

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

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 8-9, 2024



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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

Quotes: " Great love can change small things into great ones, and it is only love which lends value to our actions.

— Saint Faustina

Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

June 15-16, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, June 15 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, June 16 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, June 16 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, June 16 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Gery Wright Roger Jensen Dave Emling Todd Datweiler	Kyle Ferris James Mallaney	Dave Ladehoff Bob Buente Vic Carlile Jeff Steinke	Kim Smicker Marko Smolkovich Garrett Smolkovich Brent Fulton
Lector	Rob Landeck	Darlene Cipcich	Jeff O'Connor	Julie Splear
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Dallas Ferris R. Leader—Karen Miller	Kim Smicker Mary McDonald

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, June 10

8:00 am +Donna Ruder (Jackie Eberle)

Tuesday, June 11 (SH)

8:00 am +Jennifer Bonds (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, June 12 (SJ)

8:00 am Intention of Rita Thiesen (Pam Cuchiara)

Friday, June 14 (SMM)

8:00 am +Jim Feller (Ken/Denise Wenzelman)

Saturday, June 15 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, June 16

7:30 am (SH) + Leland & Pat Denault (Joe/Tina Petersen)

9:00am (SJ) For All Past & Present Priests (Parishioners)

For All Fathers living & deceased

+Jane Maley Schrieffer (Linda Burns)

10:30am (SMM) +Igor Dubravec (The Family)

A Look Ahead

June 15-16—Second Collection Retired Religious

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

What kind of spiritual workout can I plan for myself? What will I do daily to renew my spiritual self?

Collections Week of June, 1-2,2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,072

St. James—\$2,245

Sacred Heart—\$990

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection

Thoughts of a Donor

I gave my blood: Christ gave his.
 I gave a pint: He gave all.
 The needle is small and sharp the nails were large and dull.
 The table soft and relaxing, the cross rough and painful.
 The nurses kind and gentle, the soldiers cruel and mean.
 The crowd applauds my sacrifice, they that passed by reviled him.
 Mine is for O positive, his for positively all.
 Mine, at best, will prolong a life for a while. His, without doubt,
 can save all forever.

Gospel Shorts— “When the Good News Goes Bad”

Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees with the question of what activity is legitimate on the Sabbath. While the divine Law and Biblical experience created one standard, the Pharisees had created another. Jesus had violated the standard of the Pharisees. He answered by focusing the argument on two issues: 1) the original intent of the Sabbath, i.e. the renewal and refreshment of mankind; and 2) Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath was the proper One to interpret the Law.

We need to ask ourselves if we too are not guilty of burdening another’s conscience with our own interpretations of the Law. Do we allow Jesus to interpret the Law for us? Have we turned the good things of God into something bad? In Christ we are forgiven such Pharisical sins and empowered to live in the joy of God’s blessings.



Current Status for 2024 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Sacred Heart	\$6,000	\$7,050	\$5,050
St. MM	\$9,400	\$8,425	\$7,935
St. James	\$8,800	\$6,685	\$6,462

Bishop Hicks’ Column for June 2024

Celebrating a Loving and Merciful Heart

is available on our Tri-Parish webpage at www.triparishcatholics.org

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

St. James—

- ◆ There will be an Open House for Rita Thiesen’s 75th birthday in the Church Hall on Sunday, June 9th from 1-4pm. Please join us.

Sacred Heart—

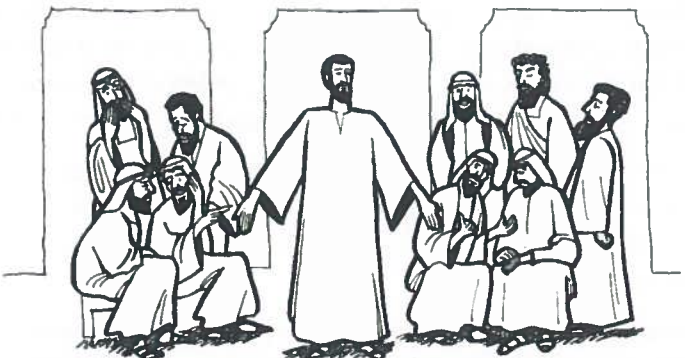
- ◆ Sacred Heart C.C.W. will be meeting in the church hall Tues. June 11th at 6:30pm. Hostesses for the evening are Shirley Ferris and Rita West.

