

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 6-7, 2021

*Praise the Lord
 for he is good;
 he heals the brokenhearted
 and binds up their wounds.*

*He sustains the lowly;
 the wicked he casts
 to the ground.*



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Mass Intentions for the Week

- Monday, February 8 (SMM)**
 8:00 am +Butch Lambert (David & Rose Datweiler)
- Tuesday, February 9 (SH)**
 8:00 am +Cecelia Monk (Jerry & Terri Weakley)
- Wednesday, February 10 (SJ)**
 8:00 am +Geri Tobenski (Larry & Birdie Stevenson)
- Friday, February 12 (SMM)**
 8:00 am +Laura Jensen (Darlene Dittus)
- Saturday, February 13 (SMM)**
 5:00 pm +JR Matern (Mariann Lane)
 +Aldine O'Brien (Mary McDonald)
- Sunday, February 14**
 7:30 am +Margaret Donaghue (Jerry & Terri Weakley) (SH)
 9:00 am +Michael Fritz (Larry & Janice O'Connor)
 +Gerald O'Connor (Rita Thiesen) SJ
 10:30am For All the Parish Family (SMM)

A Stewardship Moment Weekend of Feb. 6-7, 2021

Pursuing Jesus. After curing Simon's mother-in-law, Jesus, standing at the door, is teaching, healing, and casting out demons. Then, leaving at dawn, he goes off alone. Simon and the boys, pursuing him, find him praying and plead: "Everyone is looking for you."

- Since I am looking, where will I find Jesus this week?
- What teaching of his do I need to hear? What healing?
- Where and when will I make time for praying?

Confessions:

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

Holy Habits: New Year's Resolutions part 3

- ◆ *Have a no-complaint day.* Dedicate an entire day each week to not complaining. Weather counts.
- ◆ *Give unexpected gifts.* Release someone from a debt, anonymously give a gift card or money to someone on hard times, or send a pizza or baked goods to a police station or to a nursing home or to hospital employees or to a big family.

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

Quotable: "Faith is to believe what you do not see. The reward of faith is to see what you believe."

~St. Augustine of Hippo

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time — February 13-14, 2021

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Feb. 13 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Feb.14 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Feb. 14 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Feb. 14 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiler	Dennis Pankey Dale Pfeiffer	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Rick White R.Leader—N. Saathoff	Bill Powers Darren Lovell
Lector	Rob Landeck	Mike Hertz	Craig Frerichs	Julie Splear

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

Wed., Feb. 17—Ash Wednesday Special Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe
Feb. 20-21—Knights of Columbus Food Drive

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)

Ash Wednesday Masses /Ministries

Wednesday, February 17

St. James— 8 am

Greeter—Donna Bernicky

Lector—Dave Ladehoff

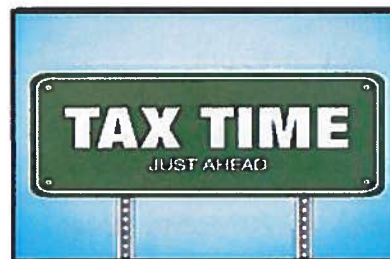
Sacred Heart— Noon

Ushers—James Mallaney Kyle Ferris Lector—Terri Weakley

St. Margaret Mary - 7 PM

Ushers— anyone available

Lector—Jackie Eberle



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

Blessed Margaret Chapter 3

On the day Margaret was put into the cell, life was pretty much unchanged in the castle, but behind closed doors the inhabitants of the castle talked about the incident. The second in charge of the castle was the knight Leonardo di Pento. He and his wife, Gemma talked about the poor treatment Margaret received from her parents. The men of the castle were enraged but no one dared to speak up except Leonardo. The normally timid Father Cappellano did confront Parisio which ended up in a shouting match. Parisio stated that Margaret would remain confined in the tiny cell attached to the village church and if the priest continued to pursue this he would rip the priest's tongue from his mouth. Father Cappellano became angry and called down the wrath of God on Parisio and Emilia.

