



*St. Mary Great Mother of God  
Catholic Church  
We Welcome You!*

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The Parish Office is open Monday-  
Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Closed for lunch 12-1pm

**Daily Mass:** 7:45 am Wed-Friday  
Saturday morning: 8:30 am  
No Mass on Mondays or Tuesdays

**Weekend Masses:**  
Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday 10:30 am

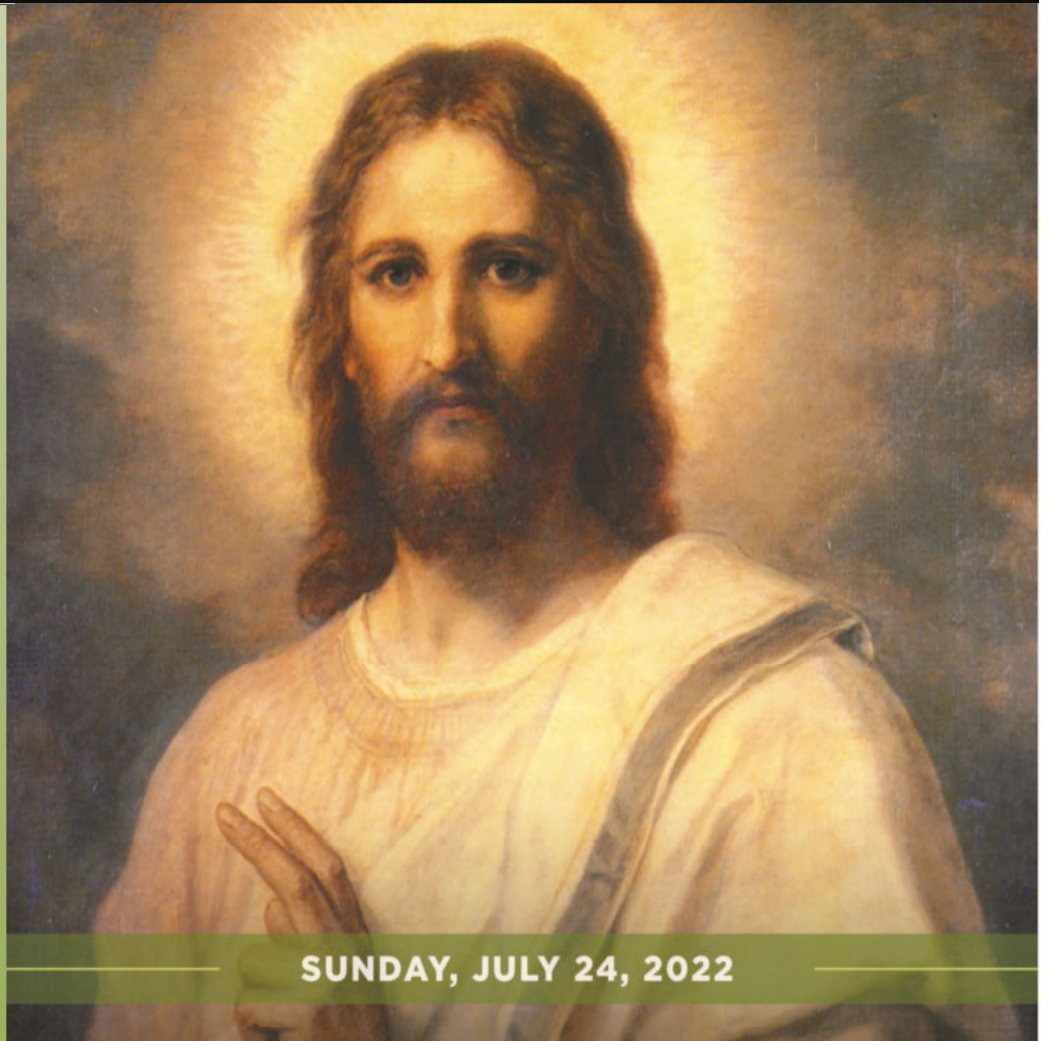
**Adoration:**  
Wednesdays 8:15 a.m. to 6:45 pm

**Confession:**  
Wednesdays 5-6on  
Saturdays 3-4:30 pm  
Or by appointment

**First Fridays of each month:**  
5-8pm Confession & Adoration

**First Saturdays of each month:**  
Rosary 8:00 am followed by  
Mass at 8:30 am

For other Sacraments please call the  
parish office



**SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022**

**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



“Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,’ and he says in reply from within, ‘Do not bother me.’ I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.” - Lk 11:5b, 7a, 8

