

The Roman Catholic Parishes of

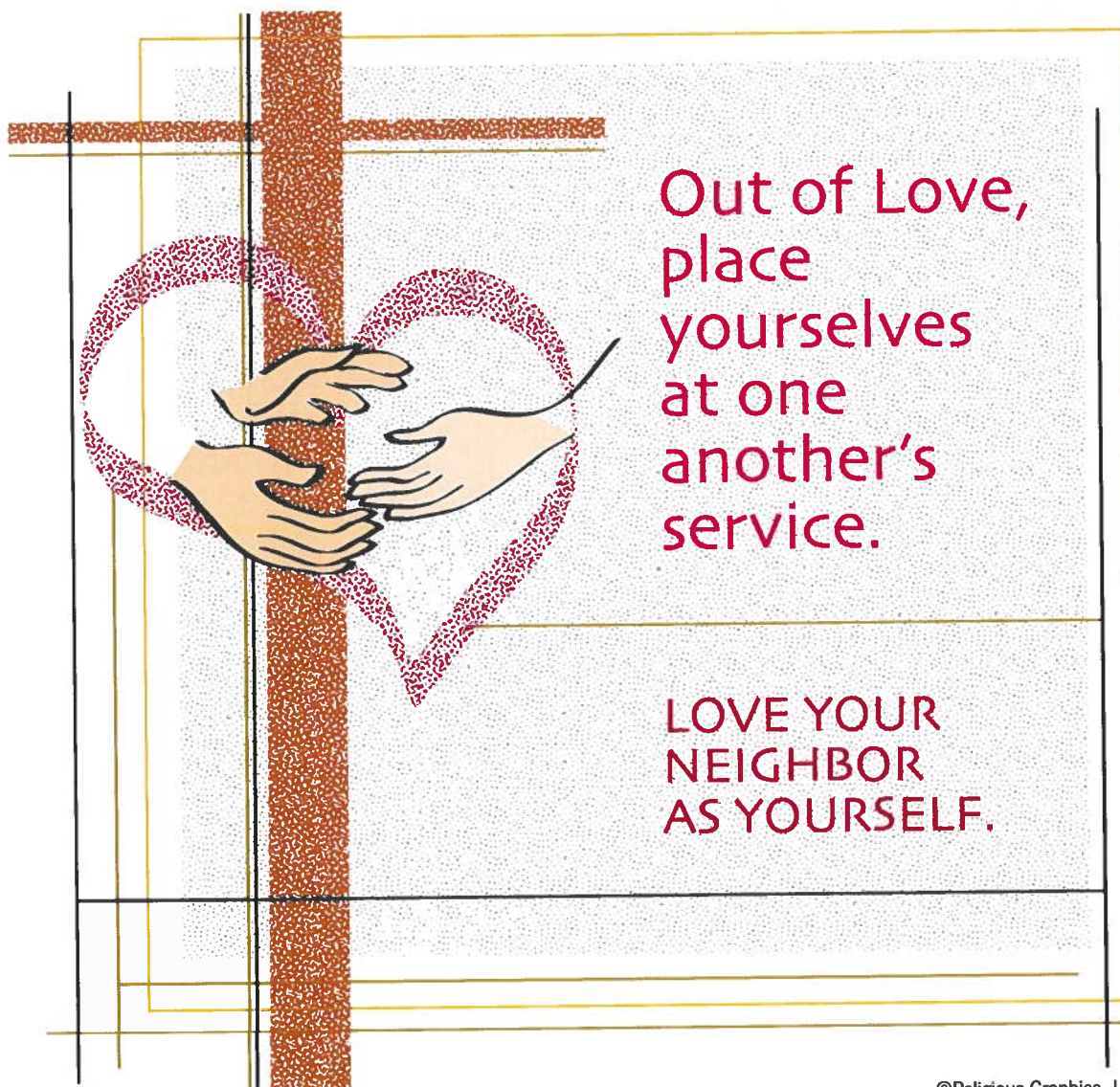
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

St. Margaret Mary, Herscher

St. James the Apostle, Irwin

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 27-28, 2026



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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—4:45pm
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Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable- "You are rewarded not according to your work or your time but according to the measure of your love."

