

The Lakes Catholic Community

St. Joseph Parish

1305 Okoboji Ave.

Milford, IA 51351 712-338-2274

FAX: 712-338-2191

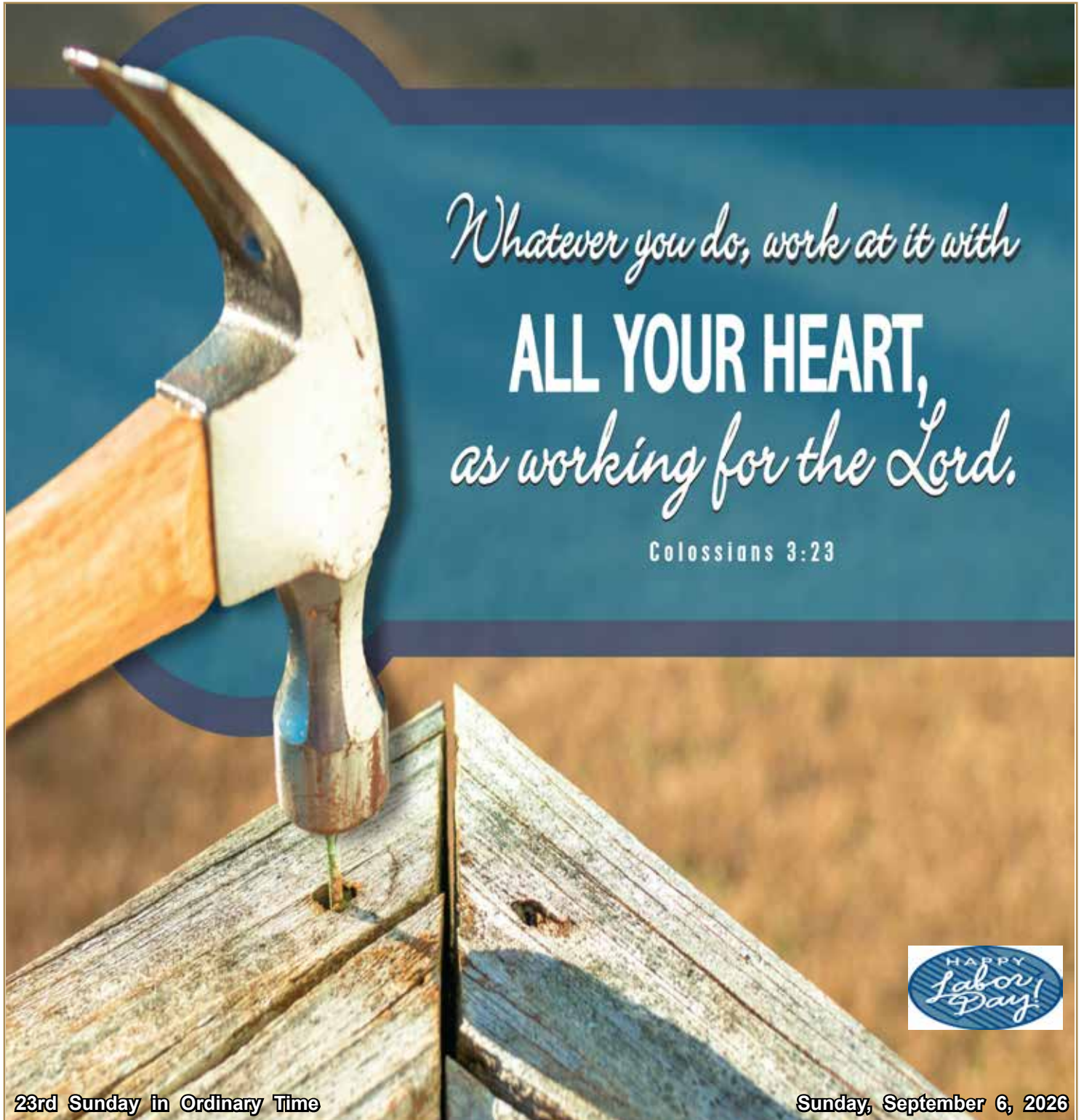
www.stjosephmilford.org

St. Mary's Parish

1005 Hill Ave.

P.O. Box 354
Spirit Lake, IA 51360 712-336-1742

www.stmarysspiritlake.org



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, September 6, 2026

News From St. Joseph Parish



WELCOME TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

We hope your visit here will be a prayerful time as you enjoy the lakes region. Please consider St. Joseph's as your church away from home.

Contact us at the Parish Office if we may serve you in any way.

We are committed to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite you to join us!

May the Holy Spirit lead us in living as a welcoming Catholic community.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

1305 Okoboji Ave.

Milford, IA 51351

OFFICE: 712-338-2274

FAX: 712-338-2191

stjosephmilford.org

Parish Office Hours:

Mon.- Thurs.: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fri.: 8 a.m. - 12 noon

Reconciliation:

3:15 pm Sat.

8:15 am Sun.

Bulletin Deadline:

Tuesday 12 noon

Mass Schedule:

Winter

Saturday at 4 p.m.

Sunday at 9 a.m.

Summer

Saturday at 4 p.m.

Sunday at 7 and 9 a.m.

Are you new to the community? Would you like to join St. Joseph Parish? Just fill out the coupon below and return to the office, in the collection basket or online.

NAME: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Irish Tenor In Concert

St. Joseph is excited to welcome internationally acclaimed Irish tenor Mark Forrest to St. Joseph on Sun., Sept. 6, 3 p.m. for a concert. The concert is free, but a free will offering will be taken. Light refreshments will be served following the concert.

Forrest, who has performed in concert halls and cathedrals around the world, has performed for figures such as Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Charlton Heston, and Maureen O'Hara, yet his mission extends beyond music. Inspired by profound personal trials, including the loss of his infant son Francesco and the ongoing challenges faced by his son John Patrick, who lives with severe