

The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 20-21, 2022



Weekend Masses:		
St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun 9:00 am	

Confessions:	
St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Quotable: "I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God."-St. Dominic Savio

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 27-28

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, August 27 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, August 28 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, August 28 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, August 28 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Gary Nelson Todd Datweiler Dave emling Gery Wright	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Dave Ladehoff Daniel Forsythe Cathy Jensen Jerry Ogrentz	Brent Fulton Wayne Bisailon Darren Lovell Erik Wheeler
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Carrie Abrassart	Julie Splear
Servers	Xander Buza			Caroline Fulton Charlotte Fulton
Greeters			Greeter— Jerry Ogrentz R. Leader—Joyce Ferris	The Wheelers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, August 22 (SMM)

8:00 am +Theresa & Oliver Fritz Family & Friends

Tuesday, August 23 (SH)

8:00 am +Verna Emling (Jackie Cross)

Wednesday, August 24 (SJ)

8:00 am +Geri & Floyd Tobenski (Rita Thiesen)

Friday, August 26 (SMM)

8:00 am +Tom & Nina Smolkovich (Anna Lutgen)

Saturday, August 27 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Marlene Nelson (Gary Nelson)

+Tom Lane (Mariann Lane)

Sunday, August 28

7:30 am (SH) +Noah Phillips (Harry/Therese Phillips)

9:00 am (SJ) +Bill O'Connor (Craig/Pam Walker)

+Lorraine Brennan (LoriAnn Bruer)

) 10:30am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

Monday, Aug. 22—Knights of Columbus meeting 7pm SJ

Friday, Sept. 2—First Friday Adoration at SH

Monday, Sept. 5—Labor Day Mass at 9 am at SJ

Sept. 3-4—KC Food for Families food drive

Thursday, Sept. 8—KC Blood Drive at SJ 3pm-7pm

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— ronnie.gagnon@att.net.

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook [triparishcatholic communities](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

St. James – Carolyn Levy levystjames@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Question of the week.

How will I strive this week to aim for the narrow gate? How can I assist those outside my comfort zone as they strive to enter the narrow gate as well?

Collections Week of August 13-14, 2022

St. Margaret Mary—\$ 1,407

St. James—\$2,575

Sacred Heart—\$2,040

Thank you for your generosity!

Religious Education Registration



St. Margaret Mary—Planning is underway for the 22-23 Religious Education year! Please register your child(ren) for the upcoming religious ed year via the link: [2022-2023 St. Margaret Mary Religious Education Registration](#)

Please complete the registration by September 1 and spread the word to get others registered!

At this time, we are in need of 1 catechist/teacher! Please let me know if you are interested! I am sure our 21-22 catechist crew can tell you how simple, yet incredibly awesome it is to be on the St. MM RE Crew!

If you have any questions, please let me know. There is also a place on the form to give feedback from the 21-22 RE year. If there are specific components, events, or activities you would like to see again this year, please include that in the form or simply let me know!

Jill Fulton

St. James Parish Religious Education Program Registration

2022-23 will be held after the 9am masses on August 21 and August 28 in the parish hall. Classes are for kindergarten-8th grade. A preschool program could be added if there is a volunteer to be a Catechist. We are looking forward to a Faith-Filled 2022/2023 year!

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

- CCW wine tasting 7pm September 20th

St. James-

Sacred Heart-

- We are looking for someone interested in teaching religious ed for kindergarten or 6th grade at Sacred Heart. Please contact Rhonda Berns at 815-545-9519.
-
- **All Parishes —**
- **Adult Ed:** we will be resuming our Adult Education class in September. The book we will be studying is The Acts of the Apostles written by St. Luke. If you plan on attending the class please call the office (815-426-2550) so we can order a book for you.
- It's Labor Day time once again! We are looking for volunteers from all three parishes to put together a Tri-Parish float for this year's parade. If interested, please call the office. This year's theme is "Rockin" the Decades.



Current Status for CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
St. MM	\$9,500	\$8,565	\$8,053
St. James	\$7,300	\$7,025	\$6,775
Sacred Heart	\$6,300	\$7,235	\$6,065

A Stewardship Moment

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Gospel reading today starts with a question: "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" Jesus offers only a simple reply: Strive to enter through the narrow gate. Many will try to enter and will not be able. Good stewards know there is only one, narrow gate. Not everything will fit. This narrow gate has no room for our accomplishments. No room for our money. No room for our possessions. No room for anything else but those who've been good stewards of the Gospel. We can't custom build our own gates either. There is only one, narrow gate that happens to be open for a time, but for how long? What is our plan of action to get through that gate?



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection is September 3-4 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need. "For I was hungry and you gave me food..." Matthew 25:35

Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550



Saint of the week : **St. Rose of Lima (Aug. 23)** was born to Spanish immigrants to the New World. A beautiful girl and devoted daughter, she was so devoted to her vow of chastity that she used pepper and lye to ruin her complexion so she would not be attractive. She lived and meditated in a garden, raising vegetables and making embroidered items to sell to support her family and help the poor. Rose became a Dominican tertiary in 1606 and was known as a mystic and a visionary. She received invisible stigmata. Rose suffered from assorted physical and mental ailments. She was the first saint born in the Americas. Rose was the founder of social work in Peru. She had a great devotion to Saint Catherine of Siena.



Obscure saint of the week: : **St. Tydfil (Aug. 23)** was born a princess, the daughter of Saint Brychan of Brecknock in Wales. Killed by pagan Saxons.

Who was Saint Augustine?

"You made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." The man we know as Augustine of Hippo, bishop and church doctor, made this passionate declaration to God in his *Confessions* written in Africa in the 4th century. A prolific writer and even more famous orator, it's no wonder he's the patron saint of printers today: He practically kept book-makers in business in his day. Despite the fact that he wrote and talked so much, and knew everyone worth knowing in the Mediterranean world from Saints Ambrose to Jerome, some things aren't known about Augustine. The color of his skin is debated, for example. That he was an impassioned thinker and Christian convert, however, is unquestioned.

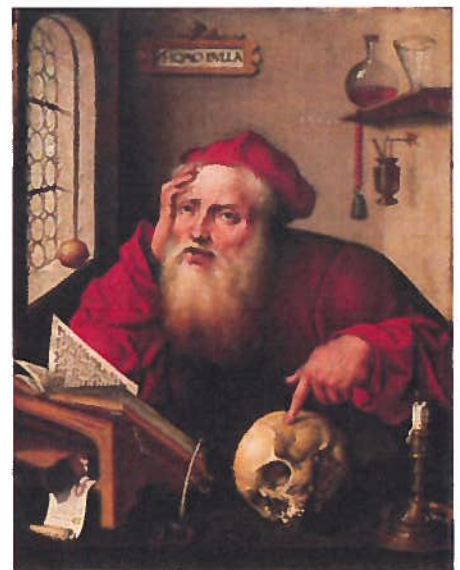
Augustine is significant for so many reasons it's hard to condense them. He wrote some of the earliest extended scripture commentaries and shaped our understanding of the Book Genesis, at least, irrevocably. He left an indelible mark on teachings concerning baptism, original sin, chastity, and doctrines about Jesus as well. He chased suspicious ideas around the church tirelessly—the 4th century had the lion's share of these—and defined orthodoxy on many issues. His preaching style still affects the modern practice of this art, and his ideas about liturgy remain captivating and fresh. One begins to wonder: Is there anything about Catholicism that Augustine didn't influence?

In this painting by Joos van Cleve, St. Jerome points to a skull, the symbol of mortality. Behind him a sign reads *homo bulla* – "Man is a bubble," that is, his life is extremely short and fragile.

Judgment is scary, of course, and hell a real possibility—so that should be a sobering thought if we are tempted towards complacency. The hour of our death is unknown to us, and could come suddenly, so we should strive to keep our minds on it and prepare for it daily.

One aspect of the Four Last Things that, perhaps, we don't think about enough is *purgatory*—the purifying fires that prepare souls for heaven.

-reprinted with permission The Catholic Company



What is St. Michael's Lent?

Have you ever heard of this devotion?



Saint Francis Receiving the Stigmata by El Greco

"St. Michael's Lent" is a beautiful devotion in honor of St. Michael the Archangel. It is a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance—a miniature Lent, you might say—that runs from the Feast of the Assumption on August 15th to the great archangel's feast day on September 29th.

This devotion comes to us from the life of St. Francis of Assisi, who was deeply devoted to St. Michael and the angels. He practiced this "Lent" himself, as mentioned in St. Bonaventure's famous biography of him and in *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*, a collection of stories about the early Franciscans.

St. Michael's Lent, in fact, forms the backdrop to one of the most famous events in the life of St. Francis. A couple years before his death, the saint was inspired to spend St. Michael's Lent on a certain mountain called La Verna. Here, close to the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14th), he received the wounds of Our Lord's Passion in his own body: the stigmata. The Franciscans celebrate St. Francis' reception of the stigmata with a feast on September 17th.

St. Michael's Lent, like the original Lent, excludes Sundays (and, we presume, feast days—there aren't strict rules since it is a devotion rather than an obligation).

We should all foster devotion to St. Michael, our great helper and defender in our battle with the devil. Practicing St. Michael's Lent is a great way to do it—but don't be intimidated, you can practice it in whatever way and to whatever extent you can! Even a little given with love and devotion has measureless value in the eyes of God and His angels.

Here at The Catholic Company, we love St. Michael and have created products specifically to honor him. Our bestselling St. Michael Prayer Black Scented Candle is a wonderful addition to a prayer corner or any place you wish to honor the Archangel. Adorned with a shield image and the first part of the St. Michael prayer, this candle will remind you always to call upon the strength of the Prince of the Heavenly Hosts.

-reprinted with permission The Catholic Company www.thecatholiccompany.com



**catholic
charities**
Diocese of Joliet

I GOT
MY FLU
SHOT!



Drive-Thru FLU SHOT CLINICS

For Kankakee County residents ages 60+
Pneumonia and shingles vaccines are also
available by request when you pre-register.

- **9/16/22, 2:00-4:00PM - Ralph J. Bailey Community Center**
 - 7219 E. Chicago St., Sun River Terrace, IL
- **9/23/22, 10:00-11:30AM - Pembroke Senior Center**
 - 4019 S. Wheeler Rd., Pembroke, IL
- **9/26/22, 2:00-4:00PM - Oak Ridge Clubhouse**
 - 1000 Oak Ridge Dr., Manteno, IL
- **9/30/22, 2:00-4:00PM - Grow Center/Central Christian Church**
 - 310 Main St. NW, Bourbonnais, IL
- **10/5/22, 2:00-4:00PM - Kankakee Area YMCA**
 - 1075 Kennedy Dr., Kankakee, IL

Flu shots are free with Medicare Part B. Vaccines will be administered by a Jewel-Osco pharmacist. Please remain in your vehicle. When you arrive, please look for the purple signs. Be sure to bring your insurance card.

Pre-registration is mandatory.

Please call Kelli at 815-933-7791 ext: 9910 to register.

Brought to you by
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet & Jewel-Osco



It was for this world that Christ had died: the more evil you saw and heard about you, the greater the glory lay around the death.

—Graham Greene, *The Power and the Glory*

Have you been thinking about becoming Catholic? Maybe you have questions about the process? Questions like: What is the RCIA? What do they do in their meetings? How long does it take to become a Catholic? What sort of commitments do I need to make?

There will be an informal session about the RCIA on Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 pm in the St. James hall to answer these and any other questions you might have. RCIA sessions are for anyone 18 years old and up and there is no commitment or obligation involved in these sessions. For further questions concerning the RCIA, please call the parish office at 426-2550 or Deacon Ron at 933-4077 [email ronnie.gagnon@att.net](mailto:ronnie.gagnon@att.net)

From slave to first African American priest.

Have you heard the amazing story of Fr. Augustus Tolton?

When Augustus Tolton received the oil of the priesthood on his hands on April 24th, 1886, at St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome, there must have been tears in his eyes.

This day had been a long time coming. Perhaps he was thinking about all the many dangers, toils, and snares through which the grace of God had brought him—he, once a slave, now a priest of God.

Augustus Tolton was born into bondage in Missouri in 1854. His mother, Martha, had been a Catholic since her youth, and—it being customary for slaves to take their owners' faith—Augustus, too, was baptized. His father escaped to fight for the Union Army during the Civil War, and died not long after. Martha took her children and crossed the Mississippi River to freedom in Quincy, Illinois.

Even in this "free" state, the Tolton children were forced to leave the first school they attended due to opposition from white families. But with the unwavering support of several religious sisters and priests, Augustus was able to enroll in a different school, graduate, and even attend college.

All this time a call was growing in his heart. The young former slave wanted to be a priest. But no American seminaries were accepting black men.

God's will always finds a way, however. With the assistance of a determined Franciscan priest, Augustus was able to attend seminary in Rome, where he was at last treated as a brother and an equal. Ordained at the Easter Vigil, he celebrated his first Mass the next day at St. Peter's Basilica.



Fr. Augustus Tolton

He was expecting to be sent to the missions in Africa, but God had other plans for him: he was to return to the United States as the first black priest in American history.

Fr. Tolton started off his ministry in Quincy before transferring to Chicago in 1889. Here his mission was to build up a black Catholic parish, St. Monica, on the south side of the city—a project which started with thirty parishioners who had no building of their own.

Known for his celestial singing voice, powerful preaching, and unstoppable work ethic, Fr. Tolton led St. Monica's for seven years and opened a new church building in 1891. Both in Quincy and Chicago, he battled the poverty and moral degradation afflicting the black community, as well as the racism of his day, with a spirit of patience, determination, and mercy.

"Good Father Gus" died of illness and heat stroke at the young age of forty-three, beloved by those who knew him and the Church he served. He is on his way to sainthood, having been declared "Venerable" in 2019.

Fr. Tolton's story is a shining testament to the power not just of perseverance, but far more: the power of *forgiveness*.

With all the unfair treatment he experienced, it would have been very easy for him to embrace anger, resentment, and hatred towards others. But he chose a different path. The charity of Christ found fertile ground in his heart, and he was able to fulfill his dreams of the priesthood while treating all—even those who thought him less than human—with mercy and love. He was a light in a dark place, a man of uncommon strength who truly fulfilled Christ's command to "love one another, as I have loved you."

-reprinted with permission The Catholic Company www.thecatholiccompany.com

Autograph

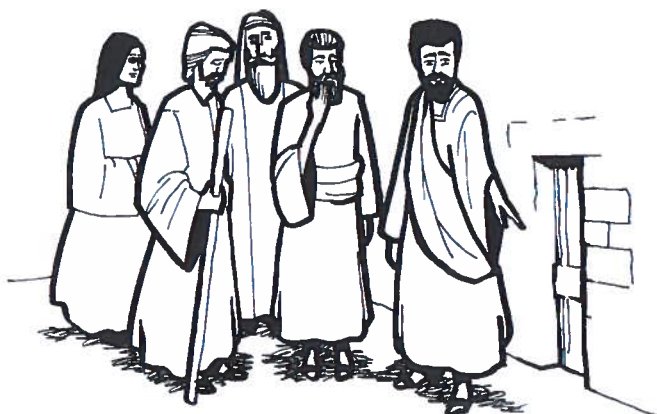
God wrote his autograph upon the sky last night.

In the stars I never saw a signature so bright!

With the dawn again for watchers to behold,

God wrote his name in sunlight ...

an autograph of gold!



Try to come in through
the narrow door LK.13:24

August 21, 2022

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Is 66:18-21 | Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 | Lk 13:22-30

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

We all have things that come easily to us and things that seem hard. I can bake a delicious pie, but I cannot flip a fried egg. I can resurrect your dead iPhone, but I can't keep a houseplant alive. The list goes on for each of us. Fortunately, neither our natural talents nor foibles will get us into or keep us out of heaven. "Strive to enter through the narrow gate," Jesus tells us. When I first read that passage, I said to myself, "What's the narrow gate?" But I think the key word here might be *strive*, a verb meaning "to devote serious effort or energy." Getting to heaven, then, requires more than knowing who Jesus is or even going to Mass each week. It takes energy, effort, and persistence. It means establishing a relationship with Jesus - through prayer and following his commandment to love one another - such that he will "know where [we] are from" when we knock on the door. In doing so, we can hope to be among the people who recline at the table of the Lord in the kingdom of God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

When Jesus was asked how many people will be saved and spoke of the narrow gate, he went on to say, "Many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." Where do we find the strength we will need to pass through this gate that will lead to eternal life? By following Christ with all our being and not taking the easier, mainstream path when it conflicts with our Christian values. By recognizing that our salvation is a gift from our Savior, who willingly took on our human form and died for us. By understanding that Christ's sacrifice on the cross requires a response from us. God invites; we must respond. *Jesus is our strength*, and he is the only way to get through that narrow gate. Let us *strive* to do so, and in turn help the others whom God has put in our lives, accompanying them on this journey.

PRAY Make a list of the people in your life who have helped you grow closer to Jesus. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for each of them.

“
Strive
to enter
through
the
narrow
gate.
”

Lk 13:24

Sunday, Aug 21, 2022

Don't leave home without it

If you've ever been locked out even once because you forgot your key, chances are you now check your pockets before you step outside the door. Being on the wrong side of a barred door is tough when it's due to hapless error. It's positively brutal when a door remains shut in your face because of something you did or failed to do. We've all received the key to a warm welcome at the threshold of God's realm: love. Church-going and check-writing may be basic but not *key*. The door opens to those whose hearts are open. Wherever you go today, check your pockets for love.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 66:18-21; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30 (123). *"I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!"*

Monday, Aug 22, 2022

A throne on high

In many ancient cultures, including Israel's, it wasn't the wife of the king who was queen. Rather, the mother of the king was queen. And while her son was the unquestionable ruler, she often had tremendous influence over him. The same goes in heaven. Today's memorial is eight days—an octave—after celebrating Mary's Assumption. Pope Pius XII, who declared the dogma of the Assumption, said of his instituting the feast of Mary's Queenship, "so that all may recognize more clearly and venerate more devoutly the merciful and maternal sway of the Mother of God." Remember to hail your queen, Mary, today.

MEMORIAL OF THE QUEENSHIP OF MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12; Matthew 23:13-22 (425). *"One who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it."*

Tuesday, Aug 23, 2022

It's your serve

Saint Rose of Lima—like her saintly role model before her, Catherine of Siena—proved that you didn't need to become a nun to live a notable life of Christian piety and service. Both women were drawn to holiness at a young age, both resisted their parents' pressure to marry, both even took measures to make themselves less attractive to suitors. Each joined the lay Dominicans. Rose sought a sacrificial life as she brought home needy people to care for, saying, "When we serve the poor and the sick, we serve Jesus." How will you serve Jesus today?

MEMORIAL OF ROSE OF LIMA, THIRD ORDER DOMINICAN

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17; Matthew 23:23-26 (426). *"Cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be clean."*

Wednesday, Aug 24, 2022

As I lay dying

Elisabeth Kübler-Ross died on this date in 2004. Early in her medical training, she was horrified to see the term "hopeless patient" commonly applied to the terminally ill, who were often overly sedated and neglected. She went on to transform the way we look at terminal illness. A pioneer in hospice and palliative care, bioethics, and near-death research, she led the movement to "treat the dying with dignity" and her 1969 classic *On Death and*

Dying changed the way we look at grief. Perhaps appropriate that today is also the feast of Saint Bartholomew, the apostle famed for his painful death as a martyr. We can all play a part in bringing comfort and dignity to the dying process.

FEAST OF BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 21:9b-14; John 1:45-51 (629). *"Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'"*

Thursday, Aug 25, 2022

Be resilient in the face of resistance

Saint Joseph Calasanz is now widely recognized for his devotion to educating needy students. However, during his 17th-century lifetime Joseph encountered strong resistance. His family opposed his becoming a priest, and after he had founded innovative schools for the poor and the Piarist religious community to tend those schools, enemies attacked. In his 80s, the church removed Joseph from education leadership, and dissolved the Piarists. After his death, the Piarists were restored, and they continue their education ministry around the world today. If you struggle with a seeming failure, look to the life of Saint Joseph of Calasanz for a model of faithfulness and endurance.

MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH CALASANZ, PRIEST, FOUNDER

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 24:42-51 (428).

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.'"

Friday, Aug 26, 2022

Dialogue to break new ground

There's a lot of talk right now. Talk about gun control, women's rights, dismantling racism—or not. The conversations are urgent yet often feel futile. What we need, writes Father Raimon Panikkar, whose anniversary of death is today, is not talk, but dialogue. Dialogue "is not a simple conversation, not a mere mutual enrichment by the supplementary information that is contributed; it is not exclusively a corrective of misunderstandings . . . It is the joint search for the shared and the different." How can you foster this kind of dialogue that nourishes what each person contributes?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Matthew 25:1-13 (429).

"Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish?"

Saturday, Aug 27, 2022

Don't stop believing

At some point or another, each of us loses our way in life. Some only briefly, others for a long time. Sadly, some never find their way home. But if we are blessed with someone as special as Saint Monica, we might be fortunate enough to share the fate of her famous son, Saint Augustine. He wrote in his *Confessions* that she had "brought me to birth, both in her flesh, so that I was born into this temporal light, and in her heart, that I might be born into eternal light." Give thanks for the people in your life who never stopped believing in you.

MEMORIAL OF MONICA, MOTHER OF AUGUSTINE

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 25:14-30 (430).

"His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.'"

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



©2022 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. Free daily email and app available online at [TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe](https://www.TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe).