



St. Mary Great Mother of God Church

We Welcome You!

August 7, 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

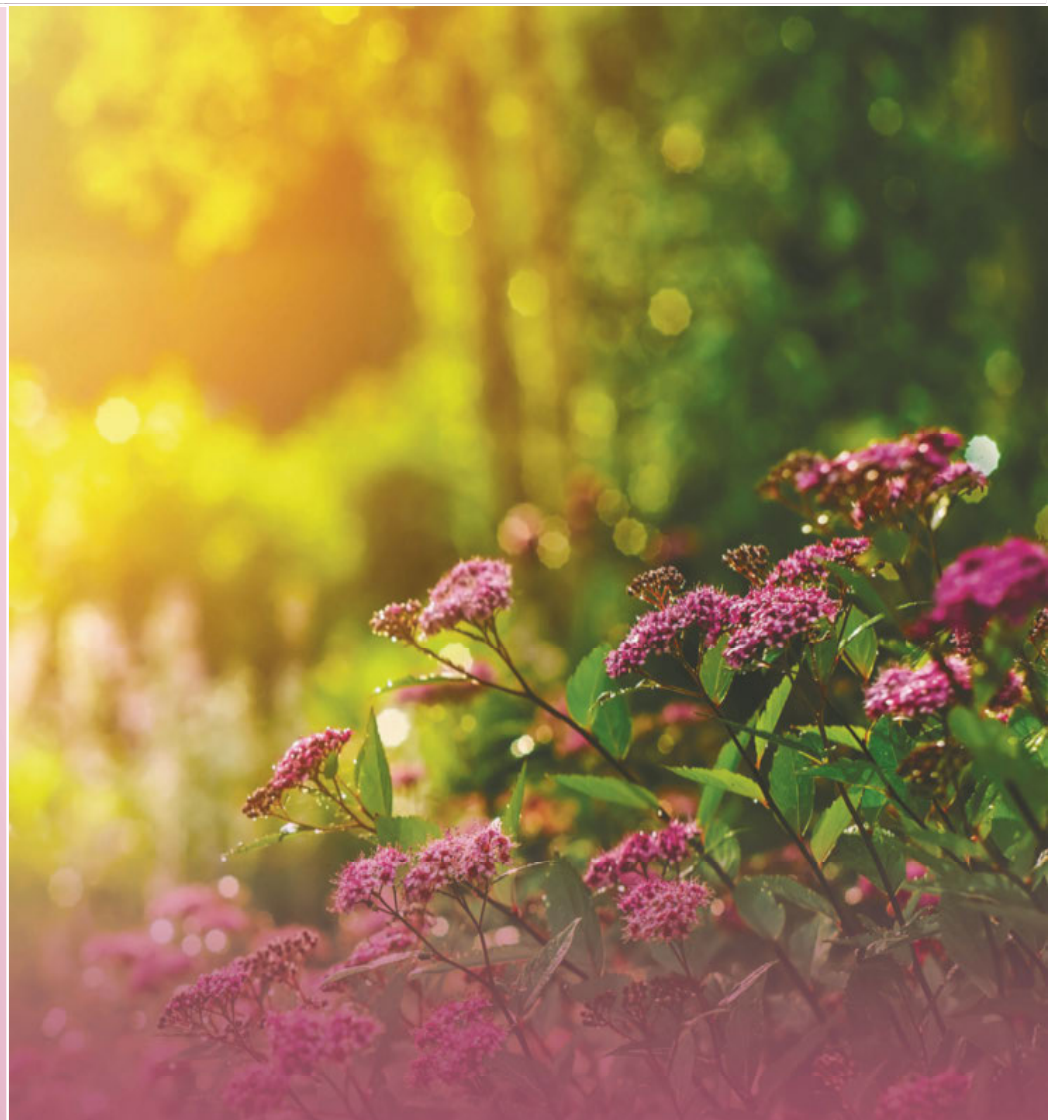
Adoration:
Wednesdays 8:15 a.m. to 6:45 pm

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

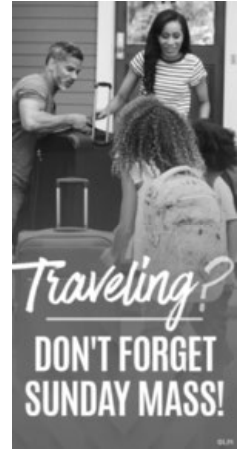


19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.” - Lk 12:37

Masses for the week of August 8, 2022

Mon	August 8	No Mass Today	
Tue	August 9	No Mass Today	
Wed	August 10	7:45 am	Mass-for the repose of the soul of Tony Stencel
		8:15 am to 6:45 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thur	August 11	7:45 am	Mass-for Beth Pfaller
Fri	August 12	7:45 am	Mass- for the repose of the soul of Julia Rasch
Sat	August 13	8:30 am	Mass-for the perseverance of all priests and religious
		5:00 pm	Mass-for Father Fekete
Sun	August 14	10:30 am	Mass-for all parishioners



MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF August 13 & 14

	<u>Saturday 5:00 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
Lectors	Marvie Blain	Jim Pfaller
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Rhonda Stump	Grant Hengesbach
Ushers	Sean Coble, Tim Fitzpatrick Bob Rice, Gerald Egan, Kevin Starr	Robert & RJ Brabant, Roger Southland, Andrew Shipp
Nursing Home/Homebound	Barb Boland	
Flower Schedule	Janet Inbody	



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 7/31/2022

Adult Envelopes:	\$ 3478.00
Loose collection:	\$ 694.00
Children's:	\$ 0.00
Total:	\$ 4173.00



Needed for budget \$5500.00



Lt Col Bryan Forney administering the Oath of Office to Fr. Aaron Ferris at St. Stephens in East Grand Rapids.

Happy Birthday to You!

- August 9 Dirk Ritzema, Helayna Olin, Devin Nash
- August 10 Maple Chen, Eric Pugh
- August 12 Marlene McCormick, William Mullins
- August 13 Christopher Gast, Aeric Mullins
- August 14 Leanna Rice



Ask Father Michael: *Why does Fr. Michael face the tabernacle and Crucifix instead of the congregation during the second part of the Mass?*

There are both faith/theological/spiritual/anthropological reasons and practical/personal reasons for some priests choosing this option during second part of Mass (what we call The Liturgy of the Eucharist). Let me give a brief response for each one and in future bulletins I can give some further explanations. Please know I am always open to sit down in person and discuss this in detail as well. Just call or email me and we can sit down together.

Faith/Theological: First, it needs to be said that the priest addressing prayers toward the East/toward the Lord (Ad Orientem/Ad Deum) is an ancient practice that has been around for just under two thousand years. Contrary to popular practice and perception, the Second Vatican Council in the late 1960's did not call for the turning of the priest toward the people for the entire Mass. What the liturgical reforms did do is add times during the Mass where the priest would turn more toward the people to address them. In the Mass before Vatican II, the priest would only turn to the people a few times ("The Lord be with you"/ and "Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice..."/"Behold the Lamb of God..."). The readings and all the opening and closing prayers were all facing East/or toward the Lord. The homily was the only other time that the priest would face the people. The reforms after Vatican II added options for the priest to turn toward the people for the readings and for the opening and closing prayers. What happened in practice though, was that many priests decided to face the people for the whole Mass. A stress was placed on the community gathered together around a table. But, in the last thirty years, the ancient practice has been renewed by some of the younger priests. They wanted to stress the other realities at Mass, that we are a people on pilgrimage and are all together priest and people here to look to the Lord who comes to us in the Eucharist. A church on pilgrimage does not stand around in a circle but is on the way to the heavenly Jerusalem, looking to and moving toward the East, where the Risen King comes again and promises to bring us with him to paradise.

Spiritual: None of us come to Mass merely to encounter each other. I can do that at a restaurant, a park, and in our home. We come to encounter the Blessed Trinity and receive the Risen Son in the Eucharist. The entire second half of Mass are prayers addressed to the Father by the priest and these prayers are offered in, with and through the person of Jesus Christ. There is a mystery to this encounter; something we can't get our whole hearts and heads around. The reason why priests wear vestments is to conceal his individual personality so the person of Jesus can remain our focus. You can meet and know the priest personally before Mass, after Mass, at social events. But the Mass is not about the priest; its about Jesus and that's where I want our focus held.

Anthropological (the study of our humanity): Our humanity and our bodies matter and are made of matter. How we move them and posture them, and orient them effects our invisible and immortal souls. And also vice versa. So where we focus our eyes during Mass effects what our souls focus on. Kneeling during the consecration (if we are able) can have a positive impact in our souls disposition toward God, who is Holy. When we come to Mass our bodily movements and orientation are not meant to be exactly like every other human event we participate in. If I go to a concert or conference or public speech, the way we approach those experiences with our bodies is different than when we encounter the Blessed Trinity at Mass. It should look, feel, and be a different bodily experience than those other forms of gathering.

Practical/Personal reasons: I have trouble focusing too. I'm not that holy yet. I'm not a saint yet (though I am striving to become one.). There are dozens of distractions at Mass that can get our focus off of Jesus. The priest is at Mass to pray as well, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist is meant to be a very powerful experience for us all. As I said, the prayers during this time are all addressed to God. They are not a performance or a show for the people. I find it easier to enter into the prayers of the Mass when I keep my eyes fixed on Jesus on the Crucifix or in the Tabernacle. We are not here just to go to Mass, but to pray the Mass and be in communion with the Blessed Trinity who gives us our every heartbeat and breath. The Mass is a prayer of thanksgiving. We give thanks, and God gives us himself in the Eucharist.

