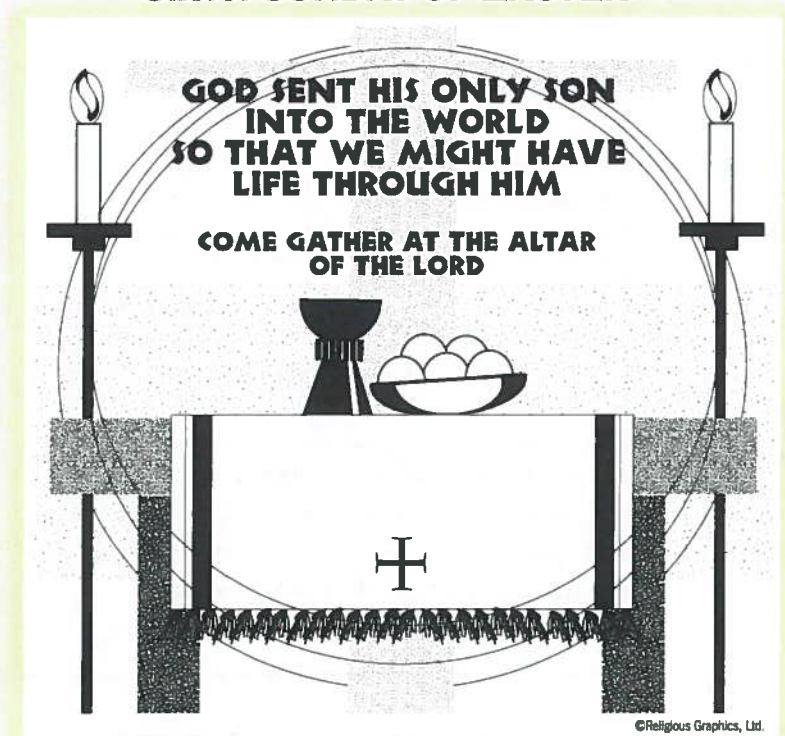


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 8 - 9, 2021



Mass Intentions for the Week

- Monday, May 10 (SMM)**
8:00 am +Tom Lane (Mariann Lane)
- Tuesday, May 11 (SH)**
8:00 am +Carson Cross (Jerry & Terri Weakley)
- Wednesday, May 12 (SJ)**
8:00 am +Judy Goselin (Cathy & Bruce Jensen)
- Friday, May 14 (SMM)**
8:00 am +Madonna Hoffman (The Family)
- Saturday, May 15 (SMM)**
5:00 pm +Sterling Bouchard (Matern Family)
+Robert Siawrys, Sr (Ron Hildebrand)
- Sunday, May 16**
7:30 am +LaVern Denault (Bob & Loretta)
+Bob VadeBoncouer (Jackie Cross) (SH)
- 9:00 am +Gerald O'Connor (Tom, Gene, & Kathy O'Connor)
+Darlene Peerbolte (Reatta Gohlke) (SJ)

**A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT
WEEKEND OF MAY 8-9**

In today's Gospel, Jesus commands his disciples, whom he calls "friends," to love one another as he loves them. Jesus uses the word "love" as a verb or a noun nine times. He also employs the word "command" or "commandment" five times. His command to love one another is explicit. Those who understand the depth of Christ's love for us have reason to be joyful. We are called to be stewards of this loving friendship; to love one another as Jesus loves us. Do we give serious attention to what this love requires of us? What is the price of this friendship with the Lord? Are we willing to pay this price to keep Christ's friendship?

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: *“Everything that is done out of Love acquires greatness and beauty.”*
 – St. Josemaria Escriva

Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension of the Lord — May 15-16, 2021

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Liturgical Schedule | St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 15 5:00 pm | Sacred Heart Sunday, May 16 7:30 am | St. James Sunday, May 16 9:00 am | St. Margaret Mary Sunday, May 16 10:30 am |
| Celebrant | Fr. Ron | Fr. Ron | Fr. Ron Deacon Ron | Fr. Ron |
| Ushers | Todd Datweiler Roger Jensen | Dale Pfeiffer Dennis Pankey | The committee will take care of ushering duties Greeter— Dallas Ferris R.Leader—Peerboltes | Laryy Wolles Jeremy Wolles Darren Lovell |
| Lector | Dave Emling | Mike Hertz | Andy Hansen | Steve Jacob |

Can you help us out?

