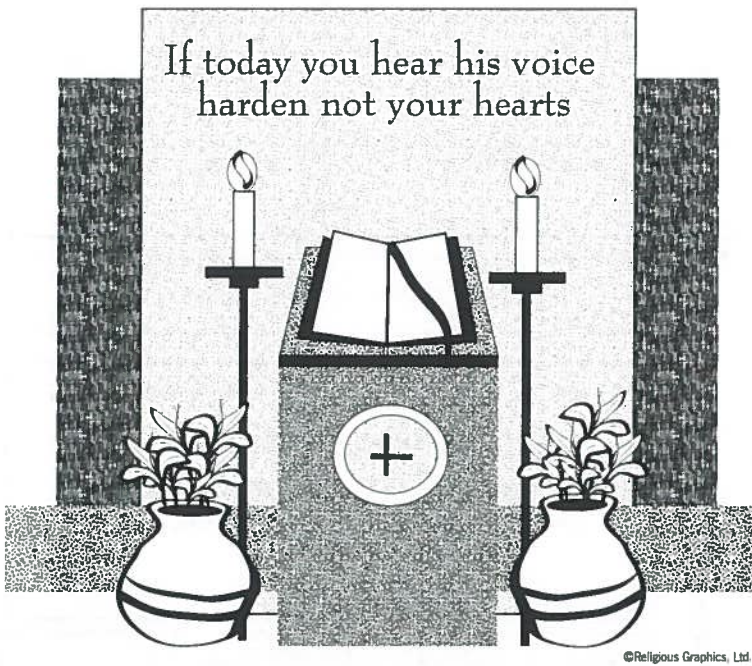


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of**  
**St. Margaret Mary, Herscher**  
**St. James the Apostle, Irwin**  
**Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**January 30-31, 2021**



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**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, February 1 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Bill Fritz (Dan & Val Guenette)

**Tuesday, February 2 (SH)**

8:00 am +Igor Dubravec (Uta Dubravec)

**Wednesday, February 3 (SJ)**

8:00 am +Leonard Papineau (Dave/Martha O'Connor)

**Friday, February 5 1st Friday at SJ**

8:00 am +Darlene Peerbolte (Gerald/Mary Offerman)

**Saturday, February 6 (SMM)**

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

**Sunday, February 7**

7:30 am +Ryan Gagnon, Renee Gagnon, Curtis Riley, Arvella Dalcanton (The Family) (SH)

9:00 am Special Intention of Rita Thiesen (Pam Cuchiara) (SJ)

10:30am +Jack Jacob (Tom & Bev Buckley) (SMM)

**A Stewardship Moment Weekend of Jan. 30-31, 2021**

In today's Gospel we hear proclaimed the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. He teaches. He heals. And all are amazed. By their baptism, Christian stewards realize they are called to do the same in their lives. They are called to be the light of Christ each day. As we bring closure to the beginning of this new year, now is a good time to ask the Lord to fill our hearts with courage and faith, so that we too may publicly minister in his name. Let us ask that we may be liberated from our insecurities and fear so that we can share the Gospel authoritatively and work to heal at least one wounded relationship in the coming months ahead.

**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 2**

- ◆ *See Jesus more often.* Make a weekly appointment to visit Jesus in the tabernacle. The more time you spend with Jesus, the more he can give to you.
- ◆ *Use sirens and flashing lights as prayer signals.* Pray for the person needing the ambulance speeding by and also for whomever is at the end of a police call and the safety of those first responders. For whatever reasons, they could use some extra prayers.

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

Quotable: "If you don't behave as you believe, you will end by believing as you behave."

– Fulton J. Sheen

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time — January 30-31, 2021**

<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Jan. 30 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Sunday, Jan. 31 7:30 am</b>	<b>St. James Sunday, Jan. 31 9:00 am</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Jan. 31 10:30 am</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Dan Hoffman Corey Eich	Dennis Pankey James Mallaney	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Rita Thiesen R.Leader—D. Ferris	Jeremy Wolles Larry Wolles Conner Settles
<b>Lector</b>	Dave Emling	Terri Weakley	Mary Peerbolte	Diane Long

**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**

**Fri., Feb. 5**—First Friday Adoration & Benediction at SJ

**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](http://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 Jdstreeffarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman-602-670-8888 (call or text)



**QUIET! COME OUT OF HIM!**  
MK.1:25



February Money counters

Bee Papineau and John Cahill



## Collections Week of Jan. 23-24

St. Margaret Mary—\$ 1,855 Latin America—\$765  
 St. James—\$ 647 Latin America—\$221  
 Sacred Heart—\$806 Latin America—\$365

Thank you for your generosity

DO YOU CARE FOR A LOVED ONE?  
 AN ILL SPOUSE, AGING PARENT OR CHILD WITH DISABILITIES?



We invite you to connect with other caregivers  
 Nourish for Caregivers supports the practical emotional and spiritual needs of all who offer care for others during this time of uncertainty and anxiety



This online caregiver support ministry sponsored by  
**The Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary**

Monthly meetings will be held via Zoom  
 at 1pm and again at 7pm on these dates:

**DATES**

Feb 22, 2021  
 Mar 22, 2021  
 Apr 19, 2021  
 May 17, 2021  
 Jun 21, 2021  
 Jul 19, 2021  
 Aug 16, 2021

**SESSION TOPICS**

The Thing About Compassion  
 One is Enough! Learning to Live One Day at a Time  
 Walking with Christ, Nourished by Grace  
 End of Life, Planning for and Making Decisions  
 Roles in Caregiving and the Decisions We Face  
 More in Music – Where Words Fail, Music Speaks  
 Speak Up! Overcoming the Challenges of Advocacy

For more information and to register, call or email:  
 Susan Amann at 708.790.8141 or samann@sccm-usa.org



#BuildTheFuture  
 #1ChurchMission

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](http://www.usccb.org/ccee). Thank you for your help.

## Parish News:

### Sacred Heart-

♦ **Final Stag Collection Report**—after all deposits were made, the special stag collection total was \$3,291. The five year average net proceeds from the stag has been \$5000. We thank all who contributed to the special collection.

St. James-

St. Margaret Mary-



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



Welcome into the faith to  
 Erin McVey,  
 daughter of  
 Kathleen (Long) and Quinn McVey  
 who was baptized at  
 St. Margaret Mary on January 9,



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



Welcome into the faith to  
 Naomi Gail Benoit,  
 daughter of  
 Allison Clapp and Alex Benoit,  
 who was baptized  
 at St. James on Jan. 2, 2021.





**Saint of the week: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr (Feb. 5)**



We have little reliable information about this martyr, who has been honored since ancient times, and whose name is included in the canon of the Mass. Young, beautiful and rich, Agatha lived a life consecrated to God. When Decius announced the edicts against Christians, the magistrate Quinctianus tried to profit by Agatha's sanctity; he planned to blackmail her into sex in exchange for not charging her. Handed over to a brothel, she refused to accept customers.

After rejecting Quinctianus's advances, she was beaten, imprisoned, tortured, her breasts were crushed and cut off. She told the judge, "Cruel man, have you forgotten your mother and the breast that nourished you, that you dare to mutilate me this way?" One version has it that Saint Peter healed her. She was then imprisoned again, then rolled on live coals; when she was near death, an earthquake struck. In the destruction that followed, a friend of the magistrate was crushed, and the magistrate fled. Agatha thanked God for an end to her pain, and died.

Legend says that carrying her veil, taken from her tomb in Catania, in procession has averted eruptions of Mount Etna. Her intercession is reported to have saved Malta from Turkish invasion in 1551.

**Obscure Saint of the week: St. Veridiana, Virgin (Feb. 1)** was a member of an impoverished but noble family. She was drawn to religious life from an early age. She made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. She became a hermit at age 26, and lived for 34 years in a tiny cell at the chapel of Saint Anthony of Padua, Florence, Italy. She received the habit of the *Secular Franciscan Order* from Saint Francis himself in 1211. Legend says that when a famine struck in the area of her home town, she gave away some beans her uncle had already sold; the next day, after the poor had taken their fill, the storage bins miraculously refilled.



**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 Saint James—\$7,400 St. Margaret Mary—\$10,500

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

## Blessed Margaret Chapter 2

Parisio and Emilia were very self-centered and incapable of pity, they looked upon their deformed daughter with anger. They were outraged that such a disgrace would be inflicted upon them.

Margaret was considered "ugly", she would never attain normal height, she was hunchbacked, and her right leg was much shorter than the left. Soon her parents learned she was totally blind. Parisio and Emilia wanted to keep their daughter's condition a secret. While they couldn't conceal the fact that she was born, they believed due to all her physical challenges she wouldn't live long.

Margaret's nanny was under strict orders to keep Margaret out of sight of any visitors. Fr. Cappellano, the local pastor and chaplain to the castle, demanded that Margaret be baptized. This meant she would have to be taken to the cathedral where all baptisms took place. Parisio refused but Fr. Cappellano had won over Emilia so Parisio reluctantly consented. The nanny would be the one to take Margaret to the cathedral for the baptism. Her parents didn't care what name would be given her at her baptism. Her parents did stipulate that she not be named Emilia. The nanny chose to name her Margaret. Margaret is a variation of the name Margarita which means pearl. What a contrast there was between this baby and a pearl which is a symbol of perfection and beauty.

