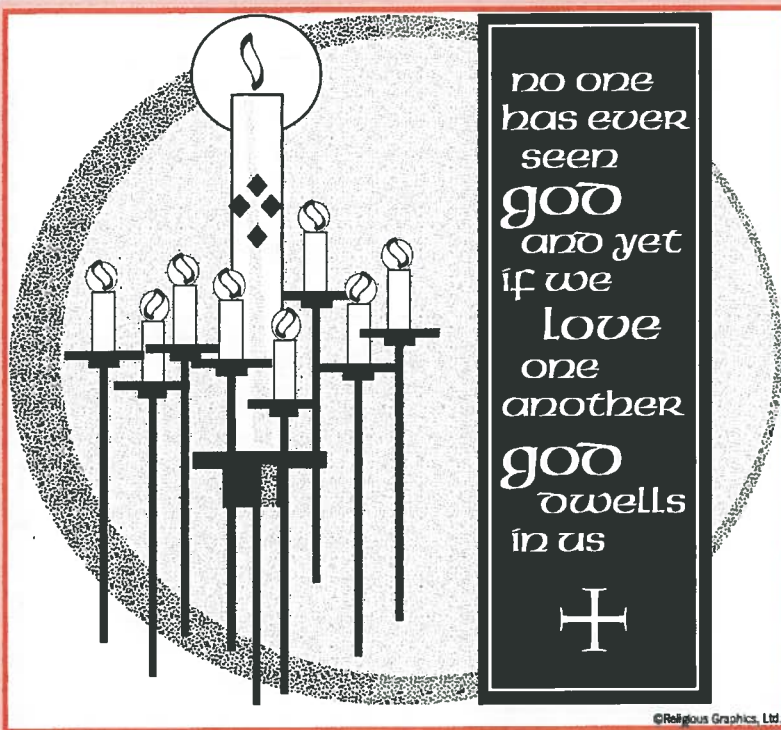


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**



*no one  
has ever  
seen  
god  
and yet  
if we  
love  
one  
another  
god  
dwells  
in us*

+

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**MAY 15-16, 2021**

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

- Monday, May 17 (SMM)**  
8:00 am +Thomas O'Connor (Roger/Margaret Jensen)
- Tuesday, May 18 (SH)**  
8:00 am +Cecelia Monk (Doris Uribe)
- Wednesday, May 19 (SJ)**  
8:00 am +Lavern Morrical (Ronald/GeorgeAnn Kuhlman)
- Friday, May 21 (SMM)**  
8:00 am +James Scanlon (John/Dawn Deany)
- Saturday, May 22 (SMM)**  
5:00 pm +Robert Schnieder (Howard/Jan Schonhoff)  
+Terry & Ruth Ohrt (Janice Schnieder)
- Sunday, May 23**  
7:30 am +Lorraine Brennan (Jeff/Loriann Bruer)  
+Georgiann & Joseph Stalzer (Howard/Cherie Hughes) (SH)  
9:00 am +Fred Gohlke (Larry/Birdie Stevenson)  
+Dennis Bush (Kathy/Richard Dumas) (SJ)  
10:30am For All the Parish Family (SMM)

**A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT  
WEEKEND OF MAY 15-16**

Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus instructed his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all of creation. In the first reading, after Jesus' ascent, the angels ask his disciples "Why do you stand here staring at the skies?" The angels want them to look around themselves and be assured that Christ is working through them. The Ascension does not memorialize Christ leaving us. But instead, Christ working through us, his mystical body, his church. As stewards of this legacy, we too are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our words and actions; in how we live and how we treat others. Are we sharing the life of Christ with others in our day-to-day lives? In what ways do we see ourselves proclaiming the Gospel? In what ways can we do better?

