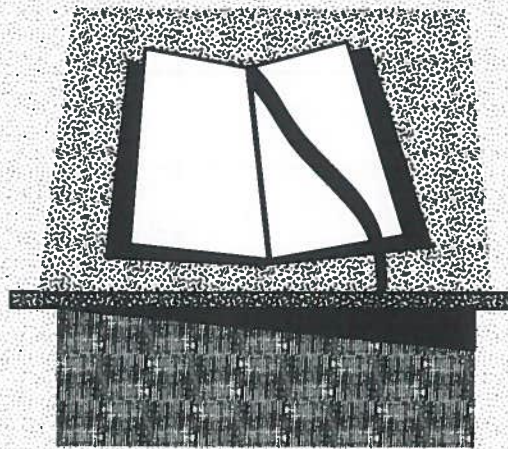
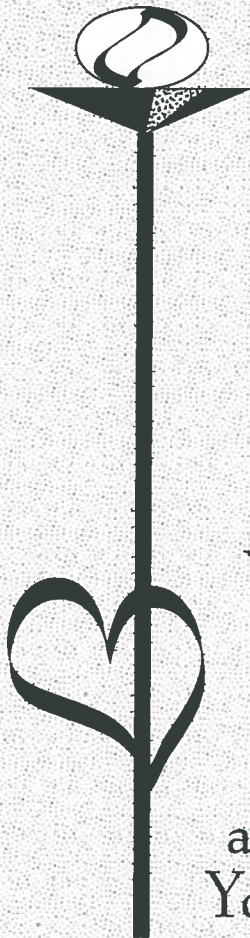


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**OCTOBER 28-29, 2023**

**On this the whole law is based**



You shall love the LORD  
your GOD with  
your whole heart,  
and your whole soul,  
and with your whole mind.  
You shall love your neighbor  
as yourself.

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**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: "I always think that the best way to know God is to love many things."

—Vincent van Gogh

November 4-5, 2023

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Nov. 4 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, November 5 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, November 5 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, November 5 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Gery Wright Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	Jeff Steinke Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Jerry Ogrentz	Kim Smicker Joe Smolkovich Marko Smolkovich Jeremy Wolles
Lector	Hillary Webb	Mike Hertz	Carrie Abrassart	Corinn Wheeler
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter— C. Forsythe R. Leader—Perrboltes	

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, October 30 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Donna Ruder (Dennis/Janice Schneider)

**Tuesday, October 31 (SH)**

8:00 am (SH) +Jennifer Bonds (Joe/Rhonda Berns)

**Tuesday, October 31 All Saints' Day Vigil (SH)**

7:00 pm (SH) +Leland Denault (Joe/Tina Petersen)

**Wednesday, November 1 All Saints Day**

8:00 am (SJ) + Gerald Bernicky (The Family)

7:00 pm (SMM)+JR Matern (Bob/Colleen Schultz)

**Thursday, November 2 (SJ) All Souls' Day**

7:00 pm +Deceased parishioners during last year

**Friday, November 3 (SJ) First Friday**

8:00 am +Ruby Strachan (The Family)

**Saturday, November 4 (SMM)**

5:00 pm +Brian Buckley (Yvonne/Diane Saffer)

+Connie Dionne (Her Family)

**Sunday, November 5**

7:30 am +Jerry Whalen (Diane Whalen)

9:00 am (SJ) +Pat Perreault (Dave/JoAnne Berg)

+ Karen Batdorf (The Hertz Family)

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

**A Look Ahead**

**Sunday, October 28**— Donuts with Deacon at SMM after 10:30 Mass

**Tuesday, October 31**— All Saint's' Day Vigil 7 pm at SH

**Wednesday, November 1**—All Saints' Day 7 pm at SMM

**Thursday, November 2**—All Souls' Day Mass 7 pm at SJ

**Friday, November 3**—First Friday Adoration 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](http://www.triparishcatholics.org)

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

**Tri Parish Church office** –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

**Bulletin** – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

**Religious Education** –

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

St. James – Carolyn Levyclevystjames@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

**Parish Nurse** – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

**Prayer Line**– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [Jdstreefarms@aol.com](mailto:Jdstreefarms@aol.com)

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

## Collections Week of Oct. 21-22, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,595      World Mission— \$182  
 St. James—\$1,357              World Mission—\$368  
 Sacred Heart—\$1,008          World Mission—\$254

Thank you for your generosity!

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday

When the Pharisees heard how he had bested the Sadducees, they gathered their forces for an assault. One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: "Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?"

Jesus said, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them" *(from Matthew 22).*

### Questions of the week:

What neighbor do I know who is in need? What can I do for them, even if it's just something simple?

### Question for All Saints Day

What concrete action can I take this month to reflect God's love and mercy to others?

### Question for All Soul's Day

Who do I mourn for today? How can I see myself as remaining connected with them?



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**+Mary E. Austin**

mother of Sandy Kambic

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

Our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

### Gospel Shorts

### If the Heart is Right

As Sir Walter Raleigh was being executed, someone suggested that his head on the block should be turned eastward toward the Holy Land. The brave man then spoke these memorable words: "What matter how the head lie, if the heart be right?" That was insightful and true. Christians are those concerned about having "right hearts." Jesus indicated that the way to have a right heart was to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength and one's neighbor as oneself. Loving God and loving others is the clue to "rightness" of heart.



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection is Nov. 4-5 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

### 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.
- ◆ Donuts with Deacon after 10:30 am Mass at SMM on 10/28.

#### St. James-

- ◆ Thanks to everyone who participated in the Boxes of Joy program!
- ◆ Please remember to donate your warm winter gear to the display in the hallway for the Salvation Army.
- ◆ Don't forget to sign up on the bulletin board to bring an appetizer for our Mission refreshments on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

#### Sacred Heart-

- ◆ The week of October 29th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in thanksgiving for answered prayers.
- ◆ **Please return ticket proceeds and unsold Cash Bash tickets no later than November 5. Please bring in baskets and auction items no later than November 12th. There are still Cash Bash tickets available for those who have not purchased yet.**

#### All Parishes—

- ◆ There will be a second collection on the weekend of Nov. 11-12 for the seminarians. There are no envelopes for this collection so you can just write on an envelope or just put your donation in the basket.
- ◆ **Make sure your calendar is marked for next week's mission!**



## 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.

### Reflections

### One Language

Birds sing not in Chinese, winds do not sigh in French. Seas roar not in Spanish, nor brooks murmur in English. Young fawns don't cry in Greek or thunder boom in German. Nature speaks a universal language all can understand.

**Saint of the week: St. Mathurin of Larchant (Nov. 1)** was raised a pagan; his father was even commissioned to persecute Christians by emperor Maximian. Mathurin converted at age 12 and was ordained a priest at age 2, by Saint Polycarp. He was known as a zealous evangelist in his region, even converting his parents. In addition, he was a noted exorcist, even healing Theodora, the daughter of the emperor; his ministry of dealing with the possessed led to his tradition of patronage of the mentally ill.



**Obscure saints of the week: St. Nuno de Santa Maria Alvares Pereria**

**(Nov. 1)** was the cousin of the founder of the noble Braganza family. Nuno was the constable of the kingdom of Portugal, a knight, and a prior in the *Order of Saint John of Jerusalem*. Nuno was married, a career soldier, a hero fighting for Portuguese independence. He was widowed and later became a lay-brother in the *Order of Friars of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel* at Lisbon, Portugal in 1423, taking the name *Nuño of Saint Mary*. He undertook the meanest duties in the friary, begging alms from door to door. He founded a monastery at Lisbon. He was noted for a life of prayer, penance, and devotion to Our Lady.

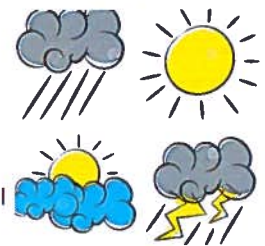
**You Get What You What You Look For**

**TRAVELER:** "What kind of weather are we going to have today?"

**SHEPHERD:** "The kind of weather I like."

**TRAVELER:** "How do you know it will be the kind of weather you like?"

**SHEPHERD:** "Having found out, sir, I cannot always get what I like, I have learned always to like what I get. So I am quite sure we will have the kind of weather I like."



**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**

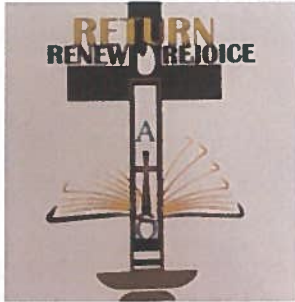
I would like to honor our veteran's, both living and deceased, in the bulletin. If you are a veteran or know of a deceased veteran from any of the four parishes that make up our community please call the office and let us know. We are looking for the following information:

- 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*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER OUR BELOVED WHO HAVE  
DIED IN THE PAST YEAR—

GERALD BERNICKY

CONNIE DIONNE

JOHN DITTRICH

MARIE DUVAL

JAMES FELLER

FLYNN FIEDLER

PATRICK FOSNAUGH

VIRGINIA FRITZ

ANNE GEHRKE

MICHAEL HALPIN

JAMES JEPSEN

PATRICIA PERREAULT

GERALD REGNIER

DONNA RUDER

MICHAEL SOUCIE

THEY WILL BE REMEMBERED IN AN  
ALL SOULS' DAY CEREMONY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 7:00 PM AT ST. JAMES



Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, November 3 at St. James

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



TEACHER, WHICH  
COMMANDMENT IN  
THE LAW IS THE  
GREATEST?

MT.22:36

## Catholic Snacks

A regular examination of conscience is essential to growing in our faith and strengthening our relationship with Christ.

St. Paul emphasized the importance of regular daily examination of conscience, especially 1 Corinthians. St. Ignatius Loyola crafted two types of examination of conscience to be said each day: **the general examination** and **the particular examination**. When you do a general examination, you review your day and reflect on what went right and what went wrong. In a particular examination, you can focus on one specific fault of that day and brainstorm how to avoid it in the future.

You can make these examinations of consciences in the morning or evening, or both.

Before Confession, we follow an examination of conscience in preparation to confess our recent sins and seek repentance. Before you make your confession, ask the Holy Spirit to help you feel sorry for your sins. You then spend some time reflecting on the sins you have committed since you last went to Confession. A good way to identify your sins is to follow a guide with questions to ask yourself about sins you may have committed, then writing your sins down before you enter the confessional. *The Daily Roman Missal* provides an in-depth list of questions to ask yourself before confession.

The Ignatian practice of a daily general examination is a great way to strengthen your self-awareness, which will in turn make your examination of conscience before confession easier and more powerful. This Ignatian Examen is done in 5 steps:

1. Ask God for Light
2. Give Thanks
3. Review your Day
4. Reflect on Shortcomings
5. Look Toward the Day to Come



Begin this powerful spiritual practice with this lovely [St. Ignatius Spiritual Awareness Bracelet!](#) Wear this bracelet as you practice the exercise daily — in the morning and in the evening and use it to track each of the five steps of the Daily Examen.

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## WREATHS *across* AMERICA

There are two different opportunities for you to place a wreath on a Veteran's grave for the holidays. One is for a gravesite at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the other is for veterans that are buried in local cemeteries. The information for both opportunities is below. Thank you in advance for showing support for our veterans.

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. These wreaths will be placed on the gravesites on December 16. You may designate a particular grave or just sponsor a wreath for a grave that does not have a sponsor.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a wreath for our parish veterans at St. Peter and Paul cemetery may do so by contacting me ([lmtders@hotmail.com](mailto:lmtders@hotmail.com), or 815-955-3375) or by using this website <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/pages/172360/Overview>. You may also sponsor a wreath at any of the other local cemeteries with the same contact info above. Also, we will be seeking volunteers to lay the wreaths on December 16th. Ceremony at the Legion at 11AM and placing wreaths immediately following.

### THE MISSION OF WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA —

**REMEMBER THE FALLEN. HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE. TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION THE VALUE OF FREEDOM.**



October 29, 2023

## Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 22:20-26 | 1 Thes 1:5c-10 | Mt 22:34-40

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Sometimes I stop paying attention to the news for a period of time. There seems to be little that's "new" in the daily barrage of natural disasters and the countless ways we humans hurt each other. I've even stopped using social media, which at least made me smile when seeing photos of friends and family welcoming little ones or celebrating big milestones. Which brings me to today's Gospel: Sometimes it seems overwhelming to want to love as Christ commands, and I feel that there's little, if anything, I can do for people outside of my social circle, let alone on the opposite side of the world. Hearing of my struggles with compassion fatigue, a friend recently reminded me of some wise words that have been attributed to St. Mother Teresa: "Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you." We love as Christ commands by willing the good of the other. And it is not trite or cliché to say at times, "honestly, all I can do right now is pray." After all, as the Lord says, "If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate." When our compassion is exhausted, let the Lord carry it, for he never tires. And then, when it is possible, practical, and seems to be inspired by the Holy Spirit, we can do more – whatever that may be.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

If you're like me and somewhat daunted by the second greatest commandment, I encourage you to take another look at today's readings. "You shall love your *neighbor*..." (emphasis added). Surely the world is far too large for us to make a difference? Therefore, remember that "God so loved the world" – and what he asks of us is to love our *neighbor*. So leave the world to God; pray for and give alms for those bigger world issues when we're able. When our circumstances change and we have more time and energy to take on more, such as participate in ministry, even better! But until then, when we walk out our front door in the morning, we go forth knowing that we are "imitators ... of the Lord," and that this smaller, much more manageable part of the world is what we are called to tend. Let our most active role in being the body of Christ extend to what is immediate to us – our neighbor and community – because that is where we will have the most influence for Christ in the world.

**MEDITATE** When you feel overwhelmed with the world, reflect upon today's responsorial psalm: "I love you, Lord, my strength." Let God's love for the world and his strength flow into your heart, and know that you can call on him to help you bear the burden of love.

**Sunday, Oct 29, 2023**

### Look beyond our differences

Healing serious division is challenging. The deeper the breach, the tougher the reconciliation. Since 1567, mainline Protestant denominations have celebrated Reformation Day on this Sunday. Yet in 2016, Pope Francis also acknowledged this observance, reaching out to the head of the Lutheran Church to state: "With gratitude we acknowledge that the Reformation helped give a greater centrality to sacred Scripture in the Church's life." Catholic-Lutheran dialogue continues to express the gifts of the Reformation and to seek forgiveness for division perpetuated by Christians from both traditions. Our witness is stronger together. Collaborate across the aisle.

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10; Matthew 22:34-40 (148). *"For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth.... in every place your faith in God has gone forth."*

**Monday, Oct 30, 2023**

### Healing on tap

When you read the gospels, you can't help but be amazed by how much of Jesus' public ministry was devoted to healing the sick, whether in body, mind, or soul. The church continues Christ's healing ministry as central to its works in myriad ways. Pope Benedict XVI said, "Healing is an essential dimension of the apostolic mission and of Christian faith in general." In fact, he said, Christianity is a "religion of healing." What troubles your body and spirit? Bring it to Jesus to be restored to health and wholeness.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 8:12-17; Luke 13:10-17 (479). *"He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God."*

**Tuesday, Oct 31, 2023**

### Death be not proud

From the Irish we get ancient Celtic elements of Samhain, the idea of a veil separating the living from the dead becoming so thin that it's permeable. From Mexico, we get Día de los Muertos: visiting loved ones' graves, awaiting a festive reunion as the separation between life and death momentarily dissolves. For Halloween, treat-seeking kids dress as devils, vampires, and zombies—traversing yards bedecked with tombstones and skeletons. Or, if we've attended Catholic schools, the focus is more heavenly, with costumes of saints and angels. However we observe this Eve of All Saints, our Catholic belief about the "last things" comes with an assurance that we are meant to return to the one who loved us into existence. "At the evening of life," says Saint John of the Cross, "we shall be judged on our love."

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 8:18-25; Luke 13:18-21 (480). *"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us."*

**Wednesday, Nov 01, 2023**

### See the saints in living color

Today as the church celebrates All Saints, parishes and websites around the globe will feature an image of 15th-century Dominican Friar Fra Angelico's *The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs*. This much-loved painting was originally part of an altarpiece in the Church of San Domenico near Florence. Most of the hallowed figures in the painting look toward Christ. They appear in long rows and represent important male and female

biblical figures, martyrs, and saints, including Saint John the Baptist in the top row, wearing a camel-hair tunic and holding a wooden cross. He looks directly at the viewer and points the way to Christ—exactly his role in salvation history. Christian art is a great tool for learning about the saints, Christian symbolism, and Catholic theology, and the paintings and frescoes of Fra Angelico are a good place to start.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a (667). *"Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God."*

**Thursday, Nov 02, 2023**

### A work in progress

The notion of "purgatory" is really quite simple and true to human experience. All of life is a process, and our best efforts can lead to progress but never perfection in this lifetime. What makes today special is that we can all participate in that process with our dearly departed, by our prayers, our good and generous deeds, and at Mass. Lend a helping hand today to those who are further along in the process. And may we all meet again one day, and, in the meantime we pray, "May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9; John 6:37-40 (668). *"And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day."*

**Friday, Nov 03, 2023**

### The struggle continues

On September 30, 1962 riots broke out at the University of Mississippi as James Meredith, accompanied by U.S. marshals, walked to campus to register for classes. Many fought to keep him out, but justice prevailed. Meredith would become the first black student at Ole Miss. Today, the nearby church of St. John the Evangelist honors this memory with a stained-glass window of Martin de Porres facing the street where Meredith began his walk to the university. De Porres, too, had experienced racism and was barred from becoming a priest in 17th-century Peru because of the color of his skin. Saint Martin de Porres, pray for us on the long march of equality.

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN DE PORRES, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 9:1-5; Luke 14:1-6 (483). *"My conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness."*

**Saturday, Nov 04, 2023**

### Be an instrument of change

During his first homily as pope in 2013, Pope Francis quoted Léon Bloy, a 20th-century French novelist who was known for his passionate defense of the faith. In 1904 he became friends with Raïssa Maritain, a poet, philosopher, and Hasidic Jew. She was so influenced by Bloy that she, along with her well-known husband Jacques, and her sister Vera, converted to Catholicism, with Bloy as sponsor. The "three Maritains" as they were known, took their place at the center of a circle of French Catholic intellectuals. Raïssa died on this day in 1960. What kind of influence might you have on those searching for a faith to believe in?

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Luke 14:1, 7-11 (484). *"The one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

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



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