

Saint Mary's Church

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

October 29, 2023 ~ The 30th 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
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:

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

Music Director:

Dr. Bernie Stanko 616.490.3836 /
berniestanko@hotmail.com

Pastoral Council:

Sharon Davis, Vito Dolci, Geary Farrell,
Doug Frantz, Becky Warners,

Finance Council:

Lisa Bradley, Jose Gomez, Scott Lampe,
Mel Northup, Brent Patterson

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 October 28

4:30PM Mass of Thanksgiving-Fr Mike 11 year Ordination Anniversary ..MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday October 29

8:30AM † Dave Reames by Julie & Will ReamesMI
10:30AM † Bob Bacon by Donna ScheidelMA
4:30PM † S.J. Hecksel by Dave & Lori HastingsMI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday October 30 No Mass

Tuesday October 31

9:00AM † Bruce Smith by Ruth BrownMA
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday November 1 All Saint's Day

9:00AM † Jeff LeMieux by Jon & Nancy DorwinMI
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael
6:30PM † Deceased Members of our Parish ClusterMA

Thursday November 2 All Souls Day

9:00AM † Floyd & Mary Bradley by Lisa BradleyMA

Friday November 3

9:00AM † Jamie Thomas by Mark & Val PattersonMI
7:00PM **Healing Mass** with Sacrament of the Sick.....MA

Saturday November 4

4:30PM † Jeff LeMieux by M/M Larry AntcliffMA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday November 5

8:30AM † Jamie Thomas by Mark & ValMI
10:30AM † Anthony Karr by M/M Gary KarrMA
4:30PM † S.J. Hecksel by Dave & Lori HastingsMI
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 29, 2023

Sunday Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51; I Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

Monday Rom 8:12-17; Ps 68:2 & 4, Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday Rom 8:18-25; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Lk 13:18-21

Wednesday Solemnity of All Saints
Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; I Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

Thursday The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)
Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5-6; Rom 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40

Friday Rom 9:1-5; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk 14:1-6

Saturday Memorial of Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 17-18; Lk 14:1, 7-11

Sunday Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; Ps 131:1, 2, 3; I Thes 2:7b-9, 13; Mt 23:1-12

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Nov 5 / 8:30 AM	Nov 5 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Lauren Meerman Alivia Kosten Hyde Kosten	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Jennifer DeMull Debbie Veneklas Zack Nelson Joe Hitchings Jeff Johnson Peter Nielsen	NEED TWO
Lector	Lyndsey Kosten	Carol Reens
Sacristan	Chris Albrecht	Karen Helsen
Ushers	Calvin Lindberg Joe Meerman Curt DeVos Mary Bueche	Greg Helsen NEED ONE
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	November 4 - 4:30PM	November 5 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Need Two	Lauren LeMieux Ty Ricord
Precious Body	Vito Dolci Need Two	Deacon Tom Christina Withers Margie Jirous
Precious Blood	Matt Karr Angie Hanks Geary Farrell Need One	Becky Warners Janette Ney Need Two
Hospitality	Need Four	Leonard Horter Anthony Leale Nettie Leale Need One
Lector	Need One	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko



Cluster News and Community News and Events

All Saints Day ~ November 1

We are all called to lives of virtue and holiness and the saints are friends and intercessors who can inspire us toward this goal! Saints are people who are on fire with the Holy Spirit; they keep God's fire burning in the Church. Even during their earthly life, the saints prayed ardently, in a way that was contagious. At Mass on All Saints' Day, we praise and thank God for their example, their selflessness, and their holiness. We express our faith that they are now around God's throne, where they "sing his praise forever." And we ask them to give us "both strength and good example" so that one day we will meet them when we enter eternal life with God. **All Saints Day Mass - Wednesday, November 1**
9AM - St Michael / 6:30PM - St Mary



All Souls Day ~ November 2

also known as "The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed" is observed on Tuesday, Nov. 2 this year. This is when we remember people who were more like us – the souls of the faithful departed in purgatory or in process. The faithful on earth can assist these purgatorial souls in attaining heaven through prayer, good work and the offering of Mass. At Mass on All Souls' Day, we pray that through Christ's loving mercy, God's "departed servants...may be granted pardon and peace, and be brought to the joy of God's eternal home. **All Souls Day Mass - Thursday, November 2, 9AM - St Mary**

Mass of Hope, Health & Healing

Healing Mass with The Sacrament of the Sick. **November, 3 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



Please Pray for our Engaged Couples

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



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>

Fr. Mike's Musings

A question that always arises in parishes around the country at this time of the year is: "Should Catholics celebrate Halloween?" Because of the concern of many about Halloween's origins, many Catholic parents wonder if it is OK to let their children celebrate the holiday. Let's be clear: Halloween can be traced back to pagan roots, with a focus on the occult, and we should not be ignorant of that fact. But certainly, in a Christian context, the holiday effectively has been baptized, as its current name suggests, as the eve of All Hallows (an older word referring to saints, referenced in the "halo" saints often are depicted as having on account of their holiness). Halloween falls the day before Catholics celebrate All Saints Day, on November 1st. Of course, in American culture, Halloween has taken on a life of its own.



