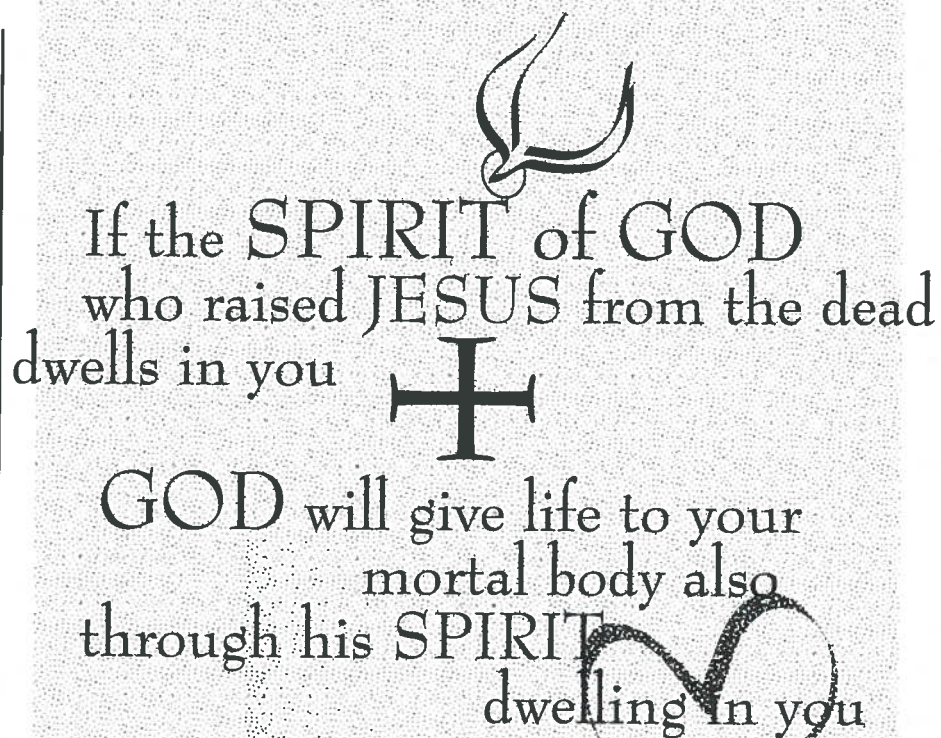


The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 25-26, 2023



If the SPIRIT of GOD  
who raised JESUS from the dead  
dwells in you

GOD will give life to your  
mortal body also  
through his SPIRIT  
dwelling in you

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

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: "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending."**

**C.S. Lewis**

<b>Palm Sunday</b>			<b>April 1-2, 2023</b>	
<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Saturday, April 1 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Sunday, April 2 7:30 am</b>	<b>St. James Sunday, April 2 9:00 am</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Sunday, April 2 10:30 am</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen Gery Wright	Dennis Pankey Dale Pfeiffer	Vic Carlile Jeff Martin Dallas Ferris Dave Ladehoff	Corey Eich Kim Smicker Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles
<b>Lector</b>	Bobbi Buza	Terri Weakley	Jeff O'Connor	Corinn Wheeler
<b>Servers</b>	Xander Buza			Bella Eich
<b>Greeters</b>			<b>Greeter—</b> Rita Thiesen <b>R. Leader—</b> Peerboltes	Kim Smicker Mary McDonald

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, March 27 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Francis O'Brien (Ed/Amy DeMarah)

**Tuesday, March 28 (SH)**

8:00 am +Don St. Germaine, Sr (St. James Parish)

**Wednesday, March 29 (SJ)**

8:00 am SJ +Jeffrey Cooley (Richard/Kathy Dumas)

**Friday, March 31 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Lloyd Billadeau & Heidi McDaniel (Mariann Lane)

**Saturday, April 1**

5:00 pm +Louis, Charlotte, & Madeline Hildebrand (Mariann Lane)

**Sunday, April 2**

7:30 am (SH) +Lorraine Brennan (Jeff/Loriann Bruer)

9:00 am (SJ) +Loretta "Joan" Smith (Rose Ahern)

+Carl Coy (Steve/Dena Coy)

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

**Questions of the week:**

What spiritual darkness is Jesus calling me to come out of today?  
What difficulties can I anticipate in shedding these burial bands that separate me from God's grace?