We are still looking for volunteers from all three parishes to be money counters. The money counters come in on Tuesday mornings for one month at a time. It is a great way to be of service to your parish community. If interested please call the Tri-Parish office at 815-426-2550.



A Look Ahead

- Tues., May 11— SH CCW meeting at 7 pm**
- Wed., May 12—Knights of Columbus Blood Drive**
- 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**



This is my command to you: Love one another.
 JN. 15:17



| Current Status for CMAA | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Parish | Goal | Pledged | Paid |
| St. MM | \$10,500 | \$10,210 | \$9,630 |
| St. James | \$7,400 | \$5,990 | \$5,990 |
| Sacred Heart | \$5,700 | \$6,620 | \$4,755 |

GOD is LOVE

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

Collections Week of March May 1-2

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,088

St. James—\$1,810

Sacred Heart—\$1,110

Thank you for your generosity

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR MAY

Come Holy Spirit! Open our eyes and ears
to your ongoing presence within us
and among us.

Give us the wisdom and compassion
to be good stewards of each other
as we work together to promote
reconciliation, peace, and the building of
a better world.

Break through the many barriers
that divide nations and people.

Give us strength to transcend our differences.
And help us recognize
the meaning of Pentecost so that we can more
prayerfully and joyfully prepare the world
for that day when the Father returns his son,
Christ Jesus, in glory.

Amen



. 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—



Knights of Columbus Blood Drive
Wednesday, May 12 3:00—7:00 pm
at St. James Parish Hall
For appointments call or text
Joe Petersen 815-861-9634
Appointments preferred
Masks -Social distancing

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Kevin Emling

Son of Virginia Emling

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful
departed rest in eternal peace.



Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.



This week on May 12th we celebrate the memorial of three saints who were martyred together.

St. Achilleus of Terracina (May 12) was a soldier in the imperial Roman army, and a member of the Praetorian Guard. He convert to Christianity and was baptized by Saint Peter the Apostle. He was exiled for his faith to the island of Pontia where he suffered with Saint Flavia Domitilla, and was martyred with his brother Saint Nereus.



St. Nereus of Terracina (May 12) was a soldier in the imperial Roman army, and a member of the Praetorian Guard. He convert to Christianity and was baptized by Saint Peter the Apostle. He was exiled for his faith to the island of Pontia where he suffered with Saint Flavia Domitilla, and was martyred with his brother Saint Achilleus.

St. Pancras of Rome (May 12), a fourteen-year-old orphan, was brought to Rome by his uncle St. Dionysius . He converted to Christianity. He was martyred with Saint Nereus, Saint Achilleus, and Saint Domitilla for publicly proclaiming his faith. Pope Saint Vitalian sent his relics from the cemetery of Calepodius in Rome to the British Isles as part of the evangelization of England, so they would have relics of the Church at large, and to install in altars in new churches. Saint Augustine of Canterbury dedicated the first church in England to Saint Pancras, and subsequent churches throughout England are similarly named for him.



Honoring Veterans During the Month of May



Sunday, May 09, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

See through God's eye

God does not see as we see, the prophet Isaiah reminds us. To harness the divine perspective, native peoples of western Mexico wove yarn on crossed sticks to represent the eye of God (*ojo de Dios*), which sees in four directions and in all elemental mediums: earth, wind, fire, and water. A God's eye became the portal through which God views the supplicant, or through which those who pray might share the divine vision. Sharing a God's-eye perspective on the world remains the goal of every believer.

