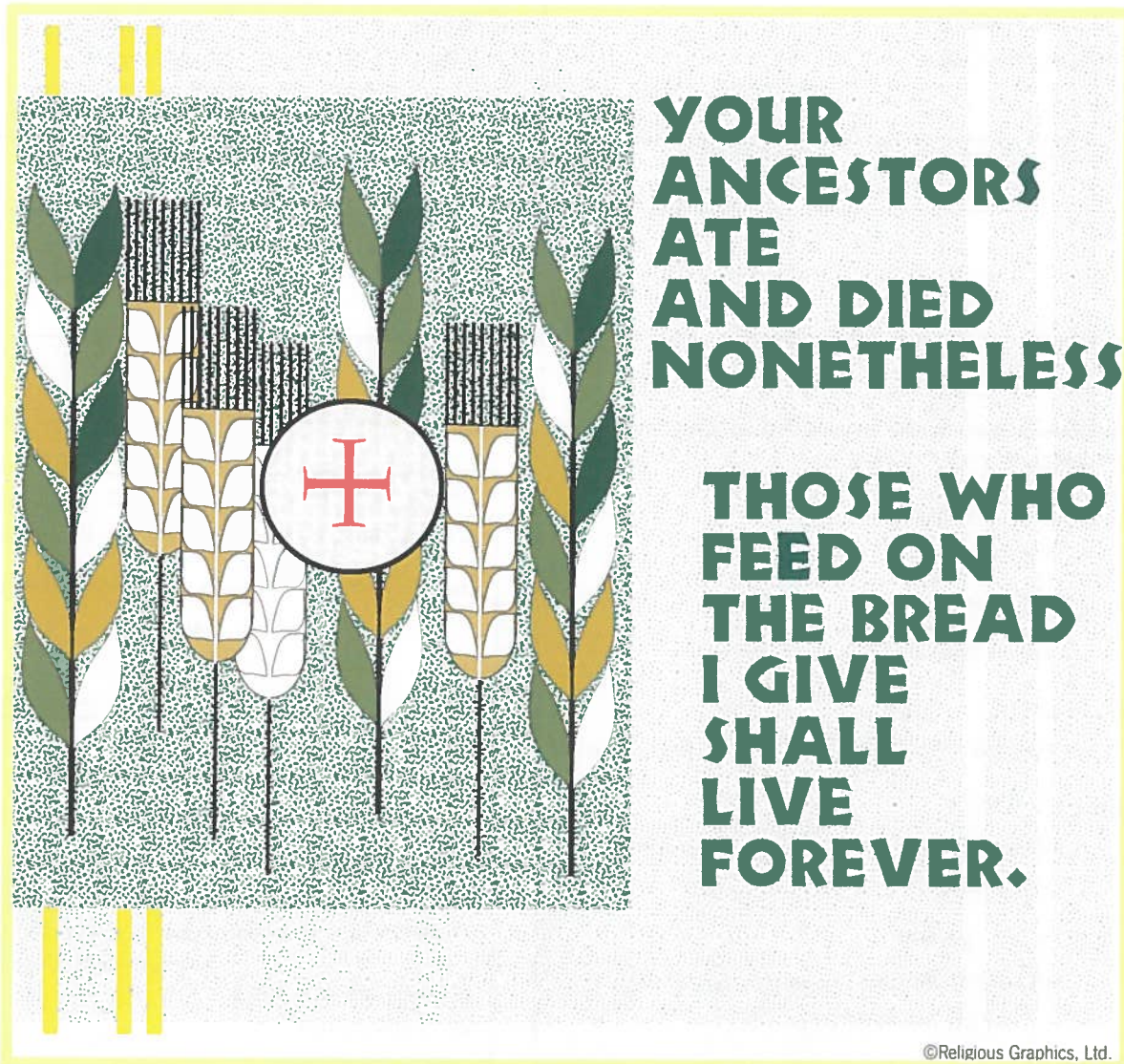


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 17-18, 2024



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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: "Jesus has made himself the Bread of Life. Night and day, he is there."