One final point: Both orientations are permitted and valid in the current liturgy. They both emphasize different good things about our faith. Some priests have only known facing the people the whole time during the Mass and they celebrate the Mass faithfully and reverently. Some priests have found fruit in renewing some of these ancient practices and orientations. Our Catholic faith calls us to unity and diversity. There over 20 forms of the Catholic liturgy celebrated throughout the world and none of them look completely like the other forms. They arose over hundreds of years in various languages and cultures. It is good to experience this variety and see how God works through them to draw people to Himself.

I'll be sure to give more explanation in the months ahead. Feel free to keep submitting questions via call, written note, or email!



Ask Father Michael?

A question was sent last week asking about the security and safety at the parish in light of the recent increased vandalism and violence at public gatherings and places of worship in our country. I have met with the head of our ushers and have given them instruction on their presence and vigilance during Mass. I have also been coordinating and implementing other methods of security and deterrence to ensure optimal safety at our parish. For the effectiveness of these methods, it is important not to dis close too much.

It was expressed that "It's too dangerous to attend Mass nowadays. I don't feel safe."

My reply to this is: *Everyone is responsible for having their consciences be formed in light of both faith and reason. Reason dictates that we take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of people who gather at the parish. But there are no guarantees. And this is true in every decade, every century, and every place the Church has gathered. Our faith is one that follows a crucified and risen savior. It has led two millennium of Christians to brave all kinds of perils to bear witness to the one who said "do not fear those that can kill the body...". Rather, we gather to bear witness that the gates of hell will not prevail over the Church. That Jesus promises that every hair on our head is numbered and no one who calls on Jesus will be lost. Whether it be the Christians under Roman persecution and martyrdom, the bloody French Revolution, the persecutions of English Catholics after Henry VIII, the vast martyrs throughout the continent of Africa and in the Middle East up to our current day, we were never promised by our Lord Jesus temporal safety or comfort. We are called to count the cost of being a disciple of Christ, pick up our cross daily and follow Him.*

Faith Formation registration is open for the 2021-2022 school year.



Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. in the Parish Life Center for students entering kindergarten through Confirmation. Classes will begin Sunday, September 11th. During our first class on September 11th, we will also have a parent meeting in the church vestibule at 9 a.m. To register, scan the QR code. The link to register is also available on the parish website, stmarylowell.com, under the Faith Formation tab. Or, please contact Jennie at stmarylowelldre@gmail.com to register.

Volunteers for Faith Formation Needed! Are you interested in helping pass on the faith to the children of St. Mary Church? We are looking for catechists and classroom aides to help us this school year for our Sunday morning Faith Formation classes. No experience required! If you are interested in learning more about becoming a catechist or a classroom aide, please contact Jennie at stmarylowelldre@gmail.com or call 897-9820. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve while growing in your own faith.



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.



Jesus & Ice Cream

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.



August 7, 2022

WATCH

EDITH STEIN: THE SEVENTH CHAMBER

During this very special week for the Augustine Institute, we celebrate both our patron, St. Augustine, and his mother, St. Monica! As a preeminent Doctor of the Church, Augustine has been said to be "the holiest of the wise and the wisest of the holy." To celebrate this great Church Father, please enjoy Augustine: A Voice for all Generations!



LEARN

FORMED NOW: MARTYRS AND MONASTICS

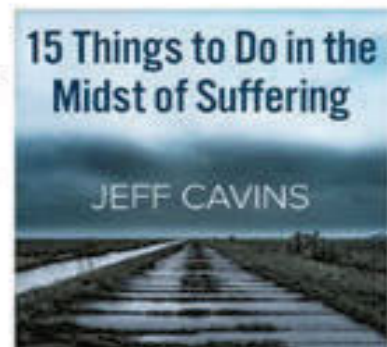


We celebrate many martyrs and monastics during this rich week in the liturgical calendar. But how did the Church become a place of heroic martyrdom and steadfast monasticism? In this video, Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss these themes and their history in the early Church.

LISTEN

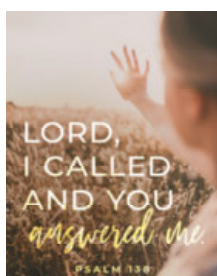
15 THINGS TO DO IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING BY JEFF CAVINS

The Church celebrates the feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe this week. Kolbe, a Polish Catholic priest, fearlessly suffered the horrors of Auschwitz, where he was eventually martyred because of his faith. The life of this Saint reminds us that suffering is a mystery we all face at many points in our lives. In this talk, internationally known speaker Jeff Cavins shares his insights on this difficult topic and shows us how our suffering can become redemptive.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



Rest in Peace-for our deceased & their loved ones; Howard Goodwin, 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.

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
ORTHODONTIC CARE FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS
(616) 363-9831 | (616) 325-2730
4253 Sorkow Dr | 300 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

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

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 | www.4lpi.com/careers

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!
LPI

GROW YOUR BUSINESS BY PLACING AN AD HERE!
CONTACT US!
Contact Dom DiPasqua to place an ad today!
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
See Our Website for Home Buying Promotions!
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

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