

August 3, 2025 • The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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
Monday9:00AM - 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
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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

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Custodian
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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 August 2

4:00PM † S.J. Hecksel by Ray & Kathy Maka.....MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday August 3

8:30AM † Sherry Maslowski by Jeff & Denise ParishMI
 10:30AM † Steven Frantz by M/M Gary Karr.....

Monday August 4 No Mass

Tuesday August 5 Communion Service

12:00PM † Chuck Klein by The Jim Host FamilyMA
 Adoration begins after Communion Service until 3:30pm

Wednesday August 6 Communion Service

12:00PM † Louis & Rose Goosen by Dave & Pat GoosenMI
 Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm

Thursday August 7 Communion Service

12:00M † Leo & Helen Byrne by Berlin Fair.....MA

Friday August 8 Communion Service

12:00PM † Carmen (Goosen) Dietrich by Dave & Pat Goosen.....MI

Saturday August 9

4:00PM † David Balkon by the Kilpatrick FamilyMI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday August 10

8:30AM † Eli O'Bradovich by the O'Bradovich Family.....MI
 10:30AM † Gene Hodges by FamilyMA

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



Scripture Readings for the Week of August 3, 2025

Sunday Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21

Monday Memorial of Saint John Vianney, Priest
 Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday
 Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13, Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
 Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Lk 9:28b-36

Thursday
 Nm 20: 1-13; Ps 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9, Mt 16:13-23

Friday
 Dt 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 and 21; Mt 16:24-28

Saturday
 Dt 6: 4-13; Ps 18: 2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 and 51; Mt 17:14-20

Sunday Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or Heb 11:1-2, 8-12; Lk 12:32-48 or Lk 12:35-40

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Aug 9—4:00PM	Aug 10 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Kassidy Britt MaKaelyn Britt	Bryson Lindberg Reid Lindberg
Eucharistic Ministers	Mark Phillips Veronica Schumaker	Debbie Veneklas Rosemary Weigel Kenny Harker Zack Nelson Peter Nielsen NEED TWO
Lector	Kevin Schumaker	Cindy Lindberg
Sacristan	Cindy Bleckley	Chris Albrecht
Ushers	NEED TWO	Curt DeVos Ed Irwin Joe Meerman Wade Lindberg
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	August 10 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Need one
Altar Servers	Casimir Lothschutz Peter Lothschutz Timothy Lothschutz
Precious Body	Christina Withers Becky Warners Need One
Precious Blood	Nettie Leale Geary Farrell Margie Jirous
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!

St Mary

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$50,516.00
Total Pledges Made: \$46,855.00 (93%)
Balance: \$3,661.00
Participation: 96 of 260 Active - Households (37%)

St Michael

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$52,297.00
Total Pledges Made: \$ 33,660.00 (64%)
Balance: \$18,637.00
Participation: 83 of 255 - Active Households (32%)
Totals as of July 29, 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.



**STRENGTHENED IN CHRIST,
RESPONDING WITH JOY.**

Diocese of Grand Rapids
Catholic Services Appeal

Millions of Monicas

Ladies, Join the Millions of Monicas Prayer Group at St. Anthony of Padua Parish- Grand Rapids

Starting Monday, Sept. 8, from 6–7 p.m. in the Chapel Continuing every 2nd & 4th Monday of the month Are you praying for loved ones to return to the Church? You're not alone. Join other women in faith and hope as we lift our children, grandchildren, and other loved ones through prayer. Millions of Monicas is a national movement of mothers and grandmothers committed to intercessory prayer, trust, and surrender. All women are welcome—no registration required.

Can you help?

God's Kitchen is running extremely low on ground beef. God's Kitchen served more than 77,000 hot meals in 2024 to those in need in West Michigan, and the numbers continue to increase. With food costs rising significantly, we need help restocking our protein supplies so we can continue serving our community. Our most desperate need is ground beef. Please help us feed the hungry in West Michigan by donating anytime Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at 303 Division Ave S, Grand Rapids. Thank you for your support! Questions? Contact Jeff Hoyh at (616) 454-4110

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

Fr Mike's Musings - *Re-Post from last weekend!*



As many are aware, I have been dealing with a relatively minor foot injury over the past few weeks. Despite careful treatment the wound is not healing as quickly as hoped. Being on my feet for long periods has put great pressure on the wound, not allowing for proper closure and healing. So, I have determined that a more direct method of treatment will be employed to prevent the possible onset of something more serious and debilitating.

On August 4th I will be fitted with a semi-permanent cast and a flexible aluminum brace. This treatment is designed to relieve excess pressure on the wound while allowing for weekly removal and replacement of the cast for debriding and medicating the wound itself. This system is anticipated to be in place over the course of four weeks, but no more than six if successful. This will encompass the whole month of August. The cast and brace frame on my right foot will prevent me from driving, and I will be reliant on volunteer drivers in both parishes for transportation to and from medical appointments and the weekend liturgies.

As a matter of course in keeping with medical directives to keep off my foot as much as possible and the inability to secure frequent transportation, I have decided to limit my activity for the month of August to presiding at the weekend liturgies at St. Michael and St. Mary. Weekday Masses will be replaced with 'Word and Communion' services conducted by Deacon Tom, who will also be servicing the Catholic communities at the nursing care facilities, in cooperation with Gary Karr, which are under our parishes pastoral care. Confessions at both parishes will be suspended at this time. For those who have requested intentions for loved ones during the week, these will still be honored and pronounced in the 'General Intercessions' during the 'Word and Communion' services. Because they will not be offered during the celebration of Mass, it does not diminish the intention at all as they are being pronounced to allow for the whole of the parish community to remember and offer prayers on behalf of the intended.

This situation is only temporary and is being done at this time to ensure that I can be up and moving at full capacity before the start of the school year and the beginnings of the fuller liturgical activities of the autumn and winter months. Volunteer drivers may still be needed for Saturday and Sunday. If you can and are willing to lend a hand (or in this case, a foot) please contact:

Cathie at St. Mary, Monday-Thursday 9:00-4:30 (11:30 Wednesday),
616-677-3934

Beki at St. Michael, Monday-Wednesday & Friday 9:00-4:00,
616-384-4026

Meal Train for Fr Mike

We have created a Meal Train to help Fr Mike while he is home recuperating. Visit this link <https://mealtrain.com/631558> or scan the QR Code: to get all of the details.

Please sign up: It really is as easy as making an extra serving of whatever you are preparing your family for dinner. Put it in a microwavable container and drop it off at the rectory. Please have meal fully cooked in a microwavable container.

(Fr Mike does not use his oven) The container will be cleaned and returned to the church community room for you to pick up. Meals can be dropped off at the rectory on the covered front porch. There will be a tote to place the meal in. (if the 4-5PM drop off time does not work for you, please call the parish office to make other drop off arrangements that are more convenient for you. THANK YOU.



Women's Book Club- DATE CHANGE

All Ladies of St. Mary's Catholic Church - Marne and St. Michael's Church - Coopersville are welcome!

TUESDAYS 10:00 AM in the St Mary Community Room.

It is not too late to join. For More Info please contact Mary Guilbault 810.397.4461. New Book beginning soon....

August 3, 2025 ~ The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

This is the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Luke 12:13-21, is a story about a rich man who focused on accumulating possessions instead of living for God and helping others. Jesus teaches that true happiness doesn't come from having a lot of things, but from being rich in faith and generosity. It's a lesson for kids about sharing, being responsible, and not letting greed control their lives.

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.



Registration is now open for the 2025/2026 school year.

Forms are available online or in the Narthex.

Register ONLINE HERE: <https://www.saintmarysmarne.org/religious-education-elementary>

Classes resume in September. We are working on class lists and ordering books and supplies. To help us get an accurate number of students, please take a minute and register your child(ren) today.

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

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

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: Aug 9, 23-7AM - Community Room

St Mary's Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Mass at The Cemetery Altar
at 10:30AM
(please bring a lawn chair. In case of Inclement weather, Mass will be celebrated inside)

Picnic at The Parish Hall
at 12:00PM

Join your parish family (past & present) for an afternoon of **FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!**
 Grilled Hamburgers & Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Chips and Punch provided..

Food will be served from 12:30pm to 2:00pm
If you would like, Please bring a DESSERT to share.

All are Welcome!
Come Back and Visit...
Stop by and say HI to your old friends and make some new friends.

RSVP Sign Up sheets in the Narthex!
 Volunteers are Needed!
 Call the Parish Office 616.677.3934

ALL ARE WELCOME!
PARISH PICNIC

Raffles
Yard Games
Cake Walk
BINGO
Kiddie Train Ride
And more.....

Picnic Volunteer - Informational Meeting Aug 19 - 6 PM Community Room

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 through Aug 10.* There will be a box in the Narthex to place your donations.



