

# Saint Mary's Church

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

November 19, 2023 ~ The 33rd 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, 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](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 November 18

4:30PM † Paul Brown by M/M Dave Hastings ..... MA  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

## Sunday November 19

8:30AM † Marie Johnson by Ted Johnson & Family ..... MI  
10:30AM † Sandy Klein by M/M J Hansknecht ..... MA  
4:30PM † Michael Karbon by the Wendt's ..... MI  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

## Monday November 20 No Mass

## Tuesday November 21

9:00AM † Sandy Klein by Ruth Brown ..... MA  
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

## Wednesday November 22

9:00AM † Sherm Hecksel by the late Winnie Spencer ..... MI  
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Michael  
6:00PM Mass of Thanksgiving (Grocery Collection, SlideShow) ... MA

## Thursday November 23 Thanksgiving Day

9:00AM † Deceased members of our Parish Family ..... MI

## Friday November 24 No Mass

## Saturday November 25

4:30PM † Rick Lothschutz by Mary Lothschutz ..... MA  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

## Sunday November 26

8:30AM † Marie Johnson by Joan Hecksel & Family ..... MI  
10:30AM † Daniel & Judith Drong ..... MA  
4:30PM † Edna Schumaker by Judy Timmers ..... MI  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

MA=St. Mary

MI=St. Michael's

Please Note: When there is a Funeral Mass or inclement weather (where Coopersville and/or Kenowa Hills Public Schools are closed.) Daily Mass will be cancelled. The Mass intention for that day will be rescheduled at our earliest opportunity.

## Scripture Readings For the Week of November 19, 2023

Sunday Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5; I Thes 5:1-6;  
Mt 25:14-30 or Mt 25:14-15, 19-21

Monday I Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150,  
155, 158; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; I; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr  
2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday Memorial of Saint Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St Columban,  
Abbot; Blessed Miguel Austin Pro, Priest & Martyr  
I Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44  
Thanksgiving: Sir 50:22-24; I Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

Friday Memorial of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest Companions,  
Martyrs  
I Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; I Chr 29:10bcd, 11d-12a, 12cd; Lk  
19:45-48

Saturday Memorial of Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr  
I Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3, 4 & 6, 16 and 19; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6; I Cor 15:20-26, 28;  
Mt 25:31-46

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

|                       | Nov 26 / 8:30 AM   | Nov 26 / 4:30 PM           |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Altar Servers         | Lauren Meerman<br>Kenzie Harker  | NEED TWO                   |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Deacon Tom<br>Jennie Taylor<br>Kenny Harker<br>Denise Nelson<br>Melanie Mayse<br>Paul Schmidt<br>Rosemary Weigel | Ken Schwallier<br>NEED ONE |
| Lector                | Joe Meerman  | Carol Reens                |
| Sacristan             | Chris Albrecht   | NEED ONE                   |
| Ushers                | Curt DeVos<br>Dave Tronovich<br>Deb Tronovich<br>Jim Ponshair  | NEED TWO                   |
| Music                 | Craig Bleckley   | Craig Bleckley             |

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

|                | November 25 - 4:30PM   | November 26 - 10:30AM  |
|----------------|--|--|
| Sacristan      | Vito Dolci   | Gary Karr  |
| Altar Servers  | MaKaelyn Britt<br>Kassidy Britt                              | Noah Davis<br>Calvin Davis                                   |
| Precious Body  | Paul Madura<br>Need two                                      | Deacon Tom<br>Bruce Kamp<br>Christina Withers                |
| Precious Blood | Angie Hanks<br>Julie Lothschutz<br>Mary Kirkwood<br>Need One | Becky Warners<br>Jim Fritz<br>Margie Jirous<br>Geary Farrell |
| Hospitality    | Jeff Schneider<br>Need Three                                 | Jim Looks<br>Mariam Looks<br>Rick Leale<br>Jeanne Leale      |
| Lector         | Sara Patterson   | John Klein   |
| Music          | Bernie Stanko  | Bernie Stanko  |

## Thanksgiving Mass Schedule

Please make plans to join us to praise God and give Thanks for our great blessings.