—Saint Catherine of Siena

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 4-5, 2026

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, July 4 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, July 5 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, July 5 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, July 5 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Gery Wright Brett Busa Roger Jensen	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Arlen Hansen Jerry Ogrentz	Darren Lovell Sean Riordan Kris Landeck Dustin Truetner
Lector	Dave Emling	Cindy Gagnon	Kelly Buente	Diane Long
Eucharistic Minister				Corinn Wheeler
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—Jerry Ogrentz R. Leader—Kathy Dumas	Julie Splear

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, June 29 (SMM)

8:00 am +Mary McDonald (John//Diane Smolkovich)

Tuesday, June 30 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, July 1 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, July 3 (SH) First Friday

8:00am +Dolores Clodi (Mary Dionne)

Saturday, July 4 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Theresa Gualandi (Roger/Margaret Jensen)

+Joe King (Dave/Ellen Emling)

Sunday, July 5

7:30 am (SH) +Rosalie Denault, Floyd Tobenski,
Francis Berns, Margaret, Rick, & Paul Meli,
Peggy Popin (The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Joan Smith (Tom/Maureen O'Connor)

+Rita O'Connor (Linda Burns)

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

Looking Ahead

Friday, July 3—First Friday Mass and Adoration at SH

Weekend of July 4-5— Fr. Allam appeal for his mission work

Weekend of July 4-5—K of C Food Drive

Friday, July 10—Herscher Corn Bowl and Village fireworks for the 250th Celebration of America

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 jdstreefarms1@gmail.com

Question of the week—

- When have you felt more fully alive by giving of yourself to another?

Collections Weekend of June 20-21, 2026

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,2884

Rel. Pension—\$534

St. James—\$1,795

Rel. Pension—\$539

Sacred Heart— \$ 1,498

Rel. Pension—\$714

Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts

Finding Life

We don't completely understand God: and in this world we never will. Most of us have lots of doubts and questions and uncertainties about our faith. Sometimes we have been downright angry at God. Our relationship with God is often a rocky path — tough demands are made on us, hurtful things happen in our lives, sometimes we argue with God.

In spite of all this — and admittedly this is the down side of faith — in spite of all this we commit ourselves radically and completely to God. It's a big risk. It takes courage. In committing ourselves we make a leap of faith — and dive in, holding on to nothing but trust.

Reflection—

We Sacrifice for Things that are Important to Us

Sacrifice is a key word these days. We've been through some high times lately, thinking we could have whatever we wanted and pay for it later, but the bills are coming due. The national debt is now an astronomical figure.

Lots of people are being asked to make sacrifices at work. Companies that are struggling ask employees to make personal sacrifices so that the company can, in some cases, survive.

One healthy way that all of us can sacrifice for the cause of Christ is to offer a sacrificial gift — a truly grateful portion of our treasure in thanksgiving for all the good things God has given us.

When we set aside a significant portion of our income for God's cause in the world, we make an important statement about ourselves and our trust in God. At the same time, it demonstrates that we care about other people.

A Stewardship Moment

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of June 27/28, 2026

In today's gospel reading the Twelve hear Jesus speak these words:

"Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me." This is the first time Matthew mentions the word "cross" in his Gospel, and it is not in direct reference to Jesus' crucifixion but as a prerequisite to following him. Good stewards recognize that the call to discipleship requires them to "take up the cross" and align their goals in life and their fate with that of Jesus, that is, with suffering, opposition, resistance and even death. Reflect this week on the crosses you need to take up daily in order to comprehend the way of Jesus Christ.

