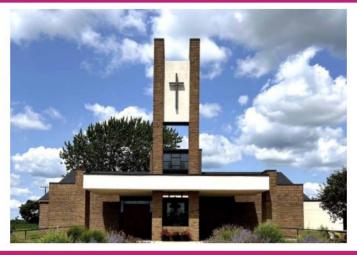
# St. Mary



# St. Michael

15164 Juniper Dr., Marne MI 49435 616.677.3934 • www.saintmarysmarne.org 17150 88th Ave., Coopersville, MI 49404 616.384.4026 • www.saintmichaels.us





### Pastor: Rev. Michael Hodges

frmhodges@grpriests.org • For emergencies please call: 616.745.1409

#### **Saint Mary Parish Staff**

St. Mary Parish Office Hours
Monday.......9:00AM - 4:30PM
Tuesday.....9:00AM - 4:30PM
Wednesday 9:00AM - 11:30AM
Thursday....9:00AM to 4:30PM
Friday......Closed

#### Deacon

Tom Roberts troberts@saintmarysmarne.org

#### **Business Manager**

Todd Kline businessmanager@ saintmarysmarne.org

#### **Parish Secretary**

Cathie VanGessel secretary@saintmarysmarne.org

#### **Director of Faith Formation**

Debbie Veneklase dre@saintmarysmarne.org

#### Director of O.C.I.A Adult Bible Study

Jill Brown

#### Maintenance

Jim Looks

#### Custodian

Marian Looks

#### **Liturgical Minister**

Gary Karr

gkarr@saintmarysmarne.org

#### **Music Director**

Dr. Bernie Stanko 616.490.3836 berniestanko@hotmail.com

#### St Mary Prayer Line

616.677.3934 or Linda at 677.3269 For evening requests call Darlene 616.453.0157 or email bfa1414@yahoo.com

#### Saint Michael Parish Staff

St. Michael Office Hours Monday ...... 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Tuesday ....... 9:00AM - 4:00PM Wednesday... 9:00AM - 4:00PM Thursday.....Closed

Friday...... 9:00AM to 4:00PM

#### Deacon

Tom Roberts troberts@saintmarysmarne.org

#### **Business Manager**

Todd Kline

bsmgr@saintmichaels.us

#### **Parish Secretary**

Beki Rotman secretary@saintmichaels.us

#### **Director of Faith Formation**

Debbie Veneklase childrensministry@saintmichaels.us

#### Director of O.C.I.A

Cliff Kozminski 616.437.5318

#### Maintenance

David Goosen

#### Custodian

Carol Reens

#### Liturgical Minister

Kevin Kilpatrick liturgy@saintmichaels.us

#### **Scrip Coordinator**

Brenda Kilpatrick 616.837.6363

#### St Michael

**Prayer Line**Chris Albrecht

616-403-7110

Judy Driedger 616-899-2470

#### **Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday	4:00PM	•	St	Michael
Saturday	6:00PI	M	•	St Mary
Sunday	8:30AM	•	St	Michael
Sunday	10:30Al	M	•	St Mary

#### **Weekday Mass Schedule**

Tuesday	12:00PM • St Ma	ry
Adoration begins	after Mass until 3:30PN	1
Wednesday	12:00PM • St Micha	el
Adoration begins of	after Mass until 3:30PN	1
Thursday	12:00PM • St Ma	ry
Friday	12:00PM • St Micha	iel

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Tuesday and
Thursday ..........12:30PM to 1:30PM ● St. Mary
Wednesday and
Friday ........12:30PM to 1:30PM ● St. Michael

## Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday March 4:00PM 6:00PM	† David Balkon by the Kilpatrick Family
Sunday March 8:30AM 10:30AM	† Anita Bouchard-Brown by M/M Kurt Bouchard MI † Kenneth Brouwer by M/M Larry Antcliff
Monday March 3	I No Mass
Tuesday April I 12:00M	Our Parish Family
Wednesday Apr 12:00PM	† Earl & MaryAnn Meerman by Gary & Diane Klein MI Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael
Thursday April	3
12:00M	† Kathleen Sobie by Roseanne LynchMA Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary
Friday April 4 12:00PM	† Frankie Holmes by Larry & Diane VanDussen MI Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael
Saturday April !	5
4:00PM 6:00PM	† Felix & Catherine Styburski by the Styburski Family MI † Agnes Schwartz by Leon SchwartzMA Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael
Sunday 8:30AM 10:30AM	† Jamie Thomas by John & Denise Anderson



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

### Scripture Readings for the Week of March 30, 2025

Sunday	F	ourth	Su	nda	ay	ot	L	ent	:

Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3,

11-32

Scrutiny Readings: I Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5,

6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

MondayIs 65:17-21; Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; Jn 4:43-54TuesdayEz 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3,5-6, 8-9; Ps 51:12a, 14a; Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday** Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30 **Thursday** Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn 5:31-47

**Friday** Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25

-30

**Saturday** Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53

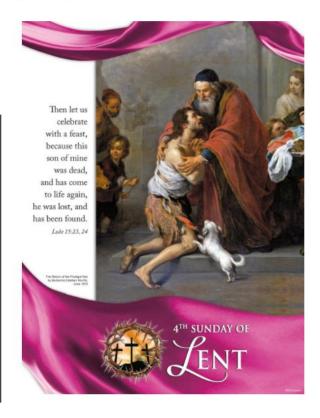
Sunday Fifth Sunday of Lent

Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11 Scrutiny Readings: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rom

8:8-11; |n 11:1-45 or |n 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers				
	April 5—4:00PM	April 6—8:30AM		
Altar Servers	NEED TWO	Reid Lindberg Bryson Lindberg		
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom NEED ONE	Deacon Tom Sharon Carlson Joe Hitchings Chris Albrecht Kenny Harker Greg Helsen Denise Nelson		
Lector	Sue DeVos	Cindy Lindberg		
Sacristan	Jane Vitunskas	Jane Vitunskas		
Ushers	NEED TWO	Ed Irwin Curt DeVos Wade Lindberg Peter Nielsen		
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley		

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers					
	April 5—6:00PM	April 6—10:30AM			
Sacristan	Vito Dolci	Need			
Altar Servers	Need	Ty Ricord Sela Ricord			
Precious Body	Deacon Tom	Deacon Tom Margie Jirous Bruce Kamp			
Precious Blood	Mary Kirkwood Rhonda Boersma	Becky Warners Need Three			
Hospitality	Need	Nettie Leale Leonard Horter			
Lector	Doug Frantz	John Klein			
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko			



## **Cluster News and Community News and Events**





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#### Fr Mike's Musings

"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,
that he was born blind?"
Jesus answered,
"Neither he nor his parents sinned;
it is so that the works of God might be made visible through
him."



The poor blind man had a tough life before he met Jesus. Not only was he blind, but he also had to deal with a society that was blind in many ways though it did not know it was blind. That blindness of society was the bias and prejudice towards him simply because of his handicap. Jesus' disciples asked who sinned, the blind man or his parents that he was born blind. Even after he had his sight restored, the Pharisees said he was totally born in sin. The blind man's eyes could see the light for the first time, but the Pharisees were in the darkness of prejudice. The blind man had been enlightened by Jesus, but the Pharisees remained blind in their ignorance.

Jesus healed this man during a Jewish festival called 'Tabernacles'. During this feast, four giant candelabras were lit in a courtyard of the Temple in Jerusalem remembering the flame of fire that guided the Hebrews by night in the desert from Egypt to Canaan. It is said those candelabras were so big that they lit up the whole of Jerusalem. During the festival, with their special light every evening, Jesus cured the blind man, giving him the ability to see the light. Twice before curing him, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." The giant candelabras lit up Jerusalem every evening, but Jesus said that He is the light of the whole world. The light their giant candelabras gave was nothing compared to the light Jesus gives—to the blind man and to those who accept Him into their lives.

There are all sorts of lights around us demanding attention, telling us they have something we want or need or that they are the answer for us. But just as the giant candelabras in Jerusalem were nothing compared to Jesus, all the lights around us are nothing compared to Him. Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus is the answer. We all need more of the light of Jesus. We all need Jesus to open our eyes more, to let more of his light into our lives, to help us see more as he sees. It is not a big secret how we can receive this divine light. Pray more. Pray as much as possible every day. Prayer brings us in contact with Jesus and allows His light to shine on us and guide our way to His Kingdom.

#### **Rooted in Christ - Next Steps Meeting**

Please join Fr. Mike for a parish cluster meeting regarding the next steps in the "Rooted in Christ" pastoral planning process. Parishioners are asked to meet in the **St Michael Family Center on Wednesday, April 9 at 6:00 PM,** where Fr. Mike can inform the parish of the results of the study conducted and answer questions. Rooted in Christ information:

Meeting Notice

https://grdiocese.org/rooted-in-christ/

#### Please Pray for our Engaged Couple

#### Sam Felicioni and Lindsay Ebling

June 14, 2025 (St Michael)

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



#### St. Mary's Parish News

#### **St Mary Faith Formation**

#### Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW): Pre-School thru 2nd Grade During 10:30 AM Mass.

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Father Mike is using the Scrutiny reading from year A.

Jesus heals a man born blind, demonstrating God's power and the importance of faith, while also highlighting the blindness of the Pharisees who reject Jesus and his teachings

Ist-7th Grade Faith Formation Classes - Wednesdays at Hall / 6:00- 7:30pm 8th Grade - Confirmation Classes - Wednesdays at Hall / 6:00- 7:30pm

Please keep our eight grade Confirmation students in your prayers as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation today Sunday, March 30 at The Cathedral of St. Andrew's at 3pm Mass: Noah, Mason, Alivia, Aaron, Amelia, Benjamin, Brian, Kaitlyn, Casey and Katy.

#### Questions

Please contact Debbie Veneklase at

dre@saintmarysmarne.org or 616.677.3934



## Stations of the Cross - Fridays at 6PM

April 4 - Led by Our Lady of Fatima Guild April II - Knights of Columbus Councils #11581 & #9909 at the Outdoor

Meditation Path

Stay for the Soup Supper in the Parish Hall following Stations.. Please RSVP at the Parish Office by April 4.

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



#### Spring Clean Up - April 5, 9AM-12PM

The Knights of Columbus #11581 and The Our Lady of Fatima Guild are planning a Spring Cleaning Day. They will be working on cleaning the inside of the church and the outside church grounds clean up.

Please save the date and help! All Ages Welcome. Many hands make light

work. Bring cleaning rags, brooms, rakes, gardening tools. Thank you in advance for helping keep our church and church grounds beautiful.



#### The Light is On For You, an Evening of Penance

#### **Individual Confessions -**

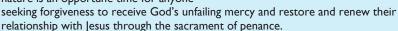
Wed, April 2 -12:30- 1:30PM at St Michael

Thursday, April 3 - 5:00-8PM at St Mary

#### Experience Christ's healing love in the sacrament of reconciliation

"God knows our struggles. He knows that we often fail. Yet His love never fails. No matter how many times we stumble, we find Him ready to receive us again. In the sacrament of penance, we encounter a God who does not simply wait for us but rushes out to meet us. This is the beauty of the sacrament." — Bishop Walkowiak

The season of Lent by its penitential nature is an opportune time for anyone



During The Light is ON For You, Thursday, April 3, individual confession will be available in most of our churches from 5 – 8 p.m.

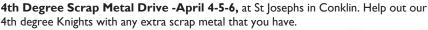
View Participating Parishes: https://grdiocese.org/penance/

#### **Knights of Columbus #11581 News**

How to become a Knight: You can enroll in the Knights of Columbus immediately as an "Online Member" by scanning the QR Code. Once you complete and submit the form on that page a local council will contact you. For additional Information or to learn more about what the Knights do, Contact Grand Knight: Bruce Kamp

b.kamp@charter.net / Phone 616-780-4941

4th Degree Scrap Metal Drive - April 4-5-6, at St Joseph



#### Tootsie Roll Drive- April 12/13.

Get a Tootsie Roll, for a donation to help us support Special Olympics.

Also, there will be Knights in the back of church after Mass to sigh up anyone who would like to join our Council.

Upcoming COR Dates: April 12, 26 - 7AM

**Upcoming Blood drives: June 8 & October 12, 2025.** 

Pre-Register here:

June 8 https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\_schedule/11598499

Oct 12 <a href="https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/">https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/</a>

## √versiti<sup>-</sup>

Tootsie

#### **Vacation Bible School**

July 6-10, 2025- The Great Journey with Jesus

Watch for more details.



Giving Back to Goo		
Mass: Attendance 3/22-6:00PM: 46		
Mass: Attendance 3/23 10:30AM: 155		
Adult Contributions	\$610.00	
Children Contributions	\$23.45	
Loose Contributions	\$279.00	
Capital Improvement	\$10.00	
Online Giving	\$465.00	
Total	\$3925.90	
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$6400.53	
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	\$-5999.02	

Thank you for your continued support and generosity! To donate now, open your phone camera, scan the QR code and follow instructions.



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

#### St. Michael's Parish News

## **Scrip News**—

Scrip totals will be updated next week.





## 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, Marvin Hecksel, Payton Patterson, Pat Harlett, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

### St. Michael's Ladies' Tea Party —

A big thank you for everyone who donated and all of the wonderful who help to make this possible!



## St. Michael's Faith Formation

Children's Liturgy of the Word: program is offered on Sunday during 8:30 Masses. 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 chil-



dren understand the importance of preparing our mind and heart for the Gospel reading. In today's Gospel Jesus and his friends were walking when they saw a man who couldn't see since he was born. Jesus' friends wondered if the man was blind because he or his parents had done something wrong. Jesus said it wasn't because of anyone's fault, but that God wanted to show his power through this man's healing.

Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 pm. Our program ends on Wednesday, April 2nd with an End-of-the-Year Celebration for all students and their families. Parents and siblings are asked to join us at 6:00 pm in the church. There will be an Ice cream social immediately following. Let us end the school year, with faith, fun and fellowship! Please pray for our First Communicants as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion: Quincy, Jase, Annette, Johnathan, Jayden and Kenten.

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. Please pray for our Confirmation students and their catechists as they continue to prepare them for the Sacrament of Confirmation: Lucas, William, Braden, Peyton, Sean, Alayna, Cole, Lainey and Celia. May the Holy Spirit strengthen and guide them throughout their preparation and fill them with joy. Confirmation is on Sunday, March 30, 2025 at the Cathedral of St. Andrew. Mass is at 3:00pm.



## St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Sherry Maslowski by the Maslowski Family

## **Knights of Columbus News**

**Fish Fry Dinners!** Every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) — **5:30-7:00 PM.** Come to Stations of the Cross at 6 PM and then enjoy a fish dinner! Gluten-free baked cod, deep-fried cod, tater tots, jalapeno poppers, fries, coleslaw, green beans, grilled cheese, and dessert. Adults: \$13, Ages 6-10: \$6, Under 6: free

Bunny Business — We will be filling 100 Easter baskets for Coopersville Cares to offer to needy families of the area next Sunday, April 6, following the 8:30 Mass. If you are donating any items to the Bunny Business, please put them in the basket in the glass hallway NO LATER THAN today. There is also a container for donations if you would prefer that, and we will do the shopping. Adults to help with the children will be needed as well as workers to bag, tie and deliver the baskets to Coopersville Cares.

**Easter Choir** — Anyone interested in singing in the Easter Choir this year, should contact Craig Bleckley in person or at bleckleyc@gmail.com. Practices will be Sundays, April 6 and 13, in the church, at 6:30 PM.

Giving Back to God			
March 22/23 2025			
Mass: Attendance 3/15-4:00PM:	66		
Mass: Attendance 3/16 8:30AM:	192		
Adult Envelopes	\$17,417.00		
Loose Cash	\$230.00		
Children's Envelopes	\$17.00		
Total	\$17,664.00		
Building Fund	\$20.00		
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$4,383.58		
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual	+\$4,505.00		
Thank you for your continued support!			

#### Online Giving —

Now there's an even more convenient way to contribute to St. Michael's! To donate now, open your phone camera, scan the QR code and follow instruc-



tions. Or text the word GIVE to: 616-384-5011.



## Conversion: When Is It Real?

Hardly one among us does not know someone who has had a "conversion experience." Sometimes the conversion is to another religion. We see Catholics converting to fundamentalist churches or to some "non-denominational" church (no church is non-denominational; some are just undefined) in which enthusiasm replaces theology and the popularity of the preacher dispenses with any historical connection with Jesus.

Sometimes conversion is to a different way of living one's own religion, or to a significantly different level of spiritual awareness and activity. We see this happening frequently in youth who have made powerful retreats or adults who have made the Cursillo weekend. We see it in members of charismatic prayer groups.

Sometimes the conversion is away from Christianity itself, to one of the ancient "pagan" religions such as Buddhism or Hinduism. Sometimes it is away from God and religion entirely: a conversion to agnosticism or atheism.

Some conversions last a few days or weeks. Others are for a lifetime.

Whatever the conversion is to or from, we live in an age of it. And it makes us ask when a conversion or "conversion experience" is authentic. Can there be a real conversion which is nevertheless incomplete, or lacking some element which is needed for the conversion to be authentically Christian?

In the story of the Prodigal Son, Jesus himself shows us what authentic conversion involves.

Conversion is an active choice ("I will return...") which is conscious and aware ("Coming to his senses...") and expressed in action ("With that he set off..."). An authentic conversion to Christ is radical: it goes to the roots of our attitudes and values, and is, in fact, an act of emancipation from every human culture or value system ("I will break away..."). It can, however, be a

MARCH 30, 2025

## 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Joshua 5:9, 10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-32

gradual process ("he set off..." and "While he was still a long way off...").

Christian conversion is expressed in a confession of sin ("Father, I have sinned..."). But to be truly Christian, it must be a conversion, not just to good human behavior, but to a whole new level of life: the divine life of grace ("was dead and has come back to life").

An explicitly Christian conversion must in some way be motivated by the event of Christ's coming into this world. This is suggested in the parable by the words, "he was lost, and is found." In the story, the Prodigal was not found; he just came home. But in reality, every sinner is sought out and brought to God by Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Likewise, a truly Christian conversion must be inspired by faith in Jesus. This can be only implicit: that is, a faith that is not conscious of Jesus as such, but which does not make sense without him. In the story, the Prodigal returns to his "Father." In reality, however, no one can legitimately believe in God as "Father" except those who know him through faith in Jesus the Son; and are "sons in the Son," made members of Jesus, the "only Son" of God, by Baptism.

Lent is a good time for us to ask about conversion not only because the season is an invitation to "repentance"; that is, to a "change of heart," but also because during Lent the Church gives special attention to those preparing for Baptism. It is a time for all of us to reflect



on the conversion which our own Baptism expressed, and to ask if we are still expressing it in action as a conscious, radical choice to live on the level of God in response to the coming of Jesus Christ into our lives.

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

#### Fourth Week of Lent

**Pray daily:** Father, I believe that "eternal life is this, to know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ." Give me the grace to be loyal in loving and living your word. Amen.

Monday: John 4:43-54: Jesus said, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." Are you conscious of believing in Jesus by a free choice? Have you given your word to him firmly? Do you need new and miraculous events to motivate you to live out what you believe?

**Tuesday:** John 5:1-3, 5-16: The sick man answered Jesus, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." Are you lying around waiting for a miracle while Jesus is saying to you, "Get up and walk!"?

Wednesday: John 5:17-30: Jesus said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life." How often do you make a conscious act of faith in the words of Jesus that you hear? Do you do this in response to the Scripture read at Mass? To all the words of the Eucharistic liturgy? To the words of absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

**Thursday:** John 5:31-47: Jesus said, "The works that the Father gave me to accomplish, these works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. Moreover, the Father who sent me has testified on

my behalf." Do you know enough about Jesus to convince you intellectually that he was sent from God? Do the works Jesus does in the Church convince you? Have you recognized the testimony to Jesus that God himself is giving you in your heart?

**Friday:** John 7:1-2; 10, 25-30: Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching and said, "You know me and also know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true. And you do not know him." Can you truly say you know Jesus? Is it also true that you can never know him in this life as you desire? What are you doing to know him better?

**Saturday:** John 7:40-53: "There was division in the crowd because of Jesus. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him." Are the people you know or work with ambivalent in their attitude toward Jesus? Do they accept him and not accept him at the same time? What about you? Do you accept him absolutely and unconditionally as the only Savior of the world and only authentic Teacher of life?

## SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR LENT

**Prayer:** Recite the Profession of Faith or Apostles' Creed each day this week. Consciously make an act of faith in everything you say.

**Fasting:** Look around your house to see if anything you have, wear or use implicitly denies your faith in Jesus Christ and his values. Abstain from it during Lent—and then get rid of it.

**Almsgiving:** Pope John Paul II teaches that "moderation and simplicity ought to become the criteria of our daily lives" (World Day of Peace address, 1993). Take time during Lent to simplify your lifestyle, trim down your possessions, and give what you renounce to the poor.

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