

# St. Mary St. Michael

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616.677.3934 • [www.saintmarysmarne.org](http://www.saintmarysmarne.org)

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



*Pastor: Rev. Michael Hodges*

[frmhodes@grpriests.org](mailto:frmhodes@grpriests.org) • For emergencies please call: 616.745.1409

### Saint Mary Parish Staff

**St. Mary Parish Office Hours**  
**Monday** ..... 9:00AM - 4:30PM  
**Tuesday** ..... 9:00AM - 4:30PM  
**Wednesday** 9:00AM - 11:30AM  
**Thursday** .... 9:00AM to 4:30PM  
**Friday** ..... Closed

**Deacon**  
Tom Roberts  
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Jim Looks

**Custodian**  
Marian Looks

**Liturgical Minister**  
Gary Karr  
[gkarr@saintmarysmarne.org](mailto:gkarr@saintmarysmarne.org)

**Music Director**  
Dr. Bernie Stanko  
616.490.3836  
[berniestanko@hotmail.com](mailto:berniestanko@hotmail.com)

**St Mary Prayer Line**  
616.677.3934 or  
Linda at 677.3269  
For evening requests call  
Darlene 616.453.0157 or  
email [bfa1414@yahoo.com](mailto:bfa1414@yahoo.com)

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**Deacon**  
Tom Roberts  
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**Business Manager**  
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**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 February 7

4:00PM † Chuck Albrecht by Ruth Hecksel ..... MI  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

## Sunday February 8

8:30AM † Karen Lynn Albrecht by the Albrecht Family..... MI  
 10:30AM † Gregg Carmody by M/M Jim Lothschutz..... MA

## Monday February 9 No Mass

## Tuesday February 10

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

## Wednesday February 11

12:00PM † Sherm Hecksel by Dave & Sharon Carlson ..... MI  
*Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm*  
*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael*

## Thursday February 12

12:00PM † Rory Byrne by M/M Jim May ..... MA  
*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary*

## Friday February 13

12:00PM † Patty Hoffman by Ruth Hecksel..... MI  
*Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Michael*

## Saturday February 14

4:00PM † Ruth Beecham by Duane Beecham..... MI  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

## Sunday February 15

8:30AM † Edna Schumaker by John & Denise Anderson ..... MI  
 10:30AM † Rory Byrne by M/M Jim Lothschutz..... MA

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



## Scripture Readings for the Week of February 8, 2026

Sunday Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; I Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

Monday I Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin  
 I Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday I Kings 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday I Kings 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40; Mk 7:24-30

Friday I Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11 ab, 12-13, 14-15; Mk 7:31-37

Saturday Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop  
 I Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22; Mk 8:1-10

Sunday Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; I Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 or Mt 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

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## St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Feb 14—4:00PM	Feb 15 —8:30AM
Altar Servers	Dylan Ranney NEED ONE	Bryson Lindberg Reid Lindberg
Eucharistic Ministers	Deacon Tom NEED TWO	Jennifer DeMull Cindy Lindberg Peter Nielsen Zack Nelson Kenny Harker Joe Hitchings Chris Albrecht
Lector	Sue DeVos	Joe Meerman
Sacristan	Cindy Bleckley	Rosemary Weigel
Ushers	NEED TWO	Duane Snowdin Calvin Lindberg Curt DeVos Jim Ponshair
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

## St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	February 15 —10:30AM
Sacristan	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	Timothy Lothschutz Casimir Lothschutz
Precious Body	Geary Farrell Bruce Kamp Need One
Precious Blood	Margie Jirous Christina Withers Becky Warners Need One
Hospitality	Leonard Horter
Lector	Robert Lothschutz
Music	Bernie Stanko

## Prayer for St. Valentine's Day

### Saint Valentine's Day

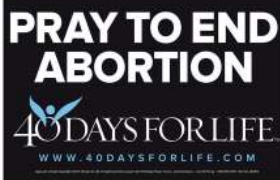


O St. Valentine, lover of Christ and of the Church, we ask your intercession that we may learn how to love God above all things and to selfishly love one another.

O glorious St. Valentine, pray for us, that we too may have the steadfast faith of the martyrs.  
 Amen.

## Cluster News and Community News and Events

### 40 Days for Life



February 20, 2026

#### Would you be willing to pray for one hour?

40 Days for Life is a unique pro-life effort that consists of 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil in front of abortion clinics. This will be the 33rd campaign in Grand Rapids, **We pray on the public sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood. This is the only freestanding surgical abortion facility still operating in our community.**

Dozens of area churches have adopted a day of prayer.

**Our parish family has chosen Fri, Feb 20, 2026 ~**

Would you be willing to pray for one hour to fill in the time slots to pray to end abortion? We will need 2 prayer volunteers from 7 am till 7 pm throughout the day. This is a powerful and proven effective way to close abortion centers and show the Mother's that we are praying and thinking about them and their babies. Please consider a hour of your time~ **Sign up sheets in the Narthex, or call your parish office.** If you are unable to attend that day you may go to the clinic and pray any time!

Thank you for your commitment to LIFE! God bless!

### Fr Mike's Musing



If a child watches television for three hours a day, by the age of thirteen that child will have seen approximately 8,000 murders and over 100,000 other acts of physical and sexual violence. Do we think that people can watch violence on television or videos without being affected by it? It seems unlikely, doesn't it? Leading authorities worldwide have confirmed that there is a link between viewing violence in mass communication and violent behavior. Many opinion polls show that there is massive public concern about the damage being inflicted by this seemingly artificial violence. A New York Times poll in 1993 showed that 80% of Americans believe that television exerted a negative impact on society. In fact, there are more than one thousand studies linking violence in the media to actual behavior. That is just violence. But what about pornography? There is enormous circumstantial evidence linking pornography to criminal activity, sexually deviant behaviors, and gender identity confusion.

In view of all these negative and evil influences, the words of Jesus in the Gospel today have more relevance than ever: Jesus tells us we are the "salt of the earth". What does salt do? Before the days of refrigerators, salt was used as a preservative. So, when Jesus tells us we are the salt of the earth He is asking us to preserve the world from going bad, to put it simply. One of the ways in which we can act as salt preserving what is good and preventing evil is by curbing our use of the aforementioned means of (mis)information and communication.

Jesus also said that we are the "light of the world", and we are to put our light on the lampstand so that everyone in the house can see it. So, He is saying not only are we to preserve the world from deteriorating but we are to influence the world positively, to shed light on the darkness of the world. The darkness caused by all the violence and sin that we and our children are exposed to certainly needs the light of Christ. We are the best means to shed light on those we meet. What we say and what we do allows the light of Jesus to either shine or hide His light. Every parish has many examples of very good people who allow the light of Jesus to shine, people who have put their lamp on the lampstand so that it shines for everyone in the house. There are many unknown charitable acts which allow the light of Jesus to shine, neighbors helping neighbors, family members helping family members. May we all be salt to the earth preserving the world from evil, and may the light of Jesus shine through us so that people see what is truly good and give praise to the Father in Heaven for His gift of those good and bountiful things in our world.

### Holy Hour for Peace

Feb. 16 | 7 p.m.—Cathedral of Saint Andrew

Join Bishop Walkowiak and faithful from across the diocese as we unite in prayer for peace in our country. Let us pray for reconciliation where there is division, for justice where there are violations of fundamental rights, and for consolation for all who feel overwhelmed by fear or loss. The Holy Hour will also be livestreamed at GRdiocese.org

### Lent Lecture Series

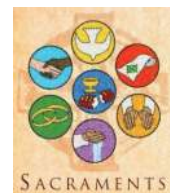
**Scripture Roots of the Sacraments**

Led by Fr. Michael Hodges.

Mondays— Feb 23, Mar 2, 9, 16 - 7:00PM-8:30PM—

St Michael Family Center

All are Welcome. (no registration needed)



### Winter Weather Reminder

#### **St Mary Winter Weather Policy-**

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 throughout the day.

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### Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



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February 8, 2026 ~ The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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# 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.

Today's is the fifth Sunday in Ordinary time.

In MT 5:13-16 is part of Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus teaches that believers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. This passage encourages followers to live in a way that glorifies God.

### 1st-7th Grade Faith Formation Classes -

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

### 8th Grade - Confirmation Classes -

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

Please pray for our students Jenny & Becky as they continue to prepare for Confirmation, Tue. Apr 21, 2026.

**Faith Formation Families and ALL Parishioners are invited to join us for Eucharistic Adoration on February 11th, from 6:00-6:30 pm in the church.**

Students will be dismissed to the classroom for the remainder of class time.

**Please come and spend some time with us in the presence of the Lord through the blessed sacrament.**



## 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



## St Mary Parish Prayer Line

If you would like to request a prayer for our parish prayer line please contact the parish office or Linda at 677.3269 . For evening requests call Darlene 453.0157 or email: bfa1414@yahoo.com Please continue to pray for all of our sick, hospitalized & homebound parishioners and all of the personal intentions that St Mary's Parish parishioners hold close to their hearts.



## 2025 Church Contributions

2025 Contribution Statements are available in the Narthex. Please pick up after Mass or during parish open office hours. If you would like yours mailed or emailed, please call the parish office. Thank You. **Please Note: In an effort to save money on postage we will only mail statements if requested.**

## Cor- Men's Group

All men of the cluster parish are invited to Cor as we begin a new series called "Metanoia" with Fr. Dave Pivonka from the Franciscan University of Steubenville. This series invites us to a deeper and more profound conversion that moves us from something to someone, as metanoia ultimately turns us to Jesus. Join us on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 am in the St. Mary Community Room. Coffee and donuts will be provided, and new members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please reach out to Robert Lothschutz at 616-292-5964.



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

## Looking Ahead- Save the Dates

Feb 14	COR- 7AM Community Room
Feb 18	<b>Ash Wednesday-</b> 12PM Mass at St Michael 6PM Mass at St Mary
Feb 20	Stations of the Cross 6:30PM St Michael
Feb 20	40 Days for Life- Day of Prayer 7AM-7PM
Feb 23	Lecture Series w/Fr Mike 7PM- St Michael
Feb 28	COR- 7AM Community Room
Feb 27	Stations of the Cross 6PM St Mary
Mar 1	Cookies and Punch after Mass
Mar 2	Lecture Series w/Fr Mike 7PM- St Michael

## Giving Back to God

Mass: Date:	Feb 1
Mass: Attendance:	162
Adult Contributions	\$2686.00
Children Contributions	\$35.00
Loose Contributions	\$161.00
Capital Improvement	\$865.00
Online Giving	\$3255.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7002.00</b>
Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget	\$5557.63
Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual	-\$4078.68

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

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## St. Michael's Parish News

**Scrip News**— Thank you to our 11 families who purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit is \$101.38.



### St. Michael's Parish Family

**Remembers in Their Prayers:** Kevin Johnson, Anne Pols, Alexandria Gordon, Carol Tasker, Brooke Campbell, Marcy Fortin, Linda Abel-Carroll, Jackie May, Jean Mayse, Debbie Veneklase, Ken Heflin, Marvin Hecksel, Payton Patterson, Pat Harlett, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.



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 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. In today's Gospel MT 5:13-16 Jesus said we are like salt. Salt helps bring out the good flavor in foods. When we let God's goodness shine in us, we help bring out the goodness in others. Like a lamp shines light for everyone, we shine God's goodness on others when we are loving and kind.

**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 will meet on Sundays after the 8:30am Mass from 9:45 to 11:15 AM in the Youth Room. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation. Contact Debbie if you have any questions (616) 384-4026.



**St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp**  
for +Paula Raczkwicz-Kelly  
by Pam Raczkwicz

## Knights of Columbus

With the fourth anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine on February 24th, the Knights of Columbus are encouraging us to pray for peace:



Lord God of powers, and God of our salvation, O God, who alone work wonders: look down with mercy and compassion on Your humble servants, and out of love for mankind hearken and have mercy on us and on the land of Ukraine.

Visit Your mercies and compassions upon Your humble servants, those who defend Ukraine and her much-suffering people, and hear us who fall down before Your deep compassion.

For You are the health and victory and salvation of them that put their hope in You, and unto You do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Amen

*Adapted from the Byzantine liturgical tradition ("Prayer Service Sung in Times of War," in Trebnik, Book of Needs)*



## Giving Back to God

January 31/February 1

<b>Mass Attendance:</b> 1/31- 4:00 PM:	104
<b>Mass Attendance:</b> 2/1: 8:30 AM	141
Adult Envelopes	\$3,613.00
Loose Cash	\$288.00
Children's Envelopes	\$20.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3921.50</b>
Building Fund	\$150.00
<i>Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget</i>	\$5476.94
<i>Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual</i>	\$4026.03

**Thank you for your continued support!**

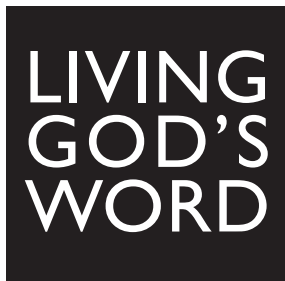
### Online Giving —

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.



**February 8, 2026 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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DAVID M. KNIGHT

# Mercy and Light

Isaiah tells his listeners to share their bread and shelter the homeless. “Then your light shall break forth like the dawn.” And not only light, but help will come from God: “Your healing shall spring up quickly. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer...” This light is not only for us but for the whole world. Isaiah goes on to give the promise which the Church quotes on Epiphany: “For darkness shall cover the earth, but the LORD will arise upon you... Nations shall come to your light” (Isaiah 60:3).

Jesus said to us, “You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” This command brings us back to the works of mercy. If we share, shelter, clothe and help all those in need, God’s light will shine in us and through us—through our actions as well as in our words.

This was the power of Saint Paul’s preaching. He did not rely on “plausible words of wisdom” but on the evidence of spiritual power, “so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.” And what was this power? Paul describes it as the power of the cross; he decided to know nothing among them “except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” In other words, it was the power of love revealed, made visible, expressing itself in human flesh for the world’s salvation. The power behind Paul’s preaching was the mercy of God.

What will bring us, what will bring our faith community, to that level of life we desire and which God desires to give us? What will make the “light rise for us” and “break forth like the

FEBRUARY 8, 2026  
5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Isaiah 58:7-10; I Corinthians 2:1-5;  
Matthew 5:13-16

dawn” to give light to all around us? Mercy. Works of mercy. Living the light in action. Sharing our bread, sheltering the homeless.

We need to think in terms of the works of mercy. The “corporal” (physical) ones are: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prison, sheltering the homeless, burying the dead. The “spiritual” works of mercy—though all are spiritual acts—are being honest with people about their sins, sharing knowledge with those who are ignorant, working with people in doubt, comforting those who feel emotional distress, loving even when wrong is done to us, forgiving every offense, praying for the living and the dead.

The physical help and spiritual help we give others makes our faith credible. We cannot expect people to “come to our light”

unless they see us first living in it.

Each parish is responsible not just for its own members but in a special way for everyone within its

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boundaries. How many people live within your parish boundaries? How many are lonely? How many are elderly? What is the ethnic mix? What are their special needs and how is your parish addressing them? These especially are the ones we must think of when we read Isaiah's warning "not to turn your back on your kin."

Who will lead us in addressing these needs? The Holy Spirit, if we ask. Through whom? Not just through the pastor! Through anyone in the parish open to the Spirit's voice. We are the Church; we are the parish, all of us. No one of us is more called to the works of mercy than another is. So, what do we do?

## REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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### Fifth Week of the Year

*Pray daily: Lord, you came to make us the salt of the earth, the light of the world. And you have sent us to heal the wounds of the world, so that all people may walk in the gladness of your light. Have mercy and make me your mercy to all I meet. Amen*

**Monday:** Mark 6:53-56. "People rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was." When there is a talk or reconciliation service in your parish, do you go looking for someone to invite to it?

**Tuesday:** Mark 7:1-13. Jesus said, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites... 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'" Do you pray at Mass for anything that you are reluctant to act on after Mass?

**Wednesday:** Mark 7:14-23. "There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." Can thoughts or feelings that just come to you defile you? Why is it that free choices come only from within a person?

**Thursday:** Mark 7:24-30. She replied, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." How much of what is offered to you in the Church, in your parish, do you leave untouched?

**Friday:** Mark 7:31-37. Jesus "said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly." The word *Ephphatha* was probably spoken over you at Baptism. Do you know what prayer was said for you then?

**Saturday:** Mark 8:1-10. When a great crowd of people had nothing to eat, Jesus called the disciples and said, "I have compassion for the crowd..." When you think of people without Eucharist, do you think of Jesus saying this?

## LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

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**As Christian:** Light a candle where you pray or put a container of salt where you work to remind you that Jesus calls you to be the light and salt of the earth.

**As Disciple:** Every day for a week write down one way in which you are closed to the teaching of Jesus. Make appropriate changes.

**As Prophet:** Look at one detail of your lifestyle and ask, "Is this how the salt of the earth acts? How does this give light to the world?"

**As Priest:** Identify one person who may be tempted not to believe in God because of some personal or family difficulty. Try to minister respectfully to that person.

**As King:** Each time you make a decision, ask yourself, "What value or attitude is guiding this decision?" Then look at the decision in the light of Christ's teaching and change it if necessary.

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