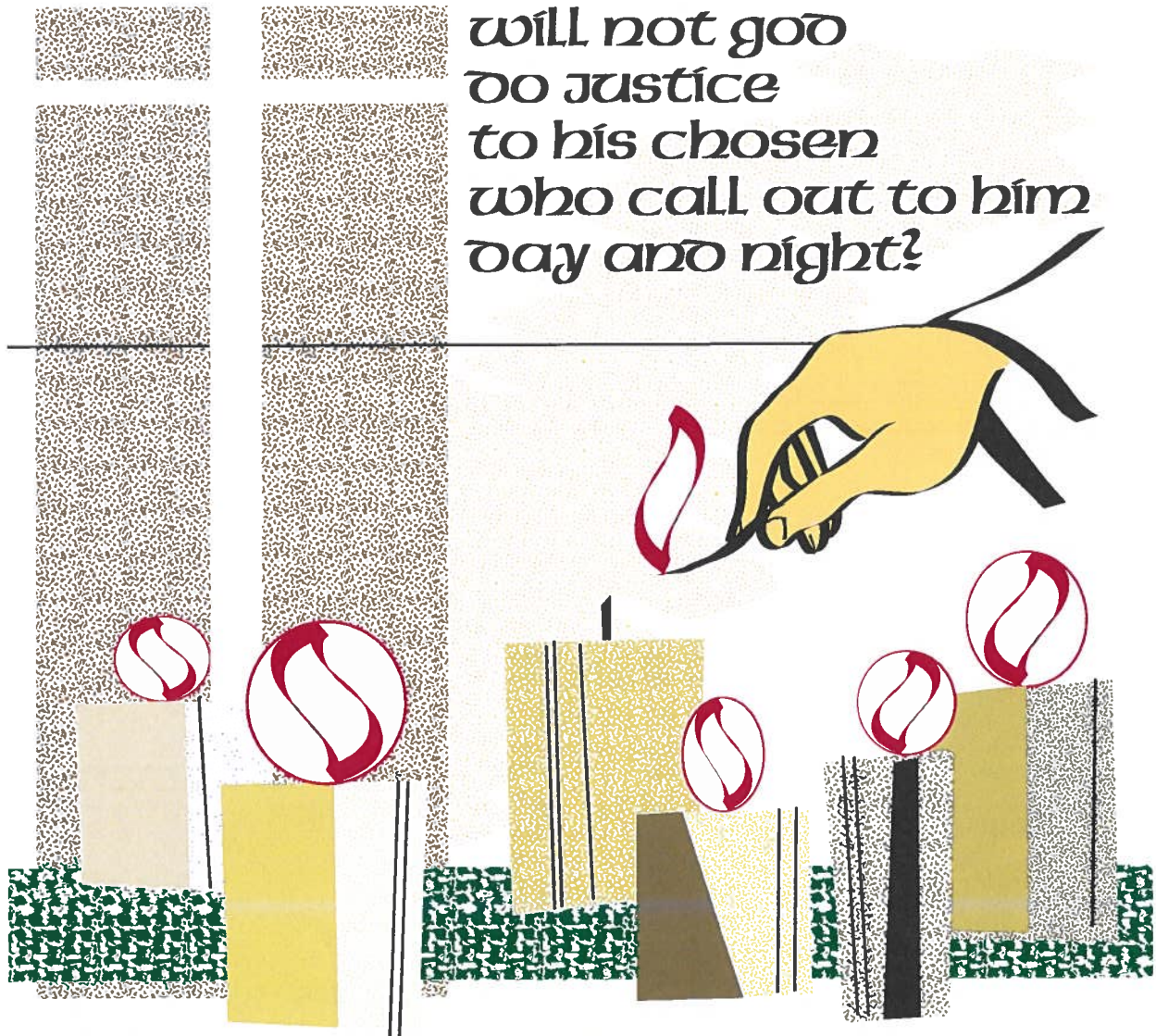


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 18-19, 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: "Nothing great is ever achieved without enduring much."

