

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7-8, 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 reason Christ told us to love our neighbors and to love our enemies was undoubtedly because they are often the same people." G.K. Chesterton

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time			January 14-15, 2023	
<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary</b> Saturday, January 14 5:00 pm	<b>Sacred Heart</b> Sunday, January 15 7:30 am	<b>St. James</b> Sunday, January 15 9:00 am	<b>St. Margaret Mary</b> Sunday, January 15 10:30 am
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Roger Jensen Gary Nelson Gery Wright Dan Hoffman	David Kirkpatrick Dale Pfeiffer	Todd Mesewicz Jeff Steinke Jeff Martin Dallas Ferris	Brent Fulton Joe Smolkovich Marko Smolkovich Corey Eich
<b>Lector</b>	Dave Emling	Terri Weakley	Dave Ladehoff	Dana Masching
<b>Servers</b>				Bella Eich
<b>Greeters</b>			<b>Greeter</b> – Jerry Ogrentz <b>R. Leader</b> – Rita Thiesen	Wayne Bisailon

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, January 9 (SMM)**  
**8:00 am** +Laura Jensen (Gerald Kroesch)

**Tuesday, January 10 (SH)**  
**8:00 am** +Everell Hayes (Dino/Cheryl Helopoulos)

**Wednesday, January 11 (SJ)**  
**8:00 am** No Mass

**Friday, January 13 (SMM)**  
**8:00 am** No Mass

**Saturday, January 14 (SMM)**  
**5:00 pm** +Rita and Bob Deany (Pat Perreault)

**Sunday, January 15**  
**7:30 am (SH)** +Genevieve Gruber, Alfred Denault, Vicki Hensley, Madeline Sullivan, Norma Denault, & Elizabeth Fitch (The Family)  
**9:00 am (SJ)** +Susanna Bngni (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)  
**10:30am (SMM)** For All the Parish Family

**A Look Ahead**

January 7/ 8—K of C Food Drive  
 January 11 & 13—No Daily Masses  
 Jan. 21/ 22—2nd Collection for Latin America

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

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**Deacon** – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com  
 Home—815-933-4077  
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**TriParish web page** – [www.triparishcatholics.org](http://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  
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 St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)  
 St. James – Carolyn [Levyyclevystjames@gmail.com](mailto:Levyyclevystjames@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](mailto:Jdstreefarms@aol.com)  
 St. James— Mary Offerman–602-670-8888 (call or text)

**Question of the week:**  
 How has my encounter with the Lord through this Christmas season changed me? Where do I imagine my new path will lead?

## Collections Week of January 1, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,480

St. James—\$1,274

Sacred Heart—\$836

Thank you for your generosity!

### Gospel Shorts

#### Too Good for Video

The story of the wise men carrying much more than the making of an exciting video. Granted, it has all the ingredients, adventure, intrigue, courage, even “good guys and bad guys.” But the story is more than all that. It is a story that tells of an all-inclusive God, a God who invites anyone and everyone. It is also a story of some truly wise men, men wise enough to search for their God, wise enough to know that no matter how much knowledge they had already accumulated, there was still something more to be discovered about a God who is too big for anyone to be able to say that they have now learned it all.

### It's a New Year!



There is something about the beginning of a brand new year of our life that has a certain fateful quality about it. We know that the days ahead are filled with all kinds of possibilities, and our minds and hearts are full of hope that those days will be good ones.

If we're realistic, we know that they can't really be 100% good, so we stand on the brink of another year with mixed hopes and fears, wondering what we can do to make it a good year. Insofar as we are responsible, whether it's a good year or not will depend to a very great extent on what we do with one of the most valuable commodities we have ... time.

The great cry from every corner these days is, of course: “I don't have time!” But, the plain and simple fact is that we do have time.

The difference comes in our stewardship ... what we do with this vital commodity. The question for all of us is never really “Do I have time?” but “What do I have time for?” Can I dedicate part of my time to some apostolic activity, organized within the framework of my church?

What kind of steward will you be of this unit of your precious time called the New Year?

### 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.
- We thank all of those who generously donated for the Sacred Heart Stag and Stagette. The total was \$2,961

#### All Parishes:

- The Adult Ed schedule for January is:  
Monday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Monday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>.  
Tuesday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Monday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup>.  
All sessions will be at 7:00 and we will meet at St. James for the entire month.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**+Michael Soucie**

May he and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

### Reflections— A Thought ....

You can't control the length of your life, but you can control its width and depth;

You can't control the contour of your face, but you can control its expression;

You can't control the weather, but you can control the atmosphere of your mind;

Why worry about things you can't control, when you can keep yourself busy controlling the things that depend on you!

### A Stewardship Moment Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Weekend of January 7-8, 2023

In today's second reading we hear the teachings of Saint Paul to the members of the Church at Ephesus. He proclaims that he, and they, are stewards of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and therefore stewards of God's loving, unifying and inclusive grace. He also proclaims that the Holy Spirit is at work within each of them, if only they would be open to the Spirit. Today, our world races by with intolerance, violence, desperate poverty, fear and division. At the beginning of this New Year, perhaps it is appropriate to reflect on Saint Paul's words and ask ourselves how we can be good stewards of the gospel today. How will we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us? How can we be better stewards of Christ's justice and peace?



**Saint of the week: St. George Chozebites (Jan. 8)** After some time as a monk at the Choziba monastery in Palestine, George felt the need for solitude and withdrew from community life to live as a hermit in his cell, coming out only on Sunday to pray and discuss spiritual matters with his brother monks.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Pega of Peakir** was the daughter of Penwalh and the sister of Saint Guthlac of Croyland. She was related to the royal family of the East Angles. Pega lived as a hermit in the Fens, Northhamptonshire, England near her brother. Once the devil took on her form to persuade Guthlac to break his vow to never eat before sunset. To prevent further attempts, Pega left the area and never returned in Guthlac's life. Anchoress near Croyland Abbey; a church was built on the site of her hermitage, and an Anglican convent dedicated to Pega survives today. Peakirk (*Pega's Church*) is named for her. While enroute to her brother's funeral in 714, she cured a blind man from Wisbech. She made pilgrimage to Rome, Italy and died before returning home.

### Why do Christians believe Jesus is God incarnate?

The key word is *believe*. The doctrine of the Incarnation is a belief, not a piece of evidence. No one can prove to you that Jesus is "one in being with the Father," and if they say they can, you ought to cross to the other side of the street.

The term "Son of God" is key to the Christian theology of Incarnation. In Hebrew scripture, "son of God" denotes a person with a special relationship to God. In the New Testament the term describes the unique relationship of Jesus to God. In the Jewish sense, then, angels are sons of God. So are the whole people of Israel and the king of the nation. Finally, Jews post-biblically began to refer to the anticipated Messiah as son of God. None of these Jewish usages implied a divine nature, only a privileged relationship.

In Christian usage the title is first applied to Jesus because he saw himself that way. God is his Father: It's repeated often enough that we might just as easily say Jesus saw himself as God's son. But did he mean "son" in the Jewish sense or the later Christian doctrine? We don't know. Clearly the gospel writers and Saint Paul used the title after Jesus' resurrection appearances to say something more about Jesus than anyone had claimed before.

Here's a brief rundown of how the term evolved for early Christians. First, they understood that Jesus views himself as the "Son in whom [God] is well pleased"—as testified by a heavenly voice at the accounts of his baptism and Transfiguration.

Next, they saw Jesus as the anticipated Messiah; as good Jews they used "son of God" for that awaited figure.

Third, as the church moved into the Gentile world, concepts like "messiah" began to lose their meaning. The world outside Judaism wasn't waiting for a saving hero. But the pagan world did employ "son of God" to refer to heavenly beings of various sorts. The term was a better fit to describe what Christians meant by Jesus.

As the church fathers mined scripture in search of understanding, they drew together traditions of prophecy, Wisdom, and Divine Word (the *Logos*) to see Jesus as sharing in the divinity of God both before his human birth and afterwards. At the Council of Nicaea in 325 Jesus was declared begotten of God before time began and "one in being with the Father."

### Scripture

• Genesis 6:2; Exodus 4:22; Deuteronomy 32:8; 2 Samuel 7:14; Job 1:6; Psalm 2:7; Jeremiah 31:9; Hosea 11:1; Matthew 5:45; 7:21; 11:25-27; 16:16; 26:63; Mark 1:1; 14:36, 61; Luke 10:21-22; John 1:1-18; 11:27; 20:31; Romans 1:3-4; Galatians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Hebrews 1:2-4

Stars cross the sky, wise men journey from pagan lands, Earth receives its savior in a cave. Let there be no one without a gift to offer, no one without gratitude as we celebrate the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race.

—Basil the Great

### Catholic Snacks, Get Fed Get Fed, Catholic Snacks

**Which future pope spent time as a prisoner of war?  
The Ratzinger family had always stood against the Nazis.**

Joseph knew he'd be in trouble if someone found out he'd deserted.

He and his brother Georg had no interest in fighting for the German cause, and their family was firmly anti-Nazi. But like so many other young men in Germany at that time, the two brothers were drafted into the army. Joseph was only eight-



Joseph Ratzinger, many years later as Pope Benedict

een. He never saw combat, and as the war was clearly drawing to a close with the Americans on their way through Germany, he deserted from his unit and returned to his family's farmhouse in Traunstein.

It was a dangerous move. Deserters could be executed on the spot. But the soldiers who stopped him were sympathetic and sent him on his way.

The Americans came soon after Joseph arrived home and they established headquarters in the farmhouse. Finding out Joseph was a soldier, they marched him along with thousands of others to a POW camp. Providentially, the future Pope Benedict XVI was released with the ending of the war in the summer. He and his brother entered seminary that fall and were ordained in 1951.

This was only the beginning of Joseph Ratzinger's incredible, courageous, unforgettable life. As we mourn his loss today, we also give thanks to God for everything He gave us through Joseph's ministry as a priest, bishop, cardinal, and pope. He stands as one of the greatest theologians and scholars of his time, and his thought and legacy will continue to shape and guide the Church even as she endures his passing. Please join us in praying for the peaceful repose of the soul of Pope Benedict XVI:

O God, Who, in Thine ineffable providence, didst will that Thy servant Pope Benedict should be numbered among the high priests, grant, we beseech Thee, that he, who on earth held the place of Thine only-begotten Son, may be joined forevermore to the fellowship of Thy holy pontiffs. Through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

—Prayer for a deceased pope, from the Roman

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,  
no longer bringing up the rear.  
From you will come the leader  
who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country (*from Matthew 2*).



Where is the newborn  
King of the Jews?  
MT.2:2

# Deacons

## SERVANTS OF CHRIST'S LOVE

### Q. What are deacons?

**A.** The diaconate, as a permanent state in life, had its origins in the early Church. From the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St. Paul, we learn that the first Christian communities had two orders: the episcopate (bishops) and the diaconate (deacons).

Later, as the Church grew too large for a bishop to be personally present to the members of the local communities (parishes), the order of presbyterate (priests) developed.

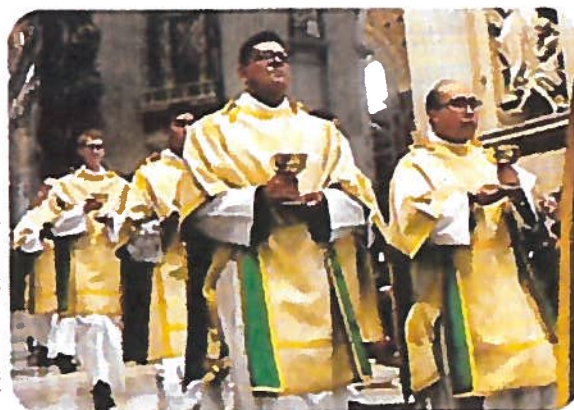
The Book of Acts tells the story of the apostles choosing seven people to serve the social welfare needs of the early Christian community and to carry the gospel into the marketplaces and the trenches of society (see Acts 6:1-6).

