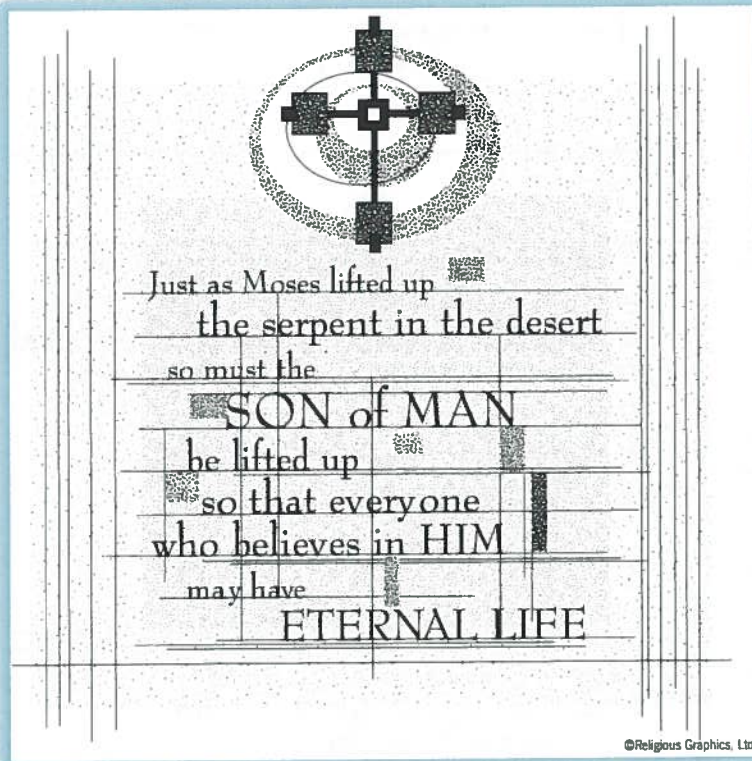


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**March 13-14, 2021**

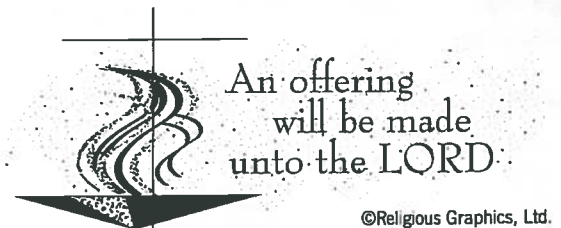


**Mass Intentions for the Week**

- Monday, March 15 (SMM)**  
8:00 am +Bill Fritz (Jerome Schneider)
- Tuesday, March 16 (SH)**  
8:00 am +Cecelia Monk (Gary/Kate Cloonen)
- Wednesday, March 17 (SJ)**  
8:00 am +Joan Smith (Jerry/Mary O'Connor)  
+Joseph George Noonan (Jeff/Diane Long)
- Friday, March 19 (SMM)**  
8:00 am +Madonna Hoffman (Mariann Lane)
- Saturday, March 20 (SMM)**  
5:00 pm +Marie Anderson (Jackie Eberle)  
+Mark Gray (Pat Gray)
- Sunday, March 21**  
7:30 am +Dorine Schafer (Mary Lou Nugent Family) (SH)  
9:00 am +Laurie Hansen (Louise Devine)  
+Harold Devine (Louise Devine) (SJ)  
10:30am For All the Parish Family (SMM)

**A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT  
WEEKEND OF MARCH 13-14, 2021**

This weekend's Gospel reading gives us the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee and leader of the Jews who comes to Jesus by night, recognizing Jesus as a teacher from God, but coming in secret for fear of being put out of the synagogue. Jesus rebukes him for his lack of understanding. Good stewards realize that for the sake of this world, God gives his most cherished beloved son. And so they are willing to confess Jesus as their Lord and savior in a public way. They do not keep their faith to themselves, in darkness. The Gospel reading challenges us to profess our faith in word and deed publicly, not to hide it away. Are we willing to accept the Gospel's challenge? Are we willing to get out of our personal "comfort zone" and confess our faith in Christ Jesus in an open, tangible way?



**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: "Prayer is the key that opens the heart of God."

—Saint Padre Pio

### Fourth Sunday of Lent — March 20-21, 2021

| Liturgical Schedule | St. Margaret Mary<br>Saturday, March 20<br>5:00 pm | Sacred Heart<br>Sunday, March 21<br>7:30 am | St. James<br>Sunday, March 21<br>9:00 am  | St. Margaret Mary<br>Sunday, March 21<br>10:30 am |
|---------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Celebrant           | Fr. Ron  | Fr. Ron<br>Deacon Ron                       | Fr. Ron<br>Deacon Ron   | Fr. Ron   |
| Ushers              | Dan Hoffman<br>Roger Jensen                        | James Mallaney<br>Kyle Ferris               | The committee will take care of ushering duties<br>Greeter— Jerry Ogrentz<br>R.Leader—R. Gohlke | Joe Smolkovich<br>Larry Wolles<br>Jeremy Wolles   |
| Lector              | Dave Emling  | Mike Hertz                                  | Jeff O'Connor   | Diane Long  |

#### ALL PARISHES-

- 
- ◆ Please notify the office by phone or email debjen04@gmail.com to get your meeting or group information into the bulletin. Remember, the COVID guidelines are still in place—social distancing, masks, limit of 50.
  - ◆ 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

- Sat., March 13**—First Reconciliation at SMM for SJ & SMM
- Thurs., March 25**—Penance Service 7 pm at SJ
- Sat., April 24**—First Communion at SMM 10 am
- Sat., May 8**—First Communion at SJ 10 am

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 Jdstreefarms@aol.com  
 St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)



For God so loved the world...  
JOHN 3:16

**TAX TIME**

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

## Collections Week of March 6-7

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,627

St. James—\$2,006

Sacred Heart—\$1,298

Thank you for your generosity

### A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for March

Lord Jesus,

We journey with you this Lenten season,  
in a time of stress and uncertainty,  
ever closer to Jerusalem,  
ever closer to your death on the cross.

We hear your Gospel mandate:  
“Deny yourself,  
take up your cross  
and follow me,”  
but we are unsure of their meaning,  
or anxious about their true intent.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
give us the strength  
to deny the “self”  
that keeps us from being good stewards  
of your teachings, and of those  
who need our love and compassion.

Give us a deeper awareness  
of the cross in our own lives  
so that we may embrace it  
and join our sufferings with yours  
in a world in need of your redemption.

And give us the confidence to follow you  
no matter the cost;  
knowing that if we die with you,  
we will also live with you  
and eternally rejoice in your resurrection.

We humbly ask this of you  
who live and reign with the Father  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.

Amen.



### Parish News:

#### Sacred Heart-

#### 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 -

There will be a Lenten Reconciliation Service on Thursday, March 25 at 7 pm at St. James. At least two priests will be available to hear confessions.

**Second Collection**—Today, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this Collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ’s love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and **help Jesus in disguise**. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).



Please join us to help support The Pregnancy Resource Center of

Kankakee. There are several ways you can help—

- Drop a donation into the collection basket marked for the Pregnancy Resource Center.
- Collect donations from family and friends and walk 1-2 miles as part of their virtual walk fundraiser. You choose the day, time, and place.
- Make a pledge/donation and join us in walking the Herscher High School Prairie Path (watch for the date and time announcement in the bulletin.)
- Make an online donation at [PregnancyResource-Center.org](http://PregnancyResource-Center.org)  
events  
Kankakee events  
click here to register  
give  
Debbie Jensen  
give
- For more information contact Debbie Jensen at [debjen04@gmail.com](mailto:debjen04@gmail.com) or call the church office.



**Saint of the week: St. Cyril of Jerusalem**, feast day March 18<sup>th</sup>, was raised as a Christian in Jerusalem. He was well educated, especially in religion. Cyril was a priest, ordained by Saint Maximus. He became a great teacher of catechumens. Cyril's instructions are still source documents for the Church's early teachings. He became Bishop of Jerusalem in 348. Cyril was exiled three times by the Arians, usually on some trumped up charge like selling church furniture, but actually on theological grounds. He attended the *Council of Seleucia* in 359 and the *Council of Constantinople* in 381. Cyril is a Greek Father of the Church and a Doctor of the Church.


**Obscure saint of the week: St. Frigidian of Lucca**, feast day, March 18<sup>th</sup>, is sometimes confused with Saint Finnian of Moville. Frigidian was the son of King Ultach of Ulster, Ireland. He was educated in Irish monasteries. Frigidian was ordained a priest. After a pilgrimage to Rome, he settled as a hermit on Mount Pisano. Later he became Bishop of Lucca in 566, though he often left the city to spend days in prayer and solitude. He formed the clergy of his diocese into a community of canons regular. Frigidian rebuilt the cathedral in Lucca after it was burned by the Lombards. The River Serchio frequently flooded the town of Lucca. Legend says that when the citizens called on Frigidian for aid, he asked for a rake or hoe, prayed over it, ordered the river to follow him, then dug new, safe course for the river by dragging the tool through the dirt.



# Lent



## JOURNEY together MARCH 2021 LENT-PENTECOST CALENDAR

|  |   |           |  |           |           |           |
|--|---|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <p>14 4th Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Readings<br/>2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23<br/>Psalm 137:1-2,3,4-5,6<br/>Ephesians 2:4-10<br/>John 3:14-21</p> | <p>15 In Sunday's Gospel, we hear of Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Discuss with your family what it means to be present to another person and what skills are involved in actively listening.</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17 FEAST OF ST. PATRICK</p>  | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> |
|--|---|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|

## Blessed Margaret Part 8

The next day Margaret's parents took her to the church where she went to confession and received Communion. When the mass ended her parents took her to the tomb of Fr. Giacomo. They got her as close as they could considering the large crowd of pilgrims at the site. Margaret became absorbed in prayer. Parisio told his wife not to expect an immediate miracle considering Margaret's many physical challenges. Parisio also noticed what he called the "rabble" visiting the shrine. He said to Emilia, If God listens to persons of mean extraction, it is certain He will listen to us who come from two of the best families of our Republic."

When her parents came to get Margaret at the shrine they noticed that nothing had happened. Parisio motioned to his wife to step outside with him. He was disgusted that no miracle had taken place. Emilia was on the verge of tears. Parisio decided that since God did not help them he was going to abandon his daughter. The parents returned to the inn and gathered together their escorts and prepared to leave without Margaret. Never again would Margaret be with her parents. As fast as their horses would carry them, they left the inn and headed back to Mercatello. To their dying day Parisio and Emilia could not escape the image of leaving a blind, helpless girl in a strange city, trustfully waiting for the return of her parents she loved so much.

Unaware that she had been abandoned Margaret remained in church begging for a miracle. From all those years of being locked in a cell she developed a love for prayer. By the end of the day Margaret was feeling weak as she had not eaten or drank for the entire day. The church bells were marking the end of the day and still her parents did not appear. Her fourteen years of confinement taught her to be patient so she continued to wait for their return. Then the voice of the Franciscan lay brother told her it was time to close the shrine. Margaret realized her parents were not in the church. She then asked the Franciscan to assist her to the door since she was blind. He apologized as he told her he had to leave her at the church steps.

For some time Margaret remained at the church steps waiting for her parents to return. She was alone and had no money. Where would she spend the night? Margaret was alone in a strange town and had no idea where to go. There was also the threat of the criminals that wandered the streets at night. Margaret decided to stay at the church door believing her parents would soon return looking for her. Eventually Margaret came to the conclusion that she would never see her parents again and that she faced the future alone. She was unprepared for her situation and knew she had to rely on her own efforts to survive. With no money in her pockets she would have to beg for a living. As courageous as she was, she could not avoid being fearful of what lie ahead.

## Sunday, Mar 14, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Don't look at me

During Lent, it's easy to imagine we're scoring points with heaven by all this fasting, praying, and almsgiving. Giving up binge-watching for a season, spending 15 minutes daily in contemplation, or funding a different cause each Friday are all worthy activities that may deepen our commitment to faithful living. None of these practices will actually buy us a ticket to paradise, however. Grace is free and unearned, so we can't boast about it. Our Lenten practices are simply our way of saying "Thank You" to the Giver of all good gifts.

TODAY'S READINGS: Year B: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21 (32). *"It is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast."*

## Monday, Mar 15, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Engender cooperation

There have been some famous male/female teams in the history of Catholic religious orders. Benedict and Scholastica, Francis and Clare, Teresa of Ávila and John of the Cross. Another team included Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, whose feast day is today. While Vincent founded the Vincentians, together he and Louise cofounded the Daughters of Charity. Today, there are 14,000 Daughters of Charity serving the poor all over the world. Commit to improving gender relations in your daily interactions. When woman and men feel free to make their unique contributions, great things can happen.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54 (244). *"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe."*

## Tuesday, Mar 16, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Healing water everywhere

The custom of dipping a finger into holy water and making the sign of the cross upon entering a church serves to remind us of our Baptism, whereby we first entered the Catholic Church. But the waters of Baptism do much more, altering our metaphysical makeup in a profound way. Christians adopted the ritual from John the Baptist, but the practice has even more ancient roots. It's tied to the Jewish use of *mikvahs*, purifying pools—including those mentioned in the Bible, like Bethesda and Siloam—that believers visited to cleanse themselves of sickness and sin. Let your own bathing rituals remind you of your baptismal promises.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245). *"They shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary."*

## Wednesday, Mar 17, 2021

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF PATRICK, BISHOP, MISSIONARY

### Offer an Irish-inspired blessing

As the church and the Irish, and all who are "Irish for the day," celebrate the feast of Saint Patrick, let's also celebrate what we know of this remarkable fifth-century saint who brought the message of Christ to Ireland. Patrick writes in his *Confession* of his homeland (Roman Britain), his youthful captivity by pirates, his conversion, and his deepening desire to proclaim God's presence. There is no mention of snakes or shamrocks, but there is strong testament to Patrick's missionary zeal: *"That is why I cannot be silent . . . about such great blessings and such a gift that the Lord*

*so kindly bestowed in the land of my captivity."* Look for God's presence in this day and share your own good news.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 (246). *"I cannot do anything on my own; . . . because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me."*

## Thursday, Mar 18, 2021

MEMORIAL OF CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Explore the roots of your faith

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem was a scholar and catechist at heart, but he spent years embroiled in the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. He spent 16 of his 35 years as Jerusalem's archbishop in exile over Arianism and political wrangling. Although he died in 386, it took until 1882 for him to be declared a doctor of the church for his significant theological contributions, many written for adults joining the church. In keeping with Saint Cyril's dedication to catechesis, devote some time today to learning more about your faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247). *"The works that the Father gave me to accomplish . . . testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me."*

## Friday, Mar 19, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

### Try a little tenderness

When God's plans collided with his, Joseph attended to a calling beyond the law or custom of his day. He must have felt angry, betrayed, confused. But he also knew something greater was at stake than simply following rigid Mosaic code, which would have demanded stoning a woman found to be "with child" before marriage. Instead, he trusted Mary and trusted the dream that brought him angelic counsel. As Pope Francis said in his homily on this feast day in 2013, "in [Joseph's] heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength." Practice tenderness—the sign of a strong heart!

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a (543). *"He did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."*

## Saturday, Mar 20, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Lie low to be raised high

In 1812, six young women joined to devote their lives to providing care and education for Catholic families living in Kentucky. Nineteen-year-old Catherine Spaulding from Maryland was chosen to lead the group that became the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (S.C.N.). Mother Catherine guided the congregation for 45 years, until her death on March 20, 1858. Today 550 S.C.N. sisters serve in 20 states and four foreign countries. Find your own quiet path of humility so that you, too, can be exalted.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53 (249). *"Never before has anyone spoken like this man."*

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



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