

April 26, 2026 • Fourth Sunday of Easter

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
Monday 9:00AM - 4:00PM
Tuesday 9:00AM - 4:00PM
Wednesday 9:00AM - 11:30AM
Thursday 9:00AM to 4:00PM
Friday Closed

Deacon

Tom Roberts
troberts@saintmarysmarne.org

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Maintenance

Jim Looks

Custodian

Marian Looks

Liturgical Minister

Gary Karr
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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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Friday9:00AM to 4:00PM

Deacon

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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
Sunday10:30AM • St Mary

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday 12:00PM • St Mary
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30PM
Wednesday12:00PM • St Michael
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30PM
Thursday 12:00PM • St Mary
Friday12:00PM • 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 April 25

4:00PM † Larry Schumaker by Bob & Linda Rogers.....MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday April 26

8:30AM † Ron Racziewicz by Pam Racziewicz.....MI
 10:30AM † Wayne Kensil by Family and Friends.....MA

Monday April 27 No Mass

Tuesday April 28

12:00PM † Donna Schwallier by M/M Don Konen.....MA
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30-1:30PM - St. Mary

Wednesday April 29

12:00PM † Edna Schumaker by Carol Tasker.....MI
Adoration begins after Mass until 3:30pm
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30PM-1:30PM - St. Michael

Thursday April 30

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

Friday May 1

12:00PM Elizabeth Hoffman (living) by Ruth Hecksel.....MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 12:30PM-1:30PM - St. Michael

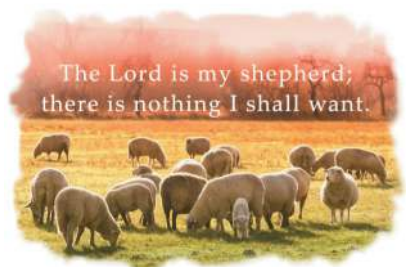
Saturday May 2

4:00PM † Roger Hecksel by Joan Hecksel & Family.....MI
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—3:45 PM - St Michael

Sunday May 3

8:30AM † Dave & Sandy Balkon by Calvin & Cindy Lindberg.....MI
 10:30AM † Fred & Ann Keena by M/M Jim Lothschutz.....MA

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



Scripture Readings for the Week of April 26, 2026

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter
 Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6; I Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10 4:13-35

Monday Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
 Acts 12:24-13:5a; Ps 67:2-3,5,6 and 8; Jn 12:44-50

Thursday Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21, 22, 25 and 27; Jn 13:16-20

Friday Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 14:7-14

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter
 Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; I Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

| | May 2 — 4:00PM | May 3 — 8:30AM |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Altar Servers | Dylan Ranney NEED ONE | Bryson Lindberg Reid Lindberg |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Rob Guilbault NEED TWO | Deacon Tom Debbie Veneklas Sean Roush Chris Albrecht Joe Hitchings Sharon Carlson Rosemary Weigel |
| Lector | Mary Guilbault | Sue DeVos |
| Sacristan | Jane Vitunskas | Jane Vitunskas |
| Ushers | NEED TWO | Calvin Lindberg Curt DeVos Ed Irwin NEED ONE |
| Music | Craig Bleckley | Craig Bleckley |

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

| | May 3 — 10:30AM |
|----------------|--|
| Sacristan | Gary Karr |
| Altar Servers | Casimir Lothschutz Peter Lothschutz |
| Precious Body | Austin Lampe Geary Farrell Becky Warners |
| Precious Blood | Margie Jirous Bruce Kamp Michelle Lampe Steve Lampe |
| Hospitality | Leonard Horter |
| Lector | Rita Carmody |
| Music | Bernie Stanko |

Prayer 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 - 2026

This week, you will receive a letter from Bishop Walkowiak asking you to make your commitment to support the work of our diocesan programs and ministries through the Catholic Services Appeal. These are ministries that benefit us all but are difficult for any one parish to provide on its own. Your gift to the CSA enables the Catholic Church to reach out to people in our 11 counties in a variety of ways, including through seminarian and deacon formation; youth programming; support for the homebound and incarcerated; families who are struggling; the hungry, and the homeless. Through the CSA, we all work together to care for the Church by sharing the gifts God has granted us. Our parish goal for 2026 is:

St Mary

CSA 2026 Pledge Goal: \$52,482.00

St Michael

CSA 2026 Pledge Goal: \$56,349.00

and **100% participation**, which means every parishioner should return their pledge card. Please join us in this important work!