In the Middle Ages, the Church ceased to foster the role of deacon as a permanent state in life and made the diaconate a transitional step on the way to the priesthood. But in the late 1940s, a group of priests, who had been imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II, discerned the need to bring back the role of deacon as it was originally intended—to carry the gospel and the ministry of loving service into prisons, hospitals, marketplaces, and out onto the fringes of society. They petitioned the pope to restore the ordained ministry of the permanent deacon. In 1967, following the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI restored the permanent diaconate and opened it up to married as well as single men.

### Q. What is the pathway to becoming a deacon?

**A.** There are two pathways—based on marital status—in which this vocation to holy orders unfolds. Seminarians in formation for the priesthood are first ordained as transitional deacons for several months to a year before ordination to the priesthood. Permanent deacons come from all walks of life. A

man may be married when ordained, but if his wife precedes him in death, he is not permitted to remarry and still remain a deacon. If single at ordination, he must remain so. Through the sacrament of holy orders, permanent deacons are ordained as clergy within the Church for a threefold ministry of the word, the altar, and charity.



CHRISTIAN HARRIS

The deacon strives to live the gospel in all circles of life in which he is present: with his family, friends, and co-workers; in the parish; at his workplace; and in the marketplace. While you may see the deacon assisting at the altar or preaching at Mass, his primary work is charity—service through various outreach ministries—to the poor, the sick, the troubled,

and otherwise marginalized members of our human family.

### Q. How does answering the call to the diaconate require an individual to be indelibly changed?

**A.** Like the sacrament of baptism, the sacrament of holy orders brings an ontological change to one's being. A person doesn't just achieve the goal of ordination. Rather, one is permanently and indelibly changed and marked forever.

The sacrament of holy orders marks deacons with an imprint, or character, that cannot be removed, and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the deacon, or servant, of all. Just as a baptized person is expected to be a Christian at all times and in all places, similarly, a person ordained to the diaconate is a deacon at all times in all areas of life.

The diaconate is not a role or a persona that one puts on and takes off depending on time and place. The deacon is called to be an instrument of Christ's peace and a channel of Christ's love during every waking moment and in everything he does. Deacons are not an executive, teacher, truck driver, or whatever job during the day and then a deacon in the evenings and on the weekends. Rather, men are called to be diaconal in every place they go and in everything they do.

January 8, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

“Rise up in splendor,  
Jerusalem!

Your  
light has  
come.”

(Is 60: 1)



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

It's easy to stay inside and cozy up on the couch these winter months. Having just gotten through the winter solstice, many of us crave light and warmth. The language of Isaiah may resonate with us even more deeply this time of year: “See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory.” In today's Gospel, in the dark of night, the Magi follow a bright star to pay homage to Jesus, whom they recognize as the newborn king of the Jews. On the Epiphany, which means “manifestation,” we celebrate this moment when Christ's light shone forth to the world. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*: “The key point is this: The wise men from the east are a new beginning. They represent the journeying of humanity toward Christ.”

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Like the Wise Men who traveled a long distance to pay homage to the Christ Child, each of us journeys every day toward a fuller life in Christ. Just as the Magi followed the light to discover Christ, so does the light of Christ serve as our constant beacon, reorienting us toward God and his holy path. After worshiping the Christ Child at Christmas, let us move forward and pay homage to the Savior through our words and actions. Although Epiphany signifies the official “end” of the Christmas season, it is fitting that it falls at the beginning of a new calendar year because it allows us to reexamine, among our traditional “New Year's resolutions,” how we live our lives in the light of Christ. “The wise men from the east are a new beginning,” the pope said. May their journey and experience inspire us to “begin anew” however we must, and offer Jesus our gifts of love and devotion, considering how his light may shine through us to others.

**PRAY** “Dear Jesus, as you led the Wise Men to you by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to you by the light of faith. Help us to desire you as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from you. May we, like them, have something to give you when we appear before you. Amen.”

