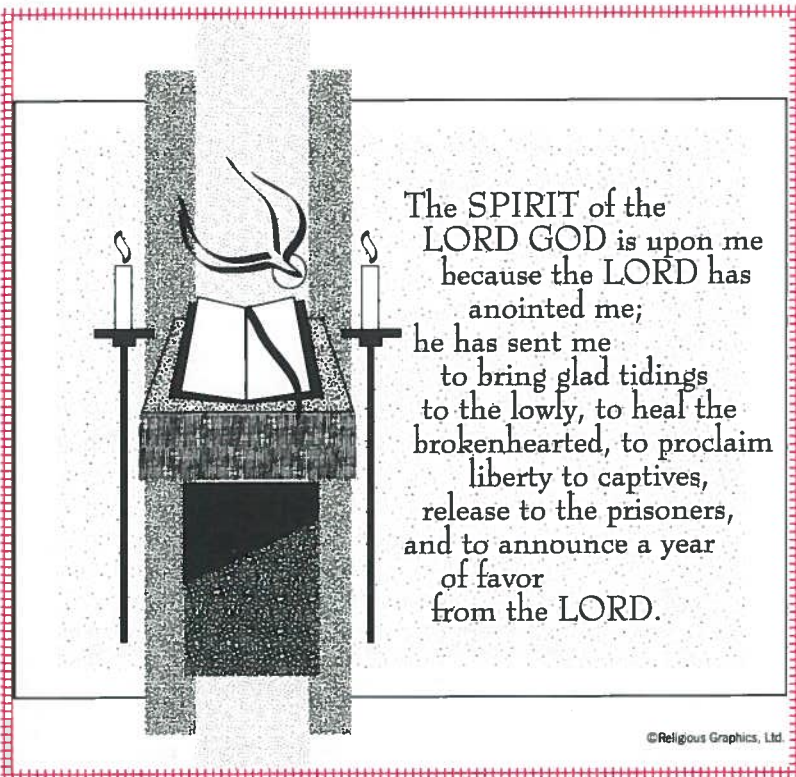


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 12-13,**



**Mass Intentions for the Week**

- Monday, December 14 (SMM)**  
8:00 am +Anna Hildebrand & George Schmidt  
(Mariann Lane)
- Tuesday, December 15 (SH)**  
8:00 am +Cindy Walsh (Jackie Cross)
- Wednesday, December 16 (SJ)**  
8:00 am +Daniel King (Jerome Schneider)
- Friday, December 18 (SMM)**  
8:00 am +Sondra Hertz (Roger /Margaret Jensen)
- Saturday, December 19 (SMM)**  
5:00 pm For All the Parish Family
- Sunday, December 20**  
7:30 am +Dorine Schafer (Mary Larsen)  
+Elinor & Rudell Weakley (Terri & Jerry  
Weakley) (SH)
- 9:00 am +Alex Denault (John & Dawn Deany)  
+Thomas O'Connor (Louise Devine) (SJ)
- 10:30am +Gary Jensen (Jim & Kathy Jepsen)  
+Cindy Frerichs (Robin Ahramovich)(SMM)

**A Stewardship Moment**

**3rd Sunday of Advent December 12-13, 2020**

In today's second reading Paul concludes his letter to the Christian community at Thessalonica by providing it with actions to take as they wait for the return of the Lord. The first action is to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. This does not sound easy in a time of pandemic. The two words that make this task difficult are "always" and "all." This means giving thanks and rejoicing even when our circumstances are not always moments of joy and thanksgiving, or when we are confronted with a broken world. Prayerful stewards rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances, even during these uncertain and stressful times, because they are people of hope. A good reflection this week would be how the season of Advent can give you reason to hope.

Confessions:

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



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

Quotable: “ Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God mad Man.”

~Pope Francis

**Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 19-20, 2020**

<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Dec. 19 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Sunday, Dec. 20 7:30 am</b>	<b>St. James Sunday, Dec. 20 9:00 am</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Dec. 20 10:30 am</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Dave Emling Jason Piper	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Jerry Ogrentz R.Leader— N. Saathoff	Joe Smolkovich Bill Powers Darren Lovell
<b>Lector</b>	Bobbi Buza	Terri Weakley	Jeff O’Connor	Corinn Wheeler

**ALL PARISHES-**

- ◆ St. James and St. Margaret Mary—If you did not pick up a Today’s Missal book last week, please do so if you are interested. Remember you must take yours home and bring it back with you each week. Please do not leave them in your pew at the conclusion of mass.
- ◆ The Prayer Hour on Mondays has been canceled until further notice.
- ◆ **With rising Covid numbers, please follow the guidelines put forth by the Diocese and state.** All parishioners are reminded by the Bishop that:
  - the dispensation from the Sunday obligation remains in force indefinitely
  - if you are fearful or have reluctance to return to Sunday observance at this time, you should not do so
  - those most susceptible to contracting COVID-19 by virtue of age, medical condition or other vulnerability should not attend the in-person Mass

**A Look Ahead**

**December 12-13**— Second Collection for Retired Religious

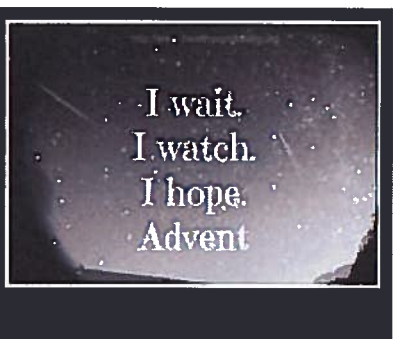
**Monday, Dec. 21**—SJ Church decorating at 6 pm

**Monday, Dec. 21**—SMM Church decorating at 7 pm

**Parish Advent Reconciliation Service**

There will be an Advent Reconciliation service on Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at St. James. There will be two priests hearing confessions.

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 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 – 426-5015  
 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)



Ministries for Christmas are on the back of the bulletin this week.

Pick up your church envelopes in the back if you have not done so, please.

## What is Oplatki or the Christmas Wafer?



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 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



# Jesus' Birthday Cake

Would you like to start a new tradition involving the whole family? Then why not bake Jesus a birthday cake? This is actually not a new tradition, it goes back almost 500 years ago to Germany but fell out of use in the Twentieth Century. In the 1990s it was revived and has been growing in popularity ever since.

## Symbolism of the cake colors

The chocolate layer reminds us that we are sinful.

The red layer reminds us that Jesus shed his blood for our sins.

The white frosting reminds us that Jesus has given us a clean heart.

The green layer represents how we should grow to look more like Jesus.

The yellow star decorations remind us of the star God put in the sky when Jesus was born.

The candles (not shown) remind us that Jesus is the Light of the Word.

### Directions

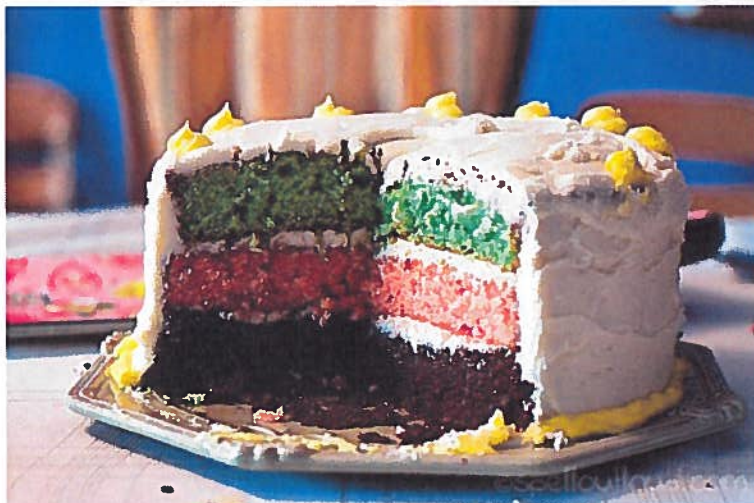
1 box of chocolate cake mix and 1 box of white cake mix.

Prepare and bake the chocolate mix as described in 2 8" round pans. Save one pan for this cake and the other one for another purpose.

Prepare the white cake mix as directed and split the batter in half. Add red food coloring to one bowl and green food coloring to the other. Pour into 8" round pans and bake.

Let cakes cool. Then layer chocolate on the bottom, then red, then green. Ice with white icing and add yellow star decorations and candles.

Make it even more meaningful by placing one candle (not 2,020 candles) in the center to represent Jesus and then let every person present add a candle to represent how Jesus' light makes them shine.



## Collections Week of Dec. 5-6

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,004

St. James—\$1,290

Sacred Heart—\$1,025

Thank you for your generosity



## Parish News:

### St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ We will be decorating on Monday, December 21 at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome!
- ◆ Don't forget to get your CCW Gift of Warmth gifts to Jackie Eberle by Dec. 16.  
Jackie—815-421-4048

### St. James-

- ◆ Please mark your calendar for Monday, December 21st at 6 pm when we will be cleaning and decorating the church for Christmas. All are welcome!

