

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

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

APRIL 10-11, 2021



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 12 (SMM)

8:00 am +Sterling Bouchard (M/M Keith Lakin)

Tuesday, April 13 (SH)

8:00 am +Mike LaGesse (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, April 14 (SJ)

8:00 am + Harold Tobenski (Jerome Schneider)

Friday, April 16 (SMM)

8:00 am +Joan Scanlon (Scott Frerichs)

Saturday, April 17 (SMM)

7:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, April 18

**7:30 am +Joseph & Georgiann Stalzer (Cheryl/Howard Hughes)
+Duane Ferris (Larry/Birdie Stevenson)
(SH)**

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

10:30am +Dr. Igor Dubravec (The Family) (SMM)

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

WEEKEND OF APRIL 10-11, 2021

When the risen Christ encounters his disciples in the locked room he adds a new Beatitude to the ones we've heard proclaimed before: Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed. Stewards of the mysteries of God's love do not need proof of the risen Christ. They know it because their lives have been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit who has breathed new life into them. As stewards of this great gift it is appropriate to reflect on how we in turn add new life into our parish communities.



**RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT
JN. 20:22**

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: *"We too often forget that faith is a matter of questioning and struggle before it becomes one of certitude and peace. You have to doubt and reject everything else in order to believe firmly in Christ, and after you have begun to believe, your faith itself must be tested and purified."* ~Thomas Merton

Third Sunday of Easter—April 17-18, 2021

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, April 17 7:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass	Sacred Heart Sunday, April 18 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, April 18 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, April 18 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Gery Wright	James Mallaney Kyle Ferris	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Rick White R.Leader—Peerboltes	Bill Powers Nick Zerebny Corey Eich
Lector	Dave Emling	Darlene Cipcich	Jeff O'Connor	Julie Splear

There will be confessions at Sacred Heart on Sunday, April 11 for Divine Mercy Sunday.



Congratulations to Brother Harry Phillips for being recognized by Blessed Trinity Knights of Columbus council 15032 as Knight of the quarter for the 1st quarter of 2021. Harry was personally responsible for the contribution of 724 lbs. of food for the Blessed Trinity Councils annual food drive. Job well done Harry.

A Look Ahead

Sun., April 11—Divine Mercy Confessions at SH 1-2pm
Tues., April 13—SH CCW 7 pm
Thurs., April 22—Taste of Italy 5-7 pm SMM
Sat., April 24—First Communion at SMM 10 am
Mon., April 26—Knights of Columbus at SJ 7 pm
May 1-2— K of C Food for Families collection
Sat., May 8—First Communion at SJ 10 am

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

THE TRIUMPH OF GOD'S LOVE

Throughout the Bible, God is characterized by a deep and abiding love for humanity, in particular those who respond to God's covenant invitation to live according to God's guidelines to create a community of justice, love, and peace. This divine love is celebrated in a special way on the Sunday after Easter, which since 2000 has been identified as Divine Mercy Sunday. On this day, we celebrate God's unfathomable love and its constant yearning to forgive us for the ways in which we fail in our obligations of covenant life.

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)

Collections Week of March April 4-5

St. Margaret Mary—\$3,950

St. James—\$2,455

Sacred Heart—\$2,390

Holy Land—\$440

Holy Land—\$191

Holy Land- \$294

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you!

A heartfelt thank you to all who have already donated to the Pregnancy Resource Center fundraiser. We are still taking donations but any money must be to the parish office by Wednesday, April

14. We are very close to reaching our Tri-Parish goal of \$1,000.

Your generosity will certainly aid the Center in their mission to make a difference in the lives of so many babies.

VACCINE RESOURCES FOR SENIORS in KANKAKEE CO.

COVID-19 vaccine resources are available to older adults in Kankakee County by calling 815-523-9918. Our team is here to help older adults and their caregivers navigate through the process. We can help with:

Registration: A trained case manager will help you complete your online registration to receive the vaccine in the county.

Transportation: Need a ride to your vaccine appointment? We may be able to help!

Education: Interested in learning more about the Covid-19 vaccine and your options? We have information and resources to assist! Call 815-523-9918 or email ccu@cc-doj.org to be connected with someone who can assist.

Anointing of the Sick

If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick please call the office and arrange for a day/time. In the event of an emergency contact the office first (426-2550) and call the rectory as well (426-2153). If no one answers please leave a message at both numbers and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.



Blessing of Fields and Seed

Since the Tri Parish community is largely an agrarian community we will be offering special blessings targeted at our farmers. Beginning in April, I will be blessing corn and soy bean seed and inviting our farmers to take a bag with them and mix it with their own seed. In addition, beginning in April, I will be making appointments for the Blessing of the Fields. If you want your farm field blessed, please contact the office to arrange an appointment.

Parish News:

Sacred Heart-

- * Spring Cleaning? The SH Catholic Education Fundraising Committee is having its annual garage sale July 8-11. Please drop any donations at the parish hall. Also, remember the "Pennies From Heaven" container is located in the entrance of the church. Any donations are appreciated. 100% of both fundraisers benefit the scholarship fund.
- * Our CCW is going to be a sponsor for the "Virtual Walk" benefitting Pregnancy Resource Center of Kankakee. It will go through April 16th. Checks should be made out the Pregnancy Resource Center. Thanks for your generosity.
- * The next SH CCW meeting will be held Tuesday, April 13th at 7 p.m. in the church hall. Hostesses for the evening are Tina Petersen and Marilyn Pfeiffer. Hope to see you then!

St. James-

St. Margaret Mary -

- * Please check the signup sheets in the entrance of the church for donations for the CCW Taste of Italy. We appreciate your help.



Sacred Heart Church will again be honoring our living and deceased mothers by placing flowers for them on the altar. This year there will be pink for the living mothers and white for the deceased.

Early Christian legend says, the first carnations bloomed on earth when Jesus carried the Cross, witnessing Jesus' plight, Mother Mary started to shed tears, and pink carnations sprang forth from where her tears fell. Pink carnations are symbolic of a mother's undying love. The white carnations symbolize pure love. Envelopes are provided at the entrance to the church, along with paper for extra names. The price is \$1.25 per flower. Checks may be made out to Sacred Heart Church. You may place envelopes in the collection basket. For more info call Terri at 815 933-9043. Sunday, April 25 is the final day to turn names and money in.



Saint of the week: St. Stanislaus of Krakow (April 11) was born to the Polish nobility, son of Belislaus and Bogna, and raised in a pious family. He was educated at Gnesen, Poland, and may have studied at Paris, France. When his parents died, Stanislaus distributed his inheritance to the poor. He was the parish priest at Czembocz, Poland. He was appointed canon and preacher, and later vicar-general at the Cracow cathedral; noted spiritual direction. Reluctantly he became the bishop of Cracow in 1072. Stanislaus was known for his preaching against sinful living, regardless of the sinner's class. He was killed by King Boleslaus the Cruel after Stanislaus excommunicated him due to his war crimes and attempted theft of land from the Church. Stanislaus was murdered while celebrating Mass. Reaction against Boleslaus was so great that he fled the country, never to return; his guilt led him to become a monk. Stanislaus became a symbol of Polish patriotism and nationalism, and is sometimes considered a martyr.



Obscure saints of the week: St. Barsanuphius of Gaza (April 11) was a hermit for 50 years and lived in absolute seclusion near the monastery of Saint Seridon of Gaza, Palestine. He wrote works against the Origenists. He is greatly venerated by the Greeks. His extensive correspondence letters have survived 15 centuries.



A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER *for April*

Oh Blessed Lord!
Oh Risen Lord!

We look through the crosses
we have carried this past year
and give you thanks
for the awe-inspiring hope
that Easter brings.

We give you thanks
for calling us your friends
and allowing us to share
in the sacrifice of your
body and blood,
which is poured out for so many.

Oh merciful Lord,
redeemer and teacher,
by the power of the Holy Spirit
give us the patience and insight
to listen to you during this time
of continued uncertainty.

Oh Blessed Lord!

Give us the wisdom to find creative
ways to put the Eucharist into action,
and give us the courage to bring
your Easter message of hope
to a world that desperately needs
your love.

To you be glory and honor
forever and ever.

Amen



PEACE
be
with
you

Sunday, Apr 11, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Hold onto the holy memories

It's unlikely that those who survive the pandemic will look back on these days with much nostalgia. Sickness and loss, fear and division, stress and isolation: The consequences will be with us for a generation. Yet emerging from the tragedy were also instances of humanity, decency, and heroism that echoed the time of the first apostles. We've shared food, masks, information, errands, toilet paper, songs. We've gathered on balconies and in virtual rooms. We've found ways to pray and to encourage. This Divine Mercy Sunday, give thanks for those who have helped you through this and every crisis.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31 (44).
"No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common."

Monday, Apr 12, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Stand with those who stood for you

Though you may not remember it, your Baptism was an extremely important day in your life—the beginning of your life in Christ. Your godparents represented you that day, speaking on your behalf if you were a baby. Perhaps later you became a godparent to others. Whether you're still close or have drifted apart over time, reach out to your godparents or godchildren and reminisce about that day. Talk about the role you have played in each other's spiritual life and pray together for deepening conversion. Promise to keep on praying for each other in our ever-growing identity as children of God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8 (267). "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God."

Tuesday, Apr 13, 2021

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN I, POPE, MARTYR

The dilemma of indifference

The Eastern Church began exploring monotheletism, the notion that Jesus had only a divine will, despite being both human and divine, in the 600s. Pope Martin I issued a reprimand, opposing this heresy. This angered the Eastern emperor, who had the sickly Martin dragged to Constantinople for trial. The pontiff was beaten, starved, and exiled, leading to his death. But Martin also blamed a Western Church that never came to his rescue. "I am surprised at the indifference," he wrote, of "those who belong to the church of Saint Peter." Ask for Martin's intercession today, for all who suffer indifference.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15 (268). "The community of believers was of one heart and mind."

Wednesday, Apr 14, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Let your life be your witness

How do you live your faith? Some days may be harder than others, but rarely, if ever nowadays, will the effort to be a faithful follower of Jesus land someone in jail or cost them their life. Yet that was the fate of the early disciples who insisted on proclaiming the stories of Jesus' life, death, and rising. There are 20th-century martyrs as well (Blessed Stanley Rother, Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, the martyrs of El Salvador among others), but faith calls

all of us to kindness to all people, fairness in the face of injustice, trust in God's promised Spirit, and a constant willingness to see the face of God in our neighbors. Do people recognize you as a follower of Jesus by the way you live?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 (269). "The men whom you put in prison are in the temple area and are teaching the people."

Thursday, Apr 15, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Be up to the tax at hand

Taxes are due today, an obligation that few people savor and yet all of us rely on. Catholics can feel proud to promote the common good by paying taxes for schools, roads, parks, healthcare, and other social benefits. In their pastoral letter, *Economic Justice for All*, the U.S. bishops go even further, saying: "The tax system should be continually evaluated in terms of its impact on the poor." If you feel disheartened by the paperwork or the cost of taxes, take heart that despite any flaws in the system, taxes help build the commonwealth.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36 (270). "The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him."

Friday, Apr 16, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

A God of his word

Poor communication is the main reason relationships fail. If it isn't clear what is being promised, then it is easy to become disillusioned when expectations aren't met. People who lose faith in God often point to God's untrustworthiness: They asked for something and didn't receive it. Hence, they conclude that God is not to be trusted. But remember the promise of God is love. Look around; wherever you see love—even a love lost—you see God's promise fulfilled. As Saint Augustine put it: "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others." Help embody God's love today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271). "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world."

Saturday, Apr 17, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Call a deacon

The word "deacon" is derived from the Greek word *diákonos*, meaning "one who serves at table," found in today's first reading. The office of deacon endured for several centuries after its origin in Acts. But eventually the diaconate was reduced to a temporary stage of ordination to the priesthood. After Vatican II the permanent diaconate was revived. Today many men, most married although some single, enter the diaconate through the sacrament of Holy Orders. They serve their parishes and assist their pastors in many ways both social and liturgical. Perhaps you know someone who would make a good deacon. Give him a call.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (272). "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table."

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



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Blessed Margaret Part 11

Margaret knew the challenges she would face as she entered the convent. She saw it as a spiritual journey toward sainthood. One of the challenges she encountered was the rule of the order she joined was not being held to as strictly as the founder had intended. The virtue of silence at various times of the day was not being kept and idle conversation was taking place during these restricted periods. Margaret discovered that the nuns justified every breaking of the founder's rules.

After much personal soul searching and the advice of her confessor, Margaret decided she would live as faithful to the founder's rule as she possibly could. Many of the nuns in the convent were amused by Margaret's efforts to strictly live the order's rule. Many of the nuns thought Margaret was going too far in her spiritual discipline. As time progressed the nuns became less tolerant of Margaret's spiritual discipline and began to see her as a disturbing factor in the convent. It wasn't long before Margaret became the least popular nun in the convent.

Margaret wanted to repay the nuns for taking her into their community. Her thought was to move them back to the intentions of their founder. Her efforts failed. Her good intentions and example went nowhere. In fact the nuns became antagonistic towards her. Many of the nuns complained to the Mother Superior causing her to meet with Margaret. The Mother Superior expressed her disappointment with Margaret and told her times have changed and the nuns cannot live up to the standard set hundreds of years prior.

Margaret's confessor told her that her efforts were pleasing to God. Encouraged by him she tried to bring these reforms to the convent. Mother Superior told Margaret she expected an immediate change in her conduct. Faced with this dilemma Margaret went before the Blessed Sacrament. If she does as she has been asked Margaret will win the favor of the other nuns. If she follows her conscience she will be asked to leave the convent. Margaret decided to follow her conscience despite the cost. Since it was seen as a violation of her vow of obedience Margaret was expelled from the convent. Once again she was on the streets in a town unfamiliar with her.

It appeared the more Margaret tried to serve God the more misfortune came her way. From the abandonment of her parents, fourteen years living in a cell attached to the local church, being homeless and begging on the streets, and now expelled from the convent. After reflection on her situation she came to the conclusion that it was the nuns who rejected her, not God. For spiritual strength Margaret focused on the suffering of Christ. As he was dying on the cross His disciples abandoned Him. To her it was if Christ was saying to her "Margaret, will you, too leave me?" Margaret realized she had to continue on her spiritual journey and be ready for what God has planned for her.