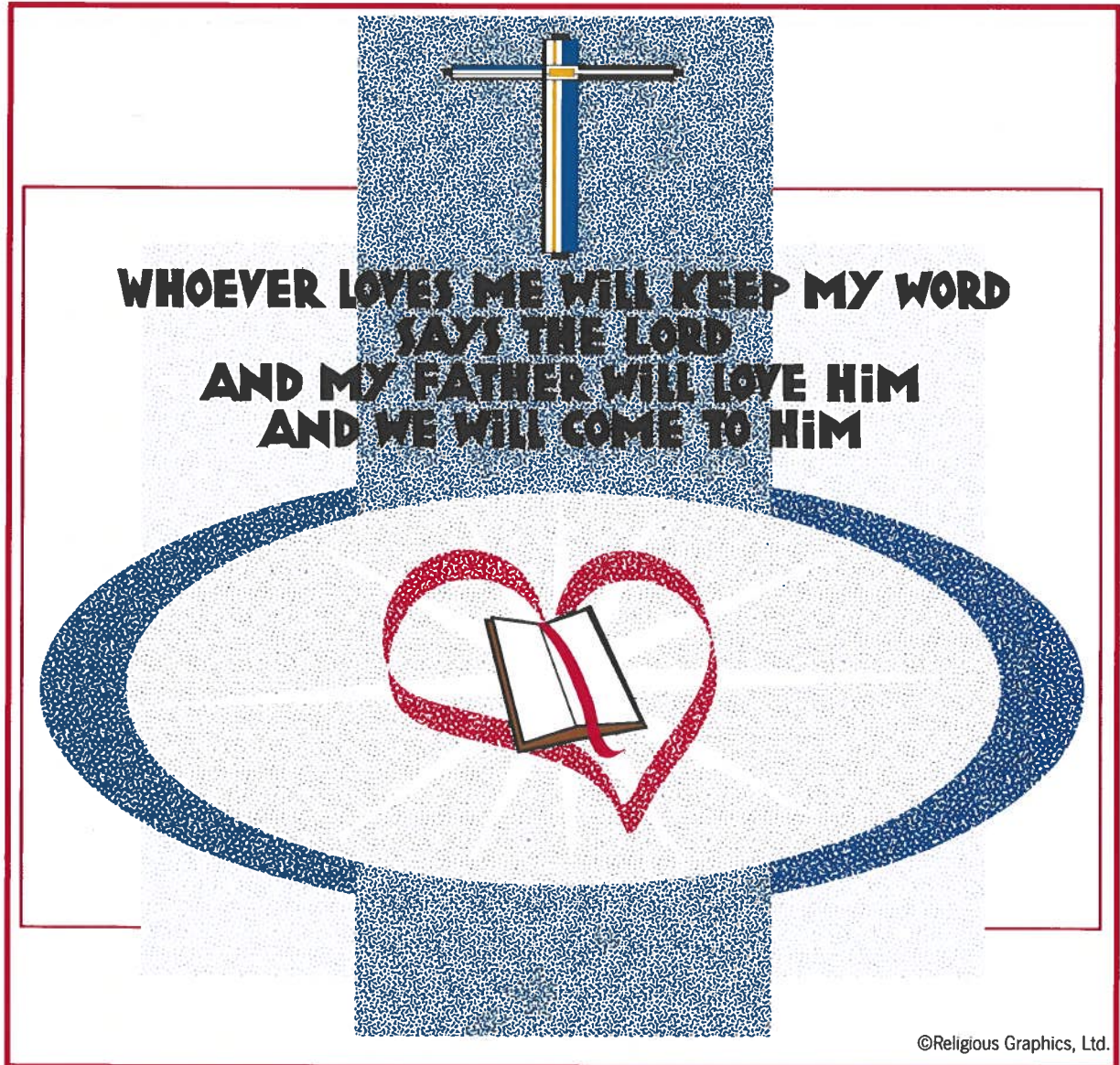


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MAY 9-10, 2026**



**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—4:45pm

**Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550**

Quotable- "The Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend and protector to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen, to console."

—Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

The Ascension of the Lord				May 16-17, 2026	
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 16 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, May 17 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, May 17 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, May 17 10:30 am	
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Galen Fritz Roger Jensen Dave Emling	Kyle Ferris David Kirkpatrick	Bob Buente Arlen Hansen Mary Offerman Duane Papineau	Brent fulton Sean Riordan Dustin Truetner Larry Wolles	
Lector	Rob Landeck	Mike Hertz	Mary Peerbolte	Steve Jacob	
Eucharistic Minister			Donna Bernicky	Lynda Wolles	
Servers				Caroline Fulton	
Greeters			Greeter—Jerry Ogrentz R. Leader—The Peerboltes	Kim Smicker	

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, May 11 (SMM)

8:00 am +Jim Jepsen (Mary Ann Wagner)

#### Tuesday, May 12 (SH)

8:00 am +Tom Buckley (Matt/Marge Chorski & William Chorski)

#### Wednesday, May 13 (SJ)

8:00 am +Dorene O'Connor (Tim O'Connor)

#### Friday, May 15 (SMM)

8:00am +Virginia (Ginny) Long (Jeff/Diane Long)

#### Saturday, May 16 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Thomas Smolkovich (Roger/Margaret Jensen)  
+Jim Webber (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

#### Sunday, May 17

7:30 am (SH) +Vincent & Sara Feller (Don/Marie Feller)

+Wally & Mary Piezka (Angie Kmetz)

9:00 am (SJ) +Donna Regnier (Roger/Madonna Gray)

+Dale Weber (The Family)

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

### Looking Ahead

Monday, May 11—SMM CCW meeting at 7pm

Tuesday, May 12—SH CCW meeting at 6:30

Monday, May 18—Knights of Columbus meeting 6:30 SJ

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 [jdstreefarms1@gmail.com](mailto:jdstreefarms1@gmail.com)

### Question of the week—

How can the kind of joy that the Holy Spirit brings enable me to endure suffering?

## Collections Weekend of May 2-3, 2026

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,624, Tornado Aid- \$639  
St. James—\$2,490 Tornado Aid- \$913  
Sacred Heart— \$1,209 Tornado Aid- \$658

Thank you for your generosity!

### Gospel Shorts I Will Not Leave You Orphans

We may be one of the strongest Christian leaders of this congregation and yet be lonely. Sometimes if we are a leader everyone else turns to us for help but we are alone when we need to be ministered to. We may teach the Bible and lead many to a saving faith in Jesus Christ and yet be in bondage to the fear of abandonment. The offices of Christian psychiatrists are filled with wonderful loving children of God who are still broken in their spirits because their father or mother abandoned them while they were small children.

Do you know there is a promise of Jesus that will heal this ache and void once and for all. The promise is the same one He gave to his disciples as he was preparing to leave them on earth: "I will send you another Comforter. I will not leave you as orphans."

### Reflection— Mothers

Whatever words we might use to salute our mothers, whatever phrases best describe MOTHERS, all can be best illustrated by the single word "love"! And when we look for a description of love, we turn to St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians (Chap. 13) which is a renowned classic definition. What better way to salute our mothers on Mother's Day than to substitute "Mothers" for the word "love" in St. Paul's Epistle.

"Mothers" are always patient and kind; "Mothers" are never jealous; "Mothers" are never boastful or conceited; "Mothers" are never rude or selfish; "Mothers" do not take offense and are not resentful. "Mothers" take no pleasure in other people's sins but delight in the truth; "Mothers" are always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

We salute our mothers! May God bless them today and always!

## CCW SPRING INSTITUTE

The Kankakee Deanery Council of Catholic Women Spring Institute will be held at St. John Paul II on Wednesday, June 3. All women are welcome to attend. Please sign up by May 14. There is also a list of items that will be collected that evening to benefit Harbor House.

SMM—signup sheet is in church entrance. Your cost will be \$11. If you have questions, please call the office.

SH—There is a sign up sheet at the entrance of the church. Please pay Laurie Palinski \$12 if you plan on attending.

SJ—There will be a signup sheet in the church entrance for all interested ladies.

## Parish News:

### All Parishes—

⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

### St. Margaret Mary-

⇒ CCW meeting Monday, May 11 at 7pm

### St. James

⇒ We would like to thank Bea Papineau for her decades of service as the chairwoman of the Rosary Committee. The committee has made thousands of rosaries and shipped them to those in need all over the world. She is an inspiration for everyone on how a small parish can make a global impact. Thank you, Bea, for everything you've done.

