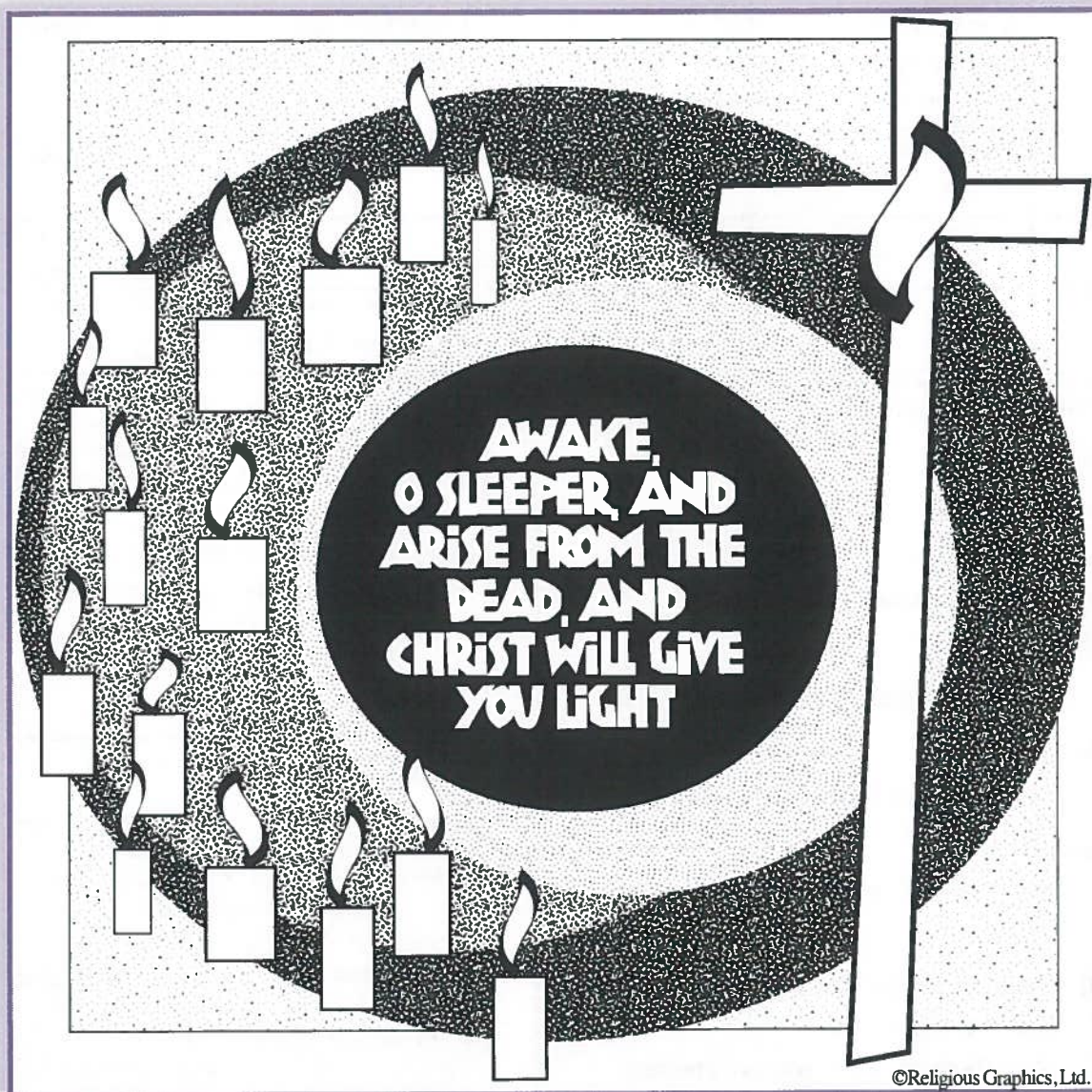


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
 St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
 St. James the Apostle, Irwin
 Sacred Heart, Goodrich

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 18-19, 2023



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Week-
end Masses:

