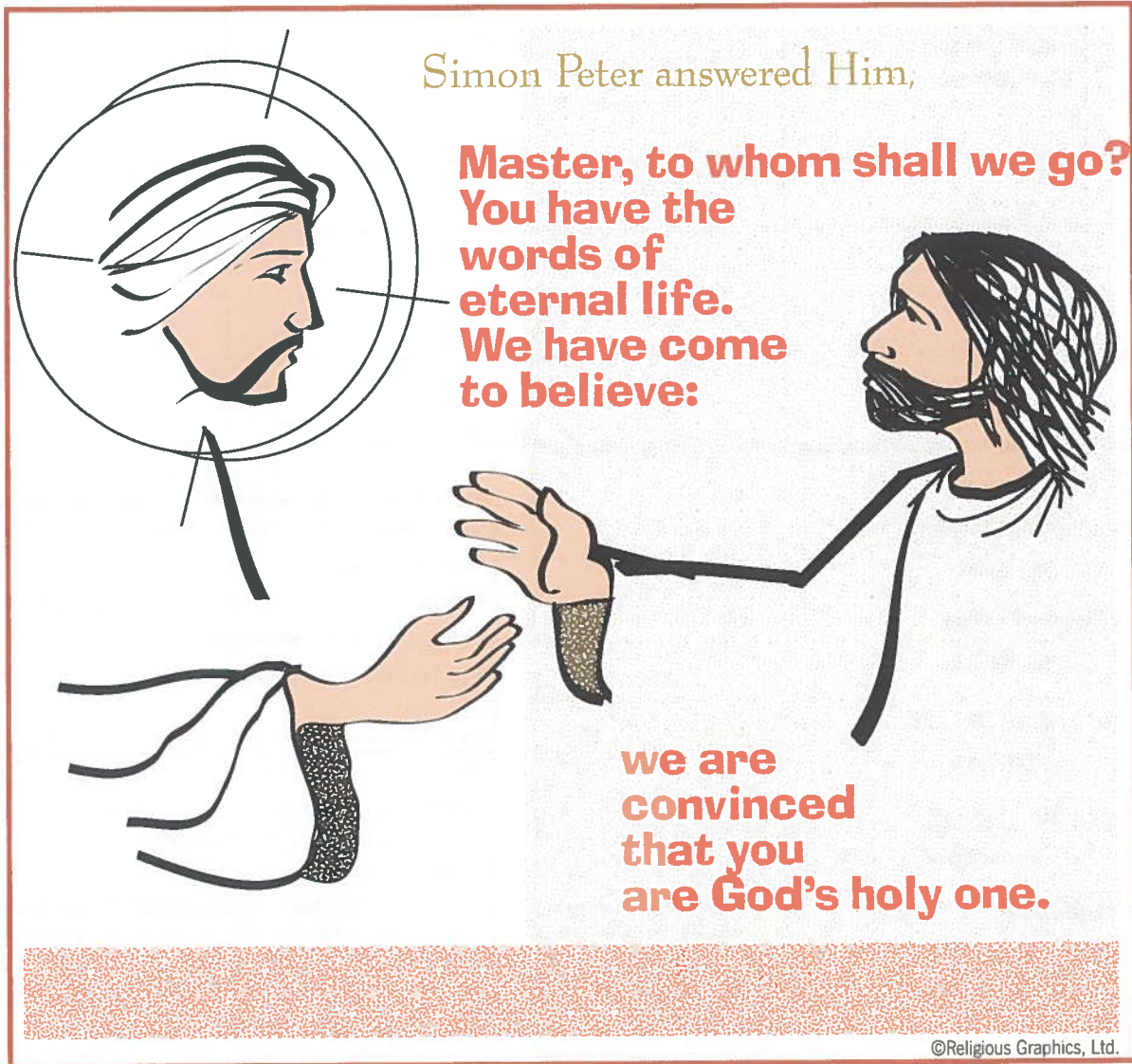


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 24-25, 2024



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: "I am not afraid. I was born for this."

—Saint Joan of Arc

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 31-Sept. 1, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, August 31 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Sept. 1 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Sept. 1 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Sept. 1 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Gery Wright Dave Emling Roger Jensen Dan Hoffman	Dennis Pankey Daryl Ferris	Dennis O'Connor Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke Dallas Ferris	Sean Riordan Kim Smicker Larry Wolles Brent Fulton
Lector	Rob Landeck	Darlene Cipcich	Mary Peerbolte	Corinn Wheeler
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Dallas Ferris R. Leader—Kathy Dumas	The Wheelers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, August 26 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Tuesday, August 27 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, August 28 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, August 30 (SMM)

8:00 am +Anne Gehrke (The Family)

Saturday, August 31 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Tom Lane (Mariann Lane)

+JR Matern (Debbie/Cindy Witheft)

Sunday, Sept. 1

7:30 am (SH) +Richard Fitch, Raymond Denault, Bernal Gagnon, Donald Denault, Bonnie Wascher, Ina Rathman (The Family)

9:00am (SJ) Theresa Grosso 90th Birthday (Her Family)

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

A Look Ahead

Wed., August 28—Work on Float 6 pm Pete Denault's

Monday, Sept. 2—9:00 am Mass at SJ

Monday, Sept. 2—Herscher Homecoming Celebration

Sunday, Sept. 8—RE Registration at SJ

Sunday, Sept. 15—Religious Education Kickoff at all three parishes

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjcgkg@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

Collections Week of August 17-18, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,459 Assumption—\$312
St. James—\$1,208 Assumption—\$268
Sacred Heart—\$1,082 Assumption—\$342

Thank you for your generosity!

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

Many among his disciples heard this and said, "This is tough teaching, too tough to swallow."

Jesus sensed that his disciples were having a hard time with this and said, "Does this throw you completely? What would happen if you saw the Son of Man ascending to where he came from? The Spirit can make life. Sheer muscle and willpower don't make anything happen. Every word I've spoken to you is a Spirit-word, and so it is life-making. But some of you are resisting, refusing to have any part in this." (Jesus knew from the start that some weren't going to risk themselves with him. He knew also who would betray him.) He went on to say, "This is why I told you earlier that no one is capable of coming to me on his own. You get to me only as a gift from the Father."

After this a lot of his disciples left. They no longer wanted to be associated with him. Then Jesus gave the Twelve their chance: "Do you also want to leave?"

Peter replied, "Master, to whom would we go? You have the words of real life, eternal life. We've already committed ourselves, confident that you are the Holy One of God" (from John 6).



Our TRI-PARISH float building and decorating will take place on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:00 pm. We will be working at Pete & Diane Denault's shed. It would be great to get some help from all three parishes!

Reflections On the Love of Money

There is great gain in godliness with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world and we cannot take anything out of the world; but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and hurtful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- Letters of application are now being accepted for the Theresa Fritz Catholic Education Scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year. Applicants must be a parishioner of St. Margaret Mary and attend a Catholic grade or high school or a Catholic university. Please submit a letter to Fr. Ron at the Tri-Parish office explaining which school you are attending and your reason(s) for choosing a Catholic school. Letters need to be received in the office by September 3, 2024.

St. James—

- ◆ Religious Ed registration after mass.

Sacred Heart—

All Parishes—

- ◆ Adult Ed classes will begin on Wed., Sept. 4 at 7 pm at SMM.
- ◆ Anyone interested in becoming Catholic, should contact Deacon Ron about arranging a class schedule. 815-933-4077.
- ◆ 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 at 815-426-2550



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Adam Andrzejewski

May Adam and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

Our sincere sympathy to all his family and friends.

Question of the week

How do I sacrifice my will to follow God's? What have I committed to do or what will I commit to do in order to serve God and to serve God's people?



Religious Education Kickoff

Sunday September 15

SJ—after Mass

SH—after Mass

SMM 9:30

St. Margaret Mary—Please email Jill at jfulton.stmm@gmail.com to get the link to register for 24-25 religious education classes



Saint of the week: St. Joseph of Calasanz (August 25) was the youngest of five children born to Don Pedro Calasanz and Donna



Maria Gastonia. His mother and a brother died while he was still in school. Joseph studied at Estadilla, at the University of Lereda, at Valencia, and at Alcala de Henares. He obtained degrees in canon law and theology. His father wanted Joseph to become a soldier, to marry, and to continue the family, but a near fatal illness in 1582 caused the young man to seriously examine his life, and he realized a call to the religious life.

He was ordained on December 17, 1583. He became the parish priest at Albarracin and later the secretary and confessor to his bishop, synodal examiner, and procurator. Joseph revived religious zeal among the laity discipline among the clergy in a section of the Pyrenees. Both his bishop and his father died in 1587.

He would later become the vicar-general of Trempe, Spain. Following a vision, he gave away much of his inheritance, renounced most of the rest, and traveled to Rome in 1592. He worked in the household of Cardinal Ascanio Colonna as theological advisor for the cardinal and the tutor to the cardinal's nephew. Joseph also worked with plague victims in 1595.

As a member of the *Confraternity for Christian Doctrine*, he tried to get poor children, many of them orphans and/or homeless, into school. The teachers, already poorly paid, refused to work with the new students without a raise; in November 1597, Joseph and two fellow priests opened a small, free school for poor children. Pope Clement VIII and later Pope Paul contributed toward their work. He was soon supervising several teachers and hundreds of students.

In 1602 they moved to larger quarters and reorganized the teaching priests into a community. In 1612 they moved to the Torres palace to have even more room. In 1621 the community was recognized as a religious order called *Le Sciole Pie (Religious Schools)*, also known as the *Piarists*, or *Scolopii* or *Ordo Clericorum Regularium Pauperum Matris Dei Scholarum Piarum* or *Order of Poor Clerks Regular of the Mother of God of the Pious Schools*. Joseph acted as superior of the *Order*.

The community encountered many obstacles – Joseph's friendship with the astronomer Galileo Galilei caused a stir with some Church officials. Some of the ruling class objected that to educate the poor would cause social unrest. Other *Orders* that worked with the poor were afraid they would be absorbed by the *Piarists*. But the group continued to have papal support and continued to do good work.

In his old age, Joseph suffered through seeing his *Order* torn apart. He was accused of incompetence by Father Mario Sozzi, who was chosen as new superior of the *Order*. Sozzi died in 1643 and was replaced by Father Cherubini who pursued the same course as Sozzi, and nearly destroyed the *Order*. A papal commission charged with examining the *Order* acquitted Joseph of all accusations, and in 1645, returned him to superior of the *Order*, but internal dissent continued. In 1646 Pope Innocent X dissolved the *Order*, placing the priests under control of their local bishops.

Gospel Shorts—Will You Also Go Away?

Moments of truth occur to each of us in life, either about oneself or about one's caring and responsibility for another, or about the freedom that must be allowed to the other on such an occasion. One of these moments in the life of Jesus is described in our Scripture reading today. It is a crucial occasion both for Jesus and his disciples. Jesus has just summarized an important and essential teaching about himself, about his relationship to the Father, about what he expects of his followers. Some find his teaching too difficult and refuse to walk with him anymore. Instead of calling them back, he faces the moment of truth for himself by allowing his closest disciples to exercise their freedom — "Will you also go away?"

It is the kind of experience that every leader, every parent, every teacher inevitably must face. How far do you go in respecting the freedom of will of another human being? Jesus gives us a beautiful example of how this moment should be handled. His followers, by the same token, are challenged, as were the disciples, to respond to their moment of truth with a humble and courageous act of faith and freedom. So we, too, face similar moments, similar challenges in life that call for the same humility, faith and fidelity to the Lord — "Will you also go away?"

Questions Catholics Ask Who invented the sacraments?



Sacrament is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace." (photo: Pixabay)

The classic definition of a sacrament is that it's an outward sign *instituted by Christ* to give grace. "Instituted by Christ" is a curious phrase. It clearly does not mean that Jesus, in his lifetime on earth, listed seven and only seven actions that will forever be known as sacraments. In fact, Jesus never uses the word.

The definition derives from fifth-century Saint Augustine, who taught that a sacrament is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace." He left out the part about where they came from. Third-century theologian Tertullian seems to have begun calling the initiating rituals of the church by the term *sacramentum*, which at the time was used for the oath of loyalty a Roman soldier vowed to the emperor. This Latin root word for sacrament means hidden or secret, similar to the Greek word for mystery.

Augustine advances the understanding of a sacrament by linking it to efficacy: that is, it effects what it signifies, does what it says. So baptism's waters bring death to sin and new life to us. Bread and wine become

Christ's body and blood. However, Augustine fails to supply a definitive list of which actions do this. Nor does he limit sacraments to rituals but also includes objects. Across his writings, some 300 actions and elements are deemed signs of sacred realities; it's unclear that Augustine doesn't intend them all to be sacraments.

The church over time limits sacraments to ritual acts. Things—like holy water, ashes, palms—can be "sacramentals": elements that derive meaning from the sacraments. The Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 delineated the list of seven sacraments Catholics celebrate today.

In the New Testament, the ritual acts routinely practiced by the early church were baptism of new members and the breaking of the bread on the first day of the week. The Letter of James recommends anointing the sick, in imitation of Jesus who frequently touched those he healed. The practice of laying hands on those chosen for leadership is attested in the Acts of the Apostles. Both Jesus and Saint Paul rigorously support faithful marriages and forgiveness of sins in their teaching. Communicating the Holy Spirit as a seal of mature faith is also demonstrated by Jesus and later the apostles. Theologian Mark R. Francis implies that God "invents" sacraments as they exist to save us. It's the whole reason we have them—and the church.

Scriptures: Mark 1:9-10; 6:41-44; 8:23; 10:2-12; 14:22-24; Matthew 18:18; 19:1-9; 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; John 2:1-11; John 20:22-23; Acts 2:38, 41-42; 6:3-6; 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16; James 5:14-16

August is Catholic Charities Month!

While many of us associate summer with carefree days and fun activities, it is important to remember that summer brings unique challenges for those living in poverty. At Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet, the need is greater than ever. Extreme heat can be unbearable (and sometimes dangerous) for our neighbors without air conditioning in their homes or vehicles. The current high costs of housing and food have placed an even greater strain on those who were already struggling. We all feel the pinch, but for families living at or below the poverty level, this situation can be devastating. The need for food and shelter in our community has never been greater. In response, we have expanded our services, but we need your help to continue providing much-needed programs and services to those in need. Your generous donation will help us provide food, shelter, and other critical services to our most vulnerable neighbors. Each gift makes a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. Will you help the poor and vulnerable in honor of Catholic Charities Month?

Thank you for your continued support and for making a difference in our community. To donate, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org or call 815-724-1140.

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of Christ's Passion

SAVE THE DATE!

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CONCERT
MUSIC WITH A MESSAGE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

Featuring:
PJ Anderson
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Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
Why do we call the Church the "Bride of Christ"

Have you ever wondered why the Church is the bride of Christ?

We often hear that the Church is the Bride of Christ. Have you ever wondered about the deeper meaning behind this phrase?

Most people are familiar with Ephesians 5:26-32:

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself, for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are parts of His body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great, but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."

In his book *Salvation: What Every Catholic Should Know*, Michael Patrick Barber discusses the meaning behind calling the Church Christ's Bride. He reminds us that the Church as Christ's Bride is inseparable from understanding the Church as His mystical body. He explains:

"We can easily misunderstand the 'body of Christ' metaphor used for the Church. The point is *not* that the Church is a headless torso. In marriage, two become so truly united that they become 'one flesh,' that is, 'one body.' When a husband loves his wife, he 'loves *himself*' and cares for his 'own flesh.' The Church is the body of Christ because the Church is his bride."

The Church is a bride because Jesus is a bridegroom. He spoke of Himself as the Bridegroom (cf. Mt 9:15; Mk 2:19-20, Lk 5:34-35) and the Church is the bride described in the Book of Revelation (21:2). Furthermore, the Church is a Mother because our souls are born in her, and this motherhood flows forth from her role as the Bride of Christ.

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Hi Everyone,

I'm Vic Carlile, the 2024 Individuals with Intellectual Disability Drive (Tootsie Roll Drive) chairman, **and I'm asking for your help.** It's that time of year again, and your Tri-Parish Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council 15032 will be holding our annual Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Drive on September 13, 14 and 15.

One of our main objectives is to aid and contribute to organizations devoted to the care of individuals and particularly those inflicted with one or more forms of Intellectual disability. Such as Best Buddies Herscher High School and KCTC (Kankakee County Training Center) to name a couple.

To do this it takes a lot of volunteers to make it a successful drive. I'm asking that you donate just two (2) hours out of your weekend. We will be collecting donations at Casey's in Herscher, Herscher State Bank, Herscher State Bank of Limestone, Dollar General in Herscher and perhaps with your help, some other locations.

If you can help us in this worthy Christian endeavor, please contact me by email or text and we can get you scheduled. We're counting on you to make this the most successful drive we've ever had. Please contact me by September 1st if possible.

My email is viccarlile51@gmail.com or text me at 815-955-6477

Respectfully,

Vic Carlile

Chairman 2024 Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Drive





August 18, 2024

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prov 9:1-6 | Eph 5:15-20 | John 6:51-58

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

We tell our children, from a young age through their teen years: make wise choices. It's a sort of catch-all to cover the endless possibilities of circumstances - good, bad, or neutral - they might find themselves in. But what does it mean to be wise? To have wisdom? In today's first reading from Proverbs, we are shown a depiction of wisdom herself, spreading a table where the guests will dine when they arrive. "Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed!" she says. This invitation is echoed in the Gospel, by Wisdom personified: Jesus Christ. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day." Simplicity of heart and the forsaking of foolishness are the only criteria for accepting the offering of wisdom. It seems we are to come and be fed. But how do we discern, in our fast-paced, consumer-based world, what exactly is a wise choice? It's hard to advance in true wisdom; it is acquired by the humble and the simple, not the busy and the overcomplicated. Often, what the Christian deems important the world finds "foolish." It can be hard to keep our priorities rightly ordered, but advancing on the path to wisdom begins first by recognizing the centrality of God in our lives and humbly allowing him in.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, he instructs the people, saying, "Watch carefully how you live." I'd like to think that's where we got our "make wise choices" instruction, but I can't be sure. Again, the dichotomy between foolishness and wisdom is addressed. Wisdom is described as being prudent, which is living with one eye in the present, but also one eye toward the future, and being filled with the Holy Spirit. Elaborating even further, Paul provides a beautiful image of "singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything." In the life of one living with wisdom, there is a turning toward true joy. Living in a spirit of gladness is in direct opposition to living in a spirit of fear or comparison. Since wisdom and understanding are both gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit, we can invite him into our midst and ask him to increase our wisdom, understanding, and our capacity for joy.

ENGAGE Cultivating wisdom and understanding is a lofty, but worthy, goal! This week, spend some time familiarizing yourself with the Wisdom literature of the Bible (which consists of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom, and Sirach) by reading the introductions to one or more of them. Explore some of the Scriptures themselves.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 18, 2024: Prv 9:1-6 | Ps 34:2-7 | Eph 5:15-20 | Jn 6:51-58

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank you for the precious gift of your presence in the Holy Eucharist. Amen.

Abide in me, Lord, and I will Abide in You.

Jesus says, "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and me in him." This week, we continue focusing on Christ's sermon, the "Bread of Life discourse," a teaching of profound spiritual significance. We already know that Jesus meant exactly what He said when He told us to eat His body and drink His blood to gain everlasting life. Let us now look at what He meant by the words "abides in me, and me in him."

God loves us and has a unique plan for each of our lives. Part of that plan is to have a loving relationship with Him so He can help us reach our potential. God wants to abide in us, to dwell or live in our hearts, and to fill our souls with His supernatural grace.

What a great blessing to receive Jesus' real Body and Blood, His Real Presence, through the Holy Eucharist! Even amid this troubled world with so much discord and so many contrary messages against Gospel teachings, we know that God abides in us. If we allow Him, He will transform us to speak, think, and act according to His Holy Will. This heavenly food fuels us to discern right from wrong, fight



temptations, forgive one another, and love like Christ.

Through the power of Jesus in the Eucharist living within us, we are empowered to live the Gospel daily, look for Christ's face in others, and share the reason for our joy, hope, and peace with the world around us.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † In what ways do you prepare your heart to receive Jesus in Communion?
- † How does knowing Jesus is alive and abiding within you affect how you treat yourself and others?
- † How does receiving the Eucharist lead to a life of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society?
- † How does the frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist in Communion build interior joy and peace?