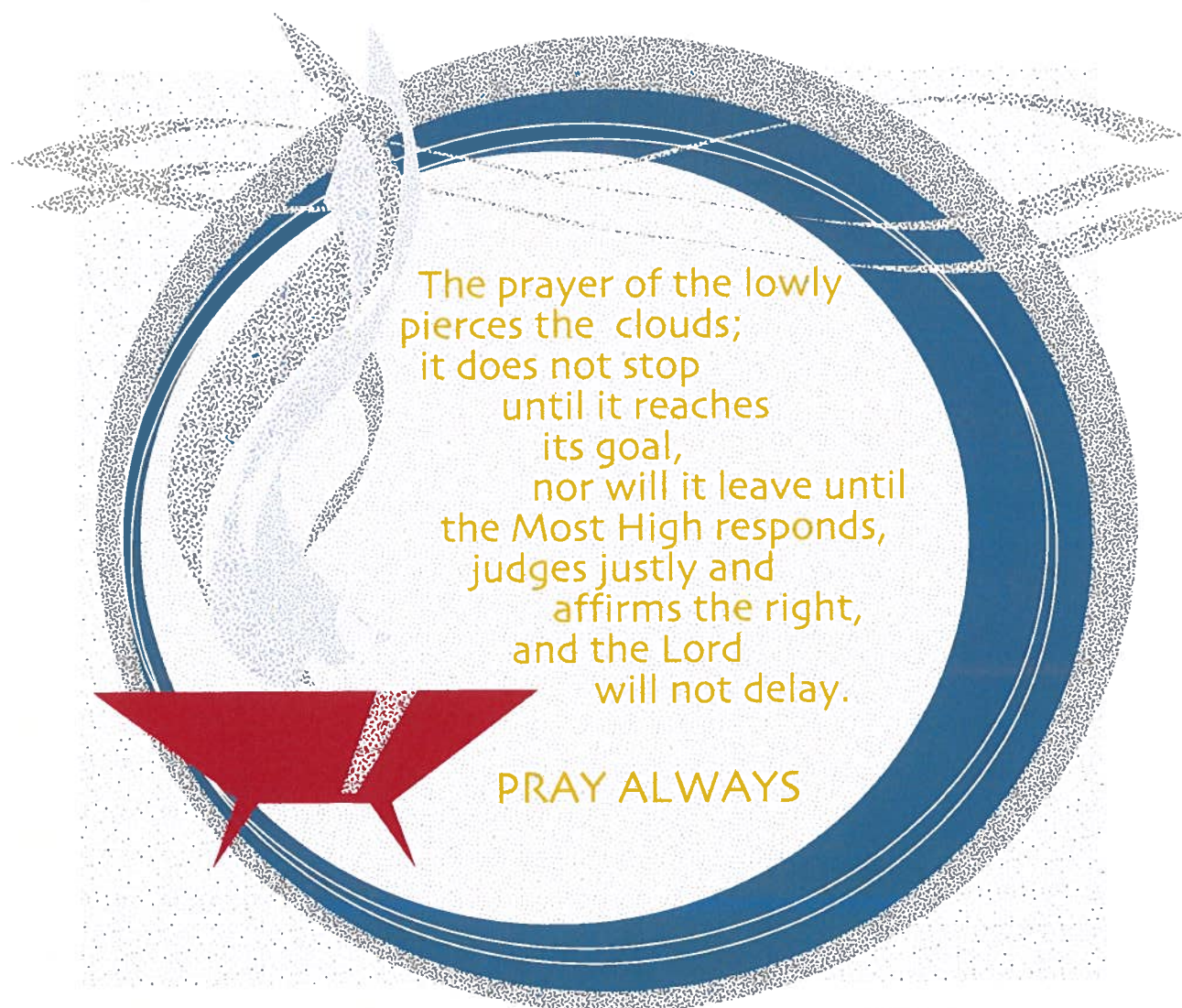


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 25-26, 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: "The rivers of Grace cannot flow uphill, up the steep cliff of the proud man's heart."

—Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

All Souls Day

November 1-2, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Nov. 1 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Nov. 2 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Nov. 2 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Nov. 2 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Brett Buza Roger Jensen Gery Wright	Dennis Pankey Daryl Ferris	Jerry Ogrentz Mary Offerman Arlen Hansen Bob Buente	Wayne Bisailon, Erik Wheeler Brent Fulton Sean Riordan
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Terri Weakley	Carrie Abrassart	Diane Long
Eucharistic Minister				Corinn Wheeler
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Peerboltes	The Lovells

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Oct. 27 (SH)

8:00 am +Dorla Cooper (Renee Behrends)

Tuesday, Oct. 28 (SH)

8:00 am +Rhonda Harris (Jackie Cross)

Wednesday, Oct. 29 (SJ)

8:00 am +Lorraine Brennan (Loriann/Jeff Bruer)
+ Bernice Jablonski (Loriann/Jeff Bruer)

Friday, Oct. 31 (SJ)

8:00 am +Brian & Tom Buckley (Jackie Eberle)

Saturday, Nov. 1 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, Nov. 2

7:30 am (SH) Intentions of Shirley St. Germaine (Joe/Rhonda Berns)

9:00 am (SJ) +Duane O'Connor (Larry/Janice O'Connor)
+George Grosso (Theresa Grosso)

10:30 am (SMM) +All Deceased Parishioners of our parishes in 2025

A Look Ahead

Monday, Oct. 27—Prayer Meeting 7 pm at SJ
Wednesday, Oct. 29—Adult Ed Class at SJ 7pm
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:

In what senses am I poor, in need of God's grace? Do I recognize this poverty when I pray?

Collections Weekend of Oct. 18-19

St. Margaret Mary—\$ 1,617	World Mission -\$293
Sacred Heart—\$ 947	World Mission-\$ 413
St. James—\$1,188	World Mission- \$315

The family of Harry Phillips would like to thank our church family for all and so many acts of kindness during Harry's illness. The many visits to our house gave us something else to think about. We appreciate all the phone calls, the gifts, the food, and all who came to the visitations and funeral.

Thank you does not seem enough!

Therese and all of Harry's family

Gospel Shorts - But For the Grace of God

The Pharisee in Luke 18 tried to justify himself before God without realizing that a censorious attitude and his supposed virtue made him just like the tax collector, a sinner in need of salvation.

The Pharisee symbolizes the rugged individualist of American society. Though independent and self-sufficient, he attempted to justify his sinfulness rather than be reconciled to God. While most of us would deny being like the Pharisee, we would not identify with the tax collector either. However, we must associate ourselves with the tax collector's recognition of himself as unworthy of God's grace. It is only by accepting God's free offer of grace through faith in Jesus Christ that we are justified.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Rheba "Darlene" Bertrand

Wife of Eugene Bertrand

May Darlene and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.
Our sincere sympathy to Gene and all Darlene's family and friends.



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection will be held Nov. 1-2 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need. We thank you for your support!!

"For I was hungry and you gave me food..."
Matthew 25:35

Reflection All I Ask of You

Jesus asks us to open our eyes and ears to the pains and needs of others. When we understand their suffering and need, and respond, we know that we too have been touched and healed and brought closer to our salvation.

Parish News:

All Parishes—



mark your **Calendar**

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. 27 at SJ

⇒ Adult Ed class will meet on October 29 at SJ.

⇒ 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-

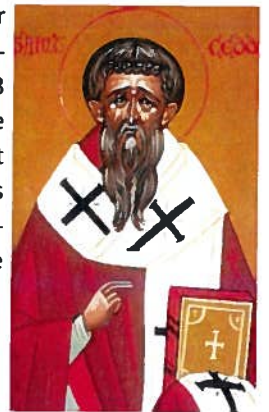
⇒ We will be collecting donations of winter weather wear at St. James through mid November. Thank you for your generosity to help those in need

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.

