

June 8, 2025 • Pentecost Sunday

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

frmhodes@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

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Business Manager

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Director of O.C.I.A.

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Jill Brown

Maintenance

Jim Looks

Custodian

Marian Looks

Liturgical Minister

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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

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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
Sunday 8:30AM • St Michael
Sunday 10:30AM • St Mary

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday 12:00PM • St Mary
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30PM
Wednesday 12:00PM • St Michael
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30PM
Thursday 12:00PM • St Mary
Friday 12:00PM • St Michael

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday and Thursday 12:30PM to 1:30PM • St. Mary
Wednesday and Friday 12:30PM to 1:30PM • St. Michael
Saturday 3:00PM to 3:45PM • St. Michael

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday June 7

4:00PM † Dave Balkon by the Kilpatrick Family.....MI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday June 8

8:30AM Our Parish Family.....MI
10:30AM † Robert Karr Jr. by M/M Gary KarrMA

Monday June 9 No Mass

Tuesday June 10

12:00M Our Parish FamilyMA
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

Wednesday June 11

12:00PM † Brian Langlois by the Langlois Family.....MI
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

Thursday June 12

12:00M † Kathleen Sobie by M/M Leon BrechtingMA
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

Friday June 13

12:00PM † Bob VanDragt by Chris Albrecht.....MI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

Saturday June 14

4:00PM † Sherry Maslowski by Greg & Susan GriffithMI
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday June 15

8:30AM † Sherman Hecksel by Ruth HeckselMI
10:30AM † For all Fathers of the ParishMA

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



Scripture Readings for the Week of June 8, 2025

Sunday	Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26
Monday	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church Gen 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7; Jn 19:25-34
Tuesday	2 Cor 1:18-22; Ps 119:129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135; Mt 5:13-16
Wednesday	Memorial of Saint Barnabas, Apostle Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday	2 Cor 3:15-4:1, 3-6; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 5:20-26
Friday	Memorial of Saint Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 116:10-11, 15-16, 17-18; Mt 5:27-32
Saturday	2 Cor 5:14-21; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Mt 5:33-37
Sunday	Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Prov 8:22-31; Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	June 14 —4:00PM	June 15 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt McKaelyn Britt	Kenzie Harker Melena Lindberg
Eucharistic Ministers	Veronica Schumaker NEED ONE	Deacon Tom Debbie Veneklas Kenny Harker Sharon Carlson Mary Guilbault Rob Guilbault Zack Nelson
Lector	Kevin Schumaker	Joe Meerman
Sacristan	Cindy Bleckley	Chris Albrecht
Ushers	NEED TWO	Curt DeVos Calvin Lindberg Ed Irwin Peter Nielsen
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	June 15 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Need
Altar Servers	Lauren LeMieux Peter Lothschutz
Precious Body	Margie Jirous Need Two
Precious Blood	Geary Farrell Bruce Kamp Christina Withers Need One
Hospitality	Nettie Leale Leonard Horter
Lector	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko

Happy 70th Birthday Deacon Tom June 8

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



Cluster News and Community News and Events

Catholic Service Appeal - 2025

Thank you for your gifts to 2025 Catholic Services Appeal! Your generous support funds essential diocesan ministries that strengthen us in Christ. Every gift, regardless of the amount, is important in this effort. Our parish goal for 2025 is:
Thank you for your stewardship!

St Mary

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$50,516.00

Total Pledges Made: \$28,785.00 (57%)

Balance: \$21,731.00

Participation: 61 of 260 Active - Households (24%)

St Michael

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$52,297.00

Total Pledges Made: \$20,170.00 (39%)

Balance: \$32,127.00

Participation: 50 of 255 - Active Households (20%)

Totals as of June 3, 2025

Please keep in mind that any amount raised over our goal is returned 100% to the parish. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.

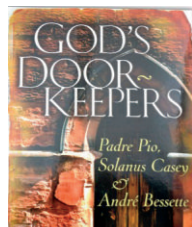


St Mary - St Michael Women's Book Club

Coming Soon! A women's book club!

All Ladies of St Mary and St Michael are welcome! Beginning **Thursday, June 19, 10 - 11:30AM** in the St Mary Community Room.

First book we will read is **God's Door-Keepers**, by Joel Schorn, a short book that tells the stories of Padre Pio, Solanus Casey and Andre Bessette who were all humble men obedient to God and who are becoming more and more well known because of their healing and compassionate ministries. Andre and Solanus were gatekeepers in that they literally stood and opened the doors at their monasteries while Padre Pio opened the doors of the confessional and there led people to healing relationships with God. All three were humble men giving their lives to God and thus opening the way for God to work through them. For More Info please contact Mary Guilbault 810.397.4461 **Please purchase the book and bring it to our 1st session on June 19.**



Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

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THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING OUR
BULLETIN!



Fr Mike's Musings



The Apostles returned to Jerusalem after Jesus' ascension and gathered in the 'Upper Room' where Jesus had celebrated the Last Supper. This was the very same room where Jesus appeared to the Apostles on Easter Sunday evening. John tells us in his Gospel that they had the doors locked on Easter Sunday because they were afraid. They locked themselves in because they were terrified. They may have been thinking that what happened to Jesus might happen to them next. Now, waiting in prayer after Jesus' Ascension, the Apostles were joined in prayer by Mary the mother of Jesus, and other disciples.

What happened at Pentecost? After receiving the Holy Spirit, the Apostles left the 'Upper Room' and began preaching. When we continue reading "Acts" we see Peter preaching about Jesus at Pentecost after receiving the Holy Spirit. As a result of Peter's preaching, we read that three thousand people asked to be baptized.

Look at the transformation in Peter because of receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. When Jesus was being questioned before the Sanhedrin, Peter denied Jesus, and out of all the Apostles only John went to the Cross. But now, because of receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter has been transformed. He is not afraid anymore. He is fearless. Later in "Acts" we see Peter preaching again, and as a result he was brought before the Sanhedrin and warned not to preach about Jesus. When Peter was released, what did he do? He went right back to preaching!

When we see Peter in the Gospels, we would never imagine this happening. But after receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter is almost unrecognizable. We see this very clearly in one incident later in "Acts". The Apostles were working many miracles just like Jesus, and people were bringing their sick out onto the streets as they passed by, hoping that at least Peter's shadow might fall on the sick as he went past. Peter grew and grew spiritually after receiving the Holy Spirit. He was not afraid of persecution for the sake of Jesus anymore. When Jesus was being questioned by the Sanhedrin, Peter denied three times that he knew Jesus because he was afraid of persecution, but after Pentecost, he was no longer afraid of persecution. As a result, the Church grew and grew and grew and grew.

When we see this enormous change in Peter, we can ask ourselves: "Are we like Peter in the Gospels, afraid to be seen as someone associated with Jesus, or are we like Peter in 'Acts', unafraid of persecution because of being a follower of Jesus?" Obviously, our ideal is to be like Peter in "Acts" after receiving the Holy Spirit, no longer afraid of being associated with Jesus but proud to be seen to be with Him. If we are not yet proud to be seen with Jesus, proud to be Catholic, we need to pray for more of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to pray for more of what Peter received at Pentecost. Fortitude is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Certainly, in this culture we need fortitude to be good, practicing Catholics.

We would have Heaven on earth if we lived by the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Just as we can ask ourselves if we are like Peter in the Gospels or like Peter in "Acts", we can also ask ourselves how much more of these fruits of the Spirit do we need in our lives. We all need to pray for more holiness and spiritual strength in our lives, and these will be given if we become more like "Acts Peter" rather than continuing to live our faith as "Gospel Peter".

Seeking Host Family for German Catholic Girl

Katharina (16) lives with her parents and younger brother in Bavaria. In her free time, she can be found playing the trumpet or piano, reading, or playing tennis. Katharina would like to be in a school band and/or Pep Band. She enjoys skiing, and is training to become an instructor for young children. Katharina describes herself as open-minded, responsible and outgoing. She is Class President and active in the church where she is a Youth Group Leader. Katharina will be arriving in August 2025. Call the parish office for more information or Mary Miller of International Student Exchange 616.340.4002.

Please Pray for our Engaged Couple

Sam Felicioni and Lindsay Ebling

Wedding date:(St Michael) June 14, 2025

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



June 8, 2025 ~ Pentecost Sunday

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St Mary Faith Formation

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

Today is Pentecost Sunday. This is a special day in the Catholic Church where we celebrate the Holy Spirit, who is God's love and guidance for us. It's like a party to thank God for sending the Holy Spirit, which is like a superpower that helps us love, be brave, and share good news with others. Christians believe the Holy Spirit blessed them with the ability to speak different languages.



1st-7th Grade Faith Formation Classes -
Wednesdays at Hall / 6:00- 7:30pm

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

Faith Formation classes will be on break until the fall. Keep your eye on the bulletin for next year's registration information. Have a fun and safe summer.

For more information or any questions on any of these programs Please contact Debbie Veneklas at dre@saintmarysmarne.org or 616.677.3934

Vacation Bible School

July 6 -10, 2025 6PM-8:30PM

For ages 4-10 /

Ages 11 and up can volunteer.

The Great Journey with Jesus!

Come join us as we walk with Jesus through The Liturgical Church Year. We will journey through Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent and Easter.

Registration Now Open. Forms available in Narthex. Or Online.

<https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/vacation-bible-school>

There will be a **VBS volunteer meeting** for anyone interested in helping. The meeting is **Tuesday, June 10th at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.** Many volunteers are needed.



Cor- Prayer, Formation & Fraternity for Men

The men of Knights of Columbus 11581 are excited to share the implementation of Cor, a new formation and fraternal opportunity for the men of our parish. Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Cor will be held the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 7:00 am in the St. Mary's community room. This is open to all men of our parish cluster, not just knights. If you have any questions, please reach out to Robert L at 616.292.5964

Upcoming Meeting Dates: June 14, 28

Parish Picnic Planning Meeting June 9 at 6PM

Please come and share your thoughts and comments on food, games, activities and help in the planning discussion for our annual parish picnic. Meeting will be held in the Church Community Room.

Parish Picnic will be Sept 7, 2025.

Prayer for Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday marks the end of the first novena. Pentecost, with Christmas and Easter, ranks among the great feasts of Christianity. It commemorates not only the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and Disciples, but also the fruits and effects of that event: the completion of the work of redemption, the fullness of grace for the Church and its children, and the gift of faith for all nations.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy Faithful;
 and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.
 Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created,
 and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.**



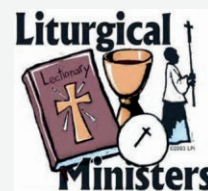
Liturgical Ministers Needed

Would you like to volunteer your time and talents to the church? St. Marys Church is looking for volunteers to help celebrate Sunday Mass. **Areas of Need: MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY, EUCHARIST MINISTERS, ALTAR SERVERS, LECTORS, MONEY COUNTERS and COFFEE & DONUT SERVERS.** ST MARY'S ADULT is also looking for new members.

Learn how you can share the treasures you have been blessed with by God at St Mary. <https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/liturgical-ministers>

"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

Please contact the parish office to express your interest and get the dates for the next training sessions.



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

Upcoming COR Dates: Jun 14, 28 -7AM - Community Room

Upcoming Blood drives:

Blood Drive - Coffee & Donuts - June 8

Pre-Register here:

June 8-

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11598499

Oct 12

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11598498



Giving Back to God

Mass: Attendance 6/1- 10:30AM:	177
Adult Contributions	\$5310.00
Children Contributions	\$30.00
Loose Contributions	\$247.00
Capital Improvement	\$300.00
Online Giving	\$615.00
Total	\$6502.00
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$8778.00
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	\$-12,753.00

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



St. Michael's Parish News

Scrip News— Thank you to our 10 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$52.75.



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 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 are currently on Summer Break. We will see you in September. On Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles like a strong wind, and they felt filled with God's love and power. Because of the Holy Spirit, the apostles were able to speak in different languages and share the Good News about Jesus with everyone, even those who didn't speak the same language as them. The Holy Spirit is still with us today, guiding us, comforting us, and helping us to be brave and share the Good News.



Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:00- 7:30 pm. **Middle School Faith Formation:** Grades 6, 7 and 8 meet on Sundays from 9:45-11:15am. Our programs have ended for this school year. We are on Summer break. Class will resume in September. Please watch the bulletin for registration information.

St. Michael's Catholic Church 2025 Vacation Bible School

Date: Monday, July 28 – Thursday, July 31
Time: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.



2025 Vacation Bible School: Explore mountains of fun!

This year we will guide children through an engaging journey of faith, focusing on the theme of friendship with God amidst the beauty of Alaska's wilderness.

It's hard to find your way in a world gone wild. But we have Jesus-our "True North!" Together, let's give kids a rock-solid foundation and point them to Jesus - their unmovable, unshakable friend forever!

Registration forms are in the narthex and on parish website. Many volunteers are needed! This is a great way to help our parish and get involved. If interested, please contact Debbie Veneklas with any questions. (616) 384-4026



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Dave & Sandy Balkon
by Calvin & Cindy Lindberg

Festival News

Save the Date for Festival:

August 24, 2025

Now is the time to begin thinking about how you can volunteer or contribute to the festival! Stay tuned to the bulletin for more information in the coming months.



What is it? The PaperGator® is a fundraiser where St. Michael's is paid to collect paper products for recycling.

What CAN go in the bins?

Newsprint
Catalogs/Magazines
Junk Mail
Phone Books
Office/School paper
Hard and soft cover books

What CANNOT go in the bins?

Paperboard
(Grocery Item boxes)
Plastic
Metal
Trash
Glass
Cardboard

Giving Back to God

May 31/June 1 2025

Mass: Attendance 5/31– 4:00PM:	71
Mass: Attendance 6/1 8:30AM:	190
Adult Envelopes	\$4,294.00
Loose Cash	\$253.00
Children's Envelopes	\$14.00
Online Giving	\$1,295.00
Total	\$5,856.00
Holy Day	\$405.00
Building Fund	\$2,090.00
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$4,530.20
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual	+\$2,599.00
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 instructions. Or text the word GIVE to: 616-384-5011.



June 8, 2025 ~ Pentecost Sunday

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LIVING GOD'S WORD

DAVID M.
KNIGHT

Saved in Hope

Christians live in two time frames: the eternal, in which the salvation of the world has been accomplished; and the temporal, in which redemption is still taking place.

From the viewpoint of eternity, we see all of time, all of human history from its beginning to the end of the world, in one glance. It is like looking at the moon: we see the whole thing at once. Then time is like a circle: we see the beginning, the end, and everything in between as present to us now.

But from the viewpoint of the time we live in on this earth, we only see as present the time we live in now. Past events are just a memory, and future events have not happened yet; they do not exist. To us who are living in it, time is like a straight line, and we only experience a little at a time. It is experienced the way someone walking on the moon would feel only the ground that is actually underfoot.

In liturgy we celebrate an eternal event that is still taking place in time. When Jesus was offered on Calvary every person who would ever be baptized “into Christ” was present in the body that died on the cross. That is why our sins are not just “forgiven” but “taken away.” It is because we, with our sins, were “in Christ” when he died. We died in him, and in that death our history was over; our sins ceased to exist.

And when Jesus rose, we “co-rose in him” to live as sharers in his divine life, free from sin, as his risen Body on earth. In liturgy we celebrate the eternal fact that Jesus has “overcome the world” once and for all, and by his death we are saved. (See Colossians 2:12 and 3:1; John 16:33.)

But in time Jesus is still “overcoming the world” in us. In time we are still being purified of the woundedness of sin, and we who have “died to sin” cry out with Saint Paul, “who will deliver me?” from slavery to the darkness and passions we still experience. From the viewpoint of eternity, the death of Jesus has made us free, saved us and redeemed us from all darkness and

JUNE 8, 2025

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11; Romans 8:8-17;
John 14:15-16, 23b-26

sin. From the viewpoint of time, we are still being freed and purified, growing in knowledge, understanding and love. In short, we are saved—but in hope. (See Romans 6:1-11 and 7:14-25; Colossians 1:24 to 2:3; Ephesians 3:14-19.)

That is why Pentecost looks in two directions. We look backward and celebrate the gift of the Spirit poured out on the Church. But we also look forward to the work the Church is sent to do by the power of that Spirit. We celebrate the fact that the world is redeemed, that the Spirit has been given to restore order to the chaos created by sin and to bring back into unity the human race divided by sin into estranged and warring camps. At the same time, we recognize that all of creation is still “groaning” with desire to be set free from the domination of sin and brought to complete fulfillment under the reign of Christ. (See Genesis 1:1-31 and compare Genesis 11:1-9 with Acts 2:1-13.)

The Spirit is given to activate the Church—and precisely to activate the Church to bring about what God has wanted from the beginning; that is, to “bring everything in heaven and on earth together into unity under Christ as head.” This unity is not a uniformity that destroys all the richness of diversity; it is a unity which brings together everything and everyone that is different in a unity based precisely on the recognition of Christ in one another. It is a unity in the Spirit brought about by the Spirit of Christ. (See Ephesians and Colossians, chapters 1).



In the measure that the Spirit is active in us, we will desire to bring about unity, understanding and peace upon earth: between different races and cultural groups, different nations and social classes; between people divided by different religions and ideologies. The desire for unity is a sign of the Spirit in us; the desire to remain separate and apart is a sign that we are not moved by the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Tenth Week of the Year

***Pray daily:** Lord, the more I see your power and awesomeness, the more I wonder at your love. Teach me the mystery of this love, which is greater than your power—which is your power. Show me your heart. Amen.*

Monday: Matthew 5:1-12: After Jesus had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them. Do you believe that the words of Jesus are the words of God? Do you seek them out to reflect on them as the words of God?

Tuesday: Matthew 5:13-16: Jesus said that your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. Is your way of living so different, so impressive, that it fills people with a sense of awe and wonder that leads to adoration of God? Is it outlandish to think that it might be? Or to aim at this?

Wednesday: Matthew 5:17-19: Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.” Could anyone speaking just as a human being make a statement like that? How do your actions show the difference between what the law and the prophets asked for and what Jesus asks for?

Thursday: Matthew 5:20-26: Jesus said, “I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” What do you do that is better than keeping all

the laws of your religion? (That is what the Pharisees focused on doing.)

Friday: Matthew 5:27-32: Jesus taught, “I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” What is the difference between looking at someone with lust or with love? How do you look at people? With desire to use them for your purposes? With an attitude of superiority? With hostility? With indifference? Are all of these as bad as looking at someone with lust?

Saturday: Matthew 5:33-37: “But I say to you, do not swear at all.... Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’” Anything more is from the evil one.” Are you conscious that because you are the Body of Christ every word you speak is spoken with the lips of Christ? What effect does this have on your way of speaking?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Each morning this week, when you get out of bed, kneel and place your forehead on the floor in adoration of God.

As Disciple: Begin reading through the Sermon on the Mount, conscious that what Jesus is giving here is a set of guidelines for living on the level of God. From this perspective, do you find his instructions awesome? Inspiring? Are you more encouraged to try to live by them?

As Prophet: Each time anyone around you uses the name of God as a swear word, bow your head in adoration.

As Priest: Each morning, before leaving your bedroom, make the sign of the cross on your lips, consciously consecrating them to speak every word as a word spoken by Jesus Christ.

As King: Make yourself alert to every expression of irreverence around you: irreverence for the person and presence of God; irreverence for people who are, or whom we must presume to be, the Body of Christ; irreverence for nature, which is God’s creation, to be used according to God’s purpose.

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