—Saint Teresa of Calcutta

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24-25, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, August 24 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, August 25 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, August 25 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, August 25 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Roger Jensen Gery Wright Todd Datweiler	David Kirkpatrick Kyle Ferris	Dan Forsythe Jerry Ogrentz Bob Buente Vic Carlile	Brent Fulton Kim Smicker Wayne Bisailon Galen Fritz
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Mike Hertz	Jeff O'Connor	Steve Jacob
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Karen Miller R. Leader—Peerboltes	Brent Fulton

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, August 19 (SMM)

8:00 am +Anne Gehrke (Her Family)

Tuesday, August 20 (SH)

8:00 an +Jerry Monk (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, August 21 (SJ)

8:00 am +Ivan Denault (Union Hill Sales & Service)

Friday, August 23 (SMM)

8:00 am +Tom & Nina Smolkovich (Diane/John Smolkovich)

Saturday, August 24 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Michael McCain (Linda/Earl Datweiler)
+ Bill Fritz ((Frank/Joana Fischer)

Sunday, August 25

7:30 am (SH) +Jennifer Bonds (Joe/Rhonda Berns)

+Inez Crawford (Bouchard Family)

9:00am (SJ) ++Paul Muhlstadt (Maryanne Cooley)

+Connie Dionne (Rhonda/Joe Berns)

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

A Look Ahead

Monday, Aug. 26—K of C meeting at SJ 7:00pm

Monday, Sept. 2—Herscher Homecoming Celebration

Sunday, Sept. 15—Religious Education Kickoff at St. James and St. Margaret Mary

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

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line–

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com

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

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Collections Week of August 10-11, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,055

St. James—\$1,960

Sacred Heart—\$1,504

Thank you for your generosity!

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

"I'm telling you the most solemn and sober truth now: Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life. I am the Bread of Life. Your ancestors ate the manna bread in the desert and died. But now here is Bread that truly comes down out of heaven. Anyone eating this Bread will not die, ever. I am the Bread—living Bread!—who came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever! The Bread that I present to the world so that it can eat and live is myself, this flesh-and-blood self."

At this, the Jews started fighting among themselves: "How can this man serve up his flesh for a meal?"

But Jesus didn't give an inch. "Only insofar as you eat and drink flesh and blood, the flesh and blood of the Son of Man, do you have life within you. The one who brings a hearty appetite to this eating and drinking has eternal life and will be fit and ready for the Final Day. My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. By eating my flesh and drinking my blood you enter into me and I into you. In the same way that the fully alive Father sent me here and I live because of him, so the one who makes a meal of me lives because of me. This is the Bread from heaven. Your ancestors ate bread and later died. Whoever eats this Bread will live always."

He said these things while teaching in the meeting place in Capernaum (*from John 6*).

Reflections An End of Summer Blessing

Go now, children, and know that the Spirit of Jesus will be watching over you.

Go now and enjoy God's summer gifts of warm sun, cooling waters, and long, light days.

Go now, children with the gift of faith, that you might see God's hand in all your work and play.

Go now with the gift of hope, that you may know God's guidance, which is keeping you safe.

Go now with the gift of love, that you might offer love and care to all you meet.

Go now with the gift of knowledge, remembering all that you have learned.

With God's help, live it.

Go now, children, with these words of Jesus in your hearts: "I will not leave you alone; I am with you always."

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- Letters of application are now being accepted for the Theresa Fritz Catholic Education Scholarship for the 2024-2025 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. Letters need to be received in the office by September 3, 2024.

St. James—

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of August 18th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns for Kathy and Rodney Meli as they celebrate their 23rd wedding anniversary.

All Parishes—

- ◆ Anyone interested in becoming Catholic, should contact Deacon Ron about arranging a class schedule. 815-933-4077.
- ◆ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ◆ The phone number for the rectory will no longer be in service. All calls should be made to the parish office number at 815-426-2550



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Question of the week

Do I look to the Holy Spirit for guidance? Do I take the time to discern God's will? Will I add that to my decision-making process now?

Religious Education Kickoff

Sunday September 15

SMM 9:30 am

SJ—after Mass



St. Margaret Mary—Please email Jill at jfulton.stmm@gmail.com to get the link to register for 24-25 religious education classes

St. James—Registration will take place after Mass on Sept. 8th



Saint of the week: St. Pius X, pope (August 21) was the son of Giambattista Sarto, a village cobbler, and Margherita Sanson. He lived an impoverished childhood as one of eight children. Pius was baptized on June 3, 1835. He felt a calling to the priesthood early in life. He studied at the seminary of Padua, Italy, and was known as an exceptional student. Ordained by Blessed Giovanni Antonio Farina on September 18, 1858, his accomplishments were chaplain at Tombolo from 1858 to 1867, archpriest of Salzano from 1867 to 1875, canon of the Treviso cathedral chapter in 1875, rector of the Treviso seminary and its spiritual director for nine years, primicerius of the cathedral in 1879, chancellor of the diocese of Treviso, vicar capitular from December 1879 to June 1880. He later became the bishop of Mantua, Italy on November 10, 1884 and assistant at the Pontifical Throne on June 19, 1891. He was named cardinal-priest of Saint Bernardo alle Terme on June 12, 1893, Patriarch of Venice on June 15, 1893, and was chosen 257th pope in 1903, taking the name *Pius X*.