**Confessions:**

St. Margaret Mary Sat. 4:15 pm  
Sacred Heart Sun. 7:05-7:20 am  
St. James Sun 8:35-8:50 am



**Food  
Collection**

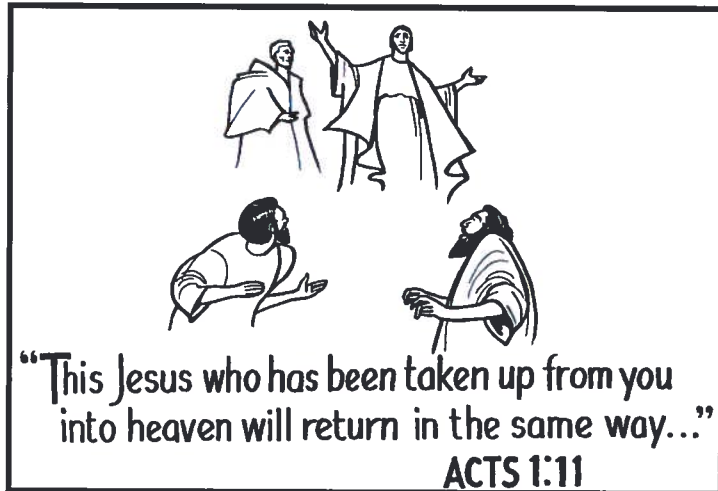
The next Knights of Columbus Food for Families collection will be on June 5-6 at all three parishes.

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

Quotable: "Out of compassion for us He descended from Heaven and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace."  
 ~St. Augustine

**Pentecost Sunday May 22-23, 2021**

<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 22 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Sunday, May 23 7:30 am</b>	<b>St. James Sunday, May 23 9:00 am</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Sunday, May 23 10:30 am</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
<b>Ushers</b>	Dave Emling Robbie Landeck	James Mallaney Daryl Ferris	The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Rita Thiesen R.Leader—Karen Miller	Marco Smolkovich Nick Zerebny Joe Smolkovich
<b>Lector</b>	Bobbi Buza	Terri Weakley	Mary Peerbolte	Julie Splear



**A Look Ahead**

- Thurs., May 20**—Community Quilters at SJ Hall 9am
- Sun., May 23**—SH Parish Breakfast after Mass
- May 24**—Knights of Columbus Meeting 7pm at SJ
- Fri., June 4**—First Friday Adoration at SH
- June 5-6**—Knights of Columbus Food for Families Collection

*the lord has set his throne in heaven*

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**Current Status for CMAA**

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
St. MM	\$10,500	\$10,395	\$9,815
St. James	\$7,400	\$6,115	\$6,115
Sacred Heart	\$5,700	\$7,070	\$4,885

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)

## Collections Week of March May 8-9

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,919

St. James—\$1,431

Sacred Heart—\$661

Thank you for your generosity

### Are All Sins Equal?

What is the difference between mortal and venial sins?

Many Protestants believe that all sins are equal before God. Catholics, on the other hand, recognize that there are different kinds of sin. A venial sin is a sin that hurts your relationship with God, while a mortal sin completely breaks your relationship with God. The Church teaches that if you do not confess a mortal sin, you could go to hell.

Protestants will often quote James 2:10 to support their point: "For whoever keeps the whole Law, yet stumbles in one point, has become guilty of all." However, in his book *With One Accord: Affirming Catholic Teaching Using Protestant Principles*, Douglas M. Beaumont explains the real meaning of this verse and the Church's teachings on sin.

Beaumont affirms that common sense tells us all sins aren't equal. When someone breaks a law, they are a lawbreaker, but the consequence of their action depends on how severe their offense was. Someone who drives five miles over the speed limit is not going to have the same sentence as someone who robbed a bank.

There are several Bible verses that indicate that there is a difference between mortal and venial sin. In 1 John 5:16-17, St. John warns that even though all wrongdoing is sin, not all sins are "deadly." Therefore, not all sins are equal.

Beaumont explains how some sins we commit are wrong, but do not separate us from God, while others are in fact more severe and completely break our relationship with Christ, and we need to seek reconciliation in order to come back to Him.

The Catholic teaching on mortal and venial sins is not only supported by Scripture, it is also fundamental to understanding our relationship with God and our salvation.

If you are looking for explanations about the Catholic faith to refute common Protestant misunderstandings, check out Douglas M. Beaumont's *With One Accord*, sold here.