Leonardo told his wife that he had told Margaret how much he loved her. Margaret had replied to him, "How can you? My mother and father told me no one could love me because I am a freak? What is a freak?"

Busy Person's Lent Retreat

SPONSORED BY: Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary

Do you desire to live this Lent in a prayerful way?

Are you interested in making a BUSY PERSON'S RETREAT during the Lenten Season?

The Busy Person's Retreat is designed:

- For both women and men
- For those who desire a deeper prayer relationship with the Lord
- For those unable to experience a scheduled spiritual retreat due to home and/or work responsibilities

For those who can commit to the following:

- At least 30 minutes of silent, personal prayer using scripture each day of the retreat (materials provided)
- Weekly meetings with a spiritual director via phone, a virtual meetings platform such as Zoom, Messenger or FaceTime, or in person following Covid-19 safe-distancing precautions.

The Busy Person's Retreat is being offered by the following SSCM Spiritual Directors:

Sr. Linda Hatton, sscm
lhatton@sscm-usa.org
815.931.1425

Sr. Myra Lambert, sscm
lambert@shhshh.net
630.267.4021

Sr. Charlene Cesario, sscm
charlesces@icloud.com
217.841.2916

Kathy Brady-Murfin
sscm.vocations@gmail.com
815.814.1414

For more information, to register, and to participate in A Busy Person's Retreat, please contact the spiritual director of your choice by Friday, February 12, 2020. Date and time arrangements for weekly meetings will be made to accommodate each participant's individual needs.

COST: Free will offerings accepted by mail. Send check to Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, Attn: Susan Amann 2041 State Route 113, Kankakee, IL 60901



2021 Lent Retreat Series

Covenant in the Time of Covid

Lent 2020 was at the beginning of our Covid experience. After a year of masks, social distancing and quarantine, we find ourselves entering Lent again. We are in a different place. How can our covenant relationship with our God and Savior grow in light of this lived experience? We will gather each week for a two-hour session to share the Sunday Mass readings, listen to a short presentation, take time for personal reflection, and pray together. Please join us for this online Lent retreat via the ZOOM platform.



SPONSORED BY: Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary

FORMAT: Zoom virtual meeting, link will be emailed after registration.

DATES/TIMES: Each session will be offered twice:
Saturday mornings at 9:30 – 11:30 AM
Monday evenings at 6:30 – 8:30 PM

SESSION TOPICS:

- 1st Sunday of Lent:
- 2nd Sunday of Lent:
- 3rd Sunday of Lent:
- 4th Sunday of Lent:
- 5th Sunday of Lent:

DATES:

- Saturday, February 20th
- Monday, February 22nd
- Saturday, February 27th
- Monday, March 1st
- Saturday, March 6th
- Monday, March 8th
- Saturday, March 13th
- Monday, March 15th
- Saturday, March 20th
- Monday, March 22nd

RETREAT LEADERS:

Sr. Linda Hatton, sscm
Sr. Charlene Cesario, sscm
Sr. Evelyn Varboncouer, sscm

Susan Amann
Kathy Brady-Murfin
Bonnie Tilton Sebbly

To register, please contact

Susan Amann: samann@sscm-usa.org

COST: Free will offerings accepted by mail. Send check to: Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, Attn: Susan Amann 2041 State Route 113, Kankakee, IL 60901

Sunday, Feb 07, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Game on

The odds for Super Bowl Sunday 2021 were available last February. Tickets for the game have been on sale for as long. But things don't always happen the way we plan them. Last year, when the Chiefs were pitted against the 49ers, no one imagined how the world would change between one Super Bowl and the next. Still, Jesus comes into our midst wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, and grasps us by the hand. We can't be sure of the game plan for the future. But we can trust that Jesus will be there for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39 (74). *"Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. . . . [Jesus] grasped her hand, and helped her up."*

Monday, Feb 08, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JEROME EMILIANI, PRIEST

