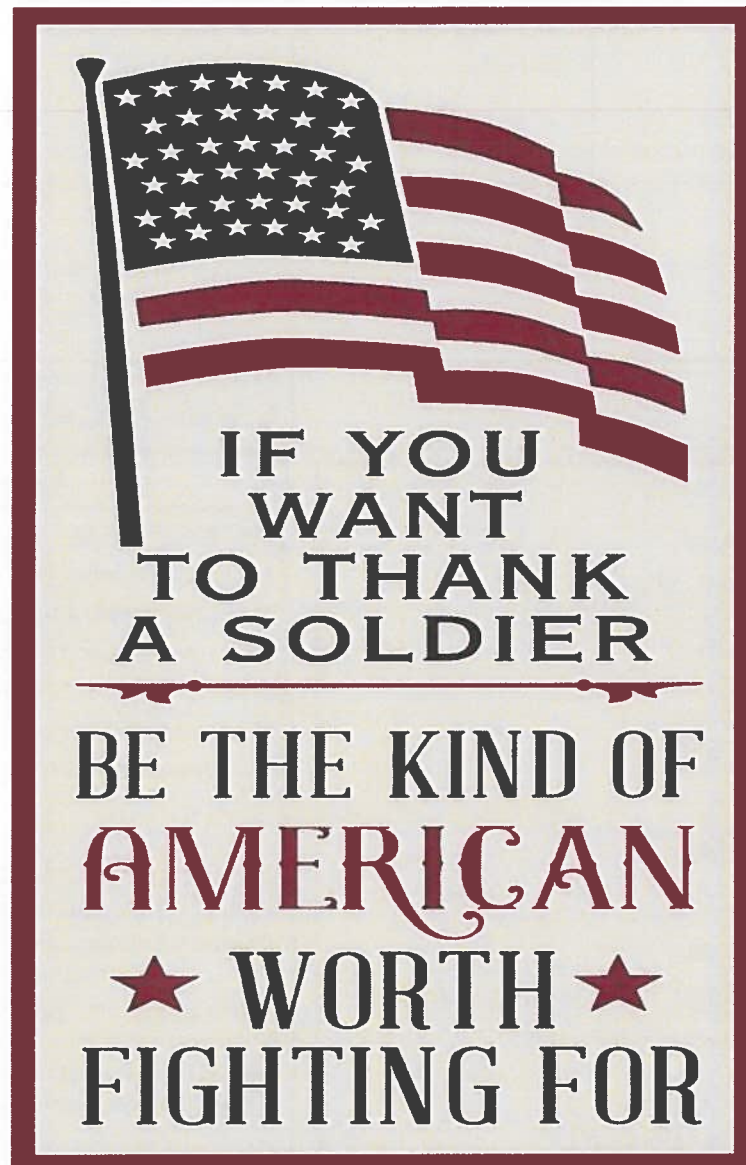


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 11-12, 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: "God is not found in the soul by adding anything, but by a process of subtraction."

—Meister Eckhart

November 18-19, 2023

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Nov. 18 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, November 19 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, November 19 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, November 19 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Bob Schultz Roger Jensen Gery Wright	David Kirkpatrick Kyle Ferris	Youth Mass	Youth Mass
Lector	Rob Landeck	Rhonda Berns	Youth Mass	Youth Mass
Servers				Youth Mass
Greeters			Greeter— Donna Bernicky R. Leader—Peerboltes	Youth Mass

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, November 13 (SMM)

8:00 am +Jim Webber (Kathy Jepsen)

Tuesday, November 14 (SH)

8:00 am (SH) +Ross Bertrand (Jackie Cross)

Wednesday, November 15 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, November 17 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, November 18 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Lillian Schierer (Gary/Jerrolyn Golden)
+Igor Dubravec (His Family)

Sunday, November 19

7:30 am +Elaine Joyce (SH CCW)
9:00 am (SJ) +Beth Coy Hubert (Steve/Dena Coy)
+ Jean Devine (Terri/Leonard Devine)

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

A Look Ahead

Sat., November 18—SH Cash Bash 4-8 pm

Sunday, November 19—Youth Mass at SMM and SJ

Mon., November 20—CCW at SMM at 7 pm

Tues., November 21—SMM Parish Council Meeting 7pm

Wed., November 22—Thanksgiving Vigil 7 pm SMM

Thurs., November 23—Thanksgiving Mass 9 am at SJ

Sun., November 26—No Religious Ed at SMM, SH, or SJ

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](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)

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 has worked for me in the past when I began to get impatient? Going forward, what will I do to draw upon more patience?

