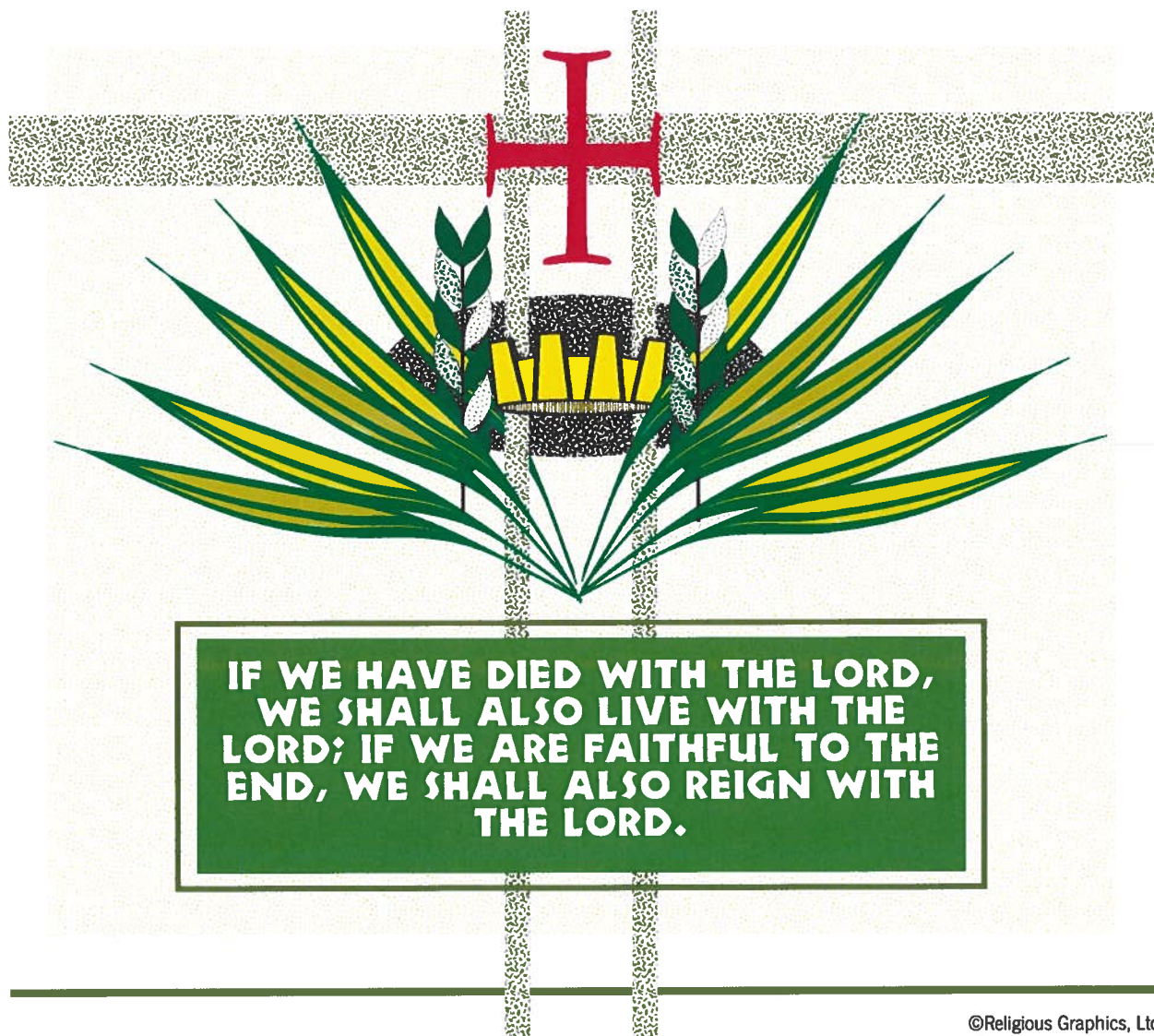


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of**  
**St. Margaret Mary, Herscher**  
**St. James the Apostle, Irwin**  
**Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

**28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**OCTOBER 11-12, 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: "Jesus does not demand great action from us but simply surrender and gratitude."**

—Saint Therèse of Lisieux

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**October 18-19, 2025**

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Oct. 18 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Oct. 19 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Oct. 19 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Oct. 19 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiler Gery Wright	Dennis Pankey James Mallaney	Bob Buente Dennis O'Connor Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke	Youth Mass
Lector	Rob Landeck	Rhonda Berns	Mary Peerbolte	Youth Mass
Eucharistic Minister			SueAnn O'Connor	Lynda Wolles
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—Jerry Ogrentz R. Leader—The Peerboltes	Youth Mass

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, Oct. 13 (SH)**

8:00 am +Anne Gehrke (Charlotte Emling)

**Tuesday, Oct. 14 (SH)**

8:00 am +Ray Slavinski (Dorothy Mascher)

**Wednesday, Oct. 15 (SJ)**

8:00 am +Family of Virginia Gadbois (Sue McFarland)

**Friday, Oct. 17 (SJ)**

8:00 am +Mary Polvere (Marian Sanders)

**Saturday, Oct. 18 (SMM)**

5:00 pm +Joseph & Mary Schneider (Dennis/Janice Schneider)

**Sunday, Oct. 19**

7:30 am (SH) +Inez Crawford (Shirley St. Germaine)

+Anthony Beedle (Rhonda/Joe Berns)

9:00 am (SJ) +Fred Gohlke (Dave/Martha O'Connor)

+Babe & Rita O'Connor (Mary/Jerry O'Connor)

10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Families

**A Look Ahead**

**Sat., October 11**—Rosary Rally SMM noon

**Sun., October 12**—No RE at SMM and SJ

**Mon., Oct. 13**—No Prayer Meeting this week

**Nov. 15– Nov. 17**—Parish Mission

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](http://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](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga [tosenga81@gmail.com](mailto:tosenga81@gmail.com)

**Parish Nurse** – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

**Prayer Line**—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [jdstreefarm@aol.com](mailto:jdstreefarm@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 can I, like the Samaritan, take the extra step to show my gratitude to God?

### Collections Weekend of Oct. 4-5

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,175

Sacred Heart—\$908

St. James—\$2,417

Thank you for your generosity!

### It's Time to Sign Up!!!!

Time is running out! You can call the office between 9 am—Noon on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays.

If you prefer, go to the website [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com). Our church code is: il427 Password is: photos. There is no pressure to purchase pictures at your session. If you get your photo taken, you will receive a Free 8 x 10 and a new Church Directory!! What a deal!! If you choose to submit a photo, there will be a \$15 Charge.

Also: if you would like to get multi-generational pictures taken (Photo will not be in the directory) with your adult children and grandchildren, you can book back to back appointments with no sitting fee. If there are more than 5 people, please book 2 time slots.

**Photos will be taken at St. James**

**Times still available for Friday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct. 18.**



EWTN will be airing a new show, **Hidden Gems: Catholic Shrines in America** an inspiring and visually rich series of half hour episodes that takes viewers to Catholic sites around


the globe. Each episode uncovers the beauty, history, and faith woven into local American churches, shrines, and sacred spaces and reveals them to a greater audience. Former SMM parishioner Nell Andrzejewski is the host of the show.

EWTN is the world's largest Catholic media network that broadcast to 425 million people in 160 countries with 11 networks.

For more information and to watch episodes on demand go to: Shrines.TV. Four upcoming *Hidden Gems* episodes will air on EWTN at 4:30 CST on the following dates:  
Sat. Oct 11 "Our Lady of La Leche" St Augustine, FL  
Sat. Oct 28 "St Jude" Chicago, IL  
Nov. 10 "Trinity Heights-Queen of Peace" Sioux City, IA  
Jan 8, 2026: "Grotto of the Redemption" West Bend, IA

### Parish News:

#### All Parishes—

⇒  Our Tri Parish Mission will begin the weekend of Nov. 15-16 with evening sessions on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. More details coming soon!

⇒ *The Kankakee Deanery CCW Board organizes the events of which your CCW parish women attend - Joy in January and Spring Institute. The Board would like to invite women of your parish to attend our next board meeting. It is with a desire for your input and ideas. Our meeting is October 27, 2025 (5:00 p.m.) at St. John Paul II. Any questions, please contact Rhonda Berns at 815-545-9519.*

⇒ *Our Adult Ed class will next meet on October 15 at 7 pm at St. James.*

⇒ *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 until further notice are Mondays at Sacred Heart and Fridays at St. James.

#### St. James-

#### Sacred Heart-

⇒ We are still looking for people to clean our church. Please call Terri at 815-514-8171 if you can help us out.

⇒ The week of October 12th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for Annette Chandler.

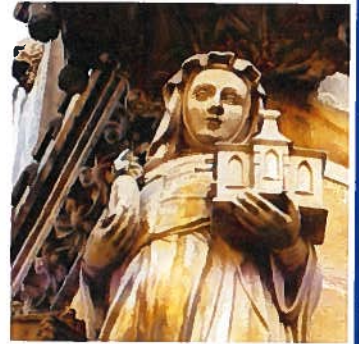
### Gospel Shorts - The Importance of Praising God

Jesus expressed regret that only one leper returned to praise God after being healed. Why is praising God so important? It is important because the world in which we live pulls us one way and then another. It is a manipulating and chaotic world.

Worship, however — praising God — centers us in what is true and real. We are focused. We are grounded. Our perceptions of reality become clearer. Our spirits are renewed.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Hedwig of Andechs (Oct. 16)** was the daughter of Berthold IV, Duke of Merania, and aunt of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. She married Prince Henry I the Bearded of Silesia and Poland in 1186 at age 12. She became the mother of seven, including Saint Gertrude of Trebnitz. Hedwig cared for the sick both personally and by founding hospitals. She became a widow and upon her husband's death. She gave away her fortune and entered the monastery at Trebnitz where her daughter was abbess.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Gall (Oct. 16)** was the younger brother of Saint Deicola. He studied at Bangor Abbey under Saint Comgall of Bangor and Saint Columba. Gall was known as a Bible scholar. He became a priest and was one of the twelve who accompanied Saint Columbanus to France and helped found Luxeuil Abbey. He followed Columbanus into exile in 610 and then to Austrasia, where he preached with little success around Lake Zurich, and near Bregenz.

Illness forced Gall to leave Columbanus's party in 612, though some say the leader suspected Gall of malingering, and imposed a penance on him, which Gall faithfully observed, of not celebrating Mass during Columba's life. When he recovered, Gall lived as a hermit on the Steinach River, attracting disciples. Saint Gall Monastery occupied this site, becoming a center of literature, the arts, and music, though legend to the contrary, Saint Gall

### Reflection Seek First the Good of Others

A disciple came up to his master and said, "I am a wealthy man and have just come into a large fortune. How best can I use it so it will redound to my spiritual benefit?"

The master said with a sigh, "I am at a loss. If I tell you give it to your friends and relatives, it will do you no spiritual good. If I tell you give it to the temple, you will only feed the avarice of the priests. If I tell you to give it to the poor, you will take pride in your charity and fall into the sin of self-righteousness."

Since the disciple pressed the master for an answer, he finally said, "Give the money to the poor. At least they will benefit from it, even though you will not."

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

It happened that as he made his way toward Jerusalem, he crossed over the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, 10 men, all lepers, met him. They kept their distance but raised their voices, calling out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

Taking a good look at them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."

They went, and while still on their way, became clean. One of them, when he realized that he was healed, turned around and came back, shouting his gratitude, glorifying God. He kneeled at Jesus' feet, so grateful. He couldn't thank him enough—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus said, "Were not 10 healed? Where are the nine? Can none be found to come back and give glory to God except this outsider?" Then he said to him, "Get up. On your way. Your faith has healed and saved you" (from Luke 17).

### Reflection A Time to Live

A 93-year-old man finally conceded he couldn't live alone. Not wanting to live with his daughter, he went to see a local nursing home.

After one look at a large room where older people sat silently staring into space, he quipped, "Well, if I come here, we are going to have to turn this waiting room into a living room."

Our relish for life can tarnish as we become adults. But we can recapture it — because we can modify our attitudes.

Dr. Viktor E. Frank, who studied survivors of the Nazi Concentration camp, concluded:

"Everything can be taken from a person but one thing," he concluded, "the last of the human freedoms — to choose one's attitude quicker in any given set of circumstances."





COLLECTION DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE CLIENTS  
OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

**OCTOBER 18-19, 2025**

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:

- 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)

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



## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

**Monday, October 20, 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:  
GSW HS Youth Philanthropy Group**



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

### Questions Catholics Ask

#### How many times has Mary appeared in history and where?

This is a loaded question. The Vatican supplies no exact number of Marian apparitions. The current spokesperson for the Marianum Pontifical Institute in Rome, Father Salvatore Perrella, reports that nine apparitions have been declared worthy of belief in the last century. This doesn't imply they occurred in the past century, only that they were examined in that period. The lists of bona fide Mary sightings are generally confined to less than a dozen, including: **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (Mexico, 1531), **Laus** (France, 1664), **Rue du Bac/Miraculous Medal** (France, 1830), **La Salette** (France, 1846), **Lourdes** (France, 1858), **Pontmain** (France, 1871), **Knock** (Ireland, 1879), **Fatima** (Portugal, 1917), **Beauraing** (Belgium, 1932), and **Banneux** (Belgium, 1933). Recently, Green Bay, Wisconsin's own Our Lady of Good Help (1859) was granted local devotional approval.

No doubt some will be concerned that Medjugorje isn't on that list, but the inquiry into these apparitions hasn't been concluded. In fact, about 300 Marian sightings from the 20th century alone have been or are being considered in Syria, Japan, Korea, and Rwanda, as well as across Latin America and Europe. How frequently have such claims have been made in the past? Estimates careen widely between 1,500 and 21,000 apparitions, including eight sightings in the United States and six in Canada. Whichever number is more credible, the vast majority of these claims received only limited or local interest.

When did Mary start showing up? According to tradition, the apostle James first encountered Our Lady in Zaragoza, Spain in the year 40. Saint Gregory of Nyssa avowed a personal experience of Mary, and the construction of St. Mary Major Basilica was prompted by an apparition—both in the 4th century. Marian apparitions remained rare until the second millennium. Since then, sightings have multiplied. Still, the messages received have been fairly uniform. Our Lady encourages conversion, prayer, penance, and reconciliation. She offers rosaries, medals, scapulars, and healings. She prevents invasions and ends wars. The recipients of these apparitions are most often poor children or humble adults.

What are we to make of all this? The church considers Marian apparitions open for selective acceptance and devotion. These private revelations "do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith" and "it is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation." (CCC 67) This is church-speak for: belief in apparitions isn't required and must not contradict the faith of Christians.



The church considers Marian apparitions open for selective acceptance and devotion.





St. James students selling pumpkins and gourds for the Kids Helping Kids program.



## CRUNCH FOR A CAUSE

Please Join us for a fundraiser to support:

### Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

Come to **TACO JOHN'S**  
Located at 562 William Latham Drive, Bourbonnais  
Between 4-7pm  
on Wednesday, October 22nd

**50%** of your entire purchase will be given to the  
to the organization

All you have to do to participate is show this flyer  
(printed, or on mobile device) or just mention it to  
the cashier.

All proceeds benefit local charities, Clergy  
Appreciation Lunch and supporting seminarians.



Stand up...your faith has  
been your salvation LK.17:19

## Let's **MAKE** Disciples for Jesus!

Download and read Bishop  
Hicks' new pastoral letter,  
MAKE, to discover how you  
and your loved ones can live as  
disciples and help make other  
disciples in your community.



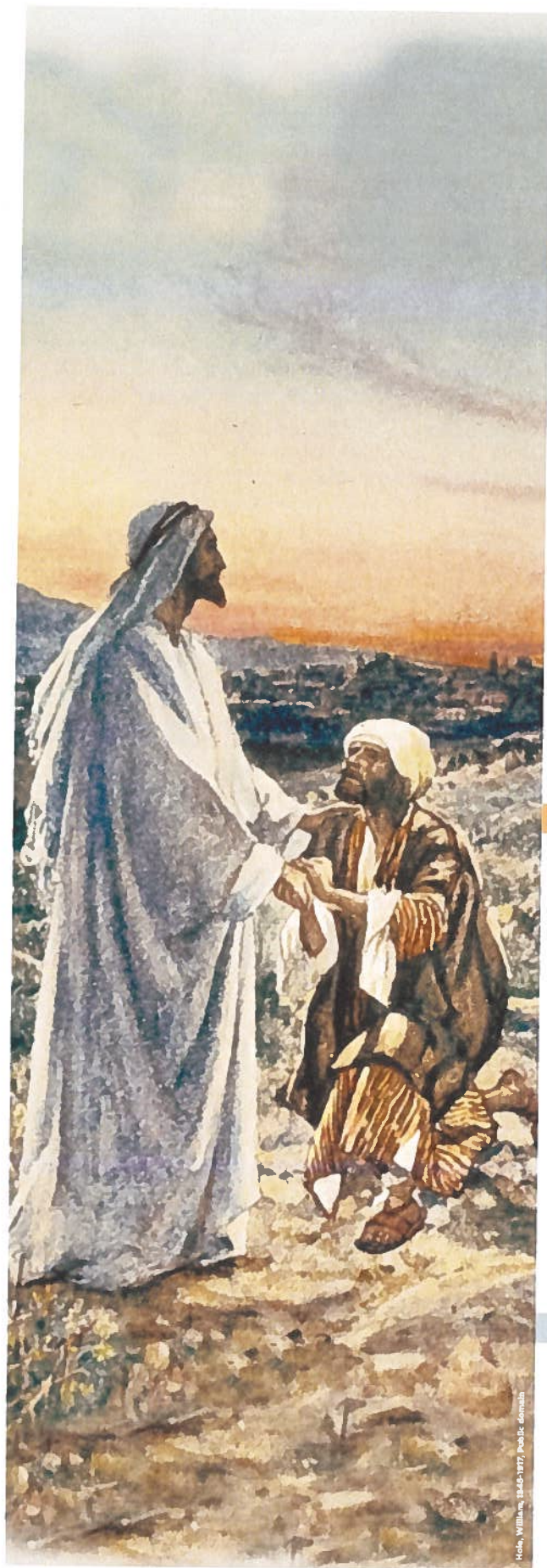
MAKE.diojoliet.org



# MAKE

A Pastoral Letter for the People  
of the Diocese of Joliet





October 12, 2025

## Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

2 Kgs 5:14-17 | 2 Tim 2:8-13 | Lk 17:11-19

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

After his healing in the Jordan river, Naaman returns to Elisha. It's clear from their ensuing conversation that his miraculous healing had led to him recognizing the God of Israel as the one who had healed him. In thanksgiving, he desires to offer sacrifice, and pledges that he "will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any other god except the Lord." In the Gospel, we see the Samaritan returning to Jesus after his healing, falling at the Lord's feet and "glorifying God in a loud voice." It's clear from both Scriptures that when we recognize what God has done for us, our first response is to worship. That's why our central act of worship as a Christian community is called *Eucharist* – from the Greek word for thanksgiving. When we come to worship God, what is it that we're grateful for? If gratitude is the heart of worship, it's a fruitful practice to intentionally spend some time considering God's providence in our lives over the past week so we come to the liturgy prepared to offer thanks.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Something that has always struck me about today's Gospel is that Jesus heals all ten of the lepers, not only the one who returned to offer thanks. While we, as humans, can be tempted to withhold love when we know it will not be acknowledged or appreciated, Jesus heals all ten. God is good to us, even when we're ungrateful. As Paul says, "If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself." God can do only one thing: love. How powerful would it be if we worked to imitate the kind of gratuitous love we see in today's Gospel? Think about opportunities to practice this kind of love. What a witness this would be to the world if we were to imitate God's way of loving. As the Persian poet Hafiz wrote: "Even after all this time, the sun never says to the earth, 'You owe me.' Look what happens with a love like that. It lights the whole sky."

### **REFLECT**

Take some time before Mass each Sunday to do an examine-style prayer, reflecting on where you've seen God's action in your life during the week. How has God provided for your needs? How has God accompanied you through challenges? How has the Spirit of God brought consolation and strength? Make a list of all the places you've experienced God's presence and grace and prepare to offer thanks to God for these gifts at Mass.

**SPIRITUALITY**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

1 Thess 5:18

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

In all circumstances, give thanks,  
for this is the will of God for you in  
Christ Jesus.

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel**

Luke 17:11-19; L144C

As Jesus continued his journey  
to Jerusalem,  
he traveled through Samaria  
and Galilee.

As he was entering a village,  
ten lepers met him.

They stood at a distance from  
him and raised their  
voices, saying,

"Jesus, Master! Have pity  
on us!"

And when he saw them, he  
said,

"Go show yourselves to the priests."

As they were going they were cleansed.

And one of them, realizing he had been  
healed,

returned, glorifying God in a loud  
voice;

and he fell at the feet of Jesus and  
thanked him.

He was a Samaritan.

Jesus said in reply,

"Ten were cleansed, were they not?

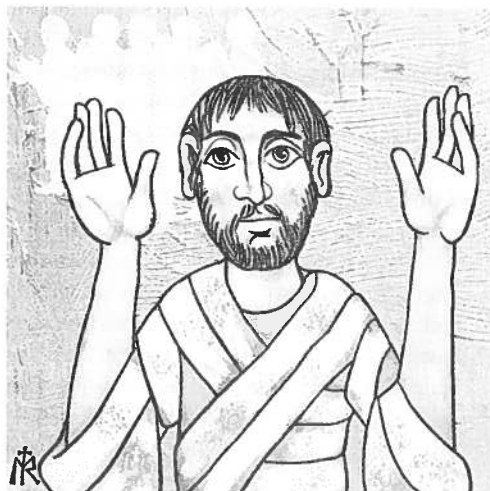
Where are the other nine?

Has none but this foreigner returned to  
give thanks to God?"

Then he said to him, "Stand up and go;  
your faith has saved you."

**Reflecting on the Gospel**

The first reading and the gospel today tell stories of two different men afflicted with leprosy. One was a mighty warrior, commander of the army of the king of Aram. The other is huddled with a pitiful group of nine others likewise afflicted. Both are foreigners who nonetheless are healed by Israel's prophets, Elisha and Jesus. Both praise the God of Israel for their transformation.



In the gospel account, the focus is on the way the one healed man turns around and loudly glorifies God, falling at Jesus's feet, thanking him. It is a dramatic enactment of the stance of saving gratitude that divine gifts evoke. Jesus affirms the man's response and tells him to go, that his faith has saved him. Luke does not elaborate what was the man's inner disposition before he was healed. Was he filled with self-pity? Was he consumed with longing for well-being? Was he bitter or despairing over his deteriorating physical state?

At the realization of his healing, the man turned around, perhaps not only physically but interiorly as well. When he lets gratitude for all God has given him consume him, he turns around from any other cancers that eat at his spirit. Jesus

affirms that this kind of faith, rooted in thankfulness, is the healing, saving power (the Greek verb *sozein* connotes both "heal" and "save") that enables him to go forward as a changed person, both in body and spirit.

In the first reading, Naaman has a much more difficult time accepting the full transformation offered to him. In the verses leading up to today's Lectionary selection, Naaman takes huge amounts of silver, gold, and clothing, along with a letter from his king, when he approaches the king of Israel to ask for healing from the foreign prophet. He then goes to Elisha's house with horses, chariots, and all his retinue.

Elisha sends out a messenger, who directs Naaman to wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman is furious, declaring, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand there to call on the name of the LORD his God, and would move his hand over the place, and thus cure the leprous spot" (2 Kgs 5:11). Because of his high position, Naaman feels entitled to special, personal attention. He is used to giving commands and has a fixed idea of how the healing should be done. And although he has crossed over into Israelite territory, he has no regard for their life-giving water. He insists that the rivers in his own land are better than the Jordan. After he departs in a rage, his servants persuade him to go back and immerse himself in the Jordan.

Naaman struggles mightily to turn away from his stance of entitlement, from his attempts to buy healing, and to direct the manner in which it should occur. After his healing, Naaman still tries to pay for it, but Elisha will take nothing from him. All that God or Jesus desires in return is a heart shaped by saving gratitude for freely given grace that has the power to heal both the inner and outer self.