All Parishes—

- ◆ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ◆ The phone number for the rectory will no longer be in service. All calls should be made to the parish office number 815-426-2550.

A Stewardship Moment Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of June 8-9, 2024

In today’s second reading Saint Paul argues that a community’s journey of faith culminates in the thanksgiving expressed in the Eucharistic meal, when the bread is broken, the cup of salvation is lifted up and the covenant with Christ is affirmed. In fact, he maintains that the entire community’s “inner nature” is constantly being renewed in hope through this thanksgiving meal. Good stewards understand that the weekly celebration of the Eucharist is a communal gesture by which the gathered community reveals its faith and hope in the risen Lord. Moreover, that it is a profound communal act of faith that Christ is present and active in the world at this moment. Given that understanding, what responsibilities do we take on to lift up the faith of our community? What part do we play in giving it hope.



“So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables...”

Mark 3:23



Obscure saint of the week: St. Jose de Anchieta (June 9) was the son of a wealthy and prominent family and possibly related to Saint Ignatius of Loyola. He was educated in Portugal and joined the Jesuits in 1551 at age 17. Jose became a missionary to Brazil, arriving on July 13, 1553. He is the National Apostle of Brazil and was co-founder of the cities of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

In his youth he dislocated his spine. When he joined the Jesuits, he was sent to Brazil for its mild climate in the hope that his back would improve. It never did, and he was in constant pain for the 44 years he worked in the Americas.

He and the Jesuit Emanuel Nóbrega arrived at Piratininga on the feast of Saint Paul and so named the mission *Sao Paulo*. In 1553 he first met the Tupi Indians who lived on the outskirts of the settlement. As he was adept at languages, Joseph soon learned theirs. For two decades Joseph worked on a grammar and dictionary used by Portuguese settlers and missionaries.

Joseph was later held hostage for five months by the Tamoyo tribe during which time he occupied himself by composing a Latin poem in honor of the Blessed Virgin. Since he had no writing supplies, he wrote in wet sand and memorized the verses. When he again reached Sao Vicente, he committed all 4,172 lines to paper.

Joseph converted the Maramomis tribe and composed plays for his students to perform, writing them in Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, and Tupi. Because his dramas were the first written in Brazil, Joseph is known as the *Father of Brazilian national literature*.

Jose became the Jesuit provincial in 1577. In letters to his fellow missionaries, he warned that burning desire was not enough: "You must come with a bag-full of virtues."

Obscure saint of the week: St. Felicianus, (June 9) was the brother of Saint Primus. With his brother he was tortured and martyred during the persecutions of Diocletian. The two were the first martyrs whose remains were transferred from a basilica outside the walls of Rome, Italy.



The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Jesus came home and, as usual, a crowd gathered—so many making demands on him that there wasn't even time to eat. His friends heard what was going on and went to rescue him, by force if necessary. They suspected he was getting carried away with himself.

The religion scholars from Jerusalem came down spreading rumors that he was working black magic, using devil tricks to impress them with spiritual power. Jesus confronted their slander with a story: "Does it make sense to send a devil to catch a devil, to use Satan to get rid of Satan? A constantly squabbling family disintegrates. If Satan were fighting Satan, there soon wouldn't be any Satan left. Do you think it's possible in broad daylight to enter the house of an awake, able-bodied man, and walk off with his possessions unless you tie him up first? Tie him up, though, and you can clean him out.

"Listen to this carefully. I'm warning you. There's nothing done or said that can't be forgiven. But if you persist in your slanders against God's Holy Spirit, you are repudiating the very One who forgives, sawing off the branch on which you're sitting, severing by your own perversity all connection with the One who forgives." He gave this warning because they were accusing him of being in league with Evil.

Just then his mother and brothers showed up. Standing outside, they relayed a message that they wanted a word with him. He was surrounded by the crowd when he was given the message, "Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside looking for you."

Jesus responded, "Who do you think are my mother and brothers?" Looking around, taking in everyone seated around him, he said, "Right here, right in front of you—my mother and my brothers. Obedience is thicker than blood. The person who obeys God's will is my brother and sister and mother" (from Mark 3).

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

What feast did Christ himself ask for?

When we celebrate this feast in June, we're fulfilling Jesus' own wish.

When Christ appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque to reveal the beauty of His Sacred Heart, He asked for something specifically: a feast dedicated to His Sacred Heart, to be celebrated on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi.

