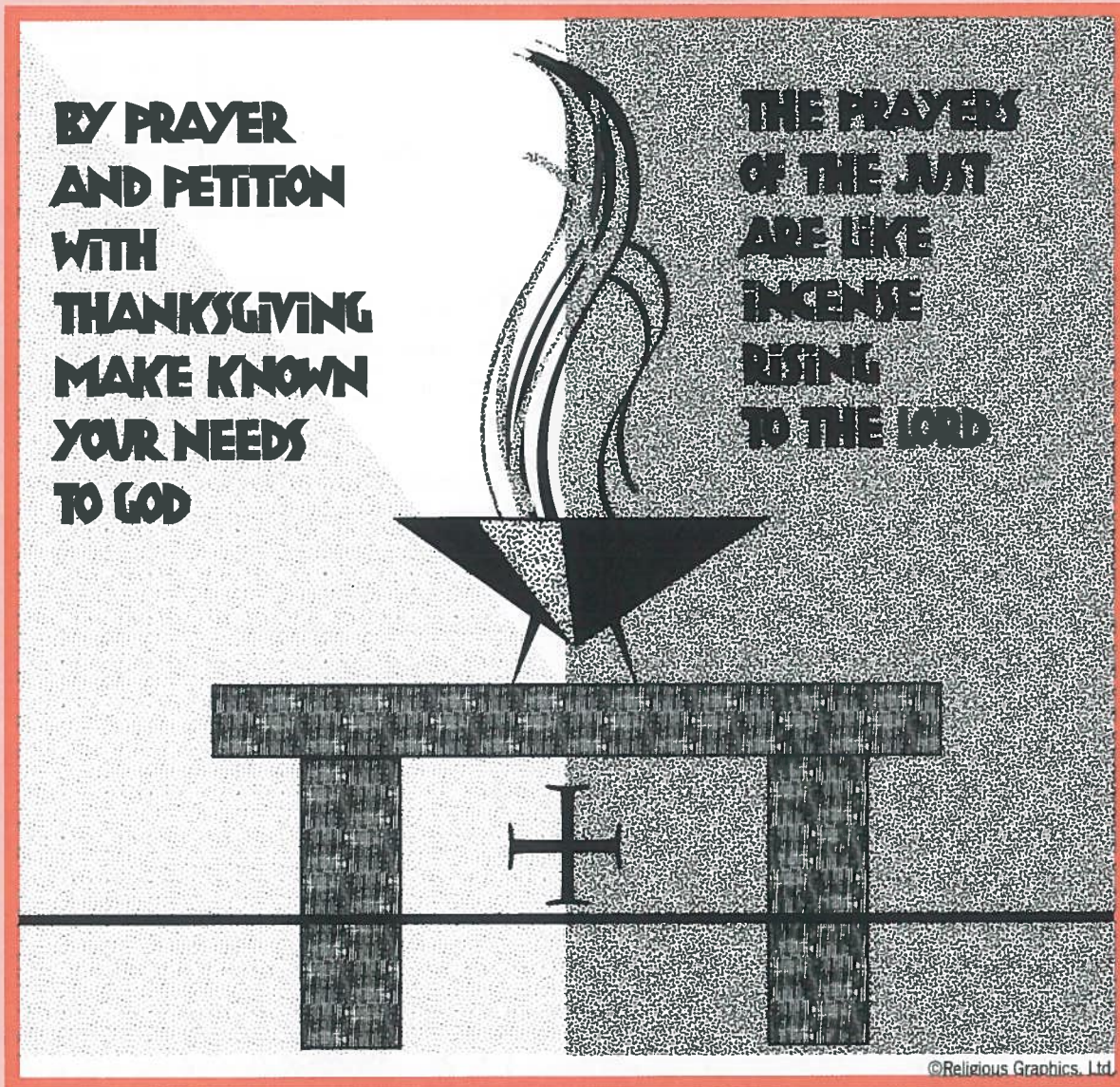


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 7-8, 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: "Holiness is not the accumulation of virtues. Holiness is being possessed by God."

