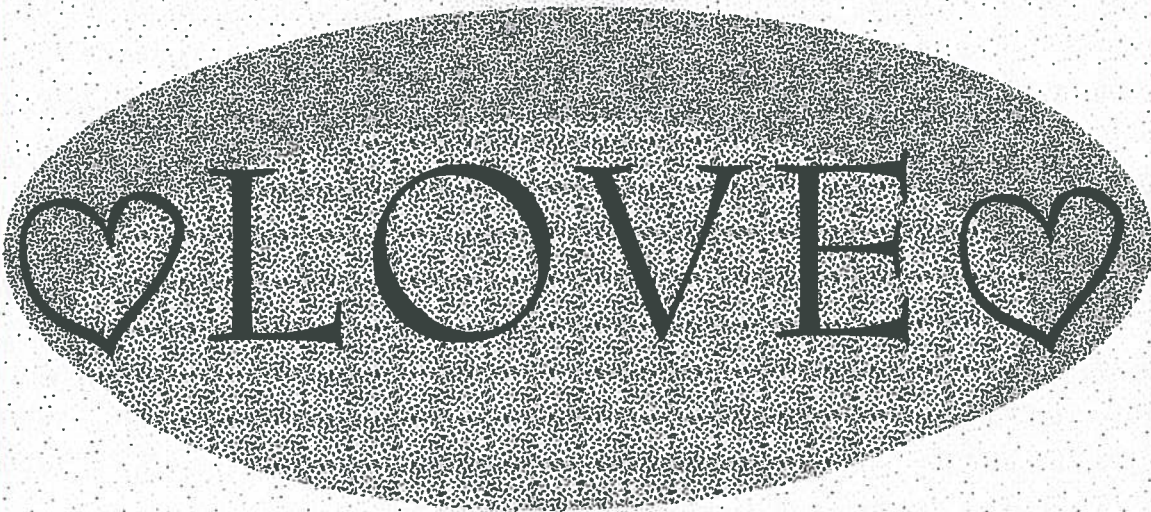


The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 16-17,

As far as the east is from the west



so far has the Lord  
put our transgressions from us

©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: "If, then, you are looking for the way by which you should go, take Christ, because he himself is the way."  
—Thomas Aquinas

**September 23-24, 2023**

**25th Sunday in Ordinary**

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, September 23 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, September 24 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, September 24 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, September 24 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Roger Jensen Bob Schultz Todd Datweiler Dan Hoffman	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Vic Carlile Dennis O'Connor Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke	Kim Smicker Corey Eich Galen Fritz Jerem;y Wolles
Lector	Dave Emling	Darlene Cipcich	Andy Hansen	Steve Jacob
Servers				Bella Eich
Greeters			Greeter— C. Forsythe R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Kim Smicker Mary McDonald

### Mass Intentions for the Week

**Monday, Sept. 18 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Cindy Frerichs (Anna/Spiro Kolokythas)

**Tuesday, Sept. 19 (SH)**

8:00 am (SH) +Lisa Timm (Jerry/Terri Weakley)

**Wednesday, Sept. 20 (SJ)**

8:00 am +Cindy Frerichs (Tom Scanlon)

**Friday, Sept. 22 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Tom & Nina Smolkovich (John/Diane Smolkovich)

**Saturday, Sept. 23 (SMM)**

5:00 pm +Jim Feller (Norm/Sharon Riordan)  
+Marie Duval (Jackie Eberle)

**Sunday, Sept. 24**

7:30 am +Richard Fitch, Raymond Denault, Vernal Gagnon, Donald Denault, Bonnie Wascher, Ina Rathman (The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Alex Denault (Francis Smith)  
+Laurie Hansen (Mary Burnett)

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

### A Look Ahead

**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 1**—SH CCW Bake Sale at Bonfield

8am—11:30 am

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

**November 13-15**—Parish Mission

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

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

### Questions of the week:

How do I see myself letting resentment or bitterness build up in my heart? Who do I need to reach out to and forgive?



## Collections Week of Sept. 9-10, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,907	Maui aid—\$1,043
St. James—\$2,080	Maui aid—\$1,172
Sacred Heart—\$1,607	Maui aid—\$550

Thank you for your generosity!

### Gospel Shorts Unbending Rules of Love and Forgiveness

Some areas of our life are just so difficult to change ... attitudes, dispositions, and memories, in particular. Rudyard Kipling in his poem "If" speaks of how a person can make the best of any situation that seems hard to overcome: If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it..."

God grants each one of us the energy (grace) to achieve that sixty seconds distance run — to run away from our own unforgiving ways. In the light of Christ's immense love, we are simply asked to give as we have been given — to measure up to the love poured forth in our lives.

### Reflection

#### *What God Hath Promised*

God hath not promised skies always blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;  
God hath not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow, Peace without pain.  
But God hath promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

### 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.

#### St. James—

#### Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of September 10th, the St. Joseph candle burned in prayer for the Diaconate Class of 2003 as they celebrated their 20th anniversary of Ordination.
- ◆ Thank you to those who cleaned the hall last week, - Marilyn, Rosie, Denise, Kendall, Terri, Auggie, Joe and Tina. A special thanks to Joe Petersen, Gary Riley, Francis Feller and Tim Feller for their fantastic work on the improvements of the hall. Your work is so greatly appreciated!
- ◆ 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.

#### All Parishes—

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



St. Peter's Parish in Clifton would like to invite you to their chicken dinner being held on Sunday, September 24 from 11 am to 3 pm. The cost is \$13 per dinner.

## The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

"The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

"The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

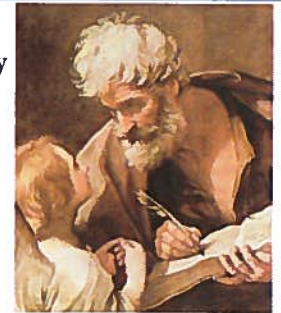
"The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!'

"The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

"The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy" (from Matthew 18).



**Saint of the week: St. Matthew (Sept. 21)** was the son of Alphaeus. He lived at Capernaum on Lake Genesareth. He was a Roman tax collector, a position equated with collaboration with the enemy by those from whom he collected taxes. Jesus' contemporaries were surprised to see the Christ with a traitor, but Jesus explained that he had come "not to call the just, but sinners."



Matthew's *Gospel* is given pride of place in the canon of the *New Testament* and was written to convince Jewish readers that their anticipated Messiah had come in the person of Jesus. He preached among the Jews for 15 years; his audiences may have included the Jewish enclave in Ethiopia and places in the East.



**Obscure saints of the week: St. Cadoc of Llancarvan (Sept. 21)** was the son of Saint Gwynllyw, a king in Wales, a robber chieftain who led a band of 300; his mother, Saint Gladys, had been stolen in a raid on a neighboring chief. He was the brother of Saint Gluvias. Cadoc was raised by an Irish monk; Cadoc's father had stolen the monk's cow, and when he came to demand its return, the king decided it was sign. Cadoc studied in Wales and Ireland and was later ordained a priest.

He once chased through the woods by an armed swineherd from an enemy tribe. His hiding place spooked an old, gray, wild boar that made three great leaps at him – then disappeared; Cadoc took this as a sign, and the location became the site of the great church and monastery at Llancarvan, Wales; the house became renowned for the learning and holiness of its monks.

Legend says he once saved his brother monks in a famine by tying a white thread to the foot of a (well-fed) mouse; he then following the thread to an abandoned, well-stocked, underground granary. Another time he and his brothers went out to meet a band of thieves, chanting and playing harps; it surprised the highwaymen so much, they turned and left.

He lived as a hermit with Saint Gildas on the Island of Flatholmes off Vannes, Brittany. Cadoc established a monastery on a small island just off Brittany, joined by a stone bridge so local children could walk out for school. He returned to Britain to evangelize, and work with Christian survivors of Saxon raids. He was a martyr.

### Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

### When were the mysteries of the Rosary decided?

Given to St. Dominic by our Blessed Mother, the Mysteries of the Rosary directly combat heresy and sin.

St. Dominic knew that the culture was in need of healing. All around him and throughout 13th-century Europe, heresies such as Albigensianism were running rampant. This heresy, with its false teaching that the physical world is inherently evil, was corrupting individuals and communities.

Heartbroken by the state of the Faith, St. Dominic prayed for Our Lady's intercession. Always seeking to aid her children, Our Blessed Mother appeared to St. Dominic and armed him with the most powerful tool that the world has ever seen: the Most Holy Rosary.



At the time, the tradition of praying 150 Hail Mary's consecutively was already in practice and referred to as "Our Lady's Psalter." These repeated Hail Mary's were an incredibly powerful prayer, but in her vision to St. Dominic, Our Lady revealed an additional aspect to the traditional Psalter that would heal her children from the bonds of heresy: the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Our Lady revealed to St. Dominic specific mysteries and events from the life of Christ to correspond with the repeated recitation of the Hail Marys. The mysteries Mary provided were the answer to Dominic's prayers! Focusing on the Incarnation, Passion, and triumph of Jesus, the mysteries combatted the heresies and helped untangle the knots of sin they wove in the hearts of those they plagued. As the practice of the Rosary and its mysteries spread, so did its miraculous healing and power. The Rosary, along with its mysteries and meditations, has become a cornerstone of Catholicism.

Nearly 600 years after her apparitions to St. Dominic, Pope St. John Paul II then added a fourth set, the Luminous Mysteries, in the year 2002. As he gave us these mysteries, which focus on Christ's ministry and public life, Pope John Paul recognized that in them "we contemplate important aspects of the person of Christ as the definitive revelation of God."

Today we are still afflicted both individually and culturally by the chains of sin and heresy and need the Rosary's healing power. The beloved book, *The Secret of the Rosary*, by St. Louis de Montfort—one of the most ardent promoters of the Rosary—is a beautiful way to journey through the Rosary and discover its incredible power. -reprinted with permission The Catholic Company





**Don't forget** to support our Tri-Parish Knights of Columbus with their Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Drive on September 15, 16, and 17. Look for them at Casey's, State Bank of Herscher, Herscher and Limestone sites, and Dollar General in Herscher. They have been great supporters

of Herscher High School's Best Buddies Program and the Kankakee County Training Center. Please consider making a donation so they may continue to help these local organizations that do so much good!

A big shoutout to the following people that put together or pulled the Tri-Parish float for this year's Labor Day parade:

Wayne & Julie Bisailon  
Pete & Diane Denault  
Dana Masching  
Kelly Tobey  
Erik & Corinn Wheeler  
Darren & Hollie Lovell  
Kory & Lisa Scanlon

The float looked great and was a



**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**

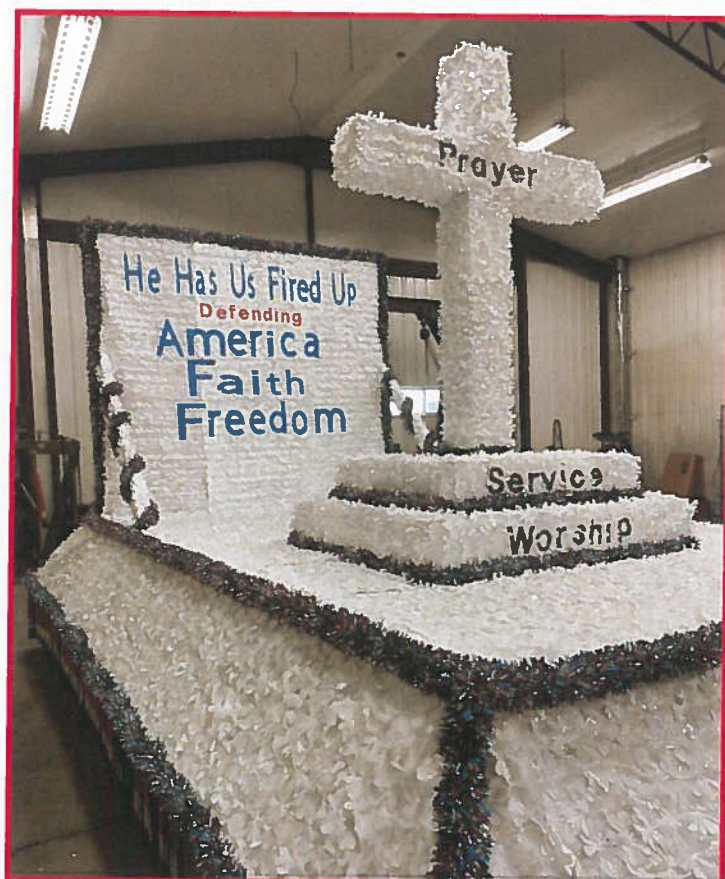
**(at least three days before event).**

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

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.





## Questions Catholics Ask

### Why do we say "Jesus descended into Hell"?

This phrase appears in the less commonly prayed Apostles' Creed (not in the Nicene Creed usually recited at Mass), which may account for why more pew-sitters don't question them. After all, church teaching defines hell as the place of the damned. Why would Jesus visit those who cannot be saved?

The answer lies buried in scripture, as it often does. Theologically, hell derives from an earlier conception of *Sheol* (Hebrew) and *Hades* (Greek). Whatever you call it, ancient ideas about the afterlife weren't pretty. There was no life after death in the ancient reckoning: just an underworld of disembodied bare consciousness without volition or motion. Forget everything you know about Judgment Day: the good, the bad, and the boring were all presumed to end up in the same spiritual substrata of uselessness. The dead were called *shades*, literally shadows of their former selves. Unable to will or to act, they simply moldered together and lamented their lost opportunities.

In the great epic writings of the ancients, heroes often visited the underworld looking for answers, vanquished enemies, or old friends. They might talk to them but they couldn't offer any assistance. The story of Jesus is different. A wonderful homily for Holy Saturday found in the Liturgy of the Hours' Office of Readings says it all: "Today a great silence reigns on earth, a great silence and a great stillness . . . because the King is asleep. . . . He has gone to search for Adam, our first father, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow Adam in his bonds and Eve, captive with him . . . 'I did not create you to be a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead' " (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 635).

The idea that Jesus went to the dead first with the good news of the Resurrection is not a fabrication of early homilists. John's gospel claims: "The hour is coming and is here now when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" (5:25). Luke picks up the theme in Acts, and Paul alludes to it in his letters. The First Letter of Peter says that after being put to death Christ "went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient" and that "the gospel was preached even to the dead" (3:18-19; 4:6). So that answers the question: Jesus went to the dead first to bring good news to those who needed it the most.

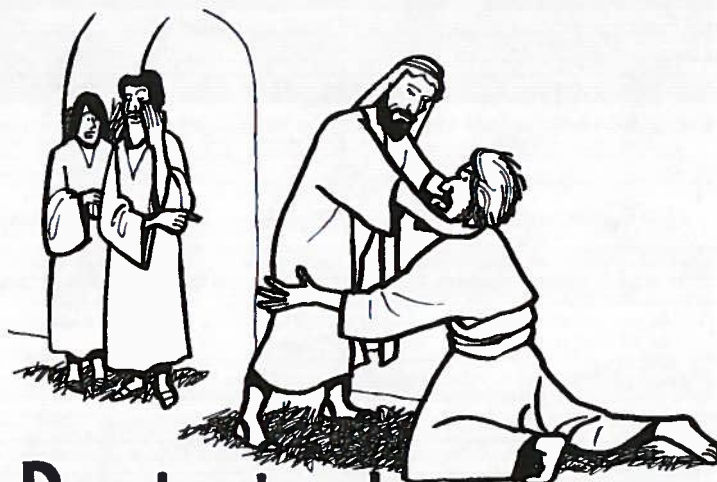
### Scripture

• Psalms 6:6; 88:2-13; Matthew 12:40; John 5:25; Acts 2:24-31; Romans 8:11; 10:7; 1 Corinthians 15:20; Philippians 2:10; Ephesians 4:9; Hebrews 2:14-15; 13:20; 1 Peter 3:18-19; 4:6; Revelation 1:18

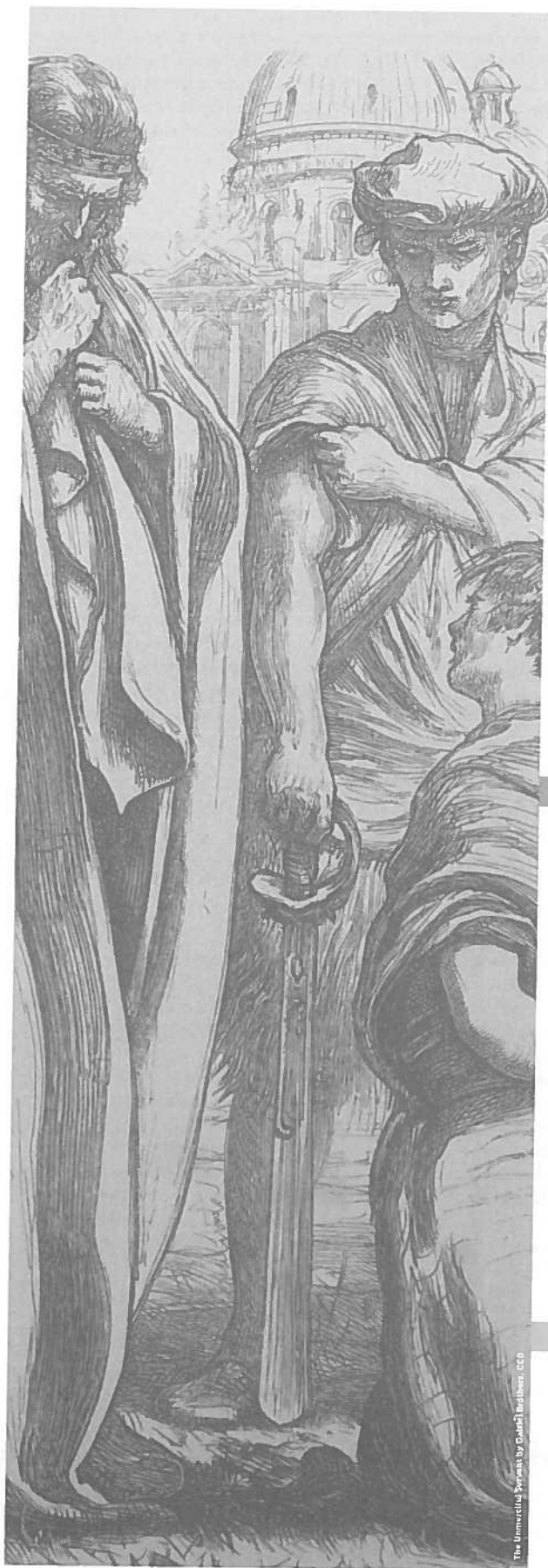
## Save the Date— Saturday, November 18th

**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.



**Pay back what you owe**  
**MT. 18:28**



September 17, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30—28:7 | Rom 14:7-9 | Mt 18:21-35

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

Forgiveness. It seems like a relatively simple *concept*, doesn't it? We ask our merciful Father for it every day when we pray the Our Father: "... forgive us our trespasses..." Then reality hits, as we remember the second part of that phrase: "...as we forgive those who trespass against us ..." *As we forgive others.* Oh, that long, hard road of forgiveness! Easier said than done. Sometimes those old sayings have some merit, don't they? And when we look at today's readings, there is nothing cryptic about them: *forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times*, let go of wrath and anger, forgive your brother and sister *from your heart*. Yes, forgiveness is a simple concept, but it's not easy. Perhaps the answer is to re-read today's Scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to put in the hard work if there is someone in our lives to whom we need to offer our heartfelt forgiveness.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Bishop Robert Barron, in his *Word on Fire Bible* on the Gospels, has four suggestions related to this Gospel on how to become "a better forgiver." The one that stood out to me immediately is "forgive offenses quickly." Don't let them fester and "settle deeply into your psyche." This seems like very sage advice because we can all have a tendency to "stew" about things that are bothering us, which rarely makes them better. Bishop Barron's other suggestions are: Pay attention to your own sins, go to confessions regularly, and offer forgiveness through a concrete act or sign. Which brings us back to the simplicity of it all: God will always forgive us, so we must always forgive others. Doesn't it make sense that to live in the house of our merciful Father, we must emulate him and have loving hearts rather than vengeful hearts?

**PRAY** Examine your heart and take a hard look at whether you are holding on to a wrong that was committed against you. Take it to God in prayer. The more we open our hearts to forgive others, the more at peace we can be. Ponder the last words of today's reading from Sirach:

*Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor;  
remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.*



**Sunday, Sep 17, 2023**

**Each one, teach one**

Teachers, preachers, and professors have their place. But most of us learn life lessons more broadly. The first school is our home environment. Groups we affiliate with and wider media influences also communicate their values. In 1935, the Vatican called for special acknowledgment of how our parish catechists pass on the faith. While it's right to honor our DRE or religion teachers on this Catechetical Sunday, let's recall too the role of parents and indeed all parishioners in modeling a life rich in love, generosity, compassion, and forgiveness. Catechists literally "echo" the example of Jesus. Deliver your echo boldly!

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 27:30–28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35 (130). *"Peter approached Jesus and asked him, 'Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?'"*

**Monday, Sep 18, 2023**

**Make of your life a mission of peace**

In an address to the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Illinois in 1954, Dag Hammarskjöld, the second United Nations secretary-general (1953-61), referred to churches as the "guardians of ... the deepest beliefs and the loftiest dreams ..." of humanity. He died in a plane crash on this date while on a peace mission in the Congo and is the only person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously. Pope Francis praised him in 2015 for giving his life for "reconciliation among peoples." May the example and inspiration of Hammarskjöld, and the many who work to end conflict in the world, unite the people of God in their pursuit.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 7:1-10 (443). *"I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed."*

**Tuesday, Sep 19, 2023**

**The real magic of relics**

The significance of saintly relics is best understood in light of basic Catholic teaching: Relics aren't talismans born of superstition, nor are they magical souvenirs from worship-worthy saints. Moreover, relics deserve the same basic respect as other human remains. This is key because, historically, relics have been the subject of misunderstanding and abuse, everything from pilgrims who would steal bits of saintly bodies to Martin Luther's objection when relics were sold and hoarded like baubles. God alone works miracles and is worthy of worship. Saints merely agree to be the conduit—in obedience to Divine Love—sometimes paying the price with their martyrs' blood. Consider: The real miracle of Januarius' blood might be that he was willing to sacrifice it.

MEMORIAL OF JANUARIUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17 (444). *"A great prophet has arisen in our midst and God has visited his people."*

**Wednesday, Sep 20, 2023**

**Be inspired to broaden your concern**

On this day in 1918, at the age of 58, Mary Theresa Dudzik entered into eternal life. She accomplished a lot of good in her time on Earth. After immigrating to Chicago from Poland at 21, she would invite poor elderly women and girls to her home. "I felt the misery and suffering of others, and it seemed to me that I could not love Jesus, or even expect Heaven if I were concerned only about myself," she wrote. Dudzik started the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1893, the first order of religious women founded in

Chicago. The community devoted itself to aiding the elderly and those in need. She received the honorary title of "Mother" in 1948 and is now a candidate for sainthood. Learn more about Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik and her heroic virtue.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35 (445). *"To what shall I compare the people of this generation?"*

**Thursday, Sep 21, 2023**

**Witness value**

When the name Saint Matthew comes up, many people recall him as the tax collector apostle who wrote the Gospel of Matthew. Modern scholarship has challenged the belief that Matthew the apostle wrote the gospel with his name on it, and other details of Saint Matthew's death by martyrdom cannot be definitively proven. Maybe having precision about all aspects of Matthew's life is not the most important factor in this feast, however. The church celebrates Matthew for being a faithful apostle and evangelist, things to which every Christian can aspire. Does your life evangelize, that is, bear witness to your belief?

FEAST OF MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13 (643).

*"Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience."*

**Friday, Sep 22, 2023**

**Delve into fresh spiritual classics**

The Spirit dwells in each of us and is expressed in myriad ways. The church treasures this rich diversity as "refractions of the one pure light of the Holy Spirit," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it. Too often erased historically, the experiences of women haven't always been allowed to shine as brightly, however. And so we lift up writers such as Monica Coleman, Gloria Anzaldúa, Mary Oliver, Jung Eun Sophia Park, and Phyllis Tickle, renowned spirituality author who died on this date in 2015. Read one of these or another author whose particular "refraction" resonates with your own.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3 (447). *"Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness."*

**Saturday, Sep 23, 2023**

**The essentials of sainthood**

Controversy shadowed the life of the mystical Padre Pio, as Pius of Pietrelcina was known. He was said to bear the stigmata, or wounds of Christ, though detractors claimed he manufactured the wounds with carbolic acid. However one views such claims and counter claims, the undeniable fact is that he was a compassionate counselor to the thousands who came to see him during his lifetime, a tireless servant who lived a simple life. At Padre Pio's canonization Mass in 2002, Saint John Paul II said: "The life and mission of Padre Pio testify that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted with love, transform themselves into a privileged journey of holiness, which opens the person toward a greater good, known only to the Lord." You don't have to be a mystic or stigmatist to mirror the ministry of Christ in your own life—all you need is a kind heart and generous spirit.

MEMORIAL OF PIUS OF PIETRELcina, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15 (448). *"And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold."*

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



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