## Jupiter and Saturn will form rare "Christmas Star" on Winter Solstice, Dec. 21

This December, Jupiter and Saturn will put on a show for skygazers that hasn't been seen in roughly 800 years. Astronomers are calling it the Great Conjunction of 2020. On December 21 — coincidentally the winter solstice — the two largest planets in our solar system will appear to almost merge in Earth's night sky.

During the event, Jupiter and Saturn will sit just 0.1 degrees apart, or a mere one-fifth the width of the Moon. The sight will likely leave many casual observers wondering "What are those large, bright objects so close together in the sky?"

In fact, Jupiter and Saturn will be so close that you will be able to fit them both in the same telescopic field of view. That's an incredibly rare occurrence. The last time Jupiter and Saturn were this close together was in 1226 A.D., at a time when Genghis Khan was conquering large swaths of Asia, and Europe was still generations away from the Renaissance. Humanity won't have to wait quite as long to see the solar system's two largest planets repeat this month's performance, though. Another Great Conjunction will occur in 2080. Of course, many of us alive today won't be around then, so it would be wise to soak in this show while you can.

## Sponsor a Needy Individual or Family for Christmas

Catholic Charities is providing the opportunity for you to help their clients at Christmas this year. The Gift of Christmas is an annual program that fulfills wish lists for individuals who are served by Catholic Charities.

Read stories about clients and choose who you would like to help this Christmas. Or, if you prefer, you can direct your donation to an individual or family who hasn't been chosen yet.

Donating is simple: visit [catholiccharitiesjoliet.org](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org) and click on "donate." Or, call 815-724-1140 to make your donation over the phone. To send a check, please note "Gift of Christmas" in the memo and send checks to:

Catholic Charities  
 16555 Weber Rd.  
 Crest Hill, IL  
 60403

If you have any questions, please call 815-724-1140 or email [msnow@cc-doj.org](mailto:msnow@cc-doj.org). Thank you and God bless you! Merry Christmas!

advent—epiphany <i>journey joyfully</i>						
<b>DECEMBER 13</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28	14	15 Identify who is in need within your community and ways your family can provide for those in need. Take some time today to reflect on today's Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 34	16	17 Today begins the traditional "O Antiphons" of Advent. Each antiphon is a name of Christ, as mentioned in the Scriptures. Research them, find them on YouTube, and pray with them!	18	19 This weekend, make a plan as a family to perform an important work of mercy by sending Christmas cards to those who are imprisoned.

**Saint of the week: St. John of the Cross** (Dec. 14) was born in poverty. During his early life he cared for the poor in the hospital in Medina del Campo, Spain. He became a Carmelite lay brother in 1563 at age 21, though he lived more strictly than the Rule required. John studied at Salamanca, Spain. He was ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25. John was persuaded by Saint Teresa of Avila to begin the *Discalced* or *barefoot* reform within the order, he took the name *John of the Cross*. He rose to become the master of novices, spiritual director and confessor at Saint Teresa's convent. His reforms did not set well with some of his brothers, and he was ordered to return to Medina del Campo. He refused, and was imprisoned at Toledo, Spain, escaping after nine months. Later he was named the Vicar-general of Andalusia, Spain. His reforms revitalized the Order. John was known as a great contemplative and spiritual writer. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI on 24 August 1926.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Mary di Rosa** (Dec. 15) was one of nine children born to the industrialist Clement di Rosa and Countess Camilla Albani. Her father owned a large spinning mill, and Mary grew up in a happy and pious family. She was educated by Visitandine nuns. Mary's mother died when the girl was seventeen, and she left school to help manage her father's estate. Her heart set on a religious life, she turned down many suitors. She worked with young girls in her community, those who worked in her father's mills, and the sick in local hospital, including endless work during the cholera epidemic of 1836. She founded a home dedicated to the spiritual needs of young girls, and a school for deaf children. In 1840 she became the superior of the *Handmaids of Charity*, nuns who cared for the sick, and she took the name *Mary Crucifixa*. The community received their bishop's approval in 1843, papal approval in 1850, and Mary led them until her death.



### Christmas Ministries December 24-25, 2020

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Thursday, Dec. 24 3:00 pm	St. James Thursday, Dec. 24 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Thursday, Dec. 24 9:00 pm	Sacred Heart Friday, Dec. 25 7:30 am	St. James Friday, Dec. 25 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Friday, Dec. 25 10:30 am
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Todd Datweiler Wayne Bisailon Erik Wheeler	Greeter— D. Bernicky	Dale Pfeiffer Dennis Pankey	James Mallaney Kyle Ferris	Greeter— Dallas Ferris	Whomever is at Mass please volunteer
<b>Lector</b>	Corinn Wheeler	Craig Frerichs	Darlene Cipcich	Mike Hertz	Dave Ladehoff	Jackie Eberle