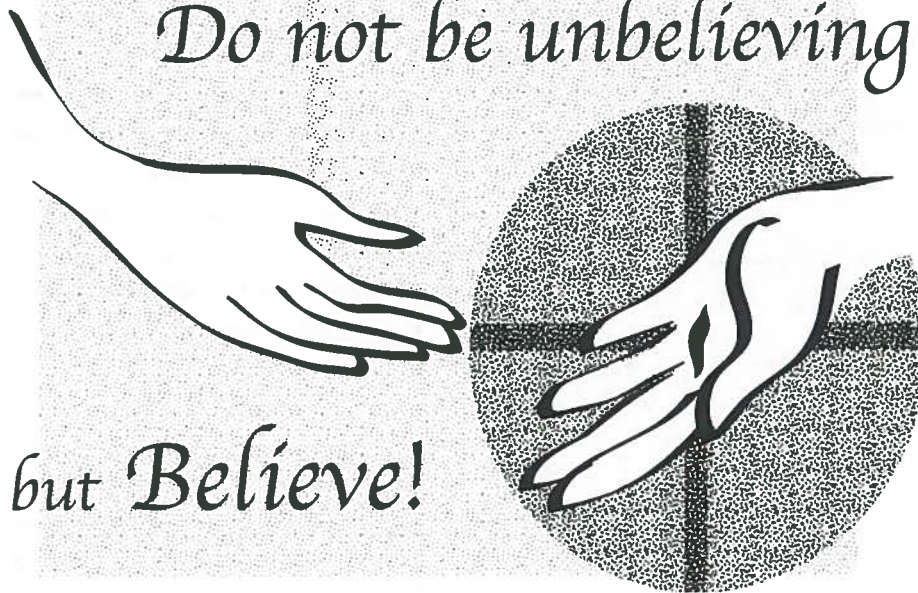


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

*Put your finger here
and see my hands
bring your hand
and put it into my side.
Do not be unbelieving*



but Believe!

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Sunday of Divine Mercy

April 19, 2020

Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Confessions: Suspended for now

St. Margaret Mary Sat. 4:15 pm

Sacred Heart Sun. 7:05-7:20 am

St. James Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Quotable: "If a soul loves God sincerely, and is intimately united with Him, then, even though such a soul may be living in the midst of difficult external circumstances, nothing can disturb its interior life."
~Diary of Saint Faustina

Each week of April, we will be asking you to add special intention to your prayers.

Prayer Intentions for Week of April 19, 2020

During this week, please add to your daily prayers a special intention for all who have died from the COVID-19 virus, for all who are battling it, and those families that are affected by it.

God our Father,

You are the ultimate Healer. Father, we come before You to pray for those infected with this virus. We pray for not only their healing but for them to be comforted while they heal. Lord, please eradicate every ounce of this virus from their bodies. We pray for no lasting effects in their bodies from this illness. Father, please heal them inside and out and provide them with the medical care they need, with the medications they need, and with the healing not only physically but spiritually so that they may live life and life abundantly ahead.

We also pray for the souls of those who have died from this disease. Grant them everlasting life with you.

Please, Father, give strength, comfort, and peace to the families of all the victims of this disease. May they know your protection and peace.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. Confessions will be held at St. James on Sunday, April 19 from 1-3 pm. We will be practicing COVID-19 guidelines for your safety. You may be asked to wait in your car if we exceed the number of people allowed at one time.

More information on the story of what Divine Mercy is can be found at Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley at <http://watch.formed.org/divine-mercy-with-fr-michael-gaitley> There are 10 episodes, each about 20 minutes long. Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested. Since we are not able to begin small groups, this is an opportunity to strengthen spiritual growth at home.

Mail in Collections through April 16, 2020

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,230	Easter- \$590
St. James—\$1,365	Easter- \$475
Sacred Heart—\$450	Easter0 \$1,715

Thank you for your generosity



First Communion celebrations at our three parishes have been postponed. Please check with your DRE for more information.

During this time of quarantine, we are praying for the health and safety of all our parishioners, their families, and the world. If you are in a position to support your Church by sending in your weekly donation to help with the costs of maintaining our buildings, it would be greatly appreciated.