## Masses for the week of July 25, 2022


|      |         |                      |  |
|------|---------|----------------------|--|
| Mon  | July 25 | <b>No Mass Today</b> |  |
| Tue  | July 26 | <b>No Mass Today</b> |  |
| Wed  | July 27 | 7:45 am              | Mass-for the repose of the soul of Helen Vezino        |
|      |         | 8:15 am to 6:45 pm   | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament                     |
| Thur | July 28 | 7:45 am              | Mass-for the Gary & Gail Wohlsheid Family              |
| Fri  | July 29 | 7:45 am              | Mass- for the repose of the soul of John DeJong        |
| Sat  | July 30 | 8:30 am              | Mass-for the perseverance of all priests and religious |
|      |         | 5:00 pm              | Mass-for the Noskey Family                             |
| Sun  | July 31 | 10:30 am             | Mass-for all parishioners                              |



### MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF July 30 & 31

|  | <u>Saturday 5:00 pm</u>  | <u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>                                   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Lectors</b>                                   | <b>Mike McDaniel</b>   | <b>Rachel Mullins</b>                                    |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b> | <b>Rhonda Fitzpatrick</b>                                      | <b>Denise Dommer</b>                                     |
| <b>Ushers</b>                                    | <b>D. Ritzema<br/>J. Reagan,<br/>D. Roskamp &amp; L. Boles</b> | <b>M. VanderWerff, D. Inbody,<br/>C. &amp; G. Nelson</b> |
| <b>Nursing Home/Homebound</b>                    | <b>Janet Inbody</b>  |  |
| <b>Flower Schedule</b>                           | <b>Cathy Gutowski</b>  |  |






**Dinners and House Blessings!**

Fr. Michael would love to get to know the parish community. If you would like to invite him over for a lunch or dinner, please email Father and give some available dates and times. Fr. Michael is generally not available for meals on Sundays and Mondays.

**Deposit for 7/17/2022**

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Adult Envelopes:  | \$2483.00         |
| Loose collection: | \$943.86          |
| Children's:       | \$ 0.00           |
| <b>Total:</b>     | <b>\$ 3426.86</b> |


**Needed for budget \$5500.00**



The Knights of Council 7719 invite the families of St. Mary to spend time with our Savior in holy Adoration on Wednesday evenings this summer and then join us in the PLC after the Benediction at 6:45 p.m. for an ice cream treat and some Christian fellowship. The Knights will provide ice cream and activities for families each Wednesday from the end of Benediction until approximately 8 p.m. throughout the summer.

**Happy Birthday to You!**

|        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Jul 25 | Allison Munson, Naomi Wattenhofer |
| Jul 26 | Tyler Rademacher                  |
| Jul 27 | Kathy Southland, Emily Stump      |
| Jul 31 | Eddie Garcia                      |



# LITURGICAL LIFE

## RESPONDING *to the Call*

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

#### Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

##### When I Called, You Answered

Some of us have that friend about whom we are constantly discovering new things. Maybe we've known this person for ten or even twenty years, and one day at lunch we'll find out they're a direct descendant of a dead president or they once met a major celebrity.

"You never asked," they'll say with a shrug.

As annoying as this can be, it makes perfect sense, doesn't it? We never asked. There is something strangely sacred about the act of asking for something. It requires humility. It requires grace. It requires us to be awake, to be aware, to be vulnerable.

Too often we fall into a pattern of entitlement, even when it comes to information. We go through life thinking that a great cosmic conveyor belt of what we want is going to roll on past us, and we'll barely even have to extend our arms. We read our Bible and we hear all these amazing promises from the Father who loves us, and we get sort of complacent. He's got this, we think, and we shut our eyes to take a snooze on the road trip of life, confident that someone else is going to look out for stop signs and wrong turns.

It's true: God's got this. He is going to take care of us. But He wants us to be in relationship with Him. He wants us to be an active, receptive participant in our own salvation. See his patience with Abraham's entreaties on behalf of the righteous of Sodom: He wants to answer, not simply to tell.

He wants us to stay awake for the drive.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Please join us next weekend July 30 & 31 to celebrate Fr. Michael's assignment to our parish. Pizza will be served after the Saturday night Mass and a light brunch will be served after the Sunday morning Mass. All are invited!