Although Halloween remains associated with the pagan and occult in the minds of many, that does not necessarily mean that Catholics cannot celebrate Halloween as a cultural event. Americans approach Halloween in a variety of ways. The basic activities associated with the annual fall holiday are carving pumpkins and dressing up in costume for trick-or-treating, neither of which is bad in itself. It can be especially fun to play up the aspects of fall and harvest season, with its omnipresent gourds, decorative corn and dried cornstalks.

Halloween's spooky aspect should not be overplayed, however, by people of faith. Evil spirits and demons are real and should not be invoked or celebrated. There should be some element of prayer associated with Halloween in Catholic households, especially asking protection for those who will tinker around with the occult. As the traditional Scottish prayer goes:

"From ghoulies and ghosties
And long-leggedy beasties
And things that go bump in the night,
Good Lord, deliver us!"

It is OK for Catholics to go trick-or-treating, always keeping in mind the importance for moderation and avoidance of gluttony, as well as remembering good manners to set an example for others; not least of which should be polite behavior when asking neighbors for free candy! Dressing up as something mild, like one's favorite sports player, cartoon character or superhero, is a good approach. Michael Myers, Freddy Kruger, or Hitler are not really good costume choices as they glorify gore and horror as opposed to the "scary fun" of the holiday. Even traditional costumes like ghosts, Count Dracula, or the Wicked Witch of the West can be "scary fun" if consideration has been taken about the roots of these characters and how we wish to present them to those we beseech for goodies—evil, bloodthirsty monsters of pagan lore, or good-natured reflections of a spooky season.

It might even be an option to dress up as real heroes, the Saints. This is a time-honored tradition related with Halloween in which more Catholics could participate. First, it helps teach our children. Why not for Halloween take on the persona of someone we should emulate every other day; one of the saints who shows us how to stay on the path that leads to Heaven? Also, it can be a witness to those around us; an everyday, ordinary way to preach without using words. We can make use of Halloween, as we should all things, to evangelize. So yes, Catholics can celebrate Halloween—play acting in costume, garnering a bag of sweet goodies, getting a slight thrill out of getting/giving a fright, and importantly, giving witness to Christ whether by our dress or by our deportment. On Halloween we can give a treat (evangelization) as well as receiving one.

Save the Date – Michigan March for Life

As we approach the first anniversary of the passage of Proposal 3 – we must continue to use our voices for the voiceless! Join others from across the State for the first-ever Michigan March for Life. **Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023**

Where: The State Capitol, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

Time: Rally at 11 a.m.; March at Noon

Register: mi.marchforlife.org

The diocese will be sponsoring two buses, one departing from Grand Rapids and one from Muskegon. The cost is \$20 per person. Email Jennifer Baxter, jbaxter@grdiocese.org for more information or to reserve your spot.

SAVE THE DATE!

MICHIGAN MARCH FOR LIFE



October 29, 2023 ~ The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Mary's Parish News

St Mary Religious Education

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

During 10:30AM Mass.

All children pre-school through 2nd grade are encouraged to join Miss Carmody for an age-appropriate experience of sacred scripture.

Children are dismissed after the opening prayer and gather in the community room to hear the readings and reflect on the Gospel. Children return to Mass during the offering.



Religious Education Classes

1st-7th Grade

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

8th Grade -Confirmation Classes

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.

Schedule

All Dates / Times are subject to change.

Please watch for updates from your catechist.

Nov 1- Rel Ed Class- All Saints Day Mass, 6:30PM

Questions or comments:

Please contact the Parish Office. 616.677.3934 or dre@saintmarysmarne.org

Funeral Luncheon Committee Meeting

Please join us on **Nov 2 at 6:00pm or Nov 8 at 11:00am** in the Community Room for a Funeral Luncheon Committee Meeting. Whether you can volunteer for serving, provide a dish for funeral luncheons, or want to help with the call tree, any and all help is greatly appreciated. Call Kelly Spence at (616) 250-1203 with any questions.

