



# St. Mary Great Mother of God Church

## We Welcome You!

July 31, 2022

stmarylowell@att.net Website:  
stmarylowell.com

Fr. Michael Goodwin  
Parish Priest  
616-897-9820  
e-mail:  
fathermichaelgood1@gmail.com

Rhonda Fitzpatrick,  
Parish Secretary and  
Business Manager  
stmarylowell@att.net

Jennie Forney  
Director of Religious Education  
stmarylowelldre@gmail.com

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

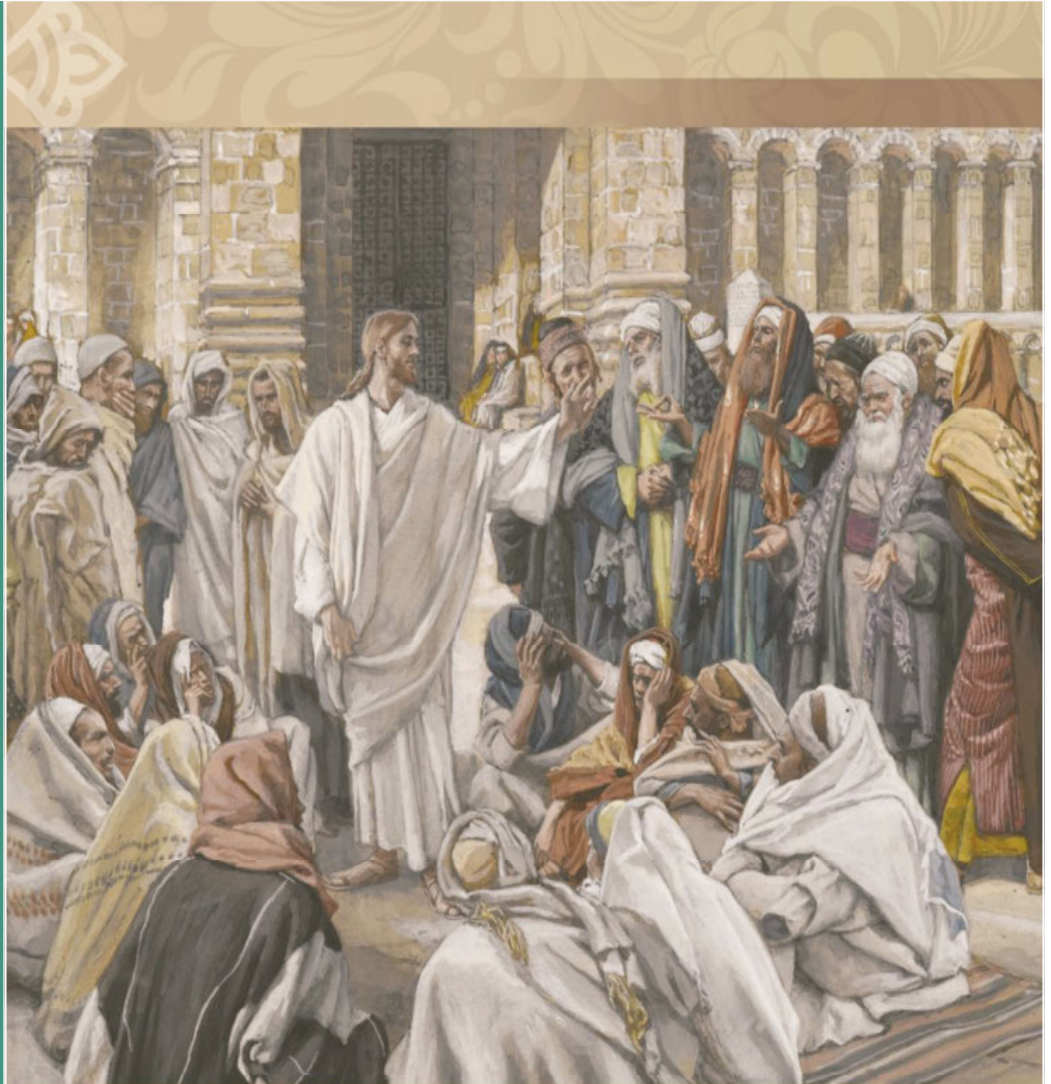
**Adoration:**  
Wednesdays 8:15 a.m. to 6:45 pm

