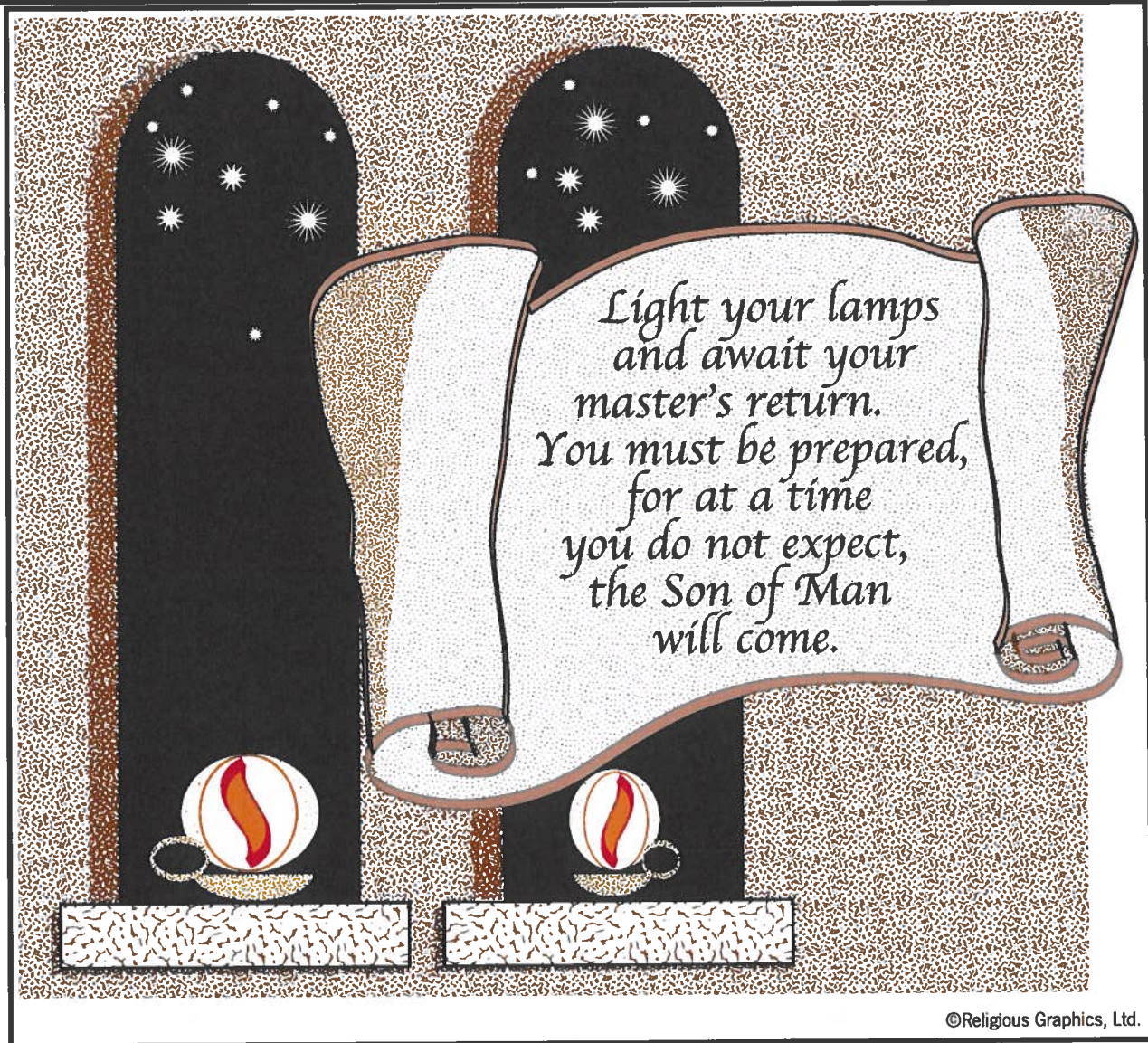


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 9-10, 2025



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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: "Start being brave about everything, driving out darkness and spreading light as well. Don't look at your weakness but realize that in Christ crucified you can do everything."

