

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

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

**December 26-27,**



**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, December 28 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Todd Hildebrand (Mariann Lane)

**Tuesday, December 29 (SH)**

8:00 am +Sondra Hertz (Jim/Debbie Mowrey)

**Wednesday, December 30 (SJ)**

8:00 am +Lavern Morrival (Verna D.)

**Thursday, December 31 (SH)**

5:00 + Geri Tobenski (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

**Friday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

9:00 am +Joan Smith (Dallas/Joyce Ferris) (SJ)

10:30 am +Jr. Matern (Mariann Lane) (SMM)

**Saturday, January 2 (SMM)**

5:00 pm +Robert Schneider Sr. (Jeff/Mary Schneider)

+Agnes Fleischauer (The Family)

**Sunday, January 3**

7:30 am +John Andrzejewski (Terri/Jerry Weakley) (SH)

9:00 am +Fred Gohlke (Reatta & Family)

+Bill Miller (Karen Miller) (SJ)

10:30am For All the Parish Family (SMM)

**A Stewardship Moment**

**Feast of the Holy Family December 26-27**

When Jesus is presented in the Temple, our Blessed Mother formally offers him to God's service without reservation. It is a service that Simeon prophetically foretells: a service to God that will turn the old laws and cultural norms upside down. As we await the dawn of a new year, are we destined to hold on to old habits and customs tightly or like Jesus, are we willing to serve the Lord and proclaim the Gospel in new and creative ways?

**Confessions:**

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

**GATHER AS THE  
LORD'S  
FAMILY**



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**Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941**

**Phone: 815-426-2550**

Quotable: "Father, I am seeking: I am hesitant and uncertain, but will you, O God, watch over each step of mine and guide me."  
 ~St. Augustine

### The Epiphany of the Lord —January 2-3, 2021

<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary</b> Saturday, Jan. 2 5:00 pm	<b>Sacred Heart</b> Sunday, Jan. 3 7:30 am	<b>St. James</b> Sunday, Jan. 3 9:00 am	<b>St. Margaret Mary</b> Sunday, Jan. 3 10:30 am
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Todd Datweiler Dan Hoffman	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Jerry Ogrentz R.Leader—R. Gohlke	Marco Smolkovich Darren Lovell Joe Smolkovich
<b>Lector</b>	Dave Emling	Mike Hertz	Jeff O'Connor	Steve Jacob

#### 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

**Thursday, Dec. 31**—New Year's Eve Mass 5pm at SH  
**Friday, Jan. 1**—Mass at SJ 9 am & Mass at SMM 10:30 am  
**Jan. 23-24**—2nd collection for Africa and Latin America

Ministries for New Year's are on the back page of the bulletin this week.

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

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 Deacon – Ron Gagnon—rjgckg@gmail.com  
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 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 Jdstreeffarms@aol.com  
 St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)



*Prayers for a  
 Happy  
 Healthy New  
 Year!*

**Collections Week of Dec. 19-20**

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,651

St. James—\$778

Sacred Heart—\$1,306

Thank you for your generosity

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Hope for a New Year

Gracious God,

As a new year begins, we place our trust in you.

May the time to come bring us closer to recognizing our need to love and cherish one another.

May those in power understand the importance of cultivating peace and bringing an end to war.

May those who struggle with disease, loss, poverty, and despair find light in the midst of their struggles and suffering.

And may we grow stronger in our desire to imitate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ, your Son, in whom our hope abides.

Amen

**Parish News:**

**St. Margaret Mary—**

- ◆ Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up the Nativity scene outdoors. It is a beautiful reminder to all as to what the season is truly about.
- ◆ Thank you to the Wayne Bisailon Family and the Bill Powers family for decorating the altar of the church so beautifully!

**St. James-**

- ◆ Thank you so much to all the volunteers who helped decorate St. James on Monday night. It was great seeing everyone and the church looks beautiful.

**New Year's as a Holy Day**

A solemnity is the highest ranking holy day in the Church calendar. The Solemnity of Mary is a liturgical feast day honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary's motherhood in the wake of the birth of the baby Jesus Christ. This holiday is also the Octave of Christmas or the 8th day of Christmas. As Mary's fiat reminds the faithful: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word."

New Year's Day has been associated with the Virgin Mary since the earliest days of Catholicism when many of the faithful in both the East and West would celebrate with a feast in her honor. Other early Catholics observed the Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Jan. 1. It wasn't until the introduction of the *Novus Ordo* in 1965, that the Feast of the Circumcision was set aside, and the ancient practice of dedicating Jan. 1 to the Mother of God was revived as a universal feast.

ThoughtCo. "Is New Year's a Holy Day of Obligation?" Learn Religions, Aug. 25, 2020, [learnreligions.com/january-first-holy-day-of-obligation-542434](https://www.learnreligions.com/january-first-holy-day-of-obligation-542434).

advent—epiphany *journey joyfully*

<p><b>DECEMBER 27</b> <b>FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b> Readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Psalm 128: 1-2,3,4-5 Colossians 3:12-21 Luke 2:22-40</p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS</b> Remember the Holy Innocents, pray with your family for other families with young children in your community.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> To prepare for the Epiphany, stand and pray under the stars. Talk about the trust it must have taken to follow the star over Bethlehem, and what it's like to search for God and find him.</p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> How will you begin this new year? Write to or call a lonely relative, make peace with someone in your life, more time in prayer?</p>	<p><b>JANUARY 1</b> <b>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b> Read and reflect on today's Gospel, Luke 2:16-21, and think about the experiences that you hold in your heart. Pray the Hail Mary as a family.</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>MEMORIAL OF SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN</b> Saint Basil the Great was dedicated to helping the poor. Find a way to donate goods or your time to a local food pantry or shelter.</p>
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**Saint of the week: St. Sylvester** (Dec. 31) was the son of Rufinus. He was the pope in the reign of Emperor Constantine I. He built the Basilica of Saint John Lateran and other churches. Sylvester sent legates to the *First Council of Nicaea*, and was involved in the controversy over Arianism. The spurious *Donation of Constantine* was supposedly given to Saint Sylvester.



**Obscure saint of the week:** Saint Columba of Sens (Dec. 31) was born to Spanish Nobility. At age 16 she and other Christians fled Spain for Gaul (modern France) to escape the persecutions of Emperor Aurelian. They were located, however, and imprisoned. Legend says that while Columba was in prison, one of the jailers tried to rape her; a bear that was being used at a nearby amphitheater attacked the guard and rescued her. However, she and the rest of the group were later martyred in the on-going persecutions of Aurelian.

Tradition says that almost immediately upon her death a blind man named Aubertus asked for her intervention and had his sight restored. His first act was to run to her execution site and give her body a decent burial. A chapel was soon built at the grave, followed later by the Abbey of Sens. Other churches in France have borne her name, and in times past she had a strong devotion. This inevitably led to her association with pious fictions and legend.

**Happy New Year! Welcome 2021**

“Happy New Year” this greeting will be heard for the first couple of weeks of the new year but January 1<sup>st</sup> was not always the date celebrated as the start of the new year. The start of a new year is one of the oldest holidays in human history. The Babylonians celebrated the start of a new year 4,000 years ago. About 2,000 B.C. the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox. The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. It is the season of rebirth and planting crops. January 1<sup>st</sup> has no astronomical or agricultural significance, it was purely an arbitrary date selected.



The Babylonians celebrated the new year for eleven days. The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March. The Roman Senate declared January 1<sup>st</sup> to be the beginning of the new year back in the year 153 B.C. Although in the first centuries A.D. the Romans continued to celebrate the new year, it was condemned by the Church as paganism. During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1<sup>st</sup> has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about 400 years.

Our tradition of making resolutions dates back to the Babylonians. The most popular resolution in ancient Babylon was to return borrowed farm equipment. The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year began in Greece around the year 600 B. C. It was their tradition to celebrate the god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility.

Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year’s Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark haired man. The Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year’s Day will bring good fortune. The song “Auld Lang Syne” was written by Robert Burns in the 1700’s but it wasn’t published until after his death. It is an old Scotch song meaning “old long ago” or “the good old days”.

We here at the Tri Parish Community wish you a happy and healthy new year.

<b>New Year's/ Solemnity of Mary Ministries Dec.31—Jan. 1, 2021</b>			
<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Thursday, Dec. 31 5:00 pm</b>	<b>St. James Friday, Jan. 1 9:00 am</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Friday, Jan. 1 10:30 am</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	James Mallaney Dennis Pankey	Greeter— Rick White R. Leader—Rita Thiesen	Corey Eich Bill Powers
<b>Lector</b>	Darlene Cipcich	Mary Peerbolte	Julie Splear