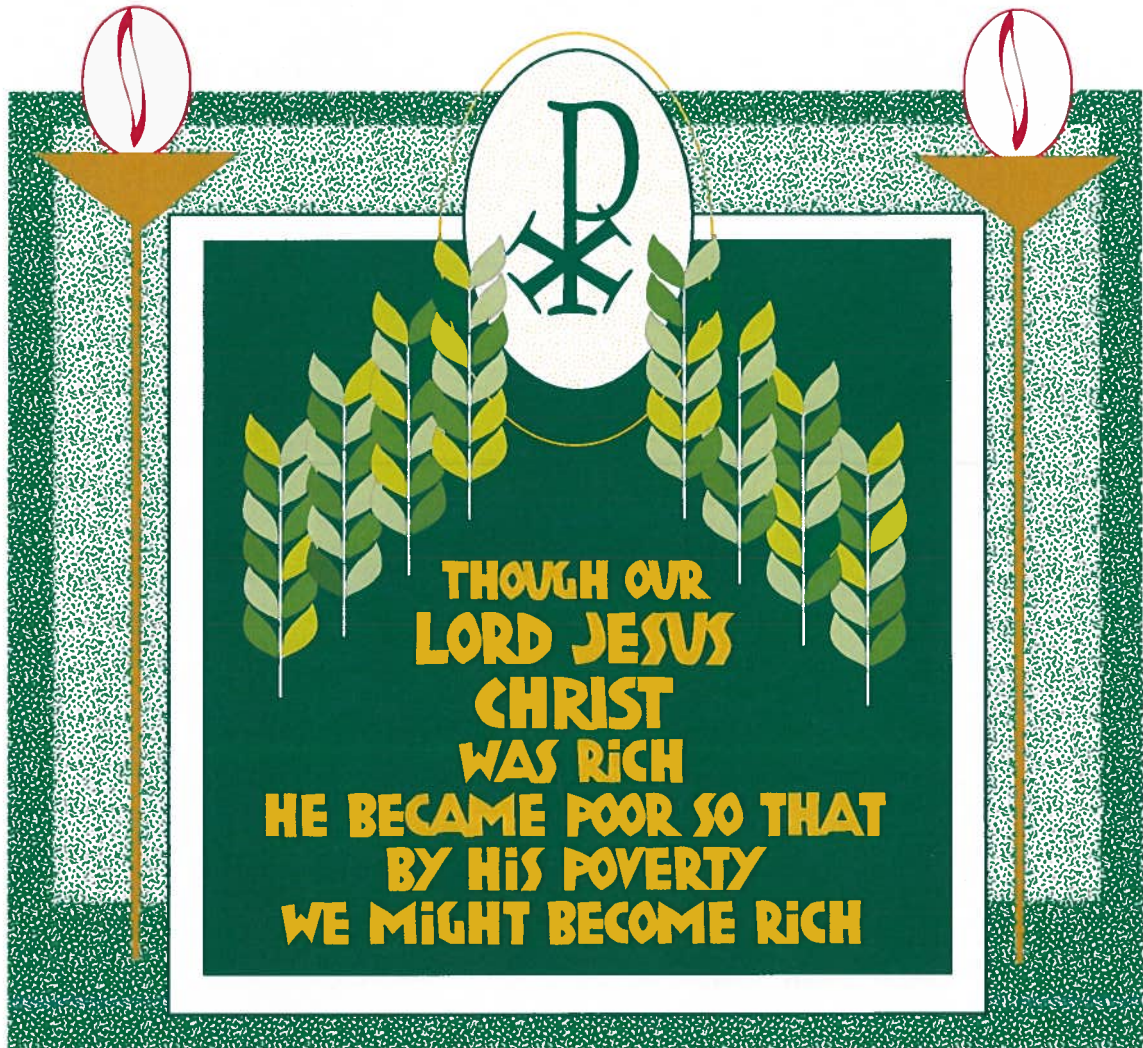


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 20-21, 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

September 27-28, 2025

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time					
Liturgical	Schedule	Celebrant	Ushers	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
St. Margaret Mary	Saturday, Sept. 27 5:00 pm	Fr. Ron	Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiler Bob Schultz Gery Wright	Dave Emiling Alicia Kirkpatrick	
Sacred Heart	Sunday, Sept. 28 7:30 am	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Dennis Parkey Daryl Ferris	Vic Carille Dennis O'Connor Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke	Marie Johnson
St. James	Sunday, Sept. 28 9:00 am	Fr. Ron	Vic Carille Larry Wolles Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Darren Lovell	Kelly Buente Diane Long	Sydney Weldon
	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Sept. 28 10:30 am	Fr. Ron		Stacie Powers	
				Greeter—Rita Thiesen	R. Leader—Kathy Dumas

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Sept. 22 (SH)

8:00 am +Donna Ruder (Jackie Eberle)

Tuesday, Sept. 23 (SH)

8:00 am +Emma King (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)

Wednesday, Sept. 24 (SJ)

8:00 am +Lois Jensen (Rita Thiesen)

Friday, Sept. 26 (SJ)

8:00 am +Babe & Rita O'Connor (Rita Thiesen)

Saturday, Sept. 27 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, Sept. 28

7:30 am (SH)

+Dick Fitch, Taymond Denaut, Bernal Gagnon,
Don Denaut, Bonnie Wascher, Ina Rathman

(The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Pat Perreault (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

+Joe & Darlene Peerbolte (Ron/Vicki Peerbolte)

10:30 am (SMM) +Dick Fitch (Joe Ahern Family)

+Donna Ruder (Janet Andrzejewski)

Question of the week:

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

A Look Ahead

Mon., Sept. 22—Knights of Columbus Mtg. 7pm at SJ
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—rjcgkg@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

Bulletin—Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

Religious Education—

St. MM—Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart—Rhonda Berns—426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenaga tosenaga81@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

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,737

Sacred Heart—\$1,837

St. James—\$1,829

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.

Reflection

In the Likeness of God

Verbally, we seem to be committed to the idea that man is created in the likeness of God. But are we committed to it intellectually? If the divine likeness is our promise, then the question arises: How should a being created in the likeness of God act, think, feel? How should we live in a way which is compatible with our being a likeness of God?



CONGRATULATIONS TO
CARTER SMITH & HILLARY WEBB
WHO WERE JOINED 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-

- ⇒ *Undy Sunday donations will be collected in the entry Oct. 10-19th See page 4 for more information.*
- ⇒ *Weekday masses until further notice are Mondays at Sacred Heart and Fridays at St. James.*

St. James-

- ⇒ *Pumpkin and Gourd Sale September 28th.*

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.*
- ⇒ *Sept. 22 & 23 painting the outside of Parish Hall 8:30am*
- ⇒ *Questions -call Kendall Wenzelman or Joe Petersen*
- ⇒ *Sunday Oct. 5th will be the CCW's annual Bake Sale at the Salina Fire Dept. in Bonfield. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated*



PUMPKIN AND GOURD SALE

Sunday September 28th St. James will be selling pumpkins and gourds after the 9am Mass. A free will donation will be accepted. The proceeds from the sale will be going to the RE program to benefit the Kids Helping Kids project. Thank you for supporting the RE children's outreach project.

Obscure saint of the week: St. Eustachius (Sept. 20) was a pagan Roman general in the army of the

emperor Trajan. He converted to Christianity following a hunting trip during which he saw a glowing cross between the antlers of a stag, after which he received a prophecy that he would suffer for Christ. He was baptized with his wife, Saint Theopistes of Rome and two sons, Saint Agapitus of Rome and Saint Theopistus of Rome, and given the name *Eustachius*.

Denounced as a Christian, he lost his property, was reduced to abject poverty, and Roman authorities took his wife and children. However, being a capable general, he was recalled to duty by Trajan to help repel barbarians from Rome, which he did. He and his family were reunited with the expectation they would sacrifice to idols in thanks for a military victory. When they refused, an enraged Hadrian ordered them thrown to the lions; the big cats played like kittens around them, so they were martyred together by being burned in a bronze bull. Eustachius is one of the *Fourteen Holy Helpers*.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Jean Charles Cornay (Sept. 20) was a priest and a member of the *Paris Society of Foreign Missions*. Jean became a missionary to Vietnam, working in Annam. Accused of theft after weapons were planted on his hand to discredit him, he was arrested for his faith at Ban-ho. He was kept in chains in a cage for three months, routinely beaten, and when interrogated was told to sing his answers as he was known for his beautiful voice. He was one of the *Martyrs of Vietnam*.

Gospel Shorts - Our Tiny Pushes

We often say, "It is the little things that count." Jesus also taught that truth. He said, "He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much." To be ready for the great and demanding challenges in life, it is required that we handle the common ordinary demands with care and consistency. "The world," said Helen Keller, "is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker." We are responsible then to faithfully carry out "our tiny pushes" as we seek to fulfill any task. Dr. Herbert Butterfield, an historian, put it this way: "Each of us should do the good that is straight under our noses." By doing the good at hand, we prepare ourselves for larger tasks and responsibilities in the future.

Reflection Who Do Your Children Learn From

1. Your friends and relatives point out that your son or daughter does some things "just like you."
 2. Your child has at least one irritating habit that reminds you of the way you acted at the same age.
 3. Your face has turned red more than once when your child repeated an opinion you had expressed at home.
 4. Your child takes most of your statements as fact, quoting you as an authority when playmates question his statements.
- Your child reads aloud a statement from a book or a paper and then asks you, "Is that true?"

Spend some time thinking about the important things your children should be taught. Then determine to do a good job of communicating these truths to your children.

Thank you for caring for the poor and vulnerable in our community.



- Adult diapers in all sizes (Small to XXXL)
- Diabetic or easy-on socks.
- Non-skid house slippers with backs (for fall prevention)
- Men's underwear (any size)
- Women's underwear (any size)

We will be collecting donations of basic needs items for the clients of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet at the Parish the weekend of October 18-19. Any donation of new underwear, socks, and diapers are welcome. Catholic Charities has requested that we focus on the following items this year:

COLLECTION DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE CLIENTS OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES. OCTOBER 18-19, 2025



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



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.

**THEY WILL
KNOW YOU ARE
CHRISTIANS
BY YOUR LOVE**



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Questions Catholics Ask

Are parishes necessary?

Christianity existed well before the present parish system. Before there was a church building on the corner—with its Mass schedule, programs, pastor, and support staff—the followers of Jesus still managed to preach the gospel and share Eucharist. So technically, the answer is no: the parish structure as we know it is not essential. But if by parish you mean a defined and stable community that assembles for worship and embraces a certain responsibility for one another, the answer is yes: such a community is vital to the fabric of Christian life.

It's helpful to distinguish Christian faith from an individual spiritual practice. The goal of Christianity isn't personal enlightenment, getting your act together, or building a satisfying moral ethos. From the beginning, Jesus chose to gather a community of disciples to live with him, share resources in common, and learn his teachings. There was never a time when Christian life was envisioned as a set of principles to live by that could be adopted and practiced on your own terms. From the first generation of the church, believers met in each other's homes, prayed together, and shared what they had with those in need.

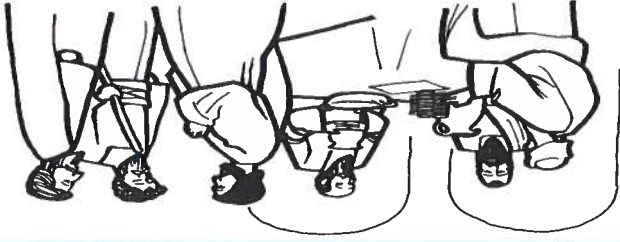
The gospel teaches how to live responsively with others. Loving our neighbors and enemies too, forgiving offenses, welcoming strangers, caring for the unfortunate—we engage these actions in service of others. Our faith is proven out by how we treat others. "Faith without works is dead," says the Letter of James. Onlookers of the early community could rightfully say: "See how these Christians love one another." No one was ever quoted as saying: "See how these Christians go to church." While the gathering was essential to becoming the Body of Christ, registering for membership and weekly envelopes wasn't the point.

The pre-parish house churches were more intimate, and perhaps more attractive, than today's sprawling parishes which can feel alienating especially to newcomers. Meeting in homes was also necessary for a community that was vaguely suspect—and that dove into the catacombs when later judged to be outright criminal. Public worship, in buildings established for this purpose, was the gift (and in some ways the curse) of Christianity's legality under Emperor Constantine in the 4th century. As the nature of community in our media age is transformed, how we are church tomorrow will doubtless evolve too.

Scriptures: Matthew 4:18-22; 25:31-45; 26:26-28; Luke 24:13-35; John 15:11-17; 18:20-26; Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; 1 Corinthians 12:1–13:13; Ephesians 3:14-22; 4:1-16; James 2:14-18; 1 Peter 2:4-5



**If you cannot be trusted with
elusive wealth, who will trust
you with lasting ? LK.16.11**



Jesus said to his disciples, "There was once a rich man who had a manager. He got reports that the manager had been taking advantage of his position by running up huge personal expenses. So he called him in and said, 'What's this I hear about you? You're fired. And I want a complete audit of your books.'"

"The manager said to himself, 'What am I going to do? I've lost my job as manager. I'm not strong enough for a laboring job, and I'm too proud to beg. . . . Ah, I've got a plan. Here's what I'll do. . . then when I'm turned out into the street, people will take me into their houses.'"

"Then he went at it. One after another, he called in the people who were in debt to his master. He said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

"He replied, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.'"

"The manager said, 'Here, take your bill, sit down here—quick now—write fifty.'"

"To the next he said, 'And you, what do you owe?'

"He answered, 'A hundred sacks of wheat.'"

"He said, 'Take your bill, write in eighty.'"

"Now here's a surprise: The master praised the crooked manager! And why? Because he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise people are smarter in this regard than law-abiding citizens. They are on constant alert, looking for angles, surviving by their wits. I want you to be smart in the same way—but for what is right—using every adversity to stimulate you to creative survival, to concentrate your attention on the bare essentials, so you'll live, really live, and not complacently just get by on good behavior."

Jesus went on to make these comments:

If you're honest in small things,
you'll be honest in big things;
If you're a crook in small things,
you'll be a crook in big things.
If you're not honest in small jobs,
who will put you in charge of the store?
No worker can serve two bosses:
He'll either hate the first and love the second
Or adore the first and despise the second.
You can't serve both God and the Bank (from Luke 16).

Your Fall Feast Day Guide

It's not just sweater season—it's the season of saints as well.

Fall is nearly here! Even if it still feels hot and humid where you live, the season of sweaters and saints is just around the corner. September and October are filled with feast days, from beloved favorites to lesser-known gems, and they are all worth celebrating.

Here's your Get Fed guide to some of the season's most important feast days:

September 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

This feast honors the instrument of our salvation. Many parishes hold processions or venerate a relic of the True Cross. At home, you can display a crucifix prominently, pray the Stations of the Cross, or make a family act of thanksgiving for Christ's sacrifice.

September 29 – The Feast of the Archangels (Michael, Gabriel, Raphael)

Once known as Michaelmas, this feast celebrates God's mighty messengers. A traditional custom is to prepare a meal of goose or seasonal fruits. You might also pray the St. Michael Prayer and ask for the angels' protection.

October 1 – St. Thérèse of Lisieux

The Little Flower teaches us the beauty of holiness in small things. Celebrate with a bouquet of roses, by offering small sacrifices, or by reading a passage from her Story of a Soul.

October 4 – St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis is remembered for his love of creation. Many parishes host the Blessing of the Animals on this day. At home, pray the Cantic of the Sun or take a family walk to give thanks for God's creation.

October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary

This feast, born from the victory at Lepanto, invites us to rediscover the Rosary. Families can pray a decade together, decorate a family altar with rosaries, or entrust special intentions to Our Lady.

October 15 – St. Teresa of Avila

This Doctor of the Church calls us to deeper prayer. Read one of her quotes, light a candle, and take time for silence with the Lord.

October 22 – St. John Paul II

A beloved modern saint, John Paul II's feast day is a wonderful time to watch one of his addresses, pray the Totus Tuus prayer, or enjoy a Polish meal in his honor.

October 28 – Sts. Simon and Jude

These Apostles remind us of the Church's firm foundation. St. Jude, patron of impossible causes, is especially powerful to turn to with your hardest intentions.

This list is only a starting point. There are many other feast days in these months. Which ones are your favorites? Which are you most excited to celebrate?

-reprinted with permission The Catholic Company

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 8:4-7 | 1 Tim 2:1-8 | Lk 16:1-13

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

As Catholics we understand that none of our actions are truly isolated. Every virtue we practice or sin we commit affects others because we are all members of the body of Christ. Today's readings from the Old and New Testaments highlight our interconnectedness and offer guidance for how to order the life of the community according to God's will. The key to tranquil communal life is to consider the needs of others as important as our own. In the first reading, the prophet Amos decries those who exploit the poor for personal gain, putting profit over the common good. In the second reading, St. Paul begs the community to pray not only for themselves and for their close relatives, but to offer prayer and supplication for *everyone*. It's tempting to buy into the perspective that we need only focus on *our own* life. But the Lord invites us into authentic community where we intercede, sacrifice for and build up the kingdom *together*.

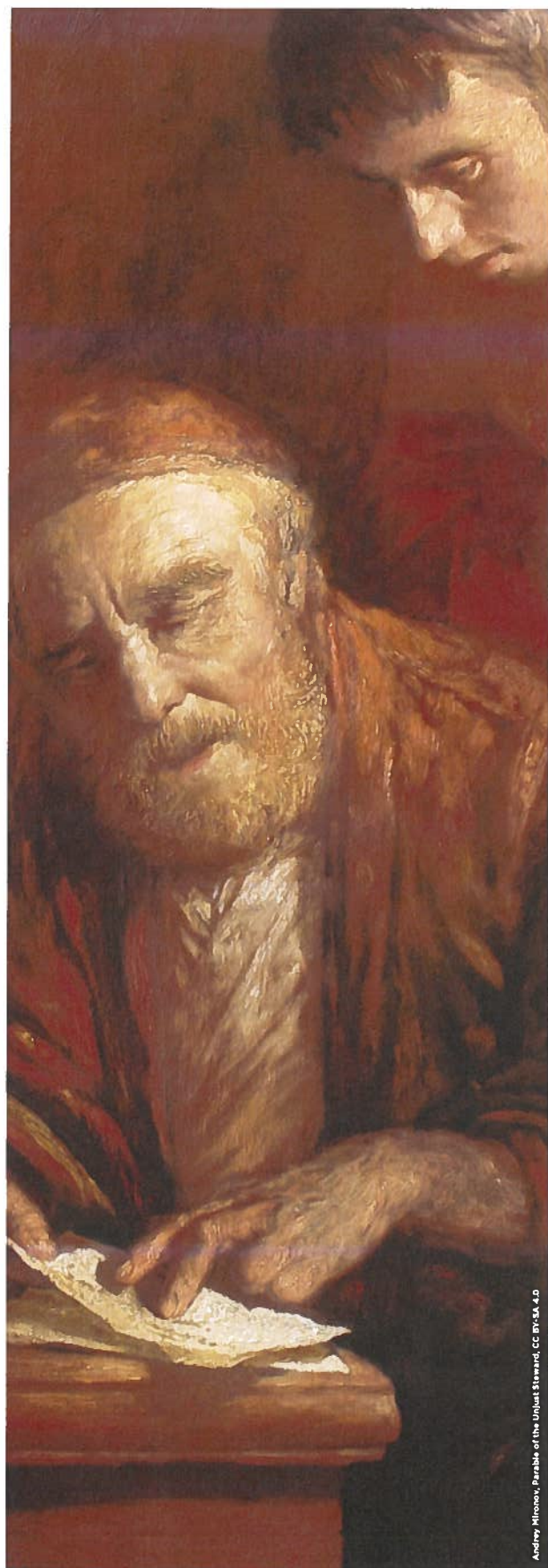
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I like to think of myself as a trustworthy person, and I'd expect most of us would consider ourselves the same. But as the Lord convicts my heart with today's Gospel reading about those who are trustworthy or untrustworthy in big and small matters, I hear the Holy Spirit inviting me to ponder deeper questions: Perhaps I don't intentionally deceive people and I aim to keep my word, but when someone's name or reputation comes up in conversation, can I be trusted to build them up? Do I fall prey to petty gossip, or simply sit idly by as others fall? I am true to scheduled commitments I make, but am I trustworthy with how I spend all my time? Do I use the gift of time for God's greater glory, or do I squander it with excessive scrolling or mindless TV shows? The Spirit doesn't want us to be scrupulous, and everything must be understood through God's merciful gaze. But the Lord does intend to purify us so that we can live more fully in communion with him.

REFLECT

Today, consider how you are invited to live in community and contribute to the building of a Christ-like culture. How are you called to more trustworthy stewardship of the gifts and time God has given you so that you can use them for building up the body of Christ?



Andrey Mironov, Parable of the Unjust Steward, CC BY-SA 4.0

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. 2 Cor 8:9

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

Though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, he

became poor,

so that by his poverty you might become rich.

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 16:1-13, L135C

Jesus said to his disciples,

"A rich man had a steward

who was reported to him for

squandering his property.

He summoned him and said,

"What is this I hear about you?

Prepare a full account of your

stewardship,

because you can no longer be

my steward."

The steward said to himself,

"What shall I do,

now that my master is taking

the position of steward away

from me?

I am not strong enough to dig and I am

ashamed to beg.

I know what I shall do so that,

when I am removed from the

stewardship,

they may welcome me into their

homes."

He called in his master's debtors one

by one.

To the first he said,

"How much do you owe my master?"

He replied, "One hundred measures of

olive oil."

He said to him, "Here is your promis-

ing note.

Sit down and quickly write one for fifty."

Then to another the steward said, "And

you, how much do you owe?"

He replied, "One hundred kors of wheat."

Continued in Appendix A, p. 307,

or Luke 16:10-13, p. 307.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Things aren't as simple as they used to be—or so it seems! Perhaps there never really was a time when issues were clear-cut and moral decisions were easy. The parable in today's gospel is itself so complex that the only thing biblical scholars agree on is that it poses more questions than it answers, and no interpretation fully answers all of them. Questions such as these confront us:

How can a dishonest steward be praised by his master? Who is the master? Jesus? The rich man? Is the parable about lost honor or lost income? What is the economic system presumed in the story? Does it concern usury? Or the steward's commission? What does "squandering" signify? Is the charge true or false? Who are the debtors? Is the master a sympathetic character or a villain? Is the steward someone to be emulated or is he a picaresque character designed to give us a chuckle in a comic story? To complicate things further, it seems that the original parable of Jesus ends at verse 8a, and verses 8b to 13 are more like homily notes of early interpreters. These verses are stitched together by catchwords offering four different interpretations around the theme of the right use of money, none of which really captures the dynamics of the parable proper.

One possibility for this Sunday is not to try to settle the interpretation of the gospel parable but to look instead at the underlying values and attitudes that the readings propose, which orient us toward what we must do in order to be able to make good moral decisions in complex situations. In the first reading, the situation seems straightforward: the dishonest merchants cannot wait for the Sabbath to be over so they can return to cheating the poor.

As with Amos, our first important step is to cultivate the ability to see from the perspective of those made poor and to be outraged, as he was, about economic practices that feed greed and "trample upon the needy." Once one sees these practices, it is then important to do whatever is possible to counter them. Publicly raising one's voice, as did Amos, is one important response. Another is to observe Sabbath days, when rest and communal and contemplative prayer can help communities of faith to cultivate eyes that see what is needed for the common good. A Sabbath rest from buying and selling also provides a hiatus from exploitation of the poor and cultivates reliance on providence.

The letter to Timothy reminds us of the importance of praying for all those in authority, so that they will be persons of wisdom, able to lead in such a way that all can enjoy a dignified and tranquil life. From the gospel, we can see that a time of crisis is an opportunity to assess one's own or a community's strengths and weaknesses while weighing different possibilities for the future. Cultivating relationships, as did the steward, is essential. When all these values and practices are put together, then a creative solution for the common good emerges, and decisive action can be taken.

