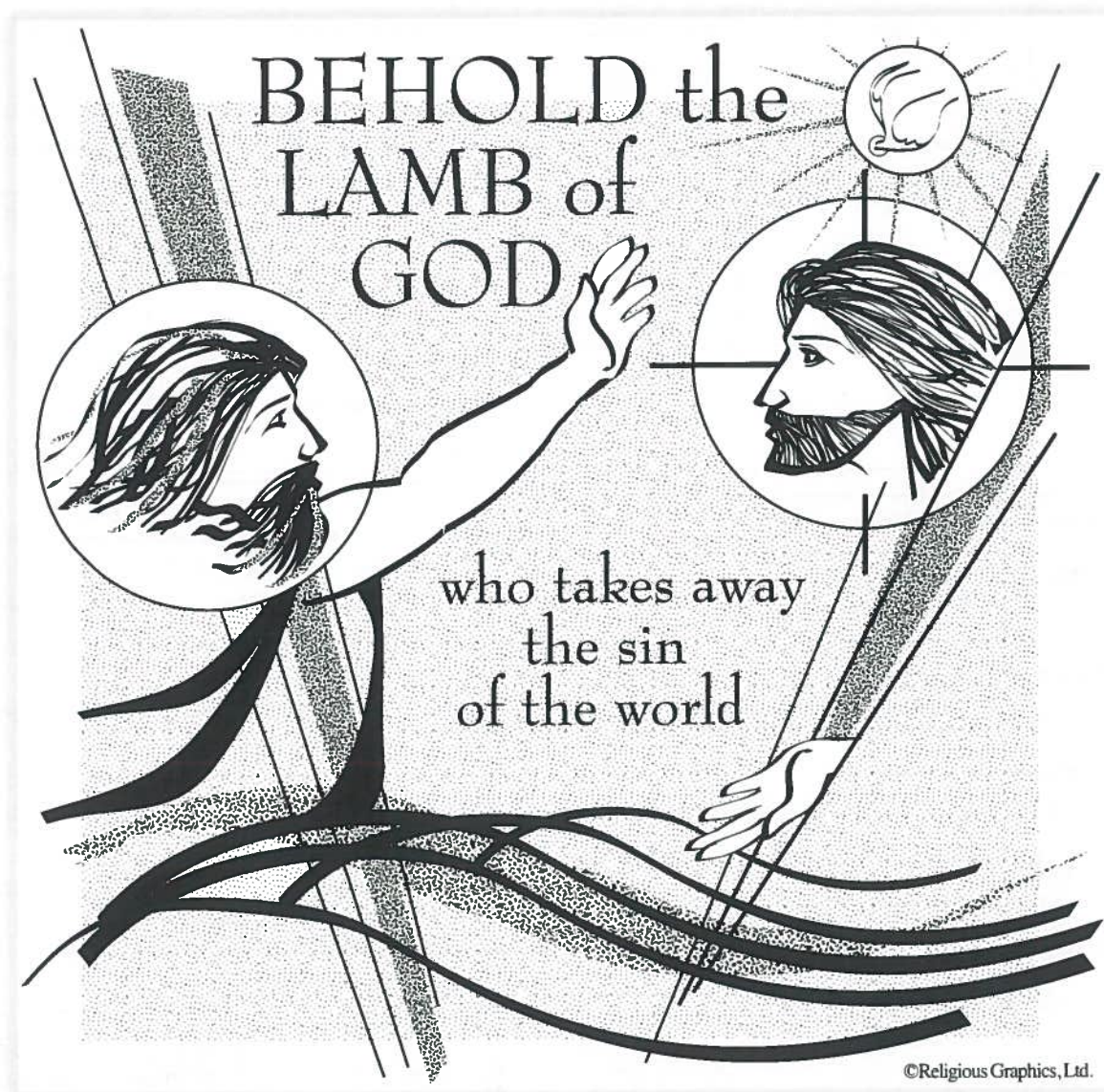


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 14-15, 2023



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

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "The Lord was baptized . . . to cleanse waters, so that those waters . . . might have the power of Baptism."
 ~St. Ambrose of Milan

