

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

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 15-16, 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: "If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself."

—Saint Peter Chrysologus, bishop (406-450 A.D.)

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 22-23, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Nov 22 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Nov. 23 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Nov. 23 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Nov. 23 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Roger Jensen Dave Emling Bob Schultz	Dennis Pankey James Mallaney	Mary Offerman Arlen Hansen Bob Buente Dennis O'Connor	Wayne Bisailon Brent Fulton Larry Wolles Joe Smolkovich
Lector	Dave Emling	Darlene Cipcich	Dave Ladehoff	Julie Splear
Eucharistic Minister			Dena Coy	Wayne Bisailon
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Kathy Dumas	

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Nov. 17 (SMM)

8:00 am +JR Matern (Jackie Eberle)

Tuesday, Nov. 18 (SH)

8:00 am +Paul Muhlstadt (Richard/Judy Piggush)

Wednesday, Nov. 19 (SJ)

8:00 am +Bill O'Connor (Craig/Pam Walker)

Friday, Nov. 21 (SMM)

8:00 am +James Jepsen (Mike/Shelly Hertz)

Saturday, Nov. 22 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, Nov. 23

7:30 am (SH) +Dolores Fitch, Hazel Riley, Ralph Rathman,
Christina Berns, Chris Rathman, Susan Winter-
roth, Mike Foltz, (The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Karen Batdorf (The Hertz Family)
+Paul Mulstadt (Kathy/Richard Dumas)

10:30 am (SMM) +Vicki Webber (Rosie/James Mallaney)
+Gary Jensen & Regina White (The Family)

A Look Ahead

Nov. 15–16 Parish Mission Weekend Liturgies

Nov. 16/19—Mission Services 7pm

Saturday, Nov. 22—SH Cash Bash 4-8pm

Sunday, Nov. 23—Council of Churches Thanksgiving service
7:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church

Mon., Nov. 24— SMM CCW meeting 7pm

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 ldstreefarms@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:

Collections Weekend of November 8-9, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,608 Seminarian Endow.—\$472
 Sacred Heart—\$1,594 Seminarian Endow.—\$472
 St. James—\$2,036 Seminarian Endow.—\$353

Thank you for your generosity!



It is getting close to the St. James Christmas Pageant and Basket Raffle! They are ready to accept your donations of raffle baskets or items for baskets. The items and baskets are needed by November

23. Please reach out to Tanhya for more information.

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
 Pastoral Priest from Chicago



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

Parish News:

All Parishes—

- ⇒ Looking forward to a great crowd tonight at our first Parish Mission session at 7 pm at St. Margaret Mary!
- ⇒ The Knights of Columbus will be passing out the book Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy by Matthew Kelly after masses next weekend, November 22-23. In this crazy hectic world, this is a great read.
- ⇒ No prayer meeting on Nov. 17 and No adult ed Nov. 19.
- ⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ⇒ Oh, darn, I meant to do that! It's not too late to be included in our parish directory. If we get 18 sittings scheduled, the company will return to take pictures for those of you who were unable to attend the earlier picture days. Don't miss out on the new 2025 directory!



St. Margaret Mary-

St. James-

- ⇒ St. James Religious Ed has prepared Mass Busy Bags for preschoolers. They are located in the church entrance and should be returned there after Mass. Pick one up and check these out!
- ⇒ Don't forget to drop off any new gloves, hats, winter gear in the church vestibule. We will be collecting for the area needy through November 30th
- ⇒ Mark your calendars! We will be cleaning and decorating the church for Christmas on December 9th starting at 5 pm (cleaning) and 6 pm (decorating). Whatever time you could give is greatly appreciated.
- ⇒ The CCW Christmas party will be at the Herscher Restaurant on December 7th after mass. Please sign up by November 30th so a reservation can be made.

Sacred Heart-

- ⇒ Cash Bash Saturday, Nov. 22! Do you have your ticket?

Gospel Shorts - Suffering for the Right Reason

Nobody likes to suffer. In fact, we do almost anything to avoid suffering. And yet suffering comes to us all, doesn't it? In many kinds of suffering, we have no choice and can't avoid the problem; but when we do have a choice, nine out of ten of us choose to keep our mouths shut. Why rock the boat?