⇒ The Rosary Committee is looking for a volunteer to chair the committee. Directions for purchasing supplies and making the rosaries is available. The funds are provided by the St. James CCW. If you're interested in either leading the committee or in helping make the rosaries please contact Bea Papineau

⇒ Congratulations to Mary Peerbolte—the winner of our Kids Helping Kids Lottery Tree raffle.

### Sacred Heart—

⇒ The week of May 10th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for all mothers, and the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of all mothers who have gone before us.

⇒ Sacred Heart CCW's meeting will be Tuesday May 12 at 6:30pm at the church hall. Hosting the mtg. will be Kate Cloonen & Terri Weakley.

⇒ We are hosting a Free parish breakfast on Sunday May 24 following the 7:30am Mass. Everyone is welcome. We hope to see you there!

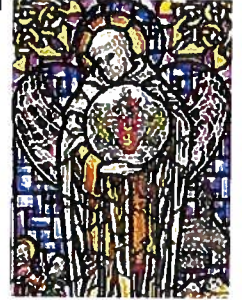
## The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

"If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you. I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world can't take him in because it doesn't have eyes to see him, doesn't know what to look for. But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you!

"I will not leave you orphaned. I'm coming back. In just a little while the world will no longer see me, but you're going to see me because I am alive and you're about to come alive. At that moment you will know absolutely that I'm in my Father, and you're in me, and I'm in you.

"The person who knows my commandments and keeps them, that's who loves me. And the person who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and make myself plain to him" (from John 14).

**Obscure saint of the week: St. Comgall of Bangor (May 10)** was the son of Sedna. He was a soldier and a spiritual student of Saint Fintan of Clonemagh and Saint Kieran at Clonmacnoise. He was also a friend of Saint Brendan, Saint Cormac, Saint Kevin of Glendalough and Finbarr of Moville. Comgall was ordained by Saint Lughadh of Conmacnoise. He became a spiritual teacher of Saint Cronan Mochua. He and a few brother monks lived a very strict and austere life on an island on Lough Erne. Among other houses, he founded the monastery at Bangor, County Down, Ireland in 552 and served as its first abbot; at one point it housed 8,000 monks. Life there was harsh and adherence to the Rule strict, but the brothers were very close and were encouraged to help and support each other. Comgall was the spiritual teacher of Saint Blane, Saint Cainnech, Saint Columbanus, Saint Deicola, Saint Fintan of Doon, Saint Gall, Saint Lactali, Saint Lua of Limerick and Saint Mochoemoc. Comgall became a missionary to Scotland and the Picts. A reported miracle worker, Comgall is said to have blinded a band of thieves as they approached the monastery, but restored eyesight to a penitent man. He received Holy Communion on his death bed from Saint Fiacha.



**Other obscure saint of the week: St. Gordian the Judge (May 10)** was a Roman judge who was an adult convert to Christianity. He was tortured and martyred by order of the Roman prefect Apronianus during the persecutions of Julian the Apostate.

#### Questions Catholics Ask

Is God a name?

Most Christians tend to use God as the proper name of our Deity. As monotheists (believers in one Divine Being), we profess that all other gods are false. This is another way of saying our God IS God, and there is no other. The Hebrew prophet Isaiah was very keen on this point, in an era when his fellow countrymen were perfectly content to worship any divinity that might help them get ahead.

The claim that the Holy One of Judeo-Christian tradition is a singular Divinity doesn't necessarily imply that God the Father doesn't answer to other names or respond to worshippers of other religions who make their prayers in other forms. In Scripture, the writers use many names for the Holy One of Israel: *El*, *Elohim*, *El-Shaddai*, and especially the name too sacred to say out loud—YHWH—usually replaced with *Adonai*, which is the respectful title "Lord". In most Bibles, when you see the all-caps rendition of LORD, you know the name intended is the four unspeakable letters known as the *Tetragrammaton*. Monotheism clearly doesn't mean God responds to one name only. It simply rejects the notion that there are multitudes of gods out there who must be appealed to separately or even selectively. God is ONE.

Having said that, please note that the name of God we invoke does matter greatly, since traditions vary as to the nature of the Holy One to whom we are appealing. The God of Judeo-Christian tradition is a self-revealing God who seeks an intimate relationship with us. By means of our sacred history, we understand our God to be moral and just, not simply powerful and capricious. The Bible reveals God to be Lord of creation and history, stronger than empires but also respectful of human freedom. Finally, in the person of Jesus, God's self-revelation takes a dramatic turn. God makes common cause with us by sharing our life, with its limitations and suffering, including death. Through this daring and loving incarnation, the God we profess changes the rules of time and mortality.

