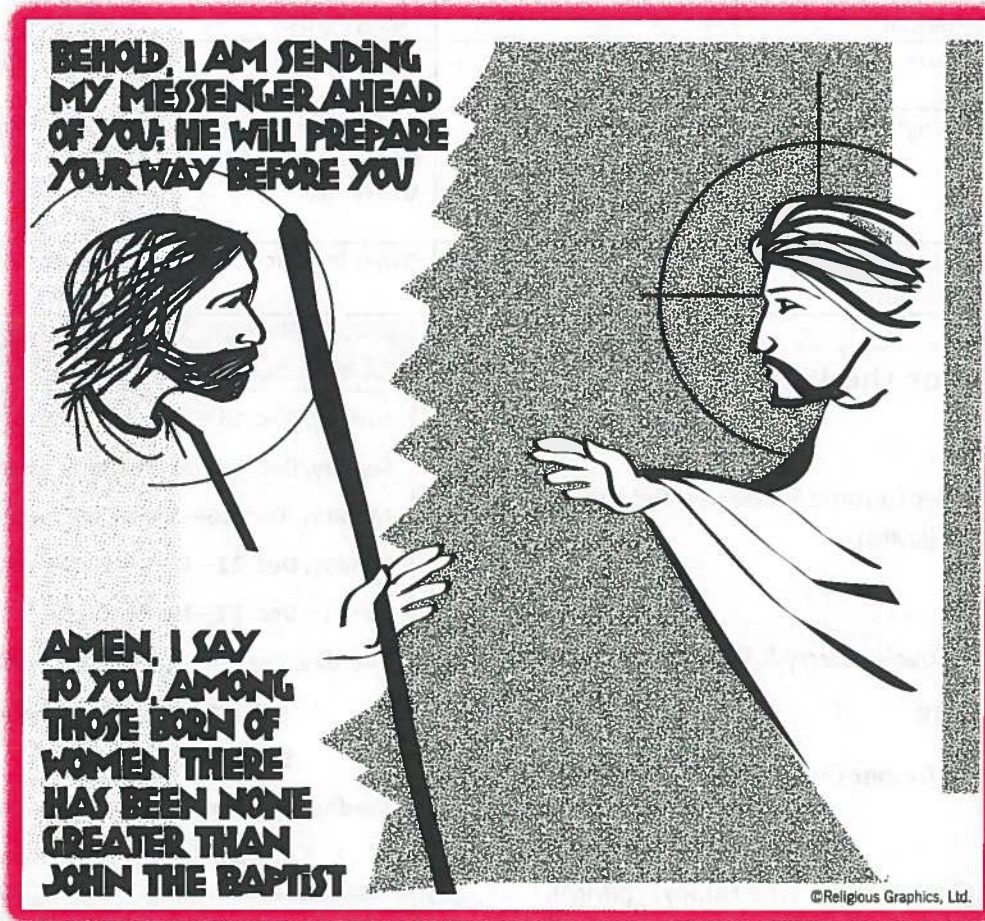


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 14-15, 2019**

**Church Mailing Address:**

207 E. 5th Street  
Herscher, IL 60941  
Phone: 815-426-2550

**Confessions:**

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Quotable: *"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."* ~ Pope Benedict XVI

**Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21-22, 2019**

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Dec. 21 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Dec. 22 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Dec. 22 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Dec. 22 10:30 am
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Father Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Dan Hoffman Dave Emling Gery Wright Roger Jensen	Daryl Ferris Kyle Ferris	Bee Papineau Jerry Ogrentz Dennis O'Connor Dallas Ferris	Connor Powers Bill Powers Corey Eich Jeff Long
<b>Lector</b>	Bobbi Buza	Darlene Cipcich	Craig Frerichs	Corinn Wheeler
<b>Communion Ministers</b>	Cathy Wright	Laurie Palinski	Sue O'Connor Craig Frerichs Liz Frerichs	Wayne Bisailon
<b>Servers</b>	Xander Buza Charlotte Fulton		Gwen Jackubowski	Kayla Scanlon

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, December 16**

8:00 am +Leo Feller (Jerome Schneider, Debbie & Cindy Witheft) (SMM)

**Tuesday, December 17**

8:00 am +Susan Soucie (Jerry & Dionne Wells) (SH)

**Wednesday, December 18**

8:00 am +Bonnie Draper (Joe & Rhonda Berns) (SJ)

**Friday, December 20**

8:00 am +Dr. Igor Dubravec (The Family) (SMM)

**Saturday, December 21**

5:00 pm + Laura Jensen (Geraldine Rashinkas) (SMM)

**Sunday, December 22**

7:30 am + Fr. Ray Renville (The Family) (SH)

9:00 am +Vicki Hensley (Geri Tobenski) (SJ)