Sunday, Jan 08, 2023

### Bless this mess

Do a perimeter walk of your home. What do you see? Each room tells a story, every corner contains a chapter about who lives here and what happens between these walls. *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* recommends we bless our homes annually on Epiphany in imitation of the wise ones who once followed the divine presence to a humble dwelling. What sort of blessing might each area need? What requires a blessing: the kitchen table, living room sofa, or home office desk? A child's room or elder's sickbed? Don't forget the front door—the passageway to every other story that involves us.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."

Monday, Jan 09, 2023

### Be a carrier of peace

Pigeons and doves are different species within the same family of birds. The homing pigeon, also called the mail or carrier pigeon, is a variety bred for its ability to find its way home over extremely long distances of up to 1,000 miles or more. Because of this skill, they were used to carry messages throughout history. The dove, of course, is a symbol of peace and hope, and famously carried an olive branch to Noah on the Ark after the great flood. If you want to send a similar message, you don't have to go nearly as far. Just extend peace and hope across the dinner table or over the neighbor's fence.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17 (21). "He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him."

Tuesday, Jan 10, 2023

### Give peace every chance

On this day in 1920, the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. On this same day in 1946—following World War II—the UN General Assembly met for the very first time, gathering on church property at the Methodist Central Hall in London. And on January 10, 1984 the United States and Vatican City re-established full diplomatic relations after 117 years. It's not enough for Christians to worship the Prince of Peace. "We must work tirelessly to avoid war between nations and peoples," writes Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship). "There is a need to ensure ... tireless recourse to negotiation, mediation, and arbitration." Learn more at Pax Christi USA.

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28 (306). "The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes."

Wednesday, Jan 11, 2023

### Measure with mercy

On this day in 314—or the day before; the history is unclear—Pope Saint Miltiades died after a life of historic twists and turns that would help define the Early Church. Born to North African parents, Miltiades was the second of the Catholic Church's three African popes, having been elected in 311, shortly after the end of the persecutions of Emperor Diocletian. As pope, Miltiades was most famous for rejecting the Donatists, who argued that apostates who

repent needed to be re-baptized (and re-ordained, if priests). In an age of manifestly imperfect priests, may we model Pope Miltiades' mercy and forgiveness for all the fallen—starting with ourselves!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39 (307). "They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up."

Thursday, Jan 12, 2023

### Pull back the curtain with contemplative prayer

Fans of *The Wizard of Oz* relish the moment when a curtain is drawn and the Great and Terrible Oz is shown to be an ordinary man. In a way, the tradition of contemplative prayer is an attempt to pull back the curtain but with reverse results. Instead of seeing the wondrous as ordinary, contemplation is meant to move people to see the depth and intricacy and wonder of the ordinary. In other words, contemplative prayer wants us to see God's face everywhere. Consider the times when God's presence became tangible for you. Build a time into today to seek that presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45 (308). "Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, 'I do will it. Be made clean.'"

Friday, Jan 13, 2023

### The word is out

Saint Hilary, born in Poitiers in southwest France in 315, had a learned education but was not raised Christian. Able to read the biblical languages, however, he was drawn to Christianity by the beauty and power of the prologue of the Gospel of John (John 1:1-18) and spent his life in strong defense of the divinity of Jesus, a controversial subject at the time. Recognition of his tireless efforts eventually earned him the high title of doctor of the church. Perhaps John's prologue has a word to speak to you as well. Why not dip into its powerful language today?

MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12 (309) "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?'"

Saturday, Jan 14, 2023

### Accepted unconditionally

Levi was an outcast of his people. Because of his position at the Roman customs post, not only he but also his family were held in disdain. His alliance with the Romans was considered treasonous and his wealth ill-gotten. Levi had many character flaws, yet Jesus chose him as a disciple, and he accepted. This is good news for the outcasts of our generation, the people our society and sometimes our church counts as unacceptable. It's good news for all of us, to be honest, as we all fall short in one way or another. Thankfully, Jesus sees past our shortcomings. Imitate Jesus before judging others.

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17 (310). "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

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



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