The feast was granted to France and some other localities in the 1760s. Then, in 1856, Pope Pius IX established it as a universal feast, setting it on the Friday after the Corpus Christi octave, as Jesus had requested. The placement of the feast underscored the deep connection between the Eucharist and the Sacred Heart and highlighted the immeasurable love of Jesus manifested in the Sacrament.

Pope Pius IX's actions were crucial in spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart throughout the Catholic world.

In the two centuries between Christ's request and Pope Pius IX's decree, devotion to Christ's Sacred Heart had spread significantly. However, without a universal feast, many of the faithful went without knowing that Christ deeply desired to bring the love of His Sacred Heart into their lives. By officially establishing the Feast of the Sacred Heart for the whole Church, Pope Pius IX ensured that the faithful would have a dedicated time each year to reflect on and celebrate the infinite love and mercy of Jesus.

How beautiful it is that we get to live during a time when the Church honors the Sacred Heart not only through the celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart but also through the dedication of the entire month of June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus!



All are invited to join Bishop Hicks for
the first

75th Anniversary Regional Mass

at Bishop McNamara High School in
Kankakee.

Join us for 4:00 PM Mass on
Saturday, June 22, 2024, followed by
a picnic. Food trucks will be on site!

ANNOUNCING THE 46TH ANNUAL



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

August 25, 2024

2 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Raymond
604 N Raynor Ave., Joliet, IL

Registration Required

The 46th Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, August 25, at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet. Couples celebrating anniversaries of 25 years, 50 years, and more than 50 years, are welcome to attend. Bishop Ronald A. Hicks will celebrate the Mass and will lead all couples in a special renewal of wedding commitment.

Pre-registration is
required by July 28,
2024. Scan the QR code
or click link below.



<https://forms.office.com/r/7Zc5nE3Nma7>

Office of Lifelong Lay Formation
Questions? Contact Jim Elias
(815) 221-6134
jelias@dioceseofjoliet.org

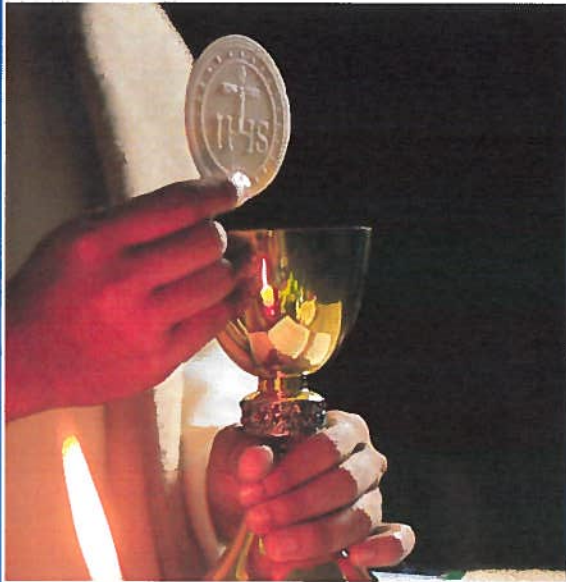
DIOCESE OF JOLIET



We too believe
and therefor we speak

Questions Catholics Ask "Why are Catholics so focused on the Eucharist?"

The Second Vatican Council sought to restore "full, conscious, and active" participation in the Eucharist so that the people of God might again remember that the "why" of Eucharist is more vital than the "how."



A Eucharistic spirituality is ground-level for life as a Catholic. It's built on the three gospel accounts of the Last Supper, in which Jesus urges his friends to "do this in memory of me." While John's gospel doesn't recount the Last Supper meal narrative, John does have an extended teaching on Jesus as the bread of life in chapter six. Saint Paul also reiterates the Last Supper instruction in his First Letter to the Corinthians: "For I received from the Lord what I also handed onto you."

Jesus employed one or perhaps two well-known forms of Jewish prayer from lifelong ritual practice. One is the *berakah* or prayer of thanksgiving to God commonly prayed over the bread and the cup. Another is the *todah* or sacrifice of praise in which leavened bread was used along with prayers of praise. Christians use the word *Eucharist*—thanksgiving—for our communion liturgy as a whole.

How Eucharist was celebrated developed over time and was distinctive geographically from Jerusalem to Rome to Carthage, and from East to West. But early teachers like Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Cyril, Ambrose, and Augustine agreed that Eucharist had several significant meanings. One was the impact

of the Passion of Christ for human history. Another was the unity in which all Christians shared as the Body of Christ. A third meaning was that engaging this sacrament had profound moral implications for those who did.