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Our spring Cash Raffle will take place May 23. Cash prizes will total \$300. Extra tickets will be available. Checks should be made out to Sacred Heart CCW and returned in the collection basket. For more information, contact Terri 815-933-9043 or Therese Phillips 815-933-6210.

### Parish News:

#### Sacred Heart-

- \* The CCW will be having their parish breakfast after Mass on May 23 in the hall. We will be serving biscuits/gravy, scrambled eggs, ham, pecan rolls/donuts, fruit, juice, coffee and milk. There is no charge and everyone is invited. The CCW raffle drawing will be at the breakfast. Safety measures will be observed.
- \* 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.

#### St. James-

- \* We are looking for volunteers to serve on the St. James CCW executive board. If you are interested, please contact Jen Hansen.

#### St. Margaret Mary—

### The Ascension of the Lord – Sunday, 16 May 2021

Acts 1:1-11. Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9. Ephesians 1:17-23. or Ephesians 4:1-23. Mark 16:15-20.

**Go. Proclaim.** Jesus going to heaven did not give the disciples permission to go home, put up their feet, and dream about the good old days. Jesus said: Go everywhere! Proclaim the gospel! I will work with you.

- Where will I go to do mercy work?
- What good news of Jesus making a difference in the world can I speak?
- How will I trust in Jesus that I am not alone by these words and works \_\_\_\_\_?

"COME TOME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST" DOES NOT MEAN IT'S OK TO SLEEP DURING CHURCH!





**Saint of the week: St. Bernardine of Siena (May 20)** was a Franciscan Friar and an itinerant preacher. His preaching skills were so great, and the conversions so numerous, that he has become associated with all areas of speaking, advertising, public relations, etc.



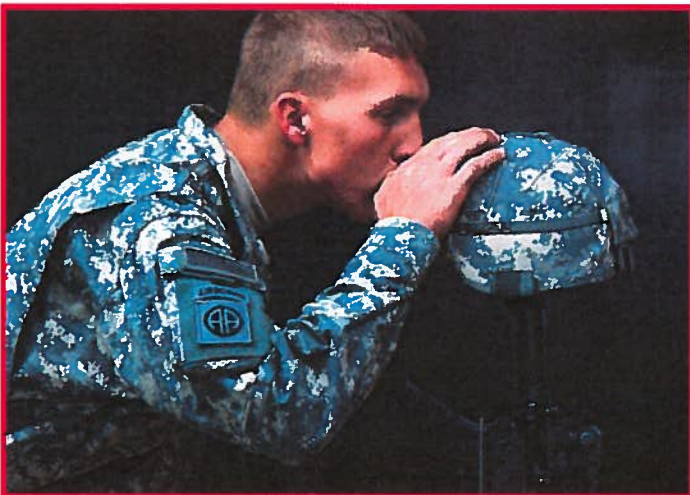
Bernardino's charismatic preaching filled the piazzas of Italian cities. Thousands of listeners flocked to hear him and to participate in dramatic rituals, which included collective weeping, bonfires of vanities, and exorcisms. He was a renowned peacemaker, in the Franciscan tradition, who tried to calm feuding clans and factions in the turbulent political world of the Renaissance. His preaching visits would often culminate in mass reconciliations, as listeners were persuaded to exchange the *bacio di pace*, or kiss of peace.

Bernardino was sensitive to the demands of secular life, and tried to negotiate between Christian ethics and a conflicting code of honor that stressed retaining face in a public world. He argued that the catalyst of civil discord in the urban setting was malicious gossip, which led to insults, and, too often, vendetta by aggressive males. His surprising allies in his peacekeeping mission were the women who comprised the majority of his audience. He was a theological writer.

