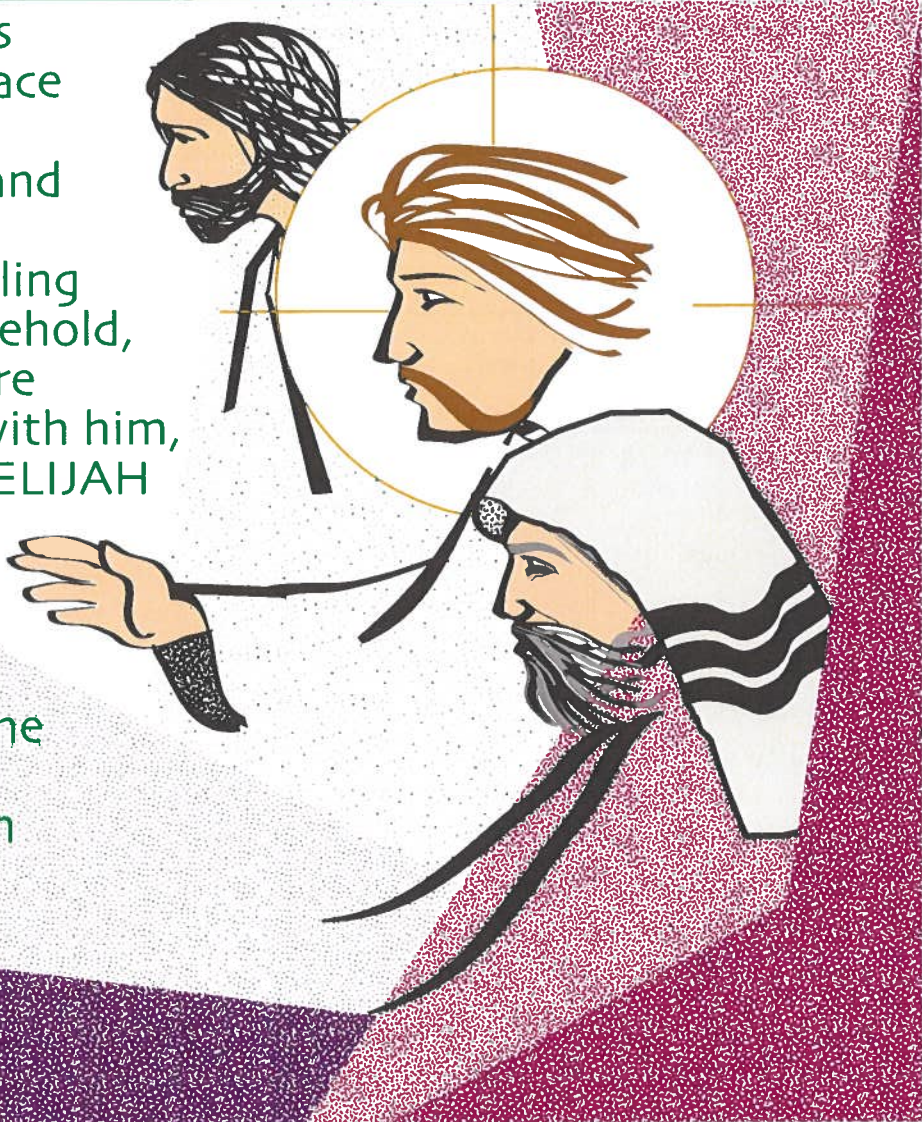


The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 15-16, 2025

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, MOSES and ELIJAH who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.



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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: "In my deepest wound I saw Your glory, and it dazzled me."

—Saint Augustine, Confessions

Third Sunday of Lent				March 22-23, 2025
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, March 22 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, March 23 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, March 23 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, March 23 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Neitzke	Fr. Ron Neitzke Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Neitzke	Fr. Ron Neitzke
Ushers	Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiler Dave Emling	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Dave Ladehoff Jeff Martin Bob Buente Dan Forsythe	Erik Wheeler Coriinn Wheeler Darren Lovell Sean Riordan
Lector	Rob Landeck	Mike Hertz	Kelly Buente	Dana Masching
Eucharistic Minister				Lynda Wolles
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Jerry Ogrentz R. Leader—The Peerboltes	Stacey Powers

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, March 17 (SMM)

8:00 am +Marie Duval (Jackie Eberle)