**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



## 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday

I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E

[Jesus] said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against  
all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does  
not consist of possessions." - Lk 12:15

## Masses for the week of August 1, 2022

Mon	August 1	<b>No Mass Today</b>	
Tue	August 2	<b>No Mass Today</b>	
Wed	August 3	7:45 am	Mass-for the Noskey Family
		8:15 am to 6:45 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thur	August 4	7:45 am	Mass-for the repose of the soul of Tony Stencel
Fri	August 5	7:45 am	Mass- for Beth Pfaller
Sat	August 6	8:30 am	Mass-for the perseverance of all priests and religious
		5:00 pm	Mass-for the repose of the soul of Norma Spicer
Sun	August 7	10:30 am	Mass-for all parishioners



### MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF August 6 & 7

	<u>Saturday 5:00 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Mike Lessens</b>	<b>Matt VanderWerff</b>
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	<b>Jim Pfaller</b>	<b>Roger/Kathy Southland</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Sean Coble, Tim Fitzpatrick Bob Rice, Gerald Egan, Kevin Starr</b>	<b>Robert &amp; RJ Brabant, Roger Southland, Andrew Shipp</b>
<b>Nursing Home/Homebound</b>	<b>Brigitta Boston</b>	
<b>Flower Schedule</b>	<b>Beth Pfaller</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 7/24/2022**

Adult Envelopes:	\$ 4818.00
Loose collection:	\$ 588.00
Children's:	\$ 0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 5406.00</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!**

August 1	Jessica Poelma, Marlee Altoft
August 3	Kyler Spike
August 4	Melissa Morley
August 5	Jamie Halfmann
August 6	Maryalene LaPonsie, James Weeks
August 7	Linda Johnson



## 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)

**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.

By the time you read this, I will already be on the road to Alabama. Officer Training School begins August 2<sup>nd</sup>. First things first: thank you for your support and generosity. I have not been able to write the thank-cards I normally would, but I am so grateful for the gifts, the cards, and the support that I have received as I move on to this new adventure. Thank you. You will be in my thoughts and prayers as I move forward.

Many have asked where I will be assigned, but I did not find out until the last couple weeks of July. When my orders finally came through, I found out that I will be going to Hill Air Force Base outside Salt Lake City, Utah. It is a large base with a very active Catholic community. The region as a whole looks inviting: plenty of hiking and sights to see. I am looking forward to it.

Still there is a lot to accomplish before I get there. Even in the last week before I leave for Officer Training School, I am sorting out moving my belongings, finding a new home several states away, and so on. I am keeping the exercise up, and many other necessities. Most notably, on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, made my first oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

Thank you again for all your support. I will try to fill you in again in a couple months when I make it to my first assignment.

--Fr. Ferris

## St. Alphonsus Liguori | August 1

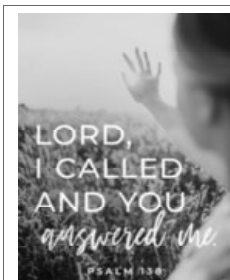


Saint Alphonsus was born into a well-respected family in 1696, in Marianella, in the Kingdom of Naples. He received an exceptional education through private tutors and was conferred degrees in civil and canon law at 16. He practiced law for 8 years before he turned to the Church. He was ordained a priest in 1726.

Saint Alphonsus traveled for 26 years in Kingdom of Naples preaching. His style of ministry was called "mission among the people," he and a group of priests or lay brothers would go to rural areas, staying for a time to teach, preach, and pray with the people there.

Saint Alphonsus was a brilliant preacher, he was able to connect with ordinary people and his teaching and sermons were marked by his compassion. In a time of restrictive Church rule, where fear of God was truly fear, Saint Alphonsus taught about God's redeeming love. He also had a special devotion to Mary, praying to her for intercession and including devotions to her in his teaching. He wrote extensively, more than 100 books which have been through thousands of editions. His books are still available today and have been translated into more than 60 languages.

In 1762 Saint Alphonsus was made a bishop by Pope Clement XIII, however, he was eventually allowed to resign his post because of his ill health. He was paralyzed for a time from rheumatic fever in 1775, and had rheumatism so severe it was deforming, bending his head so far forward that his chin rested on his chest.



