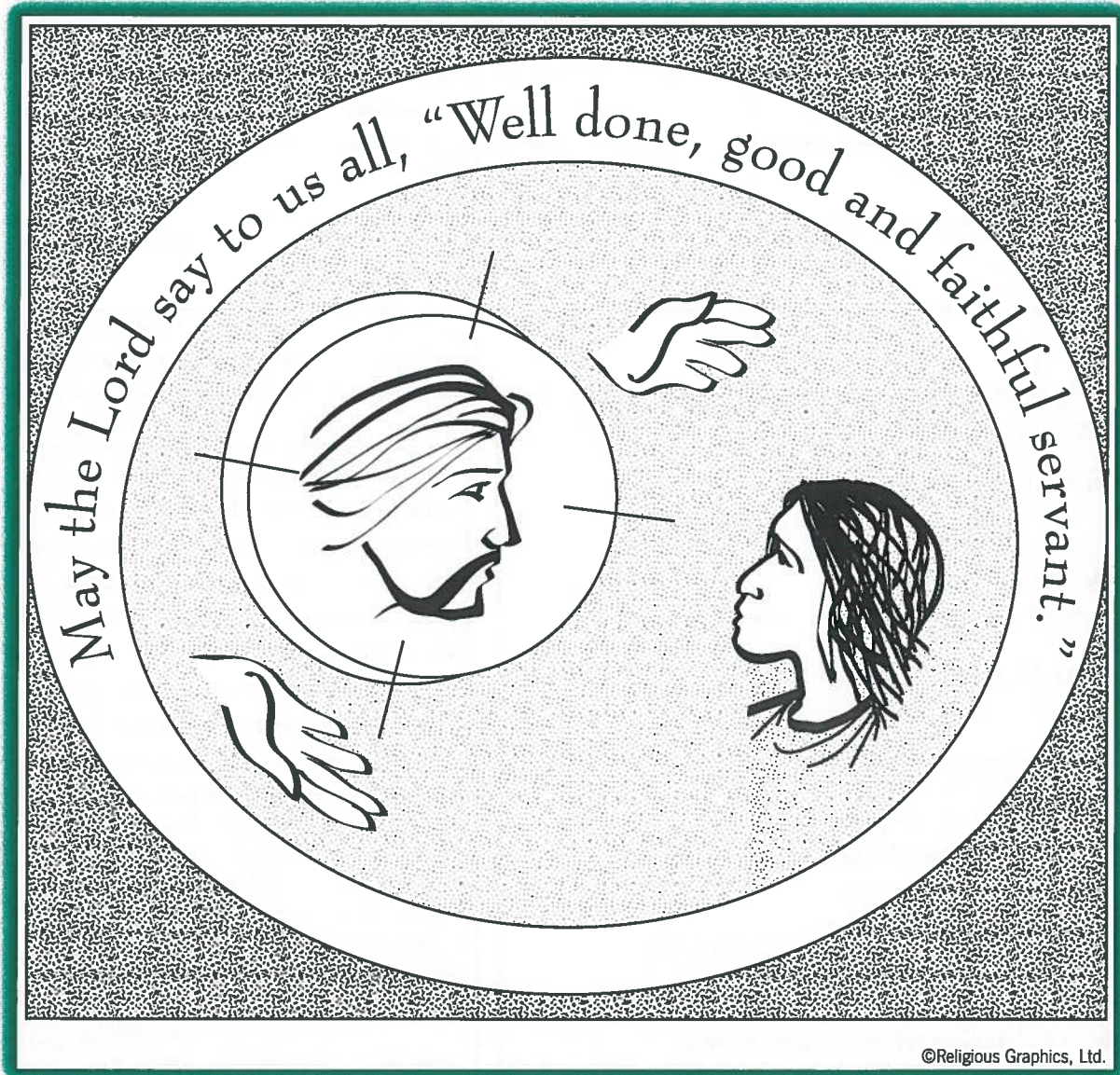


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2023



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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: "Sin is the wound, repentance is the medicine."

—Saint John Chrysostom

November 25-26, 2023

Our Lord Jesus Christ, Lord of the Universe

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Nov. 25 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, November 26 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, November 26 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, November 26 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiler Gery Wright Bob Schultz	Daryl Ferris Dennis Pankey	Cathy Jensen Jerry Ogrentz Dennis O'Connor Jeff Steinke	Corey Eich Joe Smolkovich Marko Smolkovich Brent Fulton
Lector	Dave Emling	Cindy Gagnon	Kelly Buente	Steve Jacob
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Karen Miller R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, November 20 (SMM)

8:00 am +James Jepsen (Kathy Jepsen)

Tuesday, November 21 (SH)

8:00 am (SH) +Connie Denault (Jackie Cross)

Wednesday, November 22 (SJ)

8:00 am +Gary Jensen (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

7:00 pm (SMM) +Donna Ruder (Madeline Bouchard)

Thursday, November 23 Mass of Thanksgiving

9:00 am (SJ) For All the Parish Family

Friday, November 24 (SMM)

8:00 am +Dolores Fitch (Bill/Betty Kelch)

Saturday, November 25 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Laura Jensen (Carol Jamnik)

+Theresa Gualandi (Roger/Margaret Jensen)

Sunday, November 26

7:30 am +Dolores Fitch, Hazel Riley, Ralph Rathman,
Mike Foltz, Christina Berns, Susan Denault Winter-
roth, Charistopher Rathman (The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Laurie Hansen (Arlen Hansen Family)
+ Harold & Louise Devine (Arlen Hansen
Family)

10:30am (SMM) +Tom/Nina Smolkovich (Joe King Family)

A Look Ahead

Sat., November 18—SH Cash Bash 4-8 pm

Sunday, November 19—Youth Mass at SMM and SJ

Sunday, November 19—Community Thanksgiving Service
7:00 pm at Herscher Methodist Church

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

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisaillon 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)

Collections Week of Nov 11-12, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,280 Seminarians— \$298
 St. James—\$ 2,224 Seminarians—\$457
 Sacred Heart— \$7,603 Seminarians—\$95

Thank you for your generosity!



CONGRATULATIONS TO
 ALYSSA DENAULT
 DAUGHTER OF JON & MICHELE DENAULT
 AND
 CHRISTOPHER SMITH
 SON OF LINDSAY & MIKE MOSIER
 AND
 ERIK & TERESA SMITH
 WHO WERE JOINED IN HOLY MATRIMONY
 ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023
 AT ST. MARGARET MARY IN HERSCHER

Questions of the week

How do I share my gifts? What talent have I been told I have but am afraid to share out in the open?

Reflections A Senator "Confesses"

Former Senator George Aiken of Vermont made an unusual confession when he retired. "During the 34 years of my tenure as a United States Senator," he said, "I have committed many sins."

He continued: "I have voted for measures that I felt were wrong, comforting myself with the excuse that the House of Representatives, the conference committee, or, if necessary, the chief occupant of the White House would make the proper corrections."

"At other times," the 82-year-old lawmaker added, "I have voted for measures with which I did not agree, for the purpose of preventing the approval of other measures which I felt would be worse."

No one is likely to hold public office without "committing sins," if only to avoid greater evils. Life is full of such melancholy choices.

Do we merely criticize office-holders? Or do we try to urge them to make government serve the needs of the people? After all, their sins may not be greater than ours ... only more visible.

"Your words have upheld him who was stumbling." (JOB 4: 4)

Lord, help me to do my share in government.

Gospel Shorts Investments 101

In Matthew 25: 14-30, Jesus told the Parable of the Talents to his disciples while sitting on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem and the Temple. Jesus had already foretold their destruction. What was the cause of that ruin? The nation had buried the talent God had entrusted to them instead of using it for God's glory.

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-

- ◆ St. James CCW Christmas party will be at the Herscher Restaurant after Mass on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Please sign up by 11/26 so we can make a reservation.
- ◆ The winter wear drive will be ending on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Thank you to all who have donated so far.
- ◆ St. James Church Christmas cleaning and decoration will be on Monday, December 11 at 6 pm. All are invited to help!

Sacred Heart-

- ◆ The week of November 19th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for the St. Germaine family

All Parishes—

- ◆ **All Ministries—as we are making the Christmas/New Year's ministry assignments, if you know a mass that you would be at and available to serve in a ministry position, please drop that information in the collection basket or call the office. We would like to accommodate your schedule and still have all of our needs met. Thank you!**
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Patient Volunteers needed at Uplifted Care: Do you have two hours a week to share your time and talents? We are looking for volunteers to visit patients, read, play games, watch TV, or just give caregivers a much-needed break. Patients and families both benefit from the support of our patient volunteers!
- ◆ Veteran to Veteran Volunteers: Are you a veteran? We are looking for veterans to volunteer to visit fellow veterans. Volunteers have the opportunity to meet with our bitter-ant patients that include chatting, reminiscing, telling life stories, helping patients find appropriate resources to meet specific needs. While enhancing his/her day, both the volunteer veteran and patient veteran receive a sense of personal fulfillment!



Masses of Thanksgiving will be held Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 pm at St. Margaret Mary and Thursday, November 23 at 9:00 am at St. James.

Saint of the week: St. Clement I Nov. 23) was a convert, brought to Christianity either by Saint Peter or by Saint Paul. One of the Seventy Apostles. He was consecrated as a bishop by Saint Peter the Apostle, mentioned in Philippians 4:3. He was the fourth Pope. The Basilica of Saint Clement in Rome, Italy, one of the earliest parish churches in the city, is probably built on the site of Clement's home. He was the author of the *Epistle to the Corinthians*. His name occurs in the Canon of the Mass. Origen and Saint Jerome identify him as working with Saint Paul the Apostle. He was martyred in the persecutions of Trajan.



Obscure saints of the week: St. Trudo of Hesbaye was the son of Blessed Adela. He was related to the dukes of Austrasia. He was a Benedictine monk under Saint Remaclus. Trudo studied at the cathedral at Metz, France. He was ordained by Saint Clodulf of Metz. A noted preacher, he built a church on the land around his family's home c.656, and had it blessed by Saint Theodard of Liege in the names of Saint Quintinus and Saint Remigius of Rheims. He evangelized throughout the area of Hasbein, and as the converts grew he was forced to build a monastery which was later named for him. Trudo founded a convent near Bruges, Belgium c.660. The assorted movements of his relics have led to several local lists having different dates for his memorial.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday

"It's also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master's investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master's money.

"After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

"The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master's investment. His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

"The servant given one thousand said, 'Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.'

"The master was furious. 'That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

" 'Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this "play-it-safe" who won't go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness' " (from Matthew 25).

Celebrating our Diocese's Anniversary
We have 12 tickets to the Opening Mass for our 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diocese of Joliet. The Mass will be on Monday, December 11 at 6pm. At the Cathedral of St. Raymond. If you are interested in representing our parishes, please contact the parish office by November 30. We will have some information about picking up the banners and prayer cards for our parishes after the mass.

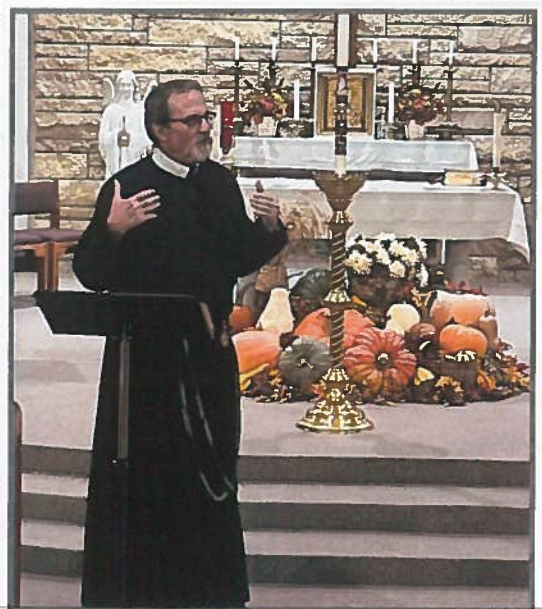
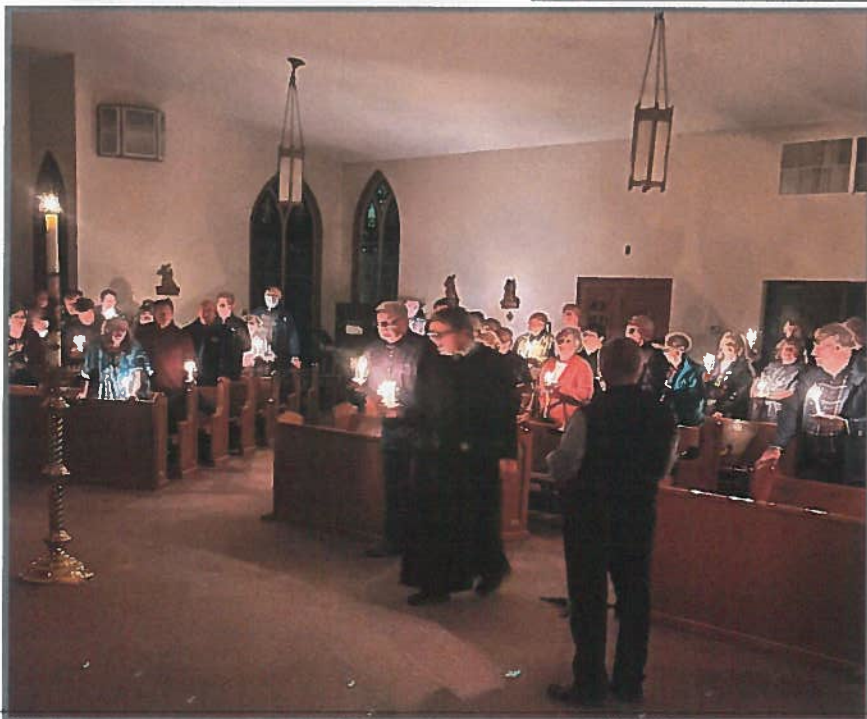
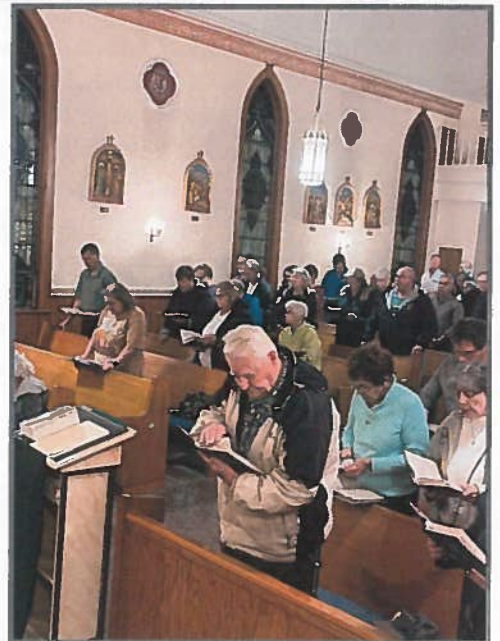
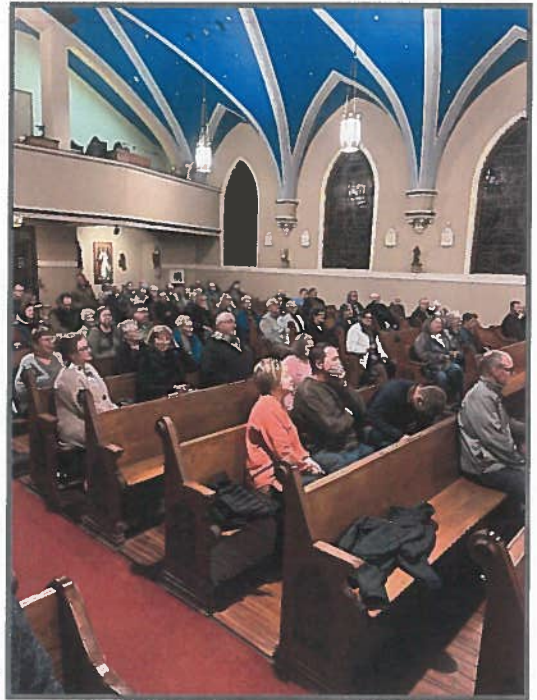


MASTER, YOU GAVE ME FIVE TALENTS.
SEE, I HAVE MADE FIVE MORE

MT. 25:20



**Parish Mission with
Father Tom Donalson
November 5-7, 2023**



Questions Catholics

Why did American Catholicism begin in Baltimore?

The answer is a person: John Carroll. The Carrolls were the “First Family” of American Catholicism, arriving in Maryland in 1688. The New World was not hospitable: Catholics were subject to double taxes, deprived of the right to vote, worship, hold office, and educate their children. Masses were held in private, and Jesuits illegally taught in secret schools.

The Carrolls had money, acquired land and influence, and sent their sons to be schooled abroad. Charles Carroll would become the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. He and his cousin Daniel—who would be one of the two Catholic signers of the United States Constitution—entered Maryland politics after being active on the new national scene. Daniel’s brother John remained in France after finishing his education, taking final vows as a Jesuit in 1771. Rome suppressed the Jesuit order in 1773. John Carroll went home to Maryland, declaring to his mother: “The greatest blessing which in my estimation I could receive from God would be immediate death.”

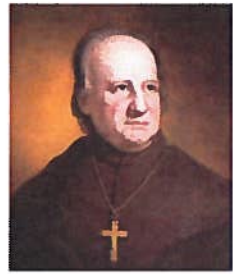
What he got instead was a diocese. How? Through family connections, John became useful to the Continental Congress in 1776 and made the acquaintance of Benjamin Franklin—a curious man to befriend for someone seeking anonymity. John also defended his faith publicly in the newspapers and published a tract for his fellow Catholics.

In 1783 he organized a meeting of ex-Jesuits in Maryland to petition Rome for the reinstatement of their superior, Father John Lewis. The Holy See consulted that most celebrated American, Franklin, for his opinion. Franklin recommended Carroll instead as the “Superior of the Mission in the thirteen United States.” By 1789, Baltimore, where Carroll had lived since 1786, became the first diocese of the United States with Carroll ordained its first bishop (though Carroll had to go England for his ordination, which took place on August 15, 1790 in the chapel of the Weld family in Lulworth Castle, Dorset).

In a 25-year episcopacy John Carroll accomplished miracles. He pushed for the creation of Georgetown College, opened the first seminary (St. Mary’s in Baltimore), approved the founding of the Visitation Sisters, brought in Dominicans, and encouraged Elizabeth Seton to begin the American Sisters of Charity to educate girls. Not waiting on Rome, he restored the Jesuits in America by affiliating them through the influence of Catherine the Great with Russians who had evaded the suppression of the order.

Carroll also encouraged lay leadership by instituting trusteeship of church properties. He supported Mass in the vernacular, the separation of church and state, and ecumenism among Christian denominations. In the meantime his little diocese grew to include the West Indies and the Louisiana Territory. By the time Carroll died, Baltimore had become an archdiocese overseeing the four sees of Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Bardstown, Kentucky.

Scripture • 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 4:12-16; 2 Timothy 2:1-7; 4:1-5



Archbishop John Carroll

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, God, for everything

The big things and the small

*For every good gift comes from God
the giver of them all.*

*Too often we accept
without any thanks or praise
the gifts God sends as blessing
each day in many ways.*

*O, make us more aware, dear God,
of little daily graces*

*that come to us with sweet surprise
from never-dreamed-of places.*

And help us to remember

that the key to life and living

*is to make each prayer a prayer of thanks
and every day **THANKSGIVING.***

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

What is the “great Divorce?”