#### Tuesday, March 18 (SH)

8:00 am +Leland Denault (Steve/Donna Jacob)

#### Wednesday, March 19 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) +Darlene Peerbolte (Jim/Linda Booth)

#### Friday, March 21 (SMM)

8:00 am +Tom Buckley (Jackie Eberle)

#### Saturday, March 22 (SMM)

5:00 pm +John & Adam Andrzejewski (Pat Gray)

#### Sunday, March 23

7:30 am (SH) + Don St. Germaine, Sr. (St. James Parish, AH)

+Ann Wheeler (Jackie Cross)

9:00am (SJ) +Fred Gohlke (Tom/Dawn Scanlon)

10:30 am (SMM) All The Parish Family

### A Look Ahead

March 29/30—2nd Collection for Catholic Relief Services

Thursday, April 10- Night in Italy—SMM

Thursday, April 24—SH Spring Luncheon

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](http://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](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga [tosenga81@gmail.com](mailto:tosenga81@gmail.com)

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [Jdstreefarms@aol.com](mailto: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

**Question of the Week** Looking at my Lenten journey as an exodus from sin and worldly values, what specifically is holding me captive and preventing a truly new life in the risen Lord?

**Collections Weekend of March 8-9, 2025**

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,417

St. James—\$1,557

Sacred Heart—\$995

Thank you for your generosity!

**LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS SERVICES**

Wed. March 19th, Scriptural Stations of the Cross 7PM SMM

Friday, March 21st Stations of the Cross 3:00 SMM

\*Please note, when Stations are held at SMM plan on being here 10-15 minutes early to avoid school traffic.

Wed. April 2nd 7PM Scriptural Stations of the Cross SJ

Friday, April 4th Stations of the Cross 3:00 SJ

Wed. April 9th, 7PM Scriptural Stations of the Cross SMM

Friday, April 11th Stations of the Cross 3:00 SMM

**THANK YOU**

Many, Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the first

annual Knight's of Columbus Council 15032 fish fry a great success! To the outstanding kitchen crew - Gery Wright, Fran Feller, Mike Hertz, Shelly Hertz, Greg Sanders, Darren Lovell, Bob Schultz, Collen Schultz, Rick White, Ellen Emling, Tina Petersen, Dennis Pankey. Mary Beth Pankey, your efforts created an outstanding event To all who worked in the dining area and, your help made the evening run smoothly and contributed greatly to our successful evening. A special thanks to the confirmation students! For their help.



**SACRED HEART PARISH CAMPUS, IL  
CORN BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER  
PARISH HALL, CAMPUS  
SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025**

11:30 AM—3:00 PM

\$15—Adult    \$10—Ages 6-12    5 & under free

10:30 AM MASS AT SACRED HEART, CAMPUS



**Gospel Shorts    Mount of Vision, Valley of Need**

William Barclay termed the experience of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration as one of the “hinges” in Jesus’ mission. In a sense, what had gone on before was a kind of preparation. Now he would go to Jerusalem and to his death.

This passage (Luke 9:28–36) provides us not only with insight into Jesus and his meaning, bringing a note of assurance, but it also gives us a sure indication of what we as Christians are called upon to do. We, too, need the assurance that Jesus is indeed the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Armed with that assurance, we are to go from our own Mount of Vision in worship to the Valley of Need, giving ourselves in compassionate caring for God’s people.

**Parish News:**

**St. Margaret Mary**

⇒ There are ballots for the CCW Woman of the Year in the back of the church. Please write down the woman you feel is deserving of this honor and place it in the box.

⇒ Please watch for details on the Night In Italy 2025. It will be held on Thursday, April 10th. Sign up sheet for volunteers and food donations in back of the church.

**St. James**

⇒ Our Lenten Project will be the Food Pantry of Kankakee. Items will be collected starting March 5.

**Sacred Heart—**

⇒ The week of March 16th, the St. Joseph candle burns in prayer for Fr. Ron.

⇒ Save the date—Sacred Heart CCW Spring Luncheon will be Thursday, April 24 at **St. James Parish Hall.**

**All Parishes**

⇒ **Tri-Parish Office Hours—** Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

⇒ Call the parish office to request your statement of donations to the parish for 2024.

**Prayer written by St. Patrick**

May the strength of God pilot us. May the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us. May the word of God direct us. May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and forevermore. **Amen.**



“No, the paradise I’m speaking of here is not Fort Lauderdale, Florida.”



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Dentlin of Soignies (March 16)** was the son of Saint Vincent Madelgarus and Saint Waldetrudis. He was the brother of Saint Landric, Saint Madalbarta and Saint Aldetrudis. The nephew of Saint Aldegund, Dentlin was an extraordinarily pious child. He is considered a confessor of the faith. A church in Cleves, Germany, was named for him.



**Other obscure saint of the week: St. Heribert of Cologne (March 16)** was the son of Duke Hugo of Worms, Germany. He was educated at the Cathedral School at Worms. Heribert became the provost of the cathedral. He was ordained in 994 and later became the chancellor for Italy under King Otto III in 994. Heribert would later be appointed the chancellor for Germany in 997. Heribert would be named the archbishop of Cologne, Germany on July 9, 999. He attended the deathbed of King Otto at Paterno. Initially Heribert opposed the ascension of King Henry II and was imprisoned by him. However, when Henry was elected king on June 7, 1002, Heribert immediately acknowledged him as king, and became one of his advisors. He founded and endowed the Benedictine monastery and church of Deutz, Germany. Heribert obtained miracles by prayer, including the end of a drought. He was honored as a saint even during his lifetime.

**Reflections The Gift of Presence**

A gruff, loveable priest in Alaska learned this lesson when he was assigned to be chaplain in a residential school for Eskimo children. One evening he was sitting in his room working at the desk when one of the youths appeared at the door asking to come into his room.

He responded: "No. I'm busy." The youth persisted: "Father, I won't bother you." The priest finally relented and said: "OK, come in, but don't bother me!" The youth came in, sat down on the floor, leaned against the bed and stayed there quietly for about an hour. At which point he got up and said: "I am going to bed now Father, good night."

He did this repeatedly for almost eight months. The priest occasionally would offer him a magazine to read, but the youth would always decline.

Finally, the priest recognized what was happening: the Eskimo boy just wanted to be there with him. That was enough. It was the priest's simple presence that was needed and enjoyed.

**The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English**

Jesus climbed the mountain to pray, taking Peter, John, and James along. While he was in prayer, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became blinding white. At once two men were there talking with him. They turned out to be Moses and Elijah—and what a glorious appearance they made! They talked over his exodus, the one Jesus was about to complete in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Peter and those with him were slumped over in sleep. When they came to, rubbing their eyes, they saw Jesus in his glory and the two men standing with him. When Moses and Elijah had left, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He blurted this out without thinking.

While he was babbling on like this, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them. As they found themselves buried in the cloud, they became deeply aware of God.

Then there was a voice out of the cloud: "This is my Son, the Chosen! Listen to him."

When the sound of the voice died away, they saw Jesus there alone. They were speechless. And they continued speechless, said not one thing to anyone during those days of what they had seen (*from Luke 9*).

**Irish Sayings**

"This is one race of people for whom psychoanalysts is of no use what-so-ever."

~Sigmund Freud on the Irish

What whiskey and butter cannot cure, cannot be cured.

~Old Irish proverb

Arguing with an Irish woman is a lot like getting arrested. Anything you say can and will be held against you.

-Irish sense of humor



He was transfigured before them...

## Questions Catholics Ask

How many church councils were there, besides Vatican I and II?

Altogether, 21 ecumenical councils are recognized by the church. These gatherings have moved the church forward in an evolution of self-understanding that is by no means complete today.

Only two are known as Vatican Councils because the rest were held elsewhere than the Vatican Basilica in Rome. Five gathered in the Lateran Basilica, also in Rome. Four convened in Constantinople. Two took place in Nicaea, and two in Lyons. The longest and certainly one of the most fateful councils was held in Trent. Other locations include Ephesus, Chalcedon, Vienne, and Constance. One curious council is known by the names of four cities it migrated through: Basel-Ferrara-Florence-Rome.

And of course, though it doesn't make the official count, a very significant council was called in Jerusalem by Peter, James, and John not long after the time of Jesus. It was there that Paul was granted special permission to bring non-Jews into the church without circumcising them first.

What did the rest of the councils decide? The first seven (from 325 to 787) condemned a lot of divergent theologies: Arianism, Apollinarianism, Nestorianism, Monophysitism, the Three Chapters of Theodore of Mopsuestia, Monothelism, and iconoclasm. These teachings mostly involved divergences in the way Jesus is perceived: whether in relationship to God, or to his own humanity or divinity. The last one, iconoclasm, was a movement to destroy icons used in veneration. Those of us who love our holy images might be grateful that one got condemned.

The eighth council, the fourth held in Constantinople (869-70), broke the church apart into East (Constantinople) and West (Rome). The Eastern Church doesn't recognize any of the councils that followed. After that, the council agendas become largely, well, churchy: determining relationships between popes and kings, dealing with the phenomenon of anti-popes, reining in misbehaving clergy, ruling on how popes should be elected.

The very important Fourth Lateran Council (1215) defined Eucharistic transubstantiation and ruled that Catholics should go to confession annually. It also made the infamous decision to require Jews and Muslims to wear distinctive dress. Several later councils attempted to bring the Eastern and Western halves of the church back together again—without success. The Council of Trent (1545-63, with several interruptions) dealt with the significant challenges of the Protestant Reformation. Vatican I (1869-70) declared papal infallibility. Which brings us to the still-recent reforms of Vatican II (1962-65), with its agenda opening onto an engagement with the broader world.

Which makes you ask: what should the next church council do?

**Scripture:** Matthew 18:20; Acts 15:1-35



Only two are known as Vatican Councils because the rest were held elsewhere than the Vatican Basilica in Rome.

Please pray for the students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. James on Saturday, March 8.

AMELIA ALLEN

REID CARLSON

TEAGAN DOWN

RHYS GUIMOND

MICHEAL HARWOOD

HOLLIDAY HODGIN

AVA RIORDAN

RONAN TURNER



## Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Beer and pretzels the official food and drink of Lent?

What else do you really need besides carbs, minerals, and the good Lord?

Beer and pretzels...the official food and drink of Lent?

In the Middle Ages, the rules of fasting and abstinence were quite tougher than today, excluding not only meat but also eggs and dairy products. That meant a lot of bread, veggies, and water!

According to legend, a monk in the 600s in Italy decided to make a special Lenten bread for his fellow-monks. He took a long strip of dough and arranged it in the shape of arms folded over the breast in prayer. The three holes left by this shape represented the Trinity. These little breads were called *bracellae*, the Latin word for "little arms," from which came the German word *bretzel*.



Another story says that the monk gave these folded breads to children as a reward for learning their prayers. The Latin word for "little reward" is *preiola* (pre-tzi-OH-la), which sounds a lot like *pretzel*!

What about the beer?

In the 1600s, a monastery in southern Germany began brewing beer to give the monks needed strength during their long days of fasting on bread and vegetables. They came up with a hearty concoction containing a lot of nutrients and carbs—the now-famous *doppelbock* beer, also known as "liquid bread." Paulaner Brewery, which took over the original site of the monastery, adopted the brewing methods of the monks and still makes this beer today.

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BY YOUR  
CROSS, O LORD

you have  
saved the world

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Bishop McNamara Assembly 202-Vocational Dinner and Auction

Saturday, March 29, 2025 at Knights of Columbus Hall

Cocktails— 6:00 pm / Dinner— 7:00 pm

Please plan on attending this event that supports our future priests—this event is open to all.

Please complete the Dinner Reservation form found in the entrance to the church and return it to Deacon Pat Skelly prior to March 21, 2025.

Please see Deacon Ron for additional reservation forms.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION HONORING

Jackie Cross

SUNDAY, MARCH 30th  
OPEN HOUSE . 2 - 4 PM . CAKE RECEPTION  
Sacred Heart Church, Goodrich  
588 S 10000W RD, BONFIELD, IL  
RSVP TO GLORIA - CALL OR TEXT 779.435.3085

GIFTS ARE NOT NECESSARY. YOUR PRESENCE IS THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

**Note:** change of location to St. James Parish Hall.

## Lenten Fish Frys in Dwight

St. Patrick's and the Knights of Columbus will again be having their Annual Lenten Fish Frys at St. Patrick's Hall in Dwight.

March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28,  
April 4, and April 11 5pm-7pm

The price includes your choice of baked cod, fried pollock and breaded shrimp. Also available—grilled cheese sandwich and mac & cheese (new). Your choice of sides is baked potato, French fries, Cole slaw, apple sauce and rolls, beverage and a dessert, while they last.

