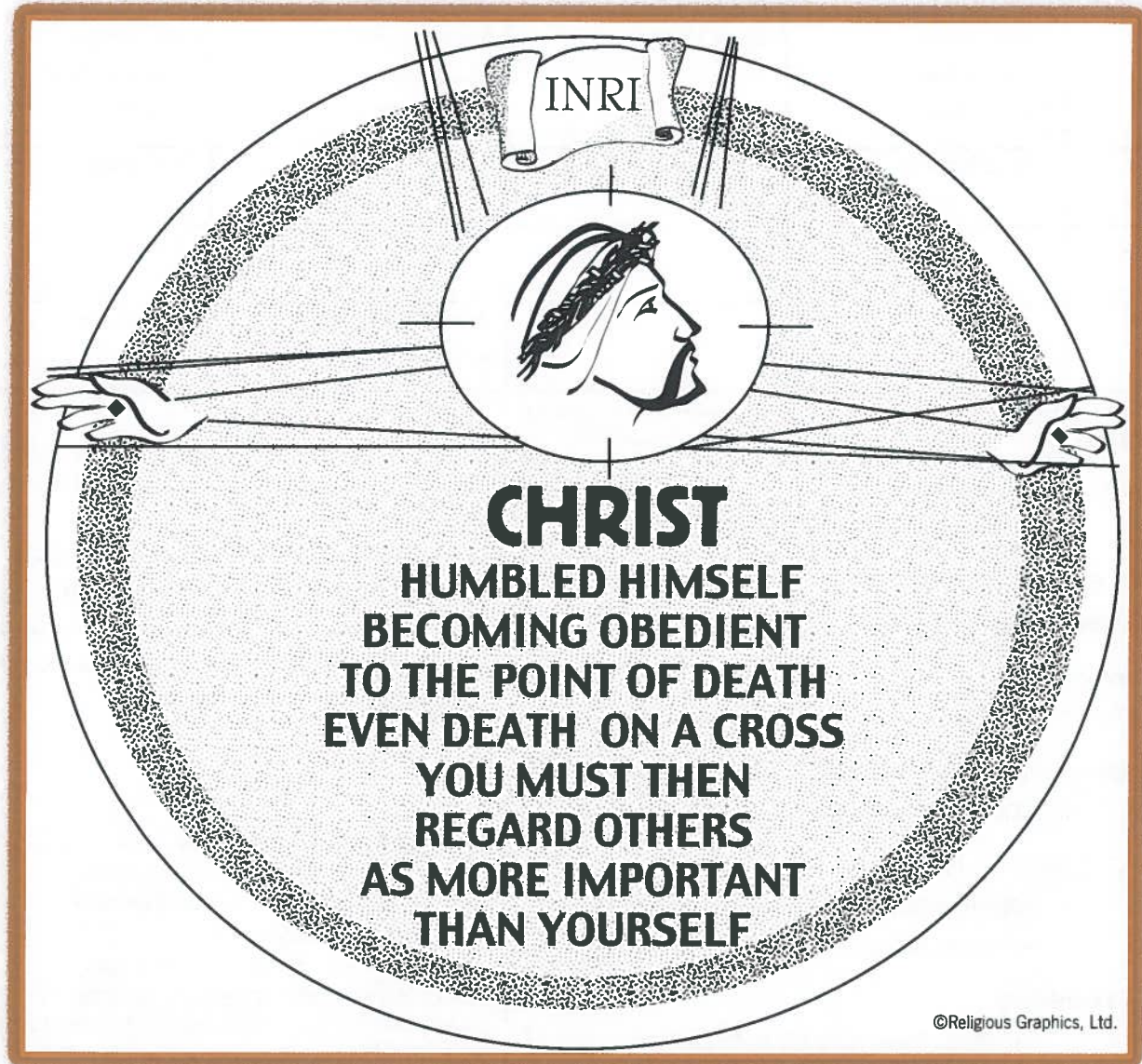


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 1, 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: "You need only to look at the vine to be reminded of your own nature. . . . Each of us has been grafted onto the church by faith the Lord calls branches, and he urges us to bear much fruit." ~Saint Basil the Great