All of this sidesteps the question: if God isn't really a name, what is it? Linguistically, God is a noun that describes what theologian Terrence Tilley calls "the irreducible center of meaning, power, and value." This definition covers all the kinds of gods we may chase after: money, control, celebrity, love. We need to be clear, not only which name we choose for God, but which God we choose for ourselves.

Scripture -

Exodus 3:13-14; 6:2-8; 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 5:6-7; 32:39; Isaiah 41:4; 43:10-13; 44:6-8; 48:12-13; John 1:1-18; Acts



**Knights of  
Columbus®**

Due to Memorial Day coinciding with our normal meeting date, the May Knights of Columbus meeting will be held on 18 May 2026 at St James Hall starting at 6:30 PM. We will also be conducting an exemplification initiating two new Knights into the Council. All are welcome to attend. If you've ever wondered what the initiation into the Knights is all about please feel free to join us on the 18th.

The Sacred Heart students thank all those who supported their fund raising efforts to help the Ronald McDonald House.

Sacred Heart Students



Thank you from all the students at St. Margaret Mary that you supported through your donations to help them achieve their goal of supporting the Ronald McDonald House. We are proud of our students



St. Margaret Mary Students

# Kids Helping Kids

The St. James RE students would like to thank everyone for their support of the Kids Helping Kids program. We are very proud of all the money we raised for the Ronald McDonald House

St. James Students



# Happy Mother's Day

## Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Our Lady of Good Counsel and the image that appeared out of nowhere.

Mother of Good Counsel is the title the Church invokes when seeking clarity in moments of uncertainty.

There are many Marian devotions in the Church, but some stand apart because of how unexpectedly they begin.

Our Lady of Good Counsel is one of them.

This devotion is centered on a small, miraculous image of the Madonna and Child, venerated in the town of Genazzano, about twenty-five miles from Rome. What makes it remarkable is not only the image itself, but how it arrived.



On April 25, 1467, the feast of St. Mark, the people of the town had gathered near a church that had fallen into disrepair. An elderly widow named Petruccia had begun restoring it with her own limited means, trusting that somehow the work would be completed. When her funds ran out, she simply told those around her that the Blessed Virgin herself would finish what had been started.

That same day, as the people gathered, they heard something unusual. A melody, described as beautiful and unlike anything they had heard before, seemed to come from above. A cloud appeared, luminous and suspended in the air, slowly descending toward the unfinished church. When it came to rest, the cloud dissipated, revealing a small image of Our Lady holding the Christ Child.

The image itself was astonishing. It was painted on a thin layer of plaster, no thicker than a card, and appeared to remain suspended without visible support. Almost immediately, devotion began to grow. Pilgrims came. Miracles were reported. A formal investigation was opened by Church authorities, and over time, the shrine became one of the most beloved Marian pilgrimage sites in the region.

There is also a tradition that the image did not originate in Genazzano at all. According to early accounts, it had been venerated for centuries in Albania before mysteriously leaving its place there, carried across the Adriatic, and eventually appearing in Italy. Whether one focuses on the historical details or not, the devotion itself quickly spread, and the Church recognized its significance.

Popes visited the shrine. The image was crowned. Indulgences were granted to those who came in prayer. So many honors were given over time that the image came to be known as the "Madonna of the Popes."

But beyond the history and the miracle, there is something more personal in this title.

Mother of Good Counsel.

It is a title the Church invokes when seeking clarity in moments of uncertainty. It reflects a relationship that is both simple and deeply needed. Mary is a mother who helps guide her children through confusion, through difficult decisions, and through the many small and large questions that arise in life.

Pope Pius XII captured this beautifully in a prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, asking her to enlighten those who are uncertain and to help them remain steady in the face of confusion and error.

We often think of Marian devotion in broader or more abstract terms, but this title speaks directly to daily life. It reminds us that we are not meant to navigate everything on our own. There are moments when we do not see clearly, when the right path is not obvious, and when we need guidance that goes beyond our own reasoning.

The Church gives us this title as a way of turning to her in those moments.