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21-22, 2023

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, January 21 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, January 22 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, January 22 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, January 22 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Bob Schultz Dave Emling Roger Jensen	Dennis Pankey James Mallaney	Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Cathy Jensen Jerry Ogrentz	Darren Lovell Wayne Bisailon Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler
Lector	Jackie Eberle	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Jeff O'Connor	Corinn Wheeler
Servers				Caroline Fulton Charlotte Fulton
Greeters			Greeter – Rita Thiesen R. Leader – Karen Miller	Stacy Power

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, January 16 (SMM)

8:00 am +Brian Buckley (Tom Scanlon/Dawn Soucie)

Tuesday, January 17 (SH)

8:00 am +Everell Hayes (Cheryl/Dino Helopoulos)

Wednesday, January 18 (SJ)

8:00 am +Leola Ader (Glenn O'Connor/Sue Kuntz)

Friday, January 20 (SMM)

8:00 am +JR Matern (Roger/Margaret Jensen)

Saturday, January 21 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, January 22

7:30 am (SH) +Danny Babinski (Jackie Cross & Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Jared Devine (Rob/Gayle Landeck)

+Sondra Hertz (Mickie/Joe King)

10:30am (SMM) +Theresa Gualandi (Amanda Fedrow)

+ Bill Fritz (Norm/Sharon Riordan)

A Look Ahead

Sunday, Jan. 15—Religious Ed at SH and SJ

Tuesday, Jan. 17—SMM CCW meeting at 7 pm

Jan. 21/ 22—2nd Collection for Latin America

If you have pictures of events in your parish that you would like in the bulletin, please email them to debjen04@gmail.com They will be put in the bulletin as space permits.

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

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 Levyclevystjames@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 can I be a better witness to the truth, to what I see with eyes of faith?

Collections Week of January 8, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,306

St. James—\$1,523

Sacred Heart—\$739

Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts

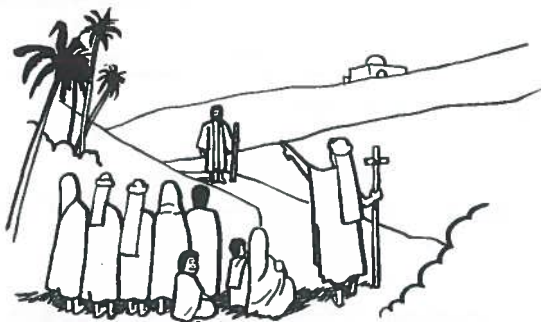
Jesus, The Chosen One of God

Reflecting or meditating after an important event has happened is a common fact of life. Even newspapers try to do that for us in their accompanying articles, called "Analysis," when reporting on big stories. The church has been doing this for centuries in her liturgical cycle each year after the big events of Christmas and Easter there is always time set apart for thoughtful reflection on what these two events, these two celebrations, mean to us in our Christian lives. At present we are doing just that in the Christmas cycle. With the help of John the Baptist, as told by John the Evangelist, we are asked to think about who this Jesus of Nazareth truly is and what his birth means to us even centuries later. The Baptist helps us reflect on this prayerful analysis by way of two titles he gives to Jesus — Lamb of God and Chosen One. Each of these titles gives us rich insight, biblical and historical, into the Person of Jesus Christ and the subsequent relationships we develop in faith with this person.

Reflections

Life isn't Always Fair

Life isn't always fair. But neither was the Cross. God took that Cross — an instrument of execution — and transformed it into the hope of the world. He will do that with your cross, too, if



Behold the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world
JN. 1:29

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

- SMM CCW meeting will be January 17 at 7pm. It will be our post holiday party. If you would like to be in the gift exchange, please bring a \$20 non Christmas gift to exchange.

St. James-

Sacred Heart-

- For the week of January 7-8, the St. Joseph candle burns in prayer for Jeff Bruer.

All Parishes:

- The Adult Ed schedule for January is:
Monday, Jan. 16th. (subject to change)
Tuesday, Jan. 24th.
Monday, Jan 30th.
All sessions will be at 7:00 and we will meet at St. James for the entire month.
- Please note that there is a regular weekday schedule listed for this upcoming week, but it is subject to change.

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

LORD OF NEW LIFE,

THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR,
YOU HAVE ENTRUSTED US WITH THE COMING DAYS, WEEKS,
AND MONTHS AS STEWARDS OF YOUR DIVINE PLAN;
TO LIVE IN GRATITUDE, JOY, AND AN EVER GROWING
CONFIDENCE IN YOUR KINGDOM TO COME.

WE ASK FOR THE HUMILITY TO REFORM OUR LIVES;
THE COURAGE TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO YOU NO MATTER
THE COST;
AND THE WISDOM TO SHINE THE LIGHT OF FAITH ON OTHERS.

OPEN OUR HEARTS, GIVE US YOUR SPIRIT,
AND SHOW US HOW TO SHARE YOUR LOVE
SO THAT WE MAY BRING HOPE TO A WORLD IN NEED
OF YOUR JUSTICE AND PEACE.

WE PRAY TO BE A SIGN OF YOUR GRACE
IN THIS NEW YEAR THROUGH YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST,
WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,
ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER.
AMEN

A Stewardship Moment Second Week in Ordinary Time Weekend of January 14-15, 2023

As the prophet Isaiah proclaims in the first reading, the Lord continues to remind us that we are his servants. Imagine the Lord speaking these words to you personally: "You are my servant. Through you I show my glory. I formed you as my servant from your mother's womb. I will make you a light so that you may shine the light of my salvation everywhere you go, and reveal my glory to everyone you encounter. I will give you the strength to do this. I will give you confidence. Heed my words, for I have spoken to you." What would your response be to the Lord? Would it be different from the response you give the Lord now?



Saint of the week: St. Arnold Janssen (Jan. 15) felt an early call to the priesthood, and was ordained in August 1861.



Well educated, he taught science and catechism for twelve years. He became the chaplain and director of the Ursuline convent at Kempen in 1873. Later he was named the director of the diocesan *Apostleship of Prayer* in 1874. He was also the editor of a journal about missionary work in 1873.

He established the religious congregation *Society of the Divine Word* in Steyl, Netherlands in 1875; it received papal approval in 1901. The *Society*, which soon had houses in the Netherlands, Austria, and Germany, was composed of missionary priests who worked in Tonga, New Guinea, Japan, Paraguay, and throughout North America.

In 1889, Arnold founded the *Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Holy Ghost* to assist the priests in their mission. The *Sisters* serve as teachers in mission lands, especially of young girls. With the help of Blessed Maria Virgo, Arnold formed the sisters a contemplative branch named *Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration* who devote themselves to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and prayer for the success of missionary efforts. These sisters are nicknamed *Pink Sisters* because of the color of their habit.

Obscure saint of the week: St. Placid (Jan. 15) was the son of a patrician senator named Tertulus. He was sent as a boy to study with Saint Benedict of Nursia at Subiaco, Italy. He became one of Benedict's earliest followers. He was the friend of Saint Maurus, who saved him from drowning. Placid accompanied Benedict to Monte Cassino in 529, it being built on land given to Benedict by Tertulus. He was known through the second *Dialogue* of Saint Gregory the Great.

Many legends grew up around Placid, and his story became mixed with a martyr name *Placitus* who was apparently a monk, and possibly an abbot, who was killed with 30 brother monks by Muslim invaders at Messina, Italy, but that appears to have been a completely different person and era.



Questions Catholics Ask

Can someone change religious communities?

If you are in a particular religious order or community, can you switch to another or are you "stuck"? —Mike B.

The simple answer to your question is: Yes, a person who is a member of a religious community or order can transfer to another community or order. Here are a few other considerations that arise with this question.

First, if the person happens to still be in first (or temporary) vows or is not yet vowed, she or he can leave freely because they are not yet full members of the community. Such leaving, however, is undertaken with much discernment, prayer, and conversation. The person must also faithfully tend to any responsibilities and relationships that have been established.