October 7-8, 2023

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Liturgical Schedule | St. Margaret Mary Saturday, October 7 5:00 pm | Sacred Heart Sunday, October 8 7:30 am | St. James Sunday, October 8 9:00 am | St. Margaret Mary Sunday, October 1 10:30 am |
| Celebrant | Fr. Ron Deacon Ron | Fr. Ron Deacon Ron | Fr. Ron Deacon Ron | Fr. Ron Deacon Ron |
| Ushers | Dave Emling Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen Gery Wright | Dennis Pankey James Mallaney | Jerry Ogrentz Arlen Hansen Bic Carlile Bob Buente | Darren Lovell Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles Corey Eich |
| Lector | Wayne Bisaillon | Cindy Gagnon | Dave Ladehoff | Diane Long |
| Servers | | | | Caroline Fulton |
| Greeters | | | Greeter— Rita Thiesen R. Leader— Peerboltes | Brent Fulton |

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, October 2 (SMM)

8:00 am +Tom Lane (Mariann Lane)

Tuesday, October 3 (SH)

8:00 am (SH) +Leland Denault (Steve/Donna Jacob)

Wednesday, October 4 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, October 6 First Friday (SH)

8:00 am +Connie Dionne (Jerry/Terri Weakley)

Saturday, October 7 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Sterling Bouchard (Norm/Sharon Riordan)

+Brian Buckley (Mr/Mrs Patrick Brouillet)

Sunday, October 8

7:30 am +Linda Hubert, Elva McBride, JoAnn Denault (The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Duane O'Connor (Larry/Janice O'Connor)
+Jeffrey Cooley (Mary Anne Cooley)

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

A Look Ahead

Sunday, October 1—SH CCW Bake Sale at Bonfield
8am—11:30 am

October 6—First Friday Adoration 8:30—3:00 at SH

Saturday, October 14—Rosary Rally 12:00 pm at SMM

Saturday, October 14—Blessing of the Pets SMM 1 pm

Sunday, October 22—St. James Donut Sunday after Mass

November 13-15—Parish Mission

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rgckg@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 Bisaillon 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:

How would my behavior change if I reorient myself toward others and away from myself? What could I do this week that I hadn't planned to do and for whom?

Collections Week of Sept. 23-24 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,309
St. James—\$1,577
Sacred Heart—\$959

Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts The Doers

Jesus told the story of a father who asked his two sons to go work in the vineyard. One declared that he wouldn't, but later changed his mind and went. The other agreed to work, but didn't follow through. Which one did the will of the father? Of course, it was the one who actually did the work. Matthew 21: 28-32 enables us to understand God's special appreciation of "doers." Christians are admonished by St. James to be "doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1: 22).

God's mission for humanity will never be accomplished by lazy servants. And although it's not one of Jesus' Beatitudes, I'm sure he would approve of these words: "Blessed are the doers of the word, for they shall please God."

Reflection Growing Up Never Ends

The work of adult life is not easy. As in childhood, each step presents not only new tasks of development, but requires a letting go of the techniques that worked before. With each passage some magic must be given up, some cherished illusion of safety and comfortably familiar sense of self must be cast off, to allow for the greater expansion of our own distinctiveness.



Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, October 6 at Sacred Heart 8:30am—3:00 pm It will conclude with Benediction at 3:00 pm

"Every consecrated host is made to burn itself up with love in a human heart."

—St. John Vianney

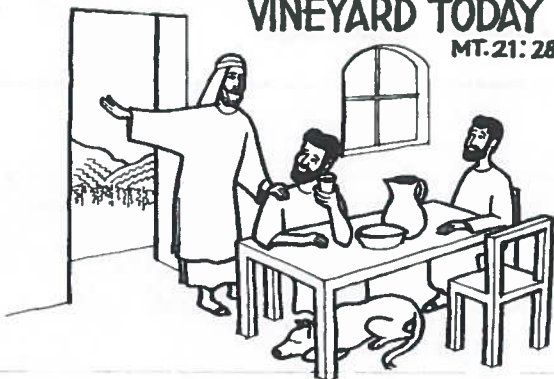


The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection is Oct. 7-8 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food..."
—Matthew 25:35

SON, GO OUT AND WORK IN THE VINEYARD TODAY

MT. 21: 28



Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- Letters of application are now being accepted for the Theresa Fritz Catholic Education Scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year. Applicants must be a parishioner of St. Margaret Mary and attend a Catholic grade or high school or a Catholic university. Please submit a letter to Fr. Ron at the Tri-Parish office explaining which school you are attending and your reason(s) for choosing a Catholic school. Letter need to be received in the office by October 21, 2023.

St. James—

Sacred Heart—

- Please remember to return Cash Bash sales proceeds & unsold tickets to Terri Weakley - Tickets are going quickly
- The Fall Cash Bash tickets are available before and after Mass and from any of the members of the Church Council.

All Parishes—

- The Tri-Parish Knights are once again playing Dart ball this Fall and Winter. Games are generally the first and third Monday October through March. Anyone interested in playing who is not already a team member, contact Dave Emling @ (309) 235-4392
- Be on the lookout for The Boxes of Joy at all three parishes coming soon. Filling a box for a needy child is a great way to kick off the holiday giving season.



The word
of the Lord
lights the way

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The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

"Tell me what you think of this story: A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, 'Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard.'

"The son answered, 'I don't want to.' Later on he thought better of it and went.

"The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, 'Sure, glad to.' But he never went.

"Which of the two sons did what the father asked?"

They said, "The first."

Jesus said, "Yes, and I tell you that crooks and whores are going to precede you into God's kingdom. John came to you showing you the right road. You turned up your noses at him, but the crooks and whores believed him. Even when you saw their changed lives, you didn't care enough to change and believe him" (from Matthew 21).



Obscure saints of the week: St. Giles (October 1) was born to a wealthy noble family. When his parents died, Giles gave his fortune to help the poor. He was known as a miracle worker. To avoid followers and adulation, he left Greece c.683 for France where he lived as a hermit in a cave in the diocese of Nimes, a cave whose mouth was guarded by a thick thorn bush. He a lifestyle so impoverished that, legend says, God sent a deer to Giles to nourish him with her milk.



One day, after he had lived there for several years in meditation, a royal hunting party chased the hind into Giles' cave. One hunter shot an arrow into the thorn bush, hoping to hit the deer, but instead hit Giles in the leg, crippling him. The king sent doctors to care for the hermit's wound, and though Giles begged to be left alone, the king came often to see him.

From this, Giles's fame as sage and miracle worker spread, and would-be followers gathered near the cave. The French king, because of his admiration, built the monastery of Saint Gilles du Gard for these followers, and Giles became its first abbot, establishing his own discipline there. A small town grew up around the monastery, and upon Giles' death, his grave became a shrine and place of pilgrimage; the monastery later became a Benedictine house.

The combination of the town, monastery, shrine and pilgrims led to many handicapped beggars hoping for alms; this and Giles' insistence that he wished to live outside the walls of the city, and his own damaged leg, led to his patronage of beggars, and to the disabled since begging was the only source of income for many. Hospitals and safe houses for the poor, crippled, and leprous were constructed in England and Scotland, and were built so the handicapped could reach them easily. On their passage to Tyburn for execution, convicts were allowed to stop at *Saint Giles' Hospital* where they were presented with a bowl of ale called *Saint Giles' Bowl*, "thereof to drink at their pleasure, as their last refreshing in this life."

