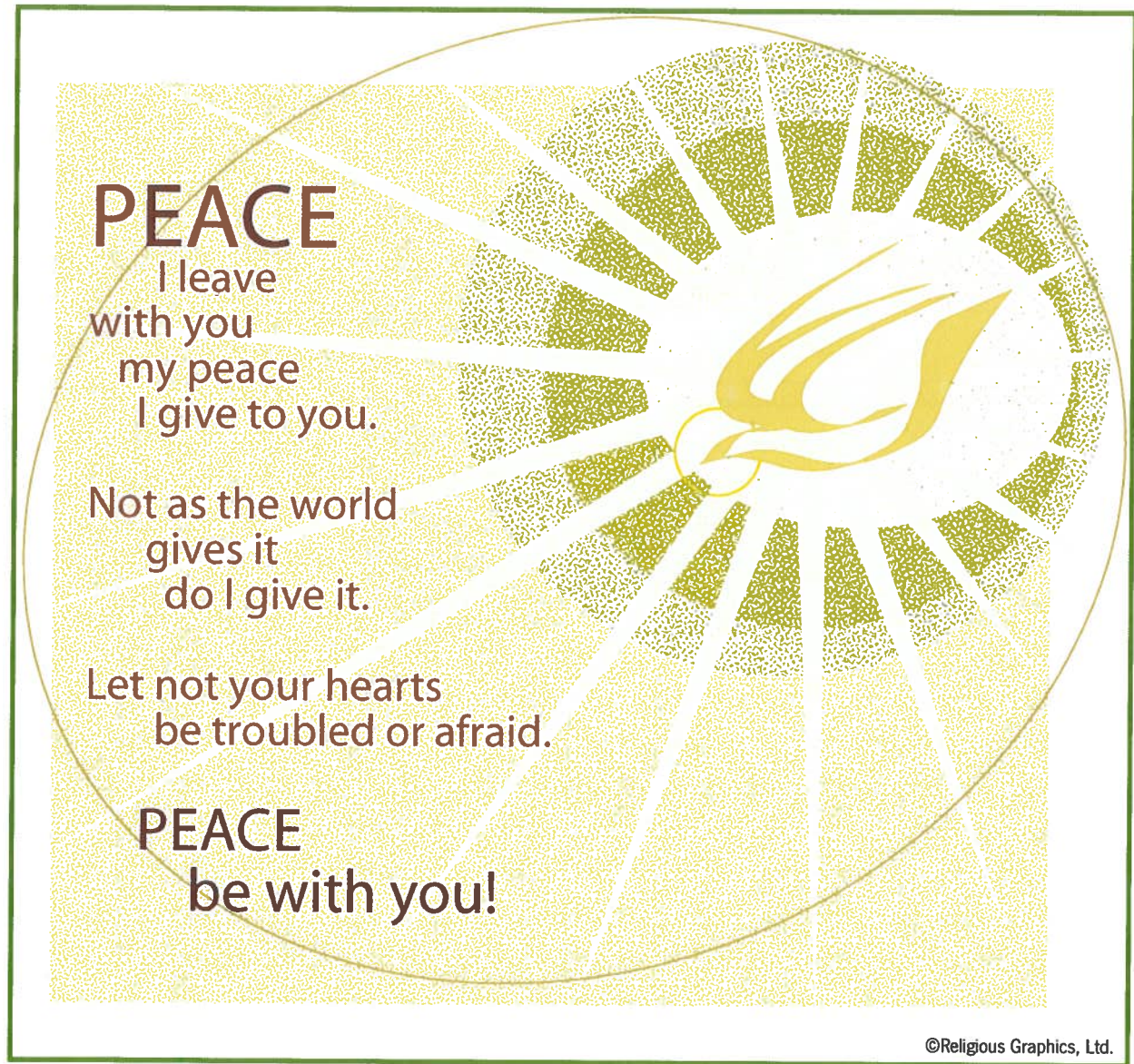


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 24-25 , 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: "Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, not even if your whole world seems upset. If you find that you have wandered away from the shelter of God, lead your heart back to Him quietly and simply."