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May 10, 2026

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 | 1 Pt 3:15-18 | Jn 14:15-21

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

Several years ago, while praying in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, I heard the words, "I just couldn't bear to leave you." It was one of the clearest responses to prayer that I have experienced, and it occurred at a time when I was feeling incredibly lonely. I have spent years reflecting on those words, which resurface often as I receive Christ in the Eucharist. In the Gospel today, I hear echoes of those words again as Christ explains to the Apostles the many ways in which they - and we - will not be abandoned after his ascension into heaven. As the rest of the Gospel unfolds, the events of his passion and resurrection reveal the Lord's faithfulness to them. After the resurrection, the Apostles know they can trust his word because they remember Jesus' promise that the Father will send an Advocate to be with them. We, also, can trust him believing that out of complete and utter love for humanity, Jesus remains with us.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Apostles accompanied one another in their community of faith, and they walked with those who had recently responded to God's call to know the truth, as we see with the newly baptized in Samaria. In our lives today, the value of accompaniment cannot be underestimated. In our busy world when it is easy to feel disconnected and alone, being with one another is a powerful way to be a vessel through which Christ proclaims his promise to never leave us. By sitting with another in a time of grief, listening to the questions of a friend who is struggling, or rejoicing with a friend in response to good news, we accompany each other through life's ups and downs. Sometimes accompaniment consists of proclaiming the Good News of Christ's love and thereby helping others to have the courage to do the same. In whatever ways we are called to accompany another in their journey of faith, we do so with the promise that Christ is doing the same for us.

### **ACCOMPANY**

In this joyful season of Easter, we continue to celebrate those who entered or were fully welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. This week, consider reaching out to someone who is new to the Church to celebrate with them, offer your continued prayers for them, or invite them to a parish event.



## SPIRITUALITY

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:23

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,  
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

John 14:15-21; L55A

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him.

But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you.

Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me.

And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”



### Reflecting on the Gospel

In this Sunday’s gospel, which is part of Jesus’s farewell discourse, he assures his disciples that he will not leave them orphaned. His impending departure will not leave them bereft of his love. They will not be homeless and will not need to be cared for by strangers. He promises to send “another Advocate” to be with them always. The Greek word *parakletos*, “paraclete,” has a rich array of nuances. It literally means “called to the side” of another. It can have a legal sense,

like “advocate,” or “defense attorney.” More generally, it can refer to a helper, mediator, or intercessor, one who appeals on another’s behalf. Another nuance is that of “comforter,” as expressed in the sequence for Pentecost, when we pray, “You, of comforters the best,” and ask for rest, refreshment, and solace.

What is paradoxical in this last aspect is that the kind of consolation provided by the Comforter is not of the sort that wraps us in a warm, fuzzy cocoon and allows us to remain there forever. It is more akin to the loving nudge with which a mother bird impels her fledglings to take wing. As theologian Timothy Radcliffe, OP, puts it, “This is what the Holy Spirit does, thrusting us out of our ecclesiastical nest into mission” (*Why Go to Church? The Drama of the Eucharist*). In order to be able to be thrust out, the Consoler also gives us the sure realization that we are never abandoned. We have a home in the One who draws us ever more deeply into mutual indwelling: “[Y]ou are in me and I in you” (14:20).

The first reading gives us a glimpse into what results when disciples make their home in Christ and allow the generativity of the Spirit to be unleashed. Immediately before the passage chosen for today’s first reading, the Acts of the Apostles tells us about the martyrdom of Stephen, who had been chosen as a minister from among the Greek-speakers, esteemed as one “filled with faith and the holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5). After Stephen’s stoning, other preachers of the word were scattered but kept preaching. Among them is Philip, whom today’s reading portrays as fearless enough to go into the region of Samaria and there proclaim Christ. His intrepid venture among a people previously thought to be enemies impels Peter and John also to leave the nest in Jerusalem and to continue Jesus’s mission to the lost and forgotten. The Fourth Evangelist depicts the mission to Samaria begun by Jesus himself in an exchange with a woman at a well, who brings her townsfolk to believe in Jesus as savior of the world (John 4:4-42).

Jesus does not leave any orphaned. He is the embodiment of a motherly God who never forgets her children (Isa 49:15) and a fatherly God who protects orphans and widows (Ps 68:5). Just as parental love at its best is unconditional, so too is God’s love. Although some translations of John 14:15 and 14:21 seem to imply that God’s love and the sending of another Advocate are conditioned by human response, the focus is actually on the mutuality of the love. The divine love has been made manifest in God’s gift of the Son (John 3:16); human love of God is expressed in the keeping of the commandments.