—Saint Catherine of Siena

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 25-26, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Oct. 25 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Oct. 26 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Oct. 26 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Oct. 26 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiler Roger Jensen	David Kirkpatrick Kyle Ferris	Dallas Ferris Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Cathy Jensen	Wayne Bisailon, Erik Wheeler Darren Lovell Sean Riordan
Lector	Dave Emling	Cindy Gagnon	Andy Hansen	Corinn Wheeler
Eucharistic				Corinn Wheeler
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—Mary Offerman R. Leader—Kathy Dumas	Wayne Bisailon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Oct. 20 (SH)

8:00 am +Melvin "Skip" Prince (Don/Marie Feller)

Tuesday, Oct. 21 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, Oct. 22 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, Oct. 24 (SJ)

8:00 am +Dick Fitch (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

Saturday, Oct. 25 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, Oct. 26

7:30 am (SH) +Linda Hubert, Elva McBride, JoAnn Denault,
Chris Pristach, & Jennifer Bonds (The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Laurie Hansen (Kankakee Foods Inc.)
+Bernadette Cimbalnik (Joan Forsythe)

10:30 am (SMM) +Francis & Aldine O'Brien (Steve/Donna Jacob)
+Sheila Koerner (The Family)

A Look Ahead

Monday, Oct. 20—Prayer Meeting SJ 7 pm

Nov. 15–16- Parish Mission Weekend Liturgies

Nov. 16/19—Mission Services 7pm

Saturday, Nov. 22—SH Cash Bash 4-8pm

Tues., Dec. 9—SH CCW Christmas Party

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:

As this is the Jubilee Year of Hope, can I remain hopeful that God will address my needs and use that hope to help me persist in prayer? Can I promise to do so for ten minutes each day this week?

Collections Weekend of Oct. 11-12

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,011

Sacred Heart—\$1,006

St. James—\$1,598

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection Why Volunteer

There are so many reasons to volunteer:

- Provides opportunities for making many new friends.
- Brings the special fulfillment that comes only from helping others.
- Helps you "get outside" yourself and put your own problems — even grief — in perspective.
- Allows you to polish old skills and learn new ones.

Lets you "repay" an organization that has helped you or someone you love.

Gospel Shorts - Knocking at the Door

In Luke 18, a widow comes before an apathetic judge. He doesn't care about her or her situation, but because she keeps coming back, over and over again, He finally hears her case and gives her justice. How much more quickly will One who loves us and cares deeply about us respond to our prayers? God does not hesitate. In fact, the Bible tells us that God knows what we need even before we ask. Our loving God hears us and stands with us

Boxes of Joy Make a Christmas Special

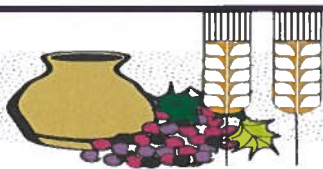
SH—Boxes are at the church entrance. Pamphlets are available with suggestions for items along with an envelope for postage. Please include \$9 for postage per box. Checks made out to SH CCW. Attach postage with a rubber band to the box.

SMM—Boxes are available and inside each there is a helpful list of possible items.

SJ—Boxes are available. They are due back at church by October 26.



Give thanks
to the
Lord of the
harvest



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Parish News:

All Parishes—

⇒  Our Tri Parish Mission will begin the weekend of Nov. 15-16 with evening sessions on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Details on page 4.

⇒ 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.

⇒ Prayer Meeting: Monday, Oct. 20 at SJ

⇒ **No Adult Ed** class on October 22.

⇒ 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-

⇒ Ladies of the parish—Don't forget to support your CCW by donating to our Bakeless Bake Sale. The money supports our various mission projects. Just put your donation in an envelope marked CCW and drop it in the collection basket

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

St. James-

⇒ We will be collecting donations of winter weather wear at St. James through mid November. Thank you for your generosity to help those in need

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.

⇒ CCW meeting Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 6:30 pm in church hall.

⇒ Sacred Heart Church is 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. Cleopatra (Oct. 19) was a married woman, a mother, and living in Kemet, Upper Egypt. Cleopatra witnessed the martyrdom of Saint Varus of Kemet and developed a great devotion to him. When her husband died, Cleopatra took both his body and the relics of Saint Varus to Daraa, Syria for burial in the family tomb. When her son John, died in 319, Cleopatra prayed for the intercession of Varus to bring John back to her; instead, she received a vision of Varus and John together in heaven and was comforted to know that her son was with God. She then built a chapel to enshrine the relics of Varus and buried her son next to him. The relics became locally famous for healing miracles, and the chapel became a pilgrimage site. Cleopatra gave away her wealth, and spent her days praying, fasting and ministering to pilgrims



Obscure saint of the week: St. Frideswide (Oct. 19) was the daughter of Prince Didan. When a neighboring noble, Prince Algar, asked for her hand in an arranged marriage, Frideswide fled to Thomwry Wood, Birnsey, England where she lived as a hermitess. Later she became a Benedictine nun. She founded Saint Mary's Convent and served as its abbess. The monastery is now Christ Church College, University of Oxford, and the convent church became an Oxford cathedral.