### Wednesday, Nov 22, 6PM at St Mary

Thanksgiving Eve Mass, Grocery Collection & Annual St Mary's Slideshow

### Thursday, Nov 23, 9AM at St Michael -

Thanksgiving Day Mass

## A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving, we ask your blessings on our family, our friends, our home, our health and on the food we eat. We thank you for this time together and the many gifts that you have given us. Help us to remember in this time of bounty those less fortunate. And may your love consume us all that we might share your glory. Amen



## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### Blood Drive

Monday  
November

20

2:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Helpful tip:  
Make sure to eat a healthy  
meal and drink plenty of  
water before donating.



St. Vincent de Paul Hall  
Community Blood Drive

Blood drive will be held in the Hall  
21130 32nd Ave.  
Conklin, MI 49403

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED:  
Call 866-642-5663, or scan the QR code.

\*Walk ins welcome, as schedule allows!

Give blood, get noodles! Receive a coupon for a buy one, get one half off entrée from Noodles & Company, while supplies last. -PLUS- All attempting donors will be entered for a chance to win 1 of 3 DIY project prizes valued at \$2500.\*

\*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Open to legal residents only. See rules for details. One drawing three (3) winners. Enter by blood donation on or before Nov. 15, 2023. Odds and prizes subject to change without notice. See versiti.org/GR for details. Versiti, Inc., 630 N. 19th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233.



### Fr. Mike's Musings

Where has the time gone? 2023 is nearly complete, we have just finished celebrating the Feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Souls and now, having hardly time to catch our breath, Thanksgiving is upon us and many have already begun their preparations for the Christmas season. But let us take things one step at a time and set our sights on Thanksgiving. There is no confusion in the name of this holiday, it is clearly a time when we should count our blessings and give thanks for those blessings—to God and earthly benefactors.

At both parishes we have been blessed with numerous individuals who have been willing to freely give of their time and talents to ensure the proper upkeep of our grounds, facilities, and worship spaces. Fresh flowers, banners, and clean linens have regularly appeared in the churches with little or no fanfare but the person(s) responsible have ensured that God's house is presentable and attractive to the eyes of both long-term parishioners and our frequent guests. Those arriving for Mass have been greeted with equally pleasing displays of carefully tended floral and shrubbery around the parish grounds. Like the interior décor these projects have been accomplished without fanfare—which has been the stated desire of our volunteers who prefer anonymity to accolades. However, without naming them I do heartfully tender my admiration and gratitude for their efforts.

Another point of thanks is on a more personal level for me and it has to do with the existence of an annual appeal that many believe to be unnecessary (some even consider it an act of thievery), this is the diocesan Catholic Services Appeal or CSA. This yearly collection by the diocese given by all the parishes of the Diocese of Grand Rapids is akin to the weekly collection taken up in parishes at the Sunday masses. The funds generated in both instances are the means by which operating expenses are covered and bills are paid. Without this revenue the lights, heat, and phones are turned off, wages are unpaid and employees dismissed, and needed charitable services vanish leaving many to fend for themselves in a cold and hostile world. But let's get back to my own gratitude for the CSA campaign and the generosity of the diocesan faithful for making it a valuable resource, whether we like it or not.

In the early spring of 2009 I was in my third year of studies at Mundelein Seminary when an "interesting" malady befell me. I had developed a fairly large blood clot in my upper left arm (a very rare location) and watched as the lower part of the arm grew to three sizes larger than normal and had turned sickly blue-green in color. A diocesan brother, Michael Burt (now Fr. Burt at Our Lady of the Lake in Holland) rushed me to a medical center for treatment. After a week of hospitalization the clot was successfully treated and I was able to return to my studies. I later found out that the clot was on the verge of breaking free and that had I delayed getting treatment for another two hours I would have succumbed to a major stroke.

A week after returning from the hospital I received a billing notice stating that I owed nearly \$25,000.00 for my stay and treatment. My heart sank as I knew that I would have to cease my journey to the priesthood and take whatever work I could find to pay my debt. That evening as I sat at my desk contemplating the call that I was going to have to make to my parents the telephone rang and a deep, but concerned voice, greeted my halfhearted "Hello".

"Michael, I have heard that you are thinking about leaving the seminary program because of your hospital bill. Don't. We will cover it."

"Uh, thanks. Who is this?"

"Oh, It's Bishop Hurley. Don't leave the program the diocese insurance will cover you."

"How, if I may ask?"