—Saint Catherine of Siena

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9-10, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, August 9 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, August 10 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, August 10 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, August 10 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen Dave Emling Gery Wright	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	Dan Forsythe Cathy Jensen Jerry Ogrentz Mary Offerman	Kim Smicker Larry Wolles Galen Fritz Brent Fulton
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Rhonda Berns	Andy Hansen	Julie Splear
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Kathy Dumas	The Wheelers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, August 11 (SMM)

8:00 am +Donna Ruder (Cathy Jepsen)

Tuesday, August 12 (SH)

8:00 am +Rose Lewis (Don/Marie Feller)

Wednesday, August 13 (SJ)

8:00 am +Juanita Papineau (Gary/Carla Papineau)

Thursday, August 14 (SH)

7:00 pm +Adam Andrzejewski (Jackie Cross)

Friday, August 15

8:00 am SMM +Inez Crawford (Pat Gray)

7:00 pm SJ +Ed Maley (Tom Scanlon/Dawn)

Saturday, August 16 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, August 17

7:30 am (SH) +Wayne, Pat, Mike McCarly (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

9:00am (SJ) +Bill O'Connor (Pam/Craig Walker)

+Edward/Margaret Dermody (The Offermans)

10:30 am (SMM) +John Andrzejewski (His Family)

+Mary McDonald (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

A Look Ahead

Holy Day of Obligation Mass Schedule

Thursday, August 14—Vigil Mass Assumption at SH 7 pm

Friday, August 15—Assumption Mass at SMM 8
St. James at 7pm

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 August 2-3

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,121

Sacred Heart—\$1,149

St. James—\$2,280

Thank you for your generosity!

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

"Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very Kingdom itself.

"Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can't go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bankrobbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

"Keep your shirts on; keep the lights on! Be like house servants waiting for their master to come back from his honeymoon, awake and ready to open the door when he arrives and knocks. Lucky the servants whom the master finds on watch! He'll put on an apron, sit them at the table, and serve them a meal, sharing his wedding feast with them. It doesn't matter what time of the night he arrives; they're awake—and so blessed!

"You know that if the house owner had known what night the burglar was coming, he wouldn't have stayed out late and left the place unlocked. So don't you be slovenly and careless. Just when you don't expect him, the Son of Man will show up."

Peter said, "Master, are you telling this story just for us? Or is it for everybody?"

The Master said, "Let me ask you: Who is the dependable manager, full of common sense, that the master puts in charge of his staff to feed them well and on time? He is a blessed man if when the master shows up he's doing his job. But if he says to himself, 'The master is certainly taking his time,' begins maltreating the servants and maids, throws parties for his friends, and gets drunk, the master will walk in when he least expects it, give him the thrashing of his life, and put him back in the kitchen peeling potatoes.

"The servant who knows what his master wants and ignores it, or insolently does whatever he pleases, will be thoroughly thrashed. But if he does a poor job through ignorance, he'll get off with a slap on the hand. Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities" (from Luke 12).

Parish News:

All Parishes—

⇒ A big thank you to all those who supported the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary ice cream social by purchasing raffle tickets, making donations and/or attending the event. Congratulations to Judy Krecek, the winner of the 50/50 raffle.

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

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James-

Sacred Heart-

⇒ Sacred Heart CCW is having their next meeting Tues., August 12 at 6:30pm in the church hall. Each member is asked to bring a snack. Drinks and tableware are provided. Come join us to see the improvements in our kitchen and discuss plans for the coming year, all ladies in the parish who are 18 yrs. and older are members. See you there.



Labor Day means Float Time! Please plan on helping with this year's TriParish float. Look for times and place in next week's bulletin. We would love to see helpers from all three parishes support our float building efforts!

A Stewardship Moment

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of August 9/10, 2025

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus concludes his teaching about those who are "faithful and prudent stewards" with that classic stewardship teaching: "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." Christian stewards recognize that God is the ultimate source of their gifts, talents, resources and aptitudes, and that God wants them to use these varied gifts in his service. This week might be a good time to reflect on our God-given gifts. Are we using those gifts to serve the Lord? If Christ came back to us unexpectedly tomorrow, would we be able to give a full accounting of how we have exercised stewardship over these gifts?

Reflection In God We Trusted

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these things were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

Abraham Lincoln



Saint of the week: St. Clare of Assisi (August 11) Clare's father was a count, her mother the countess Blessed Orsolana. Her father died when the girl was very young. After hearing Saint Francis of Assisi preach in the streets, Clare confided to him her desire to live for God, and the two became close friends. On Palm Sunday in 1212, her bishop presented Clare with a palm, which she apparently took as a sign. With her cousin Pacifica, Clare ran away from her mother's palace during the night to enter religious life. She eventually took the veil from Saint Francis at the Church of Our Lady of the Angels in Assisi, Italy.

Clare founded the Order of Poor Ladies (Poor Clares) at San Damiano and led it for 40 years. Everywhere the Franciscans established themselves throughout Europe, there also went the Poor Clares, depending solely on alms. They were forced to have complete faith on God to provide through people; this lack of land-based revenues was a new idea at the time. Clare's mother and sisters later joined the order, and there are still thousands of members living lives of silence and prayer.

Clare loved music and well-composed sermons. She was humble, merciful, charming, optimistic, chivalrous, and every day she meditated on the Passion of Jesus. She would get up late at night to tuck in her sisters who'd kicked off their blankets. When she learned of the Franciscan martyrs in Morocco in 1221, she tried to go there to give her own life for God but was restrained. Once when her convent was about to be attacked, she displayed the Sacrament in a monstrance at the convent gates and prayed before it; the attackers left, the house was saved, and the image of her holding a monstrance became one of her emblems. Her patronage of eyes and against their problems may have developed from her name which has overtones from clearness, brightness, brilliance – like healthy eyes.

Toward the end of her life, when she was too ill to attend Mass, an image of the service would display on the wall of her cell; thus her patronage of television. She was ever the close friend and spiritual student of Francis, who apparently led her soul into the light at her death.

Obscure saint of the week: St. Alexander the Charcoal Burner (August 11) was well-born, educated, and endowed with 3rd century Greek philosophical training. He was a convert to Christianity. To escape his pagan roots and live for God, he left his native area and became a charcoal burner at Comana, Pontus, Asia Minor (in modern Turkey). Alexander was noted for being *exceptionally* ragged and filthy.

When Saint Gregory Thaumaturgus oversaw a council of laymen and religious to pick a bishop for [Comana](#), he told them to ignore outward appearance, and choose the most spiritual person among them. Alexander, dressed in his work rags, and covered in soot and dirt, was dragged forward, apparently as a joke. He tried to play dumb, but when Gregory ordered him to be honest, he admitted his education, his study of the Scriptures, and his life of living as a "fool for Christ." Scrubbed and robed, the council questioned him, recognized his spiritual wisdom, and chose him as their bishop.



Gospel Shorts - Ready or Not, Here I Come

If

only I had been more prepared ... if only I had started earlier on my income tax ... if only we had started saving five years ago for our kids' college education ... if only I had learned the Bible better so that I could have answered the questions my co-worker asked me. We are a procrastinating people.

In the 12th chapter of Luke, our Lord lifts up this spirit of readiness and anticipation of his return as a compass for deciding our daily priorities. For those who are ready, his coming is a joyful anticipation. For those who are not ready, it will be a fearful and panicky event.

Question of the week:

What can I do to build and deepen my faith? Whom can I wait on while I wait for the Lord's return?



Be like servants who await
their master's return
LK.12:36

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
Who is the first U.S. born martyr?

From small-town Oklahoma to war-torn Guatemala, Blessed Stanley Rother exemplified self-sacrificing love. 43 years ago, the first martyr from the United States gave his life for his faith.

Although Fr. Rother lost his life in Guatemala, he was born in the small town of Okarche, Oklahoma. He grew up on his family farm, played on his school's sports teams, and served at his local parish as an altar server. It was an ordinary American childhood.