**Obscure saint of the week: Saint Benedict Joseph Labre (May 16)** was the oldest of fifteen children in a prosperous middle class family. He was educated by his uncle, a parish priest. Following his uncle's death, he tried to join the Trappists, Carthusians, and Cistercians, but was rejected by them all. He spent years wandering Europe, especially Rome, Italy, in complete poverty, spending his days in perpetual adoration in the cathedrals. He was given to religious ecstasies when contemplating the crown of thorns; he was reputed to float, soar, and bilocate when in these swoons. He begged in the streets, and if he was given more than he needed for the day, he would give the remainder to some one he considered more in need than he was. Benedict healed some of his fellow homeless, and was reported to have multiplied bread for them. He was a noted counselor to people of all walks in Rome. He died in a hospice, exhausted from his life of austerity. His biography, written by his confessor Marconi, describes 136 miraculous cures attributed to him within three months of his death.



## Honoring Veterans During the Month of May





Congratulations and God's blessings to these students who made their First Holy Communion at St. James on Saturday, May 8. L to R—Jack Renchen, Gabe Scanlon, Fr. Ron, Tommy Harwood, and Luke Mesewicz.

## What does it mean to have faith?

When we put our faith in other people, it means we trust them to do as they say and to follow through on their promises. It doesn't mean we believe that they exist. Yet this minimalist definition of faith seems to be what's most often applied in the realm of religion. Faith in God, in this sorry little sense, merely implies giving intellectual assent to an eternal Being out there somewhere. Faith can further imply our adherence to a certain list of beliefs taught by a group that purports to represent God: church, synagogue, mosque, or meeting hall.

Believing in a set of ideas about God is quite different from putting our confidence in a vital relationship with the God who saves: the God who rescues us, personally, and whose promises are true. Settling for the former notion is probably the most short-changing proposition we can make in our spiritual lives. Contrast that with what happens if we extend the same faith to God we offer to people. As Jesuit theologian Michael Cook describes it, we only surrender our trust to those with whom we have a shared history that recommends such confidence. Committing our faith to another person is a "self-transcending" hour that involves risk. We become vulnerable to betrayal, deceit, or disappointment. Who would take such a risk unless the one to whom we give our faith has proven credible and worthy of it?

This is precisely the kind of faith Abraham surrenders to the God who invites him to leave home and extended family, and to embark on a future that's unseen and unknown. God promises land and descendants. If Abraham hadn't believed God was good for it, he would never have left his father's tents.

What reason might you and I have to commit our destinies to God? The Bible reveals a shared history between God and humanity in which people are frequently deceitful and disappointing. Yet God is steadfast. We can also meditate on creation itself, in which God's commitment to life, beauty, and prosperity are clearly seen. Ultimately, it's only in taking the plunge into trusting God, and accepting the invitation to journey with God as Abraham did, that we learn for ourselves that God's promises are true. As Karl Rahner says, we can settle for the mind grasping divine mysteries or we can permit ourselves to be grasped.

## Blessed Margaret Part 15

By the time Margaret had moved in with the Venturino family her life had come full circle. She was born in a castle, she slept in doorways and stables, and then lived in the homes of the poor. Now she is going to spend the last years of her life in the palace of a wealthy nobleman. The home she now lived in was a palace. There were many rooms and the walls had tapestries on them. The floors were carpeted and every room had its own fireplace. There was even a garden with a water fountain in the back. Margaret's room was one of the best guest rooms in the palace. It was sunny, spacious, and nicely furnished.

Margaret's friends were happy to hear about her new home. Margaret, as a member of the Mantellata religious community, felt uncomfortable surrounded by all this luxury. She was called to follow in the ways of Christ and felt now she lived in conflict with those values. As she became more familiar with her new surroundings she learned of a small, unused room in the garret. Approaching her host, she asked if she might have that small room in exchange for her spacious accommodations. Her host was shocked by Margaret's request. He informed her that that room was small and very cold in the winter as well as very hot in the summer. But Margaret told him it was the type of room she needed, plain, simple, and out of everyone's way. Mr. Venturino said he could not let Margaret live in such a room.

When the Venturino sons came home from school Margaret would ask them to recite what they had learned that day and if any of them would make a mistake Margaret would correct them. The Venturino boys were not only studying basic courses but they had intense courses such as logic, geometry, astronomy, music, and Latin, too. Her hosts were amazed that she had knowledge of all these subjects even though she had no formal education. Margaret explained that her knowledge came to her suddenly after she became a Mentellata. After reconsideration Mr. Venturino told Margaret she could occupy any room in the palace she wanted. Margaret was delighted and with the few things she owned she moved into the room in the garret.

One day, after her rounds visiting the sick in the city, Margaret returned to the palace and heard Mrs. Venturino and the maid in the garden weaving cloth. She sat with them and shared that Sister Venturella told her of the visits the nuns made to the prison each day and that Margaret wanted to join them but Sister Venturella changed the subject. Then Margaret asked the ladies why they wouldn't want her to join them. The women told her it was a dreadful place but that gave Margaret more reason for wanting to go there. That evening as the family gathered around the hearth Margaret asked Mr. Venturino if he could use his influence with the government to improve the conditions at the prison. After reflecting on it Mr. Venturino asked Margaret if she would like to visit the prisoners. After further silence he said he did not want to be judged by God for neglecting the prisoners, so he gave Margaret and his wife permission to visit the prisoners. Now visiting the prisoners was part of Margaret's routine. She brought them food, clothing, and bedding. She arranged medical care for sick prisoners and encouraged the dying to make their peace with God. She believed that neither the foulest squalor nor the most inhuman brutality can destroy a dignity created by God and His Son Jesus Christ.

## Sunday, May 16, 2021

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Good things come from unlikely places

It may bring a smile to our lips to hear the argument for why we're obliged to love others: because God loves us first. And if God can love us (be honest here!) then clearly love need not be earned. This World Communications Day, Pope Francis invites us to consider how future-apostle Nathaniel once dismissed Jesus because of his origins: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" To really love people, we have to begin by not categorizing them: by gender or race, nationality or religion, native language or political party. Even Nazareth holds surprises!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 John 4:11-16; John 17:11b-19 (60). "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another."

## Monday, May 17, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

### Solitude and solidarity

Many have experienced more solitude than they care for during the pandemic, but it'd be a shame to lose the lessons of the experience once it's over. Catholics have a strong tradition of finding the sacred in solitude. The monastic life, for example, is all about withdrawing from society to draw closer to God and ultimately to each other. Turning inward is an opportunity for growth. Ritualizing the routines of life—in the midst of grief and stress and fear—helps to maintain inner stability and clarity. At the same time, far too many haven't had the luxury of solitude to remove themselves from danger—let this fact light a fire in all of us to fight for justice for those who have risked all to serve society this past year.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33 (297). "I am not alone, because the Father is with me."

## Tuesday, May 18, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JOHN I, POPE, MARTYR

### Define your terms

In 2011, the Nicene Creed in English changed from the poetic-but imprecise "one in being"—recited at Mass for more than 40 years—back to a seemingly unusual, clunky Latin word: consubstantial.

We learned that consubstantial was a critical distinction hammered out at various church councils to clarify that Jesus was divinely co-eternal with God. It was a pronouncement specifically designed to refute the Arian heresy that denied Christ's divinity. The struggle against Arianism cost Pope John I his life in 526. Words matter. Take time to choose the right ones.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11a (298). "Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began."

## Wednesday, May 19, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

### Going home

Final farewells are difficult. While there can be grace in the chance to express love and gratitude, there also can be great pain at the thought of never again seeing a face, touching a hand, hearing a voice. There is true heartache in accepting that there will be no more shared meals, meaningful discussions, shared futures planned together as we surrender the companionship of a loved one. It is a bittersweet time because the grief of anticipated loss is

proof of an equally deep love. Yet it is not the end—faith promises us more. On this Easter Wednesday, with trust in the promise of new life, give thanks to God for someone whose love and faithfulness has enriched your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19 (299). "They were all weeping loudly . . . for they were deeply distressed that (Paul) had said that they would never see his face again."