C.S. Lewis helps explain the reality of hell and accidentally reveals the beauty of purgatory. There can be no marriage between heaven and hell. In fact, there is a great divorce.

This is the argument of famous Christian thinker, C.S. Lewis, in his book *The Great Divorce*. As the book of Revelation reveals, “Nothing unclean shall enter [the gates of heaven]” (see Rev. 21:27). Therefore, we must purge ourselves of anything that is not pure, anything not from God.

Yet, even knowing the goodness of heaven, we struggle to do so. As C.S. Lewis describes, we all can adopt our pet sins. These sins may seem insignificant, but our attachment to them can lead us to privilege them even above our Creator and heaven’s banquet feast. Many people, Christian and non-Christian, struggle with the idea that God would condemn someone to hell. However, in *The Great Divorce*, we see that hell is a self-choice. In Lewis’s portrayal, we meet souls which come up from hell but who choose to return. There is something of which they cannot let go.

But this is not exactly the end of the story. As Catholics, we agree with C.S. Lewis that those souls condemned to hell are those who chose to embrace that which is not of God and could not be happy in heaven. Yet we also believe that our merciful God enables those souls who have died in His grace but are still imperfect to undergo a purification of their desires so that they can perfectly join Him in heaven. This is the Catholic teaching of purgatory that we read about yesterday. Through C.S. Lewis’s beautiful analysis of the “great divorce” between heaven and hell, we recognize the beauty and necessity of purgatory!

A wonderful Christian thinker and storyteller, C.S. Lewis’s work is full of profound meditations on faith and humanity. However, there is no need to be overwhelmed by the volume of his work. The classic *A Year with C.S. Lewis* is an intimate day-to-day companion filled with daily meditations culled from Lewis’s signature works.





November 19, 2023

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 | 1 Thes 5:1-6 | Mt 25:14-30

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

When we think of gifts, we may picture a child eagerly ripping into wrapping paper on a birthday or at Christmas. Oh, the anticipation and the joy seen through a child's eyes! In contemplating today's Scriptures, it occurs to me that the gifts God has given to us should fill us with the same joy and sense of gratitude as that child. Although there are many facets to the parable of the talents which Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel, what stands out to me comes at the very beginning: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them." No small thing to be entrusted with the master's possessions! In the same way, God *entrusts* us with his gifts – they are all we have and all we are. And, like the master in the parable, God expects us to use our gifts and talents to build his kingdom here on earth – to multiply his goodness in the world.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Does the parable seem a bit harsh at the end? After all, the last servant didn't squander the money he was given, he simply gave it back in the same form in which it was given to him. But let's think about our generous God and the gifts and talents he has given us. God expects us to *use* these gifts, not hide them under a bushel. If we are lazy with and inattentive to our God-given gifts, they will shrink and fade away. We will be squandering our invitation to full participation in the kingdom of God. Obviously, each of God's children has unique gifts, just as the servants in the parable received different numbers of talents *according to their ability*. With this in mind, let us consider how we can share our singular gifts and help others do the same. No gift or talent is too small, and God has given us everything we need to use each gift wisely. Empowered by God's love and grace, let us use our blessings for his glory.

WITNESS The imagery of the "wicked, lazy" servant being punished, coupled with St. Paul's words that the Lord will come "like a thief at night," impart urgency to the task before us. In order to be prepared to give God an accounting of how we are using his gifts, let us start growing them today. Offer forgiveness, love someone whom it is hard to love, show mercy; in other words, be a blessing to others and see how that goodness multiplies.

Sunday, Nov 19, 2023

Curl up with the Good Book

President Franklin D. Roosevelt inaugurated the first National Bible Week. Presidents since have continued the tradition of encouraging scripture reading during the holidays. The practice began in 1941, when NBC radio hosted the National Bible Association's founders. News of the attack on Pearl Harbor interrupted the program, and NBC asked the association to continue reading the Bible all day to a grieving nation. This week, spend some time with scripture daily. Consider reading the book of your choice, from the Old or New Testaments. Or read a psalm of thanksgiving daily. Discover the inspiration.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1

Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30 (157). *"For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness."*

Monday, Nov 20, 2023

Can we talk?

