These questions are DECISIVE for understanding what it means to be human and how to orient our lives and our actions toward authentic fulfillment. Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they creatively weave together dynamic presentations with live music, movie clips, YouTube videos, and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. You will come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will instill in you the sheer wonder and joy of being alive.

Learn more: <https://www.stmarysl.org/made-for-more.html>

### Michigan Catholic Women's Conference

**Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. - Lansing Center**

Women from across Michigan are invited to come together to focus on their faith and experience the fellowship of sisterhood in Christ Jesus. Be encouraged and inspired to ignite your spirit and grow in faith with inspirational Catholic speakers, praise and worship music, and the celebration of Mass with the bishops of Michigan. Tickets: \$72.50; seniors (62+) and students, \$65. Learn more and reserve your tickets at [michigancwc.org](http://michigancwc.org). **Bus transportation is available from Grand Rapids and Spring Lake.** Cost is \$15 (in addition to your conference ticket). Reserve your seat at [rebrand.ly/mwvc23bus](http://rebrand.ly/mwvc23bus)

### Wedding Anniversary Mass

**Oct. 22 at 10AM Mass**

Together with your families, the Church in the Diocese of Grand Rapids honors the faithful witness to your vocation of marriage and wishes to celebrate with you. Bishop Walkowiak is inviting **all couples celebrating milestone anniversaries** to join him **at the 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew** for this annual celebration. A simple reception will immediately follow. Please RSVP by calling your parish office.

### Please Pray for our Engaged Couples

**Marissa McDonald & Christopher Barczak**

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

**Julia Delaney & Logan Brouwer**

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

**Rachel Berg & Joseph Elenbaas**

.....September 21, 2024 (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



### Fr. Mike's Musings

Fr Mike will be out of the office this week. He will return on October 7 to celebrate our weekend Masses. For emergencies please call: 616.745.1409

Please Note the Mass Schedule for the week:

October 2 - October 6: No Mass, No Adoration, No Confessions

View Daily Mass Readings Here: <https://bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar>

### Happy Birthday to Fr. Mike ~ October 3

Fr Mike,

May God bless you in a special way today for the love and concern with which you minister to all those entrusted to your care. May your life be filled with God's good gifts, abundant joy and heaven's peace. Thank you for all you do for our Parish Cluster Family. Happy Birthday!



### 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 your 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>

### October is Respect Life Month

Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation. You further ennobled that life when your Son became one with us in his incarnation. Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the last moment at death. Give us courage to speak with truth and love and with conviction in defense of life. Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life. To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.



**October 1, 2023 ~ The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Respect Life Sunday**

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

## St. Mary's Parish News

### Religious Education

#### Children's Liturgy of the Word

During 10:30AM Mass.

Begins October 8.

All children Pre-School through 2nd Grade are encouraged to attend.

#### Religious Education

1st-8th Grade

Wednesdays at Hall / 6:15- 7:30pm

**Classes have begun, but It is not too late to register. Please call the Parish Office for more information.**



#### Questions or comments:

Please contact the Parish Office. 616.677.3934 or dre@saintmarys.marne.org

### Parish Directory

#### REMINDER.. Send in your picture today!

We want YOU and your family to be included. Please email a photo you'd like included to: secretary@saintmarys.marne.org or call the Parish Office to set up a time to come in and have Cathie take your photo for you. Contact Cathie 616.677.3934 for more info.

### St Mary Adult Choir

Choir practice is on Thursdays at 7PM. Anyone high school age or older is invited to join us. For further information please contact our Music Director Bernie Stanko at (616) 490-3836 and leave a message.

### Save the Dates

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Sept 30 &amp; Oct 1</b> | Knights of Columbus Scrap Metal Drive<br>Parish Hall Parking Lot |
| <b>Oct 8</b>               | Knights of Columbus Council #11581<br>Breakfast & Blood Drive    |
| <b>Oct 24</b>              | Flute Recital - St Mary 7:30PM                                   |
| <b>Nov 3</b>               | Mass of Hope, Health & Healing<br>St Mary 7:00PM                 |
| <b>Nov 22</b>              | Thanksgiving Eve Mass, Grocery Collection                        |
| <b>Nov 23</b>              | 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: \$45,230.00 (87%)

Balance: \$6,604.00

Participation: 119 of 292 Active Households (40%)

Totals as of August 29, 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**



### Cemetery Fall Clean-Up

Please remove any summer/seasonal decorations. If you have a lower vase or pot, please remember to turn it upside down for the winter and remove all shepherd hooks. The cemetery staff cannot be responsible for decorations, plants, vases, etc., left on the grounds. Winter decorations are permitted November 1 - April 15. Any questions, please contact the Parish Office.



### 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 Parish Hall.

**Next Meeting - October 5 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.**

**Scrap Metal Drive - September 30 & October 1**

**St. Mary's - Marne Hall Parking Lot - SELF SERVE**

**Community Breakfast and Blood Drive - Oct 8**

**Blood Drive** is 8:30AM to 1:00PM Sign-Up sheets are available in the Narthex or you can Register here: [https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/149333](https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/149333)

#### Community Breakfast

Breakfast will be served 9AM till noon.