**Rest in Peace—for our deceased & their loved ones;** All of our fallen heroes and the faithful departed.  
**Support Prayer for comfort & healing to those who are ill or injured, for the homebound & for caregivers and those in the Military;** all those affected by Covid-19 and natural disasters, the people of Ukraine, Melanie Starr, Noah Langlois, Suzie Doherty, Susan Serne, Bob Graham, Lisa Zigmont, Bob & Barb Hess, Pat O'Connor, Jim Roskamp, Jeff Bowles, Betsy Davidson, Donna Roskamp, Dave & Martha Roskamp, Rosemary Gamble, Tom Scheidel, Gertrude Zygaj, Anna Organek, the unemployed, Michigan's economy, and war wounded, justice and peace in the world, and for all priests and religious, and the Holy Catholic Church.



### WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

#### Question:

What can I do to help our family practice our faith each day?

#### Answer:

Some families practice their religion together as just another event on their schedule: go to church, observe Lent, help at the parish picnic, go to a meeting, volunteer time, make your confession, use your envelope... But the focus needs to be on who we are—God's people, in relationship with him, loved, forgiven, and redeemed, and called to live and proclaim the Gospel. Our awareness of God's presence and our sense of mission are supported by the daily rituals, celebrations, and traditions that help us stay focused. Sharing our faith strengthens us and clarifies the beliefs and values of Christian living.

Daily family practices include time for prayer—before meals, before bed, before important meetings and activities. Attend Sunday Mass together and discuss the homily afterward. Create family celebrations for holy days and holidays. Make religion a regular part of your discussions. Include others, especially the elderly and the less fortunate, in your activities and charitable efforts. By applying the virtues of faith, hope, and love to each day, faith becomes part of who your family is. It influences how you act towards others, what you value, and how mindful of God you are. Faith is the leaven of life that helps all of us rise to our calling and dignity as God's people.

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION

**Box of Joy** St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women is collecting donations for Box of Joy. Box of Joy is an annual Christmas gift ministry facilitated by Cross Catholic Outreach. By packing Boxes of Joy, participants bless children suffering from extreme poverty by sharing the joy of Christmas and planting seeds of hope. School supplies such as crayons, markers and pencils, as well as drawstring bags, coloring books, small toys, dolls and t-shirts are being requested.

## FIRST READING

"Please, let not my Lord grow angry if I speak up this last time.

What if there are at least ten there?"

He replied, "For the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it." (Gn 18:32)



## PSALM

Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me. (Ps 138)



## SECOND READING

He brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions. (Col 2:13)



## GOSPEL

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Lk 11:9-10)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*

**Thank you** to all who ordered SCRIP last weekend. We earned \$120 at no additional cost to you—thank you for participating!



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Meister Eckhart asks, "Who is the man whose prayers God always hears?" He answers, "God hears the man who appeals to God as God. When, however, man appeals to God, hoping for some worldly good, he is not appealing to God at all, but to what he is asking of God. He is trying to make God his servant. On this point, St. Augustine says: 'You pray to what you love, for true whole prayer is nothing but love!' Thus, we pray to what we love, and no one rightly prays to God but he who prays for God and has nothing on his mind but God." We struggle with what we want God to do and how we want our prayer validated. Meister Eckhart is correct. We often want God to be our servant. We further struggle with trusting that God knows what we need and that His will is best.

God's will is not some predetermined outcome of events that we must simply suggest. "Thy will be done" is not an invocation beckoning us to accept a particular state of affairs passively. Rather, it is the humble and confident placement of ourselves in the presence of the God we seek, whom we call "Father." We must remember that God is the God of life and light. It is from nothing that God brings something and from the darkness that God brings life. Prayer allows us to seek the One we love with the assurance that all will be well regardless of what course the events of our lives take. God is not about passive submission but the humble trust of love.

That's what makes the Lord's Prayer the perfect prayer. It provides us with proper disposition and focus, putting in line all of the essential relationships of our lives. It celebrates and fosters the ever-deepening relationship of trust we have with our Creator. It also calls us to keep open the doors of love between our brothers and sisters with the power that comes with forgiveness. If in one's darkest hour they can find the resolve to fervently pray this perfect prayer of Jesus' conviction, then there is no doubt that God will hear their plea, reach out in love, and bring them ever closer to His heart. What more does one need to weather the storms of life besides faith, hope, and love? These are God's most perfect gifts and all we really need.

## Prayer to the Precious Blood

O precious Blood of Jesus, infinite price paid for the redemption of sinful mankind. O Divine Blood, drink and laver of our souls, standing between us and the Father pleading mercy.