Collections Week of Nov 4-5 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,250 All Souls Day—\$469
St. James—\$3,036 All Souls Day—\$246
Sacred Heart—\$1,0250 All Souls Day—\$233

Thank you for your generosity!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of



+Jennifer Bonds

sister of Laurie Palinski

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

Our sincere sympathy to Laurie, all her family and friends.

Sponsor a Needy Individual or Family for Christmas
Catholic Charities is providing the opportunity for you to help their clients at Christmas this year. The Gift of Christmas is an annual program that fulfills wish lists for individuals who are served by Catholic Charities.

Read stories about clients and choose who you would like to help this Christmas. Or, if you prefer, you can direct your donation to an individual or family who hasn't been chosen yet.

Donating is simple: visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org and click on "donate." Or, call 815-724-1140 to make your donation over the phone. To send a check, please note "Gift of Christmas" in the memo and send checks to:

Catholic Charities
16555 Weber Rd.
Crest Hill, IL 60403

If you have any questions, please call 815-724-1140 or email msnow@cc-doj.org. Thank you, and God bless you! Merry Christmas!

Reflections Because the Worldly Take More Initiative ...

Two game hunters were involved in a lawsuit against each other. One of them asked his lawyer if it wouldn't be a good idea to send the judge a brace of partridges. The lawyer was horrified. "This judge prides himself on his incorruptibility," he said. "A gesture like this will have just the opposite effect from the one you intend."

After the case was over — and won — the man invited his lawyer to dinner and thanked him for the advice, concerning the partridges. "I did send them to the judge, you know," he said, "on behalf of our opponent."

Gospel Shorts Getting Ready

What meaning do you find in the parable of the ten bridesmaids? Hopefully, it indicates to you that having a stronger faith will enable you to handle adversity better. Preparedness is the name of the game, but it also helps if Christians have a community of faith offering them encouragement and support. When our faith is strong, we are better prepared to deal with both the good and the bad that comes to us, and to help other Christians to do the same.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ Our CCW meeting will be Monday, Nov. 20 at 7 pm. Two representatives from Catholic Charities will be here to share volunteer opportunities, programs for seniors, and to answer any questions we may have. Please join us in welcoming them to our parish.

St. James—

- ◆ Please remember to donate your warm winter gear to the display in the hallway for the Salvation Army.

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ Sacred Heart C.C.W. will have their next meeting Tues. Nov. 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. Hostesses are Lori Jensen and Pam Dumas. The C.C.W. Christmas party will be at the Herscher Restaurant Tuesday Dec. 12th at 6 p.m.. There will be a sign-up list on the board at the entrance to the church.
- ◆ Setup of the hall for the Cash Bash is scheduled for November 13th at 6 p.m. for those available to assist.
- ◆ 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—

- ◆ Thank you to everyone who worked to make our mission such a success. The attendance at each session was great and the social time after was well attended also. It was wonderful to see the three parishes come together for such a rewarding event. Father Tom shared his stories, his humor, but most importantly powerful messages that will stay with us and guide us.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The Offering envelopes for 2024 will be available soon in each of the parishes. If you do not find a box with your name, please contact the church office and we will make sure you get them.

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.

WE HONOR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED:
WE APPRECIATE AND THANK OUR VETERANS-



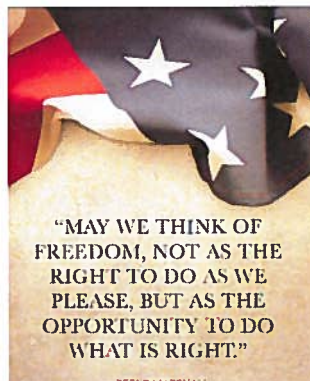
Robert Buente	Air Force	Zoe Buza	Army NG
Vic Carlile	Army	Adam Cross	Navy
Dave Emling	Army	Dallas Ferris	Army
John Fulton	Army	Deacon Ron Gagnon	Air Force
Andrew Jackubowski	Army NG	Thomas Kieffer	Navy
Mike Landeck	Army	Fr. Ron Nietzke	Navy
Thomas R. O'Connor	Army	Darwin Peerbolte	Army NG
Dale Pfeiffer	Army	Harry Phillips	Army
Chuck Riker	Navy	Gary Riley	Air Force
Dennis Schneider	Army	Jerome Schnieder	Army
Ronald Schneider	Army	Conner Settles	Air Force
Larry Stevenson	Army	Donald Wagner	Army

WE REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE:

John Andrzejewski	Army	John Brown	Air Force
Joel Eberle	Army	Duane Ferris	Army
Earl Frerichs	Army Air Corps	Fred Gohlke	Navy
Jim Gray	Navy	Gary Jensen	Army
James Jepsen	Navy	Joseph Kieffer	Marines
Robert Lambert Sr.	Army	Bob Landeck	Navy
James McBarnes	Army Air Corps	William (Bill) Miller	Army
James Palinski	Army	Gerald Regnier	Marines
James Riley	Army	Robert Ruder	Army
Don St. Germaine Sr.	Army	Gerald Schneider	Army
Robert Schneider	Navy	Thomas E Sullivan	Army
Gilbert Wheeler	Army		

“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.”

