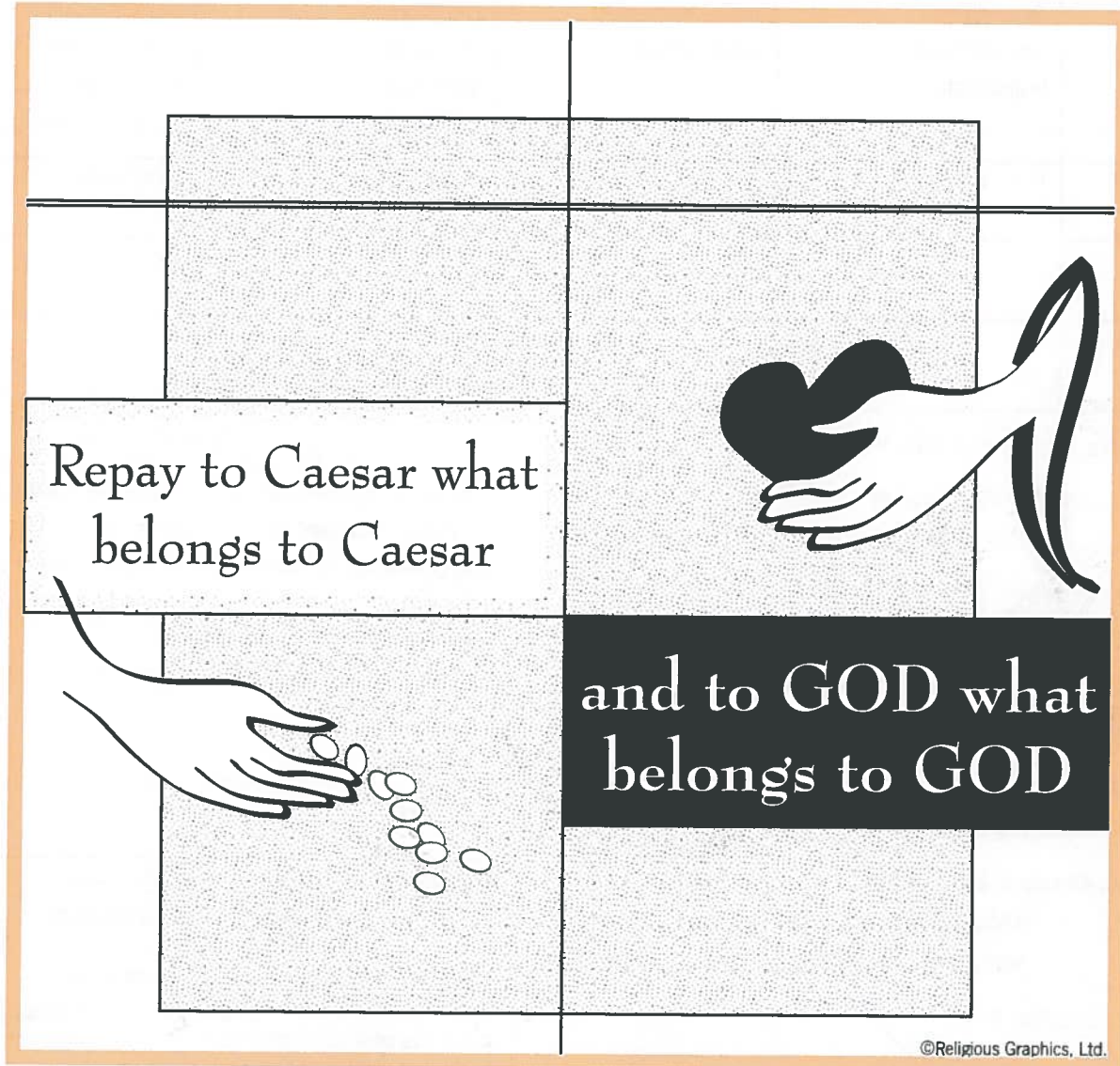


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 21-22, 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 have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life."
 —Winston Churchill

October 28-29, 2023

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, October 28 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, October 29 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, October 29 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, October 29 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Gery Wright Dan Hoffman Bob Schultz Todd Datweiler	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Jerry Ogrentz Vic Carlile Dennis O'Connor Jeff Martin	Wayne Bisailon Darren Lovell Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles
Lector	Dave Emling	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Andy Hansen	Julie Splear
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter — D. Bernicky R. Leader —Reatta Gohlke	

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, October 23 (SMM)
 8:00 am +Janet & Harlyn Bever (Mariann Lane)

Tuesday, October 24 (SH)
 8:00 am (SH) +Duane Ferris (Dino/Cheryl Helopoulos)

Wednesday, October 25 (SJ)
 8:00 am No Mass

Friday, October 27 (SMM)
 8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, October 28 (SMM)
 5:00 pm +Aldine O'Brien (Pat Fosnaugh Family)
 +Michael McCain (Lynday/Earl Datweiler)

Sunday, October 29
 7:30 am +Elaine Joyce (Terri/Jerry Weakley)
 9:00 am (SJ) +Intention of Rita Thiesen (Pam Cuchiara)
 10:30am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

Sunday, October 22—St. James Donut Sunday after Mass
Sunday, October 22— 2nd Collection World Mission
Wednesday, November 1—All Saints' Day 7 pm at SMM
Thursday, November 2—All Souls' Day Mass 7 pm at SJ
November 5-7—Parish Mission
Wednesday, November 8—Adult Ed 7 pm at SMM

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)

Questions of the week:
 What can I do concretely to repay to God what belongs to God?
 How does giving back to God make me feel richer?

Collections Week of Oct. 14-15, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,623

St. James—\$1,836

Sacred Heart—\$1,536

Thank you for your generosity!

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday

That's when the Pharisees plotted a way to trap him into saying something damaging. They sent their disciples, with a few of Herod's followers mixed in, to ask, "Teacher, we know you have integrity, teach the way of God accurately, are indifferent to popular opinion, and don't pander to your students. So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Jesus knew they were up to no good. He said, "Why are you playing these games with me? Why are you trying to trap me? Do you have a coin? Let me see it." They handed him a silver piece.

"This engraving—who does it look like? And whose name is on it?"

They said, "Caesar."

"Then give Caesar what is his, and give God what is his" (from Matthew 22).

Welcome into the faith to

Julia Buckley

daughter of Jason and Emily Buckley
who was baptized at St. Margaret Mary
on October 7, 2023



Welcome into the faith to

Charlotte Mateo

daughter of Lindsey and David Mateo
who was baptized at St. Margaret Mary
on October 7, 2023



Gospel Shorts Little Caesars

Although the world we live in today is radically different in many ways from Jesus' world, there also are similarities. People in Jesus' day had to pay taxes, and so do we. So, it would seem, then, that Jesus' admonition (and excellent response to being trapped) that people should give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's could apply equally well today as it did in, say, 33 A.D.

It does and it can. But there is a deeper dimension here as well. In our world, we have to set even more priorities than possibly in Jesus' day, including suppressing our own "Little Caesars" as we seek to rule our own lives as miniature Roman Empires. Our world is so oriented toward each of us doing our "own thing." By concentrating so much on ourselves, God is squeezed out of the picture. What we must do is control our urge to have our concerns dominate, act as responsible citizens of our land, and give top priority to giving God our very lives.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ Ladies, don't forget you can place your donation for the CCW Bakeless Bake Sale in the collection basket. The money raised will help fund our various worthy projects.
- ◆ Oct 22 is the deadline 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 school. 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.

St. James—

- ◆ Start gathering your winter wear! Our fall/winter service project is for the Kankakee Salvation Army and we'll be collecting warm weather gear as well as blankets for those in need.

Sacred Heart—

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

All Parishes—

- ◆ Boxes of Joy are available for pick up in the entrance to all three parishes. The \$9 shipping fee should be put on top of the box in either cash or a check made out to your CCW. There are lists of items that are suggested for the boxes. St. James needs the boxes returned by Oct. 22. SMM and SH need to be returned by Oct. 29.



Save the Date— Saturday, November 18th



Sacred Heart Parishes Fall Cash Bash 4 pm—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.

Welcome into the faith to

Rhiannon Gayton

daughter of Nona Gayton
who was baptized at St. Margaret Mary
on October 8, 2023





Saint of the week: St. Anthony Claret (Oct. 24) Anthony worked as a weaver in his youth. A seminary student with St. Francisco Coll Guitart. He was ordained on June 13, 1835. He became a missionary in Catalonia and the Canary Islands. Anthony directed retreats, founded the *Congregation of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretians)*, and later was named the Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba on May 20, 1850. Anthony also founded the *Teaching Sisters of Mary Immaculate*. Following his work in the Caribbean, Blessed Pope Pius IX ordered Anthony back to Spain. He was the confessor to Queen Isabella II, and was exiled with her. He had the gifts of prophecy and miracles. Anthony was reported to have preached 10,000 sermons, and published 200 works. He spread devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Obscure saints of the week: St. Luigi Guanella (Oct. 24) was the ninth of thirteen children born to Lawrence and Maria Guanella, a poor but pious family. Luigi entered the seminary at age twelve and was ordained on May 26, 1866. He worked with Saint John Bosco from 1875 to 1878 to care for homeless children. Luigi was the youth director in Turin, Italy, parish priest in Traona, Italy, where he opened a school for the poor. He forced the local anti-Catholic Masons to close in 1881.



He became a parish priest in Pianello del Lario, Italy in 1881 where he founded an orphanage and nursing home. In 1886 the need had outgrown the facility, and Father Luigi moved the home to a larger building which he called the *Little House of Divine Providence*. There he founded the *Daughters of Saint Mary of Providence* to minister to the residents; the congregation received papal approval in 1917, and today has over 1,200 sisters working in over 100 homes. In 1908 Luigi founded a men's congregation, the *Servants of Charity (Guanellians)* which received papal approval in 1928 and 1935, and today has over 500 brothers in over 50 houses.

Father Luigi never bothered to retire, he continued to write meditations and inspirational works and minister to those in need. He was a friend and advisor to Blessed Andrea Carlo Ferrari and Pope Saint Pius X. He reclaimed marsh land in the Sondrio region and built an institute for the handicapped. He worked in the United States with Italian immigrants in 1912. In 1913 he founded the *confraternity of Saint Joseph* whose mission is to pray for the dying, and which today has 10 million members. In 1915, just months before his death, Luigi went into the fields to minister to those who had been harmed by a series of earthquakes in the region.

Tri-Parish Community Invites You to: Return! Renew! Rejoice!

Tri-Parish Community Parish Mission Sun. Nov. 5—Tues., Nov. 7
Led by Fr. Tom Donalson, C.S.S.R.

Mission Prayer

O, Lord, we ask your blessings upon Tri-Parish Community as we prepare for our parish mission.

Teach us to be open to the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Help us to use these gifts for the building of your kingdom here in our community.

Bless every person of our faith community. May this time of preparation bless all of us as we ready ourselves for this time of renewal.

Let us love you, Lord our God, and see ourselves as we really are; pilgrims in this world, Christians called to respect and love all our people.

Help us to cherish your love and give witness to your saving grace among us.

May the Tri-Parish Community be protected from all harm and grow in the service of your name. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

November is Veteran's Appreciation Month

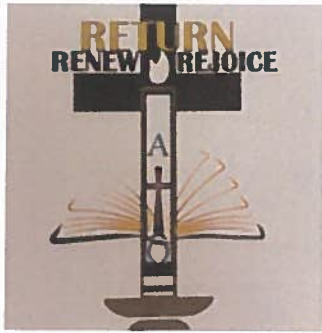
I would like to honor our veteran's, both living and deceased, in the bulletin. If you are a veteran or know of a deceased veteran from any of the four parishes that make up our community please call the office and let us know. We are looking for the following information:

- Veteran's name
- Years they served or are currently serving
- Branch of service
- Were they a combat veteran?
- Living or deceased?
- Which of the four parishes were they a member of?



Return, Renew, Rejoice

Join us for one, or all of the evening services where we'll examine various topics that will rejuvenate your faith and membership in our Catholic Community.



Sunday, November 5 7:00 at St. Margaret Mary
Theme: God's plan of salvation and our response to God's Work of Love

Monday, November 6 7:00 pm at Sacred Heart
Theme: Who is Jesus for us?

Tuesday, November 7 7:00 pm at St. James
Theme: Sin, Reconciliation, and Healing

Questions Catholics Ask

How can I understand the Holy Trinity?

- Is there a "right time" to be called by God? As well as anyone can. The Trinity is the fundamental mystery of Christianity. As such, a definitive understanding is beyond our comprehension! That doesn't mean it's useless to try to conceive of the nature of God. It just means we approach the subject with great humility when we do.
- Consider Trinity as the specifically Christian way of talking about God. When we meet God face-to-face in eternity, it may not be the best word to describe the encounter, but for now it will have to do. At the center of our faith is this doctrine: We believe we are rescued from sin and death by God through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. As theologian Catherine Mowry Lacugna put it, "God, Christ, and the Spirit are equally responsible for our salvation," and each is divine.
- The religion of Israel spoke of God as "One," and not multiples, quite emphatically. Monotheism was a prize Jewish contribution to Near Eastern religious thought, and Christianity says nothing to disagree or to dislodge its significance. Yet even in Hebrew scripture God is variously known and depicted as Spirit (in the breath of creation), Word (in law and prophecy), Presence (in the Tent of Meeting during the Exodus years), and Wisdom (in the wisdom books). That doesn't carve up the divine nature so much as give us poor mortals a way of speaking about Infinity without getting a headache.
- In the person of Jesus, humanity encounters God in a way as intellectually groundbreaking as when Moses came into relationship with God on Mt. Sinai, or the prophets received oracles and revelations. Both the Incarnation and Pentecost reception of indwelling Spirit changed the way we know God for all time. It's no wonder doctrines about the Trinity emerged by the 4th century, countering other ideas we now call heresies which attempted to subordinate Jesus to something less than a full participation in divinity.
- In 1442 the Council of Florence affirmed God the Father as "Unbegotten" (coming from no source and without beginning), the Son as "Begotten" but not made, and the Holy Spirit as "Proceeding" from Father and Son (being sent by and rooted in both). The interior relationship of the Trinity is such that we can't really speak of separate realities, anymore than I can talk about my mother, my father's wife, and the woman she is in herself as three people. Who God is for Christians is Trinity. Who God is to God is still a mystery.

Scripture

[Deuteronomy 5:6-10; 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; Romans 8:14-16; 2 Corinthians 13:13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:3-14](#)



WHOSE IMAGE IS THIS
AND WHOSE INSCRIPTION?

MT. 22:20



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 \$17 to sponsor a wreath. For more information, call Debbie at 815-953-6492. There are forms in the entrance of all three parishes.

Poetry, prayer, and the Psalms help us find God's fingerprints everywhere.

With October in full force the beauty of fall is apparent all aroundus. The trees seem laden with rich reds, oranges, and gold. Each morning brings soft cool blues, while the setting sun sets the evenings ablaze with warm tones and golden hues.

Autumn's beauty is a touching reminder of the beauty of creation and the power of our Creator. The Catholic poet Gerad Manley Hopkins powerfully captured the role nature can play in our prayer life and relationship with the Father in his poem *God's Grandeur*:

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.



Like Gerad Manley Hopkins, we too are called to prayerfully see the Creator in the beauty of His creation. However, this can be increasingly difficult as our lives become increasingly busy and inundated with media. The noise and distractions of our modern lives can make it difficult to notice the subtle changing of leaves or the soft chirping of the morning birds. But we do not need to worry—Sacred Scripture itself can beautifully heal our distracted state of mind.

The Psalms in particular are beautiful poetry that provide an education in the power of prayer and the majesty and mercy of the Creator. Our [Book of Psalms Color Journal](#) is a fun way to incorporate both the beauty of the Psalms and the beauty of nature into your daily routine! With 365 daily psalms, this book is an easy way to spend time each day meditating on Scripture while cultivating your eye for the beauty of God's creation.

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The Tribute Money by Jacob Jordaens, 1634, CC0

October 22, 2023

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 45:1, 4-6 | 1 Thes 1:1-5b | Mt 22:15-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

It strikes me that our readings today are about “belonging.” It may seem like a simple concept, but in practice its meaning and ramifications run deep. Picture a young child coming home after a day at school or child care: He or she may even audibly let out a sigh of relief at the familiar surroundings, the presence of Mom and/or Dad, and all that they hold dear. Is it so different for us? We are God’s, we belong to him. In the first reading God tells Cyrus, “I have called you by your name.” And Jesus says to repay “to God what belongs to God.” How do we do that? We, who have been called by name by virtue of our baptism, do this by putting God first in our lives. By loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind. And by giving him not the leftovers, but the first fruits of our talents, our treasure, and our time. Spend some time in prayer with God today and listen to the words he writes upon your heart.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We have been chosen by God to spread his Good News in the world. We are his witnesses. Sound intimidating? I took comfort in the words from Saint Paul in the second reading: “For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction.” Is it always a “piece of cake” to be Christ’s disciples in the world helping to build his kingdom here on earth? No, certainly not. But the knowledge that we are beloved and valuable in the sight of God, coupled with the power and strength of the Holy Spirit, fortifies us for the task. Are we up to the task? Yes. We belong to God now and forever. Let us strive to act like a child of God in all things, and deepen our reliance on the Holy Spirit when things get tough.

WITNESS Today’s Gospel acclamation, from Philipians, says: “Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life.” There is so much darkness in the world. Make an effort to be the “light” in someone’s life this week, whether it be a spouse, a child, a parent, or a co-worker.

Sunday, Oct 22, 2023

Hearts on fire, feet on the move

Goal-setting is a normal part of life. We set a particular horizon in our education and profession, in domestic budgeting and in relationships. Pope Francis reminds us on this World Mission Sunday that sharing the Good News is the horizon for all church activity. Our aim isn't just to save our souls but to share in the rescue of the world God so loves. "Everyone has the right to receive the gospel. Christians have the duty to announce it without excluding anyone ... as one who shares a joy, signals a beautiful horizon, offers a desirable banquet" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 14). Embrace the mission!

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21 (145). "I am the LORD, there is no other."

Monday, Oct 23, 2023

Break new ground

When most people think of the Catholic Worker Movement, started by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in 1933, its "Houses of Hospitality" that help the urban poor often come to mind. But the movement also started farms that follow a similar model of communal living in voluntary poverty—and they are experiencing a resurgence throughout the country (see if there's one near you). Many Catholics, in parishes and lay or religious communities, make tilling the earth on farms or in community gardens a spiritual practice and are leading the way in sustainable living. Pitch in and help them bring forth bounty!

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21 (473). "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

Tuesday, Oct 24, 2023

Live your vocation inspired by Mary

When Saint Anthony Mary Claret was appointed archbishop to Cuba in 1849, he initiated practical changes to help the working poor: He taught effective farming methods so families could feed themselves while making a living, began credit unions, and set up vocational training for disadvantaged youth. All of this angered wealthy land owners, who expected cheap labor to help them plunder the land for sugar as a lucrative cash crop. Remember Anthony during October's observance of Free Trade Month, supporting supply chains that honor workers instead of corruption and greed. But also remember Anthony this month as we honor Mary. His prayer: "O Heart of Mary, furnace and instrument of love, enkindle me with love of God and my neighbor."

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38 (474). "Be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks."

Wednesday, Oct 25, 2023

Stay a while

Chapter 1 of the Book of Ruth recaps the tragic decade that Naomi endured: A famine chased her from her home; her husband died; her sons died. She was alone—or so it seemed, until her daughter-in-law Ruth promises to stay with her. Little by little, with

Ruth at her side, Naomi can dig out of what must have felt like a living hell. Who has been like Ruth for you? When have you been like Ruth for someone? This week, as we celebrate Pastoral Care Week, we give thanks for the people who provide spiritual care to those struggling with grief, trauma, and other difficult situations. Learn more at the Pastoral Care Week website.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48 (475). "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much."

Thursday, Oct 26, 2023

All creation divinely sings

We're entering the cold season in the North, and nature's show has become more subtle. But the natural world is an ongoing expression of God that anyone can embrace simply by paying close attention. The work of poet Mary Oliver celebrates this. She writes: "Why do people keep asking to see God's identity papers when the darkness opening into morning is more than enough?" Look around. Listen. How is God showing up in your natural surroundings right now?

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53 (476). "Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!'"

Friday, Oct 27, 2023

Breathe in the blessing

Being human is a gift, but sometimes it can feel like a curse. As humans, we are *imago dei*, made in the image and likeness of God. This includes having free will, which oddly enough, we can use to hide or deny our *imago dei*. When we struggle, we might pause and pray with Saint Augustine: "Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy."

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59 (477). "For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want."

Saturday, Oct 28, 2023

Help is at hand

The gospels do not elaborate on the life of Saint Jude, but he must have had a reputation for a sunny disposition to later come to be known as the saint of hopeless causes and desperate situations. Which, in a sense, makes him the saint of us all. The human condition, prone to illness, aging, and death, would be fairly desperate if it were not for redemption. Saint Jude is worthy of a daily "thank you" for being there when the chips are down.

FEAST OF SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16 (666). "He called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve."

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



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