Pius issued decrees on early Communion (age 7 instead of 12 or 14 as previously), destroyed the last vestiges of Jansenism by advocating frequent and even daily Communion. He reformed the liturgy, promoted clear and simple homilies, and brought Gregorian chant back to services. In addition, he revised the Breviary, and teaching of the Catechism. Pius fought Modernism, which he denounced as “the summation of all heresies”, reorganized the Roman curia, and the other administrative elements of the Church. He worked against the modern antagonism of the state against the Church. Pius initiated the codification of canon law and promoted Bible reading by all the faithful. He supported foreign missions. His will read: “*I was born poor; I lived poor; I wish to die poor.*”



Obscure Saint of the week: St. Abraham of Smolensk (August 21) was born wealthy and orphaned young. When he was old enough to choose for himself, he gave away his fortune, and became a monk at the Bogoroditskaya monastery. He was known as a Bible scholar, priest, and noted preacher. A stern and forceful man, his sermons concerned the Day of Judgement, and he lived his life as though *he* were about to be judged. He was very popular among the laity, gentle and ever concerned with the sick, the abused, and the troubled. However, it was a different matter among the clergy, many of whom were openly jealous or hostile toward him, as well as the wealthy laity who opposed his teaching on poverty, an austere life, and the emptiness of worldly wealth. His abbot was pressured by local authorities, and he ordered Abraham to stop preaching.

To escape the disturbance, Abraham withdrew from the monastery, and joined the monks of the Holy Cross. He made no friends there, either, and in order to silence him some of his critics brought charges of moral and theological errors, heresy and immorality against him. He was acquitted in his first trial, so he was tried again. When he was acquitted again, he was ordered back to the Bogoroditskaya monastery, stripped of his priestly functions, and for five years he lived under a cloud of suspicion and disciplinary orders.

During a time of drought, the people demanded that he be reinstated as the hard times made them crave the intervention of an obviously holy man; the bishop re-opened his investigation, and this time Abraham was cleared of all charges. Legend says that Abraham then prayed for the city and had not even returned to his cell in the monastery before it started to rain.

Appointed abbot of the small, impoverished Mother of God Monastery in Smolensk, he lived the rest of his life in quiet prayer, supervising his house and receiving visitors, but declining to preach for fear of causing dissension in the faithful. His biography was written by one of his brother monks, and has survived to today.

Gospel Shorts—Feasting on the Bread from Heaven

All through the Bible, most of the major events are connected with meals in some way. This is true for us today. We also share meals at special times. This reflects the human situation. We hunger, if not for food, then for shelter, or safety, or acceptance. Jesus, the bread from heaven, meets this basic human need. In the “bread from heaven” we see a glimpse of a past event, namely Calvary. And we also see a glimpse of heaven, the great marriage feast of the Lamb. In the “bread from heaven” we are assured that, ultimately, God will fulfill his promise of bringing a day when all hungers — physical, emotional, spiritual, social — will be satisfied.



Religious Education

Catechists Needed

Are you looking for a meaningful and fun way to share our faith?

Join the RE team at St. James

We are looking for Catechists for the 2024-2025 RE School Year!!

Contact Tanhya at (815)530-4406 to volunteer.

Sacred Heart Parish Campus
Mass at 10am on August 18, 2024



Chicken Dinner following Mass
August 18, 2024

Serving from 11 am until 2 pm.
Sacred Heart Parish Hall Campus, IL

Questions Catholics Ask

What Does it Mean to be Saved?

Salvation is one of those churchy words we use all the time with relatively little reflection. To Catholics of a certain generation, or Christians of some denominational persuasions, it simply implies you're not going to wind up in hell for your sins. But that's a very reductive idea. Being saved is so much more than that.

In theologian Jon Nilson's wonderfully rich definition, salvation is the condition of the ultimate restoration and fulfillment of humanity and all creation effected by God's action in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. I mean, wow! This is so much bigger than the singular rescue of your soul or mine from eternal flames, so to speak. *God's desire to save includes everything.* This reminds us of the words of Jesus after the multiplication of loaves: "Gather up the fragments that nothing may be wasted." It's God's plan that no crumb of creation is wasted.