In Memory of our Loved Ones

During the month of November we take the time to remember our deceased loved ones. Everyone is also invited to bring in a **framed picture** of your deceased loved ones to be on display in church for the All Saints and All Souls Day Masses and throughout the month of November. We ask that you put your loved ones name and your contact information on the back of the frame. Please drop off pictures to the parish office or leave in the designated area in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

Parish Directory

REMINDER.. Send in your picture today! Please email a photo you'd like included to: secretary@saintmarysmarne.org or call the Parish Office to set up a time to come in and have your photo taken.

Please email or have your photo taken by December 1,

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: roblander82@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 - November 2 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.

Breakfast & Blood Drive - Feb 11, 2024

Knight Person of the Month for October - Jim Lothschutz

Knight Family of the Month for October - Geary & Darlene Farrell

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 service and commitment to our Parish Family!

THANK YOU for your Scrap Metal Donations.

We received a check for \$851.79 -

All profits will go toward helping our local charitable causes.



Save the Dates

Nov 1	All Saints Day Mass - 6:30PM St Mary
Nov 3	Mass of Hope, Health & Healing St Mary 7:00PM
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Eve Mass, Grocery Collection 6PM St Mary
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Day Mass 9AM St Michael
Dec 3	Advent by Candlelight - 6:30pm St Mary Parish Hall
Dec 7 & 14	This Is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival 7-8:30pm St Mary Community Room
Dec 14	Adoration Holy Hour 6PM St Mary

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: \$45,730.00 (89%)

Balance: \$6,104.00

Participation: 120 of 292 Active Households (41%)

Totals as of October 15, 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



Save the Date - Advent by Candlelight

(formerly Christmas by Candlelight) will be held on **Sunday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m.** More Information to come.



Giving Back to God ~ Time, Talent & Treasure

Attendance at Mass: Oct 7/8	4:30PM: <u>98</u> 10:30AM: <u>109</u>	Oct 21/22
Adult Contributions		\$3367.00
Children Contributions		\$10.00
Loose Contributions		\$465.00
Capital Improvement		\$0
Total		\$3842.00
World Mission Sunday		\$633.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

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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 14 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$133.98.

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. For more info, call the Parish Office at 616-384-4026.



We are pleased to welcome a newly baptized child of God!

Jonah Paul Brown

son of Bryce & Molly Brown

Baptized on October 15, 2023

St. Michael's Faith Formation

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 Jesus tells us that we are to love God with all your heart, soul and mind. God wants us to love Him, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.



Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:15- 7:30 pm. **We will not have class on Wednesday, November 1, due to The Solemnity Of All Saints Day.** Mass is at 9am at St. Michael's and 6:30pm at St. Mary's. I hope to see you all there.

First Reconciliation Retreat Nov. 4th, Parents and 2nd Graders will explore God's loving forgiveness together. We will begin at 9:00 am in Church. Activities will continue in the Family Center until 11:30 am. Contact Debbie if you cannot attend 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 Heflin, Payton Patterson, Winnie Spencer, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

Parish Directory —

We will be updating our parish directory this year, and we want you to be included! This will be done in-house, by a parishioner at St. Mary's. Please email a photo you'd like included to secretary@saintmichaels.us or call the Parish Office to set up a time to come in and have Beki take your photo for you. This directory will be available online, only to parishioners with a password. Please email or have your photo taken by December 1, if possible. *Hard copies of the directory will eventually be available for purchase.*



Schedule Change —

The Parish Secretary will be IN the office this Thursday, November 2 and OUT of the office on Friday, November 3. She will return Monday morning, November 6, at 9 AM. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Knights of Columbus News

Fr. 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 St. 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

October 22, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$3,046.00
Loose Cash	\$217.00
Online Giving	\$805.00
Children's Envelopes	\$17.00
Total	\$4,085.00
World Mission Sunday	\$924.00

Thank you for your continued support!

October 29, 2023 ~ The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Religion Pure and Simple

What are parishes all about, anyway? Why do you gather in church on Sunday morning with other people when you could be relaxing at home? Why do you contribute money to your parish's work when you could be spending it on yourself or on other causes? Every dollar you spend, every minute of your time you spend on anything, is a vote. When you spend time and money on your religion, what are you voting for?

Some might say, "It's an insurance premium for life after death; call it 'future life insurance.'" Others might say, "I just need this to get me through the week. It helps me cope with the things I deal with in my life—things like stress, temptations, loneliness and fear. Call it my 'moral and psychological fitness program.'"

