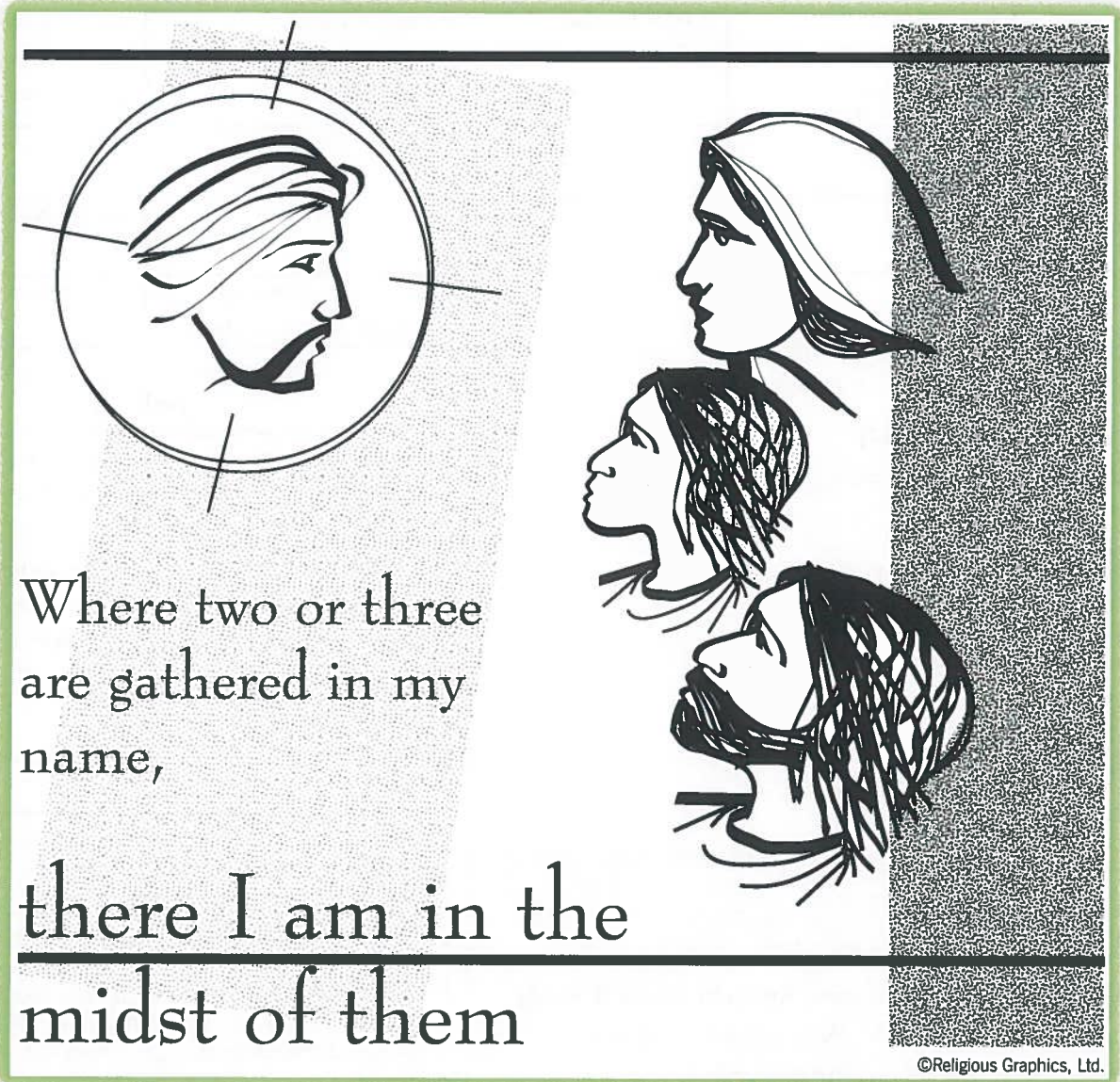


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 9-10, 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: "Love is not blind; that is the last thing that love is. Love is bound; and the more it is bound, the less it is blind."
 —G.K. Chesterton