**A Look Ahead**

Monday, March 27—Adult Education Class 7 pm at SH  
Friday, March 31—Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm SJ



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection is April 1-2 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need.  
"For I was hungry and you gave me food..."  
"Matthew 25:35"

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](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  
debjen04@gmail.com

**Religious Education –**

St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Jdstreefarms@aol.com)

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

**A Stewardship Moment Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Weekend of March 25-26, 2023**

Jesus called to his friend from the dead, "Lazarus, come out!" It is the same call our Lord makes to us unceasingly: "Come out!" Jesus calls us from our tomb of doubt and unbelief, from the darkness of our fear and anxieties; from the depths of our weaknesses and lack of hope. Christian stewards pray for an open heart so that they may hear the voice of the Lord, heed the continuous call to come away from their former way of living and reprioritize their lives in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do we believe Christ has the power to transform our lives? Do we take time to listen for his call?



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**+Patricia Perrault**

Mother of Bret (Margaret) Perrault

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

Our sincere sympathy to Pat's family and friends.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**+Marie Duval**

mother of Don (Gail) Duval

sister of Norm (Sharon) Riordan

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

Our sincere sympathy to Marie's family and friends.

**Gospel Shorts Confronted with the Power of Death**

You're a Christian, right? You believe Jesus Christ overcame the power of death for all who believe in him, right? You believe although our bodies die, our spirit and soul live forever, right? Then how do you feel about death? How would you explain to your child why we don't need to fear death? Oh, but perhaps you still do fear death. You believe somehow if we believe in Christ and live a good life, we can escape suffering and death till we're aged.

In our reading, Jesus walks us through all the normal human responses to the loss of a loved one. Mary and Martha have lost their brother Lazarus. But the responses of Jesus bring hope in every turn, comfort at every tear, confidence at every uncertainty. This reading will strengthen your shaking knees when "Confronted with the Power of Death."

**Parish News:**

**St. Margaret Mary-**

**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-**

- ◆ The week of March 26th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in memory of Rose Renville and the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Alfred and Rosalie Denault.
- ◆ 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:**

- ◆ We have 6 tickets per church for the Chrism Mass that will be held at St. Raymond in Joliet on April 3 at 2:00. Please call the office if you would like to attend.
- ◆ Thank you to all who supported our Night in Italy dinner!
- ◆ Adult Education Class will be March 27 at SH
- ◆ Call or email the parish office to request your statement of donations to the parish for 2022.



Congratulations to Carrie Abrassart of St. James. She has been selected by the St. James CCW as their "Woman of the Year" and will be representing them at the **45th Annual Woman of the Year Mass**, April 22, 2023. The theme this year is "Touched by the Spirit".

**Holy Week schedule:**

- Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. 7 Last Words liturgy 7PM at Sacred Heart
- Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> confessions 7PM at St. James
- Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup>. Tenebrae 7 PM at St. Margaret Mary
- Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>. (no morning mass) Mass of the Lord's Supper 7PM at Sacred Heart
- Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>. (no morning mass) Stations of the Cross at 3:00 at St. Margaret Mary and 7PM Liturgy of the Passion at St Margaret Mary
- Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup>. (no confessions or 5 PM mass) 12:00 Blessing of Easter Baskets at St. James and Easter Vigil 7 PM at St. James
- Easter Sunday, regular Sunday schedule.





This week we have two obscure saints.

**St. Bercharius (March 26)** was the godson of Saint Nivard of Rheims and the student of Saint Remaclus of Maestricht. He was a monk at Luxeuil Abbey under the leadership of Saint Walbert. He became the first abbot of Hautvillers Abbey; he expanded it and built other houses, one of which was populated by brothers who were redeemed slaves. Later he became the first abbot of Montier-en-Der Abbey. Bercharius was a pilgrim to Rome, Italy and to the Holy Lands, bringing back relics for his houses. He is venerated as a martyr as he died defending the principles of his religious order.