However, his vocational calling was anything but ordinary.

After high school graduation, while his friends set off to college or to their careers, Stanley entered the seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 25th, 1963. Fr. Rother returned back home to Oklahoma where he served as an associate pastor for five years.

But he wasn't home for long before he felt the Lord calling him elsewhere, somewhere far from the Oklahoma farmland he was so familiar with. Fr. Rother sought and received permission to join the staff at his diocese's mission in Guatemala.

Without knowing the language or the culture, Fr. Rother obediently followed the Lord's calling to a small impoverished community in Santiago Atitlan. Surprisingly to Fr. Rother, who struggled with Latin throughout seminary, Spanish came easily to him and he was quickly immersed in the community, serving wholeheartedly and with deep love for his new flock.

He regularly ministered to his parishioners in their homes, eating with them, visiting the sick, and aiding them with medical issues. This Oklahoma boy even put his farming skills to use and helped in the fields, diversifying the crops and building an irrigation system.

In the midst of Fr. Rother's service, a civil war broke out in Guatemala between several guerrilla groups and Guatemala's militarized government. This war impacted everyone in Santiago Atitlan but it especially affected local Catholics, who were dangerously in the center of this bloody conflict.

Thousands of Guatemalan Catholics were tragically killed. The Church, despite constant threats, courageously continued to educate and catechize. Eventually, Fr. Rother's name appeared on a list of targeted individuals. For his safety, he was asked to return home to Oklahoma.

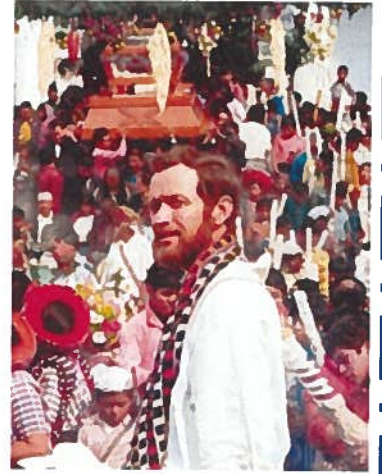
Yet, facing the life-threatening reality of his situation, Fr. Rother insisted that "the shepherd cannot run" and was determined to return to his parishioners.

Merely a few months into his brave return to Guatemala, Fr. Rother's rectory was invaded. He was threatened and executed for his faith and service on July 28th, 1981.

On December 1st, 2016, Pope Francis officially recognized Fr. Rother as a martyr, making him the first U.S.-born martyr. He also became the first U.S.-born priest to hold the title of "Blessed" when he was beatified on September 23rd, 2017.

We need Blessed Stanley Rother's courage more than ever as we witness to Christ in this world. Read more about his incredible story in *The Shepherd Who Didn't Run: Fr. Stanley Rother, Martyr from Oklahoma*. You'll be inspired and invigorated by his tremendous example of faith, courage, and totally self-donating love.

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Blessed Stanley Rother (photo credit: [Julitomenchu/CC BY-SA 3.0](https://www.flickr.com/photos/julitomenchu/))

Reflection Tapping the Source

We need to realize and appreciate the fact that God's love is always available. Always. You don't have to think about it. He never leaves you alone or uncared for or comfortless. Compare God's presence to the water in the kitchen tap. It's there all the time, when you're thirsty, you must bring the water forth.



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Be like those
awaiting their master's
return so when he arrives,
you can open the door
without delay.

Tri-Parish Prayer Group

We are starting a weekly prayer group for the three parishes of St. Margaret Mary, St James the Apostles, and Sacred Heart. Do you ever feel burdened by life's problems and worries? Do you yearn for a better prayer life? Perhaps you want to be more faithful to pray for your family and friends, our parish, the church and the world. Maybe you simply desire some quiet time to praise and thank God, to listen for his voice in the busyness of life, to grow in friendship with Christ and your fellow parishioners. Jesus knows our needs, and He invites us to come to him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Mt 11:28



What are the benefits of a weekly prayer group?

There is strength in numbers. Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Mt 18: 20

We grow, not in isolation, but as a member of the Body of Christ. We support each other; we learn from each other. We pray for and with each other.

Our prayer time would last about an hour. We will tentatively try Monday evenings at 7 pm at St. James. The format would be flexible. It could include various prayer forms: the Divine Office Evening Prayer, Scripture sharing, preview of the Sunday Gospel, the Chaplet of Mercy, Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, quiet time, faith sharing, singing, prayers of praise and intercession.

When Jesus first called the disciple Philip, Philip in turn brought Nathanael to Jesus with the words "Come and see." We invite you to **come and see**: Mondays at 7 pm at St. James in the church or the sacristy.

Questions? Call Darwin & Mary Peerbolte at 815-981-5481

Questions Catholics Ask

What kind of authority does the Church really have?

It's the power of the keys. Jesus hands to Peter "the keys of the kingdom": a commission to "bind and loose" on earth what will be, in mirror fashion, bound and loosed in heaven. This language recalls the authority of Jewish scribes who interpret the Law of Moses. Peter, and by extension his successors on the Chair of Peter, have the power to interpret what flies and what doesn't in church teaching.

The territory of this authority is subject to ongoing definition. The First Vatican Council (1869-70)—see essay: ["What happened at Vatican I?"](#)—determined that the holder of the keys speaks infallibly in definitive teachings on matters of faith and morals. To some, this sounded like an expansion of the papal footprint. To others, it merely made explicit what had been implicit in Jesus' commission.

The footprint seemed to shrink a little when Pope John Paul II insisted in an apostolic letter that "the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women." (Ordinatio sacerdotalis, May 1994) Apparently there are some doors these keys cannot open. Some argue the teachings of Jesus are not subject to reinterpretation even by the key holder. Others point out that while Jesus initially chose twelve men to follow him, no teaching restricts the binding and loosing authority to males.

The Latin word from which authority emerges (*auctoritas*) means to grow or produce. One in authority governs communal growth and direction by persuading or dictating thought, opinion, and action. This invests a leader with great social power, not only over ideas and behaviors but also with the power of decision. The decider, it's been said, gets to decide.

The Church acknowledges God as the source of all earthly authority. Jesus reminds Pontius Pilate of this during his trial: "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above." In turn, God subjects all worldly dominion to Christ Jesus, putting everything at his feet. Human beings, as Pilate is warned, participate in this authority by faithfully serving God's will alone. Peter makes this point to the Sanhedrin: "Obedience to God comes before obedience to men."

In addition, church authority can be delegated, and is most certainly shared by the Spirit's own choosing. Paul's delineation of gifts—apostle, prophet, teacher, leader—conveys the bounty of authority bestowed on the church. Finally, all church authority imitates the service demonstrated by Jesus at the Last Supper, humbly washing the feet of others.

Scriptures: Matthew 9:8; 16:17-19; John 13:13-17; 19:10-11; 20:22-23; Acts of the Apostles 4:19; 5:28-32; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 15:25-28; Philippians 2:5-11



Church acknowledges God as the source of all earthly authority.



August 10, 2025

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 18:6-9 | Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 | Lk 12:32-48

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

If we're honest with ourselves, we often want God to give us exactly what we ask for in prayer, or to provide immediate comfort in moments of need. But from the beginning, God revealed that the life of faith would entail trusting in his promises even as we wait for their final fulfillment. The example of Abraham in the second reading can be our model. We are called to emulate Abraham's obedient trust: "for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy." Throughout the Scriptures God promised his people that he would prepare a place for them. This promise propelled the Israelites through famine, exile, and agony, until God brought them to their earthly homeland. Jesus promises a new and everlasting place of rest, where we will live with God forever. We wait in joyful hope that one day he himself will bring us to our heavenly home. Amid the difficulties of life, in seasons of grief, pain, or confusion, it is easy to let doubt creep in. This is when, more than ever, we must cling to our faith, which Paul describes as "the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Trusting in God, we are called to wait with hope and prepare ourselves to readily receive him when he comes. Today's Gospel from Luke provides an image for us to imitate: the faithful servant dutifully awaiting his master's return. What does Jesus say about these servants who keep close watch, always prepared for the moment their master will return? "Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival." The faithful witness of the servants in the Gospel reminds us not to overcomplicate our faith. We simply need to remain diligent in carrying out the work that God has given us to do here and now and to keep ourselves alert as we wait with patience for the coming of the Lord.

PRAY

Our faith strengthens us as we wait for the Lord — as we hold on to the radical belief that our destination is heaven, and our God keeps his promises. Wherever you find yourself on the journey today, cling to his promises! Ask for the grace for deeper trust in him and for greater faithfulness to the work of building up his kingdom as you wait for God to bring all things to their ultimate fulfillment.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matt 24:42a, 44

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Stay awake and be ready!

For you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Luke 12:32-48; L117C

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not be afraid any longer, little flock,

for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.

Sell your belongings and give alms.

Provide money bags for yourselves

that do not wear out,
an inexhaustible treasure in
heaven

that no thief can reach nor moth
destroy.

For where your treasure is, there
also will your heart be.

"Gird your loins and light your lamps
and be like servants who await their
master's return from a wedding,
ready to open immediately when he
comes and knocks.

Blessed are those servants
whom the master finds vigilant on
his arrival.

Amen, I say to you, he will gird
himself,

have them recline at table, and pro-
ceed to wait on them.

And should he come in the second or
third watch

and find them prepared in this way,
blessed are those servants.

Be sure of this:

if the master of the house had
known the hour
when the thief was coming,
he would not have let his house be
broken into.

Continued in Appendix A, p. 304,

or Luke 12:35-40 in Appendix A, p. 304.

Reflecting on the Gospel

In a rural village in Chiapas, Mexico, an Indigenous woman reflects, "My whole life I was taught to obey. First of all, I obeyed my father and mother. At age twelve my father decided whom I would marry. My father and his father made the agreement.

"My father and mother told me: Obey the commands of your father-in-law and your mother-in-law and your husband. You will only be happy if you obey. After I was married I tried to obey my husband in everything. But my father

was wrong. I was not happy. My heart was always sad. I would cry out to God in my prayers, but the only answer I got was that God ordained that it should be this way."

This woman's story, along with the stories of others like hers, is shared in the 1999 book *Con Mirada, Mente y Corazon de Mujer*. She, through the sharing of Scripture with other women who have learned how to read "with the eyes, mind, and heart of a woman," discovered a new meaning of obedience that took her far beyond her initial understanding. In this she is like Abraham and Sarah, as described in the second reading, and like Peter and the other disciples in the gospel.



Meanwhile, today's first reading from Hebrews emphasizes how obedience flows from faith in a trustworthy God. And the gospel outlines how one becomes disposed to hear, to know, and to act on God's will. First, one must let go of fear so as to be able to receive the gift of God's kingdom. This is God's great joy: to find us unafraid and delighting in this indescribable gift. Obedience out of fear of a punishing God has no place among Jesus's followers. Rather, obedience is the single-hearted response in faith to the One who is love incarnate and who frees us to love in like manner.

Freeing the heart from attachment to anything but God's love and God's realm is the next step in obedience. Selling belongings and giving alms ensure that possessions do not become the treasure that grips the heart. Also needed is a sharpening of the senses, watching intently for all signs of divine presence and directives, through vigilance in prayer and attentiveness to the hungers of our world. Finally, when the master becomes the servant, there is a dismantling of systems wherein some are masters and others servants. The meaning of this parable comes clear in the Last Supper scene, where it is enacted by Jesus himself.

Obedient faith that dismantles unjust master/servant dichotomies is not an easy road, as women from the Bible study groups in Chiapas attest: "At first we thought we were disobeying the law of God. It's been a long process, but we kept talking and listening to one another. Now we know that it is not God who commands it to be so, but it is a matter of culture and education. We were not born to be subservient as we had been made to believe, but to be obedient to God, who wants us to be happy."