Practice seeing others as our compassionate God sees them.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17 (56). *"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.*

Rather, in every nation whoever . . . acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

Monday, May 10, 2021

MEMORIAL OF DAMIEN DE VEUSTER, PRIEST

Pray for those who heal

The story of Saint Damien de Veuster, a Belgian priest who missioned to quarantined lepers in Hawaii and died of the disease, is extraordinary—although often echoed these days as legions of medical professionals all over the world put themselves in harm's way to treat the sick and dying of COVID. Father Damian is a "martyr of charity," and we've been blessed with multitudes of fearless, generous heroes like him who've expended themselves physically and emotionally to get us through this pandemic. Give thanks to God for our modern martyrs of charity and ask for Father Damian's intercession to keep them safe and send them spiritual strength.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a (291). *"And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning."*

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Cultivate an appreciation of rural traditions

Though they've disappeared from most modern calendars, two older Catholic observances converge today. One is the petitioning of the "Ice Saints"—Boniface of Tarsus, Pancras, and Servatius—so named because their feasts fall during what were believed in some northern nations to be the last days of spring when a cold snap might damage spring plantings. The other observance, beginning on the Tuesday before Ascension Thursday, is known as the Minor Rogation Days. These two, along with the Catholic observance of Ember Days, are religious celebrations more commonly tied to the rhythms of rural life. They include the blessing of fields for a good harvest and prayers for good weather. Learn more at CatholicRuralLife.org.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11 (292). *"His household rejoiced at having come to faith in God."*

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

MEMORIALS OF NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS, MARTYRS; PANCRAS, MARTYR

Religious freedom is a timeless concern

Sometimes it is difficult to relate to the martyrs of the early church because their lives are so different from our own. Nereus and Achilleus were Roman soldiers who had participated in carrying out persecutions of Christians. In a "miracle of faith," they were converted and died their own martyred deaths in the late first

century. Pancras was a 14-year-old martyr of the same era who was beheaded because he publicly affirmed his faith in Jesus Christ. On this Easter weekday, give thanks for the ability to freely worship and pray for those around the world who do not enjoy such freedom.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15 (293). *"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth . . . will guide you to all truth."*

Thursday, May 13, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Rise to the occasion

Today's Feast of the Ascension gives wide recognition to a rather complex idea—that Christ both ascended to heaven *and* remains with us. In fact, we get a taste of heaven when we unify ourselves with Jesus in spirit and action. Saint Augustine taught "although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace." From attending Mass to aiding the needy, on this feast day we can all take a step toward unity with Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 4:1-13 or Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20 (58). *"So then the Lord Jesus . . . was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God."*

Friday, May 14, 2021

FEAST OF MATTHIAS, APOSTLE

Abstinence makes the faith grow stronger

Although self-denial is celebrated in all major religions as a virtue, the value isn't so much in the practice as in the motivation. For Christians the virtuous motivation for abstinence of food, drink, or particular desires comes from love. We deny ourselves for God's sake and for the sake of others. Saint Matthias, patron of alcoholics, encouraged abstinence as a way to grow closer to God. He kept his focus on his vocation to spread the gospel and let little distract him from his purpose. What can you do today to keep your focus on love?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17 (564). *"This I command you: love one another."*

Saturday, May 15, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Honor the forces of reconciliation

Pope Saint John XXIII taught that wars are never justified. Pope Saint John Paul II wrote to President George W. Bush that the Iraq War was unjust. Pope Benedict XVI questioned whether any war could be called just. Pope Francis, speaking in Hiroshima during his 2019 visit, repeated the positions of the previous popes. Christians face a dilemma, wanting world peace but also needing some protection from those who don't think the same way. The church recognizes a need for the military. But the task of the military should be to maintain peace and set the conditions for reconciliation. On this Armed Forces Day, pray for all our military service members. They have a difficult job.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28 (296). *"For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God."*

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



©2021 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to BrownTheWord.com. Free daily email and app available online at

Blessed Margaret Part 14

The Mantellata sisters did not live together in community. Margaret was invited to live with a wealthy family in town. Above the door to their house were the words "Domus Pacis" which means "The House of Peace". All was not well in the house of peace. Again, Margaret was drawn into a