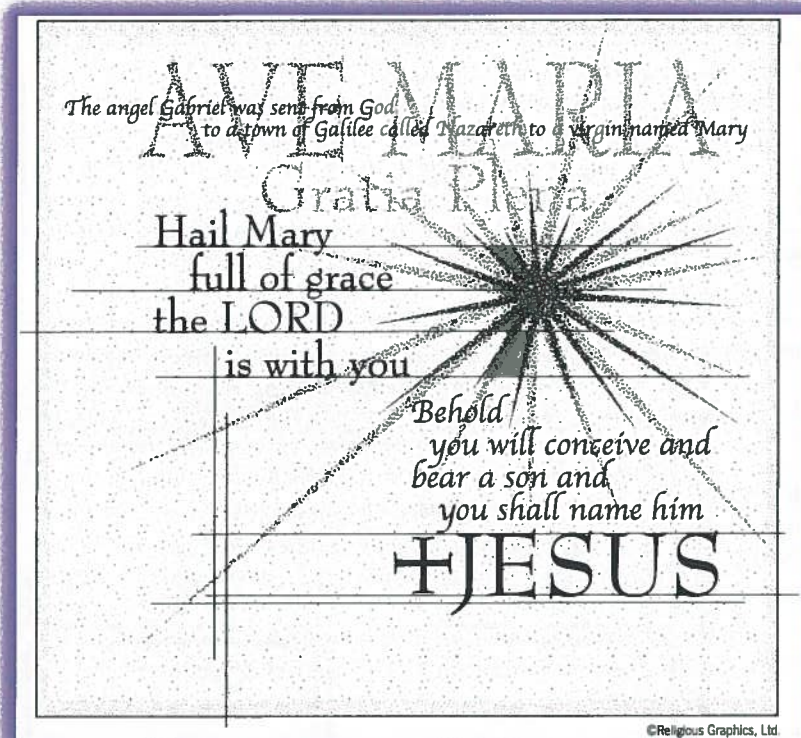


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 19-20, 2020**



**Mass Intentions for the Week**

- Monday, December 21 (SMM)**  
8:00 am +Madonna Hoffman (MaryAnn Wagner)
- Tuesday, December 22 (SH)**  
8:00 am +Cecelia Monk (Terri Weakley)
- Wednesday, December 23 (SJ)**  
8:00 am +Maxine Osmanson (Cathy Jensen)
- Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve**  
3:00 pm +John Andrzejewski (Pat Gray)  
+Bill Fritz (Norm/Sharon Riordan) (SMM)  
5:00 + Laurie Hansen (Jennifer Hansen)  
+Joan Smith (Dallas/Joyce Ferris) (SJ)  
9:00 Intention of the Celebrant (SH)
- Friday, December 25 Christmas Day**  
7:30 am +Walter & Mary Pieszka (A. Kmetz) (SH)  
9:00 am Intention of the Celebrant (SJ)  
10:30 am Intention of the Celebrant (SMM)
- Saturday, December 26 (SMM)**  
5:00 pm +Vicki Hensley (Roger/Margaret Jensen)  
+Brian Buckley (Mike & Shelly Hertz)
- Sunday, December 27**  
7:30 am +Jerry Whalen (Sheila Koerner) (SH)  
9:00 am +Leonard Papineau (Kathy/Bruce Jensen)  
+Bill Miller (Karen Miller) (SJ)  
10:30am For All the Parish Family (SMM)

**A Stewardship Moment**

**4th Sunday of Advent December 19-20, 2020**

In today's Gospel reading we have the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?

**Confessions:**

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



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

Quotable: "May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women." ~Pope Francis

### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph —December 26-27, 2020

|                            |  |   |   |   |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Liturgical Schedule</b> | <b>St. Margaret Mary</b><br>Saturday, Dec. 26<br>5:00 pm | <b>Sacred Heart</b><br>Sunday, Dec. 27<br>7:30 am | <b>St. James</b><br>Sunday, Dec. 27<br>9:00 am  | <b>St. Margaret Mary</b><br>Sunday, Dec. 27<br>10:30 am |
| <b>Celebrant</b>           | Fr. Ron  | Fr. Ron<br>Deacon Ron                             | Fr. Ron   | Fr. Ron   |
| <b>Ushers</b>              | Gery Wright<br>Dan Hoffman                               | Dale Pfeiffer<br>Daryl Ferris                     | The committee will take care of ushering duties<br>Greeter— Rita Thiesen<br>R.Leader—Joyce Ferris | Larry Wolles<br>Jeremy Wolles<br>Nick Zerebny           |
| <b>Lector</b>              | Rob Landeck  | Terri Weakley                                     | Andy Hansen   | Dana Masching   |

#### 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

**Monday, Dec. 21**—SJ Church decorating at 6 pm  
**Monday, Dec. 21**—SMM Church decorating at 7 pm  
**Thursday, Dec. 31**—New Year's Eve Mass 5pm at SH  
**Friday, Jan. 1**—Mass at SJ 9 am & Mass at SMM 10:30

Ministries for Christmas are on the next page of the bulletin this week. There were a few changes.

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

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)

The Virgin is with child  
 and shall bear a son, and  
 she will call him  
**EMMANUEL**

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## Collections Week of Dec. 12-13

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,186

St. James—\$1,445

Sacred Heart—\$1,183

Thank you for your generosity

### 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*



### Parish News:

#### St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ We will be decorating on Monday, December 21 at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome!
- ◆ Thank you to all who donated to the Gift of Warmth program this year. A special thank you to Jackie Eberle for coordinating it and Steve and Donna Jacobs for transporting the gifts.

#### 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!

*May the timeless message of Christmas fill your heart and home with joy and love now and throughout the coming year.*

*Christmas blessings to you and your family from Father and the Tri-Parish office staff.*



## Christmas Ministries December 24-25, 2020

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



**Saint of the week: St. Peter Canisius**, (Dec. 21) was the son of Jacob Canisius, a wealthy burgomeister, and Egidia van Houweningen, who diwho died shortly after Peter's birth. Educated in Cologne, Germany, he studied art, civil law and theology. He was an excellent student, and received a master's degree by age 19; his closest friends at university were monks and clerics. He joined the Jesuits on May 8, 1543 attending a retreat conducted by Blessed Peter Faber. Peter taught at the University of Cologne, and helped found the first Jesuit house in the city. He was ordained in 1546 and became the theologian of Truchsess von Waldburg, Bishop of Augsburg in 1547. He travelled and worked with Saint Ignatius of Loyola who was his spiritual director in Rome, Italy. Peter taught rhetoric in Messina, Sicily in 1584, preaching in Italian and Latin. Peter earned the Doctor of Theology degree in 1549. Peter began teaching theology and preaching at Ingolstadt, Germany in 1549. Later he was named rector of the university in 1550. Peter was teaching theology and preaching in the Cathedral of Saint Stephen in Vienna, Austria in 1552; the royal court confessor, he continued to work in hospitals and prisons, and during Lent in 1553, he travelled to preach in abandoned parishes in Lower Austria. During Mass one day he received a vision of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and ever after offered his work to the Sacred Heart. He led the Counter-Reformation in Germany, Austria, Bohemia, and Switzerland, and his work led to the return of Catholicism to Germany. His catechism went through 200 editions during his life, and was translated into 12 languages; in some places catechisms were referred to as *Canisi*. He attended the *Diet of Augsburg* in 1555. Peter founded Jesuit colleges in Ingolstadt, Prague, Dillingen, and Fribourg. Peter was elected the Jesuit provincial superior. He attended the *Diet of Ratisbon* in 1556 and 1557. Everywhere he worked he became a noted preacher, and often worked with children, teaching them and hearing their confessions. Peter represented Pope Paul IV at the imperial *Diet of Pieternow*, and addressed the Council of Trent on the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. He recommended Saint Stanislaus Kostka for reception as a Jesuit. He was even the Court preacher to Archduke Ferdinand II of Austria. While in Fribourg, Switzerland, he received a message from the city's patron saint, Nicholas of Myra, that he should stop travelling; Peter spent the rest of his life there. He taught, preached, edited books, and worked to support the Catholic press and printers in many cities; his advice was sought by Saint Francis de Sales, and by his friend Saint Charles Borromeo. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1925 by Pope Pius XI.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Zeno of Nicomedia** (Dec. 22) was an imperial Roman soldier and regimental commander. As the emperor Diocletian offered sacrifice to a statue of the goddess Ceres, Zeno laughed and ridiculed the whole procedure. His jaw was shattered for having spoken, and he then was martyred for his sentiment.

|   |    |  |    |  |   |   |
|---|----|--|----|--|---|---|
| advent—epiphany   |    | journey <i>joyfully</i>  |    |  |   |   |
| DECEMBER 20<br><b>4th Sunday of Advent</b><br>Readings:<br>2 Samuel 7:1-5,<br>8-12, 14, 16<br>Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27,29<br>Romans 16:25-27<br>Luke 1;26-38 | 21 | 22<br>Reflect on Sunday's Gospel. How is God calling you to say yes to his call? | 23 | 24<br><b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b><br>Talk about the contrast of light and dark, and the difference the Light of Christ makes in the world. End the day in prayer, around the lighted Christmas tree or candles. | 25<br><b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b><br>Jesus is born!<br>What gifts has God given you? Like the little drummer boy, what gift can you offer Jesus this week? Be sure to thank God today! | 26<br><b>FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN</b><br>As we remember St. Stephen, the first martyr, take some time to pray for those who are persecuted for their faith. |