—Father John Riccardo

October 14-15, 2023

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, October 14 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, October 15 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, October 15 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, October 15 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen Bob Schultz	David Kirkpatrick Kyle Ferris	Youth Mass	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Kim Smicker Corey Eich
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Terri Weakley	Youth Mass	Corinn Wheeler
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter— Karen Miller R. Leader— Rita Thiesen	The Wheelers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, October 9 (SMM)

8:00 am +Sandy & Rick Lafrance (Mariann Lane)

Tuesday, October 10 (SH)

8:00 am (SH) +Donna Ruder (Jerry/Terri Weakley)

Wednesday, October 11 (SJ)

8:00 am +Gerald Bernicky (Mark/Sue Richie)

Friday, October 13 (SMM)

8:00 am +Dick Fitch (Kathy Dumas)

Saturday, October 14 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, October 15

7:30 am +Dorine Schafer (Jackie Cross Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Connie Dionne (Rita Thiesen)

+Laurie Hansen (Kankakee Foods)

10:30am (SMM) +John Andrzejewski (The Family)

+Bill Fritz (Dennis/Sue O'Connor)

A Look Ahead

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

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

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

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

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 jdstreetfarms@aol.com

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

Questions of the week:

What specific thing can I do this week to produce fruit for the kingdom of God?

Collections Week of Oct. 1, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,306

St. James—\$2,212

Sacred Heart—\$1,127

Thank you for your generosity!

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday

"Here's another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his profits.

"The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. 'Surely,' he thought, 'they will respect my son.'

"But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. 'This is the heir! Let's kill him and have it all for ourselves.' They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.

"Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?"

"He'll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance," they answered. "Then he'll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it's time."

Jesus said, "Right—and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles:

*The stone the masons threw out is now the cornerstone.
This is God's work;
we rub our eyes, we can hardly believe it!*

"This is the way it is with you. God's kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life" (from Matthew 21).

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

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

St. James—

Sacred Heart—

- 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. Tickets are going quickly.

All Parishes—

- The Tri-Parish Knights are once again playing Dart ball this Fall and Winter. Games are generally the first and third Monday October through March. Anyone interested in playing who is not already a team member, contact Dave Emling @ (309) 235-4392

Gospel Shorts If Only I Would Have

Life is

full of lost opportunities. Many of us have passed up a great opportunity because it did not appear worthwhile at the time. Either we didn't believe it, or we may have put it on a back burner and forgotten about it. We may not have given it priority. In a sense, these were all ways of rejecting a promise held out to us.

Matthew 21: 33-43 speaks of the rejected building stone that became the Cornerstone. Similarly, Jesus has been rejected by his own people — even those who proclaim his name. But regardless of our response, Jesus still offers his invitation, and encourages us to give him residence in our hearts. This Cornerstone is meant to write a different melody on the hearts of those

Reflections A Meditation on Welcoming

We all long to be accepted by others. Feeling welcome, we feel accepted. Feeling accepted, we feel more worthwhile, because we can see that someone believes in us. When we welcome others, God's welcome to us is passed on.

Imagine yourself in Martha's place. What would you do if Jesus came to your home? How would you make him feel welcome? What would you be concerned about?

Imagine Jesus tells you what will make him feel welcome and accepted. How is that different than what you have done?

Think back over the last few days to times you felt welcomed. You may have been at Mass, shopping, meetings, and other places. How did others make you feel welcome?

Remember a chance that you had to welcome someone else recently. It may have been someone who sat next to you, a stranger in church, someone who called on the phone.

What did you do?

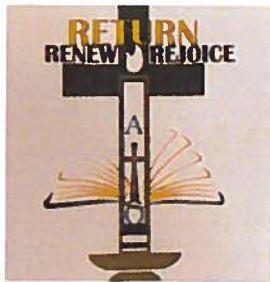
Imagine the situation as if it were happening again, but this time you are being even more welcoming.



Obscure saints of the week: St. Pelagia the Penitent (Oct. 8) was a professional dancer. Pelagia attended a sermon by Saint Nonnus of Edessa during which he spoke of a stripper who worked to make herself beautiful and her dance perfect but did nothing for the work of God. Pelagia immediately converted, confessed her sins, and was baptized. She turned away from her former life, moved to Jerusalem, and lived as a hermit the rest of her days, possibly wearing men's clothes so people would leave her alone.



St. Reparata (Oct. 8) was baptized very young. She was arrested and tortured for her faith at age 11 during the persecution of Decius. Thrown into a furnace to die, she sat for a while in the flames, then emerged unharmed. Rather than see this as divine intervention, the authorities simply offered her another chance to apostatize; when she refused, she was beheaded.



Tri-Parish Community Invites You to:

Return!

Renew

Rejoice!

Tri-Parish Community Parish Mission

Sunday, November 5—Tuesday, November 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.

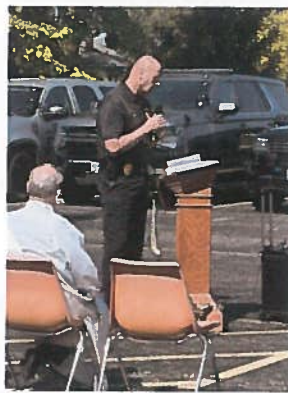
Let us love you, Lord our God, and see ourselves as we really are; pilgrims in this world, Christians called to respect and love all our people.

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

BLESSING OF THE SQUADS 9/30/2023

ST MARGARET MARY



Prayer for Police

Oh Almighty God, whose great power and eternal wisdom embraces the universe.
Watch over all policemen and law enforcement officers.
Father in Heaven please give them the strength, courage and perseverance to endure
The unjust condemnation, danger, and physical abuse to which they are at times subjected.
We recommend them to your loving care because their duty is dangerous.
Dear God, grant these brave men your almighty protection,
Unite them safely with their families after duty has ended.

- Author Unknown

Celebrate Respect Life Month



2023 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY RALLY

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

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



PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR OUR NATION.

Please bring a lawn chair.

For more information, please contact:

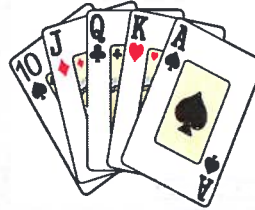
Cindy Gagnon – (815) 933-4077; Rhonda Berns – (815) 426-5015; Kathy Meli – (815) 928-8988



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.

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.

Join Us
For a night of Dancing, Cocktails,
and Hors D'oeuvres

TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA Fundraising Event WITH JIM BULANDA

HOSTED BY STS. MARY & JOSEPH
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CHEBANSE



NOVEMBER 11, 2023

6:30-9:30PM

CLIFTON PARISH HALL
450 E THIRD ST
CLIFTON, IL

\$50 per person
All proceeds go directly back to the church
Contact Bridget Berggren for tickets 815-685-6339



ALL ARE WELCOME!
Click button below or
scan QR code to register

REGISTER
NOW



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

REGISTER
NOW

Department of
Catechesis and
Evangelization
Departamento de
Catequesis y
Evangelización

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

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

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

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

ESTÁN CORDIALMENTE INVITADOS
A LA DIOCESIS DE JOLIET

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

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

La misa será celebrada por el obispo Ronald Hicks,
refrescos y compañerismo a seguir. Aquellos con
discapacidades, y sus cuidadores, recibirán una
benedicción especial.

Questions? ¿Preguntas?

Renata Cichowicz
(815) 221-8245

rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org

DIOCESE OF JOLIET





October 8, 2023

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 5:1-7 | Phil 4:6-9 | Mt 21:33-43

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Vineyards were important to the socio-economic structure and well-being of the ancient near east peoples. It would be disastrous for someone to plant and then cultivate a vineyard only for it to be overrun by wild grapes. It would have to be destroyed in order for it to be replanted and recover, which would be financially impossible for most people of that era. So when Isaiah prophesies about God's plan for his vineyard - that is, his people, Israel - it is attention-worthy for its radical nature. Isaiah says that even with all of the Lord's care and cultivation, his people have failed to grow, and they have devolved into idolatry and disobedience. So the Lord will bring his vineyard to ruin. Here's the good news contained (but unspoken in these verses) in that prophecy, however: The Lord will "start over," with a new covenant. And the Word which he sends forth in his Son will be the vine from which all other branches will arise and flourish. Though he will be killed for his message as prophets and messengers before him were, the Son in his victory over death will be the one who gives us the inheritance other tenants have sought. As Jesus himself says in today's Gospel "the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." And on this cornerstone is built our salvation.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

There is much to love here on our earthly home - fragrant flowers, beautiful sunsets, and compassionate people. Still, it can be a place of great pain and sadness at times. It can be easy to feel angry and resentful when we encounter the imperfections of the world - when we experience heartache, loss, disappointment. Although working in the Lord's vineyard can be both joyful and heartbreaking, it is up to us to do our best to help it produce fruit until it is time to head to our heavenly home. It is our inheritance, as Christ has made us coheirs with him. St. Paul encourages us to "Have no anxiety at all." Surely, that is easier said than done, but the great Apostle tells us that by our prayers and petitions, "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

PRAY When we pray to God, we should follow the example of the saints who came before us. St. Paul notes: "Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you." Our prayers are a time to make requests of God but also should be used for thanksgiving. As St. Paul directs, we should make note of all those things that are true, just, lovely, or otherwise worthy of praise.

Sunday, Oct 08, 2023

To the greater good!

Our country's second poet laureate, Richard Wilbur (1921-2017), fought in the Second World War. It convinced him that writing verse was serious business: "One does not use poetry ... to organize oneself and the world, until one's world somehow gets out of hand." Wilbur explained: "I feel that the universe is full of glorious energy ... and that the ultimate character of things is comely and good. I am perfectly aware that I say this in the teeth of all sorts of contrary evidence, and that I must be basing it partly on temperament and partly on faith." Believe in the ultimate goodness, regardless of any evidence to the contrary!

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43 (139). *"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious ... think about these things."*

Monday, Oct 09, 2023

Going the distance for faith

In the third century, Saint Denis evangelized the country that would come to be France (then called Gaul), and he is thought to have been the first bishop of Paris (then called Lutetia). He was so successful at making converts that the Roman governor beheaded him on the highest hill in the city, now known as Montmartre. It was said he picked up his head and kept preaching while walking many miles before reaching his burial site in a town later named after him. He is the patron saint of France and one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Call on him for a missionary zeal that just won't quit.

MEMORIAL OF DENIS, BISHOP, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 1:1—2:1-2, 11; Luke 10:25-37 (461). *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind."*

Tuesday, Oct 10, 2023

Don't shortchange charity

In 2021, Pope Francis used today, World Mental Health Day, to pray for those "affected by mental disorders and also the victims, often young, of suicide." This June, Francis mentioned teen suicide again, decrying a "culture that leads young people to think that they are 'losers.'" Francis also emphasized the basic human right to medical care and social services—so critical for mental health—but he also pointed to us individual Christians, who in our "haste" don't often stop long enough to care for each other. "It is easy to delegate charity to others, yet the calling of every Christian"—according to Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan—"is to become personally involved." His advice? Learn from Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who said, "charity must not remain locked in the depths of one's heart."

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42 (462). *"The Lord said to her in reply, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things.'"*

Wednesday, Oct 11, 2023

A shrine for the ages

In America's "first city," St. Augustine, Florida, many Catholics today will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of La Leche, dedicated to a Marian apparition first recognized during the time of the Spanish colonial empire. The devotion, depicting Mary nursing the infant child Jesus, traveled with settlers to Florida in the 16th century, and a shrine to her was built at Mission Nombre de Dios in the

new colony of St. Augustine. The shrine is the oldest in the United States, having received canonical coronation in 2021, and is a popular pilgrimage site for those seeking intercession related to a pregnancy. Maybe today is the day for you to offer a special prayer for someone in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4 (463). *"All the nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord, and glorify your name."*

Thursday, Oct 12, 2023

Come as you are

Christians whose personalities would never be called pious or meek might take heart in Caryll Houselander (1901-54), whose death we commemorate today. She smoked, drank, and was said to have a sharp tongue. But people were drawn to her for good counsel, and Houselander's spiritual writing persists. A sample: "Love is most likely to spring from another's need for us, and the fact of spending ourselves for another always generates new life in us." With your own God-given personality, warts and all, take a step today toward building the Kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:13-20b; Luke 11:5-13 (464). *"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find."*

Friday, Oct 13, 2023

The devil doesn't have a prayer

In an interview in *Exorcists against Satan* by Italian journalist Fabio Marchese Ragona, Pope Francis was asked about the devil. "It is possible that I get on the Devil's nerves," he said, "because I try to follow the Lord and do what the Gospel says. And that annoys him. At the same time, he is certainly happy when I commit some sin. He seeks man's failure, but he has no chance if there is prayer." It is a great mystery that God should permit diabolical activity, says the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "but we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him" (CCC 395). Take the simple steps of daily prayer and good works to keep the devil at bay.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Luke 11:15-26 (465). *"If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?"*

Saturday, Oct 14, 2023

Redeeming qualities

There was a profound division in the church during the third-century pontificate of Callistus I. The pope believed and taught that even the most serious sins like murder and adultery could be absolved in a sincere confession. His position scandalized many church leaders in Rome who didn't agree. They believed that some sins were too serious to be forgiven, and they accused Callistus of laxity and sympathizing with heretics. Eventually Callistus prevailed and Confession became the healing sacrament for all sin, even the most serious. Thank our merciful God for guiding the church toward an ethic of redemption.

MEMORIAL OF CALLISTUS I, POPE, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28 (466). *"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."*

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



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