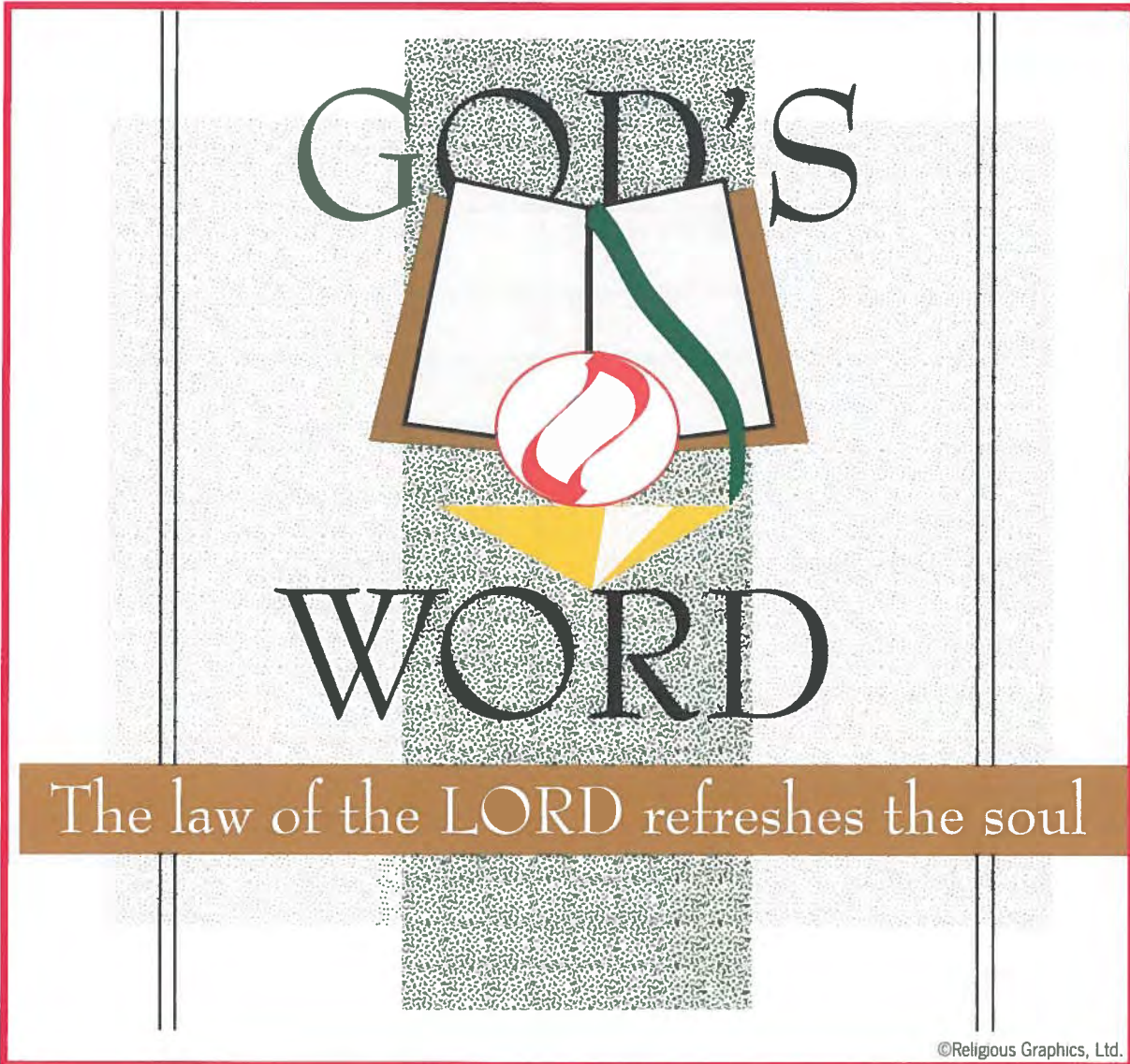


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 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: "My good works, however wretched and imperfect, have been made better and perfected by Him Who is my Lord."
 —Saint Teresa of Ávila

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Oct.5-6, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Oct. 5 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Oct. 6 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Oct. 6 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Oct. 6 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Roger Jensen Dave Emling Gery Wright Bob Schultz	David Kirkpatrick Daryl Ferris	Dennis O'Connor Dallas Ferris Jeff Martin Dave Ladehoff	Garrett Smolkovich Marko Smolkovich Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles
Lector	Hillary Webb	Mike Hertz	Jeff O'Connor	Dana Masching
Eucharistic Minister		Donna Bernicky		Stacie Powers
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Karen Miller	Stacie Powers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Sept. 30 (SMM)

8:00 am + Pat & MaryLou Fosnaugh (Steve/Donna Jacob)

Tuesday, Oct. 1 (SH)

8:00 am +Danielle Timm (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, Oct. 2 (SJ)

8:00 am +Donald & Loretta Smith (Tom/Maureen O'Connor)

Friday, Oct. 4 (SJ) First Friday

8:00 am +Laurie Hansen (Donald/Rita Baker)

Saturday, Oct. 5 (SMM)

5:00 pm +For All the Parish Family

Sunday, Oct. 6

7:30 am (SH) +Ron Meli (Rodney/Kathy Meli)
 +Russ LaGessee (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

9:00am (SJ) Intention of Rita Thiesen (Pam Cuchiara)

10:30am (SMM) +Mary Kelch (Donna/Steve Jacob)
 +Brian Buckley (Yvonne/Diane Saffer)

A Look Ahead

Wednesday, Oct. 2—Adult Ed 7 pm at SMM

Friday, Oct. 4—First Friday Mass & Adoration at SJ

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

Sunday, Oct. 20—Donut Sunday after Mass at SJ

Sunday, Oct. 20—2nd Collection World Mission Sunday

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 Sept. 21-22, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,250

St. James—\$1,450

Sacred Heart—\$960

Thank you for your generosity!



1st Friday Adoration

"First Friday Mass and Adoration will be held on October 4th at St. James.

Adoration will conclude with Benediction at 3:00.

Venerable Norbert McAuliffe on the Blessed Sacrament

When Brother Norbert was asked by someone on what someone should do during a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, he replied, *Just sit there and let God's love come to you from the tabernacle.*"

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

St. James—

- ◆ Donut Sunday on Oct. 20 after Mass

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ Sacred Heart Church will soon be selling tickets for their "Fall Cash Bash" which will take place Sat., November 23rd from 4p.m. till 8 p.m. in the church hall. Tickets are \$50 a piece and will admit 2 adults with a chance of a 1st Prize of \$1,500 or \$500 2nd Prize. There will be games of Euchre (with a buy in by 5pm) & Black Jack. Basket Raffle, Silent & Live auctions, 50/50 's with plenty of food and drinks. For more info call Terri 815 514-8171

All Parishes—

- ◆ Please check the ministry calendar as we are adding a Eucharistic Minister at SJ and Sunday at SMM on the weeks Deacon is not present.

Pumpkin Sale on Sunday, October 6th

After Mass from 10 am-1 pm at St. James Church.

All pumpkins grown in Grandma Gohlke's Garden. Luke and Mary will help you choose just the right size.!

All proceeds go to St. James CCW

Thank you for your support!



Gospel Shorts—Through Whomever God Chooses

John was not the only disciple of Jesus to be surprised that God can and does choose to work good through people whom we would not choose. Nor was he the only one who tried to stop it. In fact, we are all too often among the disciples who would attempt to separate the good that God can do from people whom we have deemed unworthy or "not belonging to our company" as John put it.

We need to listen hard to the responses of Jesus, as it was meant as much for us as it was for John. Those who are not against us are for us. And yes, many will be rewarded to our own surprise. It is left to us to cease the divisiveness we justify and even to cut out the precious prejudice that drives that divisiveness so that together we can allow the Kingdom of God to happen through whom God chooses.

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary Fundraiser

October 13, 2024
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

St. James Church Hall
4372 Main St., Kankakee (Irwin)



Dessert will be served
Basket raffles
Drawing for 50/50 Raffle

Free will donation

Proceeds benefit donations to local nursing homes/charities, clergy appreciation dinner and supporting seminarians.

Reflection— Thoughts for the Day

One thing nice about being imperfect is the joy it brings to others. The brain is a wonderful organ; it starts the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get to the office.

Robert Frost



Saints of the week: St. Maurice of Carnoet (Sept. 29) studied at the University of Paris and later became a Cistercian monk at Langonette Monastery in France in 1144. Maurice was chosen to be the abbot of the house in 1176. He was the founding abbot of Carnoet Abbey in Brittany. When the woods around the house were threatened by aggressive wolves, Maurice reminded his brothers that wolves were God's creations, too, but for their protection he prayed for help, some wolves died, and the attacks ceased.



Obscure Saint of the week: St. Rene Goupil (Sept. 29) entered the Jesuit novitiate in Paris, France, but his deafness prevented his joining the order. He studied medicine, and in 1639 offered to work as a medic for the Jesuit missionaries in America. He served as a missionary to the Hurons, working as a *donné*, a layman who worked without pay. He also worked in a hospital in Quebec, Canada in 1640. Rene was an assistant to Saint Isaac Jogues on his missionary travels. He was captured and tortured by Iroquois, enemies of Huron, for making the sign of the cross over a child's head, which was mistaken for some type of curse. While they were in captivity, Father Isaac received Rene into the Jesuits as a religious brother. He was among the first martyrs in North America. His death by tomahawk in the head led to his patronage of people who work with or receive anesthesia.

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

John spoke up, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to expel demons and we stopped him because he wasn't in our group." Jesus wasn't pleased. "Don't stop him. No one can use my name to do something good and powerful, and in the next breath cut me down. If he's not an enemy, he's an ally. Why, anyone by just giving you a cup of water in my name is on our side. Count on it that God will notice.

"On the other hand, if you give one of these simple, childlike believers a hard time, bullying or taking advantage of their simple trust, you'll soon wish you hadn't. You'd be better off dropped in the middle of the lake with a millstone around your neck.

"If your hand or your foot gets in God's way, chop it off and throw it away. You're better off maimed or lame and alive than the proud owner of two hands and two feet, godless in a furnace of eternal fire. And if your eye distracts you from God, pull it out and throw it away. You're better off one-eyed and alive than exercising your twenty-twenty vision from inside the fire of hell" (from Mark 9).

Question of the week

In what way am I like the one who stores up treasure? In what way am I like the one whose wages are withheld? What can I do from my position to properly reflect the lessons Jesus taught?



ANYONE WHO GIVES YOU A CUP OF WATER TO DRINK...
MK.9:41



The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will be selling 50/50 Raffle tickets after 5:00 pm mass on Saturday, September 28th and after all the Sunday masses on October 6th. Drawing will be October 13th. Proceeds benefit local charities, Clergy Appreciation lunch and supporting seminarians.

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Did you know hot chocolate has Catholic roots?

It's almost hot chocolate season.

As the days get a little cooler, crisper, and shorter, a warm mug filled with a cozy beverage is beginning to feel like exactly what we all need. If hot chocolate is your drink of choice, you may be surprised to learn that your favorite cozy drink wouldn't be what it is today if it wasn't for Catholics!



It all begins with the ancient Mayan and Aztec civilizations, where a frothy, bitter chocolate drink called *xocolatl* was a common beverage. Made from ground cacao beans, water, and spices like chili, it bore little resemblance to the sweet, creamy concoction we know today. Luckily for us, Catholics soon stumbled upon this drink and made a few sweet adjustments.

When Spanish conquistadors led by Hernán Cortés encountered the Aztecs in the early 16th century, they took note of this strange, dark drink served by Emperor Montezuma himself. But it wasn't until the Spanish brought cacao back to Europe that chocolate's transformation began.

At first, the drink remained quite bitter, and it didn't immediately catch on. But as cacao spread through Spain, it underwent a Catholic refinement.

Monks in Spanish monasteries were among the first to experiment with the cacao beans, adding sugar, cinnamon, and milk to tame its bitterness. They recognized that chocolate had potential not only as a satisfying treat but also as an aid to their rigorous fasting routines. Drinking chocolate was not considered breaking the fast, as liquids were permitted even when food was not. This made it a perfect solution for priests and monks during Lent and other periods of religious fasting.

From Spain, hot chocolate spread to Italy, where the Catholic hierarchy, particularly within the Vatican, embraced it with enthusiasm. The Italian Jesuits, known for their missions in South America, were instrumental in promoting chocolate back in Europe. By the 17th century, hot chocolate had become popular in French and Austrian courts as well, especially when Italian-born Queen Marie Thérèse of France made it her drink of choice, influencing royal tastes across Europe.

What's fascinating is how chocolate became entwined with Catholic hospitality. In monasteries and convents, visitors were often offered a cup of hot chocolate as a gesture of warmth and generosity. Even today, in some parts of Spain and Mexico, traditional hot chocolate is still prepared for special Catholic celebrations, like Christmas and feast days.

-reprinted with permission The Catholic Company www.thecatholiccompany

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 Mell – (815) 928-89

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!



Questions Catholics Ask What do theologians do all day?

Good question! It doesn't seem one might make a living talking about God. Most theologians have a day job teaching at universities. Yet their vocation remains to pursue "the science of God." These studies aren't merely academic. Theologians invest in the work of understanding as believers themselves, and for the sake of believers everywhere.

Fourth-century Augustine urged seekers of truth to "believe that you may understand." Later Archbishop Anselm of Canterbury coined a phrase from this idea, "faith seeking understanding," to describe the task of theology. Needless to say, theologians don't make stuff up, spinning theories about divinity from their imaginations or faculties of reason. Scripture and tradition are the central tools of the theologian's trade. Whatever they propose must be grounded in these primary foundations.

In addition, theologians may use methodologies from philosophy, history, and science to stretch toward new horizons of thought, to take in advancements in human learning. Many theologians specialize in certain approaches or subjects. Systematic theology, for example, explores motifs of church dogma: Trinity, Creation, or Incarnation, say. Soteriology is concerned with the workings of grace and the meaning of salvation. Moral theology examines how to discern value choices. Christology meditates on the mystery of Jesus as both human and divine.

Ecclesiology studies the church in its mission, governance, and future directions. Pastoral theology considers how preaching, teaching, and liturgy promote the gospel and connect with the lived situations of real people.

I like Jesuit J.J. Mueller's listing of four major influences shaping the path of contemporary theology. The first is the renewed appreciation for **Scripture's privileged role** in any conversation about God: not the Bible taken literally and fundamentalistically, yet still embraced foundationally. Secondly is **historical consciousness**: ways of viewing and valuing the past as central or irrelevant, ongoing or finished business. Next is the opening of **new avenues of interpretation**: feminist, black, LGBTQ+, and liberation readings, among many others. Finally, we have to be mindful of the quickening of **global interconnectedness** and the responsibility to make theology universally applicable and respectful.

I also love Mueller's acknowledgment that theology isn't the exclusive domain of theologians. We all participate in God Talk with family, friends, coworkers, and in the public sphere of politics and the marketplace. What we say to each other, to children, and to the wider world with our values and decisions is part of the greater work of seeking, understanding, and teaching what we believe.

Scripture: Psalm 119; Wisdom 1:1-7; John 1:1-18; Romans 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; 2 Timothy 3:10-17; 1 John 1:1-4; 2:7-11



Scripture and tradition are the central tools of the theologian's trade. Whatever they propose must be grounded in these primary foundations

World Mission Sunday 2024
October 20th

GO AND INVITE EVERYONE
to the banquet
(Mt 22:9)

YOUR GIFT HELPS SUPPORT:

- 38,140 Bénévoles
- 8,750 Prêtres and Ordonnés
- 12,000 Missions Catholiques
- 844,000 Fidèles
- 258,540 Religieuses

TEXT: "MISSIONS24" TO 44384

SHARE THE FEAST:
Give now

WWW.ONEFAMILYINMISSION.ORG/WMS

Help Socially Isolated Seniors

Catholic Charities' Senior Companion Program (SCP) is looking for people 55 years and older interested in visiting with another homebound senior living in Kankakee or Iroquois County. This is strictly a friendly visit; no homecare duties are involved. Volunteers who meet income eligibility guidelines will receive a tax-free hourly stipend and a mileage reimbursement for time spent with clients.