disabilities, Mark and his wife Muriel founded the Faith and Family Foundation in 1999. Through his concerts, inspirational music, and the Foundation's outreach, Mark promotes the dignity of every human life, supports individuals and families with special needs, and encourages a deeper appreciation of faith and family. All proceeds from his performances and recordings benefit the Foundation's charitable work, which includes awards programs and publications offering hope and encouragement to families facing difficult circumstances.

Calling all CDA members and any gals who are interested in learning about CDA - We have moved our meetings to the second Thursday of each month @ 5:30 in Nazareth Hall. Our next meeting will be Thurs., Sept. 10. Hope to see you there!

Homebound Ministry

If you or someone you know is Catholic and homebound and would like to receive communion at home, please contact the parish office at 338-2274 to be added to our homebound ministry list.

IT'S PIE TIME...the Knights of Columbus will make the last batch of their mouth-watering pies on Sept. 12. Pies will be available for sale on Sept.



FREE - FREE - FREE

It's time to lock the door to the Treasure Chest Garage Sale building but before we do, let's have one

last FREE Sale! Join us this Friday, Sept. 11 from 3 to 6 p.m. Everything is free but there will be a bucket for a free will offering which is definitely optional. This is our way of saying "thank you" to all who have supported this ministry this year!



CONGRATULATIONS and Best Wishes

to Austin and Elli (Hanson) Harms who were married at St. Joseph

on Sat., Aug. 29. May your new life together be filled with much happiness.

PARISH OFFICES will be closed Monday, Sept. 7. Offices will reopen at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8.

LAST CALL for photographs to be submitted for the directory. Deadline is Wed., Sept. 9.



NEXT WEEKEND, we move to our winter schedule. Mass will be Saturday night at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m.

Walk With God!

12-13. Pies are available now at the parish office during regular business hours or after Mass as supplies last. Cost is \$15 each. Once they are gone, they are gone!

News From St. Joseph Parish



Take a moment now to mark your calendar with these events.

Sun., Sept. 6: Mark Forest in concert at St. Joseph, 3 p.m.

Tues., Sept. 8: OCIA in St. Joseph, basement, 6:30 to 8 p.m. and continues each Tuesday evening.

Wed., Sept. 9: Religious Ed classes: CGS with Olivia: 5-6:30 p.m.; Grades 1-4 from 5:15-6:15 p.m.; Grades 5-8 7-8 p.m.; High School at OB Conference Center, 7-8 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 10: 5:30 p.m. CDA meets in Nazareth Hall.

Sat., Sept. 12-13: FINAL KC pie sale at Mass. \$15 each.



PRAY for these members: Mike Laake, Kenneth Koeppen, Mark Foss, Jolene Rubis, JoAnn Chaffin, Linda DeMuth, Rick Barry, Jan Nau and Terry Abbas.

Non-Members: Raymond Wenzel, Lyle Calvert, Janaan McGinness, Ryan Naatjes, Rhonda Witrock Repinski, Christine Petersen, JoAnn Baxter, Chris Swartz, Bennett Jones and Kate Jensen. Please call to place your loved one on the list. Requests must be made by family members.

TRUST in the LORD!

ROSARY/ALTAR CHRISTMAS BAKING PROJECT

Yes, we know it is only September but we are already making plans for the annual Rosary/Altar Christmas Baking Project and Bazaar. We need 15 people who want to have fun working along side their fellow parishioners making cookies and candies. Last year we sold 125 boxes by noon on Saturday. This year we are expanding our work with a goal of 150 boxes. This means we will need 600 pieces of each kind of candy or cookie being made. Yes this is an undertaking but yes this can be done! Check your calendar and see if you can help us on Monday, Nov. 30 and Tuesday, Dec. 1. Holiday Fantasy, in Milford, will be Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4-5. We will sell our Christmas boxes on Sat., Dec. 5 during our annual Christmas Bazaar, which features gifts and jewelry, reasonably priced for purchase by young children for that special person. Call the office now if you want to be a part of "the TEAM."



Ministry Schedule

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 12th @ 4 p.m.

EMHC: Doug Heller, David Loebig, Holly & Paul Skopec

LECTOR: Ali Johnson **SERVERS:** Audrey Johnson, Lleyton Peter

HOSPITALITY: Jim Baumgard, Anne Donovan, Joel & Karen Naber

Sunday, September 13th @ 9 a.m.

EMHC: Bill & Cheryl Aumer, Maureen Higgins, Chris & Connie Jones, Scott Neppi

SERVERS: Brian Oyler, Sherlyn Santos

HOSPITALITY: Lorna Kruger, Jennifer Prentice, Michael & Sharon Sjoblom, Connie Tesene

LIVESTREAM: Scott and Joni Neppi

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 5

4 p.m.: +Roland Taylor

Sunday, September 6

7 a.m.: For The People

9 a.m.: +Thomas Muhlbauer

Monday, September 7

No Mass Today

Tuesday, September 8

5:30 p.m.: +Tom Spellman

Wednesday, September 9

7:30 a.m.: +Loretta Spies

Thursday, September 10

7:30 a.m.: +Ray Davenport

Friday, September 11

7:30 a.m.: +Nancy Meinen

Saturday, September 12

4 p.m.: For The People

Sunday, September 13

9 a.m.: +Betty Newman



Monday, September 7

No Mass Today

7:30 p.m.: AA meets in Nazareth Hall

Tuesday, September 8

2 p.m.: Eucharistic Adoration

5:15 p.m.: Benediction

5:30 p.m.: Mass

6:30 p.m.: OCIA, basement

Wednesday, September 9

7:30 a.m.: Mass

Religious Education:

CGS with Olivia: 5:15-6:45 p.m.

1-4: 5:15-6:15 p.m.

5-8: @ 7-8 p.m.

High School: 7-8 p.m., OB Conference

Thursday, September 10

7:30 a.m.: Mass

8 a.m.: Bible Study

5:30 p.m.: CDA Meets, Nazareth

Friday, September 11

7:30 a.m.: Mass

Saturday, September 12

7 a.m.-Noon: Final KC Pie Making

4 p.m.: Mass

Sunday, September 13

7 a.m.: Mass

9 a.m. Mass



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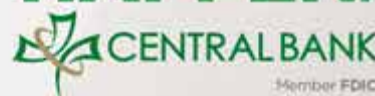
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The Milford Council meets the 4th
Thursday of each month at
6 p.m. Contact: Joel Naber,
712-330-6868.

The Spirit Lake Council meets the
1st Monday of each month at
6 p.m. Contact: Jed Skogerboe,
712-330-8892.

For insurance questions, contact
Rob Waterhouse, 712-320-0269

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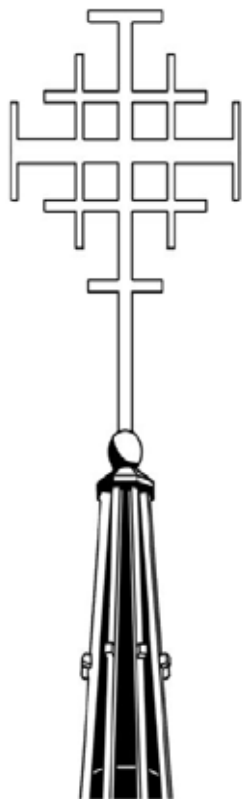
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is important



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News From St. Mary's Parish



Congratulations

Congratulations to Cal John Steichen, child of Andrew and Chelsie Steichen, who was baptized here at St. Mary's on August 30, 2026. Blessings to the Steichen family and welcome, Cal!

Audio System Update in Sanctuary

Updates are nearly complete on the new sound system for the church (we are just waiting on a few replacement parts from Sweden). This was an enormous project, paid for by special donations, bequests, and memorials. Updates included a new processor to replace the original from 20 years ago, new amplifiers that had failed over the past 7 years, new assistive hearing technology, new sound equipment for the Adult Choir, and moving the Live-Stream equipment to a location away from dripping water in the church. To put that all in relative terms: the church just got two new knees! As fast as technology changes, it was important to do the project with the future of our parish and our church building in mind.

Updated Weekend Mass Schedule

Our post-Labor Day Mass schedule at St. Mary's is 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Rachel's Vineyard is an extraordinary opportunity for any person who struggles with emotional and spiritual pain of abortion(s). The weekend is a unique and effective process designed specifically to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. For more information and a list of upcoming dates, email rachelshelpersofiowa@gmail.com or call 712-898-5550.

Religious Education for Preschool-12th Grade

Classes begin soon! Please register your children for Religious Education on the Parish website!

Upcoming Day of Lenten Renewal

Gus Lloyd is coming to our parishes for a Lenten Renewal on March 6, 2027. Gus is the former host of the national daily morning show on the Catholic Channel on Sirius XM (Channel 129). What is a Day of Lenten Renewal? Gus Lloyd will share his conversion story to Catholicism, Catholic teachings and how we can live out our Catholic faith! Squealers Smoke Shack on Wheels will be catering lunch. No need to register or sign up, just mark your calendar! To find more about Gus, you can go to his Facebook page, website or YouTube page. Gus posts a daily reflection on the readings from the daily Mass.

New Parishioner Registration

If you are a new parishioner at St. Mary's, we welcome you to register with our parish. Simply go to our parish website (stmarysspiritlake.org), and click on "Parish Registration" at the top of the page. Then complete the form, and click "Submit." We look forward to serving you here at St. Mary's!

Married Couples

Give your marriage a well-deserved vacation. Plan to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience and come back with a marriage that is refreshed and full of energy! For more information, call Greg and Denise at (563) 920-9419 or drubner9419@gmail.com.



