

June 15, 2025 • The Most Holy Trinity Sunday / Father's Day

# St. Mary St. Michael

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

17150 88th Ave., Coopersville, MI 49404  
616.384.4026 • [www.saintmichaels.us](http://www.saintmichaels.us)



**Pastor: Rev. Michael Hodges**

[frmhodes@grpriests.org](mailto: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

Tom Roberts  
[troberts@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:troberts@saintmarysmarne.org)

### Business Manager

Todd Kline  
[businessmanager@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:businessmanager@saintmarysmarne.org)

### Parish Secretary

Cathie VanGessel  
[secretary@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:secretary@saintmarysmarne.org)

### Director of Faith Formation

Debbie Veneklas  
[dre@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto: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](mailto:gkarr@saintmarysmarne.org)

### Music Director

Dr. Bernie Stanko  
616.490.3836  
[berniestanko@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bfa1414@yahoo.com)

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**Thursday** ..... Closed  
**Friday** ..... 9:00AM to 4:00PM

### Deacon

Tom Roberts  
[troberts@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:troberts@saintmarysmarne.org)

### Business Manager

Todd Kline  
[bsmgr@saintmichaels.us](mailto:bsmgr@saintmichaels.us)

### Parish Secretary

Beki Rotman  
[secretary@saintmichaels.us](mailto:secretary@saintmichaels.us)

### Director of Faith Formation

Debbie Veneklas  
[childrensministry@saintmichaels.us](mailto: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](mailto: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 14

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

## Sunday June 15

8:30AM † Sherman Hecksel by Ruth Hecksel .....MI  
10:30AM For all Fathers of the Parish .....MA

## Monday June 16 No Mass

## Tuesday June 17

12:00M † Agnes Schwartz by Leon Schwartz.....MA  
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

## Wednesday June 18

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 June 19

12:00M † Kathleen Sobie by M/M Larry Antclif.....MA  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

## Friday June 20

12:00PM † David Balkon by friends Roberta & Pat .....MI  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

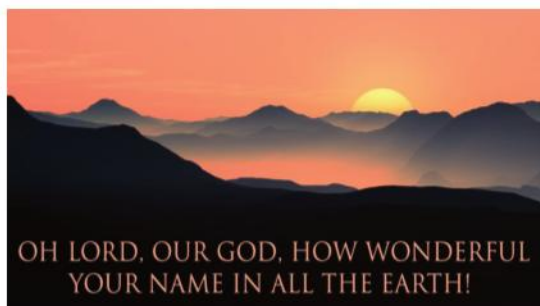
## Saturday June 21

4:00PM † Al & Winnie Spencer by the Spencer Family .....MI  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

## Sunday June 22

8:30AM † Jack Riordan by Ray & Kathy Maka .....MI  
10:30AM † Bruce LeMieux by Mary LeMieux and family.....MA

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



## Scripture Readings for the Week of June 15, 2025

**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

**Monday** 2 Cor 6:1-10; Ps 98:1, 2b, 3ab, 3cd-4; Mt 5:38-42

**Tuesday** 2 Cor 8:1-9; Ps 146:2, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a; Mt 5:43-48

**Wednesday** 2 Cor 9:6-11; Ps 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 9; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday** 2 Cor 11:1-11; Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mt 6:7-15

**Friday** 2 Cor 11:18, 21-30; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 6:19-23

**Saturday Memorial of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious**  
2 Cor 12:1-10; Ps 34:8-9, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 6:24-34

**Sunday The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**  
Gen 14:18-20; Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Lk 9:11b-17

## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	June 21 —4:00PM	June 22 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Dylan Ranney NEED ONE	Adalyn Taylor Clare Taylor
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom NEED ONE	Deacon Tom Chris Albrecht Joe Hitchings Jennie Taylor Jennifer DeMull Rosemary Weigel Denise Nelson
Lector	Sue DeVos	Amber Nelson
Sacristan	NEED ONE	Judy Driedger
Ushers	Ray Maka NEED ONE	Wade Lindberg Joe Meerman Jim Ponshair Peter Nielsen
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernard Stanko

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	June 22 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Need
Altar Servers	Madeline Serge Sela Ricord
Precious Body	Deacon Tom Mary Kirkwood Need One
Precious Blood	June Stevenson Margie Jirous Need Two
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	Rita Carmody
Music	Bernie Stanko

## Pray for Vocations

O God,  
hear our prayer  
and let our cry come to You.  
Bless the Diocese of Grand Rapids  
with many vocations to the  
priesthood, diaconate,  
and religious life.

