

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

Second Sunday of Lent

February 27-28, 2021



Mass Intentions for the Week

- Monday, March 1 (SMM)**
 8:00 am +Vicki Tobenski Hensley (Bonnie Siedentop)
- Tuesday, March 2 (SH)**
 8:00 am +Susan Soucie (Dennis Wilking)
- Wednesday, March 3 (SJ)**
 8:00 am Rita Thiesen - Special Intention (Pam Cuchiara)
- Friday, March 5 (SMM)**
 8:00 am +Dick Fitch (Andrzejewski Family)
- Saturday, March 6 (SMM)**
 5:00 pm +Laura Jensen (Mary/Charles Fredericks)
 +Madonna Hoffman (Madeline Bouchard)
- Sunday, March 7**
 7:30 am +Bessie Riley, Raymond Berns, Roberta Gagnon, Mario Dalcanton (The Family) SH
 9:00 am +Marge Thiesen (Cathy/Bruce Jensen)
 +Dorene O'Connor (Gerald Offerman) (SJ)
 10:30am For All the Parish Family (SMM)

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Weekend of February 27/28, 2021 Second Sunday of Lent

The Gospel story of the transfiguration of Jesus holds many lessons; the most prominent being the transformation of Jesus from simply being perceived as a wise and gifted prophet to the one who has fulfilled the sacred traditions of the Mosaic law and the hope of the prophets, the Messiah, the Christ. The Lord calls his stewards to participate in His redemptive activity. Heeding this call requires transformation, being willing to renounce patterns of behavior that draw us away from God. In this coming week of Lent, let us pray for the grace to be transformed, so that by our goodness and generosity, we may walk more authentically in the footsteps of Jesus.



Are you wondering what that envelope is for each month?

Each of our parishes has an account that the money in this envelope goes into. The money is used for people in our area and/or parishes that contact the office or Father who find themselves in need of a little help. The money has been used in the past to buy Christmas gifts for a family, pay a heating bill, fix a car, and buy groceries. The money stays local and is a great way to be good stewards in our own community.

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: “By virtue of Isaac who offered himself as a sacrifice on top of the altar, the Holy One . . . will resurrect the dead in the future. ”

—Mekilta of Rabbi Simeon

Third Sunday of Lent —March 6-7, 2021

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, March 6 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, March 7 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, March 7 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, March 7 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Dan Hoffman	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Rita Thiesen R.Leader—Joyce Ferris	Darren Lovell Marco Smolkovich Corey Eich
Lector	Rob Landeck	Terri Weakley	Andy Hansen	Julie Splear

ALL PARISHES-



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

- ◆ St. James and St. Margaret Mary—If you have not picked up a Today’s Missal book , 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.
- ◆ **Please continue to 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

- Sun., Feb. 28**—No RE classes at SMM
- Mon., March 1**—SMM CCW meeting 7 pm
- Tues., March 2**—SH CCW meeting 7 pm
- Fri., March 5**—First Friday Adoration at SMM
- March 6-7**—Food for Families Collection
- Sat., March 13**—First Reconciliation at SMM for SJ &

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)

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 14), our diocese will take up the **Catholic Relief Services Collection**. Your support of this collection serves Jesus in the guise of the poor and vulnerable in some of the most marginalized communities in our world



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

Blessed Margaret Part 6

Columns of smoke from the advancing enemy warned Parisio of their coming. Parisio put his men in strategic positions to slow the enemy's advance. The Trabarians fought with such courage that Montefeltro gained little territory. To assist the people of Trabaria, Molatesta of Rimini, the archenemy of Montefeltro, attacked Urbino from the north forcing Montefeltra to pull back and defend his own homeland.

Hundreds of men from nearby states volunteered to fight under Parisio. After months of fighting Parisio was able to drive out the Urbinians. By winter the fighting ceased only to resume in the spring. Parisio crossed into Urbina killing many of its inhabitants and burning their barns. Eventually Urbina entered into a treaty with Parisio. By now time had disclosed two of the 3 events that would deeply affect Margaret; now the third was going to present itself.

Most medieval towns had a beautiful town square. It was bounded by a cathedral, town hall, and the homes of the wealthier citizens. The town square was the center of life and the men gathered there daily to discuss politics, women, and to buy provisions. In August 1307 the town square was filled with news about the end of the war. Soon five German pilgrims would bring news to rival the end of the war. They wore gray robes and gray mantles with round felt hats. Pilgrims were always welcome in Mercatello. These German pilgrims had traveled from Rome to Mercatello. The town's people were asking them about Pope Clement V. The pilgrims informed the people that Pope Clement intended to stay in France. The people of Mercatello were stunned at the news. The pope seems to have abandoned Italy. A Franciscan friar shouted "God is angry with us because of our sins!" The friar shared with his fellow citizens that Fra Giacomo, a lay member of the Franciscans had died and people were claiming that miracles were occurring at his tomb. His tomb was in Castello. Someone in the crowd shouted back "Miracles at Castello? Miracles always happen in far off places but never close at hand!"