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

**A Look Ahead**

Sunday, Dec. 15— Reconciliation at SH 1-2:30

Sunday, Dec. 15—SJ Christmas Pageant

Monday, Dec. 16—SH Parish Council 7 pm

Sunday, Dec. 22—Reconciliation at SJ 1—2:30

Sunday, Dec. 22—No RE classes

Tuesday, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Masses

3:00 pm—St. Margaret Mary

5:00 pm— St. James

Wednesday, Dec. 25—Christmas Day Masses

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon—rjgckg@gmail.com

cell—815-953-2407 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 [triparishcatholiccommunities](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Tri Parish Faith Formation – Stacie Powers –426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

RE Coordinators –

St. Margaret Mary – Stacie Powers – 426-2550

St. James – Alicia Miller – 933-5443

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 935-8669

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreeffarms@aol.com

## Sunday Collections

Dec. 7-8, 2019

St. Margaret Mary—	\$2,269	Retired—	\$674
St. James—	\$1,228	Retired—	\$672
Sacred Heart -	\$851	Retired—	\$566

Thank you for your generosity

### ALL PARISHES-

- ⇒ The 2019 CMAA closing report is inserted in this week's bulletin. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Joliet Diocese and in turn our parishes.
- ⇒ Please pick up your 2020 envelopes in the back of each church.
- ⇒ All those involved in ministries of any kind—if you know you will be gone for a weekend or for an extended time, please let the office know as soon as possible so we do not schedule you for a weekend that you are not available.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of  
+Jacqueline Serene,  
former parishioner of St. Margaret Mary  
May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in  
peace. Amen

Our sincere sympathy to her family.

## Parish News:

### St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ It's that time of year again! We are looking for volunteer snow shovelers. Please sign up in the back of the church or call the parish office. (costume optional)



### Sacred Heart—

- ◆ This year's stag/stagette could not have been the success it was without the help of all who worked both before and during the night of the event. Thank you also to all who donated prizes and to all those that attended.
- ◆ Thank you to everyone that helped in anyway to make our Christmas breakfast a fun experience. A special thank you to Mark May for his generosity. A special thanks to Dennis Pankey who was making a list and checking it twice.

### St. James—

- ◆ The Religious Ed program is now accepting donations for our Annual Basket Raffle.
- ◆ The Salvation Army is in need of non-perishable food items and basic toiletry products. The bin will be in the hallway throughout December for donations
- ◆ Thank you to Darwin Peerbolte, Jerry Ogrentz, Larry Stevenson, and Dallas Ferris for raking leaves and cleaning up branches at the church.
- ◆ Thank you to all who helped decorate the church on December 9.



The Tri-Parish youth group woke up bright and early on Sat., Dec. 7 to use the money raised from the butter braid sales to shop for 4 local families! Thanks to the adult chaperones that helped drive and shop. Merry Christmas!



**What is Oplatki or the Christmas Wafer?** The word Bethlehem means "House of Bread". The breaking of the bread is a sign of charity, unity, and friendship. Religious family traditions and customs bring the truths of faith into the home. One of these beautiful Christmas customs is the Christmas Wafer. A wafer bearing a simple design commemorative of Christ's birth is broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member. With a simple prayer of God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the head family member breaks the wafer and distributes it, a piece to each one at the table. While doing so each member of the family is wished a joyful feast. The other family members then greet one another in the same way. (More can be found on the Oplatki package)



#### Oplatki Prayer

May the blessing of almighty God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
come down upon all who partake of this wafer.

May he grant us peace in our lives, length of our days and joy in all we do. Amen

**Saint of the week:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church. Born in Holland, he joined the Jesuits in 1543. He resisted the Protestant policies of Archbishop Hermann of Wied. The Jesuits used him as a teacher but soon he became known for his preaching and his defense of Catholic doctrine. He is credited for revitalizing Catholicism in Austria and Germany. For his achievements he is honored as the Second Apostle of Germany. His feast day is Dec. 21.



**Obscure saint:** Seven Sleepers of Ephesus (250-362) were a group of martyrs who were walled up in a cave near Ephesus during the persecution of Emperor Trajanus Decius. They supposedly awoke from their slumber 200 years later during the reign of the Christian emperor Theodosius II (r. 408-450). They were hailed as proof of the resurrection of the dead. They are identified as Sts. John, Maximian, Constantine, Moritian, Malchus, Serapion, and Dionysius. Their feast day is July 27.

#### A Stewardship Moment— Third Sunday of Advent Weekend of Dec. 14—15

From the loneliness of his prison cell John the Baptist asks of Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" The weeks before Christmas offer much to be joyous about, celebrating with family and friends, the glitter of seasonal decorations, the excitement of gift giving and receiving. But in our midst there are the lonely and neglected, the poor, the hospitalized, the wayward, the shut-ins. There are those who feel that they have no hope. To whom should they look? Discipleship in the Lord includes being good stewards of others. Are there those in our family, our neighborhood, our community to whom we can reach out to show them a sign of Christ's presence in their midst?