**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.

## WHAT WE STORE IN THE BARN

I once knew a godly woman who had truly tasted the bitterness of this earthly life. This woman knew pain. She knew sacrifice. She knew hard labor and loss, including the death of a cherished child. She worked each day at a low-paying job, waiting patiently for her 65th birthday, when she could retire and devote herself full-time to her grandchildren. She crossed off the dwindling days on her calendar like a first grader waiting for Christmas.

Ninety-eight days before she was set to retire, she died suddenly. Her name was erased from the schedule at work and penciled over with that of her replacement hire.

All things are vanity.

I think we all know someone like this, don't we? If the details aren't exactly the same, the

outline of the story is: someone labors "with wisdom and knowledge and skill," in the words of Ecclesiastes. And what profit comes to him? Sorrow and grief all his days. The proverbial barn filled with harvest and left to rot.

But I'll let you in on a secret: this isn't a sad story. I've only told you part of it.

This woman heard, daily, the voice of God, and against it she never hardened her heart, whatever news it brought her. This woman loved as hard as she worked. Every action was a form of evangelization. To talk to her was to feel the embrace of Christ.

As much as she waited for that retirement that never came, it was never the harvest in her barn.

This is what it means to be a true steward: to seek what is above.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### **Why do the Gospels differ in their details? I was surprised to learn that not all of the Gospels tell the same stories, for example, the Nativity. Doesn't this take away from their credibility?**

Take any event that happens, from family trips to national politics and ask two or three different people to explain what happened. You will get a different version of the same story. People tend to tell the story from their perspective, and past experience shades what we recall and how we recall it. Our choice of words and what details we leave in or out is also influenced by the audience who is listening to our tales.

The Gospel writers are no different. Each one tells the story of Jesus from their own perspective. Versions differ in some details, not because one is true and the other is not, but because each Gospel writer, or Evangelist, has a different theological point to communicate as well as a different audience for whom he

is writing. He picks and chooses the details of his Gospel based on what message he is preaching, what his audience may already know, and what message they need to hear. The various details of the Gospels point more to their authenticity as a record of the church's experience and understanding of Jesus. In a good study Bible, the background notes for each Gospel contain a lot of information that helps us better understand each Evangelist and his message.



## LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Greed is more present and powerful in our lives than we care to admit. We like our "stuff" and are hesitant to part with it. What we convince ourselves that we really need, we really do not. If everything we own is taken away from us tomorrow, life will continue. We will find happiness again. How many relationships are ruined because of inheritance issues? Our possessions cannot come with us when we die. Why do we foolishly think that we cannot live without them here? Wealth and happiness do not have physical origins. True wealth and happiness are gifts of God's kingdom and matters of heart and soul. We are much more than what we possess, and greed is more real and operative than we think. Let us begin our journey to detachment with an honest admission. We often place more importance on things than on people and God. Ask God to accept our conflicted hearts and give us the courage to do things differently.



**"THIS IS MY  
BELOVED SON.  
LISTEN TO HIM."  
MARK 9:7**

CSA Update: Our goal for this year is \$39,571.00. To date pledged amount is \$34,691.00. Out of about 140 registered families 86 have pledged. You are encouraged to complete your pledge card and return it as soon as possible. If you have misplaced your pledge card, there are blank ones on the table in the north vestibule. Please return your card even if you are unable to give. Thank you for your generosity!

### 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**GERST FUNERAL HOMES**  
Advanced Funeral Planning Specialists  
**ROTH-GERST**  
305 N. Hudson, Lowell **897-7101**  
**O'BRIEN-EGGEBEEN-GERST**  
3980 Cascade Rd., S.E., Grand Rapids  
**949-7350**

**REAGAN FAMILY DENTISTRY**  
JAMES E. REAGAN, D.D.S.  
PARISHIONER  
207 W. Main St. Lowell, Michigan  
**616-897-7179**  
contactus@jamesreagandds.com

**Bernard's Ace Hardware & Rental Place**  
1601 W. Main St. • Lowell  
**616-897-9490**  
**ACE** "Friendly Accommodating Service"

**THE LAURELS OF KENT**  
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center  
350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331  
**(616) 897-8473**