Second, the decision of a full member, someone who has professed final vows, to leave her or his community and, in some cases, join another community is a serious situation. This process is not engaged in lightly and is a time of great discernment, prayer, and conversation for both the individual and the community. After all, final vows means for life, not "for as long as I feel like it" or "till something better comes along." That being said, serious reasons do arise when a person can legitimately no longer live as a member of a particular community. These reasons are for the person and the leadership of the community to discern and are later witnessed by Rome for the valid dispensation from vows or transfer of vows.

Third, no religious community wants a person to feel "stuck" with them. On the contrary, religious communities want the very best for their members—to be free to love and serve God and God's mission with other women or men who share the same vision. The community is built on real relationships and is not simply a structure within which one lives out one's commitment for better or for worse. The pain of one member who feels "stuck" affects the whole of the community and must be tended to if the community and the individual are to be healthy and vibrant.

Get Fed, Catholic Snacks

Why did Our Lord choose to be baptized?

We obviously had no need of baptism. He wasn't a sinner. So why be baptized?

When Our Lord came to the River Jordan to receive baptism at the hands of His cousin St. John the Baptist, John asked the question that any of us would have asked:

"I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

—Matthew 3:14

Our Lord answered:

"Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness."

—Matthew 3:15

So John obeyed and baptized Jesus, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world, yet Who was guilty of no sin Himself.



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in his work [Jesus of Nazareth](#) has some profound insights into why Our Lord underwent baptism. One of the Holy Father's central points is the identification of Jesus with sinners and the anticipation of His sacrifice on the Cross. Although the baptism John offered to the people of Israel was not the same as the true Baptism Our Lord would bring, it was a prefigurement of it. Like the Sacrament it anticipated, John's baptism involved a deep-seated conversion of heart, a confession of sins, and a rising out of the water to new life.

As Jesus goes into the waters of the Jordan to receive this baptism, He is identifying Himself with sinners, taking our sins upon Himself, and submerging Himself—in our place—into the waters of purification. His rising up shows the new life that He will gain for us.

This, of course, is directly related to His Passion, death, and Resurrection. In fact, as Pope Benedict points out, He refers to His Passion as His "baptism." In His death, He fully shoulders our sins, cleansing them in His own Blood.

Our Lord rises from the waters of the Jordan as He would rise from the tomb three years later, glorified and victorious. At the Baptism, we see the heavens opened and the Trinity

manifested: the Father proclaims the identity of His Son—"This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased"—a proclamation which, Pope Benedict says, foreshadows the Resurrection.

His rising from the dead was the most definitive proclamation of His divinity and His power over all things, even sin and death. Because of Christ's actions, the heavens are opened, and we—through our own Trinitarian Baptism and participation in Christ's death—can pass through.

Get to know the Son of God by delving into the events of His earthly life. The late Pope Benedict's beloved work [Jesus of Nazareth](#) is your guide to understanding the principal episodes covered in the Gospels, from the Baptism to the Transfiguration. Your knowledge of Christ and love for Him will grow as Pope Benedict uncovers the vast and often hidden mysteries of His life.

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The Sunday Gospel in Everyday

The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I've been talking about, 'the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.' I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God."

John clinched his witness with this: "I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, 'The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' That's exactly what I saw happen, and I'm telling you, there's no question about it: This is the Son of God" (*from John 1*).

Deacons

SERVANTS OF CHRIST'S LOVE

Q. *How is a deacon a servant of Christ's love?*

A. Above all else, a deacon is a servant of Christ's love. It is a special kind of service that comes from the heart. The ancient Greeks had a word for it: *diakonia*. It is the root of the English adjective diaconal and the noun deacon. All Christians are called to be diaconal people: people in loving service to God and to our neighbor. Ordained deacons make a public and permanent commitment to live a life of *diakonia*.

The Servant, Christ Jesus, as he is depicted in the Gospel for the Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper, is the archetype, the role model for deacons and all baptized Christians. It's not merely the symbolic act of washing another's feet, nor is it just the act of serving. It is a special type of service that comes from the heart [*diakonia*] to which we are called. Real *diakonia*, genuine loving service, is at the core of Christianity. It should be given freely to everyone, even those who have hurt us deeply, those who act and live in ways we find hard to understand, and those who have turned away from God and from human goodness.