September 16-17, 2023			24th Sunday in Ordinary	
Time				
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, September 16 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, September 17 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, September 17 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, September 17 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Roger Jensen Gery Wright Dave Emling Dan Hoffman	Daryl Ferris Dennis Pankey	Dan Forsythe Cathy Jensen Jerry Ogrentz Arlen Hansen	Wayne Bisailon Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Larry Wolles
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Mike Hertz	Mary Peerbolte	Julie Splear
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter — D. Bernicky R. Leader —Karen Miller	Wayne Bisailon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Sept. 11 (SMM)
 8:00 am +Joan Scanlon (Scott Frerichs)

Tuesday, Sept. 12 (SH)
 8:00 am (SH) +Connie Denault (Jackie Cross)

Wednesday, Sept. 13 (SJ)
 8:00 am No Mass

Friday, Sept. 15 (SMM)
 8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, Sept. 16 (SMM)
 5:00 pm +Bob Landeck & Joel Eberle (Jackie Eberle)

Sunday, Sept. 17
 7:30 am +Elanine Joyce (Terri/Jerry Weakley)
 9:00 am (SJ) +Lester, Regina, Kenneth, Mark, & Sandy Offerman (Mary/Gerald Offerman)
 10:30am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

Sunday, Sept. 10—Donuts for Deacon Ron at SH
Sunday, Sept. 17—Religious Ed Kickoff at 9:30 am SMM
Monday, Sept. 18—SMM CCW meeting
Sunday, Sept. 24—Religious Ed classes begin at SJ & SH
Saturday, Sept. 30—Blessing of the Police Squads 12pm
Sunday, October 22—St. James Donut Sunday after Mass

Questions of the week:

With whom do I need to reconcile? How can I go about it fruitfully?

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)

Religious Education classes will be beginning soon in all three parishes.

Sacred Heart—Sunday, Sept. 24

St. Margaret Mary—St. Margaret Mary Kick off is Sun., September 17 at 9:30am. The link to register is in the St. Margaret Mary Religious Education Facebook group. Families can also contact me at this e-mail address and I will send the link to register.

St. James - Religious Education Program begins September 10,

Collections Week of Sept. 2-3, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,942 Maui aid—\$1,134
 St. James—\$2,402 Maui aid—\$1,079
 Sacred Heart—\$1,277 Maui aid—\$981

Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts We Are All Brothers and Sisters

Matthew 18: 15–20 appears to lay out the conditions for kicking somebody out of the church. If nothing works out for reconciliation, “let that person be to you as a tax collector and a gentile.” But then you remember that St. Matthew, the person telling this story, was himself a tax collector, and had been healed and restored.

We are fond of drawing lines in this world, and dividing people up into insiders and outsiders. Jesus knew no such lines. He came to erase those lines, and encourage us to all be brothers and sisters. The mission of the church is the same ... to be about the business of forgiveness and reconciliation and healing.

Reflection

The old man must have stopped our car two dozen times to climb out and gather into his hands the small toads blinded by our lights and leaping, like drops of rain.

The rain was falling, a mist about his white hair, and I kept saying you can't save them all, accept it, get back in we've got places to go.

But, leathery hands full of wet brown life, knee deep in the summer roadside grass, he just smiled and said they have places to go to too. *From Entering Onondaga*

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

“If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you’ve made a friend. If he won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won’t listen, tell the church. If he won’t listen to the church, you’ll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God’s forgiving love.

“Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I’ll be there” (from Matthew 18).

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Ann Gehrke

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

Our sincere sympathy to Ann’s family and friends.



Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ CCW meeting at 7 pm on Mon., Sept. 18. Sign up for craft by Sept. 11. Pictures are on bulletin board at church entrance.
- ◆ Boxes of Joy will be available in the church entrance soon. Please help fill a box for children who may not otherwise have any Christmas. More information coming.

St. James—

- ◆ All are invited to our first CCW meeting of the year—Sunday, September 10 after church in the hall.

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of September 3rd the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for the St. Germaine family.
- ◆ Join us today after mass in the church hall for “Donuts with Deacon”. We will be honoring Deacon Ron’s 20 years of service in the diaconate. Everyone is invited.
- ◆ The Fall Cash Bash is off to a great start. Tickets are available before and after Mass and from any of the members of the Church Council.
- ◆ Our next CCW meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 7 pm in the hall. Hostesses are Laurie Palinski and Joyce Dickinson. We will be planning our Bake Sale at the Salina Fire Dept. which will be held on Oct. 1.

All Parishes—

- ◆ **Adult Education**—Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 20 at St. Margaret Mary.



