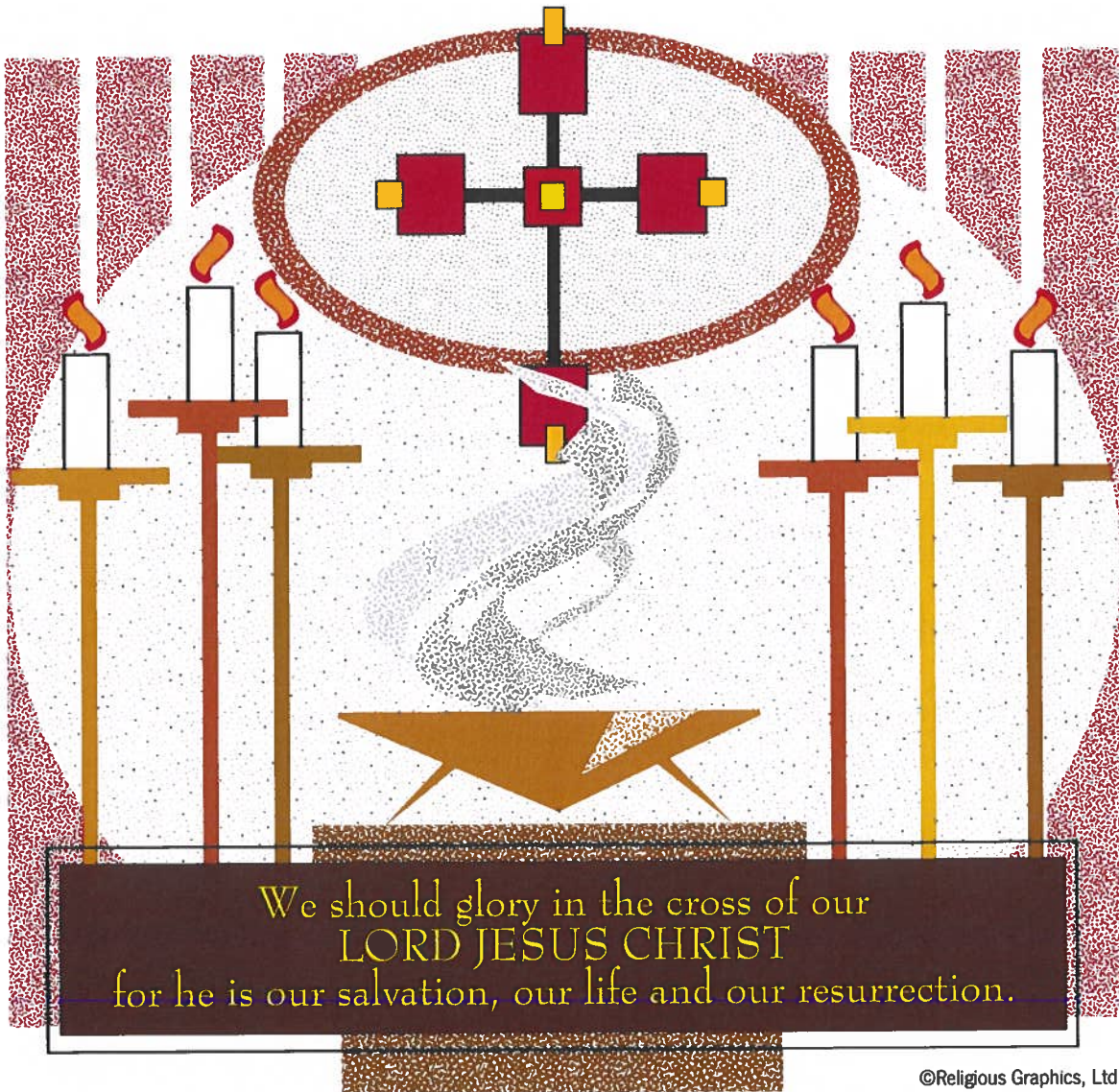


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 13-14, 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: "There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us and does not now bear with us.