"A portion of the Catholic Services Appeal pays to insure clergy and seminarians. And you are one of us. The people take care of us very well."

I know that this sounds like a grade-B Hallmark script, but that is what happened. I was treated for a life-threatening condition and was able to continue my studies to become a priest for the Diocese of Grand Rapids because of the generosity of the people through their CSA contributions. For this I give thanks daily for my vocation and for my life. Both were given to me by the people I have vowed to sacramentally serve—God's people, the Church.

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good;  
His love is everlasting." (Psalm 118)



### St. Mary's & St. Michael's Parishes - National March for Life Trip

Washington DC / January 18-21, 2024

This year's trip is open to all! Let's fill a bus! I will be working with the Right to Life of Grand Rapids as I've done in past years. Any high school-aged students are welcome to join us! I will be coordinating a special side group to ensure a fabulous experience for them. Contact me for special pricing and permission slips.

**Schedule: Information Packet with exact information will arrive in January.**

Thursday, Jan. 18: Depart early morning via coach bus,  
Friday, Jan. 19: March for Life: 11:00 am Pre-Rally Concert, 12:00 pm Rally, 1:00 pm March. Visit Congressmen's offices. Possibly a Night tour of DC may be available. Spend night at hotel

Saturday, Jan. 20: Sightseeing – free time!  
Depart DC approx. 6:00 pm for overnight bus travel back to Grand Rapids (between 6:00 – 8:00 am arrival Sunday morning back in GR)

**Cost: Due upon sign up.**

\$ 395 per person – 4 people per room

\$ 440 per person – 3 people per room

\$ 525 per person – 2 people per room

I will coordinate arranging the rooms/requests to share rooms. I can place you in a room with others to reduce your cost. Rate includes: bus transportation to/from DC, hotel, tip for driver, DC night tour

**Deadline to Sign-up/Pay: December 10, 2023**

If you are interested contact Sue Smith to sign-up, make payment, or for more information. Cellphone: 616.446.6390 Email: ssmith@jarvishandling.com

### 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



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## 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

**St. Mary's Confirmation Mass will be at The Cathedral of St. Andrew's on Sunday, April 28, 2023 at 3:00 pm. Please pray for our Confirmation students as they prepare for this sacrament.**

#### Schedule

All Dates / Times are subject to change.

Please watch for updates from your catechist.

Nov. 19 - Children's Liturgy of the Word -CLW

Nov. 22- No Rel Ed Classes, Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov. 26 - No Children's Liturgy of the Word

Nov 29 - Rel Ed Classes

#### Questions or comments:

Please contact the Parish Office. 616.677.3934

or dre@saintmarysmarine.org

### Christmas Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will be up in the Narthex beginning Thanksgiving weekend. Parishioners are asked to take a tag off of the tree and replace it with one of the ornaments provided and purchase the items listed on the tag. Please return these items in a wrapped box or a gift bag with the ORIGINAL tag attached to the Giving Tree no later than Sunday, December 10. The tags on the giving tree provide gifts for the 101 residents of Ferguson/Dwelling Place Apartments in Grand Rapids, MI. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!** If you have questions or would like to help with this ministry, please contact: Rob and Lori Rander (616) 215-6524



### Save the Date - Advent by Candlelight

(formerly Christmas by Candlelight) will be held on **Sunday, December 3, at 6:30PM**. Ladies of the community and their Middle School or older daughters are invited to come and start the Advent season with a beautiful candlelit evening. Music of the season be provided by Mary Skusa. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses. If you are interested in decorating a table, please e-mail or call Lori Rander, lrander81@gmail.com or 616-215-6524.



### 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 - December 7 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.**

**Breakfast & Blood Drive - Feb 11, 2024**

**Knight Person of the Month** for November - Carl Spence

**Knight Family of the Month** for November - 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 our church community. Congratulations and Thank you for service and commitment to our Parish Family!

### Funeral Luncheon Volunteers Wanted!

Looking for an easy and fulfilling ministry? Here is a great opportunity for the men and women of our parish to do just that! The funeral luncheon committee is looking for volunteers to either assist with serving at funeral luncheons or by simply donating a side dish (pasta salad, taco salad, jello salad) or a dessert. Don't worry if you can't cook or don't have the time to prepare a dish, we will happily accept pre-made, store bought donations as well. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Contact Kelly Spence at (616) 250-1203 with any questions. "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

### 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: \$45,880.00 (89%)

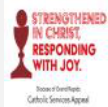
Balance: \$5,954.00

Participation: 120 of 292 Active Households (41%)

Totals as of November 7, 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 ASAP. If you have returned your CSA pledge card, thank you!**



### St Mary Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays 9:00-10:30 in the community room. Newcomers are invited to join at any time. For more info contact Jill 616.947.2054.