The price will be \$8 for adults. \$6 for seniors

\$4 for kids 5-11.

Come out and support our Knights!

#### Sobie Meats - Gift Card Raffle- License #X08274

1st Place \$250.00 Gift Card

2nd Place \$150.00 Gift Card

3rd Place \$100.00 Gift Card

Tickets are \$10.00 for One Ticket or \$20.00 for Three Tickets-

Drawing will be November 2 - 8PM

Special Thanks to Tim & Teresa Sobie for their help with this raffle!

Tickets NOW on sale after all Masses! (only 300 tickets will be sold)



### Giving Back to God ~ Time, Talent & Treasure

| Attendance at Mass:                     | 4:30PM: <u>84</u> | 10:30AM: <u>116</u> | September 23/24  |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Adult Contributions                     |                   |                     | \$4494.25        |
| Children Contributions                  |                   |                     | \$7.50           |
| Loose Contributions                     |                   |                     | \$101.00         |
| Online Giving                           |                   |                     | \$560.00         |
| <b>Total</b>                            |                   |                     | <b>\$5162.75</b> |
| Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget      |                   |                     | \$5,533.28       |
| Budget vs Actual to Date (since July 1) |                   |                     | (\$2,812.62)     |

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

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

#### THROOP FUNERAL HOME

214 Church St, Coopersville ~ 616.837.8161

**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](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)



## St. Michael's Parish News



**Scrip News—** Thank you to our 11 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$112.56.

**Please Join Us —** October 14, at noon, outside at St. Michael's Cemetery. We will be praying the rosary for our country, as part of America Needs Fatima. All are welcome, rain or shine.

## 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.

## St. Michael's Faith Formation

**It is time to register for Faith Formation. Attention families with children ages 3 through grades 8. Please register your child for Faith Formation. You can find registration forms on the parish website and forms are also located in the church narthex.** Contact Debbie if you have any questions (616)384-4026.



**Attention parents of 1st or 7th graders:** 1st graders' Parents! Do you know of a child that is attending 1st grade at a public school this fall? Please have their families contact the Parish Office now so that we can be sure to sign them up for Wednesday night classes. If a child is anticipating receiving their First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation, they will have to complete one year of Catechism class prior to preparing for these sacraments in second grade. Do you have a 7th grader or know one? Confirmation preparation begins in the 7th grade. If you know a student in 7th grade this fall, please spread the word to their parents now. They can still attend Faith Formation class.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** program is offered on Sunday during 8:30 Mass. Children 3-9 years old are welcome to join us each week as we pray, read and explore the Sunday Gospel from a child's viewpoint. We include the Gospel Acclamation so children understand the importance of preparing our mind and heart for the Gospel reading. In today's Gospel Passage, Jesus reminds us to do what we say we will do always. We should look at the actions of others and learn from them.

**Elementary Faith Formation:** The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:15- 7:30 pm. Registration forms are in the back of church and on the parish website. **Classes have started, but it is not too late to join us.** Contact Debbie if you have any questions. (616) 384-4026.

**Middle School Faith Formation:** Grades 6, 7 and 8 will meet on Sundays after the 8:30am Mass from 9:45 to 11:15 in the Youth Room. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation. **Classes have started, but it is not too late to join us.**



## St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for the Special Intentions of our parishioners

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

**Can You Help?** Coopersville Cares is in need of food for the pantry. The shelves are very low and the number of clients continues to grow. The needs are: mac & cheese, peanut butter, jelly, rice, pasta and sauces, hamburger helper, canned pastas, ramen noodles, crackers, rice and cereal. We are also in need of canned foods with pull tabs for the homeless who have no means of heating food or opening cans. If we could fill the Coopersville Cares box in the cloak room with food goods for it would be very much appreciated."



## A Fun Night of Trivia

At St. Michael's, on Oct. 7, 7-9 PM. Teams of 8 or less, please bring a snack to share and your own drink. Signup in the glass hallway.



## Knights of Columbus News

Father Mike and the Knights of Columbus would like to honor our diocese as they proclaim October as the month to pray for vocations. We would like to substitute the prayer for vocations for the Saint Michael prayer following Mass in the month of October. It will be projected at the front of church to follow along.

## Giving Back to God

September 24, 2023

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Adult Envelopes      | \$3,121.00        |
| Loose Cash           | \$280.00          |
| Children's Envelopes | \$14.00           |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$3,415.00</b> |
| Building Fund        | \$50.00           |

*Thank you for your continued support!*

**October 1, 2023 ~ The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Respect Life Sunday**

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# LIVING GOD'S WORD

DAVID M.  
KNIGHT

## The Law of Life

Jesus tells us of a son who says to his father, “Yes, sir!” when told to work in the vineyard but does not go. The son does not want to appear disobedient, because he sees that as bad or “sinful.” But he sees no sin in letting the work itself go undone. Another son does not care about obeying, but when he thinks about the work, he realizes it has to get done and he does it. Which thinks more like his father?