The medieval church made a swing away from this "symbolic" thinking about the Eucharist to an "instrumental" focus. That is, we went from reflecting on WHY Jesus makes this self-offering to HOW it's accomplished ritually and theologically. This impoverished the church's communion in many ways. The complicated rhetoric was harder to teach to the uneducated, and so fewer understood what was being celebrated. As a result, reception of the sacrament declined. Passive piety and miraculous stories about the Host replaced an active embrace of a moral life formed by an incorporation into Christ's Body. Believers sought to adore the Host than to live a life of thanksgiving and praise.

In the early 20th century, Pope Pius X advocated frequent reception of the Eucharist and to younger-aged children. Pius XII added to those reforms. The Second Vatican Council sought to restore "full, conscious, and active" participation in the Eucharist so that the people of God might again remember that the "why" of Eucharist is more vital than the "how."

Scriptures: Exodus 24:5-8; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Mark 14:22-25; Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:14-20; John 6:1-15, 22-65; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; (see also Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II documents, 1963)

A Stewardship Prayer for June

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we dedicate this month of June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we ask you to grant to us compassionate hearts; hearts rich with our love, embraced by your compassion.

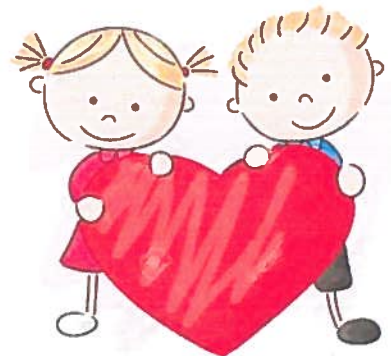
Grant us generous hearts: hearts that never count the cost; Hearts that seek to serve And not be served.

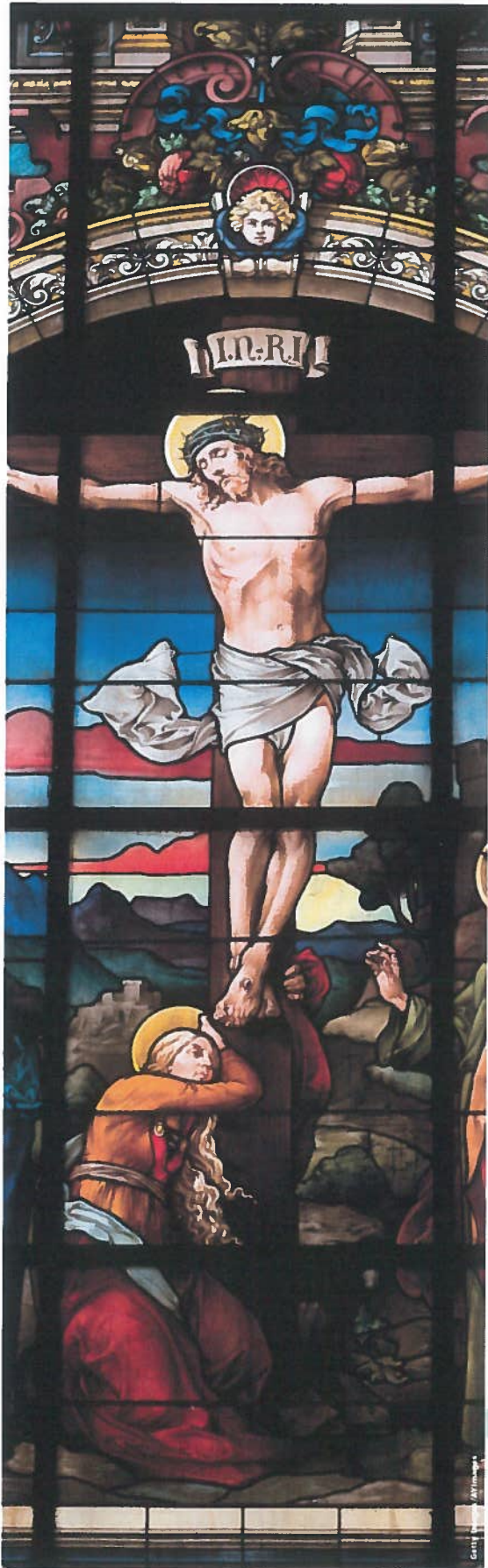
Grant us hearts that love peace: hearts that promote truth and justice, transform hatred and anger, and seek unity and reconciliation.