In the biblical teaching of Christ's second coming, the lines between Christ and the forces of evil will be drawn, and if we don't choose to stand for one, we will be controlled by the other. If we have not prepared to stand for Christ in many of the small issues, we will not be prepared to take stands where our very life may be at risk.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Agnes of Assisi (Nov.16) was the daughter of Count Favorino Scifi and Blessed Hortulana, she was raised in a series of castles in and around Assisi, Italy. The younger sister of Saint Clare of Assisi, and her first follower, she left home two weeks after Clare to join the Benedictines at San Angelo di Panzo at age fifteen. The family tried to bring Agnes back by force, dragging her from the monastery, but her body became so heavy that several knights could not budge her. Her uncle Monaldo tried to beat her but was temporarily paralyzed. The family then left Agnes and Clare in peace.

In 1221 a group of Benedictine nuns in Monticelli asked to become Poor Clares, and Saint Francis assigned Agnes as their abbess. Agnes wrote about how much she missed Clare and the other nuns at San Damiano, and after establishing other Poor Clare monasteries in northern Italy, Agnes was recalled in 1253 when Clare was dying. Agnes followed Clare in death three months later.

Obscure saint of the week: St. Edmund Rich (Nov. 16) was born to a wealthy and pious family, the son of Reinald and Mabel Rich; his father retired to become a monk, his two sisters became nuns. Edmund studied at Oxford, England, and Paris, France. At Oxford he received a vision of the Child Christ. Edmund became a priest, a professor of art, mathematics, philosophy and theology at Oxford. He was known for his scholarship, piety, and skill as a preacher and writer. Later he became a canon of Salisbury, England in 1222. He preached the Sixth Crusade in England in 1227. Edmund was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury, England on April 2, 1234. He became an advisor to King Henry III and presided over Henry's ratification of the Magna Carta in 1237. Edmund was assisted in his public dealings by Saint Richard of Chichester. He prevented civil war in Wales. His support for monastic discipline put him in conflict with his own order, King Henry III, and the papal legate. He died while on a trip to Rome to gain the support of the Pope.



The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

One day people were standing around talking about the Temple, remarking how beautiful it was, the splendor of its stonework and memorial gifts. Jesus said, "All this you're admiring so much—the time is coming when every stone in that building will end up in a heap of rubble."

They asked him, "Teacher, when is this going to happen? What clue will we get that it's about to take place?"

He said, "Watch out for the doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, 'I'm the One,' or, 'The end is near.' Don't fall for any of that. When you hear of wars and uprisings, keep your head and don't panic. This is routine history and no sign of the end."

He went on, "Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Huge earthquakes will occur in various places. There will be famines. You'll think at times that the very sky is falling.

"But before any of this happens, they'll arrest you, hunt you down, and drag you to court and jail. It will go from bad to worse, dog-eat-dog, everyone at your throat because you carry my name. You'll end up on the witness stand, called to testify. Make up your mind right now not to worry about it. I'll give you the words and wisdom that will reduce all your accusers to stammers and stutters.

"You'll even be turned in by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be killed. There's no telling who will hate you because of me. Even so, every detail of your body and soul—even the hairs of your head!—is in my care; nothing of you will be lost. Staying with it—that's what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry; you'll be saved" (from Luke 21).

Reflection

Practice of Charity

We live in a world where the powerful dictate who gets elected, who gets the tax breaks and who gets oppressed. It seems that those who most effectively use the clenched fist or the barbed word are the winners. In standing up for the rights of the poor and the forgotten, it is important that we do so in a spirit of gentleness. Acting with a gentle heart, our defense for the rights of others will be effective: What is done non-violently is done in the spirit of Jesus. All of us must make a stand against the injustices that confront us; in gentleness love will transform evil into good. Try this week to sit with the "enemy" and to bring spirit of gentleness to bear on your conversation. Allow it to transform you.

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Who is the patron saint of the souls in purgatory?

This saint experienced purgatory on earth.

A saint who was particularly devoted to the holy souls—and is now considered their patron saint—is St. Catherine of Genoa.

St. Catherine was born into an aristocratic Italian family in 1447. She was a quiet, obedient, devout child who practiced prayer and penance and had a deep devotion to Jesus' Passion.

At the age of sixteen, her family arranged a marriage for her, possibly to end a feud between the two families. Her husband proved to be faithless, however, having also a violent temper and spending his money unwisely. Their married life was miserable. Catherine did not bear any children, and for the first five years lived in "melancholy submission" in her home.

For the next five years, she turned to the world for consolation, and began to engage in the kind of social activity expected of her state in life. This only increased her weariness and depression, and led to the loss of her religious fervor.

