

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
Todd Kline
businessmanager@saintmarysmarne.org

Parish Secretary
Cathie VanGessel
secretary@saintmarysmarne.org

Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Veneklas
dre@saintmarysmarne.org

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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Friday 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Deacon
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Maintenance
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Custodian
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Liturgical Minister
Kevin Kilpatrick
liturgy@saintmichaels.us

Scrip Coordinator
Brenda Kilpatrick
616.837.6363

St Michael Prayer Line
Chris
616-403-7110
Judy Driedger
616-899-2470

Director of O.C.I.A
Cliff Kozminski
616.437.5318

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 November 15

4:00PM † Rory Byrne by Mom and Dad MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday November 16

8:30AM † Arden Bouchard by Kurt & Margaret Bouchard MI
 10:30AM † Anthony Karr by M/M Gary Karr MA

Monday November 17 No Mass

Tuesday November 18

12:00PM † Jim Potts by Jean Gavin MA
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

Wednesday November 19

12:00PM Mary Ann Laug by Ruth Hecksel MI
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

Thursday November 20

12:00PM † Rory Byrne by Mom and Dad MA
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

Friday November 21

12:00PM † Kathie Poelma by Ruth Hecksel MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

Saturday November 22

4:00PM † Steven Rohen by Norm & Barb Rohen MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday November 23

8:30AM † Barbara Bellamy by Dave & Sharon Carlson MI
 10:30AM † Gordon Powers by Family MA

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

Winter Weather Reminder.... When there is inclement weather and Coopersville and/or Kenowa Hills Schools are closed. All Parish Events and Daily Mass will be cancelled that day. The Mass intention for that day will be rescheduled at our earliest opportunity. The Parish Office will be closed. Staff will be working from home and respond to emails and voicemails through out the day.



Scripture Readings for the Week of November 16, 2025

Sunday Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Mal 3:19-20a; Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19

Monday Memorial of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158;
 Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44

Friday Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday Memorial of Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
 2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Nov 22—4:00PM	Nov 23 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Dylan Ranney NEED ONE	Melena Lindberg Aiden Rogers
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Guilbault NEED TWO	Jennifer DeMull Sharon Carlson Joe Hitchings Kenny Harker Zack Nelson Peter Nielsen Chris Albrecht
Lector	Rob Guilbault	Cindy Lindberg
Sacristan	Sue DeVos	Rosemary Weigel
Ushers	Ray Maka NEED ONE	Joe Meerman Calvin Lindberg Curt DeVos Greg Helsen
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	November 23 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Casimir Lothschutz Peter Lothschutz Timothy Lothschutz
Precious Body	Margie Jirous Christina Withers Jim Fritz
Precious Blood	Mary Kirkwood June Stevenson Geary Farrell Bruce Kamp
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

Fr Mike's Musings

Earlier this past summer the Diocese of Grand Rapids concluded its strategic planning efforts envisioning a new course for the Church in West Michigan in the coming decade. This project was started at the request of the diocesan clergy who have been increasingly stretched thin in their vocational obligations by an antiquated parish structure in the diocese that cannot be adequately serviced given the declining number of clergy as a result of age, illness, and fewer ordinations over the years.

Also, many parishes have “outlived” their purpose due to declining parishioner numbers, age being the chief reason, and younger Catholics relocating for work or simply ceasing to engage their faith. These factors have contributed to the lack of “vitality” in these parishes, especially the smaller (less than 100 person capacity) rural parishes. Although some may have the financial wherewithal among their populace, they do not possess the life/vitality necessary to continue their existence as a parish entity and a reason for the staffing of a pastor.

The following material is from the final pastoral plan (Rooted in Christ) as promulgated by the Diocese of Grand Rapids, 29 June 2025.



A vital parish is one that possesses the resources necessary to fully carry out the mission of Christ, whether as a stand-alone parish or in collaboration with other parishes. The availability of priests for active ministry will impact the assessment of a parish's viability. The following elements are essential to be deemed a vital parish.