Others might say, "I need to get refocused. All week long I'm bombarded by secondary stuff. Every time the phone rings, the door opens or a commercial comes on, my attention is drawn to needs that are not fundamental, to values that are not my basic values, to objectives and goals that are not the real purpose of my existence. I just need to get back in touch with the real meaning of life, with the authentic truth that makes life meaningful and good. Religion is my 'existential compass.' I just need to look at it sometimes."

Others might just say, "Religion is the strongest force there is for preserving law and order and morality in this world. I support it the way I support good education and good government. It is something I need and society needs to keep life civilized on earth." Although religion is all of these things, none of them is religion as Jesus taught it. For Jesus, most simply, religion meant loving God with all one's heart, soul and mind.

And since love seeks union, the more authentic our religion is, the more we will be like God in mind, will and heart, and the more we will love every member of the human race—not only as we love ourselves but as Jesus loves each person.

OCTOBER 29, 2023

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Exodus 22:20-26; I Thessalonians 1:5c-10;
Matthew 22:34-40

Today's reading from Exodus measures true love of neighbor by the stance we take toward aliens, widows, orphans and the poor—in other words, by the love and compassion we show to those we easily marginalize; those with whom we have no natural bonds through family or social grouping; those whom society tends to consider unimportant; those with whom, by cultural standards, relationship is not rewarding. This is to love as God loves.

The goal of religion—of Christ's religion—is to change and keep changing us, until we love God with all our heart, soul and mind, and love every other member of the human race as God loves.

After his visit to the tombs of Archbishop Romero and of the nuns, laywomen and Jesuits who were martyred in El Salvador, Archbishop Rembert Weakland said: "What set these people apart is that they stood for a kind of religion—a religious belief—that influences lives. Religion, for them, was not a case of obeying rules but of influencing lives—and that is very threatening to those who want to keep order. But if religion doesn't influence lives, why bother with it?" (Paul Wilkes, *The Education of an Archbishop*, Orbis Books, 1992).

If our religion simply makes us moral people or what our culture recognizes as "good Christians," we will not influence anybody as Jesus did (that is, bear witness, which is what the word *martyr* means). For that we have to accept those whom society does not



accept, to help others in ways society would call exaggerated. In short, we have to be imitators of Christ, the Lamb of God, and put our bodies on the line daily, just as he offered his body to take away the sins of the world.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Thirtieth Week of the Year

***Pray daily:** Praised be you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no power for good that does not come from your covenant, and no promise to hope in that your love has not offered. Strengthen our faith to accept your covenant and give us the love to carry out your command. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Monday: Luke 13:10-17. When Jesus saw the woman who had been sick for eighteen years, he called to her and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." Do you know anyone who is sick or wounded in any way? What can you do to help?

Tuesday: Luke 13:18-21. Jesus said, "[The kingdom of God] is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." What effect do you have on those around you? How do you leaven (lift up) their attitudes, values, spirits?

Wednesday: Luke 13:22-30. Jesus said, "Strive to enter through the narrow door." Why is a straight line the narrowest concept that exists? (Ask a mathematician.) What is the difference between "keeping in bounds" (broad or narrow) and directing every choice toward Jesus as imitators of Christ? Which is the "narrower" way?

Thursday: Luke 13:31-35. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under

her wings, and you were not willing!" Why are people threatened by a religion that asks more than law observance? What more are you giving than obedience to God's laws?

Friday: Luke 14:1-6. Jesus said, "If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a sabbath day?" Do you ever use your religion as an excuse for not helping people? For example, do you ever say, "The Church doesn't say I have to do this" when you feel you should do something?

Saturday: Luke 14:1, 7-11. Jesus said, "For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." In how many different ways could love call you to "humble" yourself?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Do one thing daily that expresses unambiguously that your whole religion, your entire life, is focused on growing in relationship with Jesus Christ. Daily Mass? Prayer time? A way of loving and serving others?

As Disciple: Read one Gospel through (or one chapter, if time is short), making a list of every reason you find for loving God.

As Prophet: Ask what actions or visible characteristics of your life-style have the most influence on others. How can you make sure that your actions bear witness to the values Jesus lived and taught?

As Priest: Offer yourself consciously with Jesus as Lamb of God before Communion, thinking about what this means in practice for your life. How can you "take away" the effects of sin in your world?

As King: Ask what influence your parish is having on your neighborhood or city. What can you do to make religion in your parish a love of God and others that has an impact on society?

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