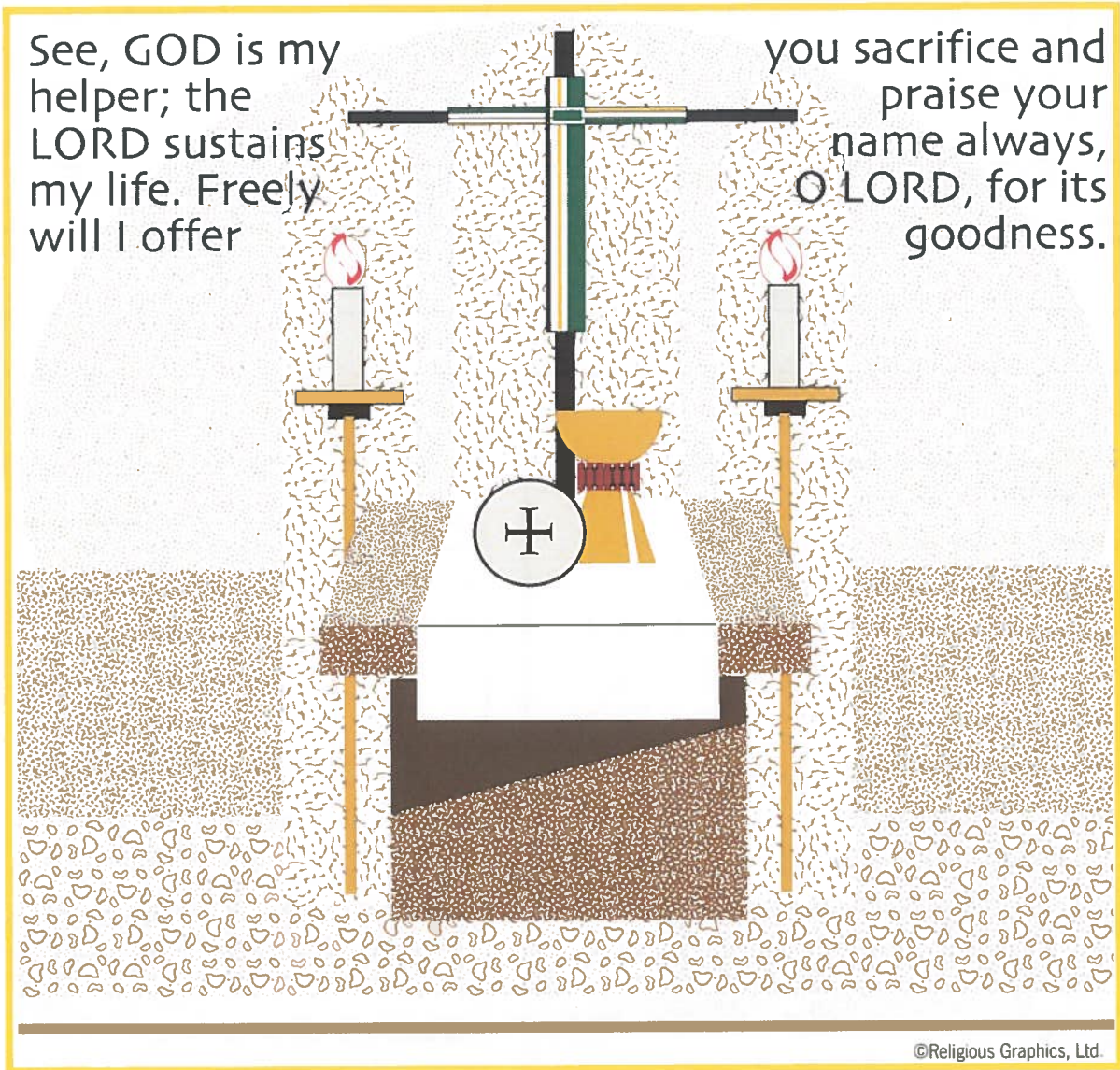


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 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: "Love the children first, and then teach them."

—Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sept. 28-29, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Sept. 28 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Sept. 29 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Sept. 29 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Sept. 29 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Dave Emling Gery Wright Bob Schultz	James Mallaney Kyle Ferris	Jerry Ogrentz Arlen Hansen Bob Buente Vic Carlile	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Darren Lovell Wayne Bisailon
Lector	Rob Landeck	Mike Hertz	Dave Ladehoff	Corinn Wheeler
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Mary Offerman R. Leader—Peerboltes	Wayne Bisailon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Sept. 23 (SMM)

8:00 am + Carol Hassette (Sheila Koerner)

Tuesday, Sept. 24 (SH)

8:00 am +Robert LaGesse (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, Sept. 25 (SJ)

8:00 am +Paul Muhlstadt (Maryanne Cooley)

Friday, Sept. 27 (SMM)

8:00 am +Jim Feller (Norm/Sharon Riordan)

Saturday, Sept. 28 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Dick Fitch (Janet Andrzejewski)
+Madonna Hoffman (Jeff/Valinda King)

Sunday, Sept. 29

7:30 am (SH) +Dick Fitch (Barb/Maynard Denault)
+Leland Denault (Julie Splear)

9:00am (SJ) +Alex Denault (Kathy Dumas)
+Rhea Suprenant (M/M Todd Mesewicz)

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

Question of the week

When have I asked wrongly whether for material things or status? Where has that left me?

A Look Ahead

Monday, Sept. 23—CCW at SMM 7:00pm

Wednesday, Sept. 25—Adult Ed 7 pm at SMM

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 Sept. 7-8, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,006

St. James—\$1,323

Sacred Heart—\$1,234

Thank you for your generosity!

Collections Week of Sept. 14-15, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,565

St. James—\$1895

Sacred Heart—\$1,481

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection— Dear Lord

Thank you for my family. They make my life meaningful.

Thank you for my friends. They give me much joy.

Thank you for my work. It gives me the means to be generous.

Thank you for my country. It is the masterpiece of your creation.

Thank you for my life. It is my opportunity to help make a better world.

Thank you for the gift of yourself. You are the most precious gift of all.

Amen

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!



Old eyeglasses sitting around? This agency collects old eyeglasses, makes the necessary repairs, then sends them overseas to people in need. The Knights of Columbus will be placing collection boxes in the back of each church. Please consider helping with this project by donating your unused glasses. Prescription and reading glasses are needed. Please do not include glass cases.

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—

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

Gospel Shorts—Cherish Our Children

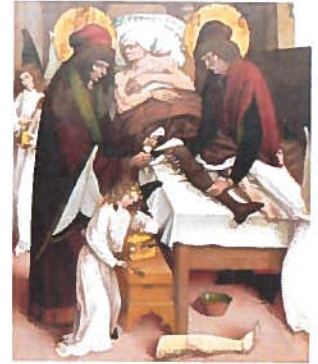
When we hear of loving the unlovable, of being a servant for Christ with a servant's heart, so many times our thoughts turn to the homeless, the downtrodden, the prisoners in our jails. It is time that we look under our noses at an entire part of our population who need Christ's love and compassion almost more than any other group in today's society ... our children. Not just the children who bear our name, but the other children in our church, the neighbor children who ride their bicycles past our house.

In our Gospel, Jesus lifts up a child and sits him on his lap and directs us to receive children in his name. This means many things, but most importantly it means listening to their hearts and lift them in importance by valuing them at every opportunity. It is perhaps one of the critical priorities in a day when millions are under stress they don't understand how to cope with, in a day when suicide is the second largest killer of teenagers, in a day when the average father spends no more than 15 minutes a week of quality time with his own children.



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!!

Saints of the week: St. Cosmas and St. Damian (Sept. 26) were twin brothers. They were physicians, trained in Syria; the brothers accepted no payment for their services, and their charity brought many to Christ. They were reported to have miraculously replaced the ulcerated leg of a man named Justinian with one from a recently deceased man. The brothers were arrested during the persecutions of Diocletian and were tortured but suffered no injury. Many fables grew up about the brothers, connected in part with the ability of their relics to heal.



Obscure Saint of the week: St. John of Meda (Sept. 22) was a priest in Milan and Como, Italy. Following a vision of the Virgin Mary, he joined the *Humiliati* in 1134 and worked for their adoption of the Benedictine Rule. He founded other monasteries in the areas of Milan and Lombardy. John served as abbot and introduced the *Little Office of Our Lady*.

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

Leaving there, they went through Galilee. He didn't want anyone to know their whereabouts, for he wanted to teach his disciples. He told them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed to some people who want nothing to do with God. They will murder him. Three days after his murder, he will rise, alive." They didn't know what he was talking about but were afraid to ask him about it.

They came to Capernaum. When he was safe at home, he asked them, "What were you discussing on the road?"

The silence was deafening—they had been arguing with one another over who among them was greatest.

He sat down and summoned the Twelve. "So you want first place? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all."

He put a child in the middle of the room. Then, cradling the little one in his arms, he said, "Whoever embraces one of these children as I do embraces me, and far more than me—God who sent me" (from Mark 9).



"Whoever receives one child such as this receives me." MARK 9:37

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?

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

What did Joseph and Mary's betrothal look like?
Through miraculous lilies, God chose a simple carpenter for Mary's spouse.



We all know that God chose Joseph to be the husband of Mary. Sacred Scripture introduces him to us:

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary." —Luke 1:26-27

But how did God bring Joseph into Mary's life? What did their betrothal look like? Although it is not described in Sacred Scripture, Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich received a vision of their betrothal, and it is a beautiful and moving scene.

Joseph, though a descendant of King David, led a simple life as a carpenter in Nazareth. Joseph, known for his humility, had a reputation for holiness in Nazareth.

When the priests in the temple sought a man to be the protector and husband of Mary, a young virgin who had dedicated herself to God, Joseph was called along with others from his tribe.

The priests gave each man a dry branch, praying for a sign to reveal God's choice. The men and the onlookers held their breath and prayed for a sign.

Suddenly, Joseph's branch bloomed with beautiful white lilies—symbols of purity and innocence—marking him as the one chosen by God to be Mary's spouse.

Mary accepted this engagement with trust. She knew that God's plan was unfolding, and though she had vowed to remain a virgin, she recognized that this betrothal to Joseph was part of a larger purpose. Neither of them could have expected what God was about to do with their quiet obedience...

Through marriage, the Chaste Heart of St. Joseph and the Immaculate Heart of Mary were joined together. As a family, these two Hearts were joined together with the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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A WORK OF MERCY

St. Michael Church in Wheaton is Partnering
with Local Area Catholic and Christian Churches
and National Life Chain
to Host

CHAIN-FOR-LIFE

ecumenical + prayerful + silent

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH
2:30PM - 3:30PM

520 E. Roosevelt Rd., Wheaton
(Compass Church Parking Lot)

Please bring a friend and encourage all you know to join us for
this peaceful and prayerful event!
Questions? Contact Vince Heaton at wheaton2@gmail.com



Sacred Heart Church will soon be selling tickets for their "Fall Cash Bash" which will take place Sat., November 23 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



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Questions Catholics Ask What am I to understand from the term "Kingdom of God"?



Biblically, the Kingdom refers to God's rule rather than God's realm.

It's important to get this one right. The Kingdom of God isn't another name for our popular understanding of heaven. That is, it's not where we go when we die. Nor is it even a "place" in the temporal sense of the word. Biblically, the Kingdom refers to God's *rule* rather than God's *realm*. Being Kingdom citizens is a matter of embracing God's will as our own and living accordingly.

This helps us appreciate why Jesus refers to the Kingdom as "among" us and even "within" us—always within reach if we but reach for it. We don't have to get there so much as abide there wherever we are. Scripture says we participate in the Kingdom's reality in various ways: repenting and changing our hearts, working toward justice, protecting the vulnerable, and freeing those who are burdened.

Matthew speaks of "the kingdom of the heavens," while Mark and Luke prefer the more direct "kingdom of God." All three gospels see the fulfillment of the Kingdom as central to the teaching of Jesus. We're taught to pray for its arrival in the Lord's Prayer. Our relationship to money and even to family might be an obstacle to full admission. Jesus offers multiple parables and metaphors for understanding the Kingdom's dimensions and implications: a sower, a mustard seed, treasure, a banquet. Matthew's gospel alone references the Kingdom almost 50 times.

In John's gospel, Jesus is clear that the Kingdom can't be mistaken for territory gained by power: it operates distinctly from this world. It's a reality where peace rules and oppression ends. Jesus manifests the Kingdom by coming into this world, but its fullness is not yet in view until his return in glory.

Sometimes we make the mistake of morphing the Kingdom of God with the church on earth. At its best, the church is the sacramental sign of the Kingdom: a signpost, that is, not the destination. We the church proclaim the Kingdom both in formal preaching and in works of justice and mercy. No political system or social program can establish God's rule. We can't make "Kingdom come" by our own efforts. Yet we are summoned to cooperate with the Spirit to enter more fully into the Kingdom's reality by our personal choices and in reshaping society to conform to its values.

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 17:14, 28:5; Psalm 99:4; 146:5-10; Isaiah 6:1-5; 24:23; Zephaniah 3:15; Zechariah 14:16-17; Mark 1:15; 9:1; 10:23-25; Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17; 6:10; 10:34-38; 13:18-19, 24-53; 16:19, 28; 19:23-24; 20:1-16, 20-23; 22:1-14; Luke 9:27; 11:2; 14:15-33; 18:24-25; John 3:3-5; 18:33-37; Acts 8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23

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!