So Catherine prayed earnestly for assistance in her trouble. Taking the advice of her sister, who was a nun, Catherine went to confession, and before the sacrament was begun or completed, had a profound mystical experience in which she clearly saw the depth of her sinfulness contrasted with the depth of God's love.

Meanwhile, God continued to favor her with mystical visions. She experienced within her soul a real purgatory, and had a deep understanding of what the Holy Souls experience and suffer there. She was given profound insights into the relationship between the Poor Soul and God, the reasons why they suffer, and the fact that these Holy Souls willingly embrace purgatory in order to be made perfectly pleasing in the sight of their Divine Lover, God Himself.

As for Catherine's husband, her virtue later won his conversion and he became a Third Order Franciscan. Together they cared for the poor and sick in the Genoa hospital.

Catherine's mystical experiences were recorded by her confessor toward the end of her life in such treatises as *Dialogues on the Soul and the Body* and *Treatise on Purgatory*.

Another saint who had a great devotion to the poor souls in Purgatory was St. Faustina. She went a long way in teaching us how to pray for the souls in Purgatory, which is something we are all asked to do. During the month of November, the Church urges the faithful to pray for the souls in Purgatory.

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Diocese of Joliet
Office of the Bishop



diopjlet.org
Blanchette Catholic Center
16555 Weber Rd
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

November 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our diocese will soon take up the national collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Your support for this collection November 15/16 brings change to communities across the country and empowers those living in poverty to transform their communities into reflections of the Kingdom of God. For more than 50 years, CCHD has helped low-income people address the root causes of poverty and injustice, not by giving "one size fits all" handouts, but by funding local organizations that empower low-income people to make positive impacts in their own communities. This grassroots model allows people to use their experiences and knowledge of their communities to build coalitions of faith leaders, local businesses, and other neighbors who work together to find solutions that benefit everyone.

When you give to the CCHD collection, you make an impact nationally and at home, because 25% of your contribution stays within your own diocese. This way you help your own community build on this legacy of success while also helping communities across the country. Local grant recipients in our diocese include emergency assistance and food pantry supplies for St. Vincent De Paul chapters, vocational job training for adults with disabilities, and community outreach programming for at-risk youth and families. You can find more information on our local CCHD grants at <https://catechesis.diopjlet.org/cchd>.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help CCHD this year. If you would like more information about the national collection and the people it supports, visit www.usccb.org/cchd.

Thank you for joining us to work on the margins and break the cycle of poverty. With best wishes, I ask God to bless you always.

As I remain—

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Ronald A. Hicks

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet



Catholic Conference
of Illinois

ACTION ALERT

**Please contact Governor Pritzker to
VETO SB 1950 - Legalizing Assisted Suicide**

At 2:54 a.m. on October 31 the Illinois State Senate narrowly passed SB 1950. The State House narrowly passed the bill in the Spring. The bill is now on the Governor's desk. This is the last chance to stop assisted suicide from becoming law in Illinois.

In Canada where assisted suicide has been legal since 2016, 1 in 20 deaths are now due to assisted suicide/euthanasia. Too many are giving up on life under this law.

**PLEASE CALL GOV. PRITZKER
AND INFORM HIM:**

- People with disabilities, the poor and marginalized fear coercion and abuse under assisted suicide laws.
- Suicide rates increase in states where assisted suicide is legal, especially among veterans.
- There is a possible cost savings to insurance companies as they can provide cheaper lethal drugs instead of lifesaving treatments.

Go to www.ilcatholic.org for e-mail links, or
call the Governor's office directly
at 312.814.2121.



St. Margaret Mary Religious Education students and parents donated and decorated two Christmas trees at Brookfield Zoo on Sunday, Nov. 9. What a fun, giving,



Questions Catholics Ask What is prayer?

I've always appreciated Edward Farrell's observation that prayer is not a thing. It's not a collection of words or a ritual activity. To begin by defining "what prayer is not" clears the air of our nonsense about prayer as a pious formula that needs to be gotten right. Prayer is a relationship that tells us, as all relationships inevitably do, who we are.

Think about the relationships in which you come to know yourself: as child or parent, sibling or friend, boss or servant, mentor or student. Who are we in relationship to God? Fragile, perhaps. Dependent, and certainly the weaker party. We are, after all, the ones repeatedly asking for stuff, whether it's help for a sick family member, clarity for an exam, courage to apply for that new job, or peace on earth. We also try to remember to thank God for stuff, too. This is how we acknowledge that God is the source of every good, and our ultimate benefactor for the life we live.