Grant us hearts of a steward: hearts that are filled with gratitude, eager to share, and long to give back to you.

Grant us hearts filled with your Spirit: hearts open to conversion, filled with hope, and on fire with your Word.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen





June 9, 2024

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 3:9-15 | 2 Cor 4:13—5:1 | Mk 3:20-35

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I know people who read the ending of a book before they are finished with it. I could never do that! I have to follow the story in every detail until the final page. When it comes to the story of our salvation history, however, we get to do a little of both: we know the end of the story in terms of Revelation and God's desire for us to live with him in eternity. We know of the heavenly kingdom to which we have been invited and in which we live. What we don't know is all the details that get us to our own, individual, final page in the great drama of our response to the gift of salvation. In the first reading today, we hear the story of the fall of humankind - about how our earliest parents rejected God's command and gave into temptation. However, the story doesn't end there. Adam and Eve may have been sent out of the Garden of Eden, but God didn't give up on them - or us. Instead, he sent a long line of prophets who paved the way for his Son, Jesus. With Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, the gates of heaven were opened so all have the opportunity to accept the gift of salvation. As St. Paul writes in his Letter to the Corinthians, we can know "that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul's words give us great hope and encouragement, for we all know that living as God commands can be difficult. We are assured, however, that grace and strength are ours if we only ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. As Christians, we are part of the body of Christ and a community of believers. In today's Gospel, Jesus notes that a house divided against itself cannot stand. That's a reminder that we are all in this together. We need one another - and the grace of God - to bring us to everlasting life in heaven. In the Gospel Jesus asked, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And we heard the answer: those who do the will of God. Let us open our hearts today to receive the promptings and grace of God, so we may follow him to the best of our ability each day. The story of salvation is our story, and we know what the ending is meant to be.

PRAY As members of the body of Christ, perhaps there are ways this week we could be praying alongside our brothers and sisters in our church or community. In addition to Mass, consider Eucharistic Adoration or a prayer group. Reflect on how God might be nudging your heart.

10th Sunday of Ordinary Time

June 9, 2024: Gn 3:9-15 | Ps 130:1-8 | 2 Cor 4:13
– 5:1 | Mk 3:20-35

Pray: Jesus, Lover of my Soul, guide and hold me steady in Christ's family of faith. Amen.

We are family... my brothers, sisters, and me!

Jesus asks in this week's Gospel, "Who are my mother, brothers, and sisters?" At first glance, this seems odd, considering his relatives were at home with Him. We must understand that Jesus had His mother there, along with some of His close cousins and relatives (whom, in those days, it was customary to call brothers and sisters.) They were trying to protect Jesus because He wasn't eating and caring for Himself. As crowds surrounded Him, they felt He was working himself into a frenzy, maybe even losing His mind in His zeal to heal and teach everyone. They were worried about Him, especially when the scribes began accusing Him of being able to cast out demons only because Satan Himself possessed him.



Nonsense! This was far from the truth, and Jesus quickly stood up for Himself. Jesus instructed that He is the Conqueror of the Devil, and anyone who deliberately refuses to accept His power, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation blasphemes the Holy Spirit. This hardness of heart and unwillingness to repent will not be forgiven but will lead one to Hell for eternity.

It's important to remember that God's forgiveness

is always available to us, even when we make mistakes or speak harshly in our frustration. He will continue to pursue us until our last breath. The unforgivable sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is for those who deliberately reject God and refuse His love and mercy by not repenting.

Was Jesus putting down His own family in this Gospel scene? No! Jesus holds out His welcoming arms to all who have faith in Him and trust in the Father's Holy Will. All Christian believers are adopted into His faith family as brothers and sisters of Christ. Faith in Christ the Living Word and sincerely seeking and accepting God's Holy Will bind Christians together as a family. What a gift!

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Do you often examine your heart and seek repentance and forgiveness for your sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- † How does God's merciful hope and Christ's acceptance of you into His inner circle—His own family—impact your daily interactions with others? How do you discern God's Holy Will when making decisions and in your actions?
- † How does it impact ministry knowing that Jesus redefines the definition of family as those who do God's Will? What can we do to lead others into our spiritual family with Jesus?
- † In what ways can we show love and acceptance to our spiritual brothers and sisters who may be different from us?