WORSHIP AND THE SACRAMENTS: Liturgical celebrations are carefully prepared and well executed with attendee participation. Mass is considered to be well attended when attendance exceeds 50% of the building's seating capacity.

EVANGELIZATION: The parish invites parishioners to evangelize and actively reaches out to inactive/non-participating Catholics, inquirers/seekers, and those who do not already belong to a religious community.

MISSION AND LEADERSHIP: The parish has a clear Christ-centered mission, which is understood within the context of the local and universal Church. The parish is staffed appropriately to facilitate parish ministries. They also receive appropriate education and ongoing formation to be effective in their roles. The parish has effective pastoral and finance councils and committees. The committees actively engage and involve the faithful in carrying out the pastoral activity of the parish.

PASTORAL CARE: The parish ministers to people in hospitals, health care facilities, and other facilities. The parish ministers to the homebound and elderly parishioners.

FAITH FORMATION AND CATHOLIC EDUCATION: Adult faith formation programs, including Bible study, small groups, and retreats, are provided to form missionary disciples. The parish provides comprehensive and engaging faith formation for children in religious education programs and Catholic schools. The parish has ministries that reach youth and young adults. Parents are engaged with the parish and active in the development of their family's faith. Vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and permanent diaconate are actively and prayerfully promoted. Catechists, teachers, and catechetical leaders are trained and competent in their ministries.

PARISH COMMUNITY: The membership of the parish is sufficient in size to carry out the mission of the Church, including ministries and programs that serve the needs of parishioners of all ages. The parish provides opportunities for fellowship to promote a sense of belonging and community among parishioners.

SERVING OTHERS: The parish engages in active ministries serving people in need within the immediate parish area, the diocese, and the world. Appropriate faith and moral issues are addressed in accordance with the Church from the pulpit. The parish collaborates with other churches and civic agencies to serve the wider community.

STEWARDSHIP: Parishioners understand stewardship as a response to their discipleship and give their time, talent, and treasure to support the mission of the Church. The parish practices responsible budgeting by operating with a balanced budget and ensuring sufficient funds for ministries, programs, facilities, and staff. Parish facilities are well-maintained and adequate for parish ministries and programs. Financial reporting is timely and follows the accounting standards established by the USCCB and the diocese.

The parishes of St. Michael in Coopersville and St. Mary in Marne will consolidate and become a new parish. The parishes should begin taking steps toward the merger with the promulgation of the plan. The names of the church buildings will remain the same, and a name will be selected for the new parish. The parishes should study their building usage and implement a plan for how the new parish will function in the future. The parishes have a history of collaboration. A strategy should be developed for reaching out to and welcoming new residents of the area and inviting them to become members of the parish. The parish should focus on adult and youth faith formation.

So, why publish this material in the bulletin when it is readily available online on the diocesan website? Because the local “rumor mill” is still running at full steam with disinformation ranging from our parish(es) are closing to the frequent and vehement use of the term ‘LIAR’. Frankly, I have had enough of this nonsense.

Even a cursory reading of the pastoral plan shows that almost nothing has changed in regards to St. Michael or St. Mary. Both churches will remain in operation with the current saints names (a new overall parish name will be selected soon) and liturgical schedules intact, save for the Christmas and Easter seasons beginning in the winter of 2026. More emphasis will be focused on evangelization, volunteerism, and religious education, but this has been and always will be the case for a parish. Parish councils (finance and pastoral) and the faith formation program will be consolidated into single entities with members and catechists evenly comprised of members from both St. Michael and St. Mary. The remainder of the consolidation work is largely clerical (office-stuff).