St. Margaret Mary
207 E 5th Street
Herscher, IL 60941

Please indicate which parish you are sending your donation in for.

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)

Thoughts from Fr. Ron

Is Corona a virus or God's wrath?

Since the emergence of the Corona virus and its escalation to pandemic status, the question has been floated; 'Is this God's wrath?' No mainstream religious leader has come forward and identified this virus as God's wrath unleashed on the world. However, some of the faithful are asking the question. When God sent Moses to demand the release of the Israelites, Pharaoh became stubborn. Under no circumstances would he allow the Israelites to leave Egypt. Moses warned him of the consequences of his decision, but Pharaoh was unrelenting. God then sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians, each one worse than the previous. After the tenth plague, the death of the first born, Pharaoh relented.

When God became angry with the Israelites during their Exodus, he sent snakes among the people. Many were bitten and died. God instructed Moses to craft a bronze snake and mount it on a pole. Whoever looked upon it recovered. God sent the prophet Jonah to the Ninevites with the message, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed." At the preaching of Johan, the people of Nineveh repented, and God turned away His wrath. The Old Testament give us many more examples of God's anger followed by His forgiveness. But those were the Egyptians, the Israelite, and the Ninevites. What does that have to do with us?

The question we face : "Is God angry with the world today?" Well, let's look at our world today— We have wars and killing in the Middle East and elsewhere in the name of God There are drug wars, kidnappings, and violence south of our border. Women and children are being sold into sex slavery throughout the world. Each weekend in Chicago and other metropolitan areas, there are gang shootings with innocent people getting caught in the crossfire. In New York, the legislature passed a bill allowing abortion up to the moment of birth. The Catholic governor signed that bill into law. Is God angry with the state of the world today? Would you blame God for being angry?

The Father sent Jesus into the world to reveal to us a God of mercy and compassion. The parables show us that God is slow to anger and rich in kindness. The parable of the Prodigal Son reveals a God who is patient, understanding, and forgiving. Yes, our world is a mess, but God knows we can change for the better. As Catholics, we believe in the Sacrament of Reconciliation which restores us to Baptismal grace. When we fail to live up to our Christian faith, we can be forgiven and given another chance to do good.

This current crisis is an opportunity for us to examine our lives and identify what areas we need to change. This is the time to realign our priorities and focus on what is most important in life and in our faith. God loves us and has plans for our lives. Remember, God is not finished with us. He sees the goodness in us that the darkness of this world blinds us from seeing. Patience people, this too shall pass.

Helping families focus on what matters most...

A Sunday Resource for all Parents!

Tri-parish religious education families: the Diocese of Joliet has created a weekly resource for your families to use at home.

If you do not receive an email with a link to this resource, please contact your director of religious education.

Don't forget to like the Tri-Parish Catholics Facebook page for timely information and links to live streamed masses throughout our Diocese.

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential everyone is counted

Everyone counts.
The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once and in the right place.

It's about fair representation.
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

It's in the Constitution.
The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living here. The first census was in 1790.

It's about \$675 billion.
Census data determine how more than \$675 billion are spent, supporting your state, county and community's vital programs.

It's about redistricting.
After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty.
Completing the census is required: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"

United States Census 2020
2020census.gov/jobs
1-855-JOB-2020

From Stacie Powers—Faith Formation

Augustine Institute, a Catholic publishing company that I use for Bible study materials among other things, has offered free access to their online videos, movies, podcasts, etc. I have provided the link here. Please take the time to look into these. Those preparing for sacraments, there are some videos especially for you—Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconcil-

<https://leaders.formed.org/faith-at-home/> paste this link in your browser and let me know if it works:)

FORMED
FAITH AT HOME
FREE 40 DAYS - formed.org

You can use the above link especially for those preparing for sacraments, but to just browse the site and watch or listen to the over 4000 offerings simply

1. Go to formed.org
2. Click the signup button
3. Click the I belong to a parish
4. Choose your church by name and zip code in the menu
5. Type your name and address

Sunday Mass opportunities

St. Patrick's Church in Momence will be sharing Sunday Mass online at: www.stpatrickmomence.org

Please check out a live stream mass at St. John Paul II in Kankakee: www.jp2kankakee.org 9:00am on Sunday. They will also be streaming weekday masses at 9 am as well.