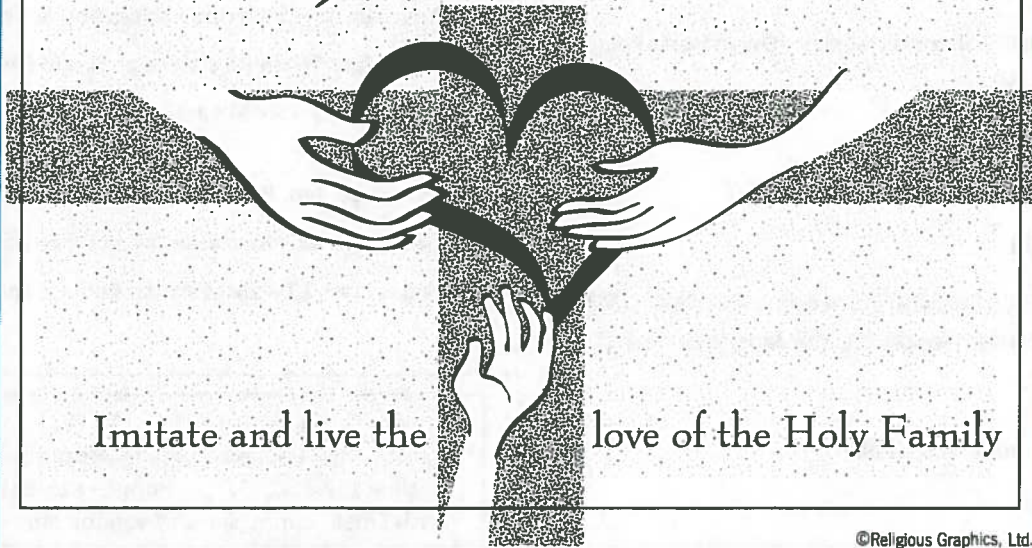


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem where they found
Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

JESUS
MARY
JOSEPH



Imitate and live the love of the Holy Family

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 28-29, 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: "Christmas is not just a seasonal celebration or the memory of a beautiful event. It is an encounter!"
 ~ Pope Francis

The Epiphany of the Lord January 4-5, 2020

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Jan. 4	Sacred Heart Sunday, Jan. 5 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Jan. 5 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Jan. 5 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Father Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Gery Wright Dave Emling Todd Datweiler	Dennis Pankey Dale Pfeiffer	Arlen Hansen Rick White Bee Papineau Dallas Ferris	Nick Zerebny Corey Eich Connor Powers Bill Powers
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Cindy Gagnon	Mary Peerbolte	Steve Jacob
Communion Ministers	Mariann Lane	Mark May	Mary Peerbolte Deacon Ron	Marie Johnson
Servers	Xander Buza Charlotte Fulton		Ayla Summers	Garrett Smolkovich

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 30

8:00 am +Vicki Tobenski Hensley (Owen Hertz Family)
 (SMM)

Tuesday, December 31

5:00 pm +Joan Smith (The Family) (SJ)

Wednesday, January 1

10:30 am +Cindy Frerichs (Tom & Bev Buckley) (SMM)
 9:00 am + Walter Pieszka (Terri & Jerry Weakley) (SH)

Friday, January 3

No mass this week

Saturday, January 4

5:00 pm +Denise Jepsen Blake (Jim & Kathy Jepsen) (SMM)

Sunday, January 5

7:30 am + Zeb Pfeiffer (Dale & Marilyn Pfeiffer)
 +Dick Fitch (Gary & Kate Cloonen) (SH)
 9:00 am +Marge Thiesen (Geri Tobenski) (SJ)
 10:30am For All the Parish Family (SMM)

A Look Ahead

Friday, Jan. 3—First Friday Adoration & Benediction SJ

Sunday, Jan. 5— No RE classes at SJ and SMM

**Sunday, Jan. 5—SMM Family Day Epiphany Celebration
 9:00 am— 10:15**

Wednesday, Jan. 8— Confirmation 6pm-8pm at SMM

Sunday, Jan. 12—RE classes at all three parishes

Monday, Jan. 13—SMM Parish Council 7pm

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
 Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities
 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 Jdstreefarms@aol.com
 St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

**Sunday Collections
Dec. 21-22, 2019**

St. Margaret Mary— \$2,697
St. James— \$1,538
Sacred Heart - \$990

Thank you for your generosity

ALL PARISHES-

- ⇒ The Community Quilters have fidget quilts and adult bibs to donate if any parishioner needs one for home care. Contact Donna Bernicky at 815-932-4697.
- ⇒ Please pick up your 2020 envelopes in the back of each church.
- ⇒ Due to the cold and flu season, we will only be distributing the Body of Christ during Communion time until further notice.
- ⇒ All three churches were beautifully decorated for Christmas. Thank you to all who helped with this.

