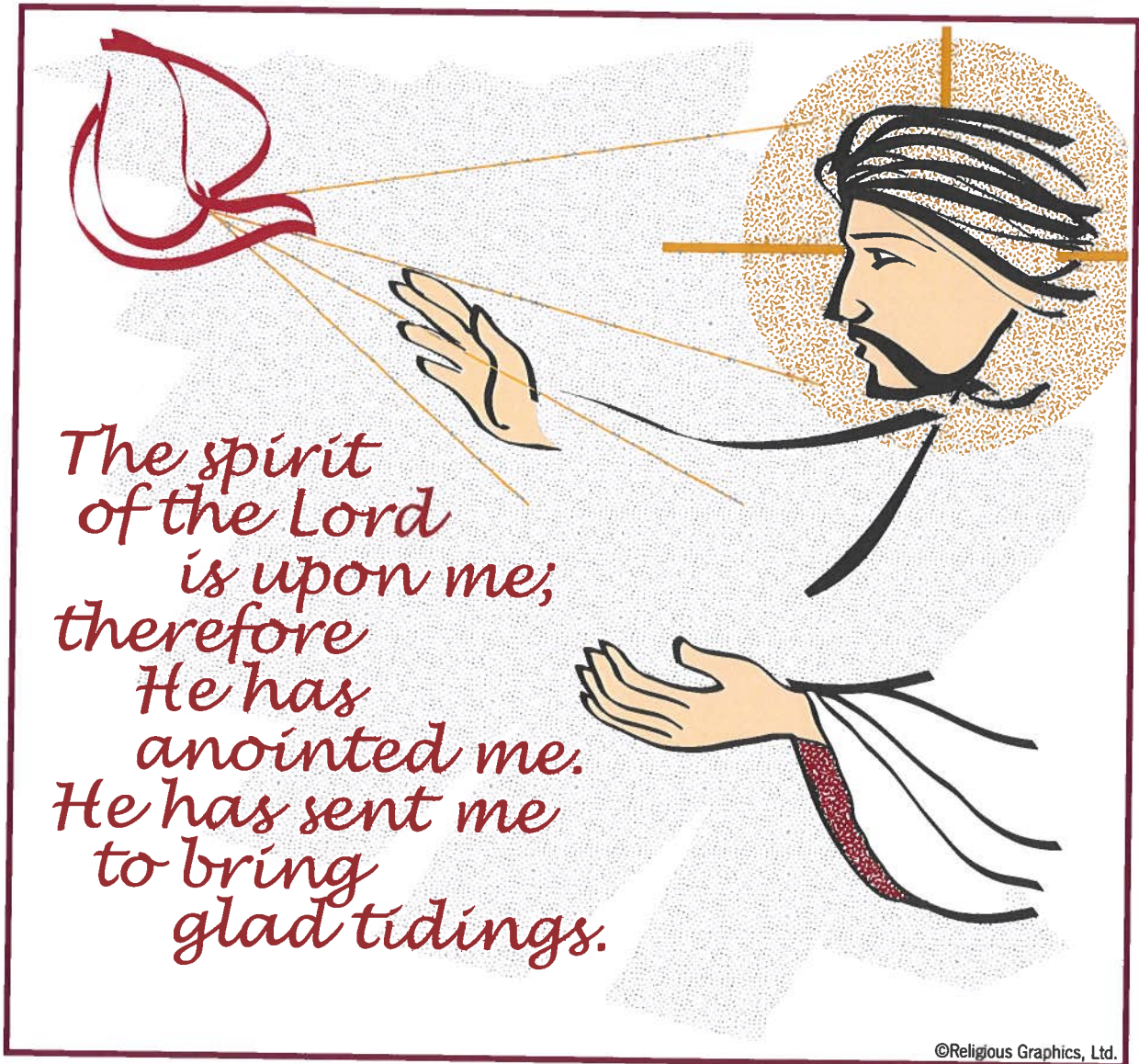


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 25-26, 2025



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: "The Body of Christ was never meant to be lived alone."