Share the love to feel the love

Who hasn't felt all alone before? Perhaps let down or left by a loved one. Perhaps in such dire straits that you thought even God abandoned you. Jerome Emiliani is the saint for those low points. He found God in ultimate isolation—prison. Once free, he became a priest and devoted himself to the abandoned of 16th-century Venice—especially orphans and prostitutes. When you feel stricken with an orphan spirit, remember that you are a beloved child of a loving Creator who will never let you go. Show that same love to those who need you most.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-56 (329). *"They laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak."*

Tuesday, Feb 09, 2021

Be the change

Gregory XV became pope by "popular acclaim" on this day in 1621—interesting, because he changed the tradition soon after. Instead, Gregory made the case for the first secret ballot when electing a pope. He also did other remarkable things, considering his papacy lasted barely two years. He established the first missionary organization of the Vatican, the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. And he canonized these beloved saints: Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila, Francis Xavier, and Philip Neri. Is there a change you've been meaning to make in your own practice of the faith? Begin today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 1:20—2:4a; Mark 7:1-13 (330). *"The Pharisees and scribes questioned him, 'Why do your disciples not follow the tradition?'"*

Wednesday, Feb 10, 2021

MEMORIAL OF SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN

God's assistance rains down

There are few details of Saint Scholastica's early life, but we do know that this sister of Benedict of Nursia entered religious life and lived in a women's monastery a few miles from her brother's in Monte Cassino. Perhaps the most enduring story about Scholastica is one that pits her will against her brother's when she begs him to extend their yearly visit and spend the night in prayer and conversation. Benedict resists, not wishing to break his own rule with a night away from home. Determined, Scholastica asks God for assistance, and a torrential rainstorm ensues that settles

the matter in her favor—Benedict will spend the night. Never doubt that you are worthy to ask for God's help. Trust your heart to know what will draw you closer to God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7:14-23 (331). *"When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."*

Thursday, Feb 11, 2021

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Turn to Mary

Much of Jesus' ministry had to do with some form of healing, and today's memorial, Our Lady of Lourdes, recognizes Mary's 18 reported appearances in Lourdes, France, a place of pilgrimage known for healing powers. Millions of people a year travel to Lourdes in search of healing; many report spiritual peace and transformation, and a handful even report experiencing cures without medical explanation. Today is also World Day of the Sick. It's an ideal day to ask Mary to intercede on behalf of healing that we need—or that our friends and loved ones desire.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 7:24-30 (332). *"Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet."*

Friday, Feb 12, 2021

Say their name

This day, falling between World Day of the Sick and Valentine's Day, brings thoughts of how many are left alone after COVID deaths. Advertisers are pushing candy, cards, and flowery bouquets, but the countercultural church also counsels that we pay kind attention to those who are grieving. Practical actions are often most helpful: not only shoveling a driveway or baking some bread, but also reaching out and just listening to whatever is on the grieving person's heart. Sometimes all a grieving person wants is to name the beloved and talk about them again. Being a good listener is a welcome gift.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-37 (333). *"They were exceedingly astonished and they said, 'He has done all things well.'"*

Saturday, Feb 13, 2021

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturdays belong to Mary

For more than a thousand years, the Catholic Church has dedicated most Saturdays to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The reason for choosing Saturday above all other days has been lost to antiquity. But according to tradition, Saturday has been set aside to celebrate the maternal example of Mary and witness to her dedicated discipleship as a woman of God and a follower of Jesus. The weekly memorial serves as a reminder that she is continuously present and operative in the life of the church. Reflect on how the Blessed Virgin Mary has been present and active in your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-24; Mark 8:1-10 (334). *"My heart is moved with pity for the crowd."*

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



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Collections Week of Jan. 30-31

St. Margaret Mary—\$945

St. James—\$981

Sacred Heart—\$270

Thank you for your generosity

Parish News:

Sacred Heart-

St. James-

St. Margaret Mary-

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, we will take up the Collection



for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that still struggle to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support

restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection to share your faith with our brothers and sisters in Central & Eastern Europe, or by giving online. For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit www.usccb.org/ccee. Thank you for your help.