**OMSA**  
**Oral and Maxillo Facial Surgery Associates of Western Michigan, P.L.C.**  
P Jeffrey Brooks, DDS, MD 2140 Lake Michigan Dr, NW  
J Mark Domin, DDS Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
Brant A Erbentraut, DDS  
Bradley M Robinson, DDS, MD **616.791.9600**  
JJ Ooi, DMD, MD **www.omsaofwm.com**

**PREMIER AUTO**  
**616-794-5480**  
9510 Belding Rd., Belding, MI 48809  
**PREMIER AUTO NORTH**  
**616-225-9506**  
8798 Peck Rd, Greenville, MI 48838

**Joe Kilner, Parishioner**  
Broker - Owner - Realtor  
**KILNER GROUP** **616-498-8251**  
kilnergroumpi.com

**SPEESE Painting Co.**  
Applying Quality Since 1977  
Interior • Exterior  
Residential • Commercial  
**616.863.3339**  
www.speesepainting.com

Now Open in Lowell!  
**NORTHERN Physical Therapy**  
Back & Neck Pain, Sports Rehab,  
Fitness, Post-Surgery Recovery  
2050 W. Main . 987.0019 . northernpts.com

The best age to visit our office for a complimentary exam is any age 7 and up.  
**HERREMANS ORTHODONTICS**  
(616) 363-9821 | (616) 325-2730  
4253 Sorkow Dr | 100 S. Greenville West Dr  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525 | Greenville, MI 48838  
www.herremansortho.com

Industrial/Commercial/Residential  
**SCHEIDEL ELECTRIC**  
7137 Childsdales NE - Rockford  
**JOHN STEVE MIKE**  
**866-0192**

**Dave Emmette, CIC, CPIA, LUTCF**  
St. Mary K of C Member • Dave.Emmette@gma-insurance.com  
**GLENN MORRIS & ASSOCIATES**  
Insurance Services  
+ Business + Farm  
+ Home + Life

**HULST JEPSEN PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
RESTORING BODY. REVIVING SPIRIT.  
MATT SCHMITZ, PT PARISHIONER  
1335 W. Main St, Suite B, Lowell, Michigan 49331  
616.888.3184  
www.hjphysicaltherapy.com @HulstJepsenPT

**WE'RE HIRING**  
AD SALES EXECUTIVES  
BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE.  
• Work-Life Balance • Paid Training  
• Full-Time with Benefits • Some Travel  
• Serve Your Community  
Contact us at: [careers@4lpi.com](mailto:careers@4lpi.com) | [www.4lpi.com/careers](http://www.4lpi.com/careers)

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!**

**MERCY HEALTH PHYSICIAN PARTNERS**  
Primary Care  
6741 E. Fulton  
**616-201-3997**  
Emily Cordes, DO  
Internal Medicine & Pediatrics  
**BeRemarkable.**  
MercyHealthAda.com

**GROW YOUR BUSINESS BY PLACING AN AD HERE!**  
**CONTACT US!**  
Contact Dom DiPasqua to place an ad today!  
[ddipasqua@4LPI.com](mailto:ddipasqua@4LPI.com)  
or (800) 477-4574 x6637

**Cassandra & Adam Clark**  
Proud to Support St. Mary Parish  
**616-633-5061**  
cassandra.clark@kw.com  
<https://clarkandclark.kw.com>  
**kw** GRAND RAPIDS EAST  
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

**ADT-Monitored Home Security**  
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust  
• Burglary • Flood Detection  
• Fire Safety • Carbon Monoxide  
ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets | **1-855-225-4251**

(616) 897-8427  
[keyvista@fhmanagement.com](mailto:keyvista@fhmanagement.com)  
See Our Website for Home Buying Promotions!  
[www.keyvistamhc.com](http://www.keyvistamhc.com)  
Your New Home is Waiting!  
**KEY VISTA**  
1800 w. main street | lowell | michigan | 49331

**GRAND RIVER ORTHODONTICS**  
Heather Gietzen DMD, MS  
1335 W. Main St., Suite D  
Lowell, MI 49331  
616-897-0200  
[www.grorthodontics.com](http://www.grorthodontics.com)

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH.**  
Buy a bulletin ad space today!

**Lake Funeral Homes**  
A Third Generation Funeral Home  
Ceremonies as unique as the life you're remembering  
616-527-0099 • 158 Mill Street, Saranac  
[www.lakefuneralhomes.com](http://www.lakefuneralhomes.com)