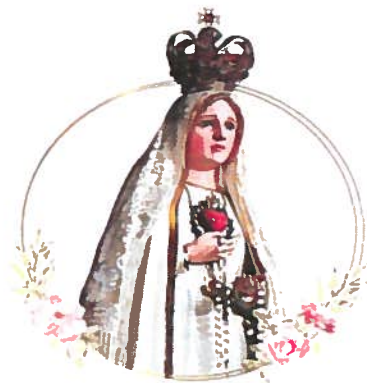


2024 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY RALLY

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 Mell – (815) 928-85



September 22, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 2:12, 17-20 | Jas 3:16—4:3 | Mk 9:30-37

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

How often does ambition get in the way of holiness? In today's Gospel, Jesus foretells his death, and the Apostles respond by arguing over who among them is most important. But the Apostles' aspirations and motivation stand in stark contrast to the humility necessary for discipleship; their lack of understanding signals a need for instruction. "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all," Jesus explains. Those who follow him are to be humble peacemakers who serve others instead of seeking power and accolades. We are to model Jesus, who humbled himself to the point of death on a cross! (Cf., Phil 2:8) Having goals and ambitions is not a bad thing, but they must grow from the seeds of virtue (humility, charity, faith, and hope) rather than as spores of sin (pride, opportunism, and greed). As James wrote in our second reading, "Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits." Seeking to serve, rather than be served, then, is the hallmark of faith well-lived.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." The path of humility Jesus models for us is not just one of compassion and kindness, but one which allows us to grow in relationship with the Lord. As we serve and attend to each other, we embrace God who dwells within each of us and in whose image we are made. We become more like him in following his example. If we cultivate the virtues of humility, charity, faith, and hope in ourselves by practicing them with our families and friends, we will become souls steeped in God's peace. Furthermore, our peace will be unshakeable because it will not be based on our emotions but on our faith in God's love. "Behold, God is my helper," our responsorial psalm declares. "The Lord sustains my life." If I am convinced that God sustains my life, what do I have to fear?

PRAY We can't live in peace if we don't turn to God to guide us in peace. This week take 15 minutes every day to pray for peace - in your life, in your family, in our nation, and in the world. When you hear news of war and conflict, take a minute to recite a prayer for peace in the hearts of all those involved.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 22, 2024: Wis 2:12,17-20 | Ps 54:3-8
| Jas 3:16 – 4:3 | Mk 9:30-37

Pray: Jesus, help me serve you with the pure and humble heart of a child. Amen.

A True Disciple Takes Up His Cross and Follows Jesus, the Humble Servant.

Jesus tried to help His disciples understand the true nature of His kingdom. The people wanted to make Him king. He knew they hoped He would save them from civil turmoil and free them from Roman oppression. But Jesus came to establish the Kingdom of God, not a worldly kingdom. He came to teach them about His Father's love and the reign of God's holy will in their hearts. He wanted to take their souls to an everlasting spiritual kingdom for those willing to follow Him, accept self-denial, and take up their crosses.

Jesus' disciples didn't understand, and couldn't yet accept, the truths He tried to tell them about His upcoming passion, the suffering He would bear, His crucifixion and death on the cross, and His resurrection. They didn't realize that Jesus is the Servant Lord and we, all His disciples, are to follow His example. We are called to be servants to others. We must suffer and die, and then, because of our Savior Jesus Christ, our souls will rise to eternal life. Christ's disciples would not understand all this completely until they received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Jesus found His disciples squabbling amongst themselves over rank and status, fussing over which one of them was the greatest. They were probably "counting their chickens before they hatched," as they dreamed of being part of the



new King's inner circle. Jesus stopped all this when He used a child to show them that, in His Kingdom, true greatness comes from being last and serving all. Greatness is defined by humility, purity of intentions, and service to others. Those who love and follow Christ with the open, pure, and innocent heart of a child that is willing to trust and obey Him will be welcomed first in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus used a child to show that we must welcome and care for everyone, even those society sees as least important. Comparing ourselves to others only leads to jealousy, pride, and unhealthy ambition. God gives each of us unique gifts to serve others and do His will. The Holy Spirit can help us value ourselves and our gifts without competing with others.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What motivates you to serve others?
- † How do you live out humility and service in your daily life?
- † How can we accept our crosses and help others bear theirs?
- † How can our crosses be gifts in disguise?