July 6, 2025 • The 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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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 Tuesday9:00AM - 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

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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

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Parish Secretary Beki Rotman secretary@saintmichaels.us

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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	٠	St	Michae	l
Sunday	.8:30AM	•	St	Michae	I
Sunday	10:30A	Μ	٠	St Mary	/

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday12:00PM • St Mary Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30PM Wednesday 12:00PM • St Michael Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30PM Thursday12:00PM • St Mary Friday 12:00PM • St Michael

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday and Thursday 12:30PM to 1:30PM • St. Mary Wednesday and Friday12:30PM to 1:30PM • St. Michael Saturday......3:00PM to 3:45PM • St. Michael

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday July 5 4:00PM	† Dave Reames by Ray & Kathy Maka MI Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael
Sunday July 6 8:30AM 10:30AM	† Emil O'Bradovich by the O'Bradovich Family MI † Lloyd Ney by Knights of Columbus #11581MA
Monday July 7	No Mass
Tuesday July 8 12:00PM	Our Parish FamilyMA Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary
Wednesday July 12:00PM	 9 † Becky Schmidt by Marcy Goosen
Thursday July I 12:00M	 Agnes Schwartz by Leon SchwartzMA Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary
Friday July I I 12:00PM	† Sherry Maslowski by the Gibor FamilyMl Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael
Saturday July 12 4:00PM	2 † Charlie & Pat Sommers by the Kilpatrick Family MI Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael
Sunday July 13 8:30AM 10:30AM	† Troy Spencer by Sr. Althea Spencer OSF MI † Gregg Carmody by M/M Jim LothschutzMA

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

Get all the earth cry out to God with Goge.

Scripture Readings for the Week of July 6, 2025 Sunday Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 66: 10-14c; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; Gal 6: 14-18; Lk 10: 1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9 Monday Gn 28: 10-22a: Ps 91: 1-2, 3-4, 14-15ab: Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday	Gn 32:23-33; Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b and 15; Mt 9: 32-38
Wednesday	Gn 41: 55-57; 42: 5-7a, 17-24a; Ps 33: 2-3, 10-11, 18-19, Mt 10:1-7
Thursday	Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 10:7-15
Friday	Memorial of Saint Benedict, Abbot
	Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mt 10: 16-23
Saturday	Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7; Mt 10:24-33
Sunday	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
	Dt 30:10-14; Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37 or Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Col 1:15-20; Lk 10:25-37

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	July 12 —4:00PM	July 13 —8:30AM	
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Adalyn Taylor Clare Taylor	
Eucharistic Ministers	Sue Felicioni Veronica Schumaker	Debbie Veneklase Amber Nelson Jennie Taylor Kenny Harker Peter Nielsen Greg Helsen NEED ONE	
Lector	Kevin Schumaker	Carol Reens	
Sacristan	Cindy Bleckley	Chris Albrecht	
Ushers	NEED TWO	Curt DeVos Duane Snowdin Ed Irwin NEED ONE	
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley	

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	-
	July 13 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One
Altar Servers	Lauren LeMieux Casimir Lothschutz Timothy Lothschutz
Precious Body	Mary Kirkwood Geary Farrell June Stevenson
Precious Blood	Christina Withers Margie Jirous Need Two
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	Robert Lothschutz
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!

<u>St Mary</u>

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$50,516.00 Total Pledges Made: \$41,255.00 (82%) Balance: \$9,261.00 Participation: 83 of 260 Active - Households (32%)

<u>St Michael</u>

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$52,297.00 Total Pledges Made: \$ 28,710.00 (55%) Balance: \$23,587.00 Participation: 71 of 255 - Active Households (28%) Totals as of June 30, 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.





Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



Fr Mike's Musings

On July 4, 1776, amid the American Revolution, the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia courageously declared the thirteen colonies independent from Great Britain. Today, 249 years later, we celebrate this Declaration. With all our fellow Americans, we celebrate our freedom on this Independence Day, the Fourth of July. As Catholics, we especially pray for the protection out religious liberties.



By the time of the American Revolution, the number of Catholics in the colonies was rather small: about 25,000 among 2.5 million colonists. For over a century, the small body of Catholics in the colonies had clung to their religious faith despite active persecution and denial of their civil rights. They supported the American Revolution with the hope that independence from Britain would bring them greater religious liberty in the new republic.