**St. Ludger of Utrecht (March 26)** was the son of Thiadgrim and Liafburg, wealthy Frisian nobles. He was the brother of Saint Gerburgis and Saint Hildegrin; the uncle of Saint Altfried of Münster. He saw Saint Boniface preach in 753, and was greatly moved. Ludger studied at Utrecht, Netherlands under Saint Gregory of Utrecht. He also studied three and a half years in England under Blessed Alcuin.

He returned to the Netherlands in 773 as a missionary. Ludgear was sent to Deventer in 775 to restore a chapel destroyed by pagan Saxons, and to recover the relics of Saint Lebwin, who had built the chapel. He taught school at Utrecht. He destroyed pagan idols and places of worship in the areas west of Lauwers Zee after they were Christianized. Ludgear was ordained in 777 at Cologne, Germany. He was a missionary to Friesland, mainly around Ostergau and Dokkum, from 777 to 784, returning each fall to Utrecht to teach in the cathedral school. He left the area in 784 when pagan Saxons invaded and expelled all priests.

He made a pilgrimage to Rome, Italy in 785 where he met with Pope Adrian I, and the two exchanged counsel. He lived as a Benedictine monk at Monte Cassino, Italy from 785 to 787, but did not take vows. At the request of Charlemagne, he returned to Friesland as a missionary. It was a successful expedition, and he built a monastery in Werden, Germany to serve as a base. He is reported to have cured the blindness of, and thus caused the conversion of the blind pagan bard Berulef.

He refused the bishopric of Trier, Germany in 793. He became a missionary to the Saxons. Ludgear built a monastery at Mimigernaford as the center of this missionary work, and served as its abbot. The word *monasterium* led to the current name of the city that grew up around the house – Münster. He also built several small chapels throughout the region. He was the first bishop of Münster in 804, being ordained at Westphalia.

Ludger's health failed in later years, but he never reduced his work load. No matter how busy or dangerous his outside life, he never neglected his time of prayer and meditation, it being a source of the strength to do everything else. The man's life can be summed up in two facts –

- he was reprimanded and denounced only once during his bishopric – for spending more on charity than on church decoration
- on the day of his death, he celebrated Mass – twice.



**Lazarus, come out!**  
JN. 11:43

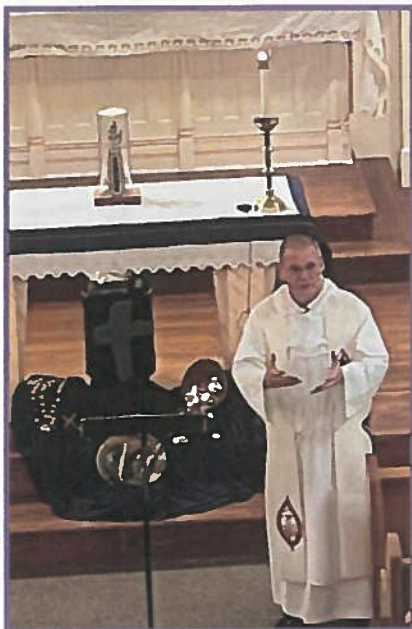
#### Reflections Doing It Our Way

We need, all of us, to be in control of our lives, and we shrink them until they're small and lean enough so that we can feel in control.

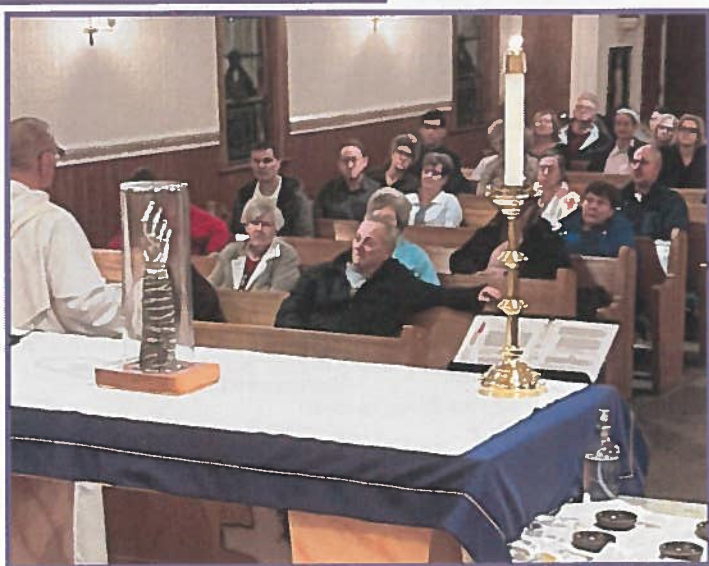
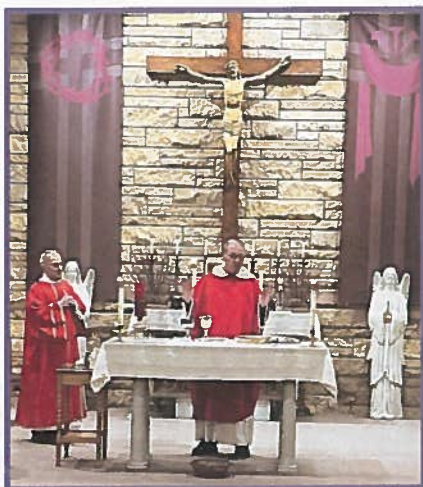
#### Quotes

No one can make the ascent without you, for you are our way, our truth, our life, our strength, our confidence, our reward. Be the way that receives us, the truth that strengthens us, the life that invigorates us.

—Saint Ambrose of Milan



## OUR 2023 PARISH MISSION



### Questions Catholics Ask

### Why would someone want to be a priest, sister, or brother?

"I'm working on a religious study project and I'm stuck on this question." —Ann V., U.K.

For as many people who are called to religious life (sisters, nuns, monks, brothers) or to ordained life (priests, deacons) there are as many reasons why they are called to that particular way of life! Ask a religious brother or a contemplative nun or a married deacon and you'll get a variety of responses as to why she or he chose that specific vocation. Often, however, you'll hear common threads in their responses:

- A desire to give oneself wholeheartedly to God
- A passion for ministry and outreach
- A love of the Catholic faith
- A sense of the movement of the Holy Spirit
- A commitment to a prayerful way of life

In addition to these you'd find that each particular way of life has additional attractions—women and men in religious life are often drawn to community living as celibate persons; deacons and priests have a passion for serving within parish communities and dioceses; hermits desire solitude with God, and so on.

So there are many reasons (and sometimes it may even seem as if there's not even a whole lot of reason!) why people become priests or hermits or sisters. But just like people who are called to marriage or single life or lay ministry, it all comes down to how the Spirit is moving in a person's life and inviting them into a lifelong commitment to relationship with God and service to the world.



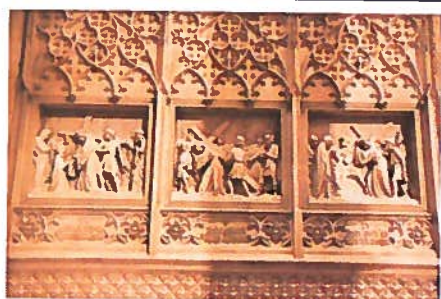
The Blessed Trinity Knights of Columbus dart ball team finished the season on a high note, taking 2 out of 3 matches from the last two opponents. After a shaky start to our first season the team has started to gel and is looking good going into the season end tournament in Dwight. Go Knights



Rick White shows intense concentration.



Dallas Ferris shows perfect form.



Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Who made the first Way of the Cross?

The Stations as we know them were born of tradition nearly as old as the Church. Who do we thank for this beautiful devotion? An Apostle? Or a saint?

Actually, we owe our thanks to the Blessed Mother. According to an ancient tradition, it was she who made the first Way of the Cross. Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, one of the Church's modern mystics and visionaries, relates to us some of the details, as they were revealed to her, of how this devotion came about.

After the Ascension, Our Lady immersed herself in the contemplation and remembrance of the Passion. Blessed Anne tells us that she went out daily and traced the route of the Cross through Jerusalem.

The Blessed Mother, relates Bl. Anne, was grave and shed "tears of compassion" as she walked the Way.

When the Blessed Mother moved from Jerusalem to Ephesus, she quickly marked a space for replicating the Way. Blessed Anne Catherine describes the new Way, saying:

Soon after her arrival at her new home [in Ephesus] I saw her every day climbing part of the way up the hill behind her house to carry out this devotion. At first she went by herself, measuring the number of steps, so often counted by her, which separated the places of Our Lord's different sufferings. At each of these places she put up a stone, or, if there was already a tree there, she made a mark upon it. The way led into a wood, and upon a hill in this wood she had marked the place of Calvary, and the grave of Christ in a little cave in another hill.

Bl. Anne goes on to explain that at first, the Blessed Mother made this Way alone. Later, she brought her maidservant with her to meditate on the Passion and praise Our Lord for it. After her Assumption, the site became well-known by Christians. They made access to the Way easier, beautifying it with both material and spiritual attentions.

Our Lady, in making the first Way, gave us a tremendous gift. The Stations of the Cross that are erected in every Catholic Church, and which are traditionally prayed by Christians on Fridays—especially during Lent—are a spiritual heritage given to us directly from Our Blessed Mother!

This Lent, consider joining Our Blessed Mother in her daily contemplation of the Passion. This gorgeous Amethyst Stations of the Cross Chaplet is a wonderful way to do this. Fashioned of violet beads and tiny depictions of each Station, this chaplet is specially dedicated to praying the Way of the Cross. Instructions on just how to pray the chaplet are written below its description. Take up this beautiful Lenten devotion today!

-reprinted with permission The Catholic Company



March 26, 2023

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14 | Rom 8:8-11 | Jn 11:1-45

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

In today's Gospel, we see so clearly the fully human nature of Jesus even in the midst of him revealing his divine nature in raising Lazarus from the dead. On hearing that his friend Lazarus had died, Jesus "wept," and he became "perturbed and deeply troubled." We see his love for Martha and Mary, and the freedom he gives them to love him fully in return, and to expect things of him. Each of them confronts Jesus, exasperated: Had you come earlier, our brother would not have died! Yet in the same breath, they express their faith that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. As we continue our Lenten journey, we can rest assured that Jesus is never far from us and that he understands our human longings, struggles and pain. Like Martha and Mary, we can place our faith in Jesus here, now and for eternity.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The raising of Lazarus foreshadows Christ's death and resurrection and reminds us of God's enduring power over death. That can, at times, seem a small comfort as we confront our own mortality or mourn the loss of those dear to us. Yet, just as Jesus showed his love for Lazarus, Martha and Mary, we, too, can extend our love and support for others in their grief. We can show our love through our simple presence, a thoughtful card or an offer to pray for the deceased person and their family. In these ways, we can strengthen our own faith and that of others. As we hear in today's Gospel, "Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him."

**ACTION** As we grow closer to Holy Week, now is a good time to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation. Has it been a while? The U.S. Bishops provide a helpful guide on their website: [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).