Giving Back to God

Mass: Attendance 7/27- 10:30AM:	169
Adult Contributions	\$3240.00
Children Contributions	\$16.00
Loose Contributions	\$258.00
Capital Improvement	75.00
Online Giving	\$920.00
Total	\$4509.00
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5470.00
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	+\$480.00

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 the 9 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$57.75. 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

Faith Formation Registration school year 2025-2026: Attention families with children ages 3 through grades 12. You can find registration forms on the parish website and forms are also located in the church narthex.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: We are currently on Summer Break. We will see you in September. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tell a parable about a rich fool. He teaches that it's not how much stuff we have that matters, but what's in our hearts. Are we kind and generous, or are we greedy and only think about ourselves? Being rich towards God means being generous with our time, talents, and possessions. It means sharing what we have with others, helping those in need, and loving God and our neighbors.

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. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation. Our programs are on Summer break. Class will resume in September.

St. Michael's 2025 Vacation Bible School

This past week we had an ultimate Alaskan adventure at VBS. The northern lights glowed over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. A sight that we will not soon forget. We had a fun time learning we can trust and rely on God in a wild world.



Thank you to the Station Leaders, Crew Leaders, Kitchen Crew, decorators and to the many behind-the-scenes volunteers who helped wherever they were needed throughout the week! Thank you all for helping make this program a special time of spiritual growth for the children! A special thank you to everyone who helped transform our facility into a Christ-centered landscape. All your time and talents really showed! Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to our VBS program. It is greatly appreciated.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Caroline Idziak
by Bob Idziak

Festival News

Come one, come all! Our Parish Festival is August 24, 2025! We will have a large raffle, chicken dinner, country store, mini-affle, kids' tent, grocery wheel . . . something for all ages! We will need many volunteers to help out. Look for sign-up sheets in the glass hallway!!

Large Raffle: Raffle tickets will be available after Masses. We are asking that each family try to sell at least 2 packets. If you would like to buy some from the people handing them out, you may.

Mini Raffle: You may bring donated items into the office during regular hours. Think of how you can donate— a service (babysitting, baked goods once a month, etc), experiences (zoo, museums, etc), crafts that you have made, etc. If you would like to donate money for the committee to purchase items, please do so by August 17.

Kitchen: In need of donations — 1 28 oz. decaf canister of coffee; 1 jug of bleach; 1 large bottle of dish soap.

Country Store: The following is meant to be suggestions only: any and all baked goods, canned preserves, pickles, fruits, homemade jewelry, wood work, books, produce and herbs from your garden, honey, homemade soap. If you aren't sure it is appropriate for the Country Store, please call Mary Turbessi 231-865-3468 or Cindy Lindberg.

Beverage/Snack Tent: Please call or text Kelli Ferguson at (616) 437-5194 to donate pop, water, chips or money to purchase these items.

Pie Collections: We will take a special collection for pies on August 3 and August 10. Please contact our co-chairs, Cindy Lindberg (616) 822-1213 or Cindy Bleckley (616) 460-2004 with any questions.

***Save your paper and plastic grocery bags.

Please place them in the container in the glass hallway.

The next festival meeting will be August 5, 2025 at 6:00 in the family center, for all chairpeople and anyone wanting to attend.

Giving Back to God

July 26/27 2025

Mass: Attendance 7/26- 4:00PM:	79
Mass: Attendance 7/27 8:30AM:	161
Adult Envelopes	\$3,466.00
Loose Cash	\$239.00
Children's Envelopes	\$8.00
Total	\$3,713.00
<i>Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget</i>	\$5,168.00
<i>Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual</i>	+\$5,551.00

Thank you for your continued support!

August 3, 2025 ~ The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Baptism Makes Us Different

We may not realize—or remember constantly enough—just how radically Baptism has changed our whole outlook on life. In Luke’s Gospel, someone asked Jesus for a favor which to us seems perfectly normal: “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” If you had been Jesus, wouldn’t you have been inclined to go to the rescue and at least check out the facts? And if there was no reason not to, wouldn’t you perhaps have spoken to the brother about the value of sharing wealth with one’s family?

Not so Jesus. He replied, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” Then he went on to preach to the crowd, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” What kind of answer is this? Would your lawyer say that to you if you wanted to sue someone? Would your pastor dare to answer you like that if you asked him to intercede with your family over a financial matter? Would the nuns in your local monastery tell you, if you asked for their prayers, that they didn’t think money was worth praying for? (Saint Teresa of Avila said that when the would-be conquistadors setting out for the New World asked the Carmelite convent to pray that they would make a fortune, the Sisters “said yes but did no” — and for just that reason).

Once we have accepted Baptism, our focus is no longer on the benefits this world holds out to us—and that death snatches away. Baptism is not just “after-death insurance,” a way to insure that we will be just as comfortable after we die as we are during life. Baptism is a change of goals, the acceptance of a new purpose for living, and it changes our whole guidance system. The baptized are not interested in acquiring wealth.

This is not my thought; it is the teaching of John Paul II, who wrote in his 1993 World Day of Peace address, “The Gospel invites believers not to accumulate the goods of this passing world: ‘Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...’ This is a duty intrinsic to the Christian vocation, no less than the duty of working to overcome poverty.”

AUGUST 3, 2025

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23;
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21

We should not take this teaching lightly. John Paul gives it after quoting Vatican II’s reversal of what was standard moral theology up to then: “We are obliged to support the poor, and not just from our surplus.” But John Paul goes beyond Vatican II’s teaching and concludes, “The uncontrolled search for a comfortable life risks blinding people to the needs of others.... It is therefore absolutely essential to stem the unrestrained consumption of earthly goods and to control the creation of artificial needs. Moderation and simplicity ought to become the criteria of our daily lives.”

John Paul goes even farther. In the next three paragraphs he uses the term “evangelical poverty” four times, obviously speaking about the poverty all Christians are called to practice. This is the first time that I personally have ever seen this term used except to designate the poverty to which members of religious orders commit themselves by the vow of poverty. The pope is saying very strongly that everything Jesus says about poverty in the Gospels is describing a way of life all Christians are called to adopt. This is radical teaching. And when, after quoting some Scriptural passages that describe Jesus’ own life, John Paul concludes, “Christ’s example, no less than his words, is normative for Christians,” he puts all of moral theology on a higher, more demanding, and immeasurably more inspiring plane.

It is the plane to which we are committed and consecrated by Baptism. (See “The Links Between Poverty and Peace,” World Day of Peace/I 993, in *Origens*, Vol. 22, No. 28, December 29, 1992. See also John Paul’s let-



ter, *The Splendor of Truth*, August 6, 1993, Saint Paul Books, Chapter One, Nos. 12-21).

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Eighteenth Week of the Year

Pray daily: Lord, you gave me a new life, your life. Give me the faith to build a new lifestyle, your lifestyle. I believe that you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help me to live out my belief in action. Amen.

Monday: Matthew 14:13-21: The disciples said to Jesus, “Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.” Then he said, “Bring them here to me” Are you willing to share whatever you have with those who are in need? When is the last time you did? How do you feel about it?

Tuesday: Matthew 14:22-36: Peter said to Jesus walking on the sea, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” How have you challenged Jesus to let you take seriously his promises? What risks have you taken based on faith in him?

Wednesday: Matthew 15:21-28: Jesus said to the Canaanite woman, “It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.” What do you share with people with whom you have no social or cultural bonds? What kind of relationship do you have with people of other nations and economic levels? How do you express it?

Thursday: Matthew 16:13-23: Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan!” You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” Could you be in any way an obstacle to the reign of God that Jesus is trying to establish on earth? In what specific ways do you think “as God does” rather than “as human beings do” in your family life, student or professional life, civic involvement?

Friday: Matthew 16:24-28: Jesus said that those “who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?” What ef-

fect have these words had on your way of living? Do you give them the fundamental importance Jesus gave them? Do you base all your values and priorities on them?

Saturday: Matthew 17:14-20: The disciples approached Jesus in private and said, “Why could we not drive the demon out?” He said to them, “Because of your little faith.” If enough Christians had the faith to live by Jesus’ values in business and politics, would the causes of poverty, ethnic division and war be exorcised from our world? What are you doing that contributes to or helps to eradicate the demons of our society?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Look seriously at whatever desire is in your heart for wealth or affluence. Reject it as a goal. Replace it with the goal of serving God and others through what you do best.

As Disciple: Read “The Links Between Poverty and Peace,” John Paul II’s World Day of Peace address for 1993.

As Prophet: Each day this week try to remove one status symbol from your life. Ask what in your home or office pays tribute to affluence as a value.

As Priest: Compare the way you live with the way the hardworking poor live. Look at someone in particular whom you know, who works where you do, or who goes to your Church. Surrender to compassion. See where it leads you.

As King: See what you can do on your level to work against the three causes of war John Paul II identifies: 1. The abuse of economic power—people seeking their own prosperity and security without regard for what it is doing to poorer people or nations (for example, consumerism and defense spending); 2. The abuse of political power—using positions of strength to exploit the weak, putting class or national interests above the common good of all; and 3. The pride of group superiority—thinking, even unconsciously, that the rich, respected and successful members of society are the “right kind” of people, and their lifestyle is the “right way” of life.

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