



St. Mary Great Mother of God Church

We Welcome You!

September 25, 2022

stmarylowell@att.net Website:
stmarylowell.com

Fr. Michael Goodwin
Parish Priest
616-897-9820
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Rhonda Fitzpatrick,
Parish Secretary and
Business Manager
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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

RECEIVE



“My child, remember that you
received what was good during
your lifetime while Lazarus likewise
received what was bad.”

LUKE 16:25


Masses for the week of September 26, 2022

Mon	Sept. 26	No Mass Today	
Tue	Sept. 27	St. Anthony Church/Saranac -Confession & Vespers 5:30-6:30 pm Mass 7:00 pm	
Wed	Sept. 28	No Mass, Adoration, Confession or Vespers-Father is at the Priest Convocation this week	
Thur	Sept. 29	No Mass	
Fri	Sept. 30	No Mass	
Sat	Oct 01	8:30 a.m.	Mass-for the perseverance of all priests and religious
		5:00 p.m.	Mass for Dick & Kathy Noskey's Wedding Anniversary
Sun	Oct 02	10:30 a.m.	Mass for all parishioners



MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF October 1 & 2

	<u>Saturday 5:00 pm</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>	
Lectors	Grace Pregent	Rachel Mullins	
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Rhonda Fitzpatrick	Denise Dommer	
Ushers	Sean Coble, Tim Fitzpatrick Gerald Eagan	Matt Vanderwerff, Dale Inbody Chris Nelson, Gunnar Nelson	
Nursing Home/Homebound	Brigitta Boston		
Flower Schedule	Janice O'Neill		




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 9/18/22

Adult Envelopes:	\$2922.00
Loose collection:	\$611.25
Children's:	\$ 0.00
Total:	\$ 3531.00

Needed for budget \$5500.00






Adult Bible Study is being held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the St. Joseph Room. We will be going through the Gospel of Mark: Faith Not Fear. Dr. Tim Gray combines insight and practical guidance to make Mark's Gospel come to life. Please join us! For more information, please contact Jennie at starmylowelldre@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday to You!

Sept 26	Cathy Gutowski
Sept 27	Maizie Barle, Fulton Poelma
Sept 28	Jacob Munson, Leah Krieger
Sept 29	Jean Erbenraut, Ashley Goodwin
Sept 30	Dale Inbody
Oct 01	Linda Vandawater, Dan Brzezinski
Oct 02	Joe Kilner



From the Desk of Fr. Michael:

I wanted to share some updates on our parish facilities. It is important that I am a responsible steward of our generosity and gifts and so I want to present to you some repairs we are addressing and improvements we are considering in the weeks and months ahead. If you have any feedback, ideas, recommendations, or suggestions, I am very open to them. You may call me at the parish, email me, or set up a time to meet me in person. We are also in the process of reestablishing the parish council to provide ongoing collaboration and feedback about these considerations.

Maintenance/Repairs:

- Church Skylight replaced. *(completed-August 9, 2022)*
- Parish Life Center drop ceiling, storage room ceiling and light fixtures, and narthex men's bathroom drop ceiling. *(Fall 2022)*
- Rectangular windows in main Church: 40 year old glass with vacuum seals between double panes are broken, reducing energy efficiency. Inquiring on their replacement before installing stain glass films. *(Fall 2022)*
- Exterior Fascia/Siding replacement. Wood is rotted and siding does not prevent further water damage. Plan would be to replace rotten wood and use a more waterproof siding option with a more welcoming color palette. *(Fall 2022 or Spring 2023)*
- Exterior painting of Church trim, bell tower, and possible staining of brick to correspond with paint trim. Color palette referencing our Marian identity. *(Spring 2023 or beyond)*

Improvements:

- Church signage: new sign in front of Church, signs by entrances, signs at crossroads. *(Fall 2022 & Spring 2023)*
- Addressing trees and landscaping on Church grounds. *(Winter 2022/Spring 2023)*
- Stain Glass Window Film. See concepts in Church. *(Winter 2022/Early Spring 2023)*
- Security: keypad access for chapel door, security monitoring/cameras by points of entry. *(Fall/Winter 2022)*
- Internet/Website Upgrades and Updates. *(Winter 2022)*
- Lighting: Narthex lighting by entry into Parish Life Center, sanctuary lighting, all LED efficient, consistent light color hue throughout spaces, for warm and natural lighting. *(Fall/Winter 2022)*
- Church/Sanctuary Beautification: *(2023 and beyond)*
- Replace dated brown carpet with tile/stone around Altar. (complimentary to baptismal area)
- Upgrades to Altar, Altar of Repose, and Ambo with stone/synthetic stone material. (Consistent complimentary to stonework done for baptismal font and tile floor).
- Enhance/decorate wall behind altar.
- Have symmetry for size and placing of devotional statues of Mary and Joseph in the front of the Church.
- Adjust church wall colors to match color palette for a Marian aesthetic.

Pray with Pope Francis and the world for an end to the death penalty

Each month, Pope Francis sets an intention at the beginning of the month for communal prayer around the globe. In September, the Holy Father has asked us to unite our prayers for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty – a prayer especially poignant here in the U.S. During September and into October, the observance of Respect Life Month by the Church the U.S., please include this intention in your daily prayers. And from Oct. 1 – 9, join in a novena for the abolition of the death penalty leading up to the World Day Against the Death Penalty on Oct. 10. Visit the diocesan website, grdiocese.org, for prayer resources and to learn more.

Walking with Moms in Need

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be “islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference.” Everyone in our parish community should know where to refer a pregnant or parenting woman in need. Our parishes are joining a nationwide effort entitled: “*Walking with Moms in Need*.” As part of this initiative, the Diocese of Grand Rapids, in partnership with Catholic Charities West Michigan, will be providing step-by-step help through webinars, resources and ongoing support. Please join us on **September 29th at either 2 p.m. or 7 p.m.** to learn how to begin the process. R.S.V.P. to dflorian@grdiocese.org. Now more than ever, let's walk with moms and dads in need!

Condensed version (103 words)

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The St Mary's Council of Catholic women will be kicking off year two of Boxes of Joy. We have many needs and are collecting at this time. We will have tags on the Christmas tree next weekend, and ask you to prayerfully consider helping with this project. We would like to ask you to return these items the following weekend. Boxes of Joy is a ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach based out of Boca Raton, Florida. They send us boxes that we pack with items needed and then send them to their offices for distribution to needy children around the world. Some of these children have never received a present in their lives. For each box we send we also need to send a \$9.00 check for postage. We are hoping to send 250 boxes, that is a lot of postage! The age groups are 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14, both boy's and girl's. We will be having a packing party on Sunday October 9th, 2022 with the Youth groups! You are always welcome to come and help. For more information: please contact Kim Beaumont, email address: Beaumont.Kimberly@yahoo.com or call/text me at 616-308-6759.

Fight Like Heaven 54-day Novena

Governor Whitmer has repeatedly said, both she and her allies in the pro-abortion lobby will, quote, “fight like hell” to ensure abortion is legal in Michigan. This November, Planned Parenthood and the ACLU are trying to amend our State Constitution with the "Reproductive Freedom for All" Initiative.

In addition to voting NO, we must ‘Fight Like Heaven!’ to combat this proposed amendment. The Diocese of Lansing is inviting Catholics across the state to join them in a novena beginning on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Sept. 15. It runs through election day. You can sign up for a daily text providing information and inspiration across each of the 54 days by texting 'FightLikeHeaven' to 84576.



Life Chain Sunday is Sunday October 2nd from 2-3pm. Pray to end abortion and to be a witness for all the innocent unborn children that have been and are being killed in our country. We will meet in the Little Caesar's parking lot to pick up signs and stand along Main street in Lowell for the hour. For ?'s call Melissa Gast at 616-558-5602.

Save a life; donate blood. St. Mary will be having a blood drive on October 2, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. Please sign up with this link: https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/149215

Saturday, October 22, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Grand Rapids Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Fall Seminar **Come as You Are** St. Jude's Parish 1120 4 Mile Road Grand Rapids. The pandemic changed our world. Lifting the lockdown orders has not returned us to pre-pandemic normal. Join Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, FSE, MA, LPC to learn an organized plan of action to help you process your lingering unease and move toward peace. Register at <https://www.facebook.com/GRDCCW/events>

The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary (feast on October 7th). “When reciting the rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived. The various steps of Christ’s mission are traced. With Mary, the heart is oriented toward the mystery of our life, of our time, of our city, through the contemplation and meditation of His holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow and glory.” —Pope Benedict XVI.

Please pray with us the Rosary a half hour before the weekend Masses in October. Volunteers are needed to lead –single people, couples or families , too. Please call Beth Pfaller to volunteer, 616-897-9820.

Thank you to all who ordered SCRIP this month. We earned \$127.00 at no additional cost to you! Our next order weekend will be October 15/16th.

**September 25, 2022
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.” Regardless of how the message of faith is received, a total conversion of mind and heart is needed for it to take root and have meaning. It is easy to become complacent and comfortable with all that life can afford us. Life can become “all about me,” preserving my livelihood and protecting my securities. Often, this drive can become so strong that we eagerly strive to protect our self-interests at the expense of others. Other people are necessary only to the extent that they are “useful” to us and profitable.

Merriam-Webster defines entitlement as “the belief that one is deserving of or entitled to certain privileges.” In a world that pretends to offer us so many necessities, this is perhaps the greatest contemporary sin. When we feel “entitled” to something, even if it is perceived necessary, our relationships can get skewed. Unless we adopt a global vision of entitlement wherein everyone is entitled to the same things, we risk becoming extremely self-focused and selfish. All we care about is defending our rights and protecting our turf. This impulse can be so strong that we pursue it even at the expense of another. Is this what God intends for his children?

Holding on to this myopic vision, the plight and station of others are off our radar and of no real concern to us. Relying on our own merits and becoming resilient to life’s challenges, we replace the true and real God with the one we created ourselves. Jesus and the prophets before him have consistently reminded us of the dangers of wealth, ignoring the poor and the needy, and becoming too fiercely independent and arrogant. Yet, we conduct our lives as if that message has never been preached. We give our faith a nod and never consider for a moment that we may be wrong in terms of what we see as important. “The things that we love tell us what we are (attributed to St. Thomas Aquinas).” Ponder those words a bit and remember that when we leave this world and go to the next one, what we loved here is what we will look for there. What we sought here may not be there.

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Rest in Peace-for our deceased & their loved ones, Betsy Davidson, 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.

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