Take out orders are available for the same price. You can call ahead at 815-584-3110

No price increase from last year!  
Adults / High School - \$13.00  
Grade School - \$6.00  
Pre-School Free





March 16, 2025

## Second Sunday of Lent

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 | Phil 3:17-4:1 | Lk 9:28b-36

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

As humans, we are often burdened with heavy crosses. Experiences of loss, lack, failure, and betrayal can riddle our existence, leaving us fatigued and with a weary question in our hearts: What is this all for? And then, we look up. We raise our gaze and see before us the transfigured face of Christ. Having taken on our human form, Jesus stands before us in radiant glory. As we take in the scene, our senses mingling somewhere between admiration and alarm, we remember the promise he made to us. The promise that we, too, will be made new. The promise that our bodies will also be redeemed, and our burdens will be relieved. And as we remember, we respond, like the disciples, "It is good that we are here." The life of discipleship, at times, can seem to require more than it rewards. But in these moments of intimate encounter, when we see glimpses of Jesus' beautiful face, he reminds us why we are here on this mountain: to love, to serve, and eventually to reap our eternal reward.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

We see why we are here on the mountain, but today's readings also reveal a weighty reality: before we are transformed, we must *climb* that mountain. The whole story of Jesus' life is this: before a promise is fulfilled, sacrifice is offered. Our human existence, without the mercy and mission given us by Christ, is empty. But taking up the cross of Christ and following him toward glory, we find our purpose. Earth is our pilgrimage, and our journey will most certainly be punctuated by peaks and valleys. But today, St. Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Philippians that we won't be carrying around these crosses forever. Though strapped with suffering for a time, we know our eternal destination: "Our citizenship is in heaven."

### **REFLECT**

Lent is inherently a season of waiting for the fulfillment of a promise. In our own lives, we may be aching for transformation, perhaps for ourselves, or for another. Remember: God enters deeply into our lives, dwelling so intimately with us that he syncs his every breath with ours. Take the next week to think and pray about how the Lord may be asking you to be transformed. Pray today's Psalm each day, and "Wait for the Lord with courage."

### SPIRITUALITY

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Matt 17:5

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:  
This is my beloved Son, hear him.

**Gospel** Luke 9:28b-36; L27C

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

But he did not know what he was saying.

While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

#### Reflecting on the Gospel

A missionary working in a country where many forms of violence are a part of the fabric of everyday life remarked that she was very conscious that she can choose whether to stay or leave. This is a choice that the people to whom she has dedicated her life do not have. Some friends and family members do not understand how she could choose to put her own life in danger for the sake of the people she has come to love as her own.

Such a choice faces Jesus in today's gospel. In Luke's version of this story, which we hear every year on the Second Sunday of Lent, albeit from differ-

ent gospels each year, there are unique details that point to an earlier source that tell us more clearly what really happened at the transfiguration.

The episode is set at an important turning point in the gospel. Jesus has been teaching, preaching, healing, exorcising demons, and gathering disciples as he traverses the Galilee. But soon he will "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (9:51, NRSV). Something happens on the mountaintop that helps Jesus to know the next step in his mission. Luke alone notes that when Jesus goes up the mountain with Peter, James, and John, his purpose is to pray.



A clue to the nature of Jesus's prayer comes in the content of the conversation between Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. They "spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem." Jesus is wrestling with the decision whether he should leave Galilee and direct his efforts toward Jerusalem, the center of religious and political power. There is still much to do in Galilee, and he could continue to minister there, but he struggles to know whether his efforts could bring about greater systemic change if he were to go to Jerusalem.

But Jesus is no fool. The handwriting is on the wall. Opposition to him is already mounting, and it would only intensify if he were to go to Jerusalem. As at every major turning point in the gospel, Jesus enters into deep communion with God as he discerns what to do.

During this intense prayer of discernment, Jesus is given sure signs that he is guided by God in his choice. A cloud, the sign of God's presence with the Israelites as they went forth from Egypt, overshadows him, as at his baptism. Two heavenly messengers embody the divine presence, giving Jesus strength as he leans on God's word in the law and the prophets. The heavenly voice reassures both him and his disciples of Jesus's chosen status and the rightness of his choice. Thus assured of God's love and direction, Jesus turns his transfigured face toward Jerusalem. Placing his own life in danger, Jesus makes a deliberate, prophetic choice to continue to "proclaim liberty to captives" (4:18), as he had declared in his hometown synagogue. His death is not an inevitable fate but a choice for freeing love.