In our relationship called prayer, we also praise God, which may be the most defining aspect of our exchange. Praise is a free celebration of the recipient's greatness. God doesn't need a reward or statuette from us acknowledging the exalted nature of divinity. Our praise is a way to "be still and know" which of us is Creator, and which creature.

Prayer is a kind of creed in motion: we pray our faith. The fact that we pray is a form of admitting that God exists—even if we don't have all the details of that existence down pat. It also establishes that we trust in God. We're not indifferent objects of divine invention but beloved and significant.

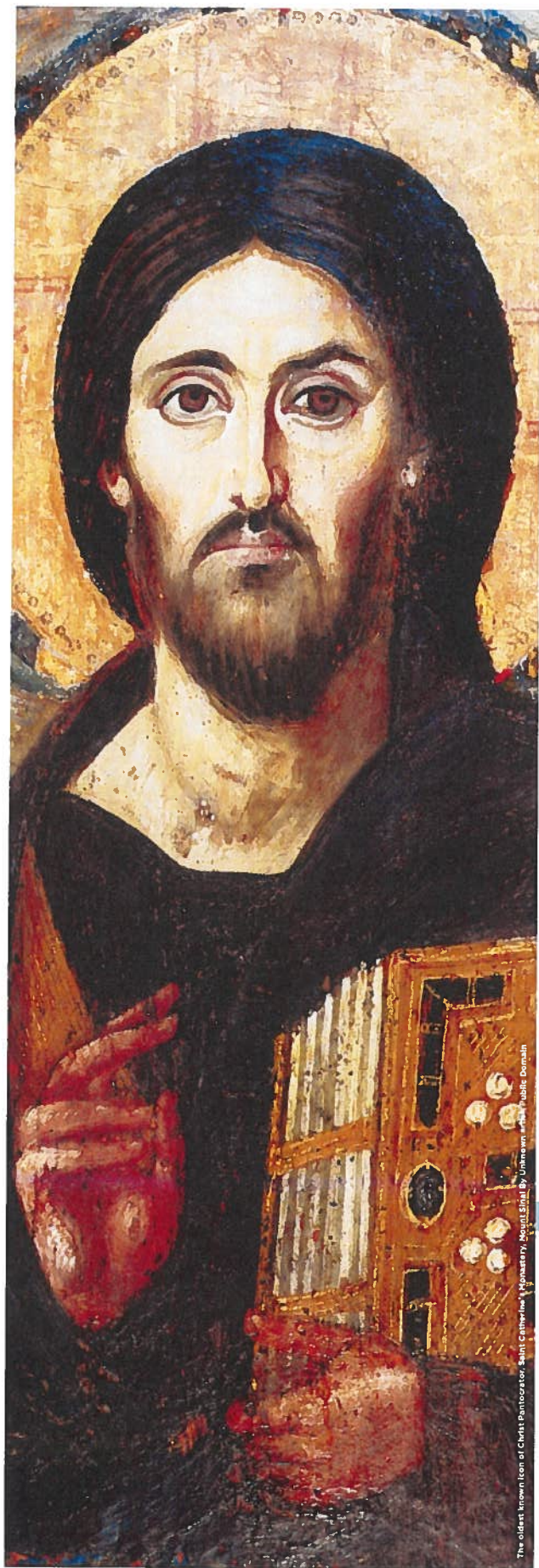
The deeper any relationship goes, the more we carry the other person around within us. We become what we love, in the way family members come to share traits and habits and character. As we deepen our relationship to God in prayer, we finally become what we believe. Receiving Eucharist—another form of prayer—is an incarnate way of expressing the same idea.

St. Jerome, a brilliant and rather cranky Scripture scholar of the 4th century, said prayer is a groan. Lamentation is another variety of prayer that is basically holy complaining. We complain by lifting up everything that's wrong with the world, our society, and our lives.

What makes lamentation a holy form of complaining is that we're not just venting to a friend. We expect God to do something about this—and we believe that God can.

