

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

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

APRIL 26-27 , 2025



Pope Francis
(1936–2025)

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: "A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

~Pope Francis

3rd Sunday of Easter

May 3-4, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 3 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, May 4 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, May 4 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, May 4 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Neitzke	Fr. Ron Neitzke Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Neitzke	Fr. Ron Neitzke
Ushers	Roger Jensen Gery Wright Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman	James Mallaney Dennis Pankey	Youth Mass	Sean Riordan Brent Fulton Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler
Lector	Dave Emling	Darlene Cipcich	Youth Mass	Dana Masching
Eucharistic Minister			Dena Coy	Stacie Powers
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Donna Bernicky R. Leader—Kathy Dumas	Greeter—Kim Smicker

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 28 (SMM)

8:00 am +Mary Lou Fosnaugh (Anita Schluter)

Tuesday, April 29 (SH)

8:00 am +Tom Buckley (Francis/Wanda Feller)

Wednesday, May 1 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) +Gerald Bernicky (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

Friday, May 2 First Friday (SMM)

8:00 am +Aldine & Francis O'Brien (The Family)

Saturday, May 3 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Bob Landeck (Gayle/Rob Landeck)

+Les Styck (Gayle/Rob Landeck)

Sunday, May 4

7:30 am (SH) +Monica Behrends (Her Family)

+Vincent Feller (Don/Marie Feller)

9:00am (SJ) +Dennis Bush (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

+Judy Goselin (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

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

A Look Ahead

Sunday, April 27—Youth Mass at SMM

Saturday, May 3—First Communion

Sunday, May 4—Youth Mass, May Crowning & Last Class at St. James

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

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 Jdstreefarm@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

Question of the Week

If you do something you didn't know is wrong, or break a church rule you didn't know exists, is it a sin?

Collections Weekend of April 19-20, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$3,370 Holy Land—\$195
St. James—\$ 2,908 Holy Land—\$45
Sacred Heart—\$1,767 Holy Land—\$135

Thank you for your generosity!



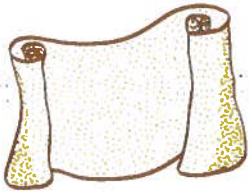
Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Rudy Splear

Husband of Julie Splear

Father of Ashley and Megan Splear

May Rudy and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.
Our sincere sympathy to Julie, all the family, and friends.



Once I was dead, but now
I am alive forever, therefore,
John,
write on the scroll
what you see.

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Reflection What a Wonderful World

Some of you young folks have been saying to me, "Eh, Pops, what do you mean, what a wonderful world? How about all those wars all over the place? You call them wonderful? And how about hunger and pollution? That ain't so wonderful either."

How about listening to old Pops for a minute? Seems to me it ain't the world that's so bad but what we're doing to it. And all I'm saying is see what a wonderful world it would be if we only gave it a chance. Love, baby, love — that's the secret. Yeee-aaahhh. If lots more of us loved each other, we'd solve lots more problems. And then this world would be a gasser. *Louis Armstrong*

Gospel Shorts Show Me

In many ordinary areas of life, most of us betray a certain amount of cynicism, pessimism, doubt. It is easy for us to question the certainty of things because it is so difficult for us to be absolutely certain of so much in life. This can be true in the very sensitive area of human relationships, as well as the very basic area of our faith in God. Thomas the Apostle, the center of attention in this gospel passage, gives a classic example of this kind of uncertainty, of doubt, about the most fundamental fact of our faith in Jesus as God, his Resurrection from the dead.

In this respect, Thomas, frequently referred to as a "twin," can easily be identified as our twin. We can resonate so much with his reaction to the stories of the other Apostles about the Easter Christ, because we, too, "are a mixture of fear and doubt, of cynicism and trust, of belief and unbelief." Along with Thomas, most of us inevitably find along the road of faith certain stumbling blocks that at first seem to question or weaken our faith, but in the long run, can be the very stuff which strengthen our faith.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James

⇒

Sacred Heart-

⇒ The week of April 27th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for Keaton O'Connor, Lily O'Connor, Saoirse O'Connor and Parker Feller as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

All Parishes—

⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

⇒ The Kankakee Deanery Council of Catholic Women Spring Institute will be held at Maternity BVM on Wednesday, June 5, 2025. Registration will begin at 5:00 pm followed by mass and dinner. For more information or to sign up for this event, please contact your CCW President.