Margaret Mary
Sacred Heart

Sat. 5:00 pm Sun. 10:30 am
Sun. 7:30 am

St.

sions:

St. Margaret Mary
Sacred Heart

Confes-

Sat. 4:15 pm
Sun. 7:05-7:20 am

Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "You, too, should come to Siloam, that is, to him who was sent by the Father . . . Let Christ wash you and you will then see."
 ~Saint Ambrose of Milan

Third Sunday of Lent

March 25-26, 2023

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, March 25 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, March 26 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, March 26 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, March 26 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Gary Nelson Roger Jensen Gery Wright Dave Emling	Daryl Ferris Dale Pfeiffer	Jerry Ogrentz Cathy Jensen Todd Mesewicz Jeff Martin	Brent Fulton Erik Wheeler Corrin Wheeler Darren Lovell
Lector	Hillary Webb	Mike Hertz	Dave Ladehoff	Diane Long
Servers				Charlotte Fulton Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter — Donna Bernicky R. Leader —Karen Miller	Julie Splear

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, March 20 (SMM)

8:00 am +Mark Gray (Pat Gray)

Tuesday, March 21 (SH)

8:00 am +Leland Denault (Diane Whalen)

Wednesday, March 22 (SJ)

8:00 am SJ Intention of Rita Thiesen (Pam Cuchiara)

Friday, March 24 (SMM)

8:00 am +Brian Buckley (M/M Patrick Brouillet)

Saturday, March 25

5:00 pm +Jim Scanlon (Matt/Marianne Frerichs)

Sunday, March 26

7:30 am (SH) +Richard, David, Gib, and Ted Wheeler
(Jackie Cross)

9:00 am (SJ) +Alex Denault (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)

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

A Look Ahead

March 18-19—Second Collection for Catholic Relief Appeal

Friday, March 24—Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm SH

Friday, March 24—American Legion Fish Fry 4:30—7

Friday, March 31—Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm SJ

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)

Questions of the week:

What keeps me from seeing the truth? What keeps me from acknowledging what I see?

Collections Week of March 11-12, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,311

St. James—\$1,695

Sacred Heart—\$1,540

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection Blessed are You...

Blessed are you ... who ask for our help, for our greatest need is to be needed ... who help us with the graciousness of Christ, who did not bruise the reed and quench the flax, for often we need the help we cannot ask for; ... when, by all these things you assure us that the thing that makes us individuals is not in our peculiar muscles, nor in our wounded nervous systems, nor in our difficulties in learning, but in the God-given self which no infirmity can confine. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, and know that you give us reassurances that could never be spoken in words, for you deal with us as Christ dealt with all his children.

A Stewardship Moment Fourth Sunday of Lent Weekend of March 18/19, 2023

Saint Paul gives us a wakeup call. As stewards of the light of Christ, we are to reflect that light with the help of the Holy Spirit. If Christ's work has transformed and illuminated our lives, there should be a change. The light of Christ's active presence should be at work in us. And as the light shines within us, we take on the properties of that light and we shine too. We are used by God to shine the light of Christ in the lives of others. A challenging Lenten reflection: Is the light of Christ shining in our hearts? Is the light of Christ reflecting out from us to others?

Reflections Life

Life is to live and life is to give and talents are to use for good if you choose.

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger.

Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks ... then the doing of your work shall be no miracle but you shall be a miracle.

Every day you shall wonder at yourself ... at the richness of life that has come to you by the grace of God.

But everyone needs someone ... knowing that somewhere someone is thinking of you.

Please contact Senator Patrick Joyce and Representative Jackie Haas either by phone or email and ask them to vote no on this legislation. You may use this message or compose one of your own.

- Please vote "No" on HB 3158 that would allow a person to be made into compost upon death. Turning persons into compost for the purpose of fertilization of soil, as one would vegetable trimmings and eggshells, degrades the human person. Upon death, individuals should be afforded proper dignity and respect.