WELCOME TO SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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We are committed to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite you to join us! May the Holy Spirit lead us in living as a welcoming Catholic community.

SAINT MARY'S
1005 Hill Avenue
P.O. Box 354
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
OFFICE: 712-336-1742
stmarysspiritlake.org

Parish Office Hours:

Open 8 a.m. to Noon

Monday-Friday

Reconciliation:

4:45 p.m. Sat;

9:45 a.m. Sun; 11:30 a.m. Wed

Bulletin Deadline

Monday at 8 a.m.

Mass Schedule:

Summer:

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

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News From St. Mary's Parish

This Week's Mass schedule

Monday, Sept. 7

12:00 noon: +Frank Hoven

Tuesday, Sept. 8

No Mass Today

Wednesday, Sept. 9

12 noon: +Dolores Mergen

Thursday, Sept. 10

5:30 p.m.: +Darwin Rosener

Friday, Sept. 11

12 noon: +Jack & +Carol Walsh

Saturday, Sept. 12

5:30 p.m.: +Mike Hawn

Sunday, Sept. 13

10:30 a.m.: L & D of St. Mary's



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE



Monday, Sept. 7

12:00 p.m.: Mass

Tuesday, Sept. 8

5:30 p.m.: CDA meeting (classroom)

Wednesday, Sept. 9

11:30 a.m.: Confession

12:00 p.m.: Mass

Thursday, Sept. 10

2 p.m.: Adoration

5:30 p.m.: Mass

Friday, Sept. 11

12:00 p.m.: Mass

Saturday, Sept. 12

4:45 p.m.: Confession

5:30 p.m.: Mass

Sunday, Sept. 13

9 a.m.: Lectio Divina Group, clsmr

9:45 a.m.: Confession

10:30 a.m.: Mass

Charitable Giving with a Donor-Advised Fund

Would you like to streamline your charitable giving? A donor-advised fund is easy to create and can offer immediate tax benefits while simplifying your yearly charitable giving, including your generous gifts to our parish. To find out what a donor-advised fund through the Catholic United Financial Foundation can do for you, contact the Diocese of Sioux City Office of Stewardship & Development at 712-233-7523 or e-mail michelles@scdiocese.org.

Prayer Chain

All Confidential Prayer Chain requests may be directed to Jean Mohr, our Prayer Chain Coordinator, at 712-320-0748. Prayer intentions may be entered in the prayer request book, which can be found in the narthex of the church.



4th Degree Monsignor McCoy Assembly K of C 4th Degree SWORDS If you have a ceremonial 4th Degree sword from a family member, relative or for yourself that is just sitting in a closet somewhere, we would like to have you donate that sword to our Assembly so that new 4th Degree members could put it to use at First Communions, Confirmations, Funerals or other functions that provide

Honor Guard. Please drop it off at your parish office so that we can put it to use. Thank you for doing this.

Homebound Ministry

If you or someone you know is Catholic and homebound and would like to receive communion at home, please contact our parish office to be added to our homebound ministry list (email support@thelakescatholic.church or call 712-320-8528).



Ministry Schedule

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 12th @ 5:30 p.m.

EMHC: Kevin Delaney, Kim Ingwersen, Annette & Tom Kalkhoff

LECTOR: Jean Mohr

SERVERS: Jack Delaney, Madison Lee

HOSPITALITY: Nancy Carlson, Dave & Linda Hansen, Mark Ingwersen

Sunday, September 13th @ 10:30 a.m.

EMHC: Mary Emgarten, Kelli Ferguson, Cyndy Powers, Jamin Trautman, Pam Wingert

LECTOR: Paul Katzfey

SERVERS: Creighton Trautman, Kennedy Trautman

HOSPITALITY: Bob Emgarten, Sylvia Jennings, Brian & Michella Koppen

ONLINE: Kaitlyn Trautman

Following is general information that may be helpful to you.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Thursday from 2 to 5:15 p.m.

BAPTISMS:

Complete the Baptism In-Take form on the parish website. Contact Sara at support@thelakescatholic.church or 712-320-8528 to schedule a pre-baptism class.

MARRIAGE:

Contact Ali Oyler at 712-320-8527 or liturgy@thelakescatholic.church at least six months before the date of the wedding.

CONFESSIONS:

Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Saturday at 4:45 p.m. and Sunday at 9:45 a.m.



A Note From Fr. Hemann

The liturgy for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, tackles one of the most uncomfortable aspects of human relationships: conflict and correction. Through the prophet Ezekiel, St. Paul, and the Gospel of Matthew, the scriptures offer a profound framework for addressing grievances, not through a lens of vengeance or ego, but through the restorative love of Christ.

The Responsibility to Speak In Ezekiel 33, God appoints the prophet as a "watchman," emphasizing that we share a spiritual responsibility to one another. Ignoring a person's destructive behavior isn't always an act of peace; sometimes, it is an act of neglect. When a troublesome person is causing harm to themselves or others, keeping silent out of convenience fails the mandate of love. However, this duty to speak up must be rooted deeply in a desire for the other's salvation, rather than our own desire to be proven right.

The Blueprint for Fraternal Correction in Matthew 18 outlines Christ's highly practical, multi-step approach to sharing a grievance. Jesus understands human nature and provides a roadmap to protect human dignity while pursuing truth:

- Address it privately first: "Go and tell him his fault between you and him alone." This eliminates gossip, prevents public embarrassment, and gives the person the safest space to hear the truth and apologize.

- Seek objective mediation: If a private conversation fails, bringing "one or two others" adds perspective. These individuals are not a posse meant to gang up on the offender, but as objective witnesses to ensure fairness, dilute emotional tension, and facilitate understanding.

- Involve the wider community: As a last resort, bringing the issue to the church acts as a final appeal to shared values and mutual accountability.

Loving with the Heart of Christ The guiding principle behind all of these steps is found in the second reading from Romans 13: "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another." The ultimate will of God is not that we simply enforce rules, demand apologies, or win arguments against difficult people. The solitary goal of sharing a grievance must always be reconciliation.

Loving with the heart of Christ means we do not correct others out of anger, bitterness, or a need for dominance. We must approach the troublesome person with the same radical empathy, grace, and patience that Christ extends to our own flaws. When we align our confrontation with the genuine desire to restore our brother or sister, we fulfill the law of God, transforming an uncomfortable grievance into a profound act of charity.

- Common Ground -

***Mark Forest** in concert at St. Joseph Sun., Sept. 6, 3 p.m. Free Will.

The Lakes Catholic Community Staff

Fr. David Hemann, Pastor

pastor@thelakescatholic.church 712-320-8526 (direct) or 712-338-2274 (office)

The St. Mary Staff

Cynthia Gniadek.....Office Manager
smoffice@thelakescatholic.church .. 712-339-4554

The St. Joseph Staff

Susan Reiser.....Business Manager
sjoffice@thelakescatholic.church 712-338-2274

Joint Staff

Deacon Darwin Messerly and Deacon Ken Lindquist

Teresa Goehring.....Director of Youth Ministry
Steph Jacobsma.....Youth Ministry Assistant
Erin Lorch.....Director of Faith Formation
Sara Nelson.....Ministry Support Specialist
Ali Oyler.....Director of Liturgy/Music

youth@thelakescatholic.church
youthassistant@thelakescatholic.church
faith@thelakescatholic.church 712-339-4555
support@thelakescatholic.church 712-320-8528
liturgy@thelakescatholic.church 712-320-8527

Stewardship



REPORT

Am I my brother's keeper? All three readings today suggest that for the Christian steward the answer is "Yes!"

ST. JOSEPH

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ST. MARY'S

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