—Pope John Paul II

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 20-21, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Sept. 20 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Sept. 21 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Sept. 21 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Sept. 21 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiler Roger Jensen Dave Emling	David Kirkpatrick Kyle Ferris	Dallas Ferris Mary Offerman Arlen Hansen Bob Buente	Kim Smicker Galen Fritz Brent Fulton Sean Riordan
Lector	Rob Landeck	Mike Hertz	Carrie Abrassart	Corinn Wheeler
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—Dallas Ferris R. Leader—The Peerboltes	The Wheelers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Sept. 15 (SH)

8:00 am +James R. Perry (Don/Marie Feller)

Tuesday, Sept. 16 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, Sept. 17 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, Sept. 19 (SJ)

8:00 am +Donna Regnier (Madonna/Roger Gray)

Saturday, Sept. 20 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Cindy Frerichs (Leo Webber)
+Bob Landeck & Joel Eberle (Jackie Eberle)

Sunday, Sept. 21

7:30 am (SH) +Ann Wheeler (Jackie Cross)
+John Schafer (Don/Marie Feller)

9:00 am (SJ) +Cindy Frerichs (Dallas/Joyce Ferris)
+Jim & Joan Scanlon (Tom Scanlon)

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

A Look Ahead

Sunday, Sept. 14—Religious Ed begins at SJ and
Monday, Sept. 15—Prayer Meeting 7:00pm at SJ
Monday, Sept. 15—SMM CCW meeting 7:00pm SMM
Wed., Sept. 24—Adult Ed Classes begin 7pm at SJ
Sat., October 11—Rosary Rally SMM noon

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

Question of the week:

How do I value true wealth over material wealth? How can I do so more fully?

Collections Weekend of Sept. 6-7

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,302

Sacred Heart—\$742

St. James—\$2,453

Thank you for your generosity!



Letters of application are now being accepted for the Theresa Fritz Catholic Education Scholarship for the 2025-2026 school year. Applicants must be a parishioner of St. Margaret

Mary and attend a Catholic grade or high school or a Catholic university. Please submit a letter to Fr. Ron at the Tri-Parish office explaining which school you are attending and your reason(s) for choosing a Catholic school. Letters need to be received in the office by October 3, 2025.

Kids Helping Kids

The tri-parish religious ed programs are working together this year to raise money for a charity that helps children. Sacred Heart will be doing a few fundraisers this year for this purpose. There is a jug in the back of the church for anyone to make any donations. It will be there throughout the school year.

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.



St. Margaret Mary— StMM RE kickoff is Sunday September 14 at 9:30am. Anyone new to RE at StMM can email jfulton.stmm@gmail.com to get the registration link

CONGRATULATIONS TO
HILLARY WEBB,
DAUGHTER OF KATHLEEN ASTRELLA
AND
ROBERT & DEANNA WEBB
AND
COLTON SMITH
SON OF JOHN & BECKY SMITH
WHO WERE UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY
ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025
AT ST. MARGARET MARY, HERSCHER



Parish News:

All Parishes—

- ⇒ ***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-

- ⇒ **SMM CCW meeting** will be held Monday, September 15 at 7PM in the hall
- ⇒ **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-

- ⇒ **Beginning this Sunday, Sept. 14, Sacred Heart CCW is sponsoring a "Baby Shower" to benefit Living Alternatives Pregnancy Center of Kankakee. A basket will be at the entrance of the church with empty baby bottles to put cash or a check (made out to Sacred Heart CCW) and return by Sept. 28. There is also a list of ideas of items that you may donate.**
- ⇒ **Sunday Oct. 5th will be the CCW's annual Bake Sale at the Salina Fire Dept. in Bonfield. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated**
- ⇒ **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. Januarius of Naples (Sept. 12) was a fourth century bishop of Benevento, Italy during the persecutions of Diocletian. He was arrested while visiting imprisoned deacons and then martyred with them.

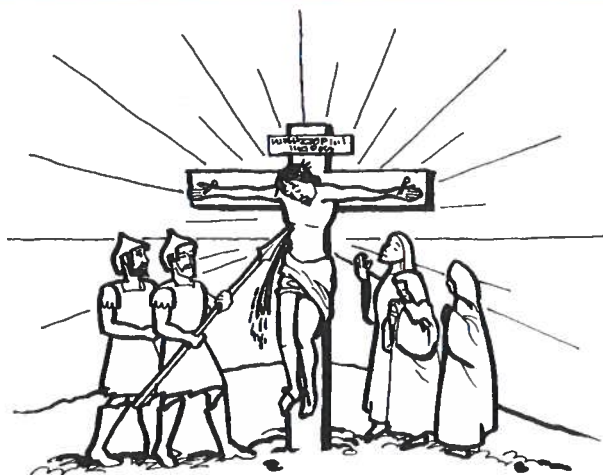
His blood was preserved and dried. Since at least 1389, on his feast day, and on the Saturday before the first Sunday in May, the blood liquefies.

Obscure saint of the week: St. Alonso de Orozco Mena was the son of the governor of a castle. He studied at Talavera de la Reina. Alonso studied music and served as choir boy in the cathedral of Toledo, Spain for three years. He attended the University of Salamanca, Spain at age 14. Later he joined the Augustinians in his early 20's. He was the spiritual student of Saint Thomas of Villanova. Alonso was ordained in 1527. He was a noted preacher, Augustinian prior in Seville, Spain, missionary to Mexico in 1549, but his severe arthritis caused his doctors to send him back to Spain. He became the prior of the convent in Valladolid, Spain in 1554. He was the preacher to the court of emperor Charles V, moving with the court to Madrid in 1561. He refused to accept the standard royal stipends and lived as a humble monk. His door was always open to anyone seeking spiritual guidance. He spent his free time visiting the sick in hospitals, prisoners in jail, and the poor living on the street. Alonso was a noted writer in Spanish and Latin, including histories of the Augustinians. He had a great devotion to the Virgin Mary. St. Alonso helped found Augustinian monasteries and convents and worked to advance reforms within the Order.



Gospel Shorts - Great Love at Great Costs

In one of the most familiar sets of verses in the gospels, Jesus lays out the plan of salvation the Father set forth through the Son. Indeed, without the cross upon which Jesus was lifted up, we would be living without hope.



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
JN. 3:16

Reflection Unanswered Yet?

After I shaved one morning, I removed the blade from the razor. As I did so, my little two-year-old daughter Alice stretched out her little hands and pleaded, "Give me! Give me!"

"No, no," I said, "the blade will hurt my little girl!"

She whimpered and went away. Sometimes God, in unerring wisdom, denies the thing we pray for: "You do not know what you are asking." (Matt. 20:22); "Three times I begged the Lord that this might leave me." (II Cor. 12:8); ... "For we do not know how to pray as we ought..." (Rom. 8:26).

This is certain: "The Lord withholds no good thing from those who walk in sincerity." (Ps. 84:12)



BY YOUR CROSS
YOU HAVE SET US FREE

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
What is the Church's devotion for September?
The Church offers a beautiful devotion that helps answer our pain.

Do you know about the beautiful devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady?

It may seem strange to honor someone's sorrows. But the Church and Mary herself, in apparitions, have encouraged devotion to her Sorrows with promises of special graces for those who honor them.

The Sorrows of Our Lady are seven particular sufferings that she endured in her life:

1. The prophecy of Simeon
2. The flight into Egypt
3. The loss of the Child Jesus for three days in the Temple
4. The meeting of Jesus and Mary on the road to Calvary
5. The crucifixion and death of Jesus
6. Jesus is taken down from the Cross and placed in the arms of His Mother
7. The burial of Jesus



Devotion to Our Lady's Sorrows has existed since the early centuries of the Church. It came into particular focus in the 13th century when Our Lady appeared to the Seven Founders of the Servite Order, giving them a black garment as their habit and asking them to meditate on her Sorrows.

In the 14th century, Our Lady revealed to St. Bridget of Sweden seven special graces that she would grant to those devoted to her Sorrows. She spoke at length to St. Bridget about the Passion of her Son and her own Sorrows, and made these promises to those who would say seven Hail Marys daily while meditating on her tears and sufferings:

"I will grant peace to their families."

"They will be enlightened about the divine Mysteries."

"I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work."

"I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my divine Son or the sanctification of their souls."

"I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives."

"I will visibly help them at the moment of their death—they will see the face of their mother."

"I have obtained this grace from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolors will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness, since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son will be their eternal consolation and joy."

Devotion to Our Lady's Sorrows—a practice extolled and propagated by so many saints—is one that you, too, can pick up easily. Saying seven Hail Marys only takes a couple minutes!

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Reflection Things to Believe

Believe in yourself; you are God's creation.

Believe in your job; honest work is a form of worship.

Believe in the present, every minute contains an opportunity to serve God.

Believe in your family; create harmony and togetherness by working together.

Believe in your neighbor; friends are an important ingredient of a happy life.

Believe in God's promise; He means it when he says, "I am with you always."

Believe in God's mercy; since God forgives you, you can forgive yourself and try again tomorrow.

2025 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY RALLY

Where: St. Margaret Mary Church, Main St., Herscher, Illinois

When: October 11, 2025 – ROSARY WILL BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON



Please join us in praying for our nation

No matter how much
you're hurting

No Marriage is Beyond Hope

RETRouvaille
OF JOLIET ILLINOIS

There is a light at the
end of the tunnel.

#blessedInRETROspect
#RetrouvailleJoliet

Retrouvaille is a program designed to help married couples who are struggling. We will help you learn to communicate on a deeper level, approach conflict constructively, build a stronger marriage, and rediscover the love you once had for each other.

Our Joliet area weekend is coming this September 19th – 21st, 2025

For more information, call us at 815-246-2080
or visit us at HelpOurMarriage.org

HelpOurMarriage.org



815-246-2080



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Monday, September 15, 2025

St. Lawrence Church

135 E. Rice Road in South Wilmington

4-5:30pm

(Or until food runs out)

RAIN OR SHINE!

The Northern Illinois Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry delivers healthy food (meat, produce, and nonperishable items) to people in need. **No identification is required. This event is open to anyone in-need of food!**

Mobile Food Pantries use a "drive thru" method to distribute pre-packed groceries. Please clear space in your trunk or backseat so volunteers can load boxes of food directly into your vehicle.

**This Mobile Food Pantry is sponsored by:
Larry Ahearn Family in Memory of Judy Ahearn**



Catholic Charities is a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.

He became obedient
to the point of death,
even death on a cross

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Tri-Parish Prayer Group

God invites each of us to develop a deeper prayer life, to listen for his voice, and seek his guidance. In our busy lives, this can be hard to do, especially when we feel alone, anxious, or discouraged. Perhaps the TriParish Prayer Group could be your opportunity to spend an hour in communal prayer beyond the Sunday Mass celebration. Together we can be schooled in St. Paul's entreaty to "pray without ceasing." 1 Th 5:17. Praying with and for others is an experience guiding us to include different forms of prayer: song, adoration, thanksgiving, and intercession. The TriParish Prayer Group meets each Monday evening at 7 pm at St. James Hall. YOU are invited.



September 14, 2025

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Num 21:4b-9 | Phil 2:6-11 | Jn 3:13-17

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Although God had freed our ancestors in faith from their slavery in Egypt, today we find them grumbling against the Lord as they wander in the desert. Even after we've glimpsed so much of God's goodness, we, too, can begin to grumble in challenging moments of our lives. It's precisely then that we need to cling to faith. After serpents appeared and began to bite those who had grumbled against God, those who had been bitten only had to look at the serpent mounted on a pole and put their faith in God once again to be healed. Similarly, when we find ourselves in the trials of life, we need only look at the cross of Jesus with faith. "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." Amid the storms of our lives, we are called to put our trust in his cross, for through it we are saved and set free.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul tells us that God the Father "greatly exalted" Jesus for his humility in embracing the cross, and that ultimately, all creation will join the Father in glorifying Christ. We who know the gift of what Jesus did for us on the cross are called to praise him with our voices and our lives. We praise and glorify Christ first through our example. How might our day-to-day interactions give others a glimpse of the humble and self-emptying love of Jesus? Finally, think of the ways that knowing Christ's love has made a difference in your life. Has it made you more patient? Has it made you more hopeful? Think of ways that you could share this in conversation. Telling others about what God has done for you or the difference that he has made in your life is one way of exalting Christ.

PRAISE

Today, spend some time thanking and praising God for the gift of the cross and our salvation in Christ. You might wish to use this traditional prayer frequently used during the stations of the cross in Lent: "We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Because, by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world."

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless
you,
because by your Cross you have
redeemed the world.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 3:13-17; L638

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"No one has gone up to
heaven
except the one who has
come down from
heaven, the Son of Man.

And just as Moses lifted up
the serpent in the desert,
so must the Son of Man be
lifted up,
so that everyone who be-
lieves in him may have eternal
life."

For God so loved the world that he gave
his only Son,
so that he who believes in him might
not perish
but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the
world to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved
through him.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Today's gospel reading is taken from Jesus's dialogue with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin who was interested in Jesus's teaching. In the middle of this dialogue, Jesus says that the Son of Man must be "lifted up" like the serpent in the desert, referring to his own forthcoming crucifixion.



On this feast, we rejoice in the cross of Jesus, but it should at least give us a momentary pause to be celebrating a Roman torture device. In the centuries since Jesus lived, died, and rose, the cross has become almost entirely sanitized in Western culture. In some quarters the cross is as much a brand as anything else on the clothes we wear, the cars we drive, or the technology we keep in our pockets. Our society loves to "lift things up": wealth, status, power, and so on. In this context, the cross becomes yet another aesthetic symbol, and we become mere "influencers." We forget the gravity of the matter enough to see a crucifix and glance away, thinking to ourselves, "Oh, that's nice, maybe I'll order a cross necklace on Amazon." In truth, what Jesus says must be "lifted up" is instead

most ugly, most unseemly, most homely. It is not a golden calf, nor an army's standard, nor a brand logo, but the bloodied and broken God-man, fastened to a piece of wood.

But that's exactly as Jesus desires. Paul writes in his Letter to the Philippians that Jesus "did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. / Rather, he emptied himself, / taking the form of a slave." The last indeed shall be first, beginning with God himself. As he is "lifted up" on the cross, Jesus's descent to our own human condition reveals everything that it is to be God for us: the totality of self-emptying love, broken and shared. In the *Saint John's Bible* depiction of the crucifixion scene, both cross and Christ are pure gold, the total revelation of God's very self, shown against a cosmic background—this is an event that resounds through all time and space. By the love of Christ outpoured, the atrocity of the crucifixion becomes something profoundly beautiful. The cross is no longer simply an instrument of death, but has become the means by which we are given abundant life.

In this courageous act of love, we find reason for hope and a decisive direction for our own life. We have no reason to fear either life or death, as God's redeeming love is enough for us. As was the case with the serpent in the desert, "lifted up" for all to look upon in search of healing, we are offered wholeness and redemption in gazing upon the cross. However, in turning to the cross, we also must recognize Jesus's destiny as our own. We, too, must be "lifted up" with Christ, born from above in baptism and thus united with him in his death and resurrection. If we love as Christ loves, we will not escape our own crosses. In celebrating the Holy Cross, we praise Jesus for his saving love, but we also must heed his call: "deny [your]self and take up [your] cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).