HELP WANTED

After 17 years of service to the religious education of our parish youth, Stacie has decided not to return as Director of Religious

Education at St. Margaret Mary next fall. We are in need of a replacement for her. 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.

St. Rose of Lima Chapel, formerly, St. Rose of Lima, Catholic parish(established in 1855), 486 W. Merchant St., Kankakee is planning a Prayer Garden with engraved pavers on the West side of the Chapel. The committee is seeking people who may have history or know of someone who may have history with St. Rose Church, who may be interested in purchasing a paver. These personalized stones are an excellent remembrance of a loved one or ancestor. A 7x10 inch paver is \$150. A 4x8 inch paver is \$100. For information or an order form phone 815-573-5455 and leave a message or contact the website StRoseChapel.com and download a form. We would be very grateful for your participation in this project as we attempt to memorialize St. Rose of Lima's rich history.

The Prayer Garden Committee

Ashes, as a Jewish sign of penitence, were accepted by Christians. They are derived from burning palms from the previous year.

ASH WEDNESDAY

This outward symbol of private or public sorrow, sadness, or penance, is a proof of humility, a remembrance of our mortality, that we are made of dust and will return to dust. The custom of imposing ashes, is a symbolic act signifying human mortality and total human dependence on the graciousness and mercy of God.

In the early Christian era ashes were imposed on public penitents, sprinkled on their penitential clothes.

The distribution of ashes gained popularity as many of the penitential practices once reserved for serious public sinners became standard for all the faithful. It was not until 1091, when Pope Urban II ordered the imposition of ashes on the heads of all the faithful, that the reception of ashes became mandatory and the Wednesday preceding the First Sunday of Lent became known as Ash Wednesday.

In order to maintain unity in practice with the Universal Church, we will be following the practices set forth by the Roman Congregation of Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments.

In many English speaking countries the custom has been to place ashes on the forehead and not the crown of the head. In Italy and other European Countries the ashes are place on the crown of the head.

Due to the restrictions of Covid19, we are not imposing ashes on the forehead this year. For any person to person contact must be avoided. Rather, for the time being we are returning to the more ancient custom of sprinkling ashes on the crown of head.

Saint of the week:

St. Scholastica (Feb. 10) was the twin sister of Saint Benedict of Nursia. She was born to the Italian nobility. Her mother died in childbirth. Scholastica was a nun who led a community of women at Plombariola near Montecassino. Scholastica died in the year 543. From his monastic cell, St. Benedict had a vision in which he saw her soul flying to heaven in the form of a dove.



Obscure Saint of the week: : St. Soteris the Martyr (Feb. 10) was born to a wealthy 3rd century noble family. A beautiful young woman, she consecrated herself to God. Unlike other women of her day, she



dressed plainly with no ornamentation so men would ignore her, and lived a quiet, simple life, foreshadowing the female religious orders in years to come. She was arrested and tortured in her youth during the persecutions of Decius. Once released, she returned to her prayerful life only to be murdered a half-century later in the persecutions of Diocletian for refusing sacrifice to pagan gods. All records indicate that, no matter the torture, she never once cried out. Saint Ambrose of Milan claimed she was one of his ancestor, and he wrote about her.

Shining the Light of Christ

through the 2021 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

It is time for the 2021 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Your gift is especially important this year, during the pandemic, as our diocese continues to explore new and innovative ways to serve those in need.

The 2021 theme is *Shining the Light of Christ*. The 30 ministries the CMAA supports allow parishes to join together to shine Christ's light to the benefit of many, from the poor and vulnerable to seminarians and schoolchildren. No parish could provide all of these ministries on its own.

70 percent of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us. This is a great opportunity for our parish! Please review the materials you receive in the mail from the Diocese of Joliet and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's annual appeal.

Our goals are :

Sacred Heart—\$5,700

St. James—\$7,400

St. Margaret Mary—\$10,500

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact the parish office.



He approached, grasped her hand and helped her up. MARK 1:31



**MAY OUR GIFTS
BECOME THE
FOOD AND DRINK
OF ETERNAL LIFE**