

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@gpriests.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
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Parish Secretary
Cathie VanGessel
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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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Deacon
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Custodian
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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 December 13

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

Sunday December 14

8:30AM † Rebecca Centilli by Kurt & Margaret BouchardMI
 10:30AM † Jimmy Schneider by FamilyMA
 3:00PM Christmas Hymn Sing AlongMA

Monday December 15 No Mass

Tuesday December 16

12:00PM † Jill Fritz by M/M Duane PerrinMA
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

Wednesday December 17

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

Thursday December 18

12:00PM † Jim Potts by Tom McCarthyMA
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

Friday December 19

12:00PM † Louis & Rose Goosen by Dave & Pat Goosen.....MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael

Saturday December 20

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

Sunday December 21

8:30AM † Tom Taylor by Kurt & Margaret BouchardMI
 10:30AM † Floyd and Mary Bradley by Lisa BradleyMA

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 December 14 , 2025

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent
 Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Monday
 Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab; 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday
 Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday
 Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Thursday
 Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Friday
 Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Saturday
 Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

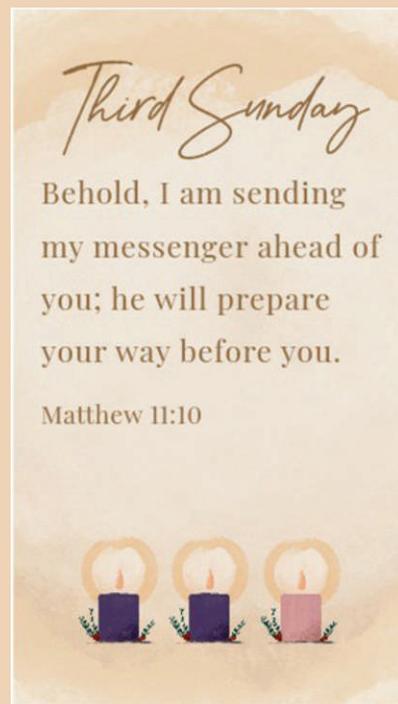
Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Dec 20—4:00PM	Dec 21 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	NEED TWO	Adalyn Taylor Clare Taylor
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Guilbault Rob Guilbault Deacon Tom	Chris Albrecht Kenny Harker Jennifer DeMull Jeff Johnson Zack Nelson Peter Nielsen NEED ONE
Lector	Mark Phillips	Amber Nelson
Sacristan	Sue DeVos	Rosemary Weigel
Ushers	NEED TWO	Greg Helsen Calvin Lindberg Joe Meerman Curt DeVos
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	December 21 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Lauren LeMieux Lauren Serge
Precious Body	Christina Withers Need Two
Precious Blood	Margie Jirous Bruce Kamp Becky Warners Geary Farrell
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	Vito Dolci
Music	Bernie Stanko



Cluster News and Community News and Events

Advent Lecture Series

Scripture Roots of the Sacraments

Led by Fr. Michael Hodges. St Mary Community Room

Monday- December 15 - 7-8:30PM

.All are Welcome. (no registration needed)

The Sacraments



Baptism Confirmation Eucharist Reconciliation Matrimony Holy Orders Anointing of the Sick

Advent Family Prayer

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your
greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love
during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for
his coming. We pray in the
name of Jesus, our Savior.
Amen



Christmas Mass Schedule

The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas Eve Vigil)

Wednesday, Dec 24

4:00PM , 7:00PM ~ St. Mary - Msgr. Louis Stasker

4:00PM, 7:00PM ~ St. Michael - Fr. Michael Hodges

The Nativity of The Lord

Thursday, Dec 25 Christmas Day

8:30AM ~ St. Michael - Fr. Michael Hodges

10:30AM ~ St. Mary - Msgr. Louis Stasker

The Solemnity of Mary,

Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31 6:00PM ~

St. Michael- Fr. Michael Hodges

Thursday, January 1 12:00PM ~

St. Mary - Fr. Michael Hodges



Please Join us ~ All are Welcome

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

The Eucharist:

It's Not About Who Gives It—It's About Who We Receive

Each Sunday, when we come forward to receive Holy Communion, we approach the very heart of our faith: Jesus Christ, truly present—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—under the appearance of bread and wine. Nothing in our Catholic life is more sacred, more life-giving, or more unifying than this moment.