⇒ 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. Cedd (Oct. 26) was the brother of Saint Chad and Saint Cynibild; his brother Caelin was also a priest. Cedd became a Benedictine monk at Lindisfarne, England. In addition, he was the spiritual student of Saint Aidan of Lindesfarne. Cedd was sent as a missionary to the Midlands of England in 653 by King Oswiu of Northumbria with three other priests at the request of King Peada of the Middle Angles. He worked with Saint Diuma, was a missionary in Essex by request of converted King Sigebert of the East Angles, and later the bishop of the East Saxons, consecrated by Saint Finan of Iona. Cedd founded churches and monasteries at Bradwell-on-the-Sea, Lastingham, and Tilbury, and served as abbot of the house in Lastingham. He attended the *Synod of Whitby* in 664 where he acted as an interpreter, and at which he accepted the Roman Easter observance. In his old age he retired to the monastery at Lastingham, Yorkshire.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Canna verch Tewdr Marw (Oct. 25) Legend says she was a princess, the daughter of King Tewdwr Mawr ap Emyr Llydaw of Brittany, and great-niece of King Arthur. She was married to Prince Sadwen of Wales; mother of Saint Crallo, and the niece of Saint Cadfan. In the 6th century the family fled to Wales to escape Frankish invaders. Sadwen felt a call to religious life and became a hermit on Anglesey; when he died, Canna married a local noble, Alltu Redegog with whom she was the mother of Saint Tegfan and Saint Elian Geimiad. Late in life, she retired to live as a nun at Llangan, Pembrokeshire, Wales; founded churches in Llangan and Llanganna. A holy well with her name in Ffynnon Ganna, Wales was a pilgrimage site for centuries.

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



THE PATH TO A BETTER FUTURE

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

He told his next story to some who were complacently pleased with themselves over their moral performance and looked down their noses at the common people:

"Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax man. The Pharisee posed and prayed like this: 'Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax man. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.'

"Meanwhile the tax man, slumped in the shadows, his face in his hands, not daring to look up, said, 'God, give mercy. Forgive me, a sinner.' "

Jesus commented, "This tax man, not the other, went home made right with God. If you walk around with your nose in the air, you're going to end up flat on your face, but if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself (*from Luke 18*).

Reflection

All I Ask of You

Jesus asks us to open our eyes and ears to the pains and needs of others. When we understand their suffering and need, and respond, we know that we too have been touched and healed and brought closer to our salvation.

Questions Catholics Ask

Who or what is the Holy Spirit



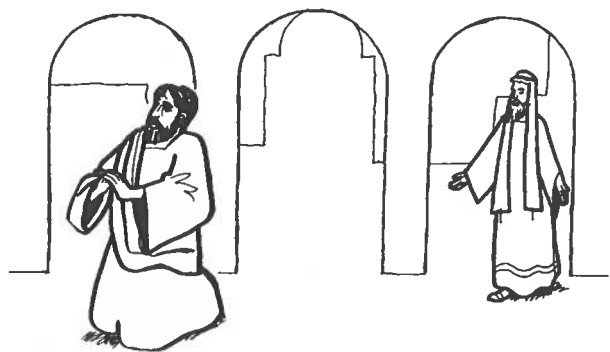
The spirit of God is part of the story from the beginning.

references to the divine spirit involve a communication that variously clothes, pours out, leaps upon, or fills up the one who receives it. The spirit can be given or removed, at God's desire. The spirit can possess a person, as it does to judges in the Book of Judges, who are suddenly snatched up for divine service. This possession isn't experienced in the negating way of a demon who eliminates the will of the host. Spirit enhances the recipient's abilities, enabling the person to do feats beyond his or her skill. Such a person is charismatically charged for divine action, literally "inspired".

Examples of the spirit at work include: the ecstasies of prophets in Saul's time; the spirit passing from King Saul to David after his anointing; Elisha acquiring a double portion of the spirit given to his predecessor Elijah; Ezekiel's trances; the bestowal of divine gifts like wisdom and counsel; the divine spirit released on the servant of God in Isaiah's poems; the promise of a new heart and spirit rejuvenating Israel after the exile.

The Spirit shows up in the gospels as early as the Annunciation. Mary is told, "The holy Spirit will come upon you... therefore the child to be born will be called... the Son of God." Christian writers perceive more than a communicating action here; rather, a manifestation that modern translators honor with uppercase distinction. John the Baptist foretells a baptism of Spirit. At Jesus' baptism, the Spirit descends dovelike upon him. This Spirit drives Jesus into the desert to encounter temptation. Spirit drives the action in Luke and Acts, showing up fifty-six times as the principal actor. Jesus promises that the arrival of this Advocate ensures that we'll not be orphans through the end of the age.