Parish News:

All Parishes—

- ⇒ TriParish Prayer Group will meet each Monday at 7 pm at St James church
- ⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James

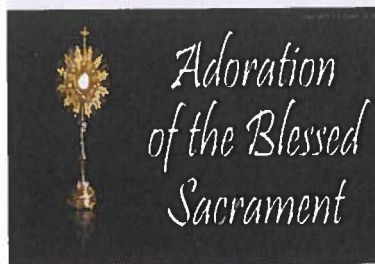
- ⇒ The Rosary Committee is looking for a volunteer to chair the committee. Directions for purchasing supplies and making the rosaries is available. The funds are provided by the St. James CCW. If you're interested in either leading the committee or in helping make the rosaries please contact Bea Papineau

Sacred Heart—

- ⇒ The week of June 28th, the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Don Sorenson. The Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in memory of Jerome Denault
- ⇒ Sacred Heart CCW will be having the following Summer meeting: Tues. July 14th, 6:30pm & Tues. Aug.11th at 6:30pm. Noone is hosting - everyone is asked to bring a sack to share for all 3 meetings. All women in the parish over 18 are considered members and are welcome! Come join the fun!



We are still in need of someone to clean St. James and Sacred Heart Churches and halls. If you are interested or know of someone who would like to help us out please give the office a call at 815-426-2550. Julie has the answers to any questions you may have.



First Friday Adoration

"We should consider those moments spent before the Blessed Sacrament as the happiest of our lives."

-St John Vianney

First Friday Mass will be held at Sacred Heart on July 3rd. Adoration will follow.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Heimrad (June 28) As a priest he made several pilgrimages to holy sites. He was so unworldly, his mind so much on spiritual matters that many of the people he met thought he was a lunatic. After years of travel, he decided to settle as a Benedictine monk. After some time in the community, he retired to become a hermit at Hasungen, Westphalia (in modern Germany).

Other obscure saint of the week: St. Paul I (June 28) was the brother of Pope Stephen II, he was orphaned young. Paul was educated at the Lateran school and became a deacon under Pope Zachary. Later he was ordained a priest in Rome. Noted for his gentleness and his charity, both spiritual and monetary. He became a papal diplomat for his brother, recovering Papal State property from the invading Lombards. Paul succeeded his brother as 93rd pope on May 29, 757.

As pope he worked with King Pepin the Short to maintain the papacy's temporal power. In 765 he settled an agreement with the Byzantine Desiderius regarding their boundaries. Paul built churches and monasteries in Rome. He was opposed to the iconoclastic emperor Constantine Coproynmus, and sheltered refugees from his oppression.



The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

"Don't think I've come to make life cozy. I've come to cut—make a sharp knife-cut between son and father, daughter and mother, bride and mother-in-law—cut through these cozy domestic arrangements and free you for God. Well-meaning family members can be your worst enemies. If you prefer father or mother over me, you don't deserve me. If you prefer son or daughter over me, you don't deserve me.

"If you don't go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don't deserve me. If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me.

"We are intimately linked in this harvest work. Anyone who accepts what you do, accepts me, the One who sent you. Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father, who sent me. Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God's messenger. Accepting someone's help is as good as giving someone help. This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing" (from Matthew 10).

Humor—A Case of Mistaken Identity

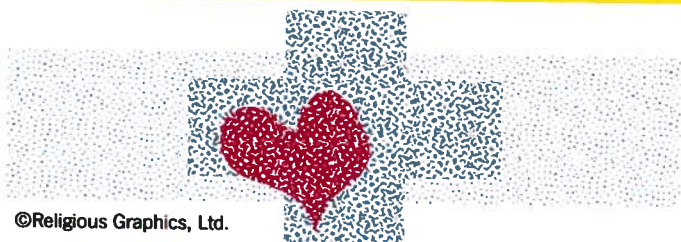
The mother said to her young son, "I'm going down to the cellar. If the butcher comes, let me know. I want to talk to him."

A few minutes later the minister called. The boy, forgetting who his mother wanted to talk to, called downstairs: "Ma, that man's here now."

The mother replied, "I can't come up yet. Give him a quarter out of my purse and tell him we didn't like his tongue last week, and if it's no better this week, we're going to change."



"The correct response at the end of each prayer is 'Amen', not 'Uh Huh'."



Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

What did St. Michael say to Lucifer?

Serviam is a powerful prayer for Catholics. But where did this motto come from?

Serviam is a quick and easy motto that every Catholic can embrace.

The use of this motto was inspired by the story of St. Michael the Archangel and his battle against the fallen angels. As Scripture tells us:

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon...