In Spain, shepherds consider Giles the protector of rams. It was formerly the custom to wash the rams and color their wool a bright shade on Giles' feast day, tie lighted candles to their horns, and bring the animals down the mountain paths to the chapels and churches to have them blessed. Among the Basques, the shepherds come down from the Pyrenees on September 1st, attired in full costume, sheepskin coats, staves, and crooks, to attend Mass with their best rams, an event that marks the beginning of autumn festivals, marked by processions and dancing in the fields. He is one of the *Fourteen Holy Helpers*, the only one not to die as a martyr.

St. Lupus of Sens (October 1) was born to the Burgundian nobility. He was early noted to have a love to Christ and the Church. He was the nephew of Saint Austremius of Orleans and Saint Aunarius of Auxerre, who both saw to his education. Noted for his love of music and his generosity to the poor. He became a monk at Lérins. Later he was ordained a priest and eventually became the archbishop of Sens, Burgundy (in modern France) in 609.



When Lupus hesitated to acknowledge Clotaire II as the rightful ruler of Burgundy and insisted that the will of God trumps the will of rulers, Clotaire used the excuse of slander about Lupo and a woman to exile him to Ansenne, a predominantly pagan area. Lupus evangelized the people of the area, converting many, including the region's governor. When Lupus' replacement in Burgundy, the politically ambitious monk Monegisil, was killed during a riot, the people demanded the return of their rightful bishop. Clotaire recalled Lupus, and punished those who had spoken against him.

Legend says that once when celebrating Mass, a jewel descended from heaven into the elevated chalice.

Humor

Peach Brandy

A Baptist preacher went to see a member of the community and invited him to come to church on Sunday morning. The man was a producer of fine peach brandy and told the preacher he would love to attend his church if the Pastor would drink some of his brandy and admit doing so in front of the congregation. The preacher agreed and drank up.

Sunday morning came and the man came to church. The preacher recognized him from the pulpit and said: "I see Mr. Johnson is here with us this morning. I want to thank him publicly for his hospitality this week and especially for the peaches he gave me and the spirit in which they were given."

Questions Catholics Ask

Is it okay to use "real" bread at Mass?

If by *real* you mean the kind you get in the supermarket, the short answer is *no*. First, here's the ruling, which appears in the directives of a 2004 Vatican instruction (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, no. 48):

"The bread used in the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharistic Sacrifice must be unleavened, purely of wheat, and recently made so that there is no danger of decomposition. It follows therefore that bread made from another substance, even if it is grain, or if it is mixed with another substance different from wheat to such an extent that it would not commonly be considered wheat bread, does not constitute valid matter for confecting the Sacrifice and the Eucharistic Sacrament. It is a grave abuse to introduce other substances, such as fruit or sugar or honey, into the bread for confecting the Eucharist. Hosts should obviously be made by those who are not only distinguished by their integrity, but also skilled in making them and furnished with suitable tools."

The Code of Canon Law (canon 924) and the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (nos. 319-321) affirm this practice. GIRM adds: "By reason of the sign, it is required that the material for the Eucharistic celebration truly have the appearance of food. Therefore, it is desirable that the Eucharistic bread, even though unleavened and made in the traditional form, be fashioned in such a way that the priest at Mass with the people is truly able to break it into parts and distribute these to at least some of the faithful. However, small hosts are not at all excluded when the large number of those receiving Holy Communion or other pastoral reasons call for them."

According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, we don't know what the apostles used. It's possible they preferred the azymous (unleavened) bread used for Passover celebrations, so the Western church tended toward that. Eastern churches preferred fermented (leavened) bread, as they still do. Early on the bread and wine were contributed by the faithful themselves, each contributing their portion. So types and textures surely varied. As reverence for the Eucharist grew, special altar breads were prepared, rounded, and stamped with a religious emblem. These "hosts" became smaller and thinner as the familiar communion wafers we receive today.