The important question this raises is: Is this your plan and mine? Climate change reveals how human beings are very careless about the stewardship placed in our hands for all of life. Pope John Paul II's admonitions concerning our "culture of death" point toward the many ways we "waste" life: in warfare, poverty, capital punishment, and abortion among others. Pope Francis likewise warns about our "throwaway culture," which pollutes the air, soil, and water in its consumptive production, then tops off landfills as we discard it for more. And of course there are other ways in which we squander life: in the wasteful use of our time. In exploitative careers founded in personal greed rather than meeting social needs. In addictive habits, injustice, racism, hate speech, attitudes of resentment, and so much more.

What seems clear is that, if we are not saved, if we are in fact wasted or lost, it's not because God wills it to be so. God's design and desire are to rescue *all*. The story of salvation history traced in Scripture describes the perpetual efforts of a "saving God" who seeks to rescue and reconcile a people repeatedly and stubbornly choosing to wander into harm's way again. Heaven and hell, properly understood, are images that invite us to participate *now* in the happiness or misery we ultimately want. In Nilson's words, "Taken seriously but not literally, [heaven and hell] are reminders of the ultimacy involved in one's everyday decisions." There should be no mystery in how we spend eternity. Just contemplate how you spend today.

Scripture: Mark 3:4-5; 10:50-52; Matthew 1:21; 8:25-27; 14:30-32; Luke 1:46-55, 68-79; 2:10-11, 29-32; 7:50; 17:19; 19:9; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 3:21-26; 5:9-10; 8:19-24; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 15:1-2; 2 Corinthians 2:15-17; Galatians 2:15-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:8-10



God's desire to save includes everything.

August is Catholic Charities Month!

While many of us associate summer with carefree days and fun activities, it is important to remember that summer brings unique challenges for those living in poverty. At Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet, the need is greater than ever. Extreme heat can be unbearable (and sometimes dangerous) for our neighbors without air conditioning in their homes or vehicles. The current high costs of housing and food have placed an even greater strain on those who were already struggling. We all feel the pinch, but for families living at or below the poverty level, this situation can be devastating. The need for food and shelter in our community has never been greater. In response, we have expanded our services, but we need your help to continue providing much-needed programs and services to those in need. Your generous donation will help us provide food, shelter, and other critical services to our most vulnerable neighbors. Each gift makes a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. Will you help the poor and vulnerable in honor of Catholic Charities Month?

Thank you for your continued support and for making a difference in our community. To donate, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org or call 815-724-1140.

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
Do Catholics worship statues?

The Bible says not to make “graven images and worship them.” So why do Catholics have statues?
Church teaching is very clear about how Catholics view statues. Those who accuse Catholics of worshipping statues misunderstand the purpose of statues.



The First Commandment says not to worship false *idols*. In the Old Testament, we see the Israelites create a golden calf to worship instead of God. This is idolatry. But Catholics don't worship statues. We do, however, venerate them.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that, in the Old Testament, God allowed the Israelites to make certain images to use as symbols to help them point their minds towards heaven (CCC 2130). The *Catechism* also explains that we can *venerate* statues and images (CCC 2132). However, to *venerate* is not the same as to *worship*. To venerate means to pay respect, while worshipping is adoration that belongs to God alone.

Statues and other pieces of religious artwork are sacred symbols because they help us raise our minds to what they symbolize: God Incarnate and all His saints.

For instance, a crucifix is a common Catholic statue. We don't pray to a crucifix; we pray to Christ, and the crucifix is a visual reminder of Christ's sacrificial love for each of us. We human beings are body and soul, not just soul; we are physical creatures that benefit from physical representations of invisible realities.

The Church has a long history of using statues. In the early Church, most people couldn't read or write. Also, before the invention of the printing press in the fifteenth century, very few people had access to books, including the Bible. Many were illiterate. As a result, many clergy used religious art to depict the story of salvation history for those who could not read.

Statues and religious artwork help us focus on holy realities, which is why we act reverently toward them. But Catholics don't pray to statues or worship them. The Church embraces statues and other sacred artwork as symbols of who we are praying to and the salvation that we are praying for.

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Hi Everyone,

I'm Vic Carlile, the 2024 Individuals with Intellectual Disability Drive (Tootsie Roll Drive) chairman, **and I'm asking for your help.** It's that time of year again, and your Tri-Parish Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council 15032 will be holding our annual Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Drive on September 13, 14 and 15.