The servant who brought Margaret her meals told her that the war was over and Trabaria was safe. Her father would soon be heading home. Margaret became very happy with the news. She fell to her knees and thanked God. But tragedy was soon going to come into Margaret's life.

Keep a Prayer Journal During Lent

This February two events will take place in the same week. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are just three days apart. Valentine's Day encourages us to offer written expressions of our love and affection to others through cards and letters. Why not express our love for the Lord by keeping a prayer journal during Lent?

The season of Lent can be a great time of spiritual growth and keeping a prayer journal can help strengthen our prayer life. Journaling can help us listen more intently to God's voice, track our spiritual growth, and deepen our relationship with the Lord.

There are different ways to keep a prayer journal. You can simply reflect on a passage from scripture, then write down your thoughts and feelings. Or, you can write down what the Holy Spirit places upon your heart during prayer. It's important to commit to a specific time and place each day to pray and spend time in silence with God. Then, as part of your prayer experience, write a few lines. Whether you want to express your gratitude, challenges, praises or laments, share them with the Lord in writing.

Sunday, Feb 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Go all in

Erin became a Roman Catholic in midlife. When asked why, she says she tried fiercely to make life work according to her plan. Erin told God many times how it should go, attempting to persuade the powers that be to see it her way. Then one day God replied: My plan for you is so beautiful, wonderful, elegant. Why not try it instead? When Erin celebrated the Rites for Candidates for Full Communion on a Lenten Sunday just like this one, she found the joy she was missing. Pray for this year's candidates—and for candidates for years to come.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10 (26). *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"*

Monday, Mar 01, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Mercy me!

Pope Francis called mercy the "beating heart of the gospel." Mercy is forbearance, divine favor, compassionate treatment of the distressed and undeserving. It's another word for God's love. Consider showing devotion to it by reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, a rosary-based prayer that was received by Saint Faustina, a Polish nun in the 1930s, through visions of Jesus. Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated the week after Easter, but many make the Chaplet part of their regular Lenten practice by reciting it every day at 3 p.m. (the traditional hour of Christ's death). You can find the Chaplet on the USCCB website.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230). *"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."*

Tuesday, Mar 02, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Celebrate humble history

Women's History Month celebrates well-known women but also unsung heroines. How appropriate, then, that today is the feast of Agnes of Bohemia, a lesser-known saint. First cousin of Elizabeth of Hungary—and descendent of Good King Wenceslaus—Agnes came upon her vocation naturally. She built a hospital for the poor, a Franciscan friary, and a monastery for Poor Clare nuns. When she also became a nun and was urged to become abbess, she referred to herself only as "senior sister." She continued to cook for her sisters and mend the clothing of lepers rather than live a royal life. Celebrate the unsung heroines in your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231). *"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."*

Wednesday, Mar 03, 2021

MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

We have work to do

Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) is a saint for our time. Born into a successful Philadelphia banking family, she used her wealth to improve the lives of others. Her Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament devoted their lives to education of Native and African Americans, building more than 100 schools in cities, rural areas, and on reservations. Though Katharine and her sisters at times faced criticism, endured racist taunts, and were threatened by the Ku Klux Klan, they remained steadfast in their mission. Patron saint of

racial justice and philanthropy, Saint Katharine epitomizes the sacrifice of the Blessed Sacrament. How will you commit your own life to making the world more just?

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232). *"Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?"*

Thursday, Mar 04, 2021

MEMORIAL OF CASIMIR

Grace under pressure

Saint Casimir seemed destined for riches and power, but this patron saint of Poland, called the Peacemaker, took a different path. Born in 1458 to the king and queen of Poland, he was a devout, ascetic child. At age 14 his father had him lead an army to install himself as king of Hungary, but with an overpowering enemy and troops beginning to desert, Casimir instead returned home. His furious father exiled him, but Casimir would never again take up arms. Rejecting violence when those around you embrace it can take great inner strength. Cultivate an inner compass that can pursue peace despite pressure.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233). *"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD."*

Friday, Mar 05, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Pray for besieged people everywhere