Senator Joyce email joyce@senatedem.illinois.gov
district phone 708-756-0882 capitol phone 217-782-7419
Representative Haas email RepHaas@gmail.com
district phone 815-523-7779 capitol phone 217-282-5981

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

- ◆ Ladies, it is time to nominate a deserving lady from our parish for Woman of the Year! Ballots will be in the back of the church for the first two weekends of March

St. James-

- ◆ It's Baby Shower time! Our Lenten charity drive is for the Pregnancy Resource Center in Kankakee. Donations of baby and toddler items will be accepted throughout Lent. There is a list of the most requested items on the bin.

Sacred Heart-

- ◆ Our CCW will be selling "Split the Pot" tickets from this weekend until our parish breakfast on May 21 when the drawing will take place.
- ◆ Our CCW Spring Luncheon will be on Thursday, April 13 at 11:30 am this year. There will be progressive Bunco and card games. The day will include basket raffles, door prizes, and other raffles. Everyone is welcome to come share the day with us.

All Parishes:

- ◆ Adult Education Class will be March 20 at SH
- ◆ Call or email the parish office to request your statement of donations to the parish for 2022.

Gospel Shorts How the Blind Man Came to See

There is a moving story in the ninth chapter of St. John's Gospel. It is the tale of the blind man who not only was given physical sight by Jesus, but also came to have spiritual sight as well.

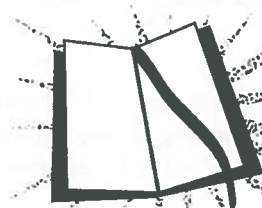
After first being healed, he proclaimed that Christ was "the man called Jesus." Later, after contemplation, he acknowledged Jesus was "a man from God." Finally, he came to call Jesus "Lord" and to express his belief in him.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Kim Smicker of St. Margaret Mary and Rosie Mallaney of Sacred Heart! They have been selected by their respective CCW as their "Woman of the Year" and will be representing their CCW at the 45th Annual Woman of the Year

Mass, April 22, 2023. The Theme this year is "Touched by the Spirit".



The Word of the LORD gives light to the world

This week we have two obscure saints.

St. Josef Bilczewski (March 20) was the eldest of nine children in a peasant family. Josef attended seminary at Krakow, Poland. He was ordained on July 6, 1884. He earned a doctorate of theology at the University of Vienna, Austria in 1886. Josef studied dogmatic theology and Christian archaeology in Rome, Italy and Paris, France. He became a professor of theology at the University of Lviv in 1891. Josef was named the archbishop of Leopold, Ukraine on December 17, 1900. He often intervened with civil authorities on behalf of Poles, Ukrainians and Jews. He guided his flock during World War I, the Polish-Ukrainian War (1918–1919), the Bolshevik invasion (1919–1920), and the anti-Catholic terror started by the Communists; from 1918–1921 his archdiocese lost about 120 priests. Josef fought to protect everyone in his see, regardless of race or religion.



Benedicta Cambiagio Frassinello (March 21) was the daughter of Giuseppe and Francesca Cambiagio. She grew up in Pavia, Italy. At the age of 20, she had a profound mystical experience that left her devoted to prayer and desiring a religious life. However, to go along with her family's wishes, she married Giovanni Battista Frassinella on February 7, 1816. The couple had a normal married life for two years, but Giovanni, impressed with Benedicta's holiness and desire for religious life, agreed to live continentally. The two took care of Benedicta's little sister Maria until the girl's death from intestinal cancer in 1825. Giovanni then joined the Somascan Fathers, and Benedicta became an Ursuline nun.



In 1826 ill health forced Benedicta to return home to Pavia. There she began to work with young women in the area. The work went so well that her husband Giovanni was assigned to help. The schools continued to grow and prosper, and Benedicta was appointed *Promoter of Public Instruction* in Pavia. However, no matter how chastely they lived, Benedicta and Giovanni's unusual relationship drew gossip and criticism from civil and Church authorities. To insure that she did not get in the way of the apostolate, in 1838 Benedicta turned her work over to the bishop of Pavia, and withdrew to live as a nun at Ronco Scrivia, Italy.