First Friday adoration will be held on Friday, May 2 at St. Margaret Mary.

Adoration will conclude with Benediction at 3:00.

Venerable Norbert McAuliffe on the Blessed Sacrament

When Brother Norbert was asked by someone on what one should do during a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, he replied,

"Just sit there and let God's love come to you from the tabernacle."

A Stewardship Moment Weekend of April 26-27, 2025

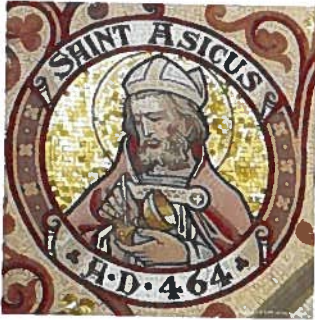
Sunday of Divine Mercy

In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear it proclaimed that many "signs and wonders" were performed in public by Christ's followers, a demonstration that produced two results. First, the people of Jerusalem outside the Christian community were awed by what the disciples were performing. And in the midst of all this amazement, many were being converted. Good stewards know of the evangelizing power emanating from their daily acts of love, compassion, kindness and generosity. They believe that if they stay focused on Christ each day, every act has the power to transform a broken world. What "signs and wonders" will we perform today?

2nd Collection April 26-27 for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Adelelmus of Le Mans (April 27) was a friend and spiritual student of a hermit named Albert around Le Mans, France. He was also the spiritual student of Saint Bernard of Tiron on Chaussey in the Channel Islands, but he returned to live as a hermit with Albert. With help from the count of Beaumont, Adelelmus founded a monastery for monks in the forest of Charnier, and a convent in Etival-a-Charnier in 1109. Though he lived near, and helped teach the monks and nuns, Adelelmus apparently never took any vows or joined any religious order.



Other obscure saint of the week: St. Asicus of Elphin (April 27) was a married coppersmith and silversmith. Asicus became a convert. He was also a disciple of Saint Patrick. Asicus became the first bishop of the diocese of Elphin, Ireland. Late in life, citing his unworthiness to lead his parishioners, he retired to live as a prayerful hermit on an island in Donegal Bay; monks from his diocese followed and tried to get him to return.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master."

But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it (*from John 20*).

St. Joseph Parish in Bradley Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

St. Joseph Parish invites all faithful to join in a special celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday, April 27, 2025. Observed on the Sunday after Easter, this feast highlights God's infinite mercy and the extraordinary graces He offers to all who trust in Him.

Established by St. John Paul II in response to the revelations given to St. Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy Sunday provides an opportunity for the faithful to receive a plenary indulgence by:

Receiving Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday weekend

Going to Confession (within about 20 days)

Praying for the intentions of the Holy Father

Striving for detachment from sin

This year's observance at St. Joseph Parish is particularly significant as our church has been designated a Jubilee Church in the Diocese of Joliet, offering an additional opportunity to receive the abundant graces of the Jubilee Year.

Event Schedule:

1:30 PM – Reconciliation (continues throughout the event)

2:00 PM – Prayer Service

Holy Hour with Adoration & Divine Mercy Chaplet

This is a powerful opportunity to seek God's mercy, deepen your faith, and experience the grace of the Jubilee Year. All are welcome!

Easter Monday, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Easter blessings and peace to you!

With deep sorrow today, we received the news of Pope Francis' passing. As we mourn the loss of our Holy Father, let us come together in prayer, remembering that he has passed during this Jubilee Year of Hope. A few years ago, in one of his many memorable homilies, Pope Francis boldly preached, "Christ is risen and with Him rises our creative hope, a hope that encourages us to start anew."