—Matthew West, Christian musician

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time				February 1-2 2025
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Feb. 1 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Feb. 2 7:30 am	St. James Sunday Feb. 2 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Feb. 2 10:30 am
Celebrant		Deacon Ron		
Ushers	Dave Emling Bob Schultz Gery Wright Roger Jensen	Daryl Ferris Dennis Pankey	Dallas Ferris Mary Offerman Jerry Ogrentz Arlen Hansen	Sean Riordan Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles Darren Lovell
Lector	Hillary Webb	Darlene Cipcich	Mary Peerbolte	Diane Long
Eucharistic Minister			Dena Coy	Corinn Wheeler
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Stacie Powers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Jan. 27 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Tuesday, Jan. 28 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, Jan. 29 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, Jan. 31 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, Feb. 1 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Bill Fritz (Roger/Margaret Jensen)
+Mary Kelch (Wayne/Julie Bisailon)

Sunday, Feb. 2

7:30 am +Ray Slewinski & Jerry Mescher (D. Mescher)

9:00am (SJ) +Mark Benoit (His Family)

+George Grosso (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

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

A Look Ahead

Monday, January 27—SMM CCW meeting 7 pm

Monday, Jan. 27—Knights of Columbus meeting 7pm SJ

Jan/ 25/26 Weekend—2nd Collection for Church in Latin America

Friday, February 7—Tentative First Friday at SMM

Wednesday, February 19—SH CCW meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, February 21—American Legion Fish Fry 5-7pm

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](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)

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 ldstreefarms@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

How will my Sunday Mass become my daily mission? Specifically how will Jesus' description of his call as our Messiah become part of my mission as his disciple this week?

Collections Weekend of Jan 18-19, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,862

St. James—\$2,238

Sacred Heart—\$1,216

Thank you for your generosity!

Beginning January 6, there will be no weekday masses at any of the Tripuris churches until further notice. Below is the weekday mass schedules for parishes surrounding us.

St. Patrick Dwight-

Tuesday: 6:00 pm

Thursday: 8:00 am (Coffee Shop follows)

St. Peter, Clifton-

Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 am

Assumption BVM, Ashkum

Thursday and Friday 8:00 am

St. John Paul II

Monday-Friday 7:30 am

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Ann Wheeler

Mother of Erik (Corinn) Wheeler

Grandmother of Conner Settles

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

Our sincere sympathy to all Ann's family and friends.



*Adoration
of the Blessed
Sacrament*

Tentative First Friday adoration will be held on Friday, February 7th at St. Margaret Mary.

Adoration will conclude with Benediction at 3:00.

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."

Gospel Shorts Who Is That Guy?

Today's reading confronts us with the New Testament's ultimate question — who is this Jesus? We see him in action. We listen to his teachings and claims. We observe what others saw in him. But sooner or later we all have to make up our minds about Jesus. Who is that guy?

The evidence leads to three possible conclusions. Either Jesus was a mad man, a liar and fraud, or the Son of the Living God. What will you decide?

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's reading from the Gospel of Luke offers us the first words of Jesus as he begins his public ministry. The words reflect his understanding of his Spirit-anointed mission. His words are his "Mission Statement." Good stewards rejoice in being followers of Jesus. They realize that Jesus' commission is their commission as well. They embrace it and adopt it as their own. We, too, have "glad tidings" to bring to a suffering world. This year, how will we fulfill Christ's commission in the world in which he has placed us, using the gifts he has entrusted to us?

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ Our next CCW meeting will be held on Monday, January 27 at 7 pm . After a short meeting, we will have an after holiday party. Anyone who would like to participate can bring a non Christmas gift up to \$20 for the exchange. Refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there.

St. James—

- ◆ We are collecting winter wear accessories (mittens, hats, etc) in the hallway of St. James for the Salvation Army. Thanks to all who participate!

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ Sacred Heart C.C.W. will be sponsoring a BAKE SALE, Sunday Feb. 2 from 8 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. in conjunction with the Salina Fire Dept. Breakfast in Bonfield. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and some sweets, while at the same time helping our community. Members will meet Sat. Feb. 1 at 1 p.m. at the church hall to package bake goods, and as always we appreciate everyone's help.

All Parishes—

- ◆ **The next Adult Religious Ed Class will be announced.**
- ◆ **Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.**
- ◆ There will be no Knights of Columbus meeting on December 23, 2024. The next meeting will be January 27, 2025 .
- ◆ Call the parish office to request your statement of donations to the parish for 2024.

Signs of a Healthy Church

- *People are constantly expressing disagreement, and they do it right out in the open.*
- *The pastor is always behind his work.*
- *The board can never seem to make ends meet financially, and they are forever giving money away.*
- *New groups keep cropping up and bumping into each other over schedules and competing over volunteers.*
- *A number of people occasionally miss meetings and insist on spending time with their families.*
- *The choir is filled with a lot of amateurs.*
- *The kids are noisy and all over the place, including worship.*

Weekend of January 25/26, 2025



Obscure saint of the week: St. Alberic of Citeaux (January 26) was a hermit in Collan, Chatillon-sur-Seine, France. He, Saint Robert of Molesme, and several fellow hermits formed a monastery at Molesmes in 1075 with Alberic as prior. The group's reputation grew, and they attracted disciples, though some were not interested in living by the monastic rule. One of the house's co-founders, Robert, left, and when Alberic tried to enforce discipline, he was briefly imprisoned by his brothers; he finally gave up and left, as well.