Scripture: Genesis 1:2; 2:7; Exodus 31:3; Numbers 11:17, 25; Judges 6:34; 14:6, 19; 1 Samuel 10:10; 19:20-24; 2 Kings 2:9; Psalm 51:13; Isaiah 11:2-3; 42:1; 61:1; Ezekiel 36:26-28; Mark 1:8, 12; Luke 1:35; 3:22; John 14:16-18, 26; Acts 2:1-18



Two men went up to
the temple to pray
LK. 18:10

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:

Nov. 10 "Trinity Heights-Queen of Peace" Sioux City, IA
Jan 8, 2026: "Grotto of the Redemption" West Bend, IA

Questions Catholics Ask

Holy Smokes: Why do priests burn incense at Mass and Adoration?

What role does incense play in our prayer life

Love the scent or hate it, incense is a valuable part of Catholic worship.

So why do Catholics use it so often?

We derive our use of incense from Scripture. Psalm 141:2 reads, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering." Also, in Revelation, John describes incense as a symbol of the prayers of the saints in heaven.

Incense has long been a part of Judeo-Christian worship. In the Old Testament, incense was used for worship, and Catholics used incense even in the early Church.

We use incense in the Mass and at Adoration to symbolize our prayers rising to heaven, and how the grace of the Mass purifies and sanctifies us. Also, when the burning incense rises into the air, representing our prayers going to heaven, we're reminded of the spiritual connection as earth and heaven meet in the sacrifice of the Mass.

Incense is required for Benediction and may be used at certain points in the Mass, including during the entrance procession, at the proclamation of the Gospel, at the offertory, and at the consecration. Priests may also burn incense at funerals around the coffin to represent our prayers to heaven for the deceased person, and also to commemorate that this person's body was holy as a temple of the Holy Spirit.

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www.thecatholiccompany.com

Sacred Heart Parish
Goodrich
588 S.10,000 W. Rd., Bonfield, IL, 60913
10 miles west of Kankakee on Rt. 17

Fall Cash Bash

Saturday, November 22nd
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Euchre (buy in by 5pm), Black Jack
Live & Silent Auctions
50/50 & Basket Raffles
Food, Beer, Soda, Water & Wine

Donation \$50.00 Admits 2 Adults
Includes "Cash Bash" ticket -
1st Prize \$1,500 2nd Prize \$500

For more info: Terri 815 514-8171 Shirley 815 592-3464



*Join your prayers
with those of the
saints of heaven*

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October is the month of the rosary. Sacred Heart Religious Ed students and teachers gathered to pray the rosary.



October 26, 2025

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18 | 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18 | Lk 18:9-14

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Today's first reading says, "The Lord is a God of justice who knows no favorites." While we humans show deference to people we admire or give preferential treatment to those we like, God loves all his creatures with the same perfect love. But then the reading goes on to say something that seems to contradict that opening line, even suggesting that God has a soft spot in his heart for the poor: "Though not unduly partial toward the weak, yet he hears the cry of the oppressed." The text mentions that God hears the prayers of the widow and orphan, and that "the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds." So what are we to make of all this? While God loves all perfectly, his heart is moved to mercy particularly toward the poor and lowly. And so the tax collector's humble prayer is heard, and he goes home justified, while the Pharisee does not.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus knew how to tell stories that acted as a mirror to reveal the state of peoples' hearts. Today's Gospel opens with the line: "Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness." Because we cannot know what's going on in someone's heart the way Jesus knows, we have to be careful not to assume we know what another needs to hear. Yet, in our efforts to accompany others on the road to discipleship, there may be moments where we're called to speak a word that "afflicts the comfortable or comforts the afflicted." If we do, we must always do so from a place of love and humility, recognizing that sometimes we are sharing this word because God has convicted *us* of precisely the same thing we're sharing with another! In that way, our sharing becomes more *witness* to the ways God has humbled us.

PRAY

There is a short, ancient Christian prayer known as the Jesus Prayer that is derived, in part, from our Gospel reading today. The entire text of the prayer is one line: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner" which is repeated over and over again. Consider praying this prayer throughout the week as a way of rooting yourself more deeply in humility and an awareness of our need for God's mercy.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God was reconciling the world to
himself in Christ,
and entrusting to us the message of
salvation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 18:9-14; L150C

Jesus addressed this parable
to those who were con-
vinced of their own
righteousness
and despised everyone else.

"Two people went up to the
temple area to pray;
one was a Pharisee and the
other was a tax collector.

The Pharisee took up his posi-
tion and spoke this prayer
to himself,

'O God, I thank you that I am not like
the rest of humanity—
greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even
like this tax collector.

I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on
my whole income.'

But the tax collector stood off at a
distance
and would not even raise his eyes to
heaven

but beat his breast and prayed,
'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'

I tell you, the latter went home justified,
not the former;

for whoever exalts himself will be
humbled,

and the one who humbles himself will
be exalted."

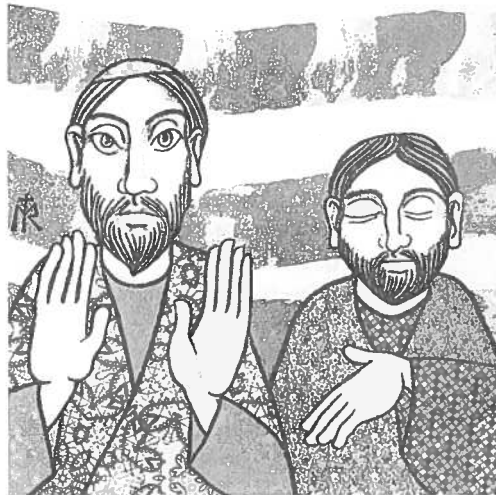
Reflecting on the Gospel

Jesus sometimes uses parables, like the one in today's gospel, to help his listeners identify and change behavior in themselves that is harmful.

Two characters, a Pharisee and a tax collector, go up to the temple to pray.

Jesus's original audience would have instinctively compared them, thinking the first to be admirable and the latter despicable. Pharisees were known for their

piety. This one fasts and tithes above and beyond what is required. Surely these actions indicate that he is righteous, that is, in right relation with God, other human beings, and the whole of creation. The Pharisee's prayer, however, indicates otherwise. The entire prayer directs attention to himself and his accomplishments: "I thank you . . . I am not like . . . I fast . . . I pay." He thanks God, not for the gifts he has been given, but for not being like all the rest of humanity, which he sees as rapacious, unjust, and adulterous. His comparisons make him haughty and disconnected from others. Moreover, he appears to have no need of God. If he were to direct his gaze at God, he might see how poorly he embodies divine compassion and connectedness to all other beings.



The tax collector, in contrast, beats his breast and prays simply, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." Focusing on God, he prays for openness to divine mercy, which has the power to transform his sinfulness.

It is likely that he finds himself in this degraded position of collecting taxes because there are no alternatives. One would only stoop to such a job when no other work could be found. Tax collectors were low-level functionaries with no bargaining power. If they extorted money beyond what was their due, it was out of desperation, to keep starvation at bay. Should the tax collector try to repent, there would be no way to repay the many passersby from whom he exacted extra money, so as he prays he offers no vow to make restitution. All he can hope for is God's merciful forgiveness.

The end of the parable is startling: it is the tax collector who is in right relation. He has sinned, but he knows and acknowledges it. He is acutely aware of his utter dependence on God. He does not compare himself to others but seeks connectedness to them, through their common bond of reliance on God's mercy.

The parable seems to invite comparison of the two characters, and we are wont to side with the tax collector. In the very act of making comparisons that reflect unfavorably on the Pharisee, however, we may find ourselves caught up in the very judgmental thinking we despise in him. In truth, there is something of the Pharisee in us, as we so easily make comparisons, exalting ourselves by humiliating others. There is also something of the tax collector in us, who humbly recognizes his own weaknesses while opening himself to the Source of all mercy. The parable invites us to leave aside all comparisons and to seek oneness with the incomparably Merciful One. From this stance comes right relation with all.