Scripture: Matthew 6:5-13; 7:7-11; John 15:7; 16:26; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:4-9; Ephesians 6:18-20; Colossians 3:12-17; 4:2





November 16, 2025

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mal 3:19-20a | 2 Thes 3:7-12 | Lk 21:5-19

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

We don't have to look far to find grief, violence, or chaos in our world. Perhaps it has made its way into our community or has pierced our hearts in deeply personal ways. Or even if the chaos of life has remained at a distance for now, it can be tempting to wonder if the end is near at times. But Jesus warns us against catastrophic thoughts. Listen to what he says in today's Gospel, when asked how we will know the end time is coming: "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end." Jesus knew we would need his clear and steady reminder. If you find yourself fearing the state of the world, turn all your senses toward Jesus. Let your anxiety, grief, and concern become catalysts for prayer.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Although today's Gospel may at first be one that stirs fear, as we look deeper we realize that Jesus is speaking directly into the heart of our fear and offering his profound consolation. There is so much in this Gospel that can encourage us to continue to bear witness to Christ even in trying times. As we scroll through the news each day, remember Jesus' words to not be "terrified." If you find yourself in circumstances where it's not easy to stand up for your faith, Jesus tells us, "I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute." And when you look to the future with dread, remember that Jesus says, "not a hair on your head will be destroyed." Read these words again, drawing comfort and strength that the Lord is with you, guiding and protecting you through it all.

PRAY

If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed this week, pray the Prayer of St. Teresa of Ávila:

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away;
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.*

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 21:28

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.
Stand erect and raise your heads
because your redemption is at hand.
R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 21:5-19; L159C

While some people were
speaking about
how the temple was adorned
with costly stones and
votive offerings,
Jesus said, "All that you see
here—
the days will come when
there will not be left
a stone upon another stone
that will not be thrown
down."

Then they asked him,
"Teacher, when will this happen?
And what sign will there be when all
these things are about to happen?"
He answered,
"See that you not be deceived,
for many will come in my name,
saying,
'I am he,' and 'The time has come.'
Do not follow them!
When you hear of wars and
insurrections,
do not be terrified; for such things
must happen first,
but it will not immediately be the
end."
Then he said to them,
"Nation will rise against nation, and
kingdom against kingdom.
There will be powerful earthquakes,
famines, and plagues
from place to place;
and awesome sights and mighty signs
will come from the sky.

Continued in Appendix A, p. 309.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Today and in Jesus's time, people marvel at the beauty and grandeur of exquisite architecture. It can even lift the mind and heart, helping people feel connected to the divine. In today's gospel reading, Jesus interrupts the reverie of the onlookers at the monumental temple in Jerusalem to declare that not one stone would be left upon another.



As a Jewish reformer, Jesus frequently spoke and acted in ways that called into question religious structures, both external and internal, that impeded right relationship with God and one another. But for any Jew, the destruction of the temple by Roman imperial forces would provoke a severe crisis. Everything would have to be resignified. The temple symbolized their connection with God and with their fellow believers. And it was in the temple that the sacrificial cult was exercised in obedience to the commands of the Torah.

Luke's Gospel, of course, was written some fifteen years after the temple had been razed. We can imagine the struggles of the Jewish Christian members of the Lukan community who had to redefine their Jewishness, not only in the absence

of their temple, but also as members of a mixed community of Gentile and Jewish followers of Jesus. The Gentile members also had to reconstruct their internal architecture when they took on a Christian identity.

In today's gospel, there is a progression, as the discussion moves from the destruction of the temple to cataclysmic happenings that wreak destruction on the earth and among peoples and, finally, to threats against one's life. It envisions crises on every level, moving toward an apocalyptic end time. Jesus's audience does not ask if such will happen. Rather, they ask when it will come about and if they will have advance warning. Jesus never answers those questions. Instead, he directs his listeners how to respond to these crises. If they are following him, then they too will say and do things that threaten some of the political and religious structures of their day. Any who claim his name will surely experience the same kind of fury that was directed at him for doing such things.

Jesus does not leave his disciples defenseless in such times of crisis. First of all, he reminds his followers not to follow after anyone else; their attention must remain steadfastly on him. When their focus is on him and not on their tribulations, they are able to stand fearless. He speaks the same words that Gabriel spoke to Zechariah and Mary when their worlds were being turned upside down: "Do not be afraid" (Luke 1:13, 30).

When disciples are seized and persecuted and handed over to the authorities because of Jesus's name, these are times to testify to the power of God. Jesus explains that the testimony is not a speech that one composes ahead of time. The preparation consists in persevering in a life of faithfulness and trust in the One who provoked crises by his manner of life. It is he, who is himself the temple (to borrow from Johannine theology), who will give the necessary wisdom for speech and action in the critical moment.