

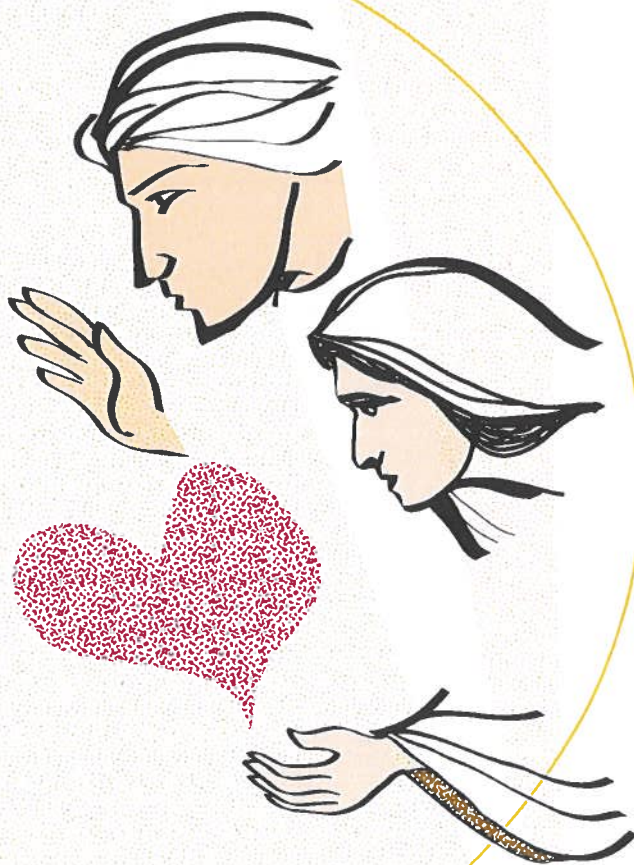
The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 30-31, 2025

*Conduct
your affairs
with humility
and you will be
loved more
than a giver of gifts.*

*Humble yourself
the more,
the greater you are,
and you will find
favor
with God.*



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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: "It is the greatest shame in the world to see that our Creator bears so many insults from His creatures, and that we re-
sent even a little word that is contradictory.
—Saint Teresa of Ávila

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 7-8, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Sept. 6 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Sept. 7 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Sept. 7 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Sept. 7 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen Gery Wright Bob Schultz	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	Jeff Steinke Vic Carlile Dennis O'Connor Dave Ladehoff	Sean Riordan Galen Fritz Darren Lovell Brent Fulton
Lector	Dave Emling	Terri Weakley	Mary Peerbolte	Dana Masching
Eucharistic Minister			Joe Benoit	Julie Splear
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Rita Thiesen	Brent Fulton

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Sept. 1 (SH)

8:00 am +Ronald Schneider (Dave/Ellen Emling)

Tuesday, Sept. 2 (SH)

8:00 am +Jerry Mescher (Dorothy Mescher)

Wednesday, Sept. 3 (SJ)

8:00 am +Rita O'Connor (Deacon Ron/Cindy Gagnon)

Friday, Sept. 5 (SJ)

8:00 am +Louis, Charlotte, Madeline Hildebrand
(Mariann Lane)

Saturday, Sept. 7 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Katherine Wagner (MaryAnn Wagner)
+Michael McCain (Lynda/Earl Datweiler)

Sunday, Sept. 8

7:30 am (SH) Special intentions for Darlene/Gene Bertrand
(Jackie Cross)

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

10:30 am (SMM) +Leo Giacometti (Dallas/Joyce Ferris)
++Jerome Ruder (Jerry/Terri Weakley)

A Look Ahead

Mon., Sept. 1—Herscher Labor Day Celebration

Tuesday, Sept. 2—Parish Council meeting at SMM 7pm

Sept. 6/7—K of C Food Drive

Sun., Sept. 7—Religious Ed begins at SH

Sunday, Sept. 7—Religious Ed Registration at SJ

Sunday, Sept. 14—Religious Ed begins at SJ and SMM

Wed., Sept. 24—Adult Ed Classes begin 7pm at SJ

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rgckg@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 23-24

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,241

Sacred Heart—\$1,172

St. James—\$2,406

Thank you for your generosity!