And because the Eucharist is Christ Himself, the Church reminds us that the grace we receive in Holy Communion does not depend on the personal holiness or role of the minister distributing it. Whether you receive from a priest, a deacon, or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, you receive the same Jesus—fully, completely, and without diminishment.

Why This Matters

Sometimes Catholics wonder if it's "better" or "more reverent" to receive the Eucharist from a priest rather than from a trained lay minister. But the Church is clear:

The source of the Eucharist is Christ's sacrifice made present on the altar.

The power of the sacrament comes from Christ alone, not from the minister's rank, personality, or holiness.

The grace we receive is identical regardless of who places the Host in our hands or on our tongue.

An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is not a "substitute priest," nor are they performing a priestly function. They assist the community so that Holy Communion can be distributed reverently, prayerfully, and in a timely way—especially when the congregation is large or the clergy are few.

The Church's Teaching Is Clear

The Catechism teaches that Christ is present in the Eucharist "in a wholly unique manner" and that this presence does not depend on the minister (CCC 1373–1377). What matters is not the distributor but the Real Presence of Jesus, who comes to you with the same love, the same grace, and the same saving power every single time.

A Moment for Awe, Not Comparison

When you step forward in the communion line, the focus should not be on who is standing in front of you. The focus is on the One who is waiting to enter your heart. The priest, the deacon, and the Extraordinary Minister all say the same sacred words, "The Body of Christ."

The response is the same: "Amen."

The gift is the same: Jesus Himself.

Let Us Receive With Faith

As a parish family, may we approach Holy Communion with renewed reverence, gratitude, and unity. Christ gives Himself fully to each of us—no matter which minister places the Host in our hands.

What matters most is who we receive, not who gives.

Written by: St Mary Pastoral Council Members

TODAY!

Christmas Hymn Sing Along

Sunday, December 14
3:00 PM- St Mary -Marne

If you love to sing Christmas Hymns or to be surrounded by others who do, please join us for this free event.

All are Welcome.

Christmas Hymn Sing Along
with organ, piano, over 20 flutes
and your voices.

December 14, 2025 ~ The Third Sunday of Advent

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

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@saintmarysmarne.org or 616.677.3934

St. Mary's Faith Formation Christmas Celebration

On Wed, Dec 17, from 6:00-7:30PM.

in St Mary Church. Please join us for a family evening of fun, food and fellowship! We will start in Church to hear the Word of God and sing carols. Immediately following, we will gather in the Community Room for some special Christmas treats.



Prayers for Debbie

Continued prayers of healing, peace and strength for Debbie (our friend and Religious Education Director) as she begins treatment for Chronic Myeloid Leukemia.

Heavenly Father, we commend our friend Debbie to your loving care. Please touch her with your healing hand to restore her strength, comfort her heart, and bring her peace. May she feel your presence and know your love as she recovers. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

A message from Debbie: I would like to thank everyone for their well wishes, cards, and prayers. It is all greatly appreciated. Thank you!
Debbie Veneklas and family



We Need You! - Sunday, December 21

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season. We will decorate after Mass Sunday, December 21. NO experience needed. Adults and Children of all ages are encouraged to help. Many hands make light work. We will have refreshments available for those that volunteer. THANK YOU in advance for making our church beautiful for the Christmas Season.



Looking Ahead- Save the Dates

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
Dec 31	The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Vigil 6PM St Michael
Jan 1	The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God 12PM St Mary

Giving Tuesday — Thank You

WOW... a big, heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who participated in "Giving Tuesday". Because of your generosity we had 33 donations totaling \$4050.00. We also won 2 Challenge Grants offered by The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan, which totaled an additional \$450.00. **A grand total of \$4500.00! AMAZING!! We REACHED OUR GOAL!**

We were "competing" against and playing along with parishes and schools and organizations who are SO much larger than St Mary. We are SMALL & MIGHTY and oh so GENEROUS! We are grateful for your continued support. Thank You again for participating and sharing your treasures. God Bless You All, The St Mary Parish Office Staff
Diocesan Wide Giving Tuesday total- \$252,636.85! This total is inclusive of gifts to the diocesan website and any donations directly to parishes/schools that we're aware of.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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

Knight Person of the Month- December: Matt Karr

Knight Family of the Month- December: Jim & Annette Lown
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.

December Special Donations: Help Pregnancy Aid, in memory of Judy Brown

Next Blood Drive & Breakfast will be Feb 1, 2026

Pre-Register here:

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11622258

Get Your Almonds, Peanuts & Christmas Cards

The Knights of Columbus will be selling almonds, peanuts, and Christmas cards after Mass. Please stop by their table in the Narthex and see what they have to offer.



Thank You.....

Our Lady of Fatima Guild would like to thank the parish for their support with our raffle and attendance at Advent by Candlelight. Because of your support we are able to make donations toward our parish altar decorations, Hope Boxes for our parish, as well as donations to local charities. We wish you a Merry Christmas!



Giving Back to God

Mass: Attendance	Dec 7 - 155
Adult Contributions	\$4500.00
Children Contributions	\$29.00
Loose Contributions	\$79.00
Capital Improvement	\$980.00
Online Giving	\$2460.00
	\$8048.00
Total	
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5658.74
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	-\$2381.25

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

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

St. Michael's Parish News

Scrip News— Thank you to the 15 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$206.11. Please remember to buy your Christmas gift cards through Scrip. We are now carrying various \$5 and \$10 cards, which are perfect for the Giving Tree. Also, we are carrying Cabela's \$25 for the Christmas season.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Deceased members of the Dreffs & Goosen Families by Marcy Goosen

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 Veneklas, Ken Heflin, Marvin Hecksel, Payton Patterson, Pat Harlett, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.

We Need Your Help!

On Sunday, December 21, after 8:30 AM Mass, we will be decorating the church for Christmas! If you are able to stay after Mass (or come to the church if you attend Mass a different day) to help us out, it would be much appreciated. There is so much that goes into preparing for this special week, and every little bit helps! Thank you so much for giving of your time!

Would you like to be a part of our Adult Christmas Choir?

All are welcome, and we'd love to have you! Practices will be held on Sundays, December 14 and 21 at 6 PM in the church. Contact Craig Bleckley with any questions or for more information (616) 460-3143.



All men are welcomed to join us for our Annual Men's Retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, Michigan. Our retreat will be hosted the weekend of January 23-25. *The retreat theme this year is Good & Holy: Why "Good" isn't Good Enough.* Suggested Donation is \$215.00. Car pooling will be available. For more information about the Retreat house. <https://www.stfrancis.ws/mensretreats>. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mark Phillips 616-550-2766. Or Joe LeMieux 616-888-9106.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. There are 1st and 2nd place prizes for each group.

The levels of competition are: Kindergarten; Grades 1 and 2; Grades 3 and 4; Grades 5 and 6; and Grades 7 and 8.

All posters should contain our motto, "Keep Christ in Christmas" Please do not put your name on the front of the poster.

There are posters available in the Glass Hallway with entry forms taped to the back, and instructions. Posters are due back at St. Michaels by Dec. 28.

St. Michael Knights of Columbus would like to thank all who attended and helped with the Haunted Hayride and Pumpkin Carving event on October 25th. We collected 296lbs of food and \$58 cash for Coopersville Cares. It brings people from the community to our parish to have some fun. The hayride was extra special with two haunted horse riders!

Giving Back to God

December 6/7

Mass Attendance: 12/6- 4:00 PM:	98
Mass Attendance: 12/7: 8:30 AM	158
Adult Envelopes	\$5,139.00
Loose Cash	\$227.00
Children's Envelopes	\$20.00
Holy Day	\$140.00
Total	\$5,526.00
Building Fund	\$75.00
Christmas Flower Memorials	\$200.00
Cemetery	\$445.00
<i>Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget</i>	<i>\$5,678.10</i>
<i>Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual</i>	<i>-\$2,009.66</i>

Thank you for your continued support!

St. Michael's Faith Formation

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.

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. Contact Debbie if you have any questions (616) 384-4026.

The Giving Tree –

Thank you to all of St. Michael's parishioners who so generously donated to our Giving Tree. Your help in supporting Coopersville Cares is greatly appreciated. May God bless you as you have blessed others. Merry Christmas!



December 14, 2025 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Seeing What Is There

John the Baptist was in Herod's dungeon, expecting the Messiah to deliver him. Since John could not understand why Jesus did not do so, he finally sent a poignant message through his disciples, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus tells John not to let his preconceived ideas of what the Messiah should do block John from understanding what Jesus is doing: He is ministering to the poor and afflicted. If it isn't exactly what John expected, he must not let that be an obstacle to accepting Jesus as he is.

Jesus is calling on John—and through him on us all—to believe in Jesus by a free choice. He wants us to believe because we freely choose to recognize him as Savior and as God. Every rational conclusion, as a matter of fact, is a free choice, a judgment for which we take responsibility. Faith is no exception to this. But because faith is an acceptance of the person of Jesus Christ, the choice to believe in him is also an act of love. In the last analysis, to believe in and hope in Christ unconditionally, we need to love him unconditionally. It is a theme of the Gospel According to John that our recognition of truth depends on our love for goodness (see John 8:42-47).

Isaiah invites us to keep our love alive by dreaming of what God's messenger comes to do: The desert shall rejoice and blossom; we will see the glory and majesty of our God; the blind will see, the deaf hear, the speechless will sing, the lame shall leap like deer. Those whom the Lord has ransomed shall return and come to Zion with singing. Sorrow and sighing shall flee. Our God is coming. We need to recall this in order to strengthen weak hands and feeble knees and to reassure ourselves when we are fright-

DECEMBER 14, 2025

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10;
Matthew 11:2-11

ened.

James writes similarly in his letter, "Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." James offers three practical suggestions: 1) Be patient like farmers who wait for the earth to produce its crop. 2) Don't criticize one another. Focusing on faults and failings in the Church often fosters only discouragement. 3) Look to the prophets for encouragement, to those who have borne witness to Christ regardless of the cost to themselves.

In effect, James simply reworks what Jesus said to John, "Persevere in faith and hope out of love. Do not

judge God or the Church by what is not happening or get fixated on what you think God should be accomplishing through the Church. Look at what *is* happening. Those blind to faith are beginning to see; those deaf to God's word are beginning to listen; the poor are having the gospel preached to them. Ministry

is taking place and God's power is working through all of it. Grace is visible in human beings, in human actions in the Church, right now for those who have eyes to see."

When we see God embodied in the human—as in

*Ministry is taking place
and God's power is
working through all of it.*



Jesus, the “shoot from the stump of Jesse”—or when we see in the Church grace made visible in human actions grounded in faith, hope or love, this encourages us. It confirms our faith, strengthens our hope, excites our love. When God’s presence and action through grace are made visible in human actions, we find it easier to believe the divine promises, the vision of joy and peace which Isaiah holds out to us.

That is why we need saints and modern-day prophets. Such prophets point out to us how the general, abstract teachings of Jesus apply to the concrete circumstances of our time and place. We are consecrated by Baptism to do this for each other by enfleshing in our lives the attitudes and values of the gospel.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Third Week of Advent

Pray daily: Lord, give me the grace never to turn away from you or from your Church because my own expectations are not being met. Teach me to look always at what is most authentic and most inspiring; help me to embrace these for myself. Amen.

Monday: Matthew 21:23-27. Jesus said to them in reply, “I will also ask you one question. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” Can you say without hesitation that the Church is of divine origin? How does that help?

Tuesday: Matthew 21:28-32. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.” Do you take the benefits of your religion for granted? Who are some modern-day prophets?

Wednesday: Luke 7:18-23. “John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’” What disappoints you in the Church? Does it come more from human weakness or from malice? Would focusing more on the blessings of God’s word, the sacraments, the example of the saints help you deal with this disappointment? Does it require other action?

Thursday: Luke 7:24-30. “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? Someone dressed in soft robes? A prophet?” What are you really seeking from the Church’s ministers? Are you willing to be shaken up? Challenged? How have you responded to modern-day prophets?

Friday: John 5:33-36. “He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.” Has anyone in the Church inspired you? How? Have you ever changed something in your own life because of someone else’s example?

Saturday: Matthew 1:1-17. Matthew’s Gospel begins: “An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” If God despised the human race, would God have become in Jesus a member of the human family? Do you recognize Jesus as a fellow member of the human race?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: Make a fully conscious, deliberate, personal, adult act of faith in Jesus as the world’s Savior and your Savior.

As Disciple: Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), looking for what Jesus taught. Has any of this been so watered-down by the actions of Christians that we now take a lower ideal for granted? Which parts?

As Prophet: Choose from Scripture one principle which Jesus taught; you could start with Matthew 5:38-42. Focus on living it out this week. Find a new and creative application of this principle to your own circumstances.

As Priest: Select one thing that bothers you in the Church or in other people. Then follow the advice in James 5:7-10.

As King: Look around you at work, at home, in your social life. Ask what is not yet the way it should be when Christ returns. Make the appropriate changes.

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