—Saint Francis de Sales

7th Sunday of Easter

May 31—June 1, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 31 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, June 1 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, June 1 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, June 1 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Allam	Fr. Allam	Fr. Allam Deacon Ron	Fr. Allam
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen Gery Wright Todd Datweiler	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	Dan Forsythe Vic Carlile Dennis O'Connor Bob Buente	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Kim Smicker Larry Wolles
Lector	Dave Emling	Mike Hertz	Dave Ladehoff	Dana Masching
Eucharistic Minister				Dana Masching
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Dallas Ferris R. Leader—Rita Thiesen	The Wheelers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, May 26 (SMM)

9:00 am +Laura Jensen (Bea Hinderer)

Tuesday, May 27 (SH)

8:00 am +George Grosso (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, May 28 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) +Alex Denault (Jeff/Lori Ann Bruer)

Friday, May 30 (SMM)

8:00 am +Melvin "Skip" Prince (Jerome, Martha, Jason Schneider families)

Saturday, May 31 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, June 1

7:30 am (SH) +Sondra Hertz (M/M Eugene Bertrand)

9:00am (SJ) +Geri Tobenski (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

10:30 am (SMM) +Madeline Bouchard (Chris/Larry Bertrand)
+Denise Blake Jepsen (Kathy Jepsen)

Question of the Week What resentments, jealousies, or ambitions do I have in my heart that interfere with the presence of peace? How can I overcome these?

A Look Ahead

May 26—Memorial Day Mass—9:00am SMM

Change of plans/May 31-June 1— Fr. Allam's Mission Appeal

June 14/15— 2nd Collection for Infirm/Retired Priests

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 Weekend of May 17-18, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,015

Sacred Heart—\$ 877

St. James—\$1,331

Thank you for your generosity!

Lest We Forget

— REMEMBRANCE DAY —



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Gary Nelson

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

Our sincere sympathy to all Gary's family and friends.

Gospel Shorts

With Whom God Lives

Have you ever noticed how some people seem to walk with God in the most difficult of circumstances, while others make mountains out of molehills? God is the farthest reality from their minds.

Yet, Jesus tells us today that when we live according to his word, God will make a home with us. We all know that, but the knowledge does not always transfer from our hard drive to the screen on which we look at our lives. Perhaps it is a matter of doing what we do with anything that matters, taking the time to reflect on it, to focus on it, so that we might integrate it.

Today's gospel is both an invitation and a promise. An invitation to walk with God, to let God make a home with us. And a promise that the Spirit of that same God will instruct us in everything we need to know.

Reflections In Our Remembering

Memorial Day is a day to remember those who have died in our wars. It has also become a time to remember all our loved ones who have died. To make this day more significant and spiritual try:

- At a meal this weekend, sharing how you feel about people who have lost their lives at war.
- Recalling the people who have died this year and do something thoughtful for their relatives.
- Visiting the cemetery as a family.
- Attending church wherever you are and give thanks for all those who sacrificed for you in any way, especially the deceased.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James-

Sacred Heart-

⇒ The week of May 25th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer and gratitude for the brave souls who have sacrificed their lives for our nation

All Parishes—

- ⇒ There will be no Knights of Columbus meeting in May due to Memorial Day. The next meeting will be June 23, 2025 .
- ⇒ 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.

A Stewardship Moment

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord Weekend of May 31/June 1, 2025

Today we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of our Lord, a feast which, in part, celebrates the confidence he placed in his close followers to continue his ministry. In the Gospel reading Jesus reminds his followers of the purpose of his mission, and commissions them to continue his work by proclaiming his word and by living courageously that which they preached. He also promises them the Holy Spirit who he said would strengthen them for the task ahead. As stewards of Jesus' life and ministry, a good question for us to reflect on this week might be this: Has Christ's confidence in the quality of our own witness been well placed?

MEMORIAL DAY

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★



Obscure saint of the week: St. Gregory VII (May 25) was educated in Rome. He went on to become a Benedictine monk. Later he was appointed the chaplain to Pope Gregory VI. The pope put him in charge of the *Patrimony of Saint Peter*. Gregory was known as a reformer and excellent administrator. He was chosen as the 152nd pope, but he declined the crown. He was the chief counselor to Pope Victor II, Pope Stephen IX, Pope Benedict X, and Pope Nicholas II. He became the 157th pope.

At the time of his ascension, simony and a corrupt clergy threatened to destroy faith in the Church. Gregory took the throne as a reformer, and Emperor Henry IV promised to support him. Gregory suspended all clerics who had purchased their position and ordered the return of all purchased church property. The corrupt clergy rebelled; Henry IV broke his promise and promoted the rebels. Gregory responded by excommunicating anyone involved in lay investiture. He summoned Henry to Rome, but the emperor's supporters drove Gregory into exile. Henry installed the anti-pope Guibert of Ravenna, who was driven from Rome by Normans who supported Gregory; the Normans were, themselves, so out of control that the people of Rome drove out them and Gregory. The Pope then retreated to Salerno, Italy where he spent the remainder of his papacy.