Not content to withdraw from the world, Benedicta began all over. With five companions, she founded the *Congregation of the Benedictine Sisters of Providence* dedicated to teaching, and opened another school. Living alone, the local authorities found no causes for gossip, and Benedicta spent her remaining years in prayer and service.

Questions Catholics Ask What is "discernment of spirits"?

Discernment of spirits is as old as the church and as fresh as you and me, because anyone on the God-quest needs to know how to detect the divine fingerprint along the way. The question came up a lot in the early church: Saint Paul addresses it in letters to four different communities!

From Genesis forward the Bible contains stories of people confronting both good and evil spirits in many forms. Adam and Eve knew God and still bet wrong on the serpent. Abraham gambled more effectively when three strangers showed up at his tent. Jacob was never a God-centered chap and so had no clue what he was wrestling with that night he had his grip on an angel. Learning to tell good from evil isn't enough, of course: King David knew better but chose poorly the night he laid eyes on Bathsheba.

Paul loves to talk about divine mysteries, but the discernment of spirits isn't in that category for him. Discernment is a gift of the Holy Spirit, clearly identified by the fruits it produces, just as Jesus once said: "Each tree is known by its own fruit." Paul spells out which fruits come from which baskets in Galatians 5. If you're pursuing the idea of religious life, say, and the experience fills you with "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control," Paul would call that a validated discernment. If on the other hand you wind up with a rotten bunch of fruit—immorality, idolatry, rivalry, jealousy, acts of selfishness, factions" and so on (it's quite a list in Galatians 5!)—chances are the proposal is in error.

Paul's also clear in 1 Corinthians 12 that discernment of spirits is a gift some enjoy as a specialty. It's the "many parts, one body" idea: Not all are great at everything, which is why we must be church together. If you're the Jacob-type wrestling with anonymous spirits in the dark, by all means seek spiritual direction from someone better at discerning spirits. Blessings on the journey!

Scripture

• [Genesis 32:23-31](#); [Romans 12:2-8](#); [1 Corinthians 12:4-11](#); [Galatians 5:16-26](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:19-22](#)

Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?" Jesus said, "You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world's Light."

He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man's eyes, and said, "Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "Sent"). The man went and washed—and saw.

Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, "Why, isn't this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?"

Others said, "It's him all right!"

But others objected, "It's not the same man at all. It just looks like him."

He said, "It's me, the very one."

They said, "How did your eyes get opened?"

"A man named Jesus made a paste and rubbed it on my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' I did what he said. When I washed, I saw."

"So where is he?"

"I don't know."

They marched the man to the Pharisees. This day when Jesus made the paste and healed his blindness was the Sabbath. The Pharisees grilled him again on how he had come to see. He said, "He put a clay paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "Obviously, this man can't be from God. He doesn't keep the Sabbath."

Others countered, "How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?" There was a split in their ranks.

They came back at the blind man, "You're the expert. He opened your eyes. What do you say about him?"

He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews didn't believe it, didn't believe the man was blind to begin with. So they called the parents of the man now bright-eyed with sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? So how is it that he now sees?"

His parents said, "We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But we don't know how he came to see—haven't a clue about who opened his eyes. Why don't you ask him? He's a grown man and can speak for himself." (His parents were talking like this because they were intimidated by the Jewish leaders, who had already decided that anyone who took a stand that this was the Messiah would be kicked out of the meeting place. That's why his parents said, "Ask him. He's a grown man.")

They called the man back a second time—the man who had been blind—and told him, "Give credit to God. We know this man is an impostor."

He replied, "I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind...I now see."

They said, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

"I've told you over and over and you haven't listened. Why do you want to hear it again? Are you so eager to become his disciples?"

With that they jumped all over him. "You might be a disciple of that man, but we're disciples of Moses. We know for sure that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man even comes from."