Current Status for 2023 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
St. MM	\$9,900	\$8,570	\$8,305
St. James	\$8,000	\$7,690	\$7,630
Sacred Heart	\$6,100	\$7,676	\$6,671



There I am in the midst of them.
MT. 18:20



Saint of the week: St. Ambrose Edward Barlow (Sept. 10) was the fourth son of Sir Alexander Barlow and Mary Brereton. He was baptized Catholic on November 30, 1585, however, he was raised as a Protestant, but as an adult he returned to Catholicism. He was educated at the College of Saint Gregory, Douai, France, and the Royal College of Saint Alban in Valladolid, Spain. He joined the Benedictines in 1616 and was ordained a priest in 1617 in Douai. Ambrose returned to England to minister to covert Catholics in south Lancashire for 24 years. Unlike many of his brother priests, Ambrose was very open about his work, and was arrested several times. On April 25, 1631, just as he ended Easter Sunday Mass at Morley Hall near Manchester, England, he was arrested by an armed mob led by the local Anglican vicar. He was charged with the crime of being a priest, and freely admitted it. He was one of the *Forty Martyrs of England and Wales*.

Obscure saints of the week: St. Pulcheria (Sept. 10) was the daughter of Byzantine Emperor Arcadius and Empress Eudoxia. Her father died when she was 15, and she became regent of the empire on July 4, 414 until her younger brother Theodosius was old enough to rule. Pulcheria took special care of her brother's education, ensuring a strong religious background. She took a vow of chastity, and worked for religious reform and evangelization through the empire.



When Theodosius took the throne, Pulcheria faded for a while into court life. She supported Pope Leo the Great regarding the Monophysite controversy, and when Theodosius married in 421, his wife convinced him to exile Pulcheria.

On the death of Theodosius, Pulcheria was recalled to be empress of the Byzantine Empire. She sponsored the Council of Chalcedon in 451 and supported the Church against the Nestorian and Eutychian heresies. She built churches, hospitals, hospices, and a university in the city of Constantinople.

**Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
What is St. Teresa's Bookmark?
And what can it teach us about keeping our peace?**



er was found in St. Teresa of Avila's breviary after her death. Now known as St. Teresa's Bookmark, this short prayer has become universally beloved as an inspiring petition for peace and serenity.

**Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing;
God only is changeless.
Patience gains all things.
Who has God wants nothing.
God alone suffices.**

St. Teresa of Avila, the celebrated Carmelite nun, mystic, and Doctor of the Church, prayed this prayer in the 16th century, but its concise beauty is just as comforting today! Throughout the worry and busy-ness of our everyday lives, let us remind ourselves of God's steady strength and love with this heavenly bookmark.

Like St. Teresa, keep this prayer right where you can see it.

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Hi everyone,

I'm Vic Carlile, the 2023 Individuals with Intellectual Disability Drive (Tootsie Roll Drive) chairman, **and I'm asking for your help.** It's that time of year again, and your Tri-Parish Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council 15032 will be holding our annual Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Drive on September 15, 16 and 17.

One of our main objectives is to aid and contribute to organizations devoted to the care of individuals and particularly those inflicted with one or more forms of Intellectual disability. Such as Best Buddies Herscher High School and KCTC (Kankakee County Training Center) to name a couple.

To do this it takes a lot of volunteers to make it a successful drive. I'm asking that you donate just two (2) hours out of your weekend. We will be collecting donations at Casey's in Herscher, Herscher State Bank, Herscher State Bank of Limestone, Dollar General in Herscher and perhaps with your help, some other locations.

If you can help us in this worthy Christian endeavor, please contact me by email or text and we can get you scheduled. We're counting on you to make this the most successful drive we've ever had. Please contact me by September 9th.

My email is viccarlile51@gmail.com or text me at 8159556477

Respectfully

Vic Carlile

Chairman 2023 Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Drive

Aloha Fr. Ron Neitzke and the Tri-Parish Office,

Thank you so much for your email and your generous support for our Maui Relief efforts. Catholic Charities Hawaii is deeply touched by the kindness from the Tri-Parish Catholic Communities.

We are there now on Maui, and will be long after through recovery and rebuilding. It's a long journey ahead.

Together, with your support, Catholic Charities Hawaii is able to provide hope for those many individuals and families impacted by the wildfires on Maui.