Q. *How does a deacon differ from a lay minister and a priest?*

A. As ordained clergy, deacons may administer the sacraments of baptism and marriage. They may also preside at benedictions, Communion services, and funeral services. Additionally, they may assist the bishop at confirmation and the priest at the Eucharist. In his ministry of the word, the deacon proclaims the Gospel at Mass and often preaches the homily.

Q. *What training is required to be a deacon?*

A. Permanent deacons must go through an intense discernment and multiyear formation program. The program includes psychological testing, academic work in theology, Church history, spirituality, pastoral ministry, and ongoing service ministry to people in need. For more information about the diaconate in your area, contact your diocesan offices.

Q. *Describe the threefold ministry of a deacon.*

A. A deacon's service unfolds in a threefold ministry: word, altar, and charity. Deacons are privileged to proclaim the word by reading the Gospel and preaching the homily at Mass. At the altar, deacons assist the celebrant at Mass and at funerals, perform baptisms, officiate at weddings, and lead benediction and Communion services.

The thrust of the deacon's life is charity: caring for the community and those in need, those who are disenfranchised, and those who live on the fringes of society. People who need someone to come along, scoop them up, and bring them into the healing presence of Jesus.

Q. *Do deacons work outside of the Church?*

A. Although the Church employs some deacons, most have jobs and support themselves and their families. They also minister in prisons, hospitals, shelters, parishes, and offices. #

Characteristics of Active Deacons in the US

Research performed and published by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate showed there were about 19,000 deacons in the US in 2020. Of that number, 12,292 were permanent deacons, and more than 40,000 deacons served the Church worldwide.

- + 93% of deacons are married, 4% are widowed, 2% have never married, 1% are divorced and have not remarried, and fewer than 1% remarried after diaconal ordination.
- + 72% are white, 21% are Hispanic, 4% are Asian/Pacific Islander, 3% are black, and fewer than 1% are Native American or other.
- + 93% of deacons are incardinated in the diocese in which they serve, and 6% are incardinated in

another Latin-rite diocese but serve with faculties in their diocese of residence.

- + One in nine active permanent deacons is financially compensated for ministry.
- + 42% of dioceses do not have a set retirement age for deacons.
- + The Archdiocese of Chicago has 852 deacons—the most in the US and twice that of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. #



January 15, 2023

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3, 5-6 | 1 Cor 1:1-3 | Jn 1:29-34

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I'm not sure I've ever seen a dove close up. The dove is a powerful symbol for Jews and Christians alike, representing love and a deep sense of peace. The dove has special significance for Christians, as a sign of the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist testifies, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him ... He is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." The Baptist further testifies that Jesus is the Son of God. The *catechism* (701) reminds us that John the Baptist not only paved the way for Jesus, but for all of us who followed: "The Spirit comes down and remains in the purified hearts of the baptized." Through our baptism, we can follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist by telling others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit will give us what we need in order to become messengers of love and peace to those we encounter.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

During his 1988 campaign, President George H.W. Bush used the phrase "a thousand points of light" to describe volunteers "spread like stars throughout the nation, doing good." This phrase came to mind as I listened to the reading from Isaiah, in which the Lord vows to make Israel "a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." John the Baptist baptizes with water to prepare the people for Jesus' coming. As we settle into the dark days of winter, today's readings challenge us to become points of light to others, leading them to Christ. How we do that will differ for each of us - praying for others, visiting an elderly relative, writing that letter we've been putting off. We may not be prophets like Isaiah and John the Baptist, but we have the gift of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to inspire us.

PRAY Today's psalm reminds me of the popular hymn, "Here I am, Lord." While I love the melody, the psalmist offers a simple spoken version that we can pray to point ourselves in the direction of Jesus each day: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

Sunday, Jan 15, 2023

Tend your inner lamp

Why do we take so many pictures of sunsets and sunrises? Why fill our homes with chandeliers, lamps, and candles? To the eye, light is incredibly attractive. It illuminates all that surrounds it, offering us not simply its own glow, but redeeming the whole environment swallowed by darkness and delivering it back to us. People who carry an inner light are similar. We're attracted to their aura, but even more so to how clear and bright reality appears when we're in their company. Saints attract others with their light long before the church bestows on them the customary halo. Let your light shine!