TRI-PARISH COMMUNITIES PARISH MISSION

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday and Sunday, November 15, 16

Mission Services: Sunday Evening, November 16
through Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

Morning Mass (*different topics*),

Monday through Wednesday, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening
VISION *Seeing as God Sees*
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher

Monday Evening
INTEGRITY *A Time to Choose*
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

Tuesday Evening
DISCIPLESHIP *Followers of Jesus*
St. James, Irwin

Wednesday Evening
GOD'S DREAM *A Time to Act*
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher



Pope Francis' book,
Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future,
offers a provocative context for our three-day retreat.
The time will be filled with
storytelling, Sacred Scripture, and lots of HOPE.
There will be an opportunity to celebrate
the Sacrament of Penance,
and Fr. Jack will be available throughout the day
for those who wish to share a problem or an insight.
All are invited! Bring a friend!

Join your fellow parishioners
for four nights of joyful
spiritual renewal!

Directed by Fr. Jack Conley
Passionist Priest from Chicago



Tri-Parish Catholic Communities
207 East 5th Street
Herscher, IL 60941
(815) 426-2550

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, "There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: 'My rights are being violated. Protect me!'

"He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, 'I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won't quit badgering me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black and blue by her pounding.' "

Then the Master said, "Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?" (from Luke 18).

Reflection Sacraments of Daily Living

Each day, upon my daily round, I find myself on holy ground, the morning—glories on my fence inspire quiet reverence. Just one small, tender seedling grew, and now this miracle in blue.

A sparrow in the shade tree sings out his glad doxology. I hear the pure, unsullied joy of laughter from a little boy; I bow before the firm belief and faith of one who lives with grief; I watch a jet plane skim the skies and marvel at man's enterprise.

A friend drops in, a neighbor calls, the lamps are lit, night gently falls; contentment settles with the sun in labors of the day well done. So many little altars there, so many simple calls of prayer, so many reasons for thanksgiving — the sacraments of daily living.

Questions Catholics Ask Is Jesus the Messiah?

The word *Messiah*—Hebrew for “anointed”—has a complex history. Between Messiah and Christ—Greek for “anointed”—lies a thousand years of evolving expectations. Best to review those before addressing the age-old Christian query: Why don’t Jews, reading the same ancient texts, accept Jesus as “Messiah”?

Scholar Raymond E. Brown cautions that messiahs aren’t the only saviors in Israel’s history. Moses, the judges, Nehemiah and Ezra, even young Queen Esther are identified as savior figures. Anyone divinely appointed for the work of rescue is a savior. Israel’s in need of frequent rescue, so the Bible contains a lot of saviors.

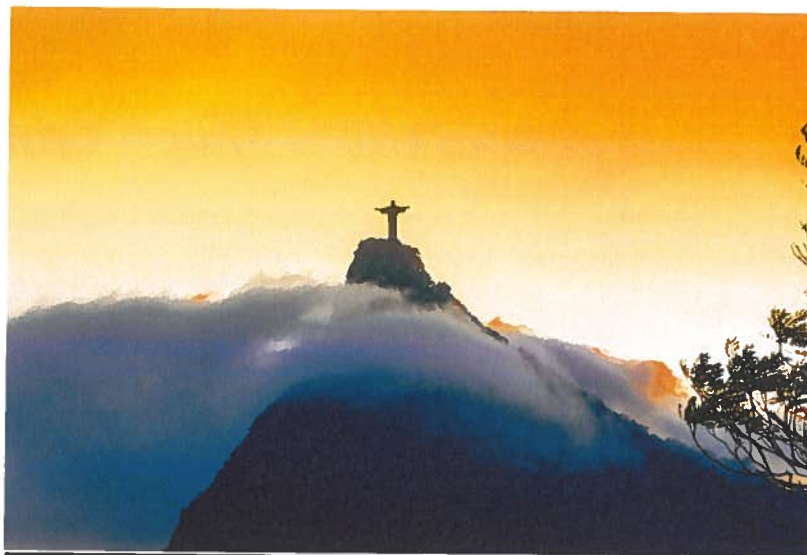
The gallery of saviors gains new candidates in the era of kings. Anointed to lead at God’s command, Judah’s kings are messiahs in a nationalistic sense. They don’t save the world; and they only keep the nation safe for their particular generation. Contrast them with the kings of northern Israel, who are viewed more skeptically. Then recall that southern Judah writes the Bible.

Messianic kingship reaches its height with Judah’s second king, David. His line is endowed with an everlasting, rollover anointing. The salvation coming from David’s house, however, doesn’t extend to the afterlife. Nor is it universal. Davidic kings won’t “save the world”: they’ll keep Judah safe. The problem is, they don’t. Soon after David, Judah is ruled by a string of monarchs who disregard God’s guidance. Two centuries in, the prophet Isaiah views his king Ahaz as gone totally off the rails.

Isaiah reboots messianic hope. While linked to David’s line, the Messiah will be loyal to God and establish justice and peace. Eden-like conditions will be restored. Isaiah upgrades salvation to universal dimensions: all nations have a stake in the coming Messiah. The prophecy adds a sober note: this Messiah will come in humility and go the way of suffering. Other prophets embrace Isaiah’s vision.

Messianism undergoes a third overhaul after Babylonian exile and the monarchy’s extinction. Without kings, can there be a Messiah? Biblical history has a big hole in it between the 5th and 1st centuries B.C. By the time of the gospels, it’s clear that anyone still dreaming of a Messiah wants to see David’s kingdom restored and a better world for Israel ensured. Jesus reaches back into prophecy, embracing the image of a suffering servant who saves much more than a precarious political situation. That’s a Messiah few were waiting for, and perhaps few find attractive today.

Scripture: Genesis 49:9-12; 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89:20-38; Isaiah 7:10-17; 9:1-6; 11:1-9; 52:13—53:12; Zechariah 9:9-10; Mark 8:27-30; Matthew 2:1-6; John 7:25-31, 40-52



Isaiah upgrades salvation to universal dimensions: all nations have a stake in the coming Messiah.



**Give me my rights
against my opponent LK.18:3**



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

Questions Catholics Ask

Which Marian apparition was scheduled in advance and had to be pushed back?

When Our Lady first appeared to the three children of Fatima on May 13th, 1917, she told them she would return to the same spot on that day for the next six months.

She did indeed come on the 13th of every month—but one day, the children were unable to keep their appointment with the Blessed Mother.

Here's why.

It was August 13th, 1917. By now, enough people had heard of the apparitions at Fatima that the children were famous, and many people went to the site with them.

The governor, a staunch anti-Catholic, was very displeased and concerned about the crowds these children were drawing. So, he got in his carriage and drove toward the apparition site.

On the way there, he encountered the children, and offered them a ride to the site in his carriage. Once they got in, however, he drove them to his house and locked them up.

The next day he subjected them to relentless interrogation, threw them in jail, and even threatened their lives—but all to no avail. The next day he finally released them, having gained nothing.

On August 19th, nearly a week after the arranged date, Our Lady appeared to the children in a different spot. After that, the apparitions continued as originally planned.

Today, Our Lady of Fatima is one of the most famous apparitions of the Blessed Mother. "We would be mistaken," said Pope Benedict XVI, "to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete." Do you know the truth about this miraculous apparition?

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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.



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 19, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 17:8-13 | 2 Tim 3:14—4:2 | Luke 18:1-8

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

Studying Scripture is not a side dish on the plate of practicing the faith. It is an essential component of the virtuous life, and without it, our faith will surely falter. In his second letter to Timothy, Saint Paul reminds us that the Scriptures are the inspired Word of God and they train us in righteous living and equip us for every good work. There will undoubtedly be times when we feel ill-equipped – when we are fatigued, frustrated, or concerned. It is precisely in these moments that we're invited to go quickly to the holy Word of God! Read it, pray with it, and invite the Spirit to speak to you through it. There you will find the wisdom needed to face every circumstance.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our faith journey was never meant to be a solitary endeavor! We see this in today's first reading when Aaron and Hur stand beside Moses, holding his weary arms in the air as the battle rages on against the Amalekites. This image of the three men on the mountain – Moses with his arms raised high, Aaron and Hur on either side supporting them – is a powerful image of companionship in the Christian life. When you feel too weary to pray, look around – the Lord has likely given you companions who can support you precisely in the ways you need at this time. Pay attention, too, to who God might be inviting you to support in prayer. Our Gospel tells us that God always hears our prayer and calls us to be persistent in prayer. Certainly, God will "secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night." God calls us to persist in prayer because it reveals our faith and trust in him that we constantly bring our needs before him.

REFLECT

Our readings offer helpful tools to turn to when discouragement or isolation may cloud our spiritual vision. Take some time this week to listen to the Lord's voice in Scripture. Or, if you're feeling weary, ask a few friends to pray with and for you. Remember that although God may seem distant, he always hears us. Be persistent in bringing your needs to him and wait with patience – surely, he will come swiftly to your aid.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Heb 4:12

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of God is living and effective,
discerning reflections and thoughts
of the heart.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 18:1-8; L147C

Jesus told his disciples a
parable
about the necessity for them
to pray always without
becoming weary.

He said, "There was a judge in
a certain town
who neither feared God nor
respected any human
being.

And a widow in that town used
to come to him and say,
'Render a just decision for me against
my adversary.'

For a long time the judge was unwilling,
but eventually he thought,
'While it is true that I neither fear God
nor respect any human being,
because this widow keeps bothering me
I shall deliver a just decision for her
lest she finally come and strike me.'

The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the
dishonest judge says.

Will not God then secure the rights of his
chosen ones
who call out to him day and night?

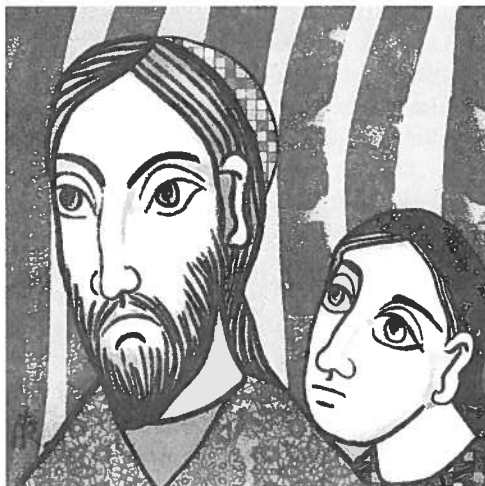
Will he be slow to answer them?

I tell you, he will see to it that justice is
done for them speedily.

But when the Son of Man comes, will he
find faith on earth?"

Reflecting on the Gospel

For seventy-five years, Frances Crowe protested war and advocated for peace, human rights, and environmental justice. She was frequently arrested and imprisoned for leading public demonstrations. Until her death at age 100 in 2019, this diminutive widow never tired of her persistent pursuit of justice. She seemed the very embodiment of the widow in today's gospel.



Luke has framed the parable with introductory and concluding verses that were likely not part of the original parable Jesus told (preserved in vv. 2-5). The parable begins with the introduction of two characters: a judge who twice declares he has no fear of God and no respect for any human being, and a widow who comes to him over and over and over, day after day after day, insisting that justice be done. The imperfect tense of the verbs indicates repeated action; she comes again and again and won't give up until she gets a just verdict.

We can picture her coming back to the courtroom day after day, raising her voice in protest, calling out to the judge, telling him he might as well listen to her today, because if not, she'll be back tomorrow.

She sees people with influence and money being attended to, while her only recourse is her voice and her presence. She breaks the stereotype of how widows are generally regarded.

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, there is a repeated admonition to care for widows, along with orphans and strangers, the most vulnerable people in the society (e.g., Deut 24:17-21). This widow should be cared for by her nearest male relative, and it is he who should be pleading her case before the judge. Instead, the widow intrepidly enters into space usually reserved for males and will not give up until justice is accomplished.

The judge is impervious. He continues to ignore her until he can no longer stand her insistent protests. He has not been changed; he still insists he has no fear of God or respect for persons, but he finally relents because he is afraid she will haul off and give him a black eye! The verb *hypōpiazēin* in verse 5 is often translated metaphorically as "wear me out," but it is a boxing term that literally means "to strike under the eye" (see also 1 Cor 9:27). It is a hilarious image: a supposedly powerful judge cowering in front of a seemingly powerless little widow.

The humorous vignette, however, conveys a very serious message: it is through persistence and tireless actions of nonviolent confrontation that justice is attained. More often than not, this happens through the repeated actions of seemingly inconsequential people who never give up.

Persistent prayer goes hand in hand with persistent action for justice. In order to sustain the constant struggle for peace, the heart and mind must be continually transformed by the One who is our source of peace. The first reading reminds us that this is not a solitary effort. Like Moses, we need companions to hold up our arms when we grow weary, and like Frances Crowe, we need to engage other faithful friends in our persistent actions for justice.