—Revelation 12:7

It is traditionally believed that Satan said to God, "Non serviam!" which means, "I will not serve!" Satan wanted to be God—not serve God.

When St. Michael witnessed this, he was filled with righteous indignation on behalf of His Creator, and is believed to have cried out: "Who is like God?!" Hence his Hebrew name, Mikha'el, which means Who is like God? It's a rhetorical cry—one that means, "No one is like God!"

Satan rebelled and lost his place in heaven, but Michael chose to serve God, and is now Prince of the Heavenly Hosts. In imitation of the Archangel's faithful service to God, we can say "*Serviam*!" when we are tempted, or discouraged, or overwhelmed. "*Serviam, Lord!*"

Saying *Serviam*! is a fast and effective way to remember the One we serve. It also reorients us to follow God's will, especially in moments of temptation, just as St. Michael the Archangel did.

Several morning offering prayers include the motto *Serviam*, asking God to help us love and serve Him faithfully throughout our day.

You can also ask for St. Michael's intercession through the prayer below:

St. Michael the Archangel,

Defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray.

And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts,

By the power of God,

Cast into Hell Satan, and all the evil spirits,

Who prowl throughout the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

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The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection will be held July 4-5 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— Standing Below

We do not stand above our people, looking down with distant pity. If anything, we stand below, looking up. How else can you look at someone when you are washing their feet?

Communion to the sick:

If you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion please call the office and we will arrange for someone to bring them the Eucharist. If you would like to be a Minister of the Eucharist to the sick, please let the office know and we will add you to the list of volunteers visiting shut-ins.

Father Allam will be visiting us on the weekend of July 4-5. He will be doing his appeal for his mission work in India. Make sure you congratulate him on his being named the Vicar General of the Diocese of Guntar.



God can't be outdone

Years ago, Chris and Nena Lavoie began welcoming seminarians into their home for a meal and a blessing. Over time, 10 or 12 young men gathered around their table. They couldn't have known that this simple hospitality was planting a seed in their own son, Joshua, now a priest for the Diocese of Joliet, ordained just a few weeks ago. The diocese walked with Fr. Josh through eight years of formation. For the Lavoies, giving to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal is one way to walk with the next young man, and the next.



Questions Catholics Ask

Why does going to Mass on Saturday night "count" to fulfill the Sunday obligation?

Plenty of folks, including my Dad, have viewed the "Saturday Five" Mass as an unwelcome innovation. It's been decried as one more Vatican II accommodation to flabby Catholicism: dumbing down our vigorous commitment to the Precepts of the Church. Most decriers would be surprised to hear that a prior evening anticipatory Mass was recommended and defended by 4th-century heavyweights including Augustine and Jerome. Where does the idea come from?

The fifth verse in the Bible declares: "Evening came, and morning followed—the first day." The phrase is repeated after each of the first six days of creation, giving rise to the Hebrew definition of a day as measured from one desert sundown to the next. Examples in both Testaments testify that time makes a significant shift at sundown: the Temple is closed as shadows lengthen, or crowds bring their sick to Jesus as night falls. Even Easter is counted as "the third day" when the women approach the tomb under cover of darkness.

To be on the safe side in observing *erev* (Hebrew "evening"), rabbis say wait for three stars to appear in the sky. When you think about it, the concept that the a.m. (*ante meridiem*, Latin for "before noon") period begins at midnight is not much more than a decision. The day has to start somewhere.

Jewish practice carries over in the anticipatory Mass for Sunday, or the Vigil Mass of a feast. In 1969, Paul VI wrote that "the observance of Sunday and solemnities begins with the evening of the preceding day." Although this was a *moto proprio* (personal papal initiative), it built on formal teaching issued two years earlier granting permission for the anticipatory Mass. It also acknowledged what the Liturgy of the Hours had promoted for centuries: a Sunday celebration lasting from Evening Prayer on Saturday night until Evening Prayer on Sunday.

The 1983 Code of Canon Law notes that "assist[ing] at a Mass celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the feast day itself or in the evening of the preceding day satisfies the obligation of participating in the Mass." (no.1248) The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* affirms: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass. The precept ... is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day." (no.2180)



June 28, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a | Rom 6:3-4, 8-11 | Mt 10:37-42

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

In today's Gospel, Christ tells the Apostles of the rewards given to those who welcome his disciples. He reminds us that God sees and values any support offered to those whom he sends to proclaim his word. While we're accustomed to receiving a reward that is proportional to the effort required for that task, God provides a generous reward for even the simplest acts (showing hospitality, offering a cup of cold water). The reward offered is not based on the grandeur of our action, but on the goodness of God who generously blesses our small acts of faithfulness. Christ preaches of this same concept when he describes the poor widow's offering of two coins in the Gospels of Mark and Luke (Mk 12:41-44, Lk 21:1-4). Jesus did not judge the monetary value of the two coins; he saw only the sacrifice and generosity that was communicated by the gesture. We can trust in the overwhelming grace of the Father that even the smallest gift we offer to him is worthy of a great reward.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In the first reading, a woman generously offers lodging for the prophet Elisha. She saw Elisha's need, knew that he was a holy man, and used the gifts and resources she had to support him in his sacred work. We are also called to generously support and encourage the ways in which our brothers and sisters are leading others to Christ. In other words, we are called to accompany our fellow disciples, whether they need a listening ear or a simple acknowledgment of their efforts. Because each baptized person shares in the mission of spreading the faith, every action we do to support one another is also supportive of this essential task of discipleship. As we begin to walk alongside other disciples, we pray that our witness manifests God's love at work in the world and brings many closer to him.

PRAY

Our Scriptures today invite us to consider how we can support and accompany our fellow disciples: "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple ... will surely not lose his reward." One of the simplest ways we can offer support is to pray for one another, asking for the grace to be faithful to the Lord and to our efforts to share our faith with others. Even a simple, heartfelt prayer for one another will not go unnoticed by the Lord.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Peter 2:9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;

announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matt 10:37-42; L97A

Jesus said to his apostles:

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.

Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward.

And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."



Reflecting on the Gospel

For what or for whom would you be willing to give your life? Many people would answer that they would give their lives for their spouse or their children. Many a mother with a sick child has been heard to say that she would gladly take the illness upon herself rather than see her child suffer. In a community discussion about the choices women religious have made in responding to Vatican II, a sister in her golden years asserted, "I would give my life for who we are and what we have become and who we shall be in the future." She went on: "I have nothing to lose. When you get to be this age, you have become so in love with God and God's people, it's easy to pour out yourself in love."

In today's gospel, Jesus sets up a contrast: think of those most precious to you, such as your parents or your children. Just as your love for them has

expanded your heart in such a way that you would do anything for them, even more does love for Jesus fill us to overflowing, so that those who follow him could pour out their very lives for Christ's little ones. To some people, such an other-centered life seems senseless, a loss of one's own autonomy and ability to pursue one's own desires. Paradoxically, the gospel message is that those who become schooled in losing their life in love for others actually find a life so fulfilling that any other way seems a waste.

Choosing this kind of life, however, is not entirely easy or without cost. Just as any love relationship flourishes only when both parties are willing to let their own desires, plans, and dreams be shaped by the other, leading to an

ultimate surrender of self, so too does discipleship ask for such relinquishment. In the letting go, however, also comes finding of a new self that leads to joy and delight. Jesus is not asking for obliteration of self, as when people are trapped in systems of domination or poverty, where their sense of self is taken from them. He is speaking to disciples who are empowered persons who have the ability to choose to surrender themselves in love for his sake.

When Jesus speaks of rewards for receiving a prophet, or a righteous person, or for giving "a cup of cold water to one of these little ones . . . because the little one is a disciple," he is not talking about what his followers get for the sacrifices they make. These words come at the end of Jesus's address to the Twelve as he is sending them out on mission. He is referring to the reception they will get from others, and of the blessings that will come to those who open themselves to the apostles. Jesus describes a kind of domino effect. Anyone who receives his disciples receives Jesus and receives the one who sent him. Both those who are sent on mission and those who receive them are drawn into the circle of divine love.