

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



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, March 29 (SMM)
8:00 am +Robert Schneider (Sharon Schneider)

Tuesday, March 30 (SH)
8:00 am +Duane Ferris (Roger/Margaret Jensen)

Wednesday, March 31 (SJ)
8:00 am Joan Smith (Jerry/Mary O'Connor)

Thursday, April 1 Holy Thursday (SJ)
7:00 pm Mass of the Last Supper

Mass Intentions for the Week

Friday, April 2 Good Friday (SH)
3:00 pm Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm Veneration of the Cross

Saturday, April 3 Easter Vigil (SMM)
7:00 pm Intention of the Celebrant

Sunday, March 28
7:30 am Intention of the Celebrant (SH)
9:00 am Intention of the Celebrant (SJ)
10:30am For All the Parish Family (SMM)

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

Quotable: "Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives...Let us spread before his feet, not garment or...olive branches...but ourselves, clothed in his grace. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before him."
 ~Andrew of Crete

Easter Sunday —April 3-4, 2021

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, April 3 7:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass	Sacred Heart Sunday, April 4 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, April 4 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, April 4 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Erik Wheeler Conner Settles	Daryl Ferris Kyle Ferris	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Dallas Ferris R.Leader—	Darren Lovell Nick Zerebny
Lector	Jackie Eberle Rob Landeck Dave Emling Julie Splear Corinn Wheeler	Mike Hertz	Andy Hansen	Steve Jacob

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT WEEKEND OF MARCH 27-28, 2021

This weekend we participate in the proclamation of the passion and death of Jesus according to the Gospel of Mark. In the extended version of this weekend's Gospel reading, Jesus is at Gethsemane, praying to his Father, in much emotional distress. He knows he can save himself. He can escape over the Mount of Olives in the dead of night and make his way safely into the Judean desert. Instead, Jesus chooses obedience to his Father and waits for his persecutors. As Saint Paul puts it in the second reading, Jesus is "obedient to the point of death." Jesus' obedience is a lesson for those who are good stewards of their life in Christ. Let us reflect on how we might be more obedient to the will of God instead of our own will.



He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...
PHIL.2:7

A Look Ahead

Fri., April 2—Stations of the Cross 3pm
 Veneration 7 pm at SH
 Monday, April 5—SMM CCW meeting at 7 pm
Tues., April 13—SH CCW 7 pm
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
 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 20-21

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,252
James—\$1,271
Sacred Heart—\$966

St.
Sa-

Thank you for your generosity



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.

We are pleased to announce that Jill Fulton will be taking over as Religious Education Director at St. Margaret Mary this fall. Jill



grew up in Herscher and has many memories tied to the church—attending masses, religious education classes, youth group activities, her wedding, and now being a member with her husband Brent and their three daughters.

Jill has an extensive background in education and works for the Herscher School District where she taught first grade, was a reading specialist, and is currently the Response to Intervention Coordinator.

Jill has taught religious education classes for the past four years at St. Margaret Mary and is looking forward to serving the parish as the Religious Education Director. Jill plans to provide opportunities for the youth and their families to come together as a community in order to deepen their faith and prepare for the sacraments. She hopes to encourage prayer and service to others, while creating joyful experiences and fun memories together.

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-

- * Please bring any items you would like to donate for our CCW Lenten project by April 4th. Thank you for your generosity.

St. Margaret Mary -

- * CCW meeting Monday, April 5 at 7 pm. We will be discussing plans for Taste of Italy.
- * Please check the signup sheets in the entrance of the church for donations for the CCW Taste of Italy. We appreciate your help.

A huge **Thank you** to Stacie Powers who is retiring from her position as Religious Education Director at St. Margaret Mary after many dedicated years of service. We so appreciate her service to the parish as teacher, youth group leader, and director of our Religious Education program as well as Faith Formation leader and pretty much jack of all trades. Her guidance, prayers, and generous nature have helped many youth develop a love for Jesus and the church. Thank you, Stacie!

Help Socially Isolated Seniors During the Pandemic and Beyond!

Catholic Charities' Senior Companion Program (SCP) is looking for people 55 years and older who are interested in visiting with another senior who is homebound and living in Kankakee or Iroquois Counties. This is strictly a friendly visit; no homecare duties are involved. Volunteers who meet income eligibility guidelines will receive a tax-free hourly stipend and a mileage reimbursement for time spent with clients.

During the COVID pandemic, Senior Companion volunteers call clients weekly (in-person visits will resume when it is safe), may drop off pre-ordered groceries or medications, and can even make window visits. These contacts make a huge difference in the lives of seniors who feel isolated. Volunteering as a Senior Companion is a fantastic way to meet new people and give back to the community. Are you ready to help bring joy to the lives of seniors who are facing the challenges of isolation?

In Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, call Kathy at 815-933-7791 extension 9906 or email klangworthy@cc-doj.org. For more information about the programs and services provided by Catholic Charities, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.



Obscure saints of the week: There are not any well-known saint feasts this week so I will feature two obscure saints.

St. Gladys, feast day March 29th

She was the daughter of Saint Brychan of Brecknock. When Saint Gwynllyw asked for her hand in marriage, Brychan refused. Gwynllyw kidnapped the girl, and the two started a violent life on the run. Gladys became the mother of Saint Cadoc of Llancarvan who eventually convinced Gwynllyw and Gladys to give up their violent ways, and follow a religious calling. Gladys became a nun at Newport, Monmouthshire, Wales. Late in life she became a hermitess in rural Wales.



Saint Ludolf of Ratzeburg, feast day March 29th



Praemonstratensian canon of the cathedral of Ratzeburg (modern Landkreis Herzogtum Lauenburg), Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He was a priest and a noted preacher. Later he became the bishop of Ratzeburg in 1236. He was imprisoned, severely beaten and exiled by Duke Albert Urso of Lauenburg, Saxony for defending the cathedral and preventing the Duke from confiscating its property. He was taken in by Duke John of Mecklenburg, but his injuries were so severe that he did not survive long. He was a martyr.

Palm Sunday



Expectations

vs

Reality

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 some-

We are still taking donations for the Pregnancy Resource Center's Virtual Walk Fundraiser. We are planning to walk the Prairie Path at the Herscher High School football complex on Saturday, April 10 at 9 am. We have a Tri-Parish goal of \$1000 to aid the Center in their mission to provide education, help, and many resources for moms, families, and the precious babies in our community that need our help.

Blessed Margaret Part 10

Some were suspicious of Margaret. Was she really this sincere and cheerful or was it just an act? She was watched carefully by the inhabitants of Castello. As time passed the locals came to admire Margaret. Some of the poor families wanted to take Margaret into their homes but due to financial restraints they could not house her forever. For several years Margaret went from house to house living with families who could barely survive.

The sleeping rooms were small in these houses and were occupied by eight to 10 people. The floors were dirt and over the years it had turned hard. Dogs, cats, chickens, and pigs traveled freely through the house. The fire used to cook and heat the house was in the center of the room and with no chimney the house would fill with smoke. The families she lived with were often dysfunctional, suspicious, and indifferent to the Church. Gradually it was noticed that every family who took Margaret in experienced a positive change. Even the financial situation improved for those who took Margaret in. Margaret prayed for these families and asked God to improve their lives.

Near the southeast gate of the city there was a cloistered convent named ironically, St. Margaret. The nuns there began to debate Margaret's situation. Eventually the nuns decided that Margaret shouldn't go from house to house but should move into the convent. The prioress of the convent called a meeting of the leadership of the convent to discuss the possibility of taking Margaret in. According to their religious order a candidate had to have irreproachable character, legitimate birth, and freedom from serious handicaps.

It was feared Margaret would become a burden to the convent. Since Margaret chose to conceal the identity of her parents the nuns began to question if her birth was legitimate. The local bishop got involved and requested the record of Margaret's baptism and any record of the marriage of her parents. As the rector of the cathedral searched through the sacramental records he was stunned to learn that Margaret's parents were Parisio and Emilia. The bishop became fearful that Parisio might take revenge against him now that he knew who Margaret's parents were. The bishop notified the nuns that Margaret was baptized and legitimate. With this news the nuns invited Margaret to join their community.

Margaret accepted the invitation with joy. No longer would she be dependent on others to survive, no longer would she be the blind beggar sitting near the church. She could now devote her life to prayer and work. The day her friends led her to the convent and the sisters welcomed her was a day of great happiness for Margaret. There are no surviving records to show which order of nuns was occupying the convent at the time, but the nuns were very happy to have Margaret join their community.

Margaret became familiar with the convent very quickly and the nuns were amazed at how she was able to take care of herself. Margaret helped with the chores at the monastery such as cleaning, cooking, setting the table, and washing the dishes. Margaret came to the convent to labor for the salvation of souls but she was also filled with overwhelming joy.

Sunday, Mar 28, 2021

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Remember kindly

None of us needs a reminder that life is full of suffering and loss. We'll all have a generous share of sorrow before we're through. What bears constant reminding is that seeds of kindness are sown each hour as well. In the final days before his Passion, an unnamed woman anointed Jesus with costly perfumed oil. It was a symbolic act, signaling his role as God's anointed and one prepared for death. It was also a gentle act in a week that would hold much cruelty. Seed the world with small kindnesses to testify against the darkness.

TODAY'S READINGS: Procession: Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 (37); Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1—15:47 (38).

"Wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Monday, Mar 29, 2021

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

A most worthy work of mercy

Among the corporal works of mercy, there's one you might take for granted: bury the dead. We bury our own friends and family, but what about those in your community who die with no one to bury them? There are pallbearer ministries—sometimes named after Saint Joseph of Arimathea, who provided a tomb for Jesus' burial—for the homeless, often veterans, and others left alone in the world who need someone to see them home one final time. See what your parish and local funeral home does for those who die alone. Can you offer them the dignity of your presence or, at the very least, during this time of COVID, your specific prayers?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11 (257). *"Let her keep this for the day of my burial."*

Tuesday, Mar 30, 2021

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Can I get an amen?

We know the word *amen* typically ends a prayer. It's there to signal a shared agreement to what's been said, as in: "Yes, it's so." But what about an *amen* at the beginning of a statement? And what if it's used twice, as is common in the Gospel of John? "Amen, amen, I say to you," Jesus says repeatedly. According to scripture scholar Raymond Brown, Jesus uses the phrase to show he speaks with the authority of God. Jesus speaks God's truth—which is why some translations say "Truly, truly" instead. Listen closely for God's truth this Holy Week.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38 (258). *"Amen, amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me."*

Wednesday, Mar 31, 2021

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Patience, people

Tomorrow being Holy Thursday, today is the last full day of Lent. And how was our Lent? Do you feel relief that your Lenten resolutions can be set aside? Saddened to lose the extra time set aside for prayer? Perhaps regret that your anticipated Lenten practices got lost in the daily commotion of the past six weeks? Here is the important question: Is your heart open to God and God's love? Lent is a gift of time, to be sure, but the opportunity to

fast, pray, and give alms, to grow in the love of God is ours every day. The words of Saint Francis de Sales come to mind: "Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself."

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25 (259). *"Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear."*

Thursday, Apr 01, 2021

HOLY THURSDAY; EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Get down and dirty

Some parishes have trouble finding parishioners willing to have the priest wash their feet at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The idea of washing hands instead has been proposed. But the church has been firm: The stooping down to wash lowly, possibly dusty feet sends the message of humble, loving service that Christ intended when he performed this act himself. The next time you are called on to wash dishes, take out the garbage, or do a bit of dirty work, see it as a chance to live the spirit of Christ's act of washing his disciples' feet.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15 (39). *"If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet."*

Friday, Apr 02, 2021

FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY); DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Mercy me

Mercy is not always something we think about—until we are in need of it. Mercy refers to God's compassion and kindness toward us, especially when we have not been our best selves. On Good Friday, we see clearly, though painfully, the extent of God's mercy in a love so great that Jesus, God's beloved, is willing to go to the cross. We keep ourselves ever mindful of mercy as a way to understand a God whose fundamental "disposition" is one of loving kindness—no matter what. As you pray through this holy day, remember your own experiences of God's mercy.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42 (40). *"And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit."*

Saturday, Apr 03, 2021

HOLY SATURDAY; EASTER VIGIL

This holy in-between time

Scripture commentator John T. Squires calls Holy Saturday a "liminal space" marked by waiting and not knowing. This is the quiet, uncertain day between Crucifixion and Resurrection. In some sense, this entire past year has been a liminal year, as we are caught between the emergence of a history-changing virus and its hoped-for suppression. What can we learn from the disciples who waited and prayed? They prayed that life would emerge victorious over death. Let that be our prayer as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Genesis 1:1—2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15—15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7 (41). *"Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."*

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



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**Knights of Columbus
Blessed Trinity Council #15032
Irwin, IL**

Have you ever contemplated becoming a Knight of Columbus but wanted to have more information before making a commitment? Well, it is as simple as clicking a button on your computer.

Visit KofC.org where you will find out all about the Knights of Columbus. One highlight is that you can join online for free until June 2021. If you decide to join your parish council, you will not owe any dues for a year. Blessed Trinity Council of St Margret Mary, St James and Scared Heart has an annual dues fee of \$36 dollars a year. So, what have you got to lose? You can also watch a short video to give you a better idea what the Knights of Columbus is all about. The Knights of Columbus will allow you to put your faith in action.

I ask that you just take a couple minutes out of your busy schedule and check out the web site then decide for your self if you think that the Knights is something you would like to be a part of. After checking out the web site, if you have any further questions or concerns, you can feel free to contact me. My email is viccarlile51@gmail.com or you can text me at 815-955-6477.

Also, on the fourth Sunday of each month you will see your parish Knights of Columbus brothers wearing their red shirts at mass. Do not be shy to walk up and discuss your interest in the Knights, they will be more than happy to discuss their experience as a Knight with you.

Thank you and God Bless!
Vic Carlile
Grand Knight
Blessed Trinity Council
#15032.