Aside from some minor cosmetic and clerical changes, nothing horrid has befallen our communities. But be advised. Do not let ourselves become lazy or negligent in maintaining the vitality of our parish. We have the opportunity to go nowhere but up in growing in our potential and in our faith. This consolidation is a new life granted, let's not waste it by fruitless grumbling, bickering, or wishing for a return to the “way we've always done it”. Those things only serve to sap the vitality of a parish. If this happens there is no reset, the parish will die and the legacy of those who worked to establish our spiritual home in Coopersville-Marne will die with it. All that could remain of St. Michael and St. Mary are two cemeteries and a few fading memories—not the vital, living churches envisioned by Christ.

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.

1st-7th Grade Faith Formation Classes -

Wednesdays at Hall / 6:00- 7:30pm

8th Grade - Confirmation Classes -

Wednesdays at Hall / 6:00- 7:30pm

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

Thank You St Mary Church Family

We want to thank Fr. Mike, Deacon Tom, Gary, The Luncheon Committee and the St. Mary's Marne community for the wonderful funeral Service and luncheon for Mom. The Donna Schwallier family.



Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, November 30 - 6:30PM-
St Mary Parish Hall

An evening of fellowship for woman.

**Hosted by: The St Mary's
Our Lady of Fatima Guild**



All ladies of the community and their Middle School or older daughters are invited to come and start the Advent season with a beautiful candlelit evening. Music of the season be provided by a talented hand bell choir. If you are interested in reserving & decorating a table, or would like more information please contact: Lori Rander, lrander81@gmail.com or 616-215-6524. **Tickets are \$5.00 each.**

(guests are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share)

All proceeds raised will be donated to the church ministries and local charities supported by the Guild. Donations are being accepted for the raffle.

Tickets on sale after all Masses.

Thanksgiving Eve Mass & Grocery Collection November 26 at 6PM



Fr Mike will be celebrating Mass and The Knights of Columbus will be collecting much needed items for our annual Grocery Collection. We will also watch a short slideshow from the past year's activities here at St. Mary's Parish. You are encouraged to bring: canned meats, paper products, personal hygiene items, laundry soap, Baby food and baby necessities are also in need! Grocery Bags will be collected during the offertory. Groceries will be distributed to local families in need by Coopersville Cares.

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will be up in the Narthex beginning Thanksgiving weekend. This year we will be helping two local organizations within the diocese. HELP Pregnancy and The Prison, Jail & Juvenile Detention Center Ministry. Parishioners are asked to take a tag off of the tree and replace it with one of the ornaments provided and purchase the requested item listed on the tag. Please return these items **UNWRAPPED** and place under the tree with the ORIGINAL gift tag attached to the item no later than **Sunday, December 14.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

If you have questions or would like to help with this ministry, please contact: Rob and Lori Rander (616) 215-6524



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



Next Blood Drive & Breakfast will be Feb 1, 2026

Knight Person of the Month- November: Fr. Mike Hodges

Knight Family of the Month- November Tim & Teresa Sobie

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 you for your service and commitment to our Parish Family.



November Special Donations:

Coopersville schools/ Coopersville Cares, 24 winter coats for kids in need.

And a cash donation to Holy Cross Charities.

Winners of the Sobie Meats - Gift Card Raffle

1st Place \$250.00 Gift Card - John Withers

2nd Place \$150.00 Gift Card - Geary Farrell

3rd Place 100.00 Gift Card - Todd Davis

The Knights of Columbus Council would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets for the Sobie Gift Card Raffle. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Tim and Teresa Sobie for their generosity to this raffle.



Looking Ahead- Save the Dates

Nov 22	COR- 7AM Community Room
Nov 26	Thanksgiving Eve Mass-Grocery Collection, Annual Slide Show 6PM St Mary
Nov 30	Advent by Candlelight 6:30 Parish Hall
Dec 1	Fr Mike Lecture Series- Scripture Roots of the Sacraments. 7PM- Community Room
Dec 6	Cookies After Mass - Volunteers needed
Dec 7	COR- 7AM Community Room
Dec 8	Fr Mike Lecture Series- Scripture Roots of the Sacraments. 7PM- Community Room
Dec 9	Our Lady of Fatima Guild Meeting 7PM Community Room
Dec 13	COR- 7AM Community Room
Dec 14	Christmas Hymn Sing Along -3PM
Dec 15	Fr Mike Lecture Series- Scripture Roots of the Sacraments. 7PM- Community Room
Dec 21	Decorate the Church for the Christmas Season- 11:30AM