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

One time when Jesus went for a Sabbath meal with one of the top leaders of the Pharisees, all the guests had their eyes on him, watching his every move.

He went on to tell a story to the guests around the table. Noticing how each had tried to elbow into the place of honor, he said, "When someone invites you to dinner, don't take the place of honor. Somebody more important than you might have been invited by the host. Then he'll come and call out in front of everybody, 'You're in the wrong place. The place of honor belongs to this man.' Red-faced, you'll have to make your way to the very last table, the only place left.

"When you're invited to dinner, go and sit at the last place. Then when the host comes he may very well say, 'Friend, come up to the front.' That will give the dinner guests something to talk about! What I'm saying is, If you walk around with your nose in the air, you're going to end up flat on your face. But if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself."

Then he turned to the host. "The next time you put on a dinner, don't just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits from the wrong side of the tracks. You'll be—and experience—a blessing. They won't be able to return the favor, but the favor will be returned—oh, how it will be returned!—at the resurrection of God's people" (from Luke 14).



Religious Education classes will be starting up again soon at all three parishes.

St. James—Registration for classes at St. James will be held on September 7th after the 9:00 am Mass.

Our Kick-off is September 14, the first Sunday of classes.

We are in need of three teachers this year— kindergarten, 1st grade, and 6th grade. What a great opportunity to share our faith with the students! Please contact Tahnya at 815.530.4406 if you are interested or have questions.



CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO FRAN AND WANDA FELLER ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. FRAN AND WANDA WERE MARRIED ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1975 AT ST. MARGARET MARY. THEY ARE THE PARENTS OF ADAM OF BOURBONNAIS AND CADE OF VERMONT. ONE SON ANDREW IS DECEASED.

Parish News:

All Parishes—

⇒ There is no prayer meeting at St. James this Monday, September 1st, since it is Labor Day

⇒ ***Our Adult Ed class will resume in the fall. If you are interested in attending, please call the office to register. As in the past it will be on Wednesday nights. We will start our sessions on September 24 at St. James. Classes begin at 7:00 pm.***

⇒ ***It's time for a new Pictorial Directory! Our dates are Oct. 16-18. Just for participating you will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a church directory. Be watching for more upcoming information,.***

⇒ ***Wits Workout will be moved to St. James hall from August 25 until further notice. Everyone is welcome; you can begin at any time. Wits Workout is on Monday from 1-2pm. If you would like to join us, please call Natalia at Catholic Charities at 815-933-7791 ext. 9954.***

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

St. Margaret Mary-

⇒ Weekday masses til further notice are Mondays at Sacred Heart and Fridays at St. James.

St. James-

⇒ **All are invited to our St. James CCW meeting on Sunday, September 14 following the 9 am mass. We will be discussing activities and ideas for the 2025-2026 year.**

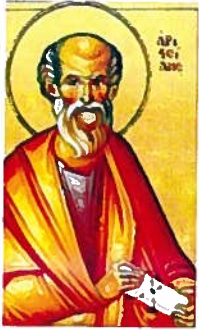
Sacred Heart-

⇒ **Religious Ed begins Sept. 7 at Sacred Heart.**

⇒ The week of August 31st, the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Harry Bailey.

⇒ Sacred Heart is looking for volunteers to paint the outside of the hall. There is a sign up sheet in the entrance of the church.

⇒ Sacred Heart Church will be selling tickets for their "**Fall Cash Bash**" which will take place Sat., November 22 from 4p.m. till 8 p.m. in the church hall. Tickets are \$50 a piece and will admit 2 adults with a chance of a 1st Prize of \$1,500 or \$500 2nd Prize.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Aristides the Philosopher (August 31) was an early Christian writer and philosopher. He taught philosophy in Athens, Greece. Aristides presented an explanation of Christianity to Emperor Hadrian in 133, a work inspired by the persecution of Christians which led to an imperial decree that paused the imperial anti-Christian policy. He wrote an account of the Passion of Saint Dionysius the Areopagite.