Do we obey laws just because they are laws or because what they tell us to do is good? Does God insist on obedience because he is on a divine power trip or because God wants us to have everything that is best for us?

Jesus showed us how unconcerned God is about clinging to power and prestige; God the Son emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. Christ came not to be served but to serve. Jesus insists that we should obey God the Father because Jesus realizes how much damage we will do to ourselves and others if we fail to obey.

Sometimes we justify a sin by saying, “It doesn’t hurt anybody.” The truth is, we just don’t *know* how much harm we are doing. The only reason God gives us laws is to tell us what does, in fact, hurt people, whether we know it or not. If we don’t take God’s word for it, we will learn the hard way and the world will suffer from our actions.

Some things are wrong, not because they do harm every time, but because they are dangerous. Would you say that an engineer who ignored the safety regulations in a nuclear power plant was not guilty so long as the plant did not blow up? Or is it wrong just to take a chance on causing terrible devastation? Is it OK to abuse drugs a little, as long as you and your friends do not get addicted? Or is it wrong to take a chance on leading yourself or another into a drug-devastated life? Is it OK to drive drunk so long as you don’t actually hit anyone?

As an adolescent I thought the argument against

OCTOBER 1, 2023

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11;  
Matthew 21:28-32

seeking sexual arousal outside of marriage was pretty weak. Making out did not mean you were going to go all the way. And even if a couple did lose control, everyone knew how to keep from getting pregnant. Now that there are around a million abortions a year in the United States, and after seeing how many well-informed high school and college students get pregnant in spite of their control and their precautions, not even to mention the factor of sexually transmitted diseases, I put as much faith in “safe sex” as I do in “safe drugs” or “safe drunk driving.” I now see what I suppose God—and even the adults—knew all along: that every step into sexual arousal outside of marriage is gambling with the life of an unborn child.

So much of our moral teaching has focused on sex that we may forget that the real focus is life. Ezekiel equates sin with death: whoever sins, dies. Therefore, whoever causes death sins. “Death” here means any diminishment of the quality of human life on earth. Sin is sin because it keeps us or others from that fullness of life which Jesus came to give. How much would change in our behavior, moral teaching and confessions if we asked about our every act, “What does this contribute, or take away from, the fullness of life on earth?”

Catholics of my generation were taught that taking pleasure in watching sexually arousing movies is sinful. What about taking pleasure in movies that satisfy our lust for revenge through violence? Is the thrill of



watching the “good guy” finally beat the “bad guy” to a pulp any less sinful than the thrill of watching two naked bodies engage in sex? What about movies in which we take vicarious pleasure in watching people drink too much (attractively, of course), spend too much money on their pleasure or focus their lives solely on their own gratification? In short, are things wrong because they are forbidden or because they are destructive?

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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### Twenty-Sixth Week of the Year

***Pray daily:** Father, you show your wisdom and love through the laws which reveal your heart to us. Help us to believe in your law and obey it, that we might have “life to the full.” We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Monday:** Luke 9:46-50. “An argument arose among [the disciples] as to which one of them was the greatest.” How would this be settled in a movie? Where you work? By our government? How does Jesus settle it?

**Tuesday:** Luke 9:51-56. When a Samaritan village would not welcome Jesus, the disciples asked, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” Where does this reaction come from? What nourishes it? How did Jesus answer them? Why?

**Wednesday:** Luke 9:57-62. “To another [Jesus] said, ‘Follow me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’” Why should every command or invitation of Jesus be obeyed, even at great sacrifice?

**Thursday:** Luke 10:1-12. Jesus said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” At Baptism and Confirmation, God sent you to work in his vineyard. You said yes. Did you go?

**Friday:** Luke 10:13-16. Jesus said: “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they

would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.” If a nation (family, individual) does not follow Christ’s teaching, does God punish by sending evil on them? Or is Christ’s way simply the only way to a happy life on earth? If it is, what should you do for your country, family or yourself?

**Saturday:** Luke 10:17-24. “...Do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Jesus rejoices not in dominating others, but in achieving a loving relationship with others. Do you try more to manage people or to relate to them?

## LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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**As Christian:** Tell Jesus explicitly in prayer that you believe he is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Write out your prayer.

**As Disciple:** Identify one attitude, value or practice you take for granted, but that seems to diminish the quality of life. Find something Jesus teaches about this.

**As Prophet:** Change one thing in your life which is not forbidden by any law but which you think contradicts the teaching or example of Jesus.

**As Priest:** Ask what attitude, value or practice in your environment causes pain to others. Do something to bring comfort or healing to that pain.

**As King:** Ask again what attitude, value or practice in your environment causes pain to others or diminishes their lives. Then ask what you can do to change the environment and make it more life-giving. What can you do to remove the cause of the evil?



|   |  |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|
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