The word *bible* is from a Greek word meaning "book." If you could have no other book, the Bible would be the one! As you count your blessings this week, don't forget to give thanks for sacred scripture and spend some time with the inspired word of God. If you haven't before, try *lectio divina* (Latin for "divine reading")—it's a traditional monastic form of praying with scripture in a meditative way to open ourselves to hearing what God is saying to us and listening for our own interior response. Scripture isn't just text, it's the Living Word—strike up a conversation!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43 (497). *"What do you want me to do for you?"*

Tuesday, Nov 21, 2023

Mary, most exemplary

According to tradition, Mary's parents—an elderly Anne and Joachim—were so grateful for the unexpected birth of their daughter, they presented her in the Temple to thank God. Accounts also say the toddler Mary "danced with joy" on the third step of the Temple, signifying her future role. Other qualities of the Blessed Mother, present even from her youth, are enumerated in the "Ten Evangelical Virtues of Mary" that we're all encouraged to emulate as Christians: pure, prudent, humble, faithful, devout, obedient, poor, patient, merciful, and sorrowful. Cultivate these in your own life by praying the Virtues of Mary chaplet used by the Marian religious order since 1699.

MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10 (498).

"Today salvation has come to this house."

Wednesday, Nov 22, 2023

Let the music play!

Today's gospel from Luke tells the parable of the 10 gold coins. Matthew tells the same parable (Matt. 25:14-30), only he replaces Luke's "gold coins" with "talents." Whichever version you read, it's clear that God wants us to make the most of what we've been given—and that he recognizes our efforts! In honor of today's Feast of Saint Cecilia, patron of music and musicians, enjoy Anton

Bruckner's Te Deum as performed by the talented musicians of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (National Academy of St. Cecilia, founded under Pope Sixtus V in 1585) or check out the contemporary namesake band La Santa Cecilia, recipient of the 2013 Grammy for Best Latin Rock Album (Alternative or Urban).

MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28 (499). *"I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."*

Thursday, Nov 23, 2023

Give thanks for a virtuous day

Because Thanksgiving brings together family members, personalities sometimes grate, children might misbehave, and the gravy surely will spill. It's an ideal day to practice what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the "cardinal virtues": prudence (think before you act), justice (be fair), fortitude (don't give up), and temperance (maintain your equilibrium). These virtues smooth out the bumps in human interaction. Ask God to increase in you the virtue you most need for a happy celebration today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44 (500).

Mass for Thanksgiving Day (943-947). *"If this day you only knew what makes for peace."*

Friday, Nov 24, 2023

Follow the rule

"Keep the rule, and the rule will keep you." In this monastic proverb, "rule" refers to the daily rhythm of life for monks and nuns that is grounded in their foundation and charism as a community and oriented toward Jesus the Christ. The rule helps the community develop habits for prayer, work, relationships, study, and even play. Monastics still follow a rule of life, as do other intentional communities. Each of us can develop a rule of life according to our own daily rhythm and relationship with God. This rule will keep us grounded, even when the inevitable storms of life roll in.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48 (501). *"Let us go up to purify the sanctuary and rededicate it."*

Saturday, Nov 25, 2023

No room for violence

On this day in 1960 a trio of courageous sisters was brutally assassinated for opposing the murderous regime of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. Since 1993, the U.N. has commemorated World Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in honor of the Mirabal sisters. It is an appropriate coincidence that today we also honor Catherine of Alexandria, a young convert martyred at the tender age of 18 during Roman persecutions around the year 300. She was reportedly subject to terrible tortures, but her courage instead attracted hundreds more converts. No woman should have to endure violence for any reason. Today is a day we can honor martyrs both modern and ancient with a firm *"No más, no more."*

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, YOUTH MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40 (502).

"They are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise."

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



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