Fr. Mike's Musings



The sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are called the "Sacraments of Initiation". They are all the work of Jesus Christ, and give to us His grace. Baptism makes us sharers in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We die with Him, and with Him we enter into and become a part of His resurrected life. We are able to have our sins forgiven, and to be reborn as God's children.

Confirmation allows us take part in the gifts of Pentecost, the coming down of the Holy Spirit, and it gives us, as members of the Church, a mission to proclaim God's love to the world in a powerful way. And the Eucharist is the sacrament by which we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, so that we become one with Him and are more deeply united to him.

Christianity is a religion rooted in love, and that the center of Jesus Christ's teaching is love. The evangelizers and missionaries who spread Christianity throughout the world were sometimes at a loss about what some cultures would perceive or interpret this "Christian love" to be in their lives.

The original Greek word that the Bible uses to tell about this love is 'agape'. Roughly the meaning is: 'to care about deeply'. This is a splendid translation which people can readily understand even today. Jesus said, "Love one another as I love you." Therefore, 'agape' means to live as Jesus did. To care about one another deeply, with a love for our foes that forgives their offenses and insults against us.

The love of Jesus gives us the strength to accept each person with their faults, it enables us to be reborn as new persons, and gives us the courage and hope for living in an increasingly troublesome world. This is God's power, it makes believers able to live as God's children, and leads them along that way which leads us to His Kingdom. And with our newfound friends (former foes) along with us in the faith and love of Christ, it becomes our true 'family home'.

Several of our young people from St. Michael and St. Mary were confirmed this past Tuesday at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, and today at St. Mary our second-grade students will receive the Eucharist for the first time. They, and all of us, should not forget that we are receiving fully the gifts of the Holy Spirit and are forever joined to the Lord Jesus more deeply, we have become persons who must actually live out Christ's love, agape. If we all faithfully live the love of Christ, 'caring deeply about others', the people of the world who see us doing so will recognize that the God of love exists, and they can come to desire to become disciples of Christ, to love as they are loved.

"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth."

Mass of Thanksgiving for All 2026 Graduates

Calling All Graduates: Our Cluster Parish family wishes to congratulate you on your graduation and extend our prayerful best wishes to you and your future endeavors. This is a time for you to be thankful for all that God has helped you to achieve and to pray for His continual guidance as you prepare for your future. To help you celebrate, we invite you to a Mass of Thanksgiving with a special Blessing for 2026 Graduates.



May 31 - 10:30AM

Graduation Mass & Blessing at St Mary

Please RSVP THIS WEEK

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

World Youth Day (WYD) 2027 Sneak Peek

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry invites all young adults (ages 18-35) to join the Diocese of Grand Rapids for a special preview session on World Youth Day! Meet Verso Ministries, walk through the pilgrimage itinerary, get your questions answered, and connect with other young adults. **April 30- 6 p.m. In person at the Catholic Information Center or virtually.**



GR Diocese is Hiring!

We are looking for individuals who are passionate about sharing the Catholic faith to fill positions in our Catholic schools, parishes, and at the diocese.

Find openings at: grdiocese.org/employment/

Please Pray for our Engaged Couple

Greg Hood & Mary VanDenBrink

May 9, 2026 (St Michael)

Lord God, the source of all love, the wise plan of your providence has brought these young people together. As they prepare themselves for the sacrament of marriage and pray for your grace, grant that, strengthened by your blessing, they may grow in their respect for one another and cherish each other with a sincere love. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen



April 26, 2026 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. Today's Gospel is John 10:1-10. In today's Gospel says, "I am the Good Shepherd" meaning He is the one who truly cares for us and we can trust him.

1st-7th Grade Faith Formation Classes -

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

Congratulations to our second graders, who received Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Eucharist This Sunday. Let us pray that they will always know Jesus; love for them and go out and share the love with everyone they meet. Best Wishers to Ayven, Marcus, Aliza, Genevieve, Ella, and Harper



8th Grade - Confirmation Classes -

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

Congratulations to the newly Confirmed. Jenny and Becky on your Sacrament of Confirmation. May you hold Jesus Christ forever in your heart and may the memory of this special day stay with you always.



Faith Formation classes will be on break until the fall. Thank you to all of the Catechist and helpers. Your help is greatly appreciated. Have a fun and safe summer. Keep your eye on the bulletin for next year's registration information

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Save the Date:
July 27-30, 2026
 6-8:30PM at St. Michael's.
 More information to come.



Looking Ahead- Save the Dates

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| May 3 | Cookies after Mass |
| May 16 | COR- 7AM St Mary Community Room |
| May 25 | Memorial Day Mass 8AM |
| May 30 | COR- 7AM St Mary Community Room |
| May 31 | Graduation Mass—10:30AM |
| June 13 | COR- 7AM St Mary Community Room |
| June 14 | Blood Drive—Parish Hall |

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 Drives – Save the Dates

June 14 Pre-Register:

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11622155

October 11 Pre-Register:

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11630810



Knight Person of the Month for April: Gary Karr

Knight Family of the Month for April: Rick and Becky Warners

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.



Special Donations for April—Indian Trails Camp



St. Mary's Church, Marne
 License #X15441
 Drawing - June 4th, 2026 7:30 pm
 Tickets \$10 or 3 for \$20

Knights of Columbus
 Council #11581



Gift Card Charity Raffle

1st Prize \$250 Gift Card
 2nd Prize \$150 Gift Card
 3rd Prize \$100 Gift Card

Proceeds to help fund our council's charitable giving



and more

Giving Back to God

| April 19—Mass: Attendance: | 256 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Adult Contributions | \$2850.00 |
| Children Contributions | \$71.00 |
| Loose Contributions | \$284.00 |
| Capital Improvement | \$100.00 |
| Online Giving | \$1940.00 |
| Total | \$5245.00 |
| Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget | \$5200.00 |
| Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD-Actual | +\$411.58 |

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— Scrip totals will be updated next week.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Ron Raczkiewicz
by Pam Raczkiewicz

Knights of Columbus

Breakfast — PRE-Mother's Day breakfast 2026 — Since mothers are so special, AND Mother's Day is usually quite busy, we decided to celebrate Mother's Day on **Sunday, May 3rd**, following the 8:30 Mass with a breakfast for everyone. All proceeds go to our two pregnancy centers that we support. The donations are matched 100%! We support the Muskegon Pregnancy Center and the Help Pregnancy Center in Grand Rapids.

Please bring your mother and wives to the Knights of Columbus PRE-Mother's Day breakfast on May 3rd.

Can You Help?

Prison & Jail Ministry — There is a donation box in the glass hallway for individuals returning to society after incarceration. They face many challenges, and we ask that you prayerfully consider donating items to support these individuals as they rejoin the community. Some items to consider might be: gift cards for salons/barbershops, grocery stores, clothing retailers, take-out/fast food restaurants; tennis shoes; laundry baskets; socks; bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths; backpacks; toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash and lotion. Thank you for your help! This week is your last week to donate.

Giving Back to God

April 12/13

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Mass Attendance: 4/18- 4:00 PM: | 113 |
| Mass Attendance: 4/19: 8:30 AM | 169 |
| Adult Envelopes | \$5,656.00 |
| Loose Cash | \$306.00 |
| Children's Envelopes | \$21.51 |
| Total | \$5,983.51 |
| Building Fund | \$40.00 |
| Weekly Offertory Needed for Budget | \$5,851.48 |
| Offertory-YTD Budget vs YTD Actual | -\$9,214.82 |

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.



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

St. Michael's Faith Formation

Children's Liturgy of the Word: 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. This Sunday we hear that when we recognize the Good Shepherd, we are to follow Him. We can trust that we will never be led astray. He is the one who will lead us to abundant life.



Elementary Faith Formation: The elementary program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesday from 6:00- 7:30 pm. Our program ended for this school year. We are on summer break. Thank you, catechist and helpers, for your dedication in sharing our Catholic faith with the Faith Formation students! Your generosity of giving your time and talent is greatly appreciated! Thank you! Please pray for our First Communicants as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion: Liam, Jackson, Piper, Cooper, Delilah and Sarah.



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. Please pray for our Confirmation students and their Catechist as they continue to prepare them for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Brecca and Sonja. May the Holy Spirit strengthen and guide them throughout their preparation and fill them with joy. Confirmation is on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at The Cathedral of St. Andrew's. Mass is at 7:00pm. Contact Debbie if you have any questions (616)384-4026.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) — Save the Date: July 27-30, 2026, from 6-8:30 pm. at St. Michael's. More information to come.

April 26, 2026 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

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Know "With Certainty"

The response Peter sought when he preached the Good News was "know with certainty" that the crucified and risen Jesus is Messiah and Lord, the "shepherd and guardian of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25). Jesus called himself the gate: "Whoever enters by me will be saved." Jesus is the Good Shepherd who calls his own by name, leading them to pasture. He described in one line what he will do for all who believe in him: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." This is what we are called to believe with certainty.