With all my heart I adore Thee, sweet Lord, and offer reparation for the insults, outrages and ingratitude, which Thou continuously receive from mankind, especially those who dare blaspheme the Divine Blood Thou shed for us.

Bless this Blood of Infinite value. Bless the fire of Jesus' Love Who shed it to the last drop for us. Where would I be if not for this Divine Blood that redeemed me? Indeed, Lord, I have drawn it from Thee to the last drop. What love! I thank Thee for this saving balm!

May every heart, every tongue, now and forever, praise and thank this priceless balm, this saving Blood, this fountain of crimson Mercy welling up from the fountain of infinite Love. **Amen.**

## Fish Fry Surplus Sale

The Knights of Columbus have unopened boxes of frozen fish and bags of frozen French fries and fish sticks left over from the Fish Fry. If you are interested in purchasing either, please contact Matt VanderWerff, Bryan Forney or the parish office at 616-897-9820.

Fish is \$36 for 5lb box of 4 oz. un-breaded cod loins.

Fries are \$5.50 a 4 lb. bag.

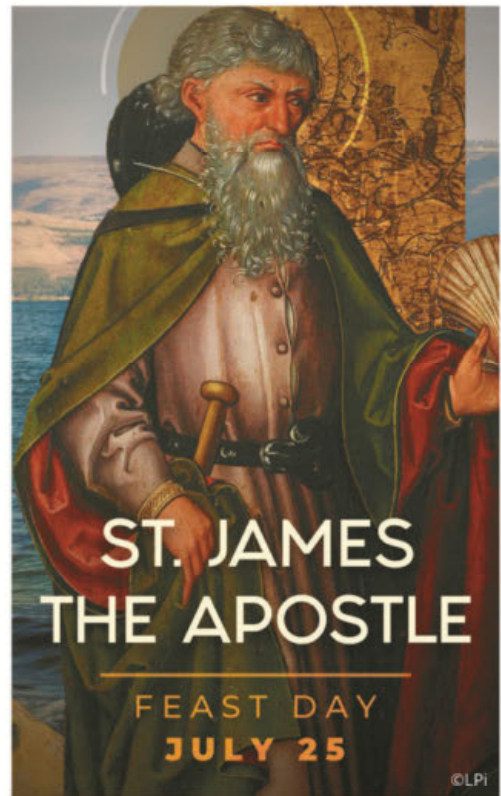
Fish Sticks are \$12.00 for 4 lb bag (60 sticks)



## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

Ultimately, what does God promise to give us when we pray? The short answer to that question is God. God promises to give Himself to us in prayer. Prayer is about union with God, not receiving favors. When God comes to us in prayer, His presence comes with faith, hope, and love. When we find these virtues enhanced and nurtured, we know that our prayer has been heard and answered. When we seek out, listen to, and live by these virtues we find ourselves led back to God and more united with the Divine Presence. We struggle with what we want God to do and how we want our prayer validated. That's what makes Jesus' prayer, the Our Father, so perfect. It celebrates a deepening intimate relationship of trust between our Creator and us. When we persistently cry out for God in love, how can that prayer go unanswered?



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint James the Apostle is also called James, son of Zebedee, or James the Greater to distinguish him from the other James in Jesus' group of twelve. Most of what we know about Saint James is recorded in the New Testament. He and his brother John were collected by Jesus along the sea of Galilee. Matthew 4:18-22 tells the story of Jesus calling first Simon Peter and his brother Andrew and then the sons of Zebedee. In Mark 3:17 the brothers receive a nickname from Jesus who calls them "sons of thunder" because of their many extreme reactions, like that in Luke 9:54 when they offer to call down fire on a Samaritan village.

Saint James was part of Jesus' intimate circle, a witness to the Transfiguration, the resurrection of Jarius' daughter, and the agony in the garden of Gethsemane. In A.D. 44 Herod Agrippa had "James, the brother of John, killed by the sword." (Acts 12:2) He is the only apostle whose martyrdom is written of in the New Testament.

According to Spanish tradition, his body was taken to Santiago de Compostela, Spain where his relics were rediscovered in 9th century. This tradition has sometimes been attributed to a passage in the Song of Roland which tells of St. James appearing to Charlemagne in a dream, prophesying that Charlemagne would conquer the Moors in Spain. This was followed by a vision of stars which if followed would lead to the saint's lost tomb. In the Middle Ages Compostela was a hugely popular pilgrimage site. The saint's relics continue to rest in the cathedral there and one can still undertake the pilgrimage.

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