In 1098, Alberic and Robert joined with Saint Stephen Harding and about twenty of their disappointed brothers from Molesmes to found a new house at Citeaux, France. This house became the foundation of the Cistercian Order, one of the greatest and most respected houses in the Church.

Alberic served as its first prior, and then abbot, requiring strict adherence to the Benedictine Rule. He established the lay-brother element of the monastery and introduced the Romanesque art form that is characteristic of early Cistercian houses.

Obscure saint of the week : St. Notburga of Buhl, was born a princess, the daughter of a Scottish chieftain. She ascended to the throne in 814 and was married to Duke Alboin in 818. Widowed while pregnant in 820, she fled the country, settling in the village of Bühl in Klettgau in Bavaria (in modern Germany) where she gave birth to nine children on June 24, 820; one of the children died soon after. There being no water in the place where she went into labor, she touched a rock with a stick causing a spring of water to bubble up; she used it to perform an emergency Baptism of the children. She later built a traveler's hostel, a school and a chapel on the site of the spring.



The Sunday gospel in everyday English

So many others have tried their hand at putting together a story of the wonderful harvest of scripture and history that took place among us, using reports handed down by the original eyewitnesses who served this word with their very lives. Since I have investigated all the reports in close detail, starting from the story's beginning, I decided to write it all out for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can know beyond the shadow of a doubt the reliability of what you were taught.

Jesus returned to Galilee powerful in the Spirit. News that he was back spread through the countryside. He taught in their meeting places to everyone's acclaim and pleasure.

He came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

God's Spirit is on me;
he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and
recovery of sight to the blind,
To set the burdened and battered free,
to announce, "This is God's year to act!"

He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, "You've just heard scripture make history. It came true just now in this place" (from Luke 1).

Volunteer Opportunity: Friendly Visiting Program

Are you ready to brighten someone's day? The Friendly Visiting Program (FVP) is looking for compassionate volunteers to connect with older adults in our community. Through weekly visits and heartfelt telephone conversations, you'll help reduce social isolation and bring joy to those who need it most.

As a volunteer, you'll build meaningful, supportive relationships with older adults, combat loneliness, and foster a sense of belonging. We proudly serve adults aged 60 and better in Grundy, Kankakee, and Will counties.

Be the reason someone smiles today! For more information, please call Ann at 815-221-6020 ext:6740

Questions Catholics Ask

I noticed the name "Yahweh" was taken out of a hymn I like. What's up with that?



The Hebrew name of God is not to be used in liturgical celebrations, songs, or prayers.

It's true: among the most popular songs used at Mass is "You Are Near" by Dan Schutte. And the opening address was changed from "Yahweh" to "O Lord." The switch doesn't interrupt the cadence, but if you've been singing it since 1971, it's understandable to stumble on the phrase. Other hymns were affected, but none as prominently as this one.

The change was made in accordance with a decree from the Congregation for Divine Worship in 2008. This was in response to an explicit directive from Pope Benedict XVI regarding the casual usage of the divine name. The Hebrew name of God is not to be used in liturgical celebrations, songs, or prayers. Translators of texts are cautioned to show the "greatest faithfulness and respect" regarding the Holy Name. In contemporary Bible translations, wherever the Hebrew name was originally used, now appears the name LORD in capital letters.

Although the name appears in Scripture as early as Genesis in passages composed by a writer called the Yahwist for this very reason, most contributors refrained from using the name until it's given to Moses as a special gift in Exodus. On that occasion, God says, "As God the Almighty (in Hebrew, *El Shaddai*) I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but my name, *YHWH*, I did not make known to them." Later biblical personalities like Elijah [*YHWH is my God*] and Isaiah [*YHWH is salvation*] bear names that define their relationship to this God.

The name isn't a noun or a descriptor but a verb. God is to be known as a vital activity rather than a static notion. As Scripture likes to say, God is the God of the living, the is-was-and-will-be, the Being of eternal progression. I AM, says God—but this implies more than simple existence. God not only IS but also CAUSES all to be. Theologians would inelegantly label God the Uncaused Cause in recognition of this idea. They might also have recognized the God of infinite relationship.

Sometime after the Babylonian exile, reverence for the divine name increases. Dead Sea scroll writers used different pens and ink to write the name in an archaic script. Eventually the name *adonai* in Hebrew, *kyrios* in Greek, LORD in English, would replace YHWH in the texts altogether. Taking *Yashem* (the Name) out of casual usage reminds us of the privilege we have in addressing our God.