**Sunday, Mar 26, 2023**

### Hints of resurrection

While the Hebrew scripture written before Jesus lived doesn't explicitly speak of resurrection in the same way it is spoken of after Jesus is raised from the dead, there are certainly rumors and whispers. Perhaps the most explicit references are in chapter 37 of Ezekiel, where God, working through the prophet, raises a valley of dry bones to new life and promises to restore them to the promised land after their captivity in Babylon centuries before Christ. Saint Jerome called the vision of the valley of bones a "simile" of the Resurrection to come. There's hope for these old bones yet!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 (34). *"Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people!"*

**Monday, Mar 27, 2023**

### A profile in courage

In the last week of Women's History Month, here's another Catholic woman who made history: Servant of God Catherine de Hueck Doherty (1896-1985). Born wealthy in Russia, she escaped the Russian Revolution and fled to Canada. During the Great Depression, she founded Friendship House, a Catholic outreach movement to serve the poor and promote interracial friendship—a movement that started in Toronto and spread to Harlem, Chicago, Washington D.C., and Portland, Oregon. As a nation and a world community, we face trials comparable to the ones Doherty faced. She responded with courage, generosity, love, and gospel witness. Let us do the same!

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:1-11 (251). *"Go, and from now on do not sin any more."*

**Tuesday, Mar 28, 2023**

### 'Tis a gift to be simple

Happy birthday to Saint John Neumann today—nicknamed the "little bishop" not only for his stature but for the humility that came from his Redemptorist vow of poverty, which he honored even after becoming bishop of Philadelphia. Neumann's simplicity invites rich reflection for Lent. "Our great mistake is that we allow ourselves to be deceived by the spirit of worldly shrewdness, the desire for fame, and the love of comfort," he wrote to a fellow priest. "The principles of faith fade out of our hearts in proportion as we allow the principles of the world to come in." Simplify your life to make more room for what feeds your faith.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30 (252). *"You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world."*

**Wednesday, Mar 29, 2023**

### Redemption is at hand

Though they, along with other ancient societies, engaged in some forms of household slavery, Jews as a general rule frowned upon the institution. Slaves who were not Jewish were to be offered conversion to Judaism and if they became Jews, immediately freed. Jews were also required to redeem Jewish slaves from non-Jewish owners. Memory of their own captivity in Egypt and Babylonia loomed large, and they resented Jesus promising to free them. But when Jesus spoke of the truth setting Jews free, he was talking about another kind of enslavement, the kind we all fall

into through unskillful actions, behaviors, habits, compulsions. Look honestly at what might be restricting your inner freedom and ask Jesus to redeem you.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42 (253).

*"We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?"*

**Thursday, Mar 30, 2023**

### Help your unbelief

Can a believer doubt? It can be a relief to learn that a whole school of thought among Catholic theologians asserts that doubt, while seemingly corrosive, can actually bolster faith in the end. Doubt can lead to exploration, which often leads to better understanding, greater clarity, or sometimes simply a willingness to not know, to live without all questions fully answered, leaning into religious practice with an open heart. Most would call that an adult faith. What questions nag at you? Doubt, dig, and remain open to God.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59 (254). *"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death."*

**Friday, Mar 31, 2023**

### Miles to go

Women's History Month concludes today, but the work of ensuring the rights of women continues. In a November 2022 press conference, Pope Francis acknowledged that more work needs to be done. "We have to tell the truth," the pope said. "The fight for women's rights is an ongoing fight." This includes equality in public life and also "equality of opportunities." How might we each open a door of opportunity for women in our own families, parishes, neighborhoods, schools, or offices?

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42 (255). *"If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works."*

**Saturday, Apr 01, 2023**

### A well-traveled pilgrim helped shape Holy Week

Holy Week begins tomorrow. It's in the description of Jesus' last week—immediately ahead of his death and Resurrection—that all four gospels resemble each other the most. The church's liturgical celebration of Holy Week, however, was a late development. Originally, Christians had only a single *Pascha* liturgy to observe Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection. Specific Holy Week liturgies for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday grew from individual shrines in Jerusalem where each event occurred. Thanks to a detailed travel journal, written in 383 by a remarkable woman pilgrim to the Holy Land named Egeria, these liturgies began to take shape. As Holy Week begins, let's not only honor the women at the empty tomb but the woman who helped define Holy Week.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56 (256). *"He prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only for the nation."*

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



©2023 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. Free daily email and app available online at [TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe](https://www.TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe).