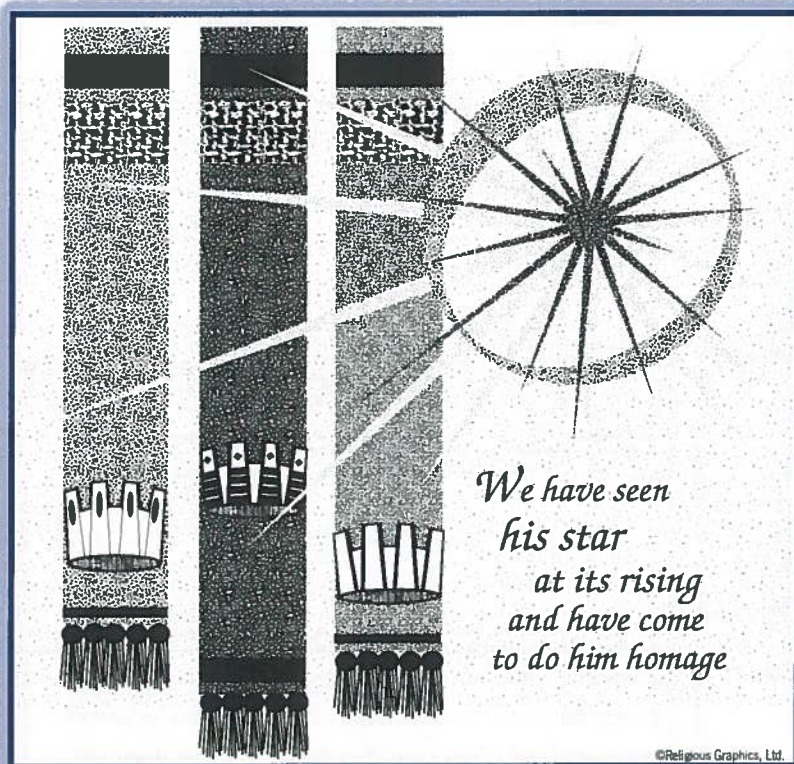


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin**

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 2-3, 2021



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, January 4 (SMM)

8:00 am +Bill Fritz (Janet Andrzejewski)

Tuesday, January 5 (SH)

8:00 am +Susan Soucie (Rebecca, Ray, Juanita Stenkel)

Wednesday, January 6 (SJ)

8:00 am +Vicki Hensley (Gerald /Mary Offerman)

Friday, January 8 (SMM)

8:00 am +Dick & Dolores Fitch (Mr/Mrs Joe Ahern)

Saturday, January 9 (SMM)

5:00 pm +John & Mary Margaret Brown (Tom, Gene, & Kathy O'Connor)

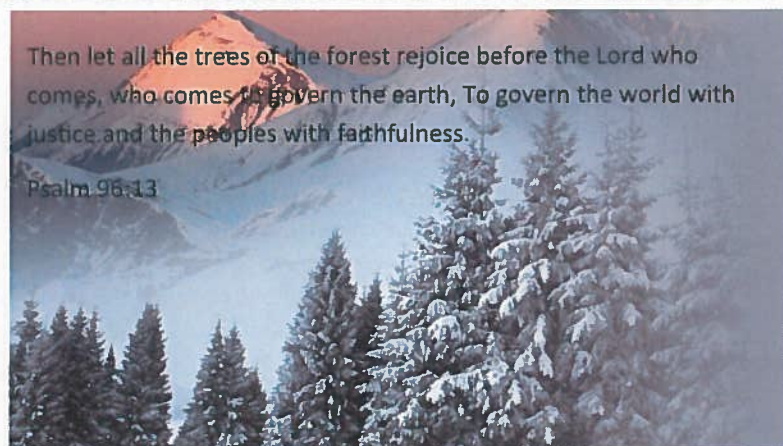
Sunday, January 10

7:30 am +Cecelia Monk (Gary/Kate Cloonen)
+Walt & Marie Hyma (Jackie Cross) (SH)

9:00 am +Geri Tobenski (Noreen Saathoff)

+Ruby Strachan (SJ)

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



Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice before the Lord who comes, who comes to govern the earth, To govern the world with justice and the peoples with faithfulness.

Psalm 96:13

Confessions:

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

A Stewardship Moment

Stewardship calls us to recognize that everything we have is a gift from God and that we are called by God to receive gratefully, cultivate them fully and share them generously. As Catholic stewards, we use the blessings we have received and demonstrate both our understanding that we are managers (not owners) of God's gifts and our appreciation for what we have received. When we contribute our time, talent, and treasure to our parish, diocese, and the universal Church, we follow the example of the servant who multiplied his talents while his master was away.

Everyone has a calling, which is another way of saying that your walk with God is a personal responsibility-in which your friendships and family, in our work, wherever you go- then taking the next step to answer that call is where Catholic stewardship may be clearly seen.

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

Quotable: "The new year brings a sense of renewal, a chance to reflect on who we are as people of faith and how we might become better followers of Christ."

-Most Rev. Oscar A. Solis

The Baptism of the Lord—January 9-10, 2021

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Jan. 9 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Jan. 10 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Jan. 10 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Jan. 10 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Roger Jensen	Dale Pfeiffer Dennis Pankey	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— D. Bernicky R.Leader—Peerboltes	Conner Settles Erik Wheeler Nick Zerebny
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Terri Weakley	Craig Frerichs	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

Jan. 23-24—2nd collection for Africa and Latin America

If you have not done so, please pick up your church envelopes in the back of each church. If you are attending one of our other churches, let us know and we will get the envelopes to you.

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 – 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)

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+ Dorene O'Connor

Mother of Dennis (SueAnn) O'Connor

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace. Amen

Our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Most people have heard the word 'epiphany', but few Americans have an understanding of its meaning. The word itself means to reveal. Why has the Epiphany been celebrated almost as long as Christmas and Easter? How do the important events that are remembered on the Epiphany relate to the celebration of Christmas?

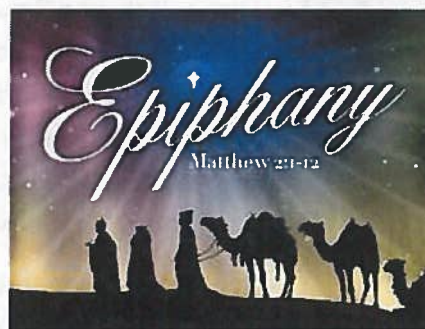
When the wise men or the magi came to Bethlehem and entered the house where Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were an "epiphany" came about. This was the first revelation of Jesus as Savior and King. These foreigners who knew little about the Jewish faith traveled a great distance to honor the infant Jesus. Because of this the Epiphany is considered a holy day in the Church. In the United States the feast is transferred to the Sunday after January 1st.

The Epiphany (Jan. 6th) is considered the last day of the Christmas season by many. In some places it is a day for the family to gather, take down the Christmas decorations and tree, and sing Christmas carols.

Since the Fourth Century, Church leaders have wanted the Epiphany to be a spiritual holiday. In some cultures the eve of the Epiphany was a time to attend church services, dried herbs were baked or simmered, filling the house with the strong smell of spices. The letters C, M, and B were written above the doors of many houses. These letters represent the names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Bal

thasar. Many scholars believe that the letters C, M, and B stand for the Latin *Christus mansionem benedictat*, which means Christ bless this home. On the eve of the Epiphany children would put out food for the magi and hay for the wise men's camels. Like Christmas, the children would eagerly go to bed and on the next morning the children would go outside to see if the wise men had come and taken their offerings. Sometimes the food was gone and gold coins were left in their place.

In areas influenced by German customs, children dress up as the magi on the Epiphany. One of the children carries a star and they travel door to door until they find the home designated as the place where the baby Jesus is staying. The children leave monetary gifts that have been collected or that have been given by their church. The gifts are later given to the sick and the poor. In other areas a "Kings cake" is baked and eaten on January 6th. If the Epiphany can be revived it could be the event that puts a spiritual cap on the holiday season.



Saint of the week: St. John Neuman (Jan. 5) was the son of Philip, who was German and owned a stocking factory, and Agnes Neumann who was Czech. John was a small and quiet boy with four sisters and a brother, and was named after Saint John Nepomucene. An excellent student, John early felt drawn to religious life. He attended the seminary at Budweis, Bohemia in 1813 where he studied astronomy and botany in addition to theological topics. He studied theology at Charles Ferdinand University at Prague in 1833.

When the time came for John's ordination, his bishop was sick; the ordination was never rescheduled as Bohemia had an over-abundance of priests. John decided to

(Continued)

to go to America to ask for ordination, and to work with immigrants. He walked most of the way to France, then took a ship for America. John arrived unannounced in Manhattan in 1836. Bishop John Dubois was happy to see him as there were 36 priests for the 200,000 Catholics in New York and New Jersey. John was ordained on June 28, 1836, and sent to Buffalo. There the parish priest, Father Pax, gave him the choice of the city of Buffalo or of the rural area; John chose the more difficult country area. He stayed in a small town with an unfinished church, and when it was completed, he moved to a town with a log church. There he built himself a small log cabin, rarely lit a fire, slept little, often lived on bread and water, and walked miles to visit farm after remote farm. John's parishioners were from many lands and tongues, but John knew twelve languages, and worked with them all.

He joined the Redemptorists at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1840, taking his vows in Baltimore, Maryland in 1841, the first Redemptorist to do so in the United States. He was a home missionary in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Later he became the rector of Saint Philomena church in Pittsburgh in 1844. John eventually became the Vice-regent and superior of the Redemptorists in America in 1847. He was named the Bishop of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1852.

Bishop John built fifty churches and began building a cathedral. He opened almost one hundred schools and the number of parochial school students in his diocese grew from 500 to 9,000. He wrote newspaper articles, two catechisms, and many works in German. First American man and first American bishop to be canonized.

Obscure saint of the week: St. Joseph Tomasi (Jan. 1) was born to nobility. He was the son of the duke of Palermo, Italy and Rosalia Traino. When their children were grown, both of his parents entered religious life, and four of his sisters became nuns. Joseph renounced his inheritance and position in favor of his brother, and joined the Theatines on March 24, 1665. He studied philosophy at Messina, Ferrara, and Modena, Italy, and theology in Rome and Palermo, Italy. Joseph learned Greek, Ethiopic, Arabic, Syriac, Chaldaic, Hebrew, Italian, and Latin. He was ordained on Christmas day, 1673.



Father Joseph was stationed in Rome and served as examiner of the clergy for Pope Innocent XII. He lived as a hermit, and was chastised by authorities for being over scrupulous. He studied and wrote extensively on the liturgy, publishing several titles under the pen name *Joseph Marie Carus*.

He became the confessor to Cardinal Albani; when Albani was elected Pope, he was reluctant to accept the throne. Joseph advised him it would be a mortal sin to refuse, so Albani became Clement XI. Joseph was the Consultor of the *Theatines* and theologian to several congregations. In addition he was the Consultor to the *Congregation of Rites*, and to the *Congregation of Indulgences and Sacred Relics*. Though he insisted he was not worthy, he was created cardinal-priest by Clement XI on 18 May 1712. He was a prolific writer on theology, Scripture, and patristics. He was known for his knowledge, humility, charity, and reforming work. Joseph always enjoyed teaching catechism to children. He is reported to have predicted the date of his death.

Collections Week of Dec. 19-20

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,428	Christmas - \$4,850
St. James—\$1,173	Christmas - \$2,555
Sacred Heart—\$1,525	Christmas— \$1,525

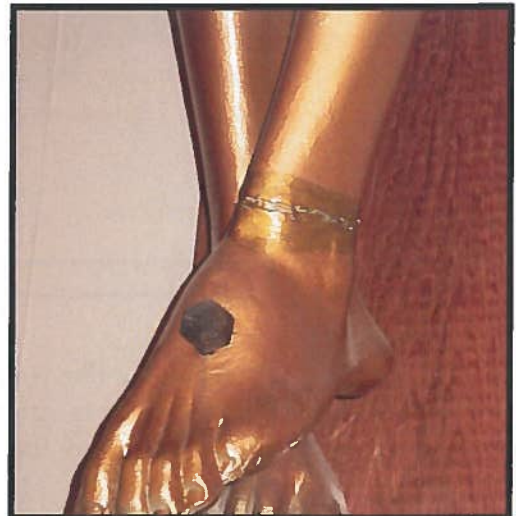
Thank you for your generosity

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—
St. James—
Sacred Heart

Jesus on the cross: in Psalm 34:21 it says “He watches over all his bones; not one of them shall be broken. This cross which was mounted outside the office for years needs repair. It originally was in Sts. Peter and Paul cemetery for years and I was told that Leo Emling (RIP) was instrumental in bringing it inside the religious education building. The left arm has separated from the body, the right arm and left ankle have already been repaired. On Monday Dec. 28th it was taken off the wall and is in the process of being welded. From there it will go to the body shop (no pun intended) to be painted. Once completed it will be mounted back on the wall. If anyone is interested in sponsoring its repair? Please let us know.

Thanks Fr. Ron



On January 23-24, 2021, the Diocese of Joliet parishes will take up an important collection, funding relief efforts in two parts of the world in great need.

Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

The Church in Africa is joyous and faith-filled, but it also has unique pastoral challenges due to poverty, high rates of disease, food shortages, and migration. The Solidarity Fund is an opportunity for us to stand with the people of Africa. Our contributions support Catholic education, family life programs, and child protection initiatives that help strengthen and build the growing African Church. The Church in Africa needs your help to ensure that all the faithful have access to resources to help them grow in the faith. To learn more about the collection and whom it supports, visit www.usccb.org/africa.



Parishes: For parish collection resources, including social media tools, to help in promoting the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, [click here](#).

Collection for the Church in Latin America

For many living in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers makes it difficult for people to practice the faith. Your donations fund catechesis, marriage and family life programs, and seminarian formation so people can grow closer to Christ. To learn more about the collection and whom it supports, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.



Parishes: For parish collection resources, including social media tools, to help in promoting the Collection for the Church in Latin America, [click here](#).

Partnership in Mission, Diocese of Joliet

In response to the Gospel's call, Partnership in Mission seeks to form servants for the work of missions and justice as we reach out in service, relief and friendship to our brothers and sisters around the globe. We presently send medical, construction, outreach, and university teams to Bolivia, the Philippines, Uganda, and the Navajo Nation, as well as responding to national disasters here in the U.S.



During this time of pandemic, the need is great and it is as difficult as ever to raise the necessary funds to support this work. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection to share your faith with our brothers and sisters in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean at your parishes on January 23 and 24, or by [giving online](#).

Paz y bien,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks

Bishop of Joliet



If you would like your contribution statement for tax purposes for 2020, please call the office.

And you, Bethlehem of Judah,
are by no means least
among the princes
since from you shall come forth
a ruler to shepherd Israel.

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