—ELMER DAVIS



“MAY WE THINK OF FREEDOM, NOT AS THE RIGHT TO DO AS WE PLEASE, BUT AS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.”

—PETER MARSHALL

“Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear.”

—MARK TWAIN

Saint of the week: St. Brice of Tours (Nov. 13) was an orphan rescued by Saint Martin of Tours and raised by Martin's clerics.



Though ostensibly a spiritual student of Saint Martin, Brice became so wild, wicked, proud, ungrateful, and disorderly that some thought him possessed by a demon! He became a priest, but was a vain, ambitious one with contempt for Martin. Many advised Martin to kick him out, but Saint Martin said that if Jesus could deal with Judas, he could deal with Brice.

On Martin's death in 397, Brice was designated to succeed him as bishop of Tours, France. However, the people of the diocese revolted, substituted a priest named Justinian, and Brice left town to avoid a stoning.

Justinian held the see for over 30 years, during which Brice came to his senses, and began to lead a pious and admirable life. Formal ecclesiastical investigations cleared him of wrongdoing, and he had the support of Pope Saint Zosimus. When Justinian died c.430, Brice returned to Tours to claim his seat. The locals, however, remembered him and his past and ran him out of town again, taking a priest names Armentius as bishop.

When Armentius died in 437, Brice returned to Tours again to claim his proper place, this time preceded by the news of having led a better life during his 40 years of exile. He was allowed to stay and governed his diocese until his death. His conversion had been so true and obvious that even his parishioners immediately proclaimed him a saint.

Obscure saints of the week: St. Florido of Citta di Castello (Nov. 13) was orphaned at an early age, he managed to study literature and theology and was ordained as a deacon c.542. He was forced to flee Città di Castello, Italy to the countryside of Perugia, Italy with Saint Amanzio when his city was over-run by invading troops led by Totila. He impressed the bishop so much that he was ordained as a priest. Florido healed a madman through prayer in Pantalla, Italy in 544. Sometime after 551, he and other exiles returned to Città di Castello and began to rebuild the sacked city. Appointed bishop of Città di Castello by Pope Pelagius II, he served for over 30 years. A friend of Pope Saint Gregory the Great wrote about Florido's holy life and adherence to correct doctrine.



The Sunday Gospel in Everyday

"God's kingdom is like 10 young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn't show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep.

"In the middle of the night someone yelled out, 'He's here! The bridegroom's here! Go out and greet him!'

"The 10 virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, 'Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.'

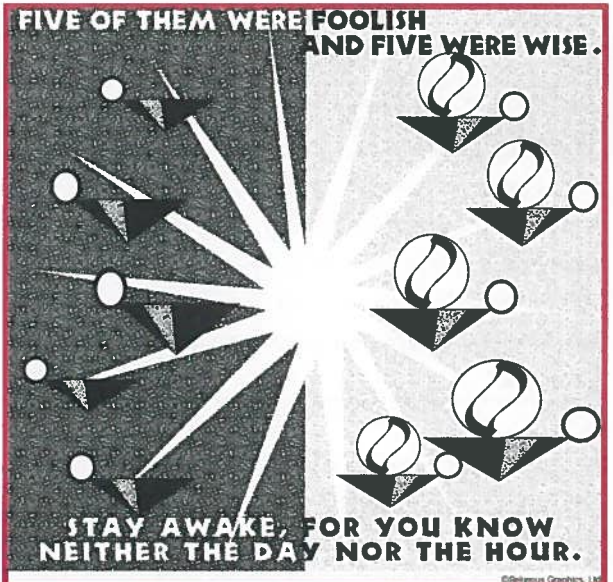
"They answered, 'There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.'

"They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked.

"Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, 'Master, we're here. Let us in.'

"He answered, 'Do I know you? I don't think I know you.'

"So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive" (from Matthew 25).



The
WORD
of the
LORD



Renews
and gives
life to
my soul

Questions Catholics

St Thomas of Aquinas did what, exactly?