Scripture: Genesis 4:26; 17:1; 35:11; Exodus 3:13-15; 6:2-3; 7:17; 8:6, 18; 9:29; 10:1-2; 14:18; 20:2-3; Leviticus 11:44-45; 22:32-33; Deuteronomy 6:12-13; Pss. 20:2, 8; 54:3; see also Jesus in John 6:20; 8:24, 28, 58; 13:19; 18:5-8; and Mark 14:61-63; Luke 22:70-71; Philippians 2:11

Spaces still available to join in!
Call Natalia to register.

**catholic
charities**
Diocese of Joliet

**LOOKING FOR A FUN, NEW WAY
TO BE MORE ACTIVE?**

BINGOCIZE®

Bingo + Exercise = Bingocize®

BINGOCIZE® is a 20-week health promotion program that combines the game of bingo with fall prevention exercise. Play bingo with us and meet new people while learning about techniques to reduce falls.

Dates: Monday afternoons,

January 6th through June 9th, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

(No class on 1/20, 2/17, or 5/26)

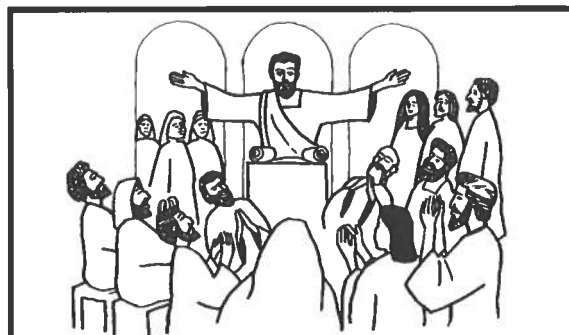
**Location: St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, 207 E. 5th
St., Herscher IL, 60941**

**TO REGISTER,
CALL NATALIA
(815) 933-7791 EXT 9954**



Attendance at these events indicates consent for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet, Inc., to use my photo to promote and increase awareness of programs and services offered by the Agency. Photos may be used in Catholic Charities' printed materials, online, media, or by grantors.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.



Today this scripture passage is fulfilled...
LK.4:21

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Monday, January 27, 2025

St. Lawrence Church

135 E. Rice Road in South Wilmington

4-5:30pm

(Or until food runs out)

SNOW, RAIN OR SHINE!

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
Why did Our Lord choose to be baptized?
He obviously wasn't a sinner, so why be baptized?



When Our Lord came to the River Jordan to receive baptism at the hands of His cousin St. John the Baptist, John asked the question that any of us would have asked:

“I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”
—Matthew 3:14

Our Lord answered:

“Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.”
—Matthew 3:15

So John obeyed and baptized Jesus, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world, yet Who was guilty of no sin Himself.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in his work *Jesus of Nazareth* has some profound insights into why Our Lord underwent baptism. One of the Holy Father's central points is the identification of Jesus with sinners and the anticipation of His sacrifice on the Cross.

Although the baptism John offered to the people of Israel was not the same as the true Baptism Our Lord would bring, it was a prefigurement of it. Like the Sacrament it anticipated, John's baptism involved a deep-seated conversion of heart, a confession of sins, and a rising out of the water to new life.

As Jesus goes into the waters of the Jordan to receive this baptism, He is identifying Himself with sinners, taking our sins upon Himself, and submerging Himself—in our place—into the waters of purification. His rising up shows the new life that He will gain for us.

This, of course, is directly related to His Passion, death, and Resurrection. In fact, as Pope Benedict points out, He refers to His Passion as His “baptism.” In His death, He fully shoulders our sins, washing them away in His own Blood.

Our Lord rises from the waters of the Jordan as He would rise from the tomb three years later, glorified and victorious. At the Baptism, we see the heavens opened and the Trinity manifested: the Father proclaims the identity of His Son—“This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased”—a proclamation which, Pope Benedict says, foreshadows the Resurrection.

His rising from the dead was the most definitive proclamation of His divinity and His power over all things, even sin and death. Because of Christ's actions, the heavens are opened, and we—through our own Trinitarian Baptism and participation in Christ's death—can pass through.

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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?

In Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, call Bry Williams at 815-933-7791 ext. 9928 or mail americorpsseniors@cc-doj.org in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. For more information about Catholic Charities' programs and services, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org



A Sense of Ordinary Time

Each year there are two blocks of Ordinary Time, one in the winter between Christmastime and Lent, and the other stretching through summer and fall, from Pentecost through Christ the King.

What do the words “Ordinary Time” mean? “Ordinary Time” refers to ordinal — counted — time, not to lack of something to celebrate. The 33 or 34 Sundays remaining in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ, are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects.

How do we celebrate “the mystery of Christ in all its aspects?” We gather every Sunday. Sunday is the original feast day in our tradition. Christians have gathered every Sunday — the day of Christ's resurrection, the first day of the week — ever since there were Christians.



January 26, 2025

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 | 1 Cor 12:12-30 | Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Late 19th-century English author G.K. Chesterton famously wrote, “Catholic doctrine and discipline may be walls, but they are the walls of a playground.” We can think of God’s commandments serving as rules governing primary school recess: by providing us with a structure in which we can explore, play, stumble, and get up again, they allow us to discover who God created us to be without wandering far from his love. The mosaic law that served the Jews in today’s first reading had given them the necessary parameters to live and grow within the covenantal relationship they had with God. Their unfaithfulness had led them astray, but upon their return from exile in Babylon they wept when hearing God’s word for the first time in generations. They knew the power of God’s commandments to keep them safe and secure in his love, and recognized all they had lost by wandering. Their sorrow was turned to joy in the knowledge that God rejoiced in their return to him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Just as Ezra “opened the scroll so that all the people might see it” in today’s first reading, Jesus also “unrolled the scroll” and then rolled it back up so that all might see *him*. Ezra held the law in his hands, Jesus is the fulfillment of the law in himself. Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing,” were an infusion of new life breathed into a new creation by God who is outside of time. All things, all mistakes, all failures brought about in our human pride and disobedience were being refashioned into new brick and mortar to build God’s kingdom in and through Christ. Jesus, with his commandment to love one another as he loves us, gives us structure and a true freedom to discover who God created us to be, while helping us not wander far from this playground the Lord has given us. Knowing what holds us together, and relying on it to guide us, enables us to help build the kingdom even more for the glory of God and the good of others.

LEARN

Research a Catholic teaching you do not fully understand for example, why Catholics attend Mass on Sundays. Ask God for the light to see how this teaching is life-giving instead of life-limiting. If you have the opportunity, share what you’ve learned with someone.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 4:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,

and to proclaim liberty to captives.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21; L69C

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eye-witnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Continued in Appendix A, p. 268

Reflecting on the Gospel

Many organizations have a mission statement that succinctly defines their purpose. Today's gospel recounts Jesus's declaration of his own "mission statement" in his hometown synagogue. Jesus begins by saying that the power of the Holy Spirit is upon him. The Spirit is actually God's mission statement to the world, since prior to Jesus's coming, God's love in mission is first revealed by

the Spirit's activity in creation. We can only know the "inside" mystery of God through the "outside" manifestation of the action and presence of the holy in the world and in human experience.

Scripture scholar Stephen Bevans has elaborated a missionary theology of the Spirit, naming it "God Inside Out." Today's gospel says that this Spirit now rests upon Jesus, who makes humanly visible and tangible the inner heart of God, who desires healing, wholeness, and jubilee justice. Luke says that "the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently" at Jesus when he read from the prophet Isaiah. Could they see "God inside out" as he interpreted the Scripture passage as fulfilled in their hearing?

Similarly, in the first reading, Nehemiah stresses that all the people listened

attentively as Ezra read forth the law and interpreted it for them. For our ancestors in the faith, it was through the law that the Spirit made known the inner heart of God. Nehemiah says that "all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law." He urges them not to be sad or weep but does not explain what caused their weeping. Were they tears of joy to have returned home from exile in Babylon to their own homeland, with their own temple being rebuilt and their own customs restored? Were they tears of grief over all that had been lost in the intervening years: those who had died or who had not returned with them, the land despoiled, the temple in shambles? Maybe they were tears of repentance. Or were they tears of gratitude for the gift of the law from a God whose words of undeserved love and mercy rained down upon them from the mouth of Ezra? Perhaps the tears were for all of the above. When God reveals outwardly the bounteous heart of divine love, our first response is often to be overwhelmed to the point of tears.

It is easy to imagine that as Jesus announced his embodiment of this divine mission there may have been a similar reaction, as those who felt exiled in body or spirit heard a new promise of restoration and release, a new time of jubilation.

Paul uses a vivid metaphor to describe the way the Christian community continues the mission of being "God inside out." The Spirit, as love in mission, creates unity and harmony within the very diverse body, where the many parts are all unique, precious, and equally important. The mission is especially focused on attending to those members who are the most vulnerable. As within the divine being, so within the united community of believers: every joy felt by one is shared by all, and every suffering is borne by all.



R