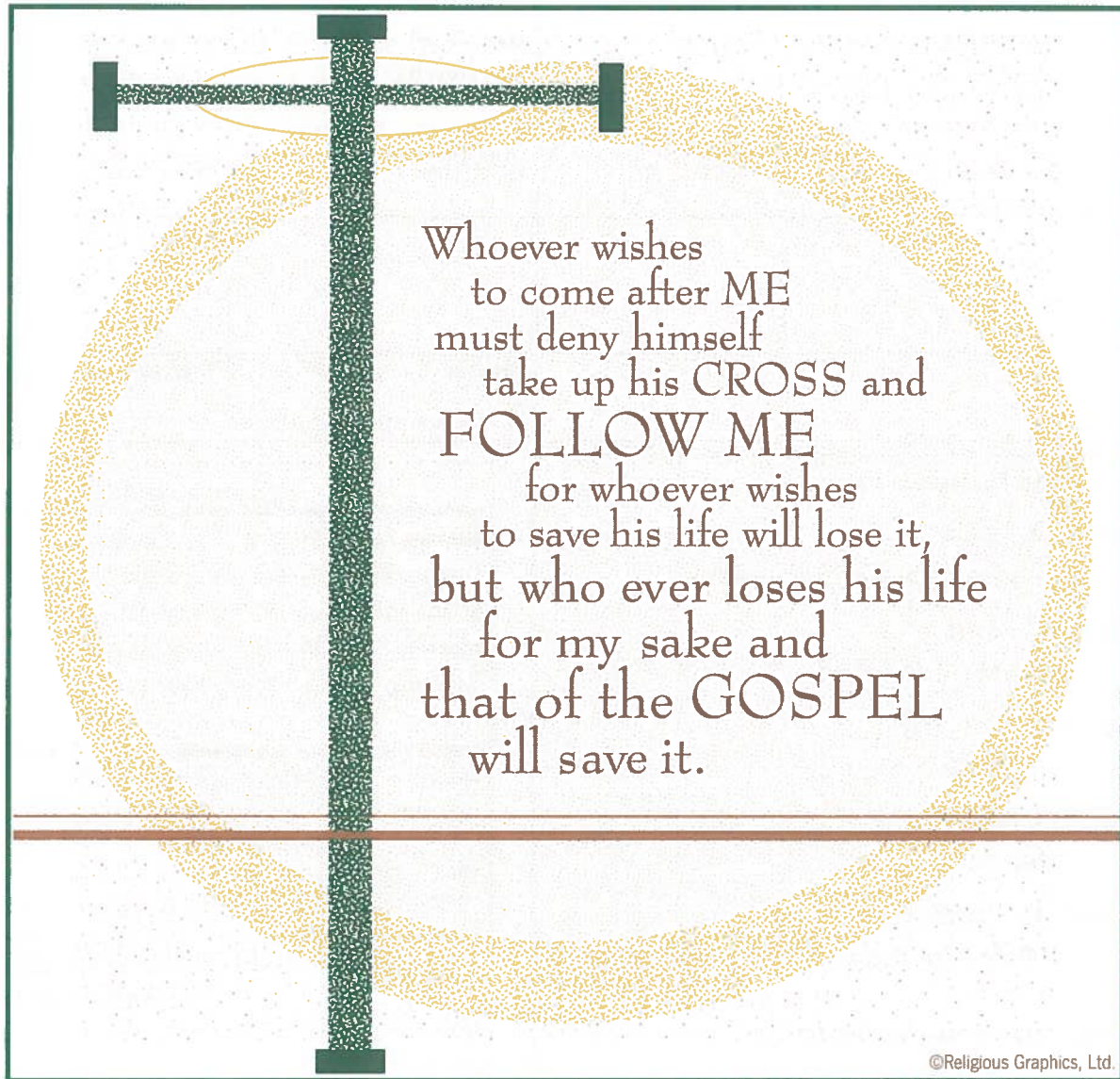


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 14-15, 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: "Action without a name, a "who" attached to it, is meaningless."

—Saint Jerome

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sept. 21-22, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Sept. 21 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Sept. 22 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Sept. 22 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Sept. 22 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Gery Wright Roger Jensen Dan Hoffman	Dennis Pankey David Kirkpatrick	Jeff Steinke Dallas Ferris Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe	Marko Smolkovich Garrett Smolkovich Larry Wolles Brent Fulton
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Cindy Gagnon	Kelly Buente	Steve Jacob
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Jerry Ogrentz R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Stacey Powers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Sept. 16 (SMM)

8:00 am + Frank Matzinger (Uta Dubravec)

Tuesday, Sept. 17 (SH)

8:00 am +Adam Andrejewski (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, Sept. 18 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, Sept. 20 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, Sept. 21 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Bob Landeck & Joel Eberle (Jackie Eberle)

Sunday, Sept. 22

7:30 am (SH) +Jerry Whalen (Dan/Karen Loftus)

+Dorine Schafer (Scanlon Collision)

9:00am (SJ) For All the Parish Family

10:30am (SMM) +Bob & Rita Deany (Lori / John Teders)

Question of the week

What cross of mine can I commit to carrying without complaining?
Will I accept help when necessary? Whom can I assist in carrying their own cross?

A Look Ahead

Sunday, Sept. 15—CCW at SJ after Mass

Sunday, Sept. 15—Religious Education Kickoff SJ & SMM

Wednesday, Sept. 18—No Adult Ed. Class

Monday, Sept. 23—CCW at SMM 7:00pm

Saturday, Oct. 12—Rosary Rally 12:00 pm at SMM

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

Collections Week of August 31– Sept. 1, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,105

St. James—\$2,354

Sacred Heart—\$1,123

Thank you for your generosity!



During the month of Sept., Sacred Heart C.C.W will be collecting baby items and monetary donations to benefit "Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Ctr., in Kankakee. There will be a basket at the entrance to the church that you may put your donations and baby bottles that you can use as a bank

to put your cash or check in (make checks out to Sacred Heart C.C.W.) The Pregnancy Ctr. has a list of items that they could use and there will be copies available. Many Thanks!!

Reflection—Our Reflection and Response,

It is not for us to decide what shape a cross will take. It is for us to receive life as it is given to us or more actively, to meet the life that surrounds and summons us. We are not called to deliver messages or to bristle with judgment and moral condemnation or to burn with self-righteous fury. For these behaviors are essentially self-seeking and will only yield isolation.

As Paul reminds us, we have already been bought and paid for. We already have been born into the resurrection of the one into whose death we were baptized. We are asked to enter into the life we have already been given — the crucified and risen one.

This is an accessible and possible life. It is not grand and high-flowing, it is close to the earth. It involves the person who needs a glass of water, the one who stands at the door of our house or heart. We are just asked to die to all that is less, to forgo all that is demeaning and small and isolating (which is longhand for death).

This is a good week to think about the people we most frequently take for granted or to include in our prayer those people whom we have locked into pigeonholes and from whom we expect no change, no surprises.

This is the week for us to give them our best regards ... unconditionally.



Religious Education Kickoff
Sunday September 15

SJ—after Mass
SMM 9:30

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ The first CCW meeting of the fall will be held Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 pm. There will be a \$25 Casey's gift card given to one lucky attendee. Please join us!

St. James—

- ◆ All are invited to join our first CCW meeting of the year on Sunday, September 15 after the 9 am mass in the hall

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of September 15th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for Ann Wheeler and the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Rhonda Harris

All Parishes—

- ◆ There will be no adult class on Wed., Sept. 18. The next class is Wed., Sept. 25.
- ◆ 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.



Current Status for 2024 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Sacred Heart	\$6,000	\$7,650	\$6,875
St. MM	\$9,400	\$9,640	\$9,405
St. James	\$8,800	\$7,345	\$7,228



Welcome into the faith to

Dean Turner
Ronan Turner
Margo Turner

Children of Avery Turner and Jimmy Turner
who were baptized at St. Margaret Mary
on August 17, 2024

Gospel Shorts—The Set of One's Mind

When Peter rebuked Christ because Christ said that he must suffer, Christ said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." (Mark 8:33) Peter's problem might be ours as well. Our perspective seems to be our own, not God's.

Saint of the week: St. Cyprian (Sept. 16) was born to wealthy pagan parents. Cyprian taught rhetoric and literature. He converted as an adult in 246, taught the faith by Saint Caecilius of Carthage. He was ordained in 247. He became the bishop of Carthage in 249. During the persecution of Decius, beginning in 250, Cyprian lived in hiding, covertly ministering to his flock; his enemies condemned him for being a coward and not standing up for his faith. As a writer he was second only in importance to Tertullian as a Latin Father of the Church. A friend of Saint Pontius, Cyprian was involved in the great argument over whether apostates should be readmitted to the Church; Cyprian believed they should, but under stringent conditions. He supported Pope Saint Cornelius against the anti-pope Novatian. During the persecutions of Valerian, he was exiled to Curubis in 257, brought back Carthage, and then martyred in 258. His name is in the *Communicantes* in the Canon of the Mass.



Obscure Saint of the week: St. Edith of Wilton (Sept. 16) was the daughter of King Edgar the Peaceable and Saint Wilfrida. She was raised in the abbey in Wilton, England, which she never left. She was educated at the royal court, learning to read, write, illuminate manuscripts, sew and embroider. She was a Benedictine nun from age 15. Edith was offered the position of abbess at three houses, and her father's throne, but she refused them all. Edith built Saint Denis Church at Wilton. She had a gift for communicating with wild animals. Saint Dunstan nursed her during her fatal illness, having received a vision of her passing.

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

Jesus and his disciples headed out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. As they walked, he asked, "Who do the people say I am?"

"Some say 'John the Baptizer,'" they said. "Others say 'Elijah.' Still others say 'one of the prophets.'"

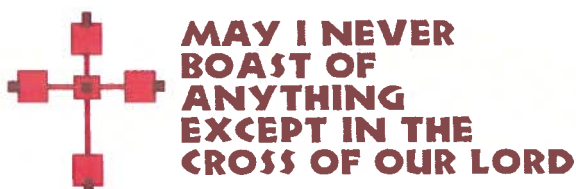
He then asked, "And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?"

Peter gave the answer: "You are the Christ, the Messiah."

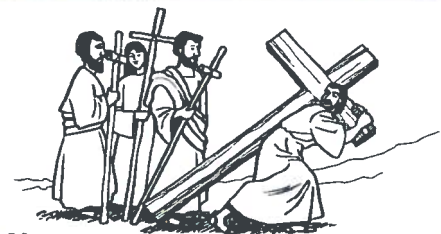
Jesus warned them to keep it quiet, not to breathe a word of it to anyone. He then began explaining things to them: "It is necessary that the Son of Man proceed to an ordeal of suffering, be tried and found guilty by the elders, high priests, and religion scholars, be killed, and after three days rise up alive." He said this simply and clearly so they couldn't miss it.

But Peter grabbed him in protest. Turning and seeing his disciples wavering, wondering what to believe, Jesus confronted Peter. "Peter, get out of my way! Satan, get lost! You have no idea how God works."

Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self" (from Mark 8).



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"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself..." MARK 8:34

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Which Catholic chaplain inspired “Saving Private Ryan”?

The “Paratrooper Padre” was a legend among legends.

When a couple of German soldiers raised their rifles to shoot American Army chaplain Fr. Francis Sampson, he was trying to say the Act of Contrition. But the only words he could manage to say were:

“Bless us, O Lord, and these, Thy gifts...”

These words would not be his last. They were interrupted, perhaps, by a stern “*Halt! Schiess nicht!*”

A Catholic German non-commissioned officer stopped the execution, recognizing Fr. Sampson as a priest. This German officer showed the priest a Catholic medal he wore and pictures of his infant child. Fr. Sampson would later recall that moment, noting the momentary brotherhood he had with an “enemy” who shared his faith.

Fr. Sampson was able to return to the wounded he had been tending: soldiers who had taken bullets when fighting their way up the beaches of Normandy. Fr. Sampson had jumped in with the 101st Airborne, and—after determinedly recovering his Mass kit which had fallen into a stream—had set about caring for the suffering soldiers.

The courageous Padre stayed with the wounded, even when the rest of the force had to pull out. After they were all evacuated to a division hospital, he continued his tireless care for them. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroism on those days.

The inspiration for the film “Saving Private Ryan”—a 1998 film that portrays the search for a lone private whose three brothers had been killed in combat—came from an incident around this time.

Chaplain Sampson was approached by another paratrooper, Fritz Niland, who learned that his brother, Robert, had been killed on D-Day and buried nearby. Another brother, Edward, had been shot down over Burma a few weeks prior, presumed dead.

The compassionate chaplain drove Niland around nearby cemeteries in order to locate Robert’s grave. But they made a terrible discovery during their search. They found the grave not of Robert at first, but of Preston—another brother whose death Fritz hadn’t heard about. One can only imagine the young paratrooper’s distress. Thankfully, he had Fr. Sampson with him.

The Chaplain knew that this soldier had seen enough, and that his family deserved to have at least one of their four sons back. So he began the paperwork to have Fritz sent home (which Fritz strongly objected to—to no avail).

The 1998 film takes its inspiration from this incident, but the connection is otherwise loose. Fritz wasn’t lost (he did have to jump early from his plane and ended up behind enemy lines for nine days, but he made it back).

And as God’s good providence would have it, he wasn’t the only Niland brother to come home. Edward also survived, freed after a year’s internment in a Japanese POW camp.

Fritz’s service was over, but Fr. Sampson’s was not. He later jumped into Holland and was captured trying to rescue trapped American troops during the Battle of the Bulge.

Over the following four months, Fr. Sampson continued his lifesaving work, caring for the imprisoned soldiers physically and spiritually. He chose to stay in the enlisted men’s barracks instead of the officers’ quarters. On Easter, he celebrated Mass alongside Dutch, Polish, and French Catholic chaplains for thousands of prisoners.

When the camp was liberated and the war ended, he still wasn’t done. He went on to serve in Korea, and, after being appointed Chief of Chaplains of the Army, spent Christmases visiting troops in Vietnam.

The Cherokee, Iowa native—who had spent nearly his whole priestly career as a chaplain—died on January 28, 1996. He wrote about his incredible experiences in “Look Out Below!” and “Paratrooper Padre” which chronicled his experiences as a chaplain in jump boots.

Whether you’re jumping into enemy territory or just fighting the daily battles of life, be sure to keep your prayer life in top shape with the timeless *Wartime Prayer Book*. Written by the great Fulton Sheen for soldiers in World War II, this compilation offers spiritual strength for both professional servicemembers and for the everyday spiritual warrior inside all of us.

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Questions Catholics Ask Do Catholics believe in fate?



The key word for Catholics is providence, not fate.

Benedictus Fate's an interesting word. It derives from the Latin *fatum*, "that which has been spoken." It's been described as the handwriting on the wall or the inevitability of life's course. When we meet the love of our lives, we may feel this encounter was meant to be. Or we may sense that our vocation, discovered early, was the only career track or direction we were destined to walk.

Truly we're not in control of many factors governing our lives. In some ways we can describe ourselves as pre-determined: our place of origin, race, genetic code, moment of history, and so on. Elements that profoundly affect our course aren't ours to choose, including the unavoidability of death.

So, on the one hand, our faith tells us we're free choosers and co-creators of our destiny. Yet in other ways, we recognize volition isn't the whole story. We plan, but plans may be undone by outside forces. It's no wonder some folks surrender to a suspicion that scientific randomness is the true force that governs history; or, that most or all of what happens to us is already "in the cards" or predestined. Even people of faith may shrug and speak of "God's will" as if God is the divine face of fate, fixing our

state of life just as it is.

What does the church teach about all this? The key word for Catholics is *providence*, not fate. The biblical word is often translated as God's plan, design, or order, but providence is not to be confused with a prewritten history. God's plan, as the sacred stories make abundantly clear, is that creation flourishes and the human community enters into its fullness. This fullness is described as *shalom*, a word meaning peace, justice, happiness, and goodness. If there's a divine design, it's not that we should tread on an immutable path, but that we follow the path that leads to ultimate joy: union with God. God's goal for all creation is the road to salvation, a "new creation."

Providence is the authority governing and illuminating this path. Teachers instruct and prophets may warn, but we won't always attend to their direction. Providence doesn't force us down a chute of decision, but is rather a divine intention we can always trust. Perhaps Julian of Norwich expressed it best: "All will be well, and all manner of things will be well." The happy ending awaits.

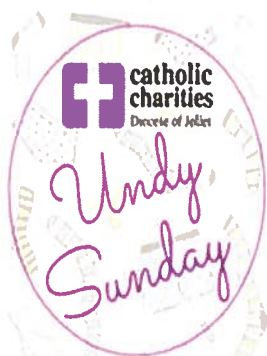
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 7:9-11; 11:26-28; Job 10:12; Psalm 33:11; 36:6-13; Isaiah 44:6-8; Jeremiah 7:4-7; Ezekiel 18:1-32; Daniel 12:1-3; Wisdom 6:6-8; 8:1; 11:2; 14:3-7; 17:2; Sirach 32:14-24; Matthew 6:25-34; Acts 2:37-39; Romans 1:1-7; 11:22-24; Hebrews

Undy Sunday 2024 at St. Margaret Mary

Did you know that new underwear and socks are the most-requested but least-donated items at Catholic Charities? These basic items (new underwear, warm socks, a fresh diaper) are truly treasures to those who are living in poverty.

St. Margaret Mary is helping Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet and the individuals and families they serve by collecting the following NEW items for children and adults living in low-income households:

- Women's underwear (S-XL)
- Men's underwear (M-XL)
- Adult socks
- Diabetic socks
- Undershirts for men
- Front hook bras for women (S-XL)
- Adult disposable underwear



The collection will be held from Sept. 7 – Oct. 13 at SMM.

If you would prefer to send a monetary donation, please mail it to:
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet/Undy Sunday
16555 Weber Road
Crest Hill, IL 60403

Monetary donations can also be made online at catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the poor and vulnerable in our community!

2024 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY RALLY

Please join us in praying for our nation.

Where: St. Margaret Mary Church, Main St., Herscher, Illinois

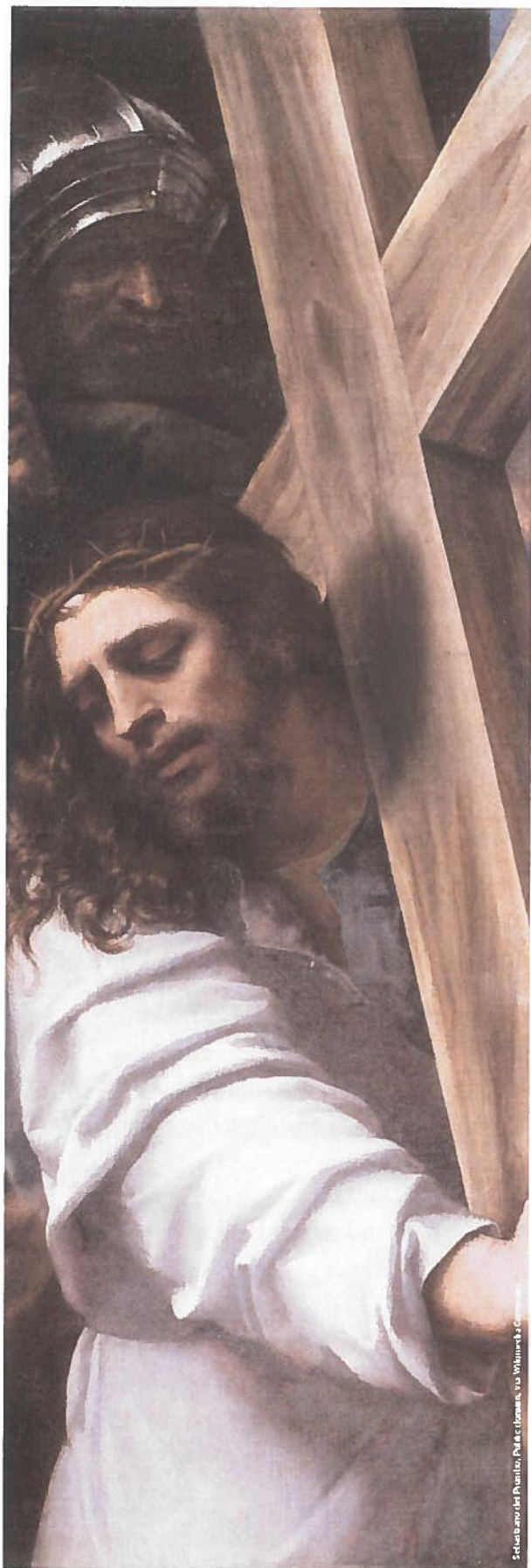
When: October 12, 2024 – ROSARY WILL BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON



Please bring a lawn chair

For more information, please contact:

Cindy Gagnon – (815) 933-4077, Rhonda Berns – (815) 426-5015, Kathy Meli – (815) 928-84



September 15, 2024

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 50:5-9a | Jas 2:14-18 | Mk 8:27-35

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.” Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel don’t leave much room for “secondary interpretation.” Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus. At first glance this may sound intimidating, but let’s think about it in the light of today’s readings. By denying ourselves, we are able to turn more fully toward God and toward others. Isn’t that what James is asking of us in his letter? He says this of faith: “If it does not have works, [it] is dead.” He even uses an example that might sound like something we would hear in a homily today: he asks, if you see someone who doesn’t have proper food or clothing and you simply wish them well without offering assistance, what good are you doing?

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Certainly, when we help and serve others, we are working concretely to build the kingdom of God on earth. We are, quite literally, being Christ’s hands and feet in the world and following in our Lord’s footsteps. By thinking and acting with this mindset, we are turning toward God; we are seeking to lighten the loads of others – helping them to carry their crosses. In today’s Gospel passage, although Peter’s words, “You are the Christ” were faith-filled and seemed to imply understanding, he was not able to embrace the fullness of Christ’s mission. He rebukes Jesus for “setting himself up” to suffer greatly and be killed. In response, Jesus rebukes Peter and says he is not thinking as God does. As human beings, we know we are not able to think as God does. But we are made in God’s image, and the more we love one another, the more we reflect him in what we do.

WITNESS Peter’s mistake was thinking he knew better than God how to do what needed to be done. Is there anything in your life that makes you think you might be like Peter? Choose a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, and spend some time listening to God in prayer as to how he might desire you to perform it.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2024: Is 50:5-9a | Ps 116:1-9 |
Jas 2:14-18 | Mk 8:27-35

Pray: Lord Jesus, help me take up my cross and follow you in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Who is Jesus to YOU?

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say I am?" and "Who do you think I am?" This is a typical question for most of us, too. We want to know what people think about us, which often influences our self-concept, actions, reasoning, and confidence. Sometimes, caring too much about what others think can be unhealthy, but other times, when seeking a close relationship with someone, this is very important.



People usually try to get to know each other first before entering any true and lasting friendship, especially a romantic relationship. Spending time together to learn what is important to one another is crucial. We try to learn everything we can about each other's likes/dislikes, values, hopes, dreams, goals, fears, concerns, and life experiences. After sharing, we may ask ourselves, "how do they see me? Does this person accept me for who I am?" The other person probably thinks the same thing because mutual acceptance builds respect and trust, vital in any loving relationship.

Jesus wanted a personal, loving, and trusting relationship with His disciples and desires the

same kind of intimate friendship with us. Once the disciples acknowledged Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus told them the hard truths they would need to accept, even if they didn't yet fully understand, that He would suffer, die, and rise from the dead. Not only this, but all who love and believe in Him must do the same if they genuinely trust Him.

Today, Jesus continues to ask, "Who am I to you? Are you willing to spend time with me as your intimate friend and confidant? Do you believe my teachings even when it seems hard? Are you willing to put your faith in me into action? Will you accept your own suffering, persecutions, trials, and crosses in this life, trusting that I will carry you to eternal joy and peace with my Father?"

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Are there some parts of your life where you must align your actions with your Catholic beliefs?
- † What crosses and sacrifices has God asked you to bear, and has any good come from them?
- † How can you strengthen your relationship with Jesus and your acceptance of difficult Church teachings?
- † How can you help others in their journey of faith?