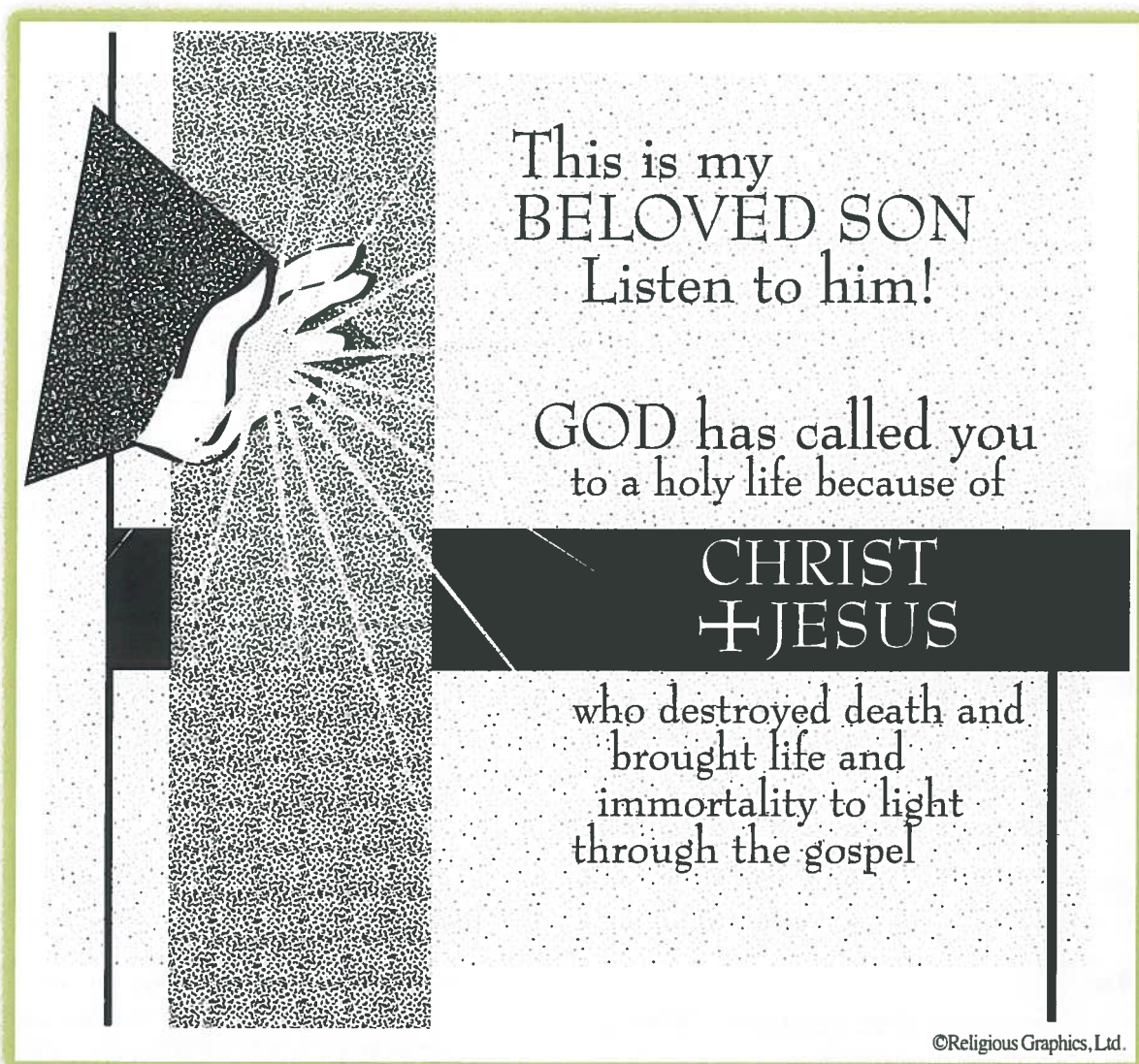


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 4-5, 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 measures out perfection neither by the multitude nor the magnitude of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them."
 ~St. John of the Cross

Third Sunday of Lent			March 11-12, 2023	
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, March 11 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, March 12 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, March 12 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, March 12 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Youth Mass	Dennis Pankey David Kirkpatrick	Youth Mass	Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles Kim Smicker Corey Eich
Lector	Youth Mass	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Youth Mass	Steve Jacob
Servers	Youth Mass			Bella Eich
Greeters	Youth Mass		Greeter — Rita Thiesen R. Leader —Peerboltes	Brent Fulton

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, March 6 (SMM)

8:00 am +Babe Clodi (Jim Scanlon Family)