Other obscure saint of the week: St. Aldhelm of Sherborne (May 25) was the son of Centa. He was a Saxon and related to the King of Wessex. He lived for a while as a hermit near Wiltshire, England. He became a monk at Malmesbury Abbey in Wiltshire. Aldhelm was a spiritual student of Saint Maeldulph and Saint Adrian of Canterbury. Aldhelm was known as a teacher and spiritual director.

Later he became the abbot at Malmesbury c.685. He instituted Benedictine reforms, and the house became a model for those around it. In addition, he founded monasteries at Frome and Brandford-on-Avon, and built three churches in Malmesbury, one of which survives today. During one of the church constructions, a roof beam was cut too short; Aldhelm prayed over it, and it lengthened. Around the year 700 Aldhelm installed the first church organ in England.

He was a tireless preacher – legend says that one sermon lasted so long that his staff took root and became a tree again. Aldhelm was a spiritual writer known internationally in his day and was one of the founders of Anglo-Latin poetry. As a musician, he was skilled in the harp, fiddle and pipes, and known as a skilled and popular singer. He traveled to Rome to meet with Pope Saint Sergius I and helped settle disputes on matters of theology and practice between the Celtic and Anglo-Saxon churches. He became the bishop of Sherborne from 705 until his death.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Judas (not Iscariot) said, "Master, why is it that you are about to make yourself plain to us but not to the world?"

"Because a loveless world," said Jesus, "is a sightless world. If anyone loves me, he will carefully keep my word and my Father will love him—we'll move right into the neighborhood! Not loving me means not keeping my words. The message you are hearing isn't mine. It's the message of the Father who sent me.

"I'm telling you these things while I'm still living with you. The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you. I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught.

"You've heard me tell you, 'I'm going away, and I'm coming back.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I'm on my way to the Father because the Father is the goal and purpose of my life.

"I've told you this ahead of time, before it happens, so that when it does happen, the confirmation will deepen your belief in me" (from John 14).

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

The priest who blew up his own church



His story has so many fascinating chapters, we have to tell it in 2 parts. If you scroll through the life story of Fr. Albert Braun, OFM, you'll wonder how such a life could be real—and not just a storyline from a movie!

By the time he died at the age of 93, Fr. Braun had accomplished more than seems possible in one lifetime. His work spanned the globe, from his ministry among the Mescalero Apache in New Mexico to his service as a chaplain in not one but two World Wars. Born to German immigrant parents in Los Angeles in 1889, John William "Bud" Braun was not the most typical candidate for the priesthood. As a child, he was mischievous, short-tempered, and a bit of a prankster. "I've been in trouble all my life," he would later laugh.

When he turned up at a Franciscan high school preparatory seminary in Santa Barbara, he was accepted. But they told him he was too stubborn to be a priest.

defying expectations once again, he persevered, professed solemn vows in 1912, and was ordained in 1915. He was assigned to the Mescalero Apache in southern New Mexico, a rugged outpost of 720 square miles with a decaying church.

Though he shared no common language with the people of the reservation, Fr. Braun threw himself into the work. He learned all about the Apache people and ranged from one end of the reservation to the other, often on horseback, accompanied by his native interpreter, Eric. The people loved this enthusiastic, hardworking priest, and as numbers swelled in the little chapel, Fr. Braun set his sights on building a new one.

But that would have to wait. With the U.S. joining World War I in 1917, Fr. Braun volunteered as an Army chaplain. He was sent to France, where he served during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the enormous final battle of the war. He insisted on serving the soldiers in the extreme danger of the front lines, and did so with his characteristic courage, receiving both the Purple Heart and Silver Star.

Fr. Braun then returned to the Mescalero. Inspired by the great churches of Europe, he was determined that they should have a beautiful church, too. But his request to replace the dilapidated church was denied.

You'll never guess what he did next.

He filled the cracks in the deteriorating church with a payload of gunpowder. And then...*BOOM*.

It worked.

The building was condemned and he received permission to build a new one—but was given no money to do it with. As you've probably figured out by now, Fr. Braun was never deterred by challenges. "Insignificant!" was his common response to any obstacle.

With \$100 of Army pay in his pocket, he hopped on a train to the other side of the country—Philadelphia!—to meet with architect William Stanton. Inspired by Fr. Albert's vision, Mr. Stanton drew up plans for the new chapel pro bono.

Then, back on the reservation, Fr. Albert got to work with a team that included Apache volunteers, a friend from California, and Franciscan friars fleeing the religious persecution in Mexico.

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Catholic Charities Parent Program – Support for Parents of Young Children

Are you parenting a child between the ages of 2 and 8? Join the **Catholic Charities Parent Program**, a free 12-session series designed to help parents build strong relationships, boost confidence, and support their child's mental health.

Led by licensed professionals. Attend virtually or in person (location TBD).

Participants receive a **\$25 gift card** for completing a pre-test and another **\$25 gift card** after the post-test!

Starts the first week of June **Register today!** For more information, visit <https://form.jotform.com/250995587252066> or call 815-723-0331. Offered by Catholic Charities Counseling Services.

What's the significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls? I want to know—but not enough to read them!



The Dead Sea Scrolls raise more questions than they supply definitive answers.

Reading them would be tough—unless you know Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The story of the scrolls isn't complete even now, more than 70 years after the first collection was discovered by a Bedouin boy in search of a lost sheep in 1947. As recently as March 2021, archeologists announced new findings in yet another cave, including fragments from some books of prophecy. Who knows what else lies undiscovered in the Judean desert, with its excellent conditions for preserving ancient artifacts?

The Dead Sea Scrolls raise more questions than they supply definitive answers. To the disappointment of many, the scrolls aren't a smoking gun linking the Qumran community (which consigned these writings to their caves) with Jesus, John the Baptist, or Christianity. No New Testament texts appear

among the thousands of fragments so far unearthed. Yet every Jewish biblical book except Esther is logged among the findings. The original 11 caves, uncovered between 1947 and 1956, contained some 900 distinct manuscripts, most of them extra-biblical. What we learned from Cave 1, which seems to have been a deliberate library for the community, is that a great deal of attention at Qumran focused on the present and the future, not just the past. The rules by which this community—presumed by most scholars to be the Essenes—would live was a paramount concern. The Essenes were among three significant subgroups within Judaism between 150 BC and 68 AD, when Roman soldiers destroyed Qumran. Unlike the Sadducees, who ran the Temple and cooperated with the Roman occupiers, the Essenes withdrew from Jerusalem and rejected the legitimacy of the Temple leaders. Rather than participating in the customary ritual sacrifices, the Essenes anticipated the rabbinic movement to come which would replace Temple worship with study of the Law of Moses.

Like the third movement of the period, that of the Pharisees, the Essenes were dedicated to religious purity. Young men found their zeal and idealism attractive, and would enter the community for a time. However, a longstanding practice of celibacy deterred some from remaining. A study of gravesites around Qumran revealed that the community relaxed the celibacy requirement at a later date. A more recent gravesite included women and children buried separately, at a discreet distance, from the men. The scrolls provide evidence to the complexity of religious ideas circulating in the generations around Jesus. Judaism was frac-



to the Tri-Parish college, high school, and 8th grade 2025 graduates!
May God bless and watch over you as you embark on your next chapter!

Reflection

The incarnation of the eternal Word made it possible for the world to encounter God and thus changed the course of history. The ascension of the glorified Christ and the subsequent sending of the Spirit allow all believers to touch Christ, to see and knew God and to live his life, by providing a mode of contact with the Lord. Each sacrament is a sign of his presence; this is especially true of the Eucharist, which is specifically the sign of the presence of his now glorified body. Reflection on each of the sacraments will enable us to see how truly Christ spoke in saying that his departure was to our advantage. Now, Christ is present to us in every place and at all times.

Deacon Ron



Honor Flight Chicago 121
May 14, 2025



WELCOME HOME

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Gagnon, Ronnie
Kankakee, IL

Vietnam Air Force

Veteran Summary
Honor Thank, Inspire

E-4 Sgt. Ronnie J. Gagnon, served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War from 12/29/1970 to 12/05/1974. Basic Training completed at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX and training at Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX for Disbursement Accounting Specialist.

Assigned to Sheppard AFB Accounting Office, then deployed overseas from 9/1972 to 9/1973, which included Bien Hoa AFB Vietnam and Clark AFB, Philippines. Discharged at Francis E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, WY.

Received National Defense Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal and Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

Flight 0121 May 14, 2025

NPC Ambassador Medal



Gaety Images / manmuth

May 25, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 | Rev 21:10-14, 22-23 | Jn 14:23-29

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

A quip on a church marquee has stuck with me for years:

If you feel distant from God, guess who moved? In last

Sunday's Gospel, Jesus told his disciples that he would be with them "only a little while longer." Of course, we know the

full story: Jesus did not abandon his followers. Today we hear of his parting gift to them and to us. Although Jesus would soon return to the Father, he was sending someone to minister to the disciples and to encourage them in their mission: "The

Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." Often in our lives, when we feel distant from God,

we may wonder if the Lord has departed from us. In these seasons, remember that Jesus – who has *never* broken a promise – did, indeed, send the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Take heart in moments of trial and call upon the Spirit, the Advocate, whose name in Latin means "he who is called to one's side." He will come close, reminding you of the goodness of God and encouraging you on the path to heaven.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's second reading narrates St. John the Apostle's vision of the heavenly Jerusalem. John describes the radiant splendor of this place "like that of a precious stone." Though the vision is resplendent, John observes: "The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb." God himself is the source of light which illumines heaven. But he is likewise present among us and his reign is meant to extend on earth as well. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can, therefore, prepare for heaven while also striving to bring God's glory to earth by living for him each day. So many times we have prayed the words of the Lord's Prayer: "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, *on earth as it is in heaven.*" Allow the glory of God to illumine your everyday life. Call upon God's grace and the Holy Spirit to witness to his truth, beauty, and goodness.

REFLECT

Inviting the Holy Spirit to act as our Advocate, how do we reveal the glory of God in our daily activities? As you begin your work, study, or household tasks, offer him your undertakings (and your heart) and ask him to transform the mundane into the sacred.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:23

℟. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word,
says the Lord,
and my Father will love him and we
will come to him.

℟. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel John 14:23-29; L57C

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Whoever loves me will
keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and
make our dwelling with
him.

Whoever does not love me
does not keep my words;
yet the word you hear is not
mine
but that of the Father who
sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with
you.

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my
name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all that I told you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give
to you.

Not as the world gives do I give it to
you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or
afraid.

You heard me tell you,

'I am going away and I will come
back to you.'

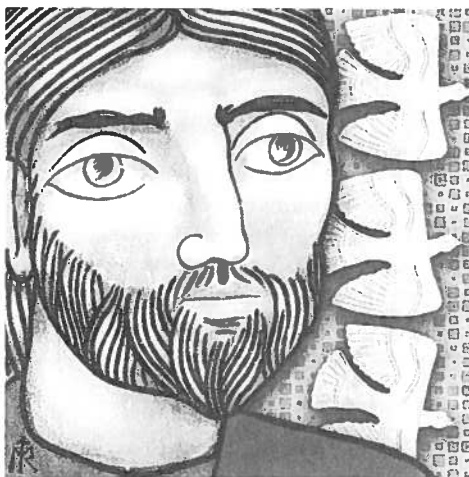
If you loved me,
you would rejoice that I am going to
the Father;

for the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you this before it
happens,
so that when it happens you may
believe."

Reflecting on the Gospel

Frequently, the only time the Holy Spirit features in our parishes is at or near Pentecost and in reference to the sacrament of confirmation. The Third Person of the Trinity deserves so much more attention than that! In the readings today, the church gives us a guide to understand the crucial role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life, in both its individual and communal dimensions.



At the Last Supper, Jesus promises that "we [my Father and I] will come to him [whoever loves me] and make our dwelling with him." Even as Jesus speaks of his departure, he promises the presence of God—not in a physical presence, but in a greater way. Jesus promises that his own Spirit will come to make his dwelling with us. Indeed, this is the Spirit that "proceeds from the Father and the Son." The love between the Father and the Son overflows such that it becomes its own coequal Person, the very Spirit that resides within each of us by our baptism. It is in the Spirit that we come to be children of God the Father, with Christ Jesus as our brother. This is the nearness to each of us that Jesus promises in this gospel passage—a bond greater than any other.

The Holy Spirit is present not only within each of us but in a special way within the church, shaping and guiding it. At the Last Supper, Jesus gives us his peace but makes sure to distinguish it from peace as we know it. Peace in these terms is not simply the absence of conflict, but a wholeness that only God can provide. In fact, conflict and tension can often be the means through which God brings about this wholeness. The first reading gives an abbreviated account of the Council of Jerusalem, in response to the first major church conflict: should Gentile converts have to follow Jewish customs? Luke describes that there was "no little dissension and debate" on the topic. Certainly, we today know division of all kinds within the church, whether over liturgical preference, political affiliation, alignment with church teaching, or anything else getting in the way of unity. Conflict is a reality of life in community, but it is also an opportune moment for God to act. The apostles and their delegates deliberate for what must have been many hours, and they share the fruits of their discernment in a letter: "It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us . . ." The church came to a decision not through a pros-and-cons list nor by democratic vote nor by decibel count in a shouting match, but in trusting their prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Imagine how different our world today could be if we let go of our own agenda and opened our hearts to the promptings of the Spirit!

Beginning in 2021, Pope Francis has invited the church to rediscover the life of the Spirit within the church in *synodality*—a journey of mutual listening, guided by the Holy Spirit, within the communion of the church but looking to invite those outside of it. By this invitation, may we come to know the fruits of the Spirit in our own prayer, our families, and our church, both local and universal.