Giving Back to God

Mass: Attendance 11/9	154
Adult Contributions	\$5647.00
Children Contributions	\$1.50
Loose Contributions	\$168.00
Capital Improvement	\$860.00
Online Giving	\$2345.00
Total	\$9021.50
<i>Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget</i>	<i>\$5533.65</i>
<i>Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual</i>	<i>+5356.21</i>

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



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

St. Michael's Parish News

Scrip News— Thank you to our 10 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$92.21. Please consider Scrip for your holiday shopping.



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, Debbie Venekase, 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 for the 2025-2026 school year: **Classes have started. It is not too late to join us.**

Children's Liturgy of the Word: CLW program is offered on Sunday

during 8:30 Masses. Children 3-9 years old are welcome to join us each week as we pray, read and explore the Sunday Gospel from a child's viewpoint. We include the Gospel Acclamation so children understand the importance of preparing our mind and heart for the Gospel reading.



Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:00- 7:30 pm in the parish school. Registration forms are in the back of church and on the parish website.

Middle School Faith Formation: Grades 6, 7 and 8 meet on Sundays from 9:45-11:15am in the Youth Room. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation.



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



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Sherry Maslowski
by Frank Maslowski & Family

Help Wanted

We are looking for more volunteers to help as money counters each Monday. We would ideally like to have two "teams" of three people, who would alternate counting collections on Mondays, every other month. If this is something you are interested in, please contact Beki in the Parish Office at (616) 384-4026. No experience necessary, and training is available. Thank you for considering!



Catholic Service Appeal - 2025

St Michael

CSA 2025 Pledge Goal: \$52,297.00

Total Pledges Made: \$52,630.00 (100.6%)

Balance: \$333.00 OVER- THANK YOU!

Participation: 104 of 255 - Active Households (41%)

Totals as of November 4, 2025

Thank you for your stewardship! 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.



Giving Back to God

November 8/9

Mass Attendance: 11/8- 4:00 PM:	83
Mass Attendance: 11/9: 8:30 AM	151
Adult Envelopes	\$2,875.00
Loose Cash	\$274.00
Children's Envelopes	\$21.00
Holy Day	\$70.00
Total	\$3,240.00
Building Fund	\$70.00

Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5,509.92
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual	+\$3,197.58

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.



November 16, 2025 ~ The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

"I Will Give You Words and Wisdom"

It may seem strange that out of a Gospel that speaks of wars, earthquakes, famine, plague, and persecution, the phrase we focus on is, "I will give you words and wisdom."

But this is the point of the whole Gospel.

The point is that, even in the midst of the greatest catastrophes, our first focus should be, not on the catastrophes themselves, or on what is happening, but on how we can respond. How can we, "in good times and in bad," bear witness to Jesus Christ in action and in word?

When we watch the news, we should be aware during every minute of it that God is giving us "words and wisdom" to respond to what we see and hear. From the very first word that arises as a thought or feeling still unspoken within our hearts, to the words we may speak in commentary to anyone watching the news with us, to the "word" of action we speak through our attitudes and behavior as we go about our daily business influenced by our awareness of world events, our response should be a gifted response. "I will give you words and wisdom"—words and wisdom to respond to everything that is happening to you or around you in this world, words and wisdom to bear witness to me "in good times and in bad."

This is what Christian life is: responding with the words and wisdom of Jesus Christ to every human event, initiative, and accident that comes within our consciousness; responding, not just with our own wisdom, but with his; responding, not with human words and actions only, but with divine words, divine wisdom, divine love. And the key to doing this is an awareness that we are gifted to respond. "I will give you (I have already given you) words and wisdom."