Easter is the season of light, of power, of new life, of victory, of the outpouring of the Spirit. Here we take to heart the Good News that the apostles preached in their Pentecost enthusiasm. Easter invites us to be caught up and carried along in the faith-hope-love tidal wave which swept across the world after Jesus burst out of the tomb. Easter helps us to surrender ourselves to Jesus and celebrate our risen life in every action, every word, every thought on each extraordinary/ordinary day. The key to our Easter life is this: "Know with certainty" that God has made both Lord and Messiah the Jesus who was crucified.

In the power of this belief, we make the double response which flows from believing with certainty that Jesus is Lord: "Repent and be baptized." Because we experience in our hearts the power of the risen Jesus, we confidently rebuild and restructure our lives from the ground up. We live now as his Body, offering our own bodies as living sacrifices, pledging that wherever we are, whatever we are doing, we are ready to do Jesus' will, enabling him to live and act in us, carrying out

APRIL 26, 2026

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:14a, 36-41;
1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10

the work of his Kingdom. Our repentance is not just a turning away from what is bad, not even a simple dedication to doing good works. It is a total surrender of our lives, our being, our every choice and action to the risen One now living within us, making our flesh his own. Our repentance is a consecration, a commitment to living and acting on God's level because we have

been baptized into sharing divine life in Jesus Christ.

Because we are now one with Jesus, the Christ, the anointed Lamb of God, we know with certainty that we have been anointed as he was. With Jesus we are anointed as sacrificial victims, bearing witness in love to the truth of God's love for the world and for each person in it. Jesus showed that love by putting the salvation of every

single person ahead of his own interests in this world. "When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten" (1 Peter 2:23). Jesus did not protect himself by retaliating. "But he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly." He allowed sinners to overcome him; he loved them back. By enduring evil with love, he loved evil out of existence. Je-

*Because we experience in
our hearts the power of the
risen Jesus, we confidently
rebuild and restructure our
lives from the ground up.*



sus sends us to do the same. By our wounds, accepted in love, our world will be healed.

Do we know, are we willing to affirm “with certainty” that this Jesus who was crucified has been raised up as Messiah and Lord? Do we know and are we willing to affirm beyond any doubt, that when we are crucified by injustice, hostility, betrayal, physical and emotional abuse or bodily injury and death and yet we respond with love as he did, that we are allowing Jesus to triumph in us? Do we believe that by speaking the truth courageously in love, without defenses or threats, by challenging evil with no weapons except truth and love, we are letting him reign in us as Messiah and Lord? Do we believe that in union with him we will “have life and have it abundantly”?

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Fourth Week of Easter

***Pray daily:** God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, though your people walk in the valley of darkness, no evil should they fear; for they follow in faith the call of the Shepherd you have sent for their hope and strength. Attune our minds to the sound of his voice and lead our steps in the path he has shown that we may know his strength and enjoy the light of your presence forever. Amen.*

Monday: John 10:1-10. Jesus says that sheep recognize their shepherd’s voice and will follow it. How is Jesus speaking to you today? Through whom? What obstacles do you encounter in trying to follow that voice?

Tuesday: John 10:22-30. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.” Do you recognize Jesus’ voice as the voice of your Shepherd, always leading you to safety and greater life? How do you listen for his voice?

Wednesday: John 12:44-50. “I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.” How can you shed more of Christ’s light on the realities of your daily life at work, at home and when you recreate?

Thursday: John 13:16-20. “I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he.” What does it mean to you that the words of Scripture are the words of God? That the example of Jesus is the way God chose to live as a human being?

Friday: John 14:1-6. “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.” How does the event of the Resurrection give you comfort when you are afraid? Do you think about the power shown in Jesus’ Resurrection when you are anxious?

Saturday: John 14:7-14. “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.” What is Jesus doing in you, through your situation and gifts, that he could not have done in his own circumstances or in the body he received from his mother?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: If you believe “with certainty” that Jesus is the Way, put some visible reminder of this every place where you make choices: in your home, car, workplace, TV room or where you socialize.

As Disciple: If you believe “with certainty” that Jesus is the Truth, put the Bible on your nightstand and tell God you will never go to sleep without reading at least one line.

As Prophet: If you believe “with certainty” that Jesus is the Way, decide each morning before you set about your day’s business what actions that day will bear witness to his values.

As Priest: If you believe “with certainty” that Jesus is the Life, share his life with someone else by a word or act of love.

As King: If you believe “with certainty” that Jesus is the Lord, try to improve something, however small, in your environment this week.

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