Over the years Margaret's parents became more resentful of her. The castle's chaplain began to teach her the basics of the faith and repeatedly told her parents of her remarkable intelligence, but they continued to be cold and uninterested. By the time she was five, Margaret knew the names of everyone who lived at the castle in Metola. She would make her way unassisted through the hallways of the building where she lived. Margaret was friendly and made regular visits to all who lived there. The only place she avoided was where her parents lived. She had been warned to avoid that part of the castle as her parents didn't want to see her.

Margaret's parents wanted to remove any chance that someone from the outside might encounter her so they considered giving her to a peasant family deep in the mountains. Reflecting on the story of St. Veridiana, who had herself walled up in a hermitage near the Elba River, the parents decided to do the same to Margaret. It was decided that they would build a small cell next to the church and force Margaret to live there with little to no contact with the outside world. Her parents told her this was a privilege and she could now pray all day without anyone disturbing her. They further rationalized that wandering the castle the way she does she might get badly hurt.

The church where this cell would be attached was outside the castle in the forest. It was called the Church of St. Mary of the Fortress Metola. The cell was so small where Margaret would live that it took only a few days to build it. Margaret was thrust into this small cell and the builder walled up the only entrance to it. A small window was used to pass food to Margaret. Margaret was now separated from the rest of humanity.



## Sunday, Jan 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Strengthen the partnership

The relationship between parishes and schools is long and intimate—important to note at the start of Catholic Schools Week. After the first Catholic diocese was established in the United States in Baltimore, pastors lobbied at once for schools and religious to staff them. Frontier pastors vowed to build the school first and the church later. They understood that without proper religious education, the parish venture would certainly fail. Today, celebrate this essential partnership with a holy hour, candlelight prayer vigil, or special project in the parish for young people and their supporters.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28 (71). *"What is this? A new teaching with authority."*

## Monday, Feb 01, 2021

### Example is the best education

Each day of Catholic Schools Week is the celebration of a component of Catholic education. Today we look at the experience of community. Through the relationships and interactions of service activities in the community and class trips to other environs, students get to practice the values they learn in their Catholic education and experience what it feels like to be making the world a better place. Plus they get a chance to observe others in community service and come to appreciate how they can continue caring for others their entire lives. Today, be an example of service to others.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20 (323).  
*"[A]nnounce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you."*

## Tuesday, Feb 02, 2021

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

### Teach a faith that grows on you

Mary and Joseph bring their beloved firstborn to the temple at the appointed time, so Jesus can enter into the covenant with Yahweh that Jews have revered since Abraham. Not unlike infant Baptism today, it was—among other things—a powerful ritual of belonging that put the child on the right path to growing in faith. As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week—with the focus today being squarely on “the student”—may we never forget or neglect the promise of every young soul, so receptive to our efforts to plant the seeds of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (524). *"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom."*

## Wednesday, Feb 03, 2021

### One nation, under God

Catholic schools have made a unique contribution to the nation, and today we can recognize and celebrate that contribution. At their very best, Catholic schools train students to grow both as members of the Catholic church and as productive citizens of the nation. By “rendering to Caesar and to God,” Catholic schools in the United States have managed to achieve that rare combination in world history, the development of a relatively harmonious

church-state relationship that has endured for centuries. See the NCEA website for suggestions on how to celebrate the nation during Catholic Schools Week.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6 (325).  
*"Many who heard him were astonished. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him?'"*

## Thursday, Feb 04, 2021

### Line things up

Catholic schools prepare students to discover their vocation, so they can grow to use their gifts in service of church and world. Over the years, our notion of “vocation” has broadened significantly. A word that once designated those who take religious vows or are ordained into ministry is now used more broadly. No one defined vocation better than essayist and theologian Carl Frederick Buechner: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Are the two aligned in your life? And if not, how can you bring them into alignment?

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Mark 6:7-13 (326).  
*"Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two."*

## Friday, Feb 05, 2021

### Thank those who opened your mind

Where would any of us be without our teachers? They did everything from helping us with our “three R’s” to opening our minds to new ways of seeing the world. The really great teachers taught us how to learn for ourselves and thus set us up for a lifetime of discovery and fulfillment. When was the last time you thanked a teacher? Today is the day Catholic Schools Week pays special attention to the faculty, staff, and volunteers that make it possible for these great schools to function. See the NCEA website for suggestions on how to give thanks and recognition.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29 (327). *"The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid."*

## Saturday, Feb 06, 2021

### Make faith a family affair

We close Catholic Schools Week by recognizing the central role in Catholic education played by the family. The Second Vatican Council called the family “the domestic church” because it is in the home that faith is first formed and nurtured. Whether you live alone or with others, your home can be a sacred space of prayer and spirituality. Creating sacred space in your home includes prayer and scripture readings at meal times and before bed; praying the Rosary; placing a crucifix in a prominent place; and family traditions based on the liturgical seasons. Look for ways to recognize the family’s role in Catholic education and also ways to make your home a domestic church. Have at it!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34 (328).  
*"The Apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught."*

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



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