

Fifth Sunday of Lent Week of March 29, 2020

The Roman Catholic Parishes of

St. Margaret Mary, Herscher

St. James the Apostle, Irwin



If the SPIRIT of GOD
who raised JESUS from the dead
dwells in you, GOD will give life
to your mortal body also,
through his SPIRIT dwelling in you

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All mass intentions for the last few weeks will be rescheduled once we are back on our regular schedule. Thank you for being understanding and cooperative with this rescheduling process.

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.

**Mail in Collections
March 15-26, 2020**

St. Margaret Mary—\$355
St. James—\$2,000
Sacred Heart—\$1,070

Thank you for your
continued support.


Thank you for your generosity

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.

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.



The Council of Churches Easter food baskets will be distributed by St. Margaret Mary parish on April 11 from 9-10 am. Please park in the south parking lot and you will be taken care of. Call Hardware Hank's at 815-426-2113 to request a basket.

As of March 26, our CMAA refunds are:

St. James—\$155 St. Margaret Mary—\$633.85

If you have not done so, don't forget to mail your CMAA pledge to the Diocese.

The best way to stay informed is to visit our webpage at www.triparishcatholics.org and check out our Facebook page at triparish catholic communities.

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 Reconciliation. They especially want to promote the presentation on Holy Week.

<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](https://www.formed.org)

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER
in a Time of Crisis

God of love and mercy,
we are living under the cross of your Son
in an unexpected and unwelcome way.
We feel the gripping power of fear,
anxiety, powerlessness and dread.
We face the cross with a fearful heart.

Send your Spirit down upon us
to give us wisdom and courage,
to console us
and give us peace.

One with you and your Son,
the Spirit is the giver of life
who can guide us through the storms
and comfort us in our pain and
discouragement.

Through your Spirit, transform our
weakness into strength
and breathe confidence into us,
so that our stewardship of the Gospel
will give us a new boldness to
proclaim the hope of your cross
and the joy of Easter morning.

We pray this in Jesus' name.
Amen.



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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](https://www.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
6. Start watching

Lenten Reflections and Prayers

1. We hold in our hearts the sorrow of those who have lost loved ones to the Coronavirus. May those who have died now rest in the presence of the Lord who suffered with them.
2. We pray for those who are feeling ill at this time and those who are caring for them. May the Lord show them his healing love and give them peace.
3. We pray for those who are using their skills in caring for those who are ill and frail. We pray for first responders and others who put themselves at risk for the rest of us. May the Lord strengthen them and give them confidence that they are doing his work in the healing of bodies souls, and spirits.
4. We place ourselves with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. We will watch and pray, knowing that he is with us in our uncertainty and fear. May we hear in our hearts the words from the Prophet Isaiah: "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you."
5. We pray for those whose working lives will change as a result of the Coronavirus crisis. We pray that those who lose their jobs will find work which will fulfill their hopes and enable them to live with dignity. We pray for fairness and justice in the workplace.
6. We pray for those who lead us in government at this time. We pray for wisdom and discernment that they will do their utmost to serve their people faithfully and without self-interest.
7. We pray too for the scientists and the medical experts who are leading the response to the present crisis. May they share their knowledge and expertise with humility and integrity.