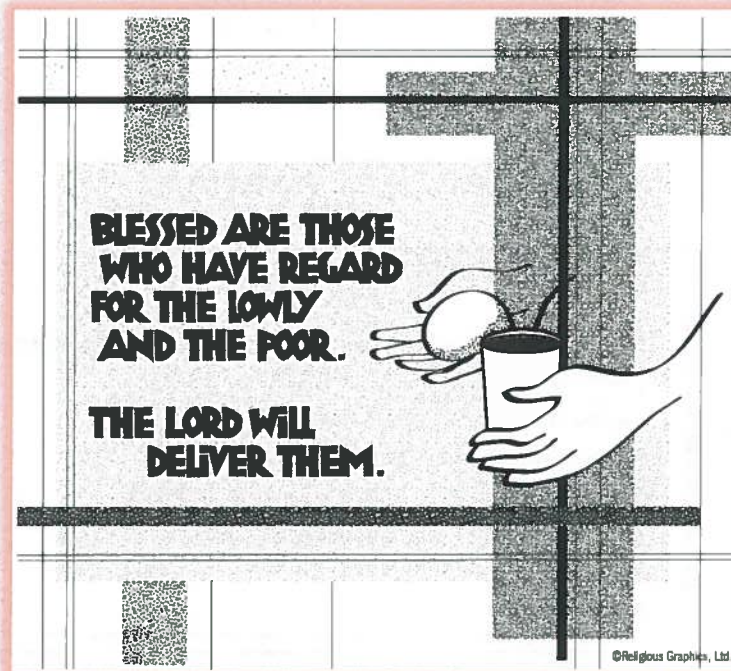


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

First Sunday of Lent

February 20-21, 2021



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Weekend of February 20/21, 2021 First Sunday of Lent
 In today's Gospel, Jesus urges his listeners to do two things: to believe in the Good News and to repent. The steward is called to repent, to be humble enough to open their hearts so they may begin anew, to change existing attitudes and habits, and to act with faith in the Gospel. In this season of Lent, now is the time to ask ourselves whether or not we truly believe in the Gospel; and if we do, to what extent are we willing to change our prevailing habits and be more faithful to the Gospel?

Mass Intentions for the Week

- Monday, February 22 (SMM)**
 8:00 am +John Brown (Geraldine Lehnus)
- Tuesday, February 23 (SH)**
 8:00 am +Cecelia Monk (Francis Kellerman)
- Wednesday, February 24 8:00 am (SJ)**
 +Geri Tobenski (Bonnie Siedentop)
- Friday, February 26 (SMM)**
 8:00 am +John Andrzejewski (Tom /Bev Buckley)
- Saturday, February 27 (SMM)**
 5:00 pm For All the Parish Family (SMM)
- Sunday, February 28**
 7:30 am +Dorene O'Connor (Dale /Marilyn Pfeiffer)
 +Bob VadeBoncouer (Jackie Cross Family) (SH)
 9:00 am +Darlene Peerbolte (Dallas /Joyce Ferris)
 +Leola Ader (Gene/Darlene Bertrand) (SJ)
 10:30am +Bob & Rita Deany (Pat Perreault) (SMM)



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: "When you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know that you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give."
—Saint Peter Chrysologus

Second Sunday of Lent —February 27-28, 2021

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Feb. 27 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Feb. 28 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Feb. 28 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Feb. 28 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Jason Piper	Dennis Pankey James Mallaney	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Rita Thiesen R.Leader—R. Gohlke	Nick Zerebny Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Mike Hertz	Andy Hansen	Corinn Wheeler

ALL PARISHES-



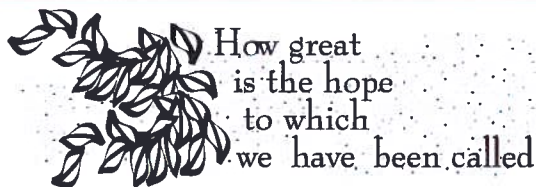
◆ Beginning the week of March 6/7 ushers at SMM and SH will go back to collecting the offertory.

- ◆ 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

Feb. 20-21—Knights of Columbus Food Drive
Sun., Feb. 28—No RE classes at SMM
Mon., March 1—SMM CCW meeting 7 pm
Fri., March 5—First Friday Adoration at SMM
Sat., March 13—First Reconciliation at SMM for SJ & SMM

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke - 815-426-2550
 Deacon – Ron Gagnon—rjgckg@gmail.com
 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
 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)



Call the parish office to request your statement of donations to the parish for 2020.

Collections Week of Feb. 13-14

St. Margaret Mary—\$
St. James—\$
Sacred Heart—\$

Totals will be given next week.

Thank you for your generosity

Knights of Columbus Food Drive



This weekend, Feb. 20-21, the Knights of Columbus will be collecting non-perishable foods for those in need. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, containers cannot be in the church. Baskets will be provided in the basement at SMM, in the hall at Sacred Heart and in the foyer at St.

James. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Join us for this Online Program

A Prayerful Walk to Calvary: A Lenten Morning of Prayer & Reflection

Following a brief history of the Lenten devotion of the Stations of the Cross, we will spend time in prayer and reflection following the steps of Jesus to the cross on Calvary. The ZOOM platform will be used to gather for this online program.

**WHEN: Wednesday, February 24, 2021
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Sponsored By:
Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary**

To register, please visit our website:

<http://www.sscm-usa.org/online-programming.html>

The Reverse Lent Challenge {Don't give something up ~ Take something on!}

1. Jot a note. Jot a quick note each day to one person in your life. At the end of Lent, you will have made 40 souls smile.
2. Lighten a load. Be on the lookout for ways you can lighten the load of someone in your family, at work, or a friend.
3. Help a stranger. While out and about, make it your aim to help a stranger. Open doors, let them go in front of you, etc.
4. Serve a servant—the mail carrier, garbage collector, teachers, grocery store clerk, etc. Show your gratitude by treating them to a little something.
5. Grab your phone each day to tell someone you are glad they are in your life.

Parish News:

Sacred Heart-

St. James-

* By surpassing our CMAA goal last year, we recently received a \$136.50 rebate for our parish.

St. Margaret Mary-

* Our CCW will meet on Monday March 1st at 7:00 pm. We will be practicing social distancing guidelines. We hope to see you there.

HELP WANTED

We are in need of a Director of Religious Instruction for St. Margaret Mary. Anyone interested in applying for the position should contact

the rectory for an interview. Please note that we are not limiting our search to a parishioner and may hire from outside the congregation.

Good News!



As of February 10, the TriParish office was notified by the Diocese that we are able to once again have parish meetings. The guidelines for COVID are still in place—social distancing, masks, limit of 50. Send your meeting information to debjen04@gmail.com to have it posted in the bulletin.

Fast and Abstinence Regulations for Lent 2021

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on **Ash Wednesday** and all the **Fridays of Lent**.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast and to abstain on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**.
3. On **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.

Lent is the principal season of penance in the Christian year; all, in addition to following the Lenten regulations, are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial, serious prayer, and a performance of works of charity and mercy.



During the seasons of Lent and Easter there are not many memorials of noted saints so I thought I would continue with saints canonized by Pope Francis.

Saint Alfonso Maria Fusco, (Feb. 6) was the Son of Giuseppina Schiavone and Aniello Fusco, the eldest of five children in a pious peasant family. The couple had been unable to have children until a visit to the relics of Saint Alphonsus Maria d' Liguori; there they received the message that they would have a son, name him *Alfonso*, and that he would lead the life of the blessed. Alfonso was confirmed and received his first Communion at age seven, and at eleven he announced his intent to become a priest. He entered the seminary of Nocera dei Pagani on 5 November 5, 1850 and was ordained a priest on September 29, 1863.



He was noted for his devotion to the liturgy, and as a gentle, paternal confessor. In September of 1878, he, Maddalena Caputo of Angri (Sister Crocifissa), and three young women formed what would become the *Congregation of the Baptistine Sisters of the Nazarene (Baptistine Sisters)*, devoted to the care and education of poor orphans, abandoned children, and youth at risk; their first house was soon known as the *Little House of Providence*.

Along with the usual problems of more needs than resources, the new congregation faced several internal trials. False accusations were made about Father Alfonso, and Bishop Vitagliano tried to remove him as the congregation's director. The daughter house in Rome tried to break away from the congregation, even locking the doors to the house when Alfonso came to see them. At one point, Cardinal Respighi, Vicar of Rome, recommended that he resign for the good of the congregation. He was, however, vindicated in the end, remained as director, and saw the congregation through its early, difficult years. Today they work in fifteen countries around the world.



Saint Angela of Foligno, (Jan. 4) was born to a wealthy non-Christian family.

She married young and was the mother of several children. Angela lived a wild, adulterous, and sacrilegious life for a while, but following a vision received in 1285, she had a conversion. After the death of her mother, husband, and children, she turned to God and penance. Angela was a Franciscan tertiary, and led a group of other tertiaries. Noted for her charity, patience and humility. She was a visionary, mystic, and mystical writer.

<p>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 21</p> <p>Readings Genesis 9:8-15 Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>In Sunday's Gospel, we are reminded that when we go through terrible times, we are never alone. Share with your family who has cared for you during tough times, and support someone you love this week.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Play the Act of Contrition with your family each week during Lent and make plans for your family to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Pray the Stations of the Cross in its entirety or just focus on, discuss, and find one station in the Scriptures.</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 28</p> <p>Readings Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 Romans 8:31b-34 Mark 9:2-10</p>				<p>JOURNEY together FEBRUARY 2021 LENT--PENTECOST CALENDAR</p>		

Blessed Margaret Part 5

Thirteen years into her confinement Margaret began to sense spring was in the air. The warmer breezes, the smell of pine trees, and the chirping of the birds told her that spring was near. To Margaret it was God talking to her through nature. This spring was going to be different from so many of the others. New sufferings were going to be coming her way. The sound of the town bell of Saint Angelo in Vado, far to the north, was ringing, but why?

The meaning of the bell soon became clear. The watchman in the castle of Metola could see smoke in the distance. Farm houses near the border of Massa Trabaria were burning. The castle went on full alert. Massa Trabaria was being attacked. The clinging bells were very upsetting to Margaret. Tears filled her eyes as she thought about the sin and misery that come with war. It would be her father's duty to lead the Massa Trabians against their invaders. Her father could be injured or killed in combat. Margaret prayed to God to protect her family and her village. An army of citizens was formed to protect the town.

A strong force from Montefeltro was heading their way. Parisio decided to move his wife to safety. Before leaving Emilia inquired of Parisio, "What about Margaret?" "You will have to take the little freak with you," was Parisio's response. He then gave Emilia orders to lock Margaret in a vault at their home in Mercatello so that no one would see her. The next morning Emilia, her servants, and a heavily veiled Margaret left the village. After thirteen years confined in a cement block cell attached to a church she was being transferred to another place of confinement. Upon arriving at their home in Mercatello, Margaret was rushed to the underground vault that would be her new home. In this vault there was only a pallet and an old bench. Margaret was then briefed on her new situation. Food would be brought to her twice a day. She was not to call out from her cell. Once the rules were explained to her the heavy wooden door was slammed shut and bolted. Margaret was alone and confined again.

Listening to the mass from her cell helped Margaret endure before, but now she had no connection with her faith. Her suffering was now magnified. Back in her home village things were not going well with the war. Despite all that was happening in her life, Margaret's faith sustained her.

*** ***** ** *****

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for February

Merciful God,

We embark on our journey of renewal
through difficult and uncertain times;
times of division and strife,
and for many

suffering and discouragement.

But our journey is with your son, Jesus,
who bore his cross and suffered in
ways we cannot imagine.

We journey with Jesus toward the
great paschal feast of Easter,
where we have the grace to
experience true the joy of
Resurrection.

Teach us to be good stewards of your
mercy and forgiveness,

so that we may extend these gifts
to others.

Give us the strength to bear witness
to your son at all times,

even during these times of stress
and adversity.

And fill our hearts with love

that we may be faithful to the Gospel
Jesus proclaimed

and ready to celebrate our unity
with him and each other.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.



He was among the wild beasts...

MARK 1:13

Sunday, Feb 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Doing the rite thing

Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a countercultural choice. They're going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive First Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it's a journey of the heart. For all, it's what they've seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let's help keep the inspiration going!

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (23). *"The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Monday, Feb 22, 2021

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE

Recognize the chair

Jesus loved us so much that he entrusted us to someone he trusted deeply. In fact, in the Gospel of John, Jesus asked Peter three times if his devotion was assured. He named him "rock" so he would be a solid foundation upon which to build the church, and for 2,000 years Peter's successors have had the responsibility of tending his sheep. Today we celebrate the seat of the pope's authority as Christ's representative on Earth, the protector Jesus wanted for his flock. Ask the Holy Spirit to always guide the one who sits in Peter's chair.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535). *"I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven."*

Tuesday, Feb 23, 2021

MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR

Words to live forever by

Polycarp's death in 155 is one of the first accounts of Christian martyrdom in a public arena. The elderly bishop was resolute and serene even as he was burned and stabbed before a frenzied crowd. Included in the accounts is the two hours of prayer Polycarp began upon his arrest, so powerful it unnerved his Roman guards. But Polycarp was also an Apostolic Father, specifically a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. Thus, he had firsthand knowledge of John's words from Jesus: "Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). *"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

A good day to make amends

We are one week into this Lenten season, so perhaps it is time to have a conversation with our Lord. Imagine you are walking with Jesus, side by side, and he asks you, "Is there any person you think of who you have hurt or judged, or any action that comes to mind that you know was wrong? Anything you repent?" You take a moment, and standing next to him, you feel his love for you. Regret and sorrow arise as you admit the mistakes that come to mind. You ask for the grace to make amends in whatever way possible. Find a way today to make something right.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). *"At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."*

Thursday, Feb 25, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Has prayer moved you?

It is tempting to think about prayer in a transactional way: I ask, therefore God gives. Today's gospel may even appear to encourage this form of thought: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find." But Catholic teaching urges us to see God's response to prayer broadly. Pope Francis explains: "Prayer always transforms reality: if things around us do not change, at least our hearts are changed. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to every man and woman who prays." If you have a prayer that seems unanswered, consider how your heart was moved by the mere act of praying.

TODAY'S READINGS: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227). *"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds."*

Friday, Feb 26, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

The low rumble within

Anger is one of our human "passions," the Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs, neither good nor bad in and of itself. Anger can provide us with helpful information that we feel wronged by someone or something. It may be intense or a low rumble within. Lent is an opportunity to become still, listen to our anger, and examine its source. How might we invite God into these rough spaces for healing? Desiring healing does not disregard hurt or suffering; rather we seek to "unhook" from anger to live in peace. Unhooking might mean talking with a loved one who hurt us. It might mean protesting against injustice. It might mean forgiving ourselves. What might be rumbling within your heart?

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). *"Go first and be reconciled."*

Saturday, Feb 27, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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