Please let us know if we can provide you with any additional information.

Again, on behalf of our entire Catholic Charities Hawaii organization we express our sincere gratitude.

Warm Mahalo & Aloha,

Kellie

The Tri-Parish Community will have an opportunity to help the people of Maui after the devastating wildfires that swept through Lahaina and the surrounding areas. We will be taking up a second collection on the weekends of Sept. 2-3 and the weekend of Sept. 9-10. Please consider helping with any amount that you are able to donate. Thank you.



**catholic
charities**
Diocese of Joliet



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.

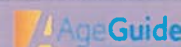
Be sure to bring your insurance card.

Pre-registration is mandatory

(at least three days before event).

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

Brought to you by
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet & Jewel-Osco



Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.

CRUNCH FOR A CAUSE

Please join us for a fundraiser to support:

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

**Come to TACO JOHN'S
located at 562 William Latham Drive, Bourbonnais
between 4-7pm
on Wednesday, September 13th**

**50% of your entire purchase will be given
to the organization.**

**All you have to do to participate is show this flyer
(printed, or on mobile device) or just mention it to
the cashier.**



LOVE is the fulfillment
of the LAW

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Questions Catholics Ask

What Does the Bible Say About God?

The short answer to this question: "A lot." There are 73 books included in the Bible used by Catholics. By one estimate, the word "God" appears 3,358 times in those books and the word "Lord" another 7,736 times. So where to begin?

God wants to be known by humanity and is constantly reaching out to us to make that possible. From God's stroll in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8) right through to God's definitive revelation in the person of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit, God is involved in a constant process of communication with humanity.

How can we get a better idea of what God is like? The Letter to the Romans gives us one place to start: *Take a good look at God's creation*: "Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what God has made" (Romans 1:20). The wonders of the natural world give us hints of God's qualities. Be sure to stay in touch with the beauty of God's creation by making some time for a walk in the woods, a weekend of camping, an evening of gazing at the night sky.

Above all, *we learn about God through Jesus* because he lived with and as one of us. When we look at the testimony of scripture, we see that Jesus represents the fullness of God's revelation to humanity. As the Letter to the Hebrews puts it: "In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son . . . who is the refulgence [radiance] of his glory, the very imprint of his being" (Hebrews 1:1-3). Or, as Jesus himself explained to the apostle Phillip: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). By his example Jesus shows us that God possesses and expresses the noblest of qualities to perfection—truth, beauty, justice, mercy, grace, goodness, compassion—in a word, *love*. In fact, Jesus lived and suffered as one of us because, in the well-known quote from John 3:16, "God so loved the world." What greater love is there than "to lay down one's life for one's friends," as Jesus did (John 15:13)?

We also know God *through the gift of the Holy Spirit*, who appears throughout Hebrew scripture—beginning with the second verse of Genesis where the Spirit, in the form of a "mighty wind," hovered over the waters. Midway through Hebrew scripture we find the psalmist's plea, "Do not drive me from before your face, nor take me from your holy spirit" (Psalm 51:13).

The Holy Spirit appears in many passages in the New Testament. Jesus promised to send his followers a Helper or Comforter who would be with them always (John 14:16), and in the "great commission" at the end of the Gospel of Matthew, one of the lynchpins of Christian faith in the Trinity, Jesus says, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

The Holy Spirit comes to the forefront in the Acts of the Apostles, most famously at Pentecost, when members of the early church "were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim" (Acts 2:4).

While the Bible does indeed provide us with a great variety of testimony to the manifold, mysterious, and wonderful nature of God, in our human experience getting to know God doesn't happen all at once. It is a lifelong process that unfolds in spiritual reading and reflection, prayer, and in our interactions with others—in "fellowship," to use the church term.

Fellowship happens when we gather to worship, surely, but also in our homes and offices and in all our daily interactions with others, both casual and intimate. When we interact with a sense of God's presence, even when there are only "two or three" of us, we know that Jesus is there with us (Matthew 18:20).

Perhaps one of the most useful of the many titles found in the Bible for God is *Immanuel* or *Emmanuel* (Isaiah 7:14), which literally means "God-with-us." That conviction, firmly rooted in our hearts, may be all we ever need to know about our loving God.

Resources

• See pt. 1, sec. 1, ch. 2 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "God Comes to Meet Man," for a description of God's interaction with humanity.