Give Your sons and daughters  
the confidence to  
accept Your call,  
and the love to follow always  
in the footsteps of  
Your beloved Son  
with courage and dedication  
to Your will.

Amen.

## 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: \$36,780.00 (73%)  
Balance: \$13,736.00  
Participation: 76 of 260 Active - Households (30%)

#### St Michael

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$52,297.00  
Total Pledges Made: \$23,360.00 (45%)  
Balance: \$28,937.00  
Participation: 58 of 255 - Active Households (23%)  
Totals as of June 10, 2025

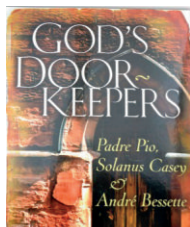
*Please keep in mind that any amount raised over our goal is returned 100% to the parish. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.*



### 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 gate keepers 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.**



### Fr Mike's Musings



Happy Father's Day to all who have fathers or stepfathers, who had fathers or who are fathers. These holidays of our culture are not exactly high holy days of the Church, but they do give us reason to pause, to pray for and to reflect on the fathers whom we honor. A few weeks ago, we honored our moms. Today, on this Father's Day, we are doing the same – honoring our dads, living or not, on the altar of God during Mass and invoking our Heavenly Father's blessings on them. Modern America appears to be unique in honoring fathers on a special day. Today we celebrate, congratulate and pray for the men who continue to reflect the divine qualities of fatherhood as they lovingly establish, nourish and maintain their families. Fathers are a blessing, and we thank them for blessing us with lives of dedication, endurance and love.

But while the idea of fatherhood is a good one, the reality we see is sometimes quite different. Some fathers abandon their children, beat them, ridicule or ignore them, abuse them and damage them psychologically for life. Even good fathers have their limits. Unfortunately, we unduly sentimentalize fatherhood, the media often ridicule and make fun of it, and we treat it with contempt. We are reminded time after time of the number of children growing up fatherless because their fathers have abandoned them or their fathers have been unfaithful.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the vital importance of the father's role comes from the fact that, with his wife, he cooperates with God the Creator in bringing a new human life into the world. Children who are raised with fathers present in the family have much lower rates of delinquency, drug and alcohol use, teen pregnancy, and so on, than those with absent fathers. The father's presence is also a significant positive factor in the children's getting a college education, finding a satisfying job, and making a lasting marriage. A girl's choice of partner and satisfaction in marriage is often directly related to the relationship she has had with her father.

Father's Day is a day to remember, acknowledge and appreciate the "World's Greatest Dad": OUR HEAVENLY FATHER who provides for us in all ways--practical, emotional, and spiritual. Many of us recite "Our Father" day after day, without paying attention to, or experiencing, the love and providence of our Heavenly Father. Let us earnestly pray the "Our Father" throughout this day, contemplating the meaning of each clause and experiencing the love our Heavenly Father has for us. May all earthly fathers draw strength from their Heavenly Father. And on this Father's Day, please don't forget to pray for us, your spiritual Fathers--men who are called to be the "fathers" of an immensely large ecclesial family (we just can't ground you or send you to the corner to think about what you've done).

### Happy Father's Day

GOD OUR FATHER, WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE FOR FATHERS YOUNG AND OLD. WE PRAY FOR YOUNG FATHERS, NEWLY EMBRACING THEIR VOCATION; MAY THEY FIND COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE TO BALANCE WORK, FAMILY AND FAITH IN JOY AND SACRIFICE. WE PRAY FOR OUR OWN FATHERS AROUND THE WORLD WHOSE CHILDREN ARE LOST OR SUFFERING; MAY THEY KNOW THAT THE GOD OF COMPASSION WALKS WITH THEM IN THEIR SORROW. WE PRAY FOR MEN WHO ARE NOT FATHERS BUT STILL MENTOR AND GUIDE US WITH FATHERLY LOVE AND ADVICE. WE REMEMBER FATHERS, GRANDFATHER, AND GREAT GRANDFATHERS WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US BUT WHO LIVE FOREVER IN OUR MEMORY AND NOURISH US WITH THEIR LOVE. AMEN  
Prayer source Lordcalls.com



### Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

### 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.



## 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.

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity is a Catholic feast day celebrated each year on the Sunday after Pentecost. It focuses on the central mystery of the Christian faith: that God is one God in three divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is called Trinity.

**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 is now open! you can find forms in the back of the church, or you can register online <https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/vacation-bible-school>

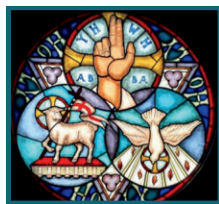
## VBS WISH LIST - Donations Needed

To help keep this a FREE event, donations are needed. Please take an "item tag" or two from our wish list on the bulletin board in the Narthex and return the requested items by June 29.



## Prayer for The Most Holy Trinity

Trinity Sunday is a moveable feast celebrated a week after Pentecost Sunday. Also known as Holy Trinity Sunday, Trinity Sunday honors the most fundamental of Christian beliefs—belief in the Holy Trinity. The human mind can never fully understand the mystery of the Trinity, but we can sum it up in the following formula: God is three Persons in one Nature. There is only one God, and the three Persons of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—are all equally God, and They cannot be divided.



**Glory be to the Father,**

Who by His almighty power and love created me, making me in the image and likeness of God.

**Glory be to the Son,**

Who by His Precious Blood delivered me from hell, and opened for me the gates of heaven.

**Glory be to the Holy Spirit,**

Who has sanctified me in the sacrament of Baptism, and continues to sanctify me by the graces I receive daily from His bounty.

**Glory be to the Three adorable Persons of the Holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen**

## Save the Date Parish Picnic

### September 7

Watch for more information.



## Thank You St Mary Parish Family

A sincere thank you to the parish for the support for our family during the illness and death of our husband, father and grandfather Lloyd Ney. Each of you contributed to the funeral mass and luncheon and we really appreciated it. Janette Ney and Family

*Thank you!*  
& GOD BLESS YOU

## 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 Blood Drive & Community Breakfast

Pre-Register here:

Oct 12

[https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/11598498](https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11598498)



**Knight Person of the Month- June: Doug Frantz**

**Knight Family of the Month- June: Rob & Lori Rander**

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 your for service and commitment to our Parish Family!



**Monthly Charitable Donation - \$500.00 to Down to Defend**

**Congratulations to the Raffle Winner! Geary Farrell**

THANK YOU to everyone that supported our raffle. Your donations help fund our many charitable donations.

## 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 COR Dates: June 28, July 12, 26-7AM - Community Room**

## Giving Back to God

<b>Mass: Attendance 6/8- 10:30AM:</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>Thank you</b> for your continued support and generosity! To donate now, open your phone camera, scan the QR code and follow instructions.
Adult Contributions	\$2795.00	
Children Contributions	\$10.20	
Loose Contributions	\$150.25	
Capital Improvement	\$270.00	
Online Giving	\$2545.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5770.45</b>	
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$9970.52	
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	\$-13,142.15	



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

## St. Michael's Parish News

**Scrip News**— Scrip numbers 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 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.

### The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.

Ways to explain the Trinity to children:

- **One God, Three Persons:** Explain that there is only one God, who exists as three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. All are fully God and equal.
- **The Sign of the Cross:** Making the Sign of the Cross is a way to name Christians, using the name of God, who is three Persons in one. This introduces the idea of God being three in one.

**Shamrock:** St. Patrick used the three-leaf clover to explain the Trinity, showing how one plant can have three leaves, symbolizing how God is one God with three persons.

**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

June 7/8 2025

<b>Mass: Attendance 6/7– 4:00PM:</b>	76
<b>Mass: Attendance 6/8 8:30AM:</b>	136
Adult Envelopes	\$3,193.00
Loose Cash	\$247.00
Children's Envelopes	\$7.00
<b>Total</b>	
Holy Day	\$20.00
Building Fund	\$65.00
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$3,891.27
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual	+\$1,841.19
<b>Thank you for your continued support!</b>	

**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 15, 2025 ~ The Most Holy Trinity Sunday / Father's Day**

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)

# LIVING GOD'S WORD

DAVID M.  
KNIGHT

## "In the Image of God"

To say human nature was created "in the image of God" means that basically humans were designed to do what God does. And what God does is be, know, and love. To be human is to be designed for a trinity of being, knowing and loving.

We know, not in the act of taking in sense impressions, but in the act of expressing a judgment about them. How many times have we stared blankly at a hodgepodge of shapes and colors, then suddenly perceived a pattern in them and said (in a judgment), "It's a \_\_\_\_!" The word that fills in the blank is the "word" of decision in which we "know" a being.

The "word" of knowledge is a word we actively "utter" or "breathe out." When we "give existence" to this word in our minds by saying, "It is!" we imitate the act by which God gives existence to a being by saying, "Let it be!" In this act we know what a being is by "recreating" it in our minds in a way that conforms to what it really is in existence.

From all eternity God the Father has been seeing and knowing himself. He knows himself in the act of uttering a "word of knowledge"—"God!" This "Word" which is the expression of what God is, is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, God the Son. This is the Word that was made flesh in Jesus.

As the Father knows the Son, and the Son knows the Father, the love they have for each other is the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the Trinity is that Being, Truth and Goodness exist in God as three distinct Persons. What "God" means is a Person who is, God the Father, knowing the truth of what he is and uttering this truth in a Word of knowledge, which is the Person of God the Son, the "Word," and loving the goodness of what

JUNE 15, 2025

TRINITY SUNDAY

Proverbs 8:22-31;  
Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

he is in an act of love which is the Person of the Holy Spirit. Three Persons who exist as one Divine Nature, one God: that is the Blessed Trinity.

When we see intelligibility in something—that is, see that something "would make sense" if understood to be put together the way it is for some purpose

which would explain all the different parts, we can see that the thing really was designed precisely for this purpose, and was given being for that reason. Then we can give the thing a name, which is to know it as a being.

The key to it all is purpose. A bunch of stuff that just happens to fall

together or get stuck together in a particular way, but without any intention or purpose in anyone's mind, is not anything—and we don't give it a name. It's just a pile of stuff. But if we judge that something was put together for a purpose which, to somebody at least, seemed good, then we can decide it actually is something and give it a name. To know something as a being, then, means that we see it as intelligible and as good, and make the judgment that it is actually being given existence as a single whole (a being) for the sake of functioning in the way which explains the presence

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*We know God and  
ourselves in his image by  
doing what God does:  
being, knowing and loving.*





and pattern of all its parts. Everything we judge to be a being has unity, intelligibility (truth) and purpose (goodness).

We are like God because we can perceive the truth of beings and “breathe out” that truth in a “word” of knowledge, as the Father utters his Word, the Son. And we can perceive the goodness of beings which comes from their purpose, from what they are able to do, and echo the creative act which brought them into being by giving them a name. We know God and ourselves in his image by doing what God does: being, knowing and loving.

By grace we know God through faith, accept him through hope as the purpose and goal of our lives, and affirm his goodness through love. By this we share in God’s own life, which is to know and love himself as he is.

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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### Eleventh Week of the Year

*Pray daily: Lord, you have loved me from the beginning of time, and you love me still. Forgive the days, the weeks, the years I have been unconscious of your love. Focus my heart on you, that I might begin now the cry of gratitude that will echo in it forever and ever. Amen.*

**Monday:** Matthew 5:38-42: “But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.” Does Jesus turn away from us when our indifference to him is like a slap in the face? Can you continue to offer friendship to those who reject you?

**Tuesday:** Matthew 5:43-48: “You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.” Are you trying to love by human standards of fairness, or by God’s standards? Can you be devoted to Christ’s love without trying to imitate it?

**Wednesday:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18: “When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right

is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.” How many gifts and blessings has Jesus given to you so quietly that even you have not noticed them? Make a point of thanking him every day for his goodness, seen and unseen.

**Thursday:** Matthew 6:7-15: “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words.” How much time do you spend just being silent before God, reflecting on the words, the love of Jesus, and letting God speak to your heart?

**Friday:** Matthew 6:19-23: “Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” Where is your treasure? What do you think about most often with desire? What are you most concerned about losing? How often do you express to Jesus Christ your love and longing for him?

**Saturday:** Matthew 6:24-34: “No one can serve two masters. You will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” Is serving Jesus Christ the undisputed goal of all your choices and desires? Do you ever feel enslaved by other desires or goals?

## LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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**As Christian:** Put a crucifix in a place where you will see it every day. When you look at it, consciously remember what Jesus has done for us all.

**As Disciple:** Each Friday read a passage from a Gospel account of the passion and death of Christ.

**As Prophet:** Each Friday do some small act of penance in grateful remembrance of Christ’s love.

**As Priest:** At every Eucharist, when the Body and Blood of Christ are lifted up, offer yourself in Christ and with Christ in reparation for the sins of the world.

**As King:** Try to think of any damage you may be doing to someone else by your behavior or policies. Change what you are doing and try to repair the damage.



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