Pope Francis will long be remembered for his outreach to those on the margins of the Church and of society. He renewed for us the mission to bring the Gospel out to the ends of the earth and offer divine mercy to all. Pope Francis also took the opportunity of the present Jubilee to call us to a profound hope: one that is not an empty or naïve hope, but one grounded in the promise of Almighty God to be with us always.

This is a providential moment for us witnessing that our Holy Father has died so soon after the celebration of Easter, the season of our Lord's resurrection. Together with great gratitude, hope and faith, let us pray: "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him."

May we continue to hold him and each other in our prayers during these Holy days. And may God bless you always.

As I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ

Bishop Ronald A. Hicks Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet in Illinois

Questions Catholics Ask

If you do something you didn't know is wrong, or break a church rule you didn't know exists, is it a sin?

The culpability we hold for our actions is mitigated in many ways, including:

"ignorance, inadvertence, duress, fear, habit, inordinate attachments, and other psychological factors."

In civil law, we hear the phrase: ignorance of the law is no excuse. Yet in moral theology, nuances determine the amount of responsibility we have for rules and laws of which we may be unaware. Our ignorance is measured, and at some degree we do hold a certain amount of responsibility.



The culpability we hold for our actions is mitigated in many ways, including: "ignorance, inadvertence,

But first, let's consider what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has to say about human freedom and responsibility in general. The culpability we hold for our actions is mitigated in many ways, including: "ignorance, inadvertence, duress, fear, habit, inordinate attachments, and other psychological factors." (CCC 1735) These factors spell out reasons we may be less guilty, or even absolved of guilt, based on the conditions under which we act. If we're honestly unaware of the moral value of what we do, we're much less liable for it. If we didn't intend to do the thing, or were forced to; if we operated under powerful influences like fear or outside pressure; if we've repeated the offense so many times we're practically compelled to it; or if we suffer from mental illness in a variety of forms—these conditions qualify our culpability to a great extent.

The question you're specifically asking is one of *vincible* ignorance: that which is not invincible, but can be readily overcome. How responsible am I for the ignorance under which I as a moral agent have operated? It depends on how easily I might have known or should have known that I did wrong. Vincible ignorance is defined in three degrees: simple, crass, and affected. Say, for example, you learned the holy days of obligation as a child, but missed Mass on the Assumption on August 15th. As a Catholic, it's your responsibility to observe the holy days but you were on vacation and just forgot. That's *simple* ignorance and it's not a serious moral failure.

However, it becomes a *crass* moral fault if you miss Mass every year on August 15th because you make no effort to re-educate yourself regarding obligatory holy days (Mary the Mother of God, Ascension, Assumption, All Saints, Immaculate Conception). And it becomes an *affected* or studied kind of ignorance if you refuse to acknowledge that the church considers these feasts to be significant and worthy of reflection in the life of the faithful and pay no attention to the liturgical calendar. Not knowing the holy days then becomes a morally weighty matter.

Scripture: Genesis 3:11-19; 4:10-15; 2 Samuel 12:1-15; Psalm 119:105-106; Sirach 15:14-15; Mark 7:18-23; Romans 1:18-21; 2:14-16; 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 1 John 3:19-24

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Who was the mysterious Simon of Cyrene?

Do we know much about the “passer-by” who helped carry Jesus’ own cross?



The Gospels say very little about the man who carried the cross to Golgotha with Jesus. In fact, only one sentence is dedicated to him in three gospels. The fourth gospel does not mention him at all.

All we know of Simon from the Scriptures is that he was native to Cyrene—a large city in northern Africa—and had sons named Alexander and Rufus.

We learn more about him from one of the Church’s modern mystics and visionaries: Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich. Blessed Anne received visions of the Blessed Mother’s life and the Passion.

She begins thus concerning Simon:

At this moment Simon of Cyrene, a pagan, happened to pass by, accompanied by his three children. He was a gardener, just returning home after working in a garden near the eastern wall of the city, and carrying a bundle of lopped branches.