Tuesday, March 7 (SH)

8:00 am +Dick Fitch (FIK Rural Deanery)

Wednesday, March 8 (SJ)

8:00 am SJ +Gerald Bernicky (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

Friday, March 10 (SMM)

8:00 am +Madonna Hoffman (Mark Gerberding)

Saturday, March 11

5:00 pm +For all the Parish Family

Sunday, March 12

7:30 am (SH) +Raymond Berns, Bessie Riley, Roberta Gagnon, Mario DalCanton (The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Mark Benoit (His Family)
 +Marjorie Nelson (Steve/Dena Coy)

10:30am (SMM) +Mike Halpin (His Family)
 + James Jepsen (Richard/Rebecca Morgan)

Questions of the week: What crosses have I found to carry or been unwilling to carry? What crosses have I not even thought to carry, but my taking them up could ease the burden for someone close to me or someone else in need? What cross can I carry that will transfigure my life this Lent?

A Look Ahead

March 4-5—Knights of Columbus Family Food Drive
 March 6,7,8—Parish Mission
 March 12—CCW meeting SJ after mass
 Thursday, March 16—SMM Night in Italy Dinner

DON'T FORGET OUR PARISH LENTEN MISSION BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 6 AT ST. MARGARET MARY AT 7:00 PM.

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)

Collections Week of February 26-27, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,749

St. James—\$1,308

Sacred Heart—\$1,031

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection Lenten Season Readings

The gospel selections for the first two Sundays recount the Lord's temptations and transfiguration as recorded in the synoptic gospels.

For year A the gospel accounts concerning the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and Lazarus are assigned to the following three Sundays.

In arranging these texts, the purpose was to assign those of greatest importance to Sundays and feasts when the Christian people are bound to celebrate the Eucharist together. In this way, the faithful will be able to hear the principal portions of God's revealed word over a suitable period of time.

The Old Testament readings are about the history of salvation, one of the main topics of Lenten instruction. A series of texts has been prepared for each year to present the principal elements of this history from the beginning to the promise of the new covenant; especially readings about Abraham (second Sunday) and about the deliverance of God's people from slavery (third Sunday).

The selections from the writings of the apostles have been chosen because of their relationship to the gospel and Old Testament readings, and as far as possible should harmonize with them.

Gospel Shorts— Everyone Needs a Mountain

The religious history of humankind is dotted with stories of mountains. More specifically we find people climbing mountains in search of their God. It is as if in the process they come to see things in a different light. Moses did it. Elijah did it. We even see Jesus do it. Today in the gospel we see him invite others along that they too might have the experience that climbing a mountain can have. His guests come to see him in a different light. In fact, their new vision changes their very life. This same Jesus invites us to climb the mountain, if we are not too busy to take the time, or if we can believe that accepting the invitation is important.

A Stewardship Moment First Sunday of Lent Weekend of March 4/5, 2023

In today's second reading, Timothy is issued a strong directive: "Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God." For the early Christians this could mean torture and execution. For most Christians today enduring hardship for the Gospel might include accepting ridicule or mockery, or the suggestion that we lack sophistication. Nevertheless, in his letters, Saint Paul is adamant that we should not be ashamed of being followers of Christ. Good stewards are not ashamed of their allegiance to Christ. They do not hide their faith. Reflect on this question: Are you willing to speak about following Christ Jesus no matter who your listeners happen to be?

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ Our Night in Italy has had a date change. It will now be held on Thursday, March 16 from 5:00—7:00 pm. Please sign up on the sheets in the back of the church to help with donations and serving that night.
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Thank you to all who helped out at the Fish Fry Feb. 24. We served over 250 dinners. Also a big thanks to all who attended.

St. James—

- ◆ We will have our March CCW meeting on Sunday, March 12 after church. All are welcome to join.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ St. James is hosting a reception after the Mission on March 8th. Please sign up to bring a snack on the bulletin board in the back

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of March 5th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for the poor souls in purgatory.
- ◆ 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:

- There will be no Adult Education Classes this week. The next class is March 13 at Sacred Heart.
- Call or email the parish office to request your statement of donations to the parish for 2022.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+James Feller

Husband of Bonnie Feller

Father of Tim (Susan) Feller

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

Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.



Saint of the week: Saints Perpetua and Felicity (March 7) Perpetua was a lay woman born to a noble family. She converted to Christianity, in addition she was a wife and mother. She was martyred with her maid, friend, and fellow convert Saint Felicitas.

Felicity was also a lay woman, convert and a friend of her fellow convert St. Perpetua. They were martyred together.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Teresa Margaret Redi, was born to the Tuscan nobility, the daughter of Count Ignatius Redi and Camilla Billeti. She was a pious child who saw God in all things, and who was confused to learn that not everyone knew that God loved them.

She was educated at the Saint Apollonia convent at Florence, Italy from age nine. A gentle and mature child, she was often left in to watch over her peers. St. Teresa was noted for an intense desire for her First Communion, and for a devotion to Our Lady. She had an extensive correspondence with her father, discussing her spiritual life in great detail; she asked that he destroy each letter after reading it, and sadly, he did so.

In September 1763 she received a message from Saint Teresa of Jesus advising her to become a Carmelite. Anna went home to Arezzo, Italy at age 17, but returned to Florence almost immediately. She became a Discalced Carmelite, joining the convent of Saint Teresa on September 1, 1764, and taking the name *Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart*. She received the veil on March 11, 1765, and made her final vows on March 12, 1766.

Sister Teresa worked in the convent's infirmary, and appeared to have a gift of healing. She predicted her own death less than five years after making her final vows. Her short life and vocation were spent in contemplative union with God as she ever meditated on her favorite phrase, "God is love."

Questions Catholics Ask

Where Did Lent Come From?

First in a series about Lent.



The celebration of Lent is a long-established tradition in the church—and I use the word *celebration* deliberately. The prayers of the liturgy refer to Lent as "this joyful season." Though the character of the season is penitential, the intent of Lent is to prepare our dispositions for the greatest feast of the church year, the always-jubilant Easter. With all that to look forward to, Lent could hardly be a mournful time.

So where did Lent come from? Let's start by saying that Christianity embraces one key belief: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This central article of faith shapes everything we do as Christians, how we live and die, and certainly how we express our faith in worship. Easter is therefore the primary day of rejoicing. Every Sunday is considered a "little Easter," a

commemoration of how Jesus triumphed over sin and death through the power of God for the sake of humanity's emancipation from those ancient twin evils that bound it. The entire church year spins on the axis of Easter faith.

In the first three centuries of the church Christians prepared for this mother-of-all-feasts by fasting—between two days to a week depending on local custom. In Rome the "paschal fast" may have lasted as long as three weeks. This extended fast was linked to the preparation of new members for baptism at the Easter Vigil.

By the 4th century a full 40-day period of preparation was observed, imitating the 40-day fast of Jesus in the desert before undertaking his great mission. Fasting and prayer were natural components of the season because that's how Jesus prepared himself. Almsgiving was added to the practices of Lent as it, too, was a traditional way of making sacrifice to God in the wake of sinfulness. Following a calendar of feasts and seasons dependent on one's faith is an idea rooted in Judaism. The Law of Moses established fixed times annually to recall the saving actions of God, centered on the commemoration of Passover. A liturgical calendar allowed Israel to practice gratitude and thanks, repentance and conversion, each in accord with the natural seasons, rains, and harvests. A cycle of liturgy also provided a way to instruct new generations about the faith in ritual and storytelling.

Easter, the Christian Passover, was fixed by the Council of Nicaea in 325 to coincide with the first full moon after the vernal equinox. That makes Lent the annual "springtime" of faith, quite literally, as the word *Lent* means "spring."

Scripture

• [Mark 1:12-13](#); [Matthew 4:1-2](#); [Luke 4:1-3](#); [Leviticus 23](#)

Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Jesus took Peter and the brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. Sunlight poured from his face. His clothes were filled with light. Then they realized that Moses and Elijah were also there in deep conversation with him.

Peter broke in, "Master, this is a great moment! What would you think if I built three memorials here on the mountain—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah?"

While he was going on like this, babbling, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and sounding from deep in the cloud a voice: "This is my Son, marked by my love, focus of my delight. Listen to him."

When the disciples heard it, they fell flat on their faces, scared to death. But Jesus came over and touched them. "Don't be afraid." When they opened their eyes and looked around all they saw was Jesus, only Jesus.

Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. "Don't breathe a word of what you've seen. After the Son of Man is raised from the dead, you are free to talk" (*from Matthew 17*).



St. Jude Lenten Mission:

March 6-8, 2023 7pm Nightly

Monday 3/6 – St. Margaret Mary
Parish, 7pm

410 N Main St., Herscher, IL 60941

Tuesday 3/7 – Sacred Heart Parish, 7pm
588 S. 10000W Rd., Bonfield, IL 60913

Wednesday 3/8 – St. James Parish, 7pm
4372 Main St., Kankakee 60901

St. Jude Mass, Oil Blessing & Veneration
of Relics of St. Jude on March 8

Presented by the Ministries of The
Dominican Shrine of St. Jude

For information, call (815) 426-2550



March 2023

Dear Friends,

Our diocese will take up the annual second collection for Catholic Relief Services on March 19, and it could not come at a more fortunate time.

As the arm of the Catholic Church that helps the poor and vulnerable overseas, Catholic Relief Services plays a vital role during emergencies such as the earthquakes that occurred last month in Turkey and Syria. Catholic Relief Services immediately contacted its partners in those countries to provide safe shelter for individuals and families, and access to food, clean water and hygiene supplies.

Your support of Catholic Relief Services funds organizations dedicated to aiding people affected by war and natural disasters, migrants and refugees in need of material and legal assistance, and people worldwide whose livelihoods are impacted by changing political and environmental conditions.

This is life-saving work. Thank you for your support of our neighbors overseas with your donation to the humanitarian mission of Catholic Relief Services.

Paz y bien,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks

Catholic Snacks Get Fed

How do we keep Sundays holy, besides going to Mass?

Are your Sundays being taken over by the rest of the week?



The modern, technology-driven life is so busy. The week is barely long enough for all the mundane activities that must be done.

Sometimes, the work week even encroaches upon Sunday's rights: a morning slot is set aside for Mass while the rest of Sunday whirls past with the other days in the week.

How can we stop the busyness and truly focus on Sunday—the Lord's Day? How can we extend our God-oriented frame of mind beyond Sunday Mass? How can we “keep holy the Sabbath”?

Well, there are many ways of observing the Lord's Day in a fitting manner. We know what we *shouldn't* do; let's look at what we *should*.

The Catechism says:

On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body. —Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2185

Now, this looks like a “don't”—but look closer. You'll see that this passage tells what we *can* (and ought to) do on Sundays: worship God, be joyful, perform works of mercy, and rest both mind and body.

Reclaiming Sundays, a practical and enjoyable guide to observing the Lord's Day, expounds on this passage of the Catechism. It will answer all the questions you have about Sunday and what we are permitted and encouraged to do on that day as faithful Catholics.

Divided into liturgically, spiritually, and seasonally-themed Sundays, each chapter begins with a Scripture verse and includes activity suggestions, prayers, and reflections. This book is packed with concrete advice on how to reclaim Sunday as a day of prayer, rest, family time, and celebration. Did we mention this wonderful book is on sale?

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Food for thought Encouragement from a rooster

1. The rooster rises early and immediately begins his God given task — crowing.

1. The rooster does not refuse to crow because he cannot sing like a canary; but he does as if to him, at least, his work was the most important thing in the world.

2. He efficiently does that which is never praised. Whoever heard anyone asking: “Did you listen to the rooster crow?” Hasn't he a charming voice?

3. He wakes sleepers. Unpopular but often necessary.

4. He is a proclaimer of good news: A new day with glorious opportunities and responsibilities has dawned.

He is dependable. He is persistent. He is an excellent advertiser.



Transfiguration of Jesus, by Pierre Perreault, CCO

March 5, 2023

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a | 2 Tm 1:8b-10 | Mt 17:1-9

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

As we enter the second week of Lent, today's readings encourage us to place our trust in God when we are dealing with hardship or uncertainty. Last week, we heard about how Jesus resisted the devil's temptations in the desert, trusting in the Father. This week, we follow Peter, James and John up the mountain, where Jesus "was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light." Jesus had told his followers he would suffer and die. The Transfiguration gave them a foretaste of Christ's glorious coming (CCC 554-56). As we continue on our Lenten journeys, we, too, can place our trust in the Lord. Though we may experience hardships and perhaps even doubts, the Transfiguration reminds us that Jesus has gone before us and prepared a place for us. As Pope Francis reminds us, "by his Transfiguration [Jesus] invites us to gaze at him. And looking at Jesus purifies our eyes and prepares them for eternal life, for the vision of heaven" (Homily, March 2014).

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We Catholics like to pray out loud. Whether we're singing the "Holy, Holy" with gusto or quietly reciting the rosary, most of us can say with confidence, "we have a prayer for that." And, of course, prayer is one of the three pillars of Lent (along with fasting and almsgiving). Today's account of the Transfiguration instructs us pretty clearly to listen. As Jesus is transfigured, the disciples hear a voice from the cloud: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; *listen to him.*" As we enter the second week of Lent, many of us have chosen something to "give up" or done something more proactive. Either way, today's readings remind us to enter this penitential season with open hearts - and open ears. We can listen to Jesus by studying Scripture, being especially attentive to the Sunday homily, or quietly soaking in his presence through eucharistic adoration.

PRAY Try driving with the radio off this week. Use the time to pray and "listen" to Jesus.

Sunday, Mar 05, 2023

Honor the unnamed

The Bible is full of unnamed actors. Many are women: identified simply as mothers, wives, and daughters. While seven blessings promote the name of Abraham, it's the rare woman like Mary who's called blessed "for generations" in her canticle. Today we recall the unnamed wife of Chief Patricio de Hinachuba, an Apalachee laywoman among 57 martyrs in the Florida territory missions between 1549-1715, all currently up for sanctification. These martyrs included priests and catechists, native peoples, soldiers, and children. For all faithful, nameless women, we give thanks.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9 (25). *"I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."*

Monday, Mar 06, 2023

Read up!

Could your Catholic school library need some new picks? How about your book club for the adults? This Women's History Month, learn more about a remarkable Catholic black woman writer, Ellen Tarry (1906-2008). She attended Catholic school as a girl and converted to Catholicism and later became a journalist and author who was part of the Harlem Renaissance. Her writing included producing the first African-American picture book, writing a newspaper column on racial injustice and racial pride, and penning her memoir *The Third Door: The Autobiography of an American Negro Woman*. She also wrote biographies for youth and adult readers of Catholic saints Katherine Drexel and Martin de Porres and the Venerable Pierre Toussaint. You might be reading Tarry beyond March!

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230). *"Give and gifts will be given to you."*

Tuesday, Mar 07, 2023

Beyond distinctions

Devotion to Jesus seriously conflicted with Roman rule in the second century, with citizens expected to worship the emperor instead. Thus, the fate of two young mothers, Perpetua and Felicity: forced into a public amphitheater to be killed by wild beasts, just because they wouldn't renounce Jesus. But Christian faith challenged social convention in other ways, too. Normally, Felicity—as Perpetua's slave—wouldn't be seen as her equal. But belief in Jesus, as Saint Paul writes, makes brothers and sisters of all. Take Perpetua's final words to heart: "Stand fast in the faith, and love one another, all of you."

MEMORIAL OF PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231). *"Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant."*

Wednesday, Mar 08, 2023

A brother called to heal

On this day, the church commemorates Saint John of God, a Portuguese religious brother who—like Saint Ignatius of Loyola—was a military man who experienced a sudden conversion. In fact, the two men (along with Saint Teresa) shared a spiritual mentor in Saint John of Ávila. A sermon from the priest moved John of God to repent of his former excesses, so much so that it was mistaken for a mental health crisis; he was quickly institutionalized. Later

engaging in work with the poor, he founded the Brothers Hospitallers in 1572, who continue to care for the sick around the world—including as official caretakers of the pope. In an age of increased mental health awareness, may we always remember John's holy life and recognize our call to serve those in need.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232).

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."

Thursday, Mar 09, 2023

Priceless service

It's entirely appropriate that the Memorial of Frances of Rome coincides with a gospel that tells us in no uncertain terms to care for the poor. Frances of Rome was a wealthy Italian married woman in the early 1400s, a time of great instability and poverty in Italy. She poured her family treasure into efforts to feed and heal the poor. She was recognized for her piety and compassion and founded a religious order dedicated to serving suffering people, now known as the Oblates of St. Frances of Rome. Upon her husband's death, she became superior of the order. What can you do for the poor or sick in your corner of the world?

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233). *"Lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores."*

Friday, Mar 10, 2023

Celebrate sisters

During Catholic Sisters Week, we celebrate the good works of Catholic sisters collectively and individually; tell stories of Catholic sisters we love, respect, admire; and share information about becoming a Catholic sister, including directing people to VISION VocationNetwork.org. But, most of all, we focus on the truth that a religious vocation reveals: God is all we need. As Catholic nun and Doctor of the Church Saint Teresa of Ávila observed: "Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices."

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234). *"The Kingdom of God will be . . . given to a people that will produce its fruit."*

Saturday, Mar 11, 2023

Confession heals the soul

Catholics are encouraged to partake of the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) as much as possible, but especially during Lent, because confession is good for the soul. None of us is perfect, and all of us carry burdens that could be lightened through honest reflection and repentance. Other religions include a confessional practice as well, attesting to the universal need: Jews confess "We have sinned" in the Yom Kippur service. Confession is part of the Hindu *Prāyaścitta*. In Islam, the act of seeking forgiveness from God for sins is called *Istighfar*. Buddhist monks confess their sins to other monks. Check the bulletin, and find time for Confession. You'll feel better for it.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235). *"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."*

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



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