The man replied, "This is amazing! You claim to know nothing about him, but the fact is, he opened my eyes! It's well known that God isn't at the beck and call of sinners, but listens carefully to anyone who lives in reverence and does his will. That someone opened the eyes of a man born blind has never been heard of—ever. If this man didn't come from God, he wouldn't be able to do anything."

They said, "You're nothing but dirt! How dare you take that tone with us!" Then they threw him out in the street.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and went and found him. He asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

The man said, "Point him out to me, sir, so that I can believe in him."

Jesus said, "You're looking right at him. Don't you recognize my voice?"

"Master, I believe," the man said, and worshiped him.

Jesus then said, "I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind."

Some Pharisees overheard him and said, "Does that mean you're calling us blind?"

Jesus said, "If you were really blind, you would be blameless, but since you claim to see everything so well, you're accountable for every fault and failure" (*from John 9*).



Congratulations to the following students from St. James and St. Margaret Mary who made their First Reconciliation on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at St. James:

*Avery Adams
Reed Bauer
Gianna Ciarrocchi
Kate Fulton
Charlee Mosher
Fritz Osenga
Madelyn Patchett
Nora Scanlon
Amelia Wepprecht
Adelynn Wise*

*Preston Bauer
Quinn Bufford
Gavin Down
Theodore Hodgkin
Charlotte O'Connor
Bailey Palinski
Ethan Regnier
Andon Summers
John Wepprecht
Tyler Wulff*

Catholic Snacks, get fed

What is a Pardon Crucifix?

You may have seen this powerful sacramental without knowing it.

Perhaps you've seen a friend carrying an ornate crucifix with the words "Jesus Naz-daeorum" engraved across the top. Perhaps you think, "What a lovely crucifix..."

But do you know what you are looking at?

That is no ordinary crucifix. It's a Pardon Crucifix.

If you look at the back of the cross, an image of the Sacred Heart will be emblazoned at the crossing of the beams. Along the horizontal beam run the words: "Father, forgive them" and upon the vertical beam it will say: "Behold this Heart which has so loved men."

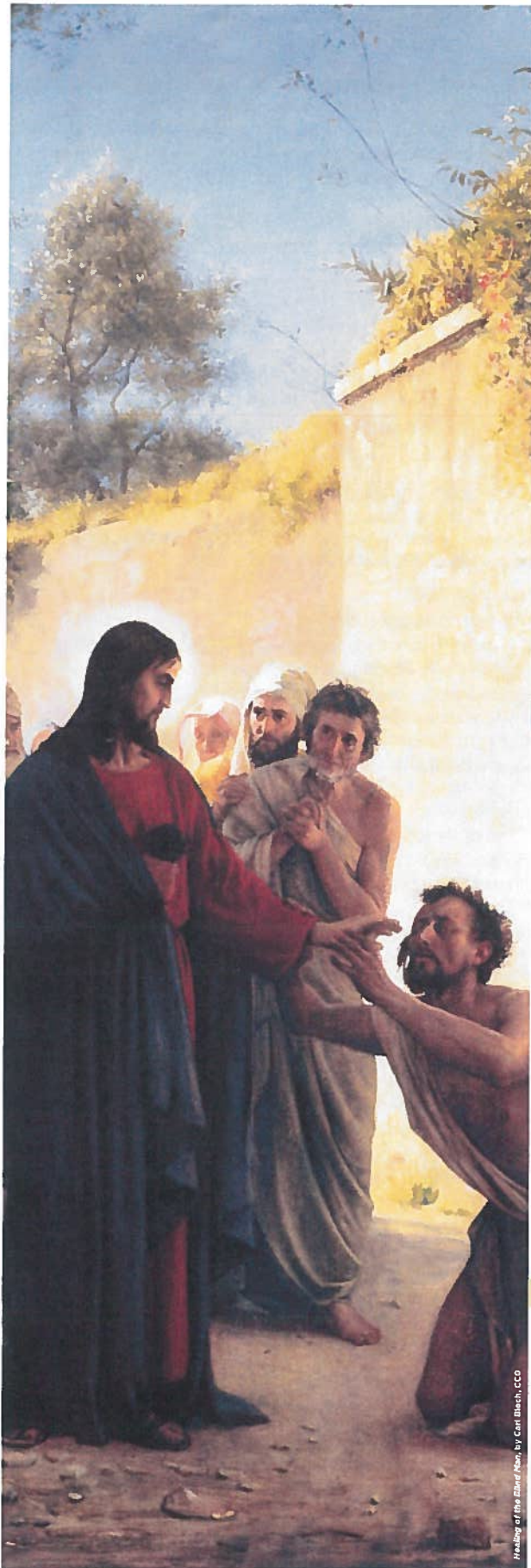
This crucifix takes its name from the special indulgences attached to it by Pope Pius X. Here are the granted pardons:

1. Whoever carries on his person the Pardon Crucifix, may thereby gain an indulgence.
2. For devoutly kissing the Crucifix, an indulgence is gained.
3. Whoever says one of the following invocations before this crucifix may gain each time an indulgence: "Our Father who art in heaven, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." "I beg the Blessed Virgin Mary to pray to the Lord our God for me."
4. Whoever, habitually devout to this Crucifix, will fulfill the necessary conditions of Confession and Holy Communion may gain a Plenary Indulgence on the following feasts: On the feasts of the Five Wounds of our Lord, the Invention of the Holy Cross, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Immaculate Conception, and the Seven Sorrows (Dolors) of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Whoever, at the moment of death, fortified with the Sacraments of the Church, or contrite of heart, in the supposition of being unable to receive them, will kiss this Crucifix and ask pardon of God for his sins, and pardon his neighbor, will gain a Plenary Indulgence.

This powerful sacramental can overthrow the devil and his attempts to steal souls—that's why he hates it! When coupled with the Rosary, this crucifix is perfectly lethal to him and his wiles. The [St. Benedict Battle Rosary](#) combines these sacramentals. Crafted from tough, manly gunmetal and styled after rosaries carried by soldiers in World War I, this rosary is finished with a Marian medal, a St. Benedict medal, and the Pardon Crucifix. A perfect gift for men—or a woman who wants an extra-sturdy rosary.

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March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a | Eph 5:8-14 | Jn 9:1-41

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

Five days, five minutes of sunshine: That's how the city where I live greeted 2023. As the month wore on, the gloom seemed unrelenting with only momentary breaks in the clouds. When the sun did return, people posted photos on social media with a combination of joy and relief. That experience hints at the effect Jesus had on St. Paul and the early Christians. As he writes, "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord." Today, just as then, Jesus brings light and healing to the darkness within us and within our world. Unlike the elusive sun, we can see the light of Jesus every day - in the people we love, the kindness of strangers, moments of prayer, unexpected joys. In turn, St. Paul encourages us to "live as children of light" by being the face of Jesus to others.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Even in the midst of Lent as a penitential season, the Sunday readings offer us much hope. Consider today's familiar story of Jesus healing the blind man. He doesn't just tell the man to open his eyes. Instead, Jesus smears clay on the man's eyes and has him wash in the Pool of Siloam; only then does the blind man see. He was transformed through Christ. Through our baptism we, too, have been transformed and "enlightened," becoming sons and daughters of light (ccc 1216). As we continue to observe Lent, perhaps we're working on areas in our life where we have been spiritually blind - or at least not seeing 20/20. Through our baptism and the sacraments, we can be healed and transformed by Jesus, the "light of the world." In turn we can share that light with others, as we continue to grow in the virtues of "goodness and righteousness and truth" of which St. Paul speaks.