Scripture

• Exodus 12:8, 15-20; 13:3, 6-7; 29:2; Leviticus 23:4-8; Deuteronomy 16:3-8; Matthew 26:17; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7-8; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

How we cover 2000 years of history in every single Mass?

Did you know that we experience all of salvation at every Mass?

Here's why the Liturgy of the Word is so powerful

Have you ever wondered why we read from an Old Testament book, then a Psalm, then a New Testament epistle, and a Gospel at every single Sunday Mass? Why do we follow them with a homily, the Creed, and intercessory prayer? Is it just to mix things up and keep them interesting, or is there something much greater and more intentional behind all of this?



As Catholics, we go to Mass so often that we might not think about why the Apostles and early Church Fathers set up the Mass the way they did, especially in regards to the structure of the Liturgy of the Word.

According to Christopher Carstens in his book *A Devotional Journey into the Mass*, in the Liturgy of the Word "we should hear...an echo of salvation history's larger dialogue."

During the Liturgy of the Word, we don't just listen to the Bible while sitting, singing, or standing. Each Sunday, we actually walk through salvation history and remember the various ways in which God has communicated with His people throughout the ages.

In the first reading from the Old Testament, **God speaks to us** through His message to the Chosen People, prophesying the Messiah.

During the Responsorial Psalm, **we speak to God**, using the language of the Israelites.

When we read the second reading, **God speaks to us through or about Jesus**.

Finally, in the Gospel, **Jesus Himself speaks** to us.

Next comes the homily, in which our priest or deacon helps us apply these Scripture passages to our daily lives. Next we recite the Creed, responding to God's call by formally declaring our faith in Him and the Church He established. Finally, in the Prayers of the Faithful, we speak to God in our own words and pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

As you can see, the Liturgy of the Word involves far more than simply "reading the Bible." At each and every Mass, the Church presents us with a specific series of passages that help us journey through the history of salvation. We see God's faithful love displayed over thousands of years, and we remember the hope that Christ has brought us through His life, death, and Resurrection.

Mike Dubruiel's *The How-To Book of the Mass* answers so many questions about this Holy Sacrifice that we never would have thought to ask. Dubruiel teaches you how to enter the sanctuary, how to prepare your heart for the Eucharist, and more questions.

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2023 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY RALLY

Where: St. Margaret Mary Church, Main St., Herscher, Illinois

When: October 14, 2023 – ROSARY WILL BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON



PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR OUR NATION.

Please bring a lawn chair.

For more information, please contact:

Cindy Gagnon – (815) 933-4077; Rhonda Berns – (815) 426-5015; Kathy Meli – (815) 928-8988

Sacred Heart Bake Sale
Sunday, October 1 at Salina Fire Department in Bonfield

8:00 am



Save the Date— Saturday, November 18th



Sacred Heart Parishes Fall Cash Bash 4pm—8 pm

The cash bash will include: Euchre and Texas Hold'em Tournaments, basket and silent auctions, 50/50, Black Jack and more.

Tickets are available this weekend at the entrance to the church. This fundraiser will be replacing the stag donation. Plan on coming and enjoying an evening of fun.



WREATHS across AMERICA

Wreaths Across America is a yearly campaign to have a wreath placed on every gravesite at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. The cost is \$15 to sponsor a wreath. For more information, call Debbie at 815-953-6492. There are forms in the entrance of all three parishes.



**catholic
charities**
Diocese of Joliet

I GOT
MY FLU
SHOT!

FLU SHOT CLINICS

For Kankakee County residents ages 60+

Pneumonia, RSV, and shingles vaccines are also available by request when you pre-register.

9/27/23 from 11:00am to 1:00pm

Grow Center/Central Christian Church
310 Main St. NW, Bourbonnais

10/11/23 from 11:00am to 1:00pm

Manteno Church of the Nazarene
698 North Locust St. (US Rt. 50), Manteno
(Hosted by the MC Milestones Council)

Flu shots are free with Medicare Part B. Vaccines will be administered by a Jewel Osco pharmacist. When you arrive, please look for the purple signs. Be sure to bring your insurance card.