Prayer is our life with God. Sometimes we carve out a particular time during the day, and sometimes there are specific words, images, or experiences that help us be more aware of or express our relationship with God. And so of course during Lent prayer is one of the pillars, along with fasting and almsgiving, that help us turn to God. On today's 2021 World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical observance, we are invited to "Build on a strong foundation." This theme comes from the women of Vanuatu, an island hit by Cyclone Harold in 2020. Despite the perils they faced—and we've all faced in a year of pandemic—the message of today's prayer is one of confidence in God's steadfastness and the rock of faith. Unite in prayer for healing and recovery.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234). *"The kingdom of God will be . . . given to a people that will produce its fruit."*

Saturday, Mar 06, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Sibling rivalry of biblical proportions

The Parable of the Prodigal Son could as easily be called the Parable of the Bitter Brother. The story might have ended with the celebration at the return of the repentant prodigal. But instead we are left to ponder the feelings of the "good son," the obedient one who followed all the rules but never got a party thrown in *his* honor. It's a very human story, reenacted in nearly every family in one form or another. "Mother always liked you best." "You were Dad's favorite." "All we ever did was bail you out of trouble." Will the bitter brother in the gospel story reconcile? Has bitterness or division in your own family been reconciled? Consider being the reconciler who brings it about.

TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235). *"Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends."*

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 Feb. 13-14

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,126 E. Europe-\$435
St. James—\$1,919 E. Europe-\$170
Sacred Heart—\$1,395 E. Europe-\$350

Collections Week of Feb. 20-21

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,987
St. James—\$703
Sacred Heart—\$1,159

Thank you for your generosity

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.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR LAS VEGAS IN BRADLEY! Registration goes through March 1st!

Visit bishopmac.com/vegas. The casino-themed event and final Progressive Raffle drawing will be held **virtually** on March 6, 2021 from 7:00-9:00 pm and will offer all of the fun and energy of a Las Vegas experience. It's a great opportunity to gather your family and friends and have some fun! With purchase of any High Roller, Lucky 7 or BINGO Package, all current Progressive Raffle tickets holders will receive ONE FREE BINGO card to play during the Las Vegas in Bradley event. Reach out to the Las Vegas in Bradley team at lasvegas@bmcass.org to become a sponsor



Thank you to everyone who has already pledged a gift to the 2021 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Every gift, large or small, brings us closer to our parish's 2021 CMAA goal.

If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully reflect on how you can best support the CMAA. If we raise more than our goal, 70 percent of the amount over goal will be returned to us for our use. This is an amazing opportunity for our parish.

Please pick up a pledge envelope if you did not receive one and either return it, or the pledge card you received from the diocese, in the mail. You may also make a secure gift online at jolietdioceseappeal.org or text DONATE to (815) 205-1949.

Parish News:

Sacred Heart-

- * There will be a CCW meeting on Tuesday, March 2 at 7 pm. Therese Phillips and Shirley St. Germaine will be the hostesses.

St. James-

- * St. James CCW will meet on Sunday, March 14 right after mass. All women of the parish are invited.
- * Our CCW Lenten project this year at St. James will be collecting canned goods and nonperishables. Please bring any items you would like to donate between March 7th and April 4th. Thank you for your generosity.

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.



Food Collection

The next Knights of Columbus Food for Families collection will be on March 6 & 7 at Sacred Heart and St. Margaret Mary. We will start collecting the food the first weekend of every month. The St. James CCW will

be collecting food for their Lenten project as well during this time.

"I'm only asking you to stop every so often and turn off your mobile device, put down the Angry Birds and the Words with Friends and take a moment. Stop to look up and look around. Pause and check in . . . and spend a moment there."

—Maria Shriver



**He was transfigured before them...
MARK 9:2**



We continue looking at the saints canonized by Pope Francis.

St. Anthony Primaldo (August 14) was an aged lay man artisan in Otranto, Italy, known for his personal piety. In 1480 Otranto was invaded by Turks who offered the inhabitants the choice between death and conversion to Islam. Anthony was chosen as spokesman for the town, and explained to the Turks that Otranto chose Christ. He was martyred with 812 other residents of Otranto whose names have not come down to us.



St. Emilie de Villeneuve (Oct. 2) was born to the French nobility. She was the founder of the *Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Castres* who work for the education of poor girls and children, tend the sick, and serve as missionaries.

Lent



JOURNEY together MARCH 2021 LENT-PENTECOST CALENDAR



1

In Sunday's Gospel, we encounter the transfigured Christ. How open are we to seeing things from a different perspective? What in us needs to be transfigured to be more like Christ?

2

This week we remember Noah and Abraham. Their faithfulness to God was tested, and God made a covenant with both. How will your family grow in faith with prayer, reconciliation, and following Jesus this Lent?

3

FEAST OF
ST. KATHARINE
DREXEL

4

5

Pray the Stations of the Cross in its entirety or just focus on, discuss, and find one station in the Scriptures.