Solemnity of Mary

St. James Tuesday, December 31—5:00 pm
Sacred Heart Wednesday, January 1—9:00 am
St. Margaret Mary Wednesday, January 1—10:30 am

**A Stewardship Moment— Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Weekend of December 28-29, 2019**

In today's second reading we listen to one of the most compelling exhortations for Christian living: "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col 3:17). "Whatever you do" — that means the whole of life is to be related to Christ Jesus. Everything in life, every activity, can become an act of glorifying the Lord. Good stewards commit even their daily routine to Christ: doing everything "in the name of the Lord." Perhaps it would be a good idea this week to memorize this marvelous verse and repeat it to yourself frequently. Make it part of your morning prayer each day.

Thank you to Jackie Cross, our sponsor of the January children's bulletins. Jackie is sponsoring them in memory of her husband, Carson.



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.



Sacred Heart—

St. James—

- ◆ The Community Quilters would like to thank St. James for the use of their hall each month.

JANUARY 21-29, 2020

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today at www.9daysforlife.com



4 WAYS TO JOIN 9DaysforLife.com

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*Beyond Sunday Small Groups
Catholicism Series Continues...Chapter
6 Part 1
Starts January 6th and 7th
Tues. evenings at St. Margaret Mary 7 - 8:15 pm
Wed. mornings at St. James 8:45-10 am*

All are welcome! Even if you have never been, we would love to have you join us!

Community Quilters News—In 2019 this group has made 213 items from donated fabric and monetary donations. They have made 20 baby quilts, 19 self binding receiving blankets and 62 burp cloths for pregnancy centers in Kankakee and Coal City, 21 toiletry bags for Fortitude for the homeless, 24 fidget quilts for Prairieview in Danforth, 12 bindings on mission quilts, 55 Christmas stockings for soldiers, and 5 bindings and quilting to finish projects for St. Rose's fundraiser.

From the Pastor's Pen



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph December 29

Saint of the week: St. Thomas Becket (1118-1170). At a time when kings had the authority to appoint bishops Thomas was picked to be the Archbishop of Canterbury by his friend King Henry II. While still a deacon became the friend of Henry and went to Pope Eugenius III to convince him to recognize Henry as the king of England. He was there with Henry as he was crowned king. The king appointed Thomas as Chancellor of England from 1155 until the death of Archbishop Theobald when Thomas was named as the archbishop's successor. Thomas objected, but he was ordered to take the position by the king. Thomas was then ordained a priest and then consecrated archbishop. Thomas went through a fundamental change as archbishop. He put aside his lavish life style and political allegiances in order to serve the church in England. Henry had made several moves to put the church in England under the control of the king, but Thomas refused to accept these demands of the king. Henry became furious with Thomas and responded with harsh measures against him. Thomas had to flee England for fear of his life. He took refuge in France and appealed to Pope Alexander III. Through diplomatic negotiations Thomas and Henry met in Normandy. In November 1170 Thomas returned to England. Almost immediately the conflict between the archbishop and king resumed. The public largely supported Thomas. In his rage Henry was reported as saying to his knights "Will no one rid me of this meddlesome priest?" Then four knights traveled to Canterbury and on the evening of December 29 murdered Thomas and another person in a side chapel of the cathedral. As Thomas was dying he said "I die for the name of Jesus and in defense of the Church." Thomas's tomb became a pilgrimage site and soon miracles were reported there. His feast day is Dec. 29.



Obscure saint of the week: Justus and Pastor (d. 283) were martyred brothers, ages thirteen and nine respectively. They are patrons of Alcala and Madrid, Spain. They were scourged and beheaded at Alcala for proclaiming their belief in Christ. Their feast day is August 6.

Christmas Traditions

The star is one of the most popular symbols of Christmas. Many people top their tree with a star or place a star that is brightly lit over their homes. It was a star which led the Magi to the humble crib of the new born king. The Magi were the first non-Jewish people to visit Christ and they represented all people outside the nation of Israel. The star can remind us that we are invited to come to Christ and offer our gifts and talents to Him. In a sense, the Christmas star is God's invitation to offer for us to adore Jesus.



Christmas bells call children to school and church bells call people to worship. Bells alert people to important happenings. They call us to listen, take notice. Bells are a symbol of Christmas. Silver bells, *The Bells of St. Mary's*, and the little bell on the Christmas tree in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, are all part of our Christmas tradition. The bells of Christmas have a special meaning, for they sing out: "your Savior is at hand, your freedom from sin is here".

"How many observe Christ's birthday. How few, His precepts." ~Benjamin Franklin