Pre-registration is mandatory
(at least three days before event).

Call Jan at 815-933-7791 ext. 9910 to register.



ALL ARE WELCOME!
Click the QR code below or scan QR code using your cell phone

REGISTER
NOW



¡TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS!
Haga clic en el botón de abajo o escanee el código QR para registrarse

REGISTRATE
AHORA

Department of
Catechesis and
Evangelization
Departamento de
Catequesis y
Evangeliación

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

**Mass for Persons
with disabilities
October 15, 2023
2 p.m.**

**St. Mary Immaculate
15629 South Route 59
Plainfield, Illinois**

The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Ronald Huk; refreshments and fellowship to follow. Those with disabilities, and their caregivers, will receive a special blessing.



ESTÁN CORDIALMENTE INVITADOS
A LA DIOCESIS DE JOLIET

**Misa para Las Personas
con discapacidades
Octubre 15, 2023
2 p.m.**

**Parroquia de Santa María Inmaculada
15629 South Route 59
Plainfield, Illinois**

La misa será celebrada por el obispo Ronald Huk; refrigerios y compañerismo a seguir. Aquellos con discapacidades, y sus cuidadores, recibirán una bendición especial.

Questions? ¿Preguntas?

Renata Chichowicz
(815) 221-8245

rchichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org

DIOCESE OF JOLIET





October 1, 2023

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28 | Phil 2:1-11 | Mt 21:28-32

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I used to be something of a sugar fiend. So much so that one birthday, my then boyfriend (now husband) decided to forego flowers and bought me a jumbo-sized bag of Smarties candies instead. While I loved sugar, I eventually decided I didn't love how it made me feel. Now older and wiser, I reach for vegetables more often. It's not that I crave carrots, but I feel better eating healthy foods. It's what God intends for my body. Similarly, God intends for our souls to follow the laws he has ordained. But sometimes life gets tough and we suffer terrible wrongs or are grieving, and we feel like the Israelites in today's first reading, calling out, "The Lord's way is not fair!" Well, thank God for that! How lost would we be, if God treated us "fairly." Instead, he treats us with love and mercy; with justice. "He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross," for us. If there is any encouragement in Christ, as Paul says, and we know there is, then being of the same mind and heart – attitude – of Christ, gets us through those moments of "unfair!" And we can follow Christ's commands, knowing he loves us more than anyone else could love us, and more than we can ever love him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It's easy to talk a good game as Christians. We can all agree that it is right to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned and bury the dead, as the Corporal Works of Mercy instruct us. But when it comes to actually doing those things – "humbly regard[ing] others as more important than [ourselves], each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others" – we can find all sorts of reasons not to. Maybe our days are too busy or maybe we feel just the tiniest bit resentful at the idea of sharing something we've worked hard to earn. However, our words don't mean much without action. Jesus says as much in today's Gospel. If we are like the son who says yes but then does not go to work in the vineyard, we are not doing our Father's will. We are like the chief priests who are being bypassed on the way to heaven by "tax collectors and prostitutes" who heard the word of God and believed.

PRAY This week, let us look for ways to live out our faith. Rather than pray only with our words, let us pray with our actions. If you aren't sure where to start, pay special consideration to the verses from the second reading, highlighted above: "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vain-glory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others."

Sunday, Oct 01, 2023

Seamless unity

We work best when we work together. A society pulling in opposite directions tears itself apart. The final prayer Jesus offers at the Last Supper is for unity among his friends. Saint Paul likewise implores his communities to be of one heart. Today, on Respect Life Sunday, we soberly confess that we can't both honor the sacred gift of life and allow poverty, injustice, exclusion, and indifference to remain unchallenged. Coincidentally, it's the International Day of Older Persons, in a world where people over 60 outnumber children under 5. Make this world a welcome place for everyone.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32 (136). *"Complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing."*

Monday, Oct 02, 2023

Watching over us

What exactly does the church teach about angels? "The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The church venerates angels as servants and messengers of God. And one is particularly looking out for you. But, as Pope Francis says, not just to protect but to prod: "The angels help us; they push us to continue on the journey [of life]." These pure spirits who are in communication with God encourage us to "be not afraid" and take risks. Join the church in welcoming these—and your—special guardians.