One of our main objectives is to aid and contribute to organizations devoted to the care of individuals and particularly those inflicted with one or more forms of Intellectual disability. Such as Best Buddies Herscher High School and KCTC (Kankakee County Training Center) to name a couple.

To do this it takes a lot of volunteers to make it a successful drive. I'm asking that you donate just two (2) hours out of your weekend. We will be collecting donations at Casey's in Herscher, Herscher State Bank, Herscher State Bank of Limestone, Dollar General in Herscher and perhaps with your help, some other locations.

If you can help us in this worthy Christian endeavor, please contact me by email or text and we can get you scheduled. We're counting on you to make this the most successful drive we've ever had. Please contact me by September 1th if possible.

My email is viccarlile51@gmail.com or text me at 815-955-6477

Respectfully,

Vic Carlile

Chairman 2024 Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Drive





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August 18, 2024

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prov 9:1-6 | Eph 5:15-20 | John 6:51-58

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

We tell our children, from a young age through their teen years: make wise choices. It's a sort of catch-all to cover the endless possibilities of circumstances - good, bad, or neutral - they might find themselves in. But what does it mean to be wise? To have wisdom? In today's first reading from Proverbs, we are shown a depiction of wisdom herself, spreading a table where the guests will dine when they arrive. "Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed!" she says. This invitation is echoed in the Gospel, by Wisdom personified: Jesus Christ. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day." Simplicity of heart and the forsaking of foolishness are the only criteria for accepting the offering of wisdom. It seems we are to come and be fed. But how do we discern, in our fast-paced, consumer-based world, what exactly is a wise choice? It's hard to advance in true wisdom; it is acquired by the humble and the simple, not the busy and the overcomplicated. Often, what the Christian deems important the world finds "foolish." It can be hard to keep our priorities rightly ordered, but advancing on the path to wisdom begins first by recognizing the centrality of God in our lives and humbly allowing him in.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, he instructs the people, saying, "Watch carefully how you live." I'd like to think that's where we got our "make wise choices" instruction, but I can't be sure. Again, the dichotomy between foolishness and wisdom is addressed. Wisdom is described as being prudent, which is living with one eye in the present, but also one eye toward the future, and being filled with the Holy Spirit. Elaborating even further, Paul provides a beautiful image of "singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything." In the life of one living with wisdom, there is a turning toward true joy. Living in a spirit of gladness is in direct opposition to living in a spirit of fear or comparison. Since wisdom and understanding are both gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit, we can invite him into our midst and ask him to increase our wisdom, understanding, and our capacity for joy.

ENGAGE Cultivating wisdom and understanding is a lofty, but worthy, goal! This week, spend some time familiarizing yourself with the Wisdom literature of the Bible (which consists of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom, and Sirach) by reading the introductions to one or more of them. Explore some of the Scriptures themselves.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 18, 2024: Prv 9:1-6 | Ps 34:2-7 | Eph 5:15-20 | Jn 6:51-58

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank you for the precious gift of your presence in the Holy Eucharist. Amen.

Abide in me, Lord, and I will Abide in You.

Jesus says, "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and me in him." This week, we continue focusing on Christ's sermon, the "Bread of Life discourse," a teaching of profound spiritual significance. We already know that Jesus meant exactly what He said when He told us to eat His body and drink His blood to gain everlasting life. Let us now look at what He meant by the words "abides in me, and me in him."

God loves us and has a unique plan for each of our lives. Part of that plan is to have a loving relationship with Him so He can help us reach our potential. God wants to abide in us, to dwell or live in our hearts, and to fill our souls with His supernatural grace.

What a great blessing to receive Jesus' real Body and Blood, His Real Presence, through the Holy Eucharist! Even amid this troubled world with so much discord and so many contrary messages against Gospel teachings, we know that God abides in us. If we allow Him, He will transform us to speak, think, and act according to His Holy Will. This heavenly food fuels us to discern right from wrong, fight



temptations, forgive one another, and love like Christ.

Through the power of Jesus in the Eucharist living within us, we are empowered to live the Gospel daily, look for Christ's face in others, and share the reason for our joy, hope, and peace with the world around us.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † In what ways do you prepare your heart to receive Jesus in Communion?
- † How does knowing Jesus is alive and abiding within you affect how you treat yourself and others?
- † How does receiving the Eucharist lead to a life of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society?
- † How does the frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist in Communion build interior joy and peace?