Obscure saint of the week: St. Cuthburgh of Wimborne (August 31) was the sister of King Ina of Wessex in England and sister of Saint Cwenborne of Wimborne. She became a Benedictine nun at Barking Abbey in Essex, England where she was a friend of Saint Hildelith. With Cwenburgh, she founded a monastery in Wimborne, Dorset, England, and served as abbess there. Many of her Wimborne sisters worked as missionaries to Germany.



Gospel Shorts - The True Path to Greatness

Everyone tries to find their path for being noticed, for feeling important in this short time on earth. Some choose to dress a certain way, or to live in a certain part of town so that their address identifies their importance. Some serve on all kinds of committees and boards and are not happy until they are the President of that board of committee. Still others have chosen a path based on being a critic of whatever is going on so that others will listen to them and pay attention to their ideas. Whatever you have chosen, our Lord has a question for you ...

How many times have you given your all to raising your own importance only to have the rug pulled out from under you, and left embarrassed by life's reversals? Only by focusing on serving God can we find true greatness. For when we are doing the Lord's work, however small or large the task may be, we are reaping eternal benefits.

First Friday adoration will be held on Friday, Sept. 5 at Sacred Heart..

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."

Reflection Have You Counted the Cost?

After years of self-giving service in Africa, David Livingstone returned to England and lectured in different universities. What a pathetic object he was. Emaciated by African fevers, he weighed less than eighty pounds. His arm, torn and fragmented by a lion, hung limp at his side.

At the conclusion of a challenging message, a student approached him and said, "Dr. Livingstone, I want what you have! I would give my life ... everything ... to have it!"

Dr. Livingstone replied, "That's what it cost me!"

Truly he could say with Paul, "Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things" (Phil. 3:8).

Question of the week:

When have I realized too late that I should have exercised some humility? What have I learned when exercising humility?

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Was Pius XII really “silent” in the face of Nazism?

Often criticized by secular historians as being “silent in the face of evil, Pope Pius XII’s actions saved the lives of thousands.

The Soviets were excellent at propaganda. So when they decided that Pius XII was an enemy of theirs—due to his hard stance against Communism—they initiated a campaign to destroy his memory. The operation was called “Operation Seat 12.”

It’s incredible how much this dis-information campaign succeeded. Anti-Pius-XII books and media were still appearing in the 2000s. It seems that Pius XII is *still* shaking off the false accusations leveled against him for his supposed “silence” in the face of the Nazi persecution of the Jews.

The truth is that his silence—far from being the result of cowardice or a conciliatory approach—was a careful tactic that was critical to his success in saving hundreds of thousands of Jews from death.

It was no secret to anyone, including the Nazis, what the Vatican thought of their views. Pius XI and Eugenio Pacelli—as Archbishop, Cardinal, then as Pius XII—had condemned Nazism multiple times in various ways, through audiences, speeches, and encyclicals. Cardinal Pacelli was a major contributor to *Mit brennender Sorge*, Pius XI’s encyclical condemning Nazi ideology.

As Pope Pius XII, he spoke again in *Summi Pontificatus*, which took aim at National Socialism and Communism. The only thing Pius XII *didn’t* do was publicly name names and speak in explicit terms, though neither the persecuted nor the persecutors had any doubt as to *who* his words were directed against.

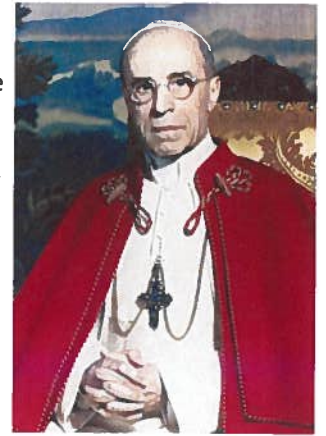
The reason for this careful use of words was the bitter fruit that a direct approach had borne. In Holland, when the Dutch bishops had publicly protested the Nazi persecution of Jews, the crackdown against the Church was brutal. A similar thing had happened in Germany after the publication of *Mit brennender Sorge*.

Pius XII mentioned twice—once in a letter to a bishop, and again in an address to the College of Cardinals—his deliberate avoidance of the sort of direct condemnation that modern critics think he should have made. He knew it would perpetuate more death. So he talked in “code,” you might say—but he didn’t stop there. **He also took action.**

The Church worked tirelessly to save the Jews in Europe by forging documents, smuggling them abroad, and hiding them in Church buildings. In Rome, 5,000 Jews were hidden in religious houses and 3,000 in Castel Gandolfo, the Pope’s *own private residence*. When all was said and done, the Pope contributed to the rescue of as many as one million Jews throughout Europe.

Jewish leaders at the time were outspoken in their gratitude to Pius XII. Although his enemies tried to bring him down, modern-day Jewish historians and personages have also insisted on Pope Pius XII’s heroic role in saving their people.

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A Stewardship Moment

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of August 30/31, 2025

In today’s Gospel, Jesus challenged the social structure of the Pharisees and teaches his hosts and their guests some profound lessons in humility. Pharisees maintained deep social divisions between who they considered “holy” and “unholy,” rich and poor, honored and despised. They didn’t invite someone to a banquet or dinner who couldn’t reciprocate. And the lowly, the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind had no capacity to reciprocate. Good stewards realize that if they embrace a humility that allows them to be generous to those who cannot repay them, they give evidence of having the kind of heart that will enjoy the Lord’s intimate friendship. This week let’s reflect on our attitude towards those who cannot repay our generosity. What is the extent of our hospitality toward others? Are we



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection will be held Sept. 6-7 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need. We thank you for your support!!

“For I was hungry and you gave me food...
”Matthew 25:35

*Learn from the Lord
who is meek and
humble of heart*

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Tri-Parish Prayer Group

We are starting a weekly prayer group for the three parishes of St. Margaret Mary, St James the Apostle, 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

When we give a blessing, what do we actually do?

Since blessings are delivered during solemn liturgies but also after the most mundane sneeze, one might wonder what a blessing involves. Biblically, a blessing communicates divine life to the recipient. Which implies that God alone can supply a blessing. God blesses us with strength, peace, success, children, and every good thing. When a representative of God performs the blessing act, it's God's blessing and not a personal bounty that s/he invokes.



Jesus demonstrates blessing activity in the miracle of loaves and fishes, at the Last Supper and the Emmaus supper, and at the moment of his Ascension.

Creatures are first blessed as they're launched in Genesis. The seventh day, on which God rests, becomes a source of blessing itself. Patriarchs are each blessed and bestow blessings in turn. The tribe of Abraham becomes a fulcrum of blessing on earth, and Israel a vehicle of blessing for all the nations.