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

| Attendance at Mass: Nov 11/12           | 4:30PM: <u>82</u> | 10:30AM: <u>151</u> | Nov 11/12        |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Adult Contributions                     |                   |                     | \$4147.00        |
| Children Contributions                  |                   |                     | \$5.00           |
| Loose Contributions                     |                   |                     | \$81.00          |
| Capital Improvement                     |                   |                     | \$245.00         |
| Online Giving                           |                   |                     | \$3465.00        |
| <b>Total</b>                            |                   |                     | <b>\$7943.00</b> |
| Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget      |                   |                     | \$5,463.00       |
| Budget vs Actual to Date (since July 1) |                   |                     | +525.88          |

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

### St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week HARMONY FLORAL & PLANT DESIGNS

270 Main St. Coopersville ~ 616.837.8525

**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)

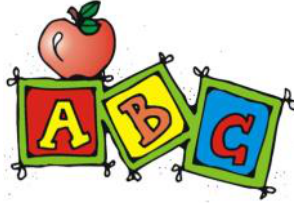
## St. Michael's Parish News



**Scrip News**— Thank you to our 10 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$96.07.

## 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.



## 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 this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we need to be prepared to welcome Him. **There will not be class Sunday, Nov. 26th due to Thanksgiving.**



**Elementary Faith Formation:** The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:15- 7:30 pm. **There will not be class Wednesday, November 22nd, due to Thanksgiving. Have a safe and wonderful holiday.**

**Middle School Faith Formation:** Grades 6, 7 and 8 will meet on Sundays after the 8:30 am Mass from 9:45 to 11:15 in the Youth Room. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation. Please keep our Confirmation Candidates in your prayers as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 3:00 pm. at the Cathedral of St. Andrew. There will not be class on Sunday, November 26th, due to Thanksgiving.**

**The Giving Tree:** St. Michael's Middle School Faith Formation's has the Giving Tree in the Glass hallway. Parishioners are asked to take off as many ornaments as you would like and purchase a gift for the age listed on the tag. Please place these unwrapped presents in a bag and return them under the Giving Tree. The teens are often overlooked because they can be hard to buy for. We have a great solution. You can purchase a \$10.00 gift card from St. Michael's scrip program and place in the gift card box under the giving tree. You will be giving in two ways. All gifts need to be turned in no later than December 10th, so they can be delivered to Coopersville Cares. Thank you for your support and generosity. May God bless you as you have blessed others.



## St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for Veterans & Servicemembers  
by Jane Vitunskas



## 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.

## Coffee and Donut Servers Needed!

Please sign up in the family center. Contact the parish office with ?'s or to volunteer to be scheduled on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. There are complete instructions posted in the kitchen if you are a new server.



## 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](mailto: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.*



## Giving Back to God

November 12, 2023

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Adult Envelopes      | \$3,509.00        |
| Loose Cash           | \$266.00          |
| Children's Envelopes | \$7.10            |
| Holy Day             | \$10.00           |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$3,792.10</b> |
| Cemetery Care        | \$320.00          |
| Building Fund        | \$110.00          |

**Thank you for your continued support!**

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## Jesus on Responsibility

**T**he whole point of this Gospel is that Jesus expects us to do something for the salvation of the world. What he expects of us is determined by the particular gifts and talents we have. In other words, we are “responsible”—that is, we will be required to “answer”—for the way we use what we have in order to help others know and serve God.

This may be shockingly new to us! Many of us are accustomed to think that all we are obliged to do as Christians is avoid sin and fulfill whatever other duties the Church has seen fit to make a rule about. For example, most Catholics would assume they are not obliged to go to Mass more than once a week since the law of the Church requires Mass only on Sunday. They would be shocked to hear that for some people, to go to Mass only on Sunday might be a serious failure in responsibility.

Suppose you were the only person in the world on close enough terms with the presidents of two hostile countries to be able to persuade one or both of them to pull back from the brink of war. Do you think you would have a responsibility—that you would be obliged in conscience—to make whatever sacrifice might be needed to prevent the war? And if you said, “I am too busy right now” or “I just don’t have the money to spend on a trip like that,” and war did break out, would not every soldier and civilian killed in the war have the right to rise up from the grave and say to you, “This is your fault. My blood is on your hands”? If you could have prevented the war—or even had a good chance of being able to prevent it—and did not try, would that not be a serious lack of responsibility?

Is it farfetched to say that we Catholics, who know God and who know that Jesus Christ is offering himself every day on the altar for the salvation of the world, have a serious responsibility to go to him and pray seriously for peace? If you are more than just a nominal Christian or a Catholic, if you are an active Catholic, a Christian blessed with a strong faith and instructed

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Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1  
Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30

about what the Mass really is, do you not have a greater responsibility to pray for peace than someone who is lukewarm or spiritually ignorant? And if we Catholics, who *could* pray in union with Jesus in the Mass, do not pray, and do not prevent wars by prayer, does not every man and woman, every invalid, aged person and child who is going to be bombed and burned to death in war have the right to rise up from the grave and say to us Catholics, “My blood is on your hands. If you had filled the churches and prayed for peace, I would not have died!”?

The threat of war is only one example. We live in cities where lives are being ruined by drug abuse; where lives are destroyed by murders every year; where there are terrible pockets of poverty and thousands of people who suffer from the even greater poverty of not knowing God, who are “unchurched.” We live in cities where there is still racial division, even without segregation; where there are old people not being visited, living in loneliness day after day. We live in a country in which thirty-seven percent of the girls and twenty percent of the boys now under eighteen either have been or will be sexually abused before their eighteenth birthday; a country in which two women a day die violently at the hands of their husbands. Since World War II our country has been militarily involved in more than one hundred countries; during that same time more than a quarter of a million people have died in wars. Does this not call for some kind of response—for some kind





of fervent, extreme response—from those who believe in God?

We all need to take stock of the gifts we have received from God: gifts of faith, gifts that can be used for Christian witness and ministry, the gift of knowing how to pray. And we need to ask what is required of us, what our responsibilities are in our times. If we take the gospel seriously, we have no choice about this.

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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### Thirty-Third Week of the Year

***Pray daily:** Lord, you have entrusted to me the treasure of your grace, your truth, your love for the world, your mission. Do not let me squander my life by letting my gifts go unused. Inspire me, act in me to bring about the peace and unity of your Kingdom on earth. Amen.*

**Monday:** Luke 18:35-43. A blind man was sitting by the roadside near Jericho, begging. After they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” How are you crying out to Jesus? Are you helping others by it?

**Tuesday:** Luke 19:1-10. “[Zaccheus] was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature.” What keeps you from seeing Jesus? What extraordinary things have you done to turn that obstacle into a blessing?

**Wednesday:** Luke 19:11-28. “I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.” What gifts do you have to use in God’s service? If you think you have none, how can you discover what they are?

**Thursday:** Luke 19:41-44. As Jesus drew near, he saw Jerusalem and wept over it, saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.” Is Jesus weeping over you?

**Friday:** Luke 19:45-48. Jesus entered the Temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things, saying, “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer’; / but you have made it a den of robbers.” What are you choosing to do that reveals your body as a house of prayer and temple of the Holy Spirit?

**Saturday:** Luke 20:27-40. “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed, they cannot die anymore...” What is important in a Christian marriage? What is unimportant? What difference does being married or not married make?

## LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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**As Christian:** At Baptism you “offered your body as a living sacrifice to God.” At the Offertory of the Mass, tell God again that wherever your body is, you will be sacrificed to doing God’s will and work.

**As Disciple:** Read Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:7-12. Write down what you perceive to be your gifts.

**As Prophet:** Pick out your greatest talent, what you most have to offer at work or for your family and friends. Ask how you can use that gift explicitly and consciously to promote the reign of God.

**As Priest:** Identify one gift God has given you and use it consciously to minister to someone each day this week.

**As King:** What is it that you and you alone can do for the reign of God because of your particular talents, your job, the special time and place where you are, the particular challenges you face or solutions you see? Assume your responsibility and act with faith, hope and love.

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