Senior Companion volunteers provide assistance and friendship to older adults with difficulty with daily living tasks. This program helps seniors stay independent longer and provides respite to family caregivers. Senior Companion volunteers report better health and longevity, having served the community. Are you ready to forge new relationships and make a significant difference in the lives of others?



September 29, 2024

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nm 11:25-29 | Jas 5:1-6 | Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Experience, education, and brainpower give parents wisdom and foresight. They can see the bigger picture and determine, for example, that eating an entire box of cookies will make their child sick – no matter how appetizing the cookies *appear*. God, likewise, has a perspective that is infinitely broader and deeper than our own. This divine perspective is the lens through which we must understand the strong language Jesus uses in today's Gospel. God is a Father who loves us unconditionally and who, like the parent who refuses a child unlimited sweets, knows the harm that sin causes his children in this life and in eternity. "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off." These words, meant to drive home a point for Jesus' disciples, remind us that God desires our good infinitely more than we do, and that this good is ultimately to be united with him for eternity. God *hates* sin in our lives because he *loves* us. If we believe this, no sacrifice will be too great for us as we strive to root out sin, grow in virtue, and follow Jesus with undivided hearts.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Moses' exclamation in the first reading, "Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!" remind us of the mission, given to us at baptism, to permeate the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by our words and example. This is what it means for us to be "prophets." But how do we *become* prophets? And how do we accomplish our task effectively? We begin by engaging in the process described above: leaving sin behind at all costs and embracing lives of virtue. As this process brings us closer to God – especially through prayer, but also through works of mercy – we become increasingly capable of seeing as God sees, making judgments according to his wisdom, and ordering the world around us according to his desires. Our words likewise become more powerful in leading others to Christ because they flow from our ever-deepening friendship with him.

REFLECT What corner of your life have you hesitated to give to God? What attitudes or habits have you been reluctant to invite him to transform? Ask him for the courage and perseverance to give these things over to him and, if needed, to bring them to confession. If you allow him, he will draw you closer to himself and you will become a "prophet" for others in the true sense of the word.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 29, 2024: Nm 11:25-29 | Ps 19:8,10, 12-14 (9a) | Jas 5:1-6 | Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48

Pray: Holy Spirit, help us to see the goodness in others, grant us strength to resist sin in our lives, and give us the grace and courage to lead others in holiness as faithful disciples of Christ. Amen.

Jesus Offers Lessons in Discipleship and Servant Leadership.

Jesus offers three lessons for those who love Him and want to serve as His disciples. First, Christ's disciples must understand that God loves everyone, and the Holy Spirit moves freely in many ways to fulfill His Holy Will. God's grace often operates in unexpected places through unexpected people. In humility and a sense of inclusivity, we must welcome acts of charity and acknowledge the good being done by others, even when they do not belong to our community or share our faith beliefs. God's love and mercy have no boundaries.

The second issue Jesus addresses is the seriousness of sin and how we must make every effort to remove sin from our lives. Although Jesus used graphic language about cutting off a hand or foot or plucking an eye out to signal our need for radical and profound conversion, He did not mean for us to grab a butcher knife. He wants us to let go of anything that leads us away from God, no matter how attached we might be. As faithful disciples, we must be committed to loving and trusting God with all our hearts, and to show our love, we must follow His commandments, knowing



He loves us and wants only the best for us.

The third lesson Jesus stresses is the tremendous spiritual harm caused by scandal and the importance of living sincere and authentic Christian lives as a good witness to others. Living virtuous, prayerful, moral lives and avoiding near occasions of sin protects our souls and helps us avoid leading others into sin. Jesus says that leading others into sin is a grave offense against God for which we will be punished.

To be effective disciples, we must examine our attitudes and ensure we have a generous spirit of loving others in the ways of Jesus, especially those different from us. We must lead others with courage and humility by speaking the truth in love, free of pride and arrogance. We must also examine our personal lives to be sure we weed out our own sins so we may be sincere Christ-like role models.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † In what ways must you first tend to your own spiritual life to be an effective witness and disciple of Christ to others?
- † How would you explain the idea of sin to an unbelieving friend?
- † Why is it important to recognize and support the good works of others?
- † How have you seen the Holy Spirit work in unexpected ways or in unexpected places?