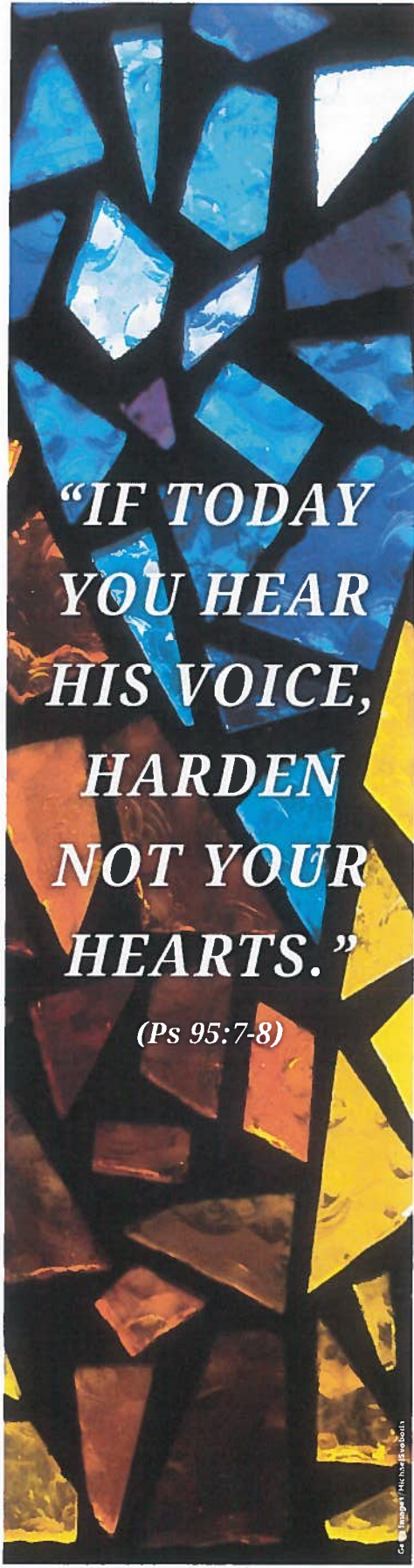
Save the Date— Saturday, November 18th

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.





September 10, 2023

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9 | Rom 13:8-10 | Mt 18:15-20

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Years ago, I was asked to take in a hound dog and I was happy to do so, but it wasn't until I brought the dog home that I discovered how adamantly opposed my husband was to the idea. When asked, he had never said "no," but he thought I should just know he didn't want the dog. Obviously, we needed to work on our communication skills! Proper communication and what it means to love in relationship are what come to mind when I hear the start of today's Gospel. Jesus is instructing us on what to do when another angers, hurts, or offends us. Not surprisingly, it doesn't include calling our sister or best friend to vent, or posting about it on social media, regardless of how vaguely we word the situation. Instead we are to go to that person directly and "tell him his fault between you and him alone." If they listen, we have won them over. How many times have others hurt us but we never bother to tell them? How often do we simply assume the other person knows they have done us wrong? We owe it to one another to be honest and upfront - to give the other person a chance to apologize and us a chance to extend forgiveness. We also owe it to one another to be willing to receive *them* in charity, open-hearted, when they come to us to speak of *our* faults.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In the same way that the Gospel addresses speaking truth to another and "winning them over," the prophet Ezekiel recounts the Lord's instruction to him that he has a duty to "speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way." This, of course, was the role and mission of the prophets. To make known the word and law of God and call the people to respond. A prophet warned, counseled, taught, and encouraged. They called the people to obedience to God, denouncing idolatry, injustice, and empty rituals. Jesus himself came as priest, prophet, and king and by our baptism, "the whole People of God participates in these three offices of Christ and bears the responsibilities for mission and service that flow from them." (CCC 783) Through the centuries, people have tried to do this in various ways - from passing laws to standing on street corners with signs. But let's remember that even as we are meant to "speak out," we are also meant to listen. We too must be re-converted to the truth when we sin; we too must be dissuaded from our wicked ways. This is how we best fulfill our prophetic mission.

PRAY Witnessing to Christ in today's world sometimes feels overwhelming or hopeless. Spend some concerted time in prayer with the words from today's psalm: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

Sunday, Sep 10, 2023

The long loneliness

"Church" means assembly: It is not good for us to be alone. Today's Suicide Prevention Day reminds us that loneliness is an unhealthy condition. More than 700,000 people die by suicide each year: about 132 a day in the United States. For every suicide, there are more than 20 attempts. Mental illness and substance abuse contribute to the crisis, but marginalized groups are at highest risk: migrants, indigenous people, those who identify as LGBTQ+, and prisoners. The feeling of alienation is real but also preventable. Call or text the crisis hotline at 988 to seek help for yourself or someone you love.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20 (127). *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*

Monday, Sep 11, 2023

A day to remember those who gave everything

Today, the anniversary of the largest terrorist attack in American history, is a day to call to mind those who rushed in to help, at great cost. The first certified fatality of the attacks was Father Mychal Judge, Franciscan friar and New York City Fire Department chaplain, who rushed to the World Trade Center to help. During his life, he was known for ministering to the marginalized and for the words on a prayer card he often distributed: "Lord, take me where you want me to go. Let me meet who you want me to meet. Tell me what you want me to say. And keep me out of your way." Honor his legacy and make his humble prayer yours today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:24-2:3; Luke 6:6-11 (437). *"Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"*

Tuesday, Sep 12, 2023

On Earth we your children invoke your sweet name

Names are a big deal in the Bible. More than a moniker, the names of people—and God—capture, convey, and even conjure a being's very essence. It's why the Hebrews refused, out of respect, to speak God's holiest name and why "taking the Lord's name in vain" is forbidden. We see in biblical history how life-changing experiences prompt a person's change of name, as when Sarai becomes Sarah and Saul becomes Paul. When Jesus talks of acting "in my name," he affirms a power and presence invoked by simply uttering his name. Today, heed Venerable Bruno Lanteri, founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, who instructed: simply "think of Mary, call on Mary."

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19 (438). *"He chose Twelve, whom he also named Apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, ..."*

Wednesday, Sep 13, 2023

Always speak the words of light

With seemingly never-ending revelations of ministerial misconduct, today's feast of Saint John Chrysostom is a sight for sore eyes. The eminent fourth-century preacher and teacher—whose name is a transliteration of the Greek for "golden mouth"—was surely a product of his day. But he was also guided by the Holy Spirit, who inspired him to be baptized as an adult and denounce corruption in the church while serving as a priest and

later as archbishop of Constantinople. As we remember his legacy today, let's take courage to also stand for truth and against all that dishonors the call of the gospel.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 6:20-26 (439). *"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*

Thursday, Sep 14, 2023

By the wood of the cross

Today's feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross goes back to early days in church history. Saint Helena was the mother of Emperor Constantine (the first Roman emperor to embrace the faith), and Helena is said to have found the actual crucifix of Jesus in Jerusalem in the fourth century, spurring significant devotion to the Holy Cross. This devotion has had staying power perhaps because it helps believers to reflect upon the saving power of Jesus' death. Today when something presents itself as a "cross" to you, take a few moments to contemplate the cross of Christ.

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17 (638). *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish."*

Friday, Sep 15, 2023

I feel your pain

Anyone who loves will experience sorrow. It can't be helped. When a loved one suffers, we suffer. The church looks to Our Lady of Sorrows during those difficult times. Mary has been pierced by the sword of sorrow many times, including the seven noted by tradition: The prophecy of Simeon, the Flight into Egypt, the lost child Jesus later found in the Temple, meeting Jesus on the road to Calvary, the Crucifixion, and Jesus' removal from the cross and his burial. Listen to the aching beauty of the Stabat Mater hymn recited each year on this memorial and know that you are not alone in your suffering. Mary's empathy is one of the saving graces of our faith. She knows how we feel, and sometimes that's all it takes to get us past the pain.

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14 (441); John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35 (639). *"And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

Saturday, Sep 16, 2023

Care for the creation God entrusts to us

High above our heads the ozone layer of the stratosphere absorbs enough of the sun's deadly ultraviolet radiation to make possible life on Earth. But just a few decades ago an alarming depletion of the ozone layer generated worldwide concern over resulting increases in skin cancer, cataracts, and other health issues. These concerns led to the adoption of the Montreal Protocol in 1987, celebrated today, which bans the production of chemicals that cause ozone depletion. In his 2015 encyclical *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis applauds the Protocol for helping to protect the Earth, our common home. What can you do for our Earth today?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49 (442). *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command?"*

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



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