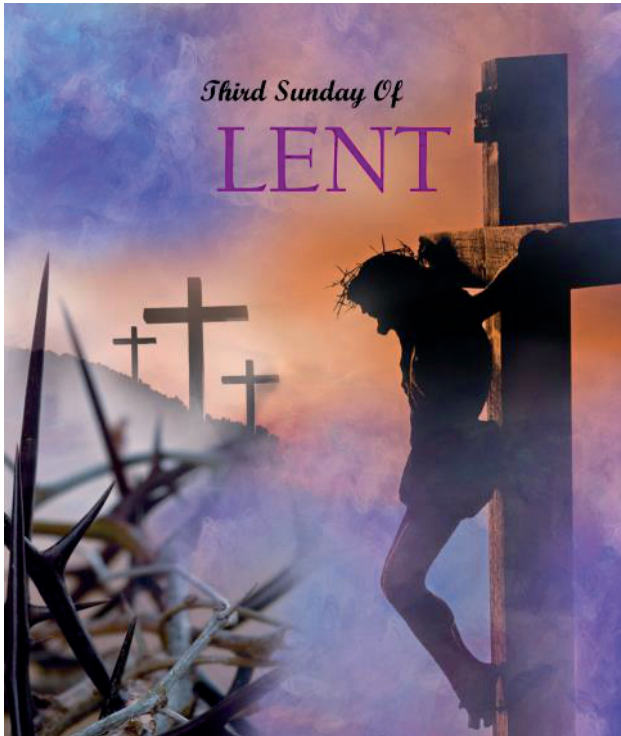


Saint Mary's Church

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

March 3, 2024 ~ The Third Sunday of Lent



Third Sunday Of
LENT

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:

Tuesdays: 2:00PM to 3:00PM ~ St. Mary

Wednesdays 2:00PM to 3:00PM ~ St. Michael

Thursdays: 2:00PM to 3:00PM ~ St. Mary

Fridays: 12:00PM to 1:00PM St. Michael

Saturdays: 3:30PM to 4:15PM ~ St. Mary

Sundays 3:30PM to 4:15PM ~ 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 / frmhodes@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 March 2

4:30PM † Winnie Spencer by M/M Tom Kline.....MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday March 3

8:30AM † Bobby Raczkiewicz by Pam RaczkiewiczMI
10:30AM † Rhonda Grabinski by M/M Dave Benedetti.....MA
4:30PM Our Parish FamilyMI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

Monday March 4 No Mass

Tuesday March 5

9:00AM † Agnes Schwartz by
Carol Umlor, Sandy Bistersky & Jim BisterskyMA
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM - St. Mary

Wednesday March 6 No Mass

Thursday March 7

9:00AM Our Parish FamilyMA

Friday March 8

9:00AM † Edna Schumaker by Ann CramerMI

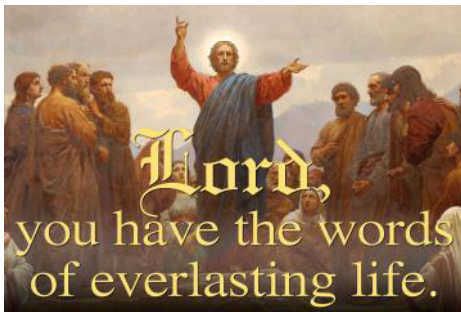
Saturday March 9

4:30PM † Winnie Spencer by M/M Jim Harlett.....MA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Mary

Sunday March 10

8:30AM † Anita Bouchard-Brown by M/M Kurt Bouchard.....MI
10:30AM † Deceased Members of Our Parish FamilyMA
4:30PM Our Parish FamilyMI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:30 PM—4:15 PM - St Michael

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



Scripture Readings For the Week of March 3, 2024

Sunday

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 or Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday

Sunday

Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Fourth Sunday of Lent

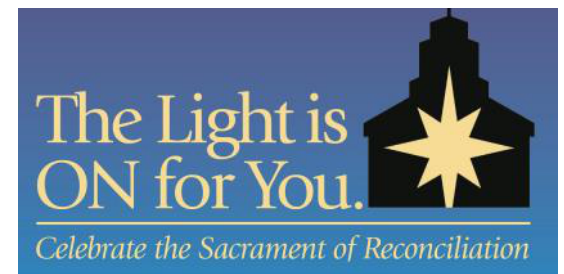
2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Mar 10 / 8:30 AM	Mar 10 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Adalyn Taylor Clare Taylor	NEED TWO
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom Jennifer DeMull Kenny Harker Zack Nelson Paul Schmidt Jennie Taylor Debbie Veneklase	Deacon Tom Andrew Bonter
Lector	Joe Meerman	Carol Reens
Sacristan	Chris Albrecht	NEED ONE
Ushers	Ed Irwin Wade Lindberg Jim Ponshair Curt DeVos	NEED TWO
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	March 9 - 4:30PM	March 10- 10:30AM
Sacristan	Vito Dolci	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Need Two Need Two	Ty Ricord Sela Ricord
Precious Body	Deacon Tom Angie Hanks Paul Madura	Deacon Tom Bruce Kamp Need One
Precious Blood	Mary Kirkwood Geary Farrell Breton Petrauskas Keith Anderson	Margie Jirous Becky Warners Janette Ney Need One
Hospitality	Matt Karr	Leonard Horter Nettie Leale Need Two
Lector	Nicolette Looks	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko



As we begin the season of Lent, the Diocese of Grand Rapids will once again offer a special opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

"The Light is ON for You:

An Evening of Penance" Thursday, March 14 5 - 8 p.m. in almost every parish of the diocese

Visit GRdiocese.org/penance for details

Wed, March 13 at St Michael 2PM- 5PM

Thurs, March 14 at St Mary from 5PM-8PM

Additional Opportunities for Confessions during Lent.

Tuesdays - 2PM-4PM - St Mary

Wednesdays - 2PM-4PM - St Michael

Saturdays - 3:30PM-4:15 - St Mary

Sundays - 3:30PM-4:15PM - St Michael

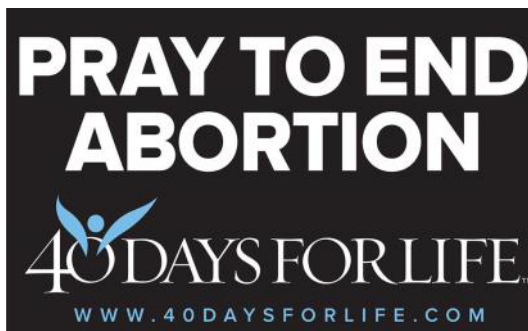
Cluster News and Community News and Events

40 Days for Life ~ March 8, 2024

Would you be willing to pray for one hour?

40 Days for Life is a unique pro-life effort that consists of 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil in front of abortion clinics. This will be the 29th campaign in Grand Rapids, and it will take place in front of Planned Parenthood- 425 Cherry Street SE Grand Rapids. This facility provides the abortion pill and refers for abortions. Dozens of area churches have adopted a day of prayer. **Our parish family has chosen Friday, March 8, 2024**

We need 2 prayer volunteers from 7 am till 7 pm throughout the day. This is a powerful and proven effective way to close abortion centers and show the Mother's that we are praying and thinking about them and their babies. Please consider a hour of your time~ If you are unable to attend that day you may go to the clinic and pray any time! Thank you for your commitment to LIFE!



Sensory Sensitive Easter Egg Hunt for Special Needs Families

This event is for families with special needs. individuals of any age to come and enjoy this fully inclusive and accessible event! Families will be given a fun, decorated indoor space to hunt for eggs without the overwhelming crowds. Eggs can then be turned in for a giant prize egg filled with goodies for the whole family! Snacks and drinks will be available, as well as a quiet area set aside with calming activities



Families are asked to RSVP by Tuesday, March 19

Priesthood Discernment Meetings

Discernment is a time of obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding. If you are considering the priesthood, the Diocese of Grand Rapids invites you to meet with other young men (ages 16+) to gather and discern God's will for your life. Meetings will take place from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Parish, 750 Gladstone Dr. S.E., East Grand Rapids and are offered on the **following Sundays in 2024: March 10, and April 21**. Just show up or email Pattie Reynolds, preynolds@grdiocese.org, to RSVP. Questions? Contact Father Stephen Durkee, director of priestly vocations, sdurkee@grdiocese.org

Fr Mike's Musings



Having promoted the Old Testament up to now we must admit that there is a progression from the Old to the New Testament whereby legalistic observance is superseded by new perception of the spirit of love which underlies the Law and must be the true yardstick of its application into our faith lives. Dei Verbum, the Second Vatican Council's "Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation", says the books of the Old Testament show us authentic divine teaching although they contain matters imperfect and provisional.

Jesus always confirmed the validity of the Ten Commandments but relativized the importance of the oral Jewish laws. The Jewish cleanliness rules are to be found in the book of Leviticus, those on clean and unclean food in Leviticus Chapter 11 are a good example of this relativization. In dramatic contrast to the cleanliness rules in Leviticus, Jesus in Mark 7:14-23 pronounced all foods to be clean. Contact with a corpse made one unclean according to Numbers 19:11-19 but Jesus took the dead daughter of Jairus by the hand (Luke 8:54 and Matthew Chapter 9). Jesus also took liberty with regard to the Sabbath laws by curing others and allowing His disciples to pick corn on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3.6 and Matthew Chapter 12 and Luke Chapter 6).

According to Leviticus Chapters 13-14 leprosy and skin diseases made one unclean but Jesus touched the lepers when healing them (Mark 1:40-45 and Matthew Chapter 8 and Luke Chapter 5). We do not see the laws about priests and sacrifices being observed in the New Testament, but the moral teaching of the Prophets is still considered valid. But most of the Old Testament does have a value on its own and should not be devalued merely because it is composed before the time of Jesus and the early Church.

If we never read the Old Testament we would miss out on a fine and edifying piece of literature. Most people, Christian and non-Christian alike, agree that the Book of Job is the finest reflection on the mystery of human suffering. There are some Old Testament passages which children especially love: think of how popular the musical "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is or the animated film "Prince of Egypt".

If you have not already found your favorite passages in the Old Testament, I hope you do during this course of re-reading the scriptures, and I hope you enjoy your reading of the Old Testament and that it strengthens you in your relationship with God. St. Augustine encapsulates the relationship between the Old and New Testaments with a beautiful analysis of the two: "The New is concealed in the Old Testament, the Old is revealed in the New." Christians trace their lineage from the Jews, and the Jews recorded their faith history in the Old Testament. To disregard the Old Testament is to disregard ourselves as a people of faith, rooted in the past that prefigures and guides us to our future destiny in and through Jesus Christ, the Lord.

Outdoor Stations of the Cross Friday, March 22 at 7PM

Join us on the Meditation Path at St Mary Church Grounds as we Pray The Stations of the Cross Friday, March 22 at 7PM .

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus Councils #11581 & #9909

(weather pending / incase of rain or snow prayer service will be moved inside the church)



March 3, 2024 ~ The 3rd Sunday of Lent

St. Mary's Parish News

St Mary Religious Education

Thanks again to all of the Religious Education students who participated in the "Live" Stations of the Cross. A big thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. Great job! More Pictures available here:



<https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/photoalbums/living-stations-of-the-cross-2024>

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

During 10:30AM Mass.

This is the Third Sunday in Lent. In today's Gospel Jesus is angry that the people have seemingly forgotten to respect the Temple of God. It is to be a place of honoring God without all the distractions. Jesus has come to rid everything that was keeping the people from God. Jesus wants us to eliminate the unimportant stuff in our lives. All the stuff or things that distract us and keep us from God.

Religious Education Classes

1st-7th Grade

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

Please join us on Wednesday, March 6 in the church at 6:30pm for Eucharistic Adoration. Come and spend time sitting in the presence of our Lord and Savior.

8th Grade -Confirmation Classes

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

Questions or comments:

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

Thank You Saint Mary Parish Family

A special thank you to Father Mike Hodges and Deacon Tom Roberts for all of the support during Agnes' illness and passing. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the funeral mass. It was beautiful. The luncheon crew put on a very nice luncheon. Thank you everyone during this hard time. Leon F. Schwartz



Knights of Columbus #11581 News

CALLING ALL ADULT MALE PARISHIONERS:

The **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** would like to have you as a member of their council. Do you think you're too busy to join? Your time commitments includes church activities that you may already be supporting, such as Choir, Hospitality ministry, Eucharistic ministry, etc. Just keep doing the things you are already doing, nothing more. **Being a Knight should compliment your life, not complicate it.** Get involved only when you have time. If you are bust, that's OK.

Just being a member is helpful and shows your support. Ask a Knight to sign up or do it online at KofC.org / RobRander82@gmail.com / 616.283.7483

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHT

We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors and role models and to put charity and community first. **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 - March 7 at 7PM at the Parish Hall.

SAVE THE DATE! Next Blood Drive & Donuts - June 2, 2024



Meal Train for Fr Mike

Scheduling now for March & April 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> **Thank you to everyone that has dropped off a meal to Fr Mike. He appreciates your thoughtfulness and generosity.**

Giving Back to God Time, Talent & Treasure

Attendance at Mass:	Feb 24/25
Feb 24/4:30PM:84 Feb 25/10:30AM:152	
Adult Contributions	\$3090.00
Children Contributions	\$13.00
Loose Contributions	\$134.00
Capital Improvement	\$335.00
Online Giving	\$1130.00
Total	\$4702.00
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5680.27
Budget vs Actual to Date (since July 1)	+6095.36

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week

PUTT PUTTS BAR

The Fischer Family ~ 616.774.9129 ~ 1148 W Fulton

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!



March 16, 2024 at 5:30PM

An Evening of Food and Fellowship ~ ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Soup Super tradition is of gathering to pray and share a simple meal during Lent. At this meal we share by placing our abundance in a common pot, eating less ourselves, and bringing the surplus to those in need.

This year, we will enjoy two simple soups and bread. And there will be a "pot" at the door for contributions to the Saint Mary Parish Christian Service Fund (Poor Box).

PLEASE RSVP by March 10

Sign Up form is available in the Narthex or call Cathie at the parish office 677.3934.

Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7PM During Lent

Mar 8 - Led by Gary Karr

Mar 15 -Led by Pastoral Council

Mar 22 - Led by Knights of Columbus Coun-

cils #1158 & #9909 at the Outdoor Meditation Path

We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by Your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



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 11 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$107.55.

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 \$44,875 (or 75.70%) toward our goal. We still have \$14,405.00 to go to reach this goal. If you haven't already contributed, please consider doing so soon. Any remaining balance at the end of the campaign will come out of our general operating funds. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.

St. Michael's Parish Family

Remembers in Their Prayers: Kevin Johnson, Anne Pols, Alexandria Gordon, George Langlois, Brooke Campbell, Linda Abel-Carroll, Jackie May, Dennis Goosen, Jean Mayse, Ken Heflin, Payton Patterson, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

St. Michael's Ladies' Tea Party —

For women of all ages. This is a free event. Saturday, April 13 10:30-12:30pm in the Family Center. Come for brunch, entertainment and some Spiritual tea. Seating is limited. Pre-registration is required no later than April 5. Contact the parish office to register.



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 reacts angrily to those who have given in to greed and made his father's house a marketplace. Church is a sacred place designated to worshipping the one true God.



Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:15- 7:30 pm.

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.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Paula Raczkiewicz
by Pam Raczkiewicz

Knights of Columbus News

St. Michael's Knights of Columbus is pleased to announce that we will be filling 100 Easter baskets for Coopersville Cares and needy families. We will fill baskets on Sunday, March 17 following the 8:30 Mass. We currently have plenty of Easter baskets, and small stuffed animals. Candy and other "fillers" would be nice. Please put them in the Easter Bunny Basket in the glass hallway. Candy must be packaged and individually wrapped.



One of the neat things about "Bunny Business" is having young children from our parish to help fill the baskets. They have a sense of "helping others" by providing Easter baskets to needy children. Adults to help and walk through with the children will be needed as well as workers to bag, tie, and deliver the baskets to Coopersville Cares.

Giving Back to God

February 25, 2024

Adult Envelopes	\$8,503.00
Loose Cash	\$173.00
Children's Envelopes	\$20.50
Total	\$8,696.50
Endowment Fund	\$20.00

Thank you for your continued support!

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. **There will be an Open House on Tuesday, March 12, from 6-7 PM.**



March 3, 2024 ~ The 3rd Sunday of Lent

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

LIVING GOD'S WORD

DAVID M.
KNIGHT

The Anger of Jesus

When Jesus drove the hucksters and money-changers out of the temple, was this the same Jesus who extended the commandment “You shall not kill” to forbid even anger, insults, and interior contempt for others (see Matthew 5:21-26)? Is the Jesus whom we see knocking over tables and driving out animals with a whip the same Jesus who said, “turn the other cheek” and “love your enemies” (Matthew 5:38-48)?

Actually, what Jesus gives us here is an example of how to live out his teaching on anger. As one of the “capital sins,” anger is a source of much evil. But this means abiding, chronic and usually unacknowledged anger which distorts our attitudes and infects our behavior. This happens when we let our anger “grow” in us. In itself, however, anger is just a natural reaction that is part of the human nature God created. There is no fault at all in feeling angry, any more than in feeling hungry or cold or scared. Like every emotion, anger can be put to good uses or bad. In today’s Gospel Jesus shows us how to use anger as an expression of love.

Love seeks union of mind and heart. Love works through communication. Expressing anger can say to another how strongly one feels about something—even about that person. What father who appreciates how beautiful his daughter is could hear her use ugly words and not get angry? Anger that is a revelation of one’s own heart for the sake of evoking a beautiful response from another’s heart is love. Anger which just tries to silence—or to kill—another is not. Anger can energize us, bring us to life and empower us to act. If the expression of our anger brings others to life in a good way, and aims at this, it is love.

To act out of anger in a way that kills something in another which could have blossomed into life is bad.

*If the expression of our
anger brings others to life,
it is love*

MARCH 3, 2024

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 20:1-17; I Corinthians 1:22-25;
John 2:13-25

Jesus’ anger in the temple showed how much he cared about people, and it was directed to bringing about a change of heart in those to whom he expressed it. Jesus did not insult the merchants. By quoting Scripture to them he acknowledged their faith and the bond he had with them as fellow Jews (see Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17). By saying they had turned God’s house into a

“den of thieves” he was not saying they were bad people but reminding them of how good they were called to be. When a mother tells her son his room “looks like a pigpen” she is saying precisely that he is not a pig and should not live like one. By expressing the anger he felt, Jesus was trying to show people what they were doing and how bad it was, so that they would change.

Jesus did no violence, either to persons or property. He knocked over tables full of money—which would not break. He picked up some pieces of rope and used them to drive out animals. He told the dove sellers to take their birds outside, but he did not release the doves to fly away. The violent expression of his feelings was for the sake of communication; it was not violence directed against



anyone.

Jesus tried by his gesture in the temple to bring his enemies to truth, as he taught in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5:24-25). It was not going to work, and when it didn't, he did not fight but let them "destroy the temple" of his body on the cross (see John 2:18-22). Jesus did not use anger to destroy others, but in the hope of bringing others to life, even when he knew it would lead to his own death.

Jesus was not a man who stood meekly by and let evil go unchallenged. He did not use violence to overcome evil, but he did take forceful measures against it. What he used above all was the testimony of the truth, to which he gave force through the passionate expression of his own feelings. The gentleness and respectful love of enemies he teaches is not an excuse to stand by and do nothing about evil. It is a call to risk speaking the truth and even to accept our death in an effort to bring people together in unity, love and peace.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Third Week of the Lent

***Pray daily:** Lord, teach me to put aside all anger except that which comes from love. And teach me to use anger to affirm others' value, never to insult them.*

Monday: Luke 4:24-30. "There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." Read Naaman's story in 2 Kings, chapter 5. How did the slave girl help him? Whom could you help in the same way?

Tuesday: Matthew 18:21-35. "The servant who had been forgiven a huge debt found one of his fellow servants, who owed him a very small amount. He started to choke the man, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.'" Are you more likely to seek out and deal with people who owe you (or have wronged you), or to notice and take care of those whom you can help?

Wednesday: Matthew 5:17-19. "Whoever does [the least of the commandments] and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Is your focus

as a Christian just to keep God's law yourself—or to help others keep it? How can you "teach" others?

Thursday: Luke 11:14-23. "Whoever does not gather with me scatters." Is it the person of Jesus that you try to bring people into contact with? Or do you just talk about "religion" and "the Church"? What is (and is not) the difference?

Friday: Mark 12:28-34. "The second [commandment] is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" If you left the Church, how would you want others to "seek you out"? Do you welcome others' efforts to involve you more in your parish? Why?

Saturday: Luke 18:9-14. "The Pharisee prayed, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.'" When you see others' faults, are you more likely to judge and condemn them or to try to help and heal them? Is your basic attitude that of a judge or a minister of Christ's healing love?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Each time you get angry, ask how you can respond to the situation in a way that shows you are aware that Jesus, not you, is the Savior of the world.

As Disciple: List the three things that make you angry most often. Opposite each, list the value that you are trying to defend with your anger. Ask if there is a better way to defend it.

As Prophet: Each time you get angry or show impatience, do something loving for someone immediately afterwards (not necessarily the same person who made you angry).

As Priest: Each day go out of your way to do something loving for someone who has made you angry recently or frequently does so.

As King: See if you can change or remove one thing that irritates people or makes them angry where you live or work.

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