## Thursday, May 20, 2021

MEMORIAL OF BERNARDINE OF SIENA, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, MISSIONARY **History will be our judge**

Church history is filled with admirable figures who stand out for their tender love and compassion. Bernardine of Siena was not that kind of saint. A fire-and-brimstone preacher with a moralizing temperament, he encouraged "bonfires of the vanities" where townsfolk pitched household items suggestive of luxury or leisure—mirrors, perfumes, games—into the fire. Seen from our vantage point, many of his sermons had antisemitic, misogynistic, and homophobic overtones. Though a commanding preacher who lived a life of devotion, Bernardine—like all of us—was a product of his times, limited by the pastoral and theological perspectives handed down to him. His innovations in vernacular preaching continue to inspire, yet his limitations in compassion and inclusion serve as a cautionary tale. None of us has a monopoly on moral purity. Kindness and compassion, however, never go out of style.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26 (300). "And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one."

## Friday, May 21, 2021

MEMORIAL OF CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES, PRIEST, MARTYR, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

### Live fully

Each of us is called to give our lives fully on behalf of our love for and commitment to God. Most of us will not die a martyr's death, but some of us will. Christopher Magallanes was one such person. Christopher's call to be a martyr was lived every day through his prayer and ministry as a priest: founding schools, providing work opportunities, and even constructing a dam to help the people. He was killed because of his love for the people, a love emanating from his deep faith. How does our faith inspire us to give of ourselves fully?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19 (301). " 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' "

## Saturday, May 22, 2021

MEMORIAL OF RITA OF CASCIA, RELIGIOUS

### Hope is a perennial

We all could use a friend like Saint Rita of Cascia. Wed against her will at the tender age of 12, she somehow survived abuse and family feuds to become a reconciling force in a violent region of 15th-century Italy. She has acquired a following, along with Saint Jude, as the patron of hopeless causes. On her deathbed, it is said she asked for a rose from her garden. Though it was winter, we are told a single blooming rose was found and brought to her. Never lose hope—no cause is hopeless!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25 (302). "There are also many other things that Jesus did."

Join us for this online presentation:

## *Thomas Merton*

We will journey through Merton's life, highlighting some of the important events. What a man Thomas Merton was! He is still influencing the world today. People who knew him, people who have read his works, people who are curious about his writings, are still challenged by him. Please join us for this morning presentation on this spiritual master.



**WHEN: Thursday, May 20, 2021  
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**Sponsored By:  
*Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary***

**To register, please visit our website:  
<http://www.sscm-usa.org/online-programming.html>**

Join us for this online mini-retreat:

## *Poverty: Crushing Reality and Spiritual Gift*

Poverty is unending and cruel for most people in the world, even for some close by. We will briefly explore what poverty is, and grasp how we, while physically comfortable, are in need and can learn from the poor. The scriptures challenge Christians to see the poor as our own family, commissioning us to put faith into service to end poverty, bring hope and even justice. We can find a new relationship with our blessings. This mini retreat will include opportunities for prayer, reflection and sharing.

**WHEN: Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Sponsored by:  
*Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary***

**To register, please visit our website:  
<http://sscm-usa.org/online-programming.html>**

**For more information about our programming,  
please contact Susan Amann:  
[samann@sscm-usa.org](mailto:samann@sscm-usa.org)**

Join us for this online presentation:

## *Mental Health & Supportive Family Relationships*

This presentation will provide an overview of varied mental health issues and the process of recognizing signs/symptoms. Discussion will include practical ways to talk about mental health, and useful steps that can be taken to support family members in need. Opportunities will be provided for prayer, reflection and questions.

**WHEN: Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Sponsored by:  
*Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary***

**To register, please visit our website:  
<http://sscm-usa.org/online-programming.html>**

**For more information about our programming,  
please contact Susan Amann:  
[samann@sscm-usa.org](mailto:samann@sscm-usa.org)**

Presenter:

**Dr. Valerie Maty  
Associate Director of Family Ministry, Diocese  
of Joliet**



Dr. Valerie Maty is the Associate Director of Family Ministry at the Diocese of Joliet where she oversees the Hurting & Healing Ministries including providing care to those who are divorced, widowed, bereaved or going through the annulment process. She is also an Art therapist/Psychotherapist at Labyrinth Counseling Center in Naperville, IL where she specializes in treating trauma across the life span.