PRAY Psalm 23 is a favorite of many and for good reason. Read or listen to it this week as encouragement on your Lenten journey:

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.*

Sunday, Mar 19, 2023

Step out of the spotlight

They called her the "Pearl of the Antilles" for her uncompromising care of the sick. In Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and her original home in Puerto Rico, Mother Maria Soledad Sanjurjo Santos and the Servants of Mary she led were there to help. Mother Maria made it her signature to be hidden so Christ could be made visible. Her humility in service illuminates what Saint Paul means by living as children of light. If we insist on the spotlight, all that people see is us. If we wear a cloak of invisibility in practicing our good works, Christ alone lights up the darkness.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31). *"Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness."*

Monday, Mar 20, 2023

Pull a chair up to the table

On the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, it is the custom in some places, especially Italy, to bless bread, pastries, and other food and give it to the poor. Legend has it that the tradition started in the Middle Ages after Sicilians prayed to Saint Joseph to end a terrible drought. After rain finally came and produced a bountiful harvest, the food was shared with everyone in need. Saint Joseph's Table is now an annual celebration, where some wealthy Italian families invite the public to huge buffets and no one is turned away. What a festive tradition to start in your parish or home! Show your gratitude for the blessings you've received by renewing your devotion to this special saint—a foster father to Jesus and us all. Here is the Blessing of Saint Joseph's Table Prayer.

SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a (543). *"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him."*

Tuesday, Mar 21, 2023

Nothing so beautiful as a tree

The U.N. declares today the International Day of Forests. Trees happen to be the most frequently mentioned living things in the Bible, aside from people and God of course. From the Garden of Eden to the cedars of Lebanon, trees represent God's provision. They provide food to eat and medicine to heal. Olive trees growing in the Garden of Gethsemane are estimated to be 900 years old. Little surprise, then, that trees—and the modern-day scourge of deforestation—appear in Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. The global loss of trees contributes to climate change. It leads to soil erosion and flooding, particularly for vulnerable indigenous populations. Visit the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative to find a "Catholic toolkit" that features *Laudato Si'* and beautiful prayers.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245). *"Trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail."*

Wednesday, Mar 22, 2023

Sabbath prayer

Biblically speaking, there are many reasons to celebrate the sabbath. First, a sabbath rest brings to mind God's rest after the great act of creation. Second, we recall God's liberating action in

our own lives, freeing us from the bonds of sin just as Jews were freed from bondage in Egypt. Finally, the great victory of Jesus over sin and death is cause for a sabbath celebration. Sabbath shouldn't be reduced to outward observances, but rather as a perspective that places God's accomplishing activity front and center. We rest and rise again to carry on that liberating work to help bring about the reign of God.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 (246). *"My Father is at work until now, so I am at work."*

Thursday, Mar 23, 2023

Defend against injustice

Turibius of Mogrovejo was a highborn Spanish bishop in Peru during the late 1500s, a period of intense violence as the Spanish forcibly colonized the native people. Although many of the colonizers considered indigenous to be less than fully human, Turibius learned their languages and fought for their rights. Who is vulnerable in your community? Is God calling you to take steps on their behalf?

MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247). *"How can you believe, when you accept praise from one another and do not seek the praise that comes from the only God?"*

Friday, Mar 24, 2023

Let's not turn our gaze away

We join with the international community today in remembering Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of El Salvador, assassinated on this day in 1980 by a paramilitary member because he was an advocate for the poor and condemned military and landowner violations of basic human rights. Honoring Romero, the United Nations proclaimed this day the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. Let us pray Romero's own words: "Let us be today's Christians. Let us not take fright at the boldness of today's church. With Christ's light let us illuminate even the most hideous caverns of the human person: torture, jail, plunder, want, chronic illness." Saint Oscar, pray with us.

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248). *"So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching."*

Saturday, Mar 25, 2023

Hear ye! Hear ye!

There is a tendency to put Mary on a spiritual pedestal and thereby distance her from the lives the rest of us live. But the point of Mary's exaltation is to point toward what all of us are called to, and capable of—a complete and radical response to our divine calling. Mary was fully human, and her response to God's call sets the standard to which we can all aspire. God has some work to announce to each of us, our own annunciation. Claim your spot on the pedestal with your response!

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (545). *"May it be done to me according to your word."*

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



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