American Catholics, including Fr. John Carroll, who in 1790 would become the first Catholic bishop in the United States, the first bishop of Baltimore, received with great satisfaction the Constitution in 1787 and the Bill of Rights a couple years later, especially the First Amendment and its definition of our religious freedom: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The First Amendment allowed Catholics the freedom to practice their faith, yet it did not eradicate the cultural anti-Catholicism that persisted in sometimes vigorous form during the following century. Sadly, this persistent prejudice is still alive today, especially among certain elites in academia, Hollywood, the media, and other influencers of public opinion.

Our concerns about religious liberty today are especially focused on a more general anti-religious cultural movement, rooted in secularism and relativism, which seeks to limit the role of religion in public life. This was certainly not the intent of our founding fathers who recognized the essential role of religion and the virtues it inspires in providing the foundation for the success of a democratic society. They believed in God and the divine law. In the Declaration of Independence, they specifically referred to "the laws of nature and of nature's God. They were not secularists, and they were not moral relativists. They declared: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." At the end of the Declaration, they affirmed their "firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence" as they pledged to each other "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor."

Our Founding Fathers believed that religion, virtue, and morality based on the natural law were essential foundations for the success of the American Experiment. In his farewell address, George Washington declared: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness." John Adams later wrote: "It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. Religion and virtue are the only foundations... of republicanism and of all free governments." As Catholics, we agree with this vision of our founders. Pope Francis said something very similar in the following words: "When, in the name of an ideology, there is an attempt to remove God from society, it ends up adoring idols, and very soon men and women lose their way, their dignity is trampled and their rights violated."

The Catholic Church is at the forefront today in advocating and fighting for these indispensable supports of our nation and its freedom: for example, in defending the right to life and the truth about marriage. We stand up for our faith, to be sure. We are also standing up for the self-evident truths proclaimed by the Founding Fathers. We stand against subjectivism and relativism that seeks to sever freedom from its indispensable foundation in truth. We stand up for freedom not only to worship, but also to live our faith without government coercion to violate the sacred sanctuary of our conscience. That is why we are concerned about being forced to cooperate with a redefinition of marriage that goes against the natural order as established by God. In today's cultural climate, speaking and defending the truth about marriage often results in unjust and false charges of bigotry. We can expect claims of discrimination for upholding what for millennia has been considered a self-evident truth: that marriage by its nature is between one man and one woman. In all this public debate about these matters, notice that the often anti-Catholic or anti-Christian bigotry of the Church's critics and opponents is ignored.

Jesus teaches us to render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. In contemporary debate and struggle, we seek to have the freedom to do so. This is part of our human dignity--not only to be free to worship God, but free to serve Him and others through our schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, charities, and other institutions and to do so without compromising our faith and moral convictions. There are many in our society who disagree with the teachings of the Catholic Church on various issues. They have the right to disagree. But it is quite another matter to deny us the right to live our faith and to conduct our lives, ministries, and works in accordance with the Church's teachings. Rather than engaging in civil and respectful debate, critics and opponents of the Church will sometimes resort to attacks that reveal the persistent anti-Catholic prejudice that for some reason is still deemed acceptable in our culture.

On Independence Day, as we pray for the protection of religious freedom in our nation, let us also remember in prayer the millions of our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are persecuted and suffer injustices because of their faith. We are living in a new age of Christian martyrdom. May these present-day martyrs, in body and conscience, inspire us by their faith and courage to endure. Their sufferings are not to be in vain: their lives bear eloquent witness to the love of Jesus Christ and to the freedoms that we enjoy and seek to share with the world.

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. CLW is on Summer break.

This is the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In Luke 10:1-9, Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples (or seventy-two others, depending on the translation) on a mission to prepare towns for his arrival. He tells them the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few and instructs them to be peaceful and share God's peace with those who welcome them. They are to accept hospitality, heal the sick, and announce that the Kingdom of God is near. **Ist-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 Veneklase at dre@saintmarysmarne.org or 616.677.3934

Vacation Bible School

July 6 -10, 2025 6PM-8:30PM For ages 4-10 / Ages II and up can volunteer. The Great Journey with Jesus! Its not too late to join the fun. There is still room for your child. You may sign up at when you arrive. Prayer for Vacation Bible School God of delight,

Bless our week together,

our playing, singing, learning, and creating together. Open our ears to hear your word. Open our eyes to see the needs of our world. Open our hearts to serve with love. May we grow in love for you and for each other as we listen to your call in our lives.

Amen.



School Supply Drive

Our Lady of Fatima Guild is hosting their annual school supply drive. Donations of backpacks, lunch boxes, pencils, notebooks, markers, and other school supplies would be appreciated. *Donations will be collected July 20 through Aug 10.* There will be a box in the Narthex to place your donations.





Money / Collections Counters Volunteers Needed

Responsible for counting and recording all of the monies collected at all of the Masses. Accuracy and Confidentiality is needed. As a money counter your main tasks would be: examining and opening the tamper resistant bags, sorting collections, counting money, accumulating checks, completing the weekly tally sheet and preparing the deposit. Money Counters arrive on Mondays mornings and are usually finished in an hour. Please consider



this responsible stewardship which represents the monetary lifeblood of the parish community.

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

Cor- Prayer, Formation & Fraternity for Men Upcoming COR Dates: July 12, 26-7AM - Community Room

Giving Back to God			
Mass: Attendance 6/29-10:30AM:	146	2024/2025 End of Fiscal Year	
Adult Contributions	\$3325.00	Budgeted Offertory	
Children Contributions	\$9.00	\$310,559.00	
Loose Contributions	\$129.00	2024/2025 End of Fiscal Year	
Capital Improvement		Actual Offertory Received	
Online Giving	\$540.00	\$293,699.25	
Total	\$4003.00	Difference -\$16,859.75	
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	n/a		
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	Begins next week	New Fiscal year begins July 1	

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 the 12 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$65.95. Fr. Mike has requested a new line item for Scrip. You can

now have your profit go toward the purchase of new hymnals.



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. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus



sends his disciples out to teach people about God. Jesus knew he couldn't be everywhere at once, so he chose seventy-two people to help him. He sent them out in pairs to different towns. The disciples were also told to heal the sick in the towns they visited. Most importantly, they were to tell people that God's kingdom, a place of love and goodness, was coming soon.

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 en-

gaging 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 Jesusour "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 Veneklase with any questions. (616) 384-4026.

We are looking for donations for VBS. If you are willing to make a donation for teen snacks, please contact Debbie at 616-384-4026.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Sherry Maslowski by the Maslowski Family

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.

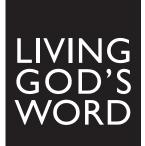
Can You Help?

Prison and Jail Ministry of the Diocese of Grand Rapids is collecting items for the Michigan Department Of Corrections Offenders Success Reentry Summit. The summit offers individuals on parole and probation the opportunity to meet with support service providers. Items being requested include the following:

Wallets and gift cards to Salons/barbershops and restaurants that do not serve alcohol. New Backpacks, bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths. Toiletries, such as shampoo, conditioners, body wash and lotion. Items can be placed in the collection box in the back of church until Wednesday July 23. Thank you for your help!

Giving Back to God			
June 28/29 2025			
Mass: Attendance 6/28-4:00PM:	87		
Mass: Attendance 6/29 8:30AM:	160		
Adult Envelopes	\$3,119.00		
Loose Cash	\$234.00		
Children's Envelopes	\$18.00		
Total	\$3,371.00		
Building Fund	\$75.00		
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	n/a		
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual	Begins next week		
Thank you for your continued support!			
2024/2025 End of Fiscal Year Budgeted Offertory \$270,300.00 2024/2025 End of Fiscal Year Actual Offertory Received \$269,113.19 Difference -\$1,186.81 New Fiscal year begins July	1		

July 6, 2025 ~ The 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



DAVID M. KNIGHT

Messengers of Peace: Witnesses to Power

The key to understanding this Gospel is believing we are sent. Unless we really know (and we can only know it by believing it) that today we are the seventy-two who are sent, we will listen to this Gospel as if it were being spoken to someone else. We won't ask seriously what it means, because we will assume that it doesn't really apply to us. And we will miss the whole point.

The fact is, we are sent. The instructions in this Gospel are something we need to know. They tell us what we are sent to do, how we are to do it, and what we need to keep in mind in order to deal with what we will meet. But if we don't believe at the front end that we are sent, or if we haven't really accepted this mission as ours, all the instructions will be for us purely academic. And since they are given precisely to help us deal with reality, there is no way we can truly understand them unless we relate them to what is real and present and active in our lives right now. Do you live with a sense of mission? Is it your constant awareness?

The Gospel tells us we are sent "to every town and place" Jesus intends to visit. Do you really believe that Jesus is preparing to visit every single person you deal with every day? That he has sent you to prepare that person to receive his inspirations, his help, his comfort?

Do you accept the fact that you are sent precisely to those people whom you don't think of as being open to you or to what you have to say about religion? You are sent "like a lamb among wolves." Or do you wait to give your message only to those who welcome it—that is, to those who have already heard it; those who need you the least?

It is true, Jesus says not to force the message on anyone. You should not even jump right into talking about religion. The first thing to do, he says, is establish "peace" between yourself and the one to whom you are sent. How do you do this?

The answer is to respect who the person already is, what this individual person has already experienced of God. You are not to burst in, a total stranger to someone JULY 6, 2025 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 6:14-18; Luke 10:1-20;

else's soul, and act as if you were the missionary sent to the heathen. How many times have you yourself been invaded by some born-again enthusiast inviting you to be "saved" as if you had never spoken to God in your life before? To approach another in "peace" is to begin by assuming and seeking to identify a common ground of experience, something in which you are already at one. And since we believe that God speaks to every human heart-and has spoken to each one long before we came on the scene, we begin by seeking with respect to stand with our brother or sister on common ground as fellow creatures, fellow children of God, fellow receivers of the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. We don't speak down to anyone like a teacher instructing the ignorant (Jesus said, "Only one is your Teacher; you are all learners"). Rather, we sit down with another human person in the darkness we all experience and gratefully share light.

We should not assume that the other does or does not identify certain experiences as experiences of "God" or of "Jesus." To come in "peace" is to come trying to communicate in the other's language, not our own. We come, first seeking to understand, then to share.

Finally, Jesus tells us not to think of our mission as something to "accomplish," as if what really mattered were the "head count" of how many people we have "saved" or converted. "Rejoice," he says, "that your names are written in heaven." Be glad you know Jesus, and be glad if you can help anyone else to know him a little better. But don't get into a power trip. The power to which we witness is God's, not ours.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Fourteenth Week of the Year

Pray daily: Lord, I believe you have chosen me by name and sent me to all the people with whom I live and work. Make me conscious all the time that your eyes and your hopes are resting on me. Let me love you. Amen.

Monday: Matthew 9:18-26: An official came forward, knelt down before Jesus, and said, "My daughter has just died. But come, lay your hand on her, and she will live." Do people keep asking you for favors or answers because they take for granted you want to help them? What does this say about your awareness of being "sent" by Jesus to do his work?

Tuesday: Matthew 9:32-38: Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." When you hear these words, do you think Jesus is talking about the need for more priests and religious, or do you think he is talking about activating the laity? About you?

Wednesday: Matthew 10:1-7: Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. What power do you think Jesus has given you over the sins and woundedness that keep people from living life to the full? Do you count on more than your human skills? Do you believe enough to try to free others?

Thursday: Matthew 10:7-15: Jesus said to those he sent, "Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts; no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick." Are you afraid to take on the mission of Jesus because of a lack of human resources? Do you refuse to speak about the Gospels or to try to bring others closer to God because you are not professionally trained, don't have a degree in religious education, and have not been certified as an official minister of the Church? **Friday:** Matthew 10:16-23: "Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves." Do you only bear witness to the values of Christ among those who already accept his values or at least accept him as Teacher? Is there a way to bear witness that is not simplistic? That is not even overt?

Saturday: Matthew 10:24-33: Jesus said, "Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father." Do people around you—or do you yourself—proclaim belief in non-religious values more openly than the values Jesus teaches? Do you hide your personal devotion to God from others? How do you express it? When do you suppress the expression of it?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: See if you think you know the religious commitment (or lack thereof) of the individuals with whom you work or go to class. What signs are you reading? Can others read the same signs in your life?

As Disciple: Write out a very simple statement of your belief as a Christian, something you could say to someone who asks you what your religious beliefs are. (Just to tell someone what religion you belong to is probably as misleading as it is enlightening.)

As Prophet: Decide on some visible sign to put or preserve in your lifestyle that will clearly express your relationship with Christ. Don't be simplistic. Think about it.

As Priest: Ask some people of other religions what they think is the common ground between you and them. See if you can identify with their personal experience of God. Look for "fellowship (communion) in the Holy Spirit."

As King: Ask yourself what you can do to establish or extend the reign of Christ over your work or social life without ever mentioning the name of Jesus or quoting anything he taught. What changes can you propose and defend on their own merits, using values already accepted, in principle at least, by those around you?

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