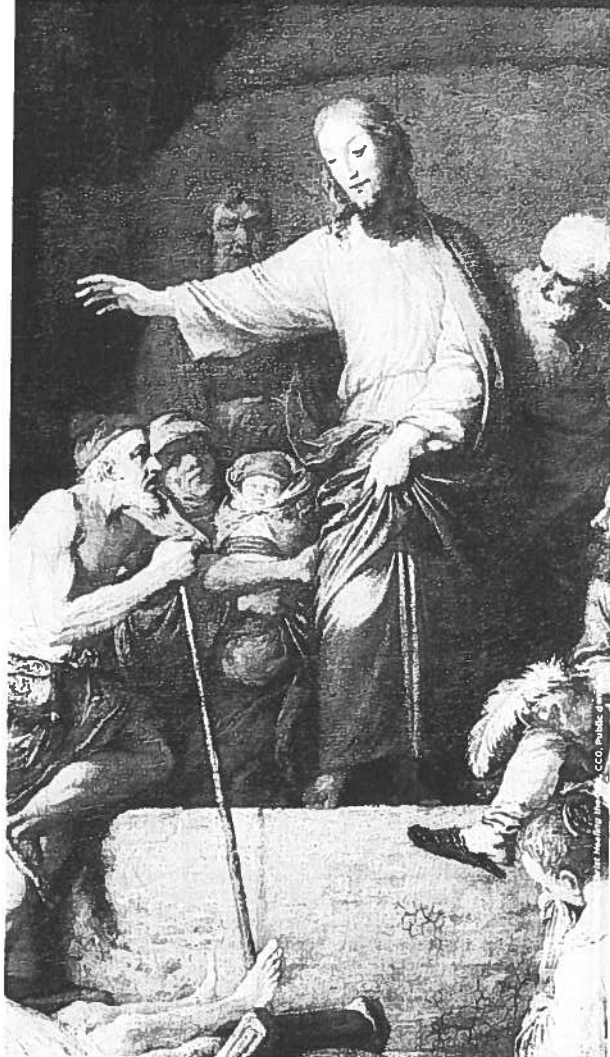
Blessings may literally flow from one person to another with the imposition of hands between fathers and sons. (There are no biblical stories of mothers blessing daughters, but I know plenty of women who do.) Once a blessing is spoken, it can't be undone—which is what makes the story of Jacob cheating his brother Esau of his paternal blessing so tragic and impactful. These examples convey the seriousness of the blessing act: it's not magic, but it is real and vital.

While it's clear the power to bless originates with God, in the psalms we're urged to "bless the Lord" frequently. In what capacity might we bless God? The intent is to offer thanks or to recognize God's glory. In "blessing the Lord" we don't add to God in the same way that God adds to our welfare in the act of blessing.

Jesus demonstrates blessing activity in the miracle of loaves and fishes, at the Last Supper and the Emmaus supper, and at the moment of his Ascension. Jesus also taught that we should answer each curse pronounced on us with a blessing: crossing the streams of bad intent with benevolence, we might say. Paul compares the church's Eucharist with the blessing cup of Jewish rituals. Finally, it helps to remember that Mary of Nazareth was called "blessed among women" by Elizabeth, and claimed that blessing in her Magnificat. All of which may give us pause the next time we casually "bless ourselves" with the Sign of the Cross. What aspect of divine blessing do we need, and what do we hope to receive?

Scripture: Genesis 1:22, 28; 2:3; 12:2-3; 27:18-40; 32:27-29; 39:5; Numbers 6:22-27; chs. 22-23; Isaiah 19:24; Matthew 14:19; Mark 14:22; Luke 1:42, 48; 6:28; 24:30, 50-51; 1 Corinthians 10:16

“
THE ONE WHO
HUMBLES
HIMSELF WILL
BE EXALTED.”
(LK 14:11)



August 31, 2025

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 | Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a | Lk 14:1, 7-14

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

There's a well-known story about an actor who was asked by an elderly priest to recite Psalm 23. The actor agreed only if the priest also recited the psalm. While the actor's delivery was met with esteem and applause, the priest's was met with raw emotion, stunned silence, and tears. The actor, smiling, said, "I may know the psalm, but the priest, he knows the Shepherd." I can't help but be reminded of this story when reading today's Gospel. Like the Pharisees, the actor represents the one who was the "center of attention" who was humbled whereas the priest, in his humble service to God, found himself exalted. That is where true humility lies, when our actions and our everyday lives are rooted in God first and not ourselves.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As Jesus reminds us today, "Every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Beyond telling us this truth, Jesus lived it. Scripture tells us that Jesus - the second Person of the Holy Trinity - "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave..." (Phil 2:7), and that he came not "to be served but to serve" (Mk 10:45). Each of us is invited to consider the ways we can imitate the same humble servant-leadership which Jesus showed throughout his life. What does servant leadership look like, practically speaking? Some simple examples: At work, it might look like signing up to do those less desirable tasks that others would prefer to avoid. In our homes, it could look mean letting your children or spouse choose what's for dinner rather than asserting your own preferences over meal planning. In our relationships, it might mean allowing a friend to talk through their struggles without offering advice or sharing how you might have handled things differently. With the eyes of faith, each of us can see countless opportunities to practice the virtue of humility in daily life.