Blessed Anne goes on to explain that the Romans chose *him* to help Jesus because he was pagan. They didn’t want to risk offending any of the Jews by making them help, but a pagan couldn’t refuse.

Simon was disgusted with Jesus’ condition and tried to refuse. How could they expect him—an honorable man—to walk with and assist a dirty, mutilated criminal?

The Romans, however, forced him to take up the cross.

Then everything changed.

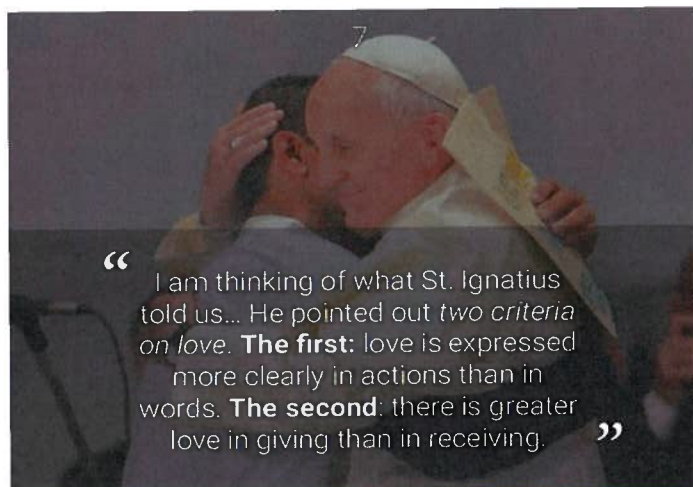
Simon had not carried the cross after Jesus any length of time before he felt his heart deeply touched by grace.

That is the last we hear of Simon himself, but Blessed Anne’s words leave us with the hope—and expectation—that he became a Christian. It is likely that he did. After all, it is believed that his sons became well-known Christians, hence St. Mark mentioned them by name.

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RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT
JN. 20:22



“ I am thinking of what St. Ignatius told us... He pointed out *two criteria on love*. **The first:** love is expressed more clearly in actions than in words. **The second:** there is greater love in giving than in receiving. ”

Glazin’ the Trail t Support Catholic Charities in Kankakee County

Support Catholic Charities in Kankakee County and enjoy a morning of fun, nature, and *donuts* at the 3rd annual Glazin’ the Trail 5K/2K!

17

Saturday, May 31, 2025



9:00 AM Start



Kankakee Community Col-

This family-friendly event is open to all ages and fitness levels—walk, run, or stroll with friends, family, and even your dog! This untimed run/walk is all about fun and supporting Catholic Charities’ vital programs and services in Kankakee County.

Come out, eat donuts, and make a difference!

To register, visit <https://racerooster.com/events/2025/103540/glazin-the-trail>

Want to learn more? Call 815-724-1160 or email dschultz@cc



April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 5:12-16 | Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 | Jn 20:19-31

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

On this Easter Octave, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. As Jesus revealed to the Polish nun St. Faustina Kowalska, the blood and water that gushed forth from his side during his crucifixion would become a “fountain of mercy” for all of us. In today’s first reading, we witness what happens now that the Apostles have received that mercy flowing from the foot of the cross. Motivated by the mystery of Jesus’ resurrection and ascension and emboldened by the gift of the Holy Spirit, these men are now continuing his ministry of healing. Just as the ill and possessed flocked to Christ, so now those sick in body or spirit see the power of Christ working through the Apostles. The beauty of receiving God’s mercy is that it doesn’t stop once it’s been poured into us – his mercy *compels us*, inspiring us to become living fountains of mercy to those we encounter.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In a somewhat confusing chronology, today’s Gospel takes place in time before the events in our first reading. So we go with the disciples back to “the evening of that first day of the week.” They have been through a *lot* over the past weeks. They have watched their community turn on Jesus and give him over to be brutally killed. They have walked with him through his agonizing passion and bitter death, and they have witnessed his glorious resurrection from the dead. “Overwhelming” seems too small a word. Can you imagine the weight of their experience on a physical, emotional, and spiritual level? Now, in today’s Gospel, we see them gathered together behind locked doors, shaken from the recent events, and fearing for their own lives. Somehow, mysteriously, Jesus enters the room and says, “Peace be with you.” Three times, Jesus repeats this phrase to his disciples in this reading. Untethered by space and time and in the wake of grief and glory, the Savior of the world extends himself in an intimate encounter, radically present to those who love him.

REFLECT

Throughout today’s Scriptures, we see the Lord’s relentless pursuit of the human heart. We see a God who loves us so passionately that he pours himself into us, inviting us to partake in his mission by the outpouring of his mercy and the power of his Holy Spirit. Today, pause to reflect on the mercy of God. In what areas of your life can you see God’s mercy at work? How can you be an instrument of his mercy for others?

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 20:29

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel John 20:19-31; L45C

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

"Receive the Holy Spirit.

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,

was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

But he said to them,

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands

and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside

and Thomas was with them.

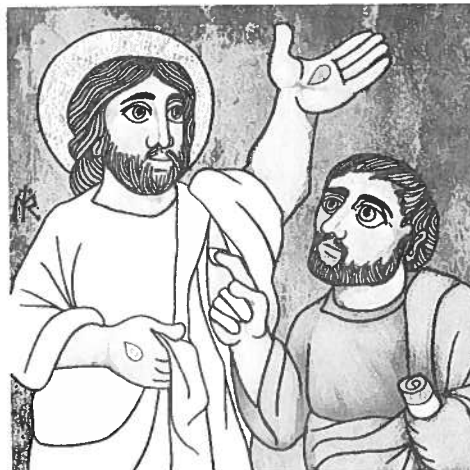
Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said,

"Peace be with you."

Continued in Appendix A, p. 295.

Reflecting on the Gospel

In 1989 Sister Thea Bowman was invited to speak to the US bishops about the needs of the Black Catholic community. At the end of her address, she asked the bishops to sing with her and to link arms, as in the days of civil rights marches. Weakened from the cancer that took her life the following year, she nonetheless led the bishops with her powerful voice as they joined her in singing "We Shall Overcome."



She invited them to stand up and reach out and take each other's hands, which they did. "No, not like that," she admonished, as they tentatively took one another's hands. "Cross your arms over your chest and then take the hands on either side," she instructed. "That's how we did it in the civil rights marches. You have to move in together, close to one another, and hold on tight so that no one is lost in the struggle."

The instruction to hold on tight to one another is part of Jesus's recurring message in the Gospel of John. After feeding the multitude, he says that God's will is that he "should not lose anything"

of what has been given to him (6:39). Speaking as a shepherd, he declares that no one will snatch his sheep out of his hand (10:28). In his final prayer, he says he guarded all those whom the Father had given him and not one of them was lost (17:12; see also 18:9). In today's gospel, when the risen Christ appears to the fearful disciples, he empowers them to continue his mission of drawing all to himself (12:32) and not allowing any to be lost in the struggle.

As the risen Christ stands in their midst, we see that his peace comes from letting go of fear and the desire for vengeance and from surrounding the violence with forgiveness and reconciliation. This kind of peace does not ignore the brutal suffering inflicted on the victim. Jesus holds out his wounded hands and side as evidence that is never erased. The pain from the violence can be transformed, however, into joy and peace, through the power of the Spirit and through the abiding presence of Christ, who makes possible forgiveness.

The disciples are not to stay huddled together in fear behind locked doors; rather, they are sent by Christ to continue his mission of healing and forgiving. Just as the Creator breathed life into the nostrils of the first human creature, making it into a living being (Gen 2:7), so Jesus breathes life into the disciples, empowering them to forgive everything and everyone they can. The second half of verse 23, usually translated "whose sins you retain are retained," does not have the word *sins* in the Greek text. A better way to understand it is "whom-ever you hold fast are held fast." The sense is that through processes of forgiveness and reconciliation, disciples of Jesus continue his mission of holding on to all, arms folded across our chests, clenching each hand tightly, so that none, especially the most vulnerable, are lost in the struggle.