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 8:1-8 (455); Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650). *"I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."*

Tuesday, Oct 03, 2023

The Lord loves justice

Mother Theodore Guérin, whose feast is today, was a missionary to the United States who established schools, a pharmacy, and orphanages. But her love of Christ made her denounce injustices, too. She described a slave auction: "These Americans, so proud of their liberty, thus make game of the liberty of others. Poor negroes! I would have wished to buy them all that I might say to them, 'Go! Bless Providence. You are free!'" Her mission continues today with her Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, who strive for peace and justice, particularly in the area of racial equality and equity, criminal justice reform, human trafficking, and immigration. Take to heart Mother Guérin's words as you work to transform the world: "Above all things; justice, justice. If any preference may be shown let it be to the poorest or most abandoned."

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). *"Every nationality, speaking different tongues, shall . . . say, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"*

Wednesday, Oct 04, 2023

Make mercy your song to all creation

The feast of Saint Francis of Assisi is a great date to reflect on one's care for creation, as we are often wont to think all that matters in the spiritual life is our connection to God and other humans. The great Franciscan founder showed us by his life, including preaching to the creatures of the air and the field, that all of creation is listening to hear what we have to say. Is our

message that of compassion and prudence, or rather convenience and the "throwaway culture"? Perhaps God himself is choosing to lend an ear by means of all God's creatures, great and small.

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI

TODAY'S READINGS: Nehemiah 2:1-8; Luke 9:57-62 (457). *"Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head."*

Thursday, Oct 05, 2023

Mercy prevails

Saint Faustina Kowalska is one of a long list of saints who held low status but whose intense relationship with God fueled a power that gained attention. A peasant who became a nun assigned low-level jobs, Faustina's mystical visions of Jesus—at first doubted by church authorities—eventually were embraced widely. They are the foundation of Divine Mercy Sunday, characterized by an image of Jesus with rays of mercy emanating from his heart. Faustina's focus on God's mercy is a message that helped her native Poland through harrowing years of war and repressive government, and it continues to inspire. Commit yourself to an act of mercy today.

MEMORIAL OF FAUSTINA KOWALSKA, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12 (458). *"Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.'"*

Friday, Oct 06, 2023

Leading indicators

The stories of the founders of religious institutes most often begin with reluctant souls who feel unworthy to accept such an important task. But, luckily for the church and all blessed by their service and legacy, they eventually take up the mantle of leadership. The decision is not without its benefits, according to Saint Bruno, founder of the Carthusians: "God gives his athletes the reward they desire: a peace that the world does not know and joy in the Holy Spirit." And, for Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, founder of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, prayer is key to finding the answers you seek when unsure of next steps: "I suggest that you pray to Our Lord that He assist you and give you the direction you need." Gain strength from the witness of these two great leaders.

MEMORIALS OF BRUNO, PRIEST; BLESSED MARIE ROSE DUROCHER, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459). *"Whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."*

Saturday, Oct 07, 2023

By any name

Today's celebration has seen a lot of changes over the centuries. It started out as the Feast of Our Lady of Victory to commemorate the Christian defeat of the Turkish army on this date in 1571. A few years later Pope Gregory XIII changed the name to the Feast of the Holy Rosary. Pope Clement XI in 1716 changed the date to August 5. Pius X changed it back to October 7. John XXIII changed the name to the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Rosary. Then Paul VI changed the name to Our Lady of the Rosary. However you name it, today's Joyful Mysteries invite you to celebrate Christ in your life.

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460). *"I have given you the power 'to tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you."*

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



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