WITNESS

Like the priest in the story above who revealed God to the crowd in his recitation of Psalm 23, you have the opportunity to let God shine through in your life to others. Be a servant leader, seeking to glorify God rather than yourself. When you are humble you "will be exalted" and "repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matt 11:29ab

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me, for I am meek and humble
of heart.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Luke 14:1, 7-14; L126C

On a sabbath Jesus went to
dine
at the home of one of the
leading Pharisees,
and the people there were
observing him carefully.

He told a parable to those who
had been invited,
noticing how they were
choosing the places of
honor at the table.

“When you are invited by
someone to a wedding
banquet,
do not recline at table in the
place of honor.

A more distinguished guest than you
may have been invited by him,
and the host who invited both of you
may approach you and say,
‘Give your place to this man,’
and then you would proceed with
embarrassment
to take the lowest place.

Rather, when you are invited,
go and take the lowest place
so that when the host comes to you
he may say,
‘My friend, move up to a higher
position.’

Then you will enjoy the esteem of your
companions at the table.

For everyone who exalts himself will
be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will
be exalted.”

Continued in Appendix A, p. 306.

Reflecting on the Gospel

The readings from both Sirach and the gospel pass on proverbial wisdom about the virtue of humility. This is earthy wisdom. The word *humility* comes from the Latin word *humus*, “earth.” So when we are advised to humble ourselves, it is an invitation to be “grounded,” to be attentive to our connectedness with Earth.

In the gospel, Jesus gives concrete examples of how one can go about growing in humility. He is at a dinner hosted by a leading Pharisee, and the invited guests are watching him closely. As the story progresses, there is growing hostility between Jesus and the Pharisees. Yet this is the third time he is said to be dining with them (see also Luke 7:36-50; 11:37-54).

One way in which Jesus models authentic humility is by not cutting off those whose theology and pastoral approach differ from his own. In Jesus’s day, likes ate with likes. Eating together was a way to signify shared values. By dining with those who opposed him, he signals that their shared common humanity forged a connection that superseded their differences.

Jesus first addresses the invited guests about choosing places at the table. The setting presumes that these are people with a certain measure of power and prestige. Banquets were occasions for people to enhance their social standing, and Jesus

describes how guests would compete for honor. The way to gain the most honor, he says, is actually to take the lowest place. Choosing to sit with those whose status would not enhance one’s own personal honor could instead lead to growth in humility, that is, to engage in interactions with persons who are more *earthy* and to forge bonds with them. If such a person is then invited by the host to a higher position, he or she would be able to represent the perspectives of those at the other end of the table in the discussions and decisions that take place at the head.

Jesus then turns his attention to the host of the dinner and talks about how to formulate a guest list. From this angle, he again prods his hearers to break out of the strictures of likes eating with likes. The conversations at tables of the like-minded serve only to reinforce their own views, and the circle tightens as they reciprocate invitations to one another. Instead, Jesus proposes to the host, invite those unlike yourself, those with whom no one wants to associate. From a stance of humility, such a host recognizes the bond shared through common humanity that is stronger than differences in abilities or social positions.

It is easy to fall prey to false humility, pretending to take a lowly place in the hopes of receiving adulation and an invitation to come up higher. Or false humility can be manifest in persons whose self-esteem has never developed properly. True humility is grounded in earthy wisdom, a knowledge that all persons, no matter their circumstances, and all the created world share in an unbreakable interconnection of life given by God. We are equally loved and esteemed by the Holy One who desires the flourishing of all.