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34 (64). *"I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."*

Monday, Jan 16, 2023

Help the dream awaken in all hearts and minds

Many people have today off from school and work in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Why not make it a "day on" instead? Spend at least a little time working for peace and justice today, as King did every day. This is the only federal holiday that is also designated by Congress as a national day of service. The Catholic Church has embraced King's call for racial equality. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Racism and every form of discrimination ... must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design." Lift a hand to help in your community, and pray that love banish hate.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 2:18-22 (311). *"The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them."*

Tuesday, Jan 17, 2023

Make space for silence

The *Apophthegmata Patrum* is a 1,600-year-old collection of writings known as the *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*. These texts record the teachings of the earliest Christian monks, who congregated in the desert of Egypt. The wisest among these monks was Anthony the Abbot. He wrote: "Just as fish die if they stay too long out of water, so the monks who loiter outside their cells or pass their time with men of the world lose the intensity of inner peace." When Christianity became politically accepted—and martyrdoms ceased—Anthony sought the desert to experience a different kind of sacrifice. There he found silence and solitude, too. Seek God in silence today.

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY, ABBOT

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 6:10-20; Mark 2:23-28 (312). *"Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry?"*

Wednesday, Jan 18, 2023

There's room in this big tent

Every camper knows that it's a stretch of the imagination to think that a four-person tent can really fit four people! You're lucky if two people and a backpack fit! In Catholic circles, however, tents have a different meaning. Instead of being short on space, this tent is expandable, able to include everyone, not just one or two. This image is core to the church's "Synod on Synodality" in which all

Catholics, including the marginalized, give voice to their experience and together discern God's call. If you want more specs on this big tent, have a look at the USCCB website.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; Mark 3:1-6 (313). *"[Jesus] said to the man with the withered hand, 'Come up here before us.'"*

Thursday, Jan 19, 2023

Come in from the cold

Christmas is over and Epiphany has faded. In much of the Northern Hemisphere, the days are cold and dark. This is when the warmth of the Christian tradition is more important than ever. Pope Francis has often encouraged Christians to practice their faith in warmth and kindness: "Let us light fires of fraternity around which people can warm themselves," he said at a 2022 meeting with migrants in Malta. That's advice we can all take to heart—and to hearth. Can you find a word or gesture today to add positive warmth to a wintry world?

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 7:25—8:6; Mark 3:7-12 (314). *"He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases were pressing upon him to touch him."*

Friday, Jan 20, 2023

Twelve is enough

Twelve months of the year. Twelve inches in a foot. Twelve numbers on the face of a watch. We certainly like our twelves. So does the church. The most famous of course is the 12 apostles, often simply called the Twelve. There's also the 12 days of Christmas and 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit. It's not just that 12 is a handy number for grouping things, it also carries symbolic value. It signifies completion or fullness. Twelve eggs, for example, means you have a full carton. And 12 apostles means the church has everything it needs to preach the Good News. Count your spiritual blessings—by the dozen!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 8:6-13; Mark 3:13-19 (315). *"He appointed Twelve, whom he also named Apostles."*

Saturday, Jan 21, 2023

No has always meant no

As a young girl of 13 or 14, Agnes refused all suitors because she had betrothed herself to Christ. As punishment, she was taken to a brothel. One man attempted to violate her, only to be mysteriously struck blind—until Agnes restored his sight. Historical or not, this story reminds us that the scandal of child sex trafficking has always been, and still is, very much with us. Millions of girls and boys are kidnapped, bought and sold, exploited and violated for profit every year. You can help end childhood sex trafficking at the Save the Children and United Nations websites. Act in honor of courageous Agnes.

MEMORIAL OF AGNES, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14; Mark 3:20-21 (316). *"Cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God."*

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



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