It's almost easier to list what he didn't do. In a mere 49 years this 13th-century Dominican friar and later Doctor of the Church became the church's essential theologian. That Thomas was brilliant is beyond question, but especially in his later writings he betrays an increasingly passionate keenness of vision that might have tempered the earlier intellectualism of his ideas—had he but finished his great *Summa Theologica*. Death, however, didn't really put an end to this immense project, Thomas himself did.

Thomas had the advantage of studying under another great Dominican, Saint Albert the Great, and was hugely influenced by Western giants like Saints Augustine and Gregory the Great. But he also sought to mine the Eastern church fathers for their wisdom—in fact, there was hardly a source of truth he didn't like. Thomas studied and wrote commentaries on scripture all his life. He also read liberally from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and pagan scholars, convinced there was no contradiction between truth derived from reason as from revelation. Thomas composed *The Golden Chain* for Pope Urban IV, linking the scripture commentaries of Latin and Greek church fathers together.

His fellow friars considered Thomas both a genius and a warm and kindly man. He was also devoted to the practice of contemplation, which was really what put an end to his writing. After an intense mystical experience three months before his death, he felt incapable of continuing what he now considered a hopelessly inadequate expression of the God he had experienced in prayer. Thomas had defined God in his works as Pure Being: the very essence of Divinity is this Be-ing. The created world and all its creatures were “spoken” and “loved” into a share of this being, which made “friendship with God” the sole purpose for human existence.

Thomas approached divine mysteries with great humility. He qualified even his most stunning theological pronouncements with mental genuflections to reflect their approximate nature only: “to some degree,” “in a certain way,” “as it were.” He rejected theology that denounced the body or the emotions, seeing both equally capable of serving God when well-ordered and disciplined.

His best thoughts on original sin, free will, the role of conscience, divine-human cooperation, the fundamental benefits of a life of virtue, the inner presence of the Holy Spirit, and the nature of salvation in Christ are basic to any parochial school education—whether we recognize them as “Thomistic” or not. It is no wonder that he was canonized a saint within 50 years of his death and named patron of all Catholic universities as well as the “Angelic” Doctor of the Church.

Scripture

- Tobit 4:14b-19; Wisdom 6:9-21; 7:7-30 and chs. 8 - 9; Sirach 1:1-29; Proverbs 2:1-11; 3:13-24; 8:1-9:6



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

THE MISSION OF WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA —

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

Anyone interested in sponsoring a wreath for our parish veterans at St. Peter and Paul cemetery may do so by contacting me (lmteders@hotmail.com, or 815-955-3375) or by using this website <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.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.



November 12, 2023

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 6:12-16 | 1 Thes 4:13-18 | Mt 25:1-13

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I'll always remember that first Easter after my Dad passed away. It was when the promise of the resurrection truly hit home. Sure, I had always believed in heaven and that everyone had the possibility of spending eternity there, but until my Dad died, it had all been theoretical. Now, it was personal. Someone I loved deeply had left this world, but because of Christ's sacrifice, he had the opportunity to go to paradise, someplace where we will hopefully be reunited someday. I believe that's what St. Paul is talking about in today's second reading. We do "not grieve like the rest, who have no hope." *We have hope!* We have hope for our family, for our friends – for our very selves! – that we will rise again and spend eternity with the Lord and with those we love. Paul writes elsewhere, "Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:55) The sting of death is sin, Paul says, but Christ has won the victory over it. In being baptized into Christ, we share in that victory, and we are inheritors of the promise of eternal life that comes from death's defeat.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The parable in today's Gospel is a reminder that while Christ has opened the gates of heaven for us, we must be ready to accept that gift and walk through them. In the parable of the ten virgins, we see how all fell asleep while waiting for the bridegroom to arrive. When he did show up, five were ready with oil for their lamps while five were sent scurrying to buy some. As a result, those who were not ready missed the opening of the doors and were locked out of the wedding feast. "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour," Jesus admonishes us. Are you awake? Will you be ready to enter the wedding feast when the door is opened to you? There is nothing wrong with enjoying God's creation and gifts here on earth, but we must guard against getting so caught up in the things of this world that we forget to prepare for the next.

PRAY The ten virgins needed oil for their lamps to be ready for the bridegroom, but we need a clean heart and a steadfast spirit, as Psalm 51 tells us. (12) We get that by setting aside regular time for prayer and making a point to regularly receive the sacraments, including the reception of the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist and his forgiveness within the sacrament of reconciliation. Making time for the Lord now will mean we are ready for his return later.

Sunday, Nov 12, 2023

Last things

November's a good time to consider our responsibilities to those who depend on us and may be nearing the end of life. (Or perhaps we're getting long in years ourselves.) We know our social obligations: Write a will, make our medical preferences known to doctors and family members. But Catholics have other duties too. Offering forgiveness and being forgiven are vital issues at the end of life—and every year of life. We have to ensure the sacraments are available to the elderly and the sick. How vigils, funerals, and burials are conducted matters to us. Reflect on these things now.

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13 (154). *"Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'"*

Monday, Nov 13, 2023

The underestimated shall be esteemed

Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini was born Maria Francesca in Italy in 1850, the youngest of 13 children. She was small and had poor health. Because of her frailty, she was rejected by the religious community she wanted to join. She founded her own order and dreamed of becoming a missionary to the Far East like the saint whose name she took. But the pope sent her west instead, to the United States—and she founded 67 missionary institutions to serve the sick and poor from New York to Chicago to Los Angeles. Nine years after her death, her religious institute, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, became missionaries in China. Don't underestimate the power of God or yourself!

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 1:1-7; Luke 17:1-6 (491). *"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."*

Tuesday, Nov 14, 2023

Put your hope in order

As we inch toward Advent, it's good to revisit the theme of hope. Consider this, from Pope Francis two years ago today, for the World Day of the Poor: "The hope born of the Gospel has nothing to do with a passive expectation that things may be better tomorrow, but with making God's promise of salvation concrete today.... Christian hope is not the naïve, even adolescent, optimism of those who hope that things may change [and] in the meantime go on with life; it has to do with building daily, by concrete gestures, the kingdom of love, justice, and fraternity that Jesus inaugurated." Or as Italian Bishop Don Tonio Bello would say, "We cannot be content to hope. We have to organize hope." How will you organize hope today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 2:23-3:9; Luke 17:7-10 (492). *"Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love."*

Wednesday, Nov 15, 2023

Live a life of great service

The great Dominican friar Albertus Magnus died on this day in 1280, after a long life of dedication to the church as a scholar, scientist, and briefly the bishop of Regensburg. He shunned excess and was known as a mediator—which, in his day, was a complicated matter, given the ongoing Crusades. We, too, live in

an age of war, economic inequality, and general spiritual laxity. We owe it to ourselves to look to the German Dominican for inspiration to live a more rigorous life of spiritual seeking, so as to find lasting solutions to the problems of our day.

MEMORIAL OF ALBERT THE GREAT, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 6:1-11; Luke 17:11-19 (493). *"For those who keep the holy precepts hallowed shall be found holy, and those learned in them will have ready a response."*

Thursday, Nov 16, 2023

Extraordinary sacrifice in ordinary clothing

It's easy to think that martyrs were people completely different from us, but Christian courage doesn't always have a cinematic face. Father Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J., five other Jesuits, and their housekeeper and her daughter were murdered in El Salvador. Ellacuría and his fellow Jesuits had publicly defended human rights and ministered to poor people in spite of intense government repression. May their dedication to justice inspire us to do our part in creating a more just world order that protects those who speak truth to power.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 7:22b-8:1; Luke 17:20-25 (494). *"For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you."*

Friday, Nov 17, 2023

A delicate matter

The Catholic Church identifies well over a dozen saints as patrons of lacemaking, lace workers, and related textile workers. Saint Elizabeth of Hungary is among these patrons who possibly became associated with lacemaking as it is a craft often seen as "immaculate" and virtuous, much like the saints themselves. But lacemakers and other artisan workers also often sat on the edge of poverty. These were the people who benefitted from the kind deeds of the likes of Saint Elizabeth, who roamed the streets near her castle passing out alms for the poor and tending to the sick. Take a moment to consider the artisans and craftspeople of our own time who could benefit from your patronage.

MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 13:1-9; Luke 17:26-37 (495). *"For from the greatness and the beauty of created things their original author, by analogy, is seen."*

Saturday, Nov 18, 2023

Let freedom ring

In 1818, when Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne came from France to the United States, she was dismayed that slavery still operated "in the land of the free." Yet, when she opened foundations in Louisiana, the sisters were given slaves along with their households. In 1830 she accepted a slave in lieu of a tuition payment. She insisted that slaves in the household be treated well, arguing, "They have the same soul as we; they have been redeemed by the same blood and received into the same Church," but, like all of us, she was clearly enmeshed in social structures in need of redemption. Work for a society that truly is free at last.

MEMORIAL OF ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Luke 18:1-8 (496). *"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?"*

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



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