A key element, a necessary element, in our shared mission as Church is this awareness that we are gifted. We have accepted *koinonia*, oneness, with Jesus Christ and with each other in the mission of bringing God's life to the world. As individuals and as a parish, we

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Malachi 3:19-20; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12;
Luke 21:5-19

have embraced a task to fulfill; we have accepted the responsibility of carrying on the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in our time, in our particular place. Without constant awareness of the gifts we have been given, this task and this responsibility would be crushing.

But every single one of us is gifted, and as a community we are gifted, not only with "words and wisdom," but also in a variety, a multiplicity of ways. "To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7). "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied graces" (1 Peter 4:10). We are gifted, not only adequately, but overabundantly. As Saint John tells us, God "does not ration his gift of the Spirit" (John 3:34).

We need to recognize these gifts—positively identify them and call them by name, "own" them. We also need to appreciate our gifts: to appreciate what our gifts say to us about God's love for us, his appreciation of us. We have to accept ourselves as gifted people, with everything this implies. And the first proof of our appreciation is gratitude.

If we are truly grateful for God's gifts, we will value them and use them. We will want to decide on particular, concrete ways to use our gifts to bring about the reign of God on earth. That is what our shared mission as Church is all about.

What are your own special gifts of ministry?



Through Baptism and Confirmation, you were consecrated and empowered to minister, both within the Church and to those outside the Church. And for this you received gifts that come directly from the Holy Spirit. What are they, and how will you use them? (For starters, read 1 Corinthians 12; and Romans 12, but these are just examples.)

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Thirty-Third Week of the Year

Pray daily: Lord, I believe you have given me special gifts to use in ministry to others. Help me to identify them, to accept them, and to use them for others as generously as you gave them to me. Amen.

Monday: Luke 18:35-43: Jesus asked the blind man, "What do you want me to do for you?" He replied, "Lord, please let me see." If you changed the question and asked, "Lord, what do you want me to do for you," what do you think he would answer?

Tuesday: Luke 19:1-10: Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of your possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I shall repay it four times over." Zacchaeus was so impressed with Jesus' acceptance of him that he gave half of his wealth to the poor. What do you have to give that is perhaps even better than wealth?

Wednesday: Luke 19:11-28: Jesus said, "A nobleman went off to a distant country to obtain the kingship for himself and then to return. He called ten of his servants and gave them ten gold coins and told them, 'Engage in trade with these until I return.'" What has Jesus entrusted to you to use in continuing his mission until he returns? How have you invested your gifts? What results can you show?

Thursday: Luke 19:41-44: As Jesus drew near Jerusalem, he saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If this day you only knew what makes for peace." Have you ever felt like weeping for the same reason over your

city? Your country? Your parish? Family? School? The place where you work? What gift or talent do you have for showing people the way to peace? How are you using it?

Friday: Luke 19:45-48: Jesus entered the temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things, saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.'" What do you see that should be and could be changed in your parish? Do you recognize it as a gift just to see this? How have you used that gift for the Church?

Saturday: Luke 20:27-40: Some of the scribes said to Jesus in reply, "Teacher, you have answered well." Has anyone ever said this to you when you answered questions about the faith? How have you used the gifts of intelligence and education to learn more about the faith so that you can share it with others?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Find, choose, or create a symbol you can put where you will see it at work which expresses to you what is different about a Christian's basic attitude on the job.

As Disciple: Think of a situation that bothers you at home, at work, in your social or civic life. Try to find some words of Scripture that give you a new slant on it.

As Prophet: Think of something you believe God wants of you, but which you don't do because you "couldn't explain it" to your friends or co-workers. Do it and let God provide the "words and wisdom" to explain.

As Priest: "Deliver yourself up" to the risk of ridicule or disapproval for the sake of defending or helping someone else.

As King: Imagine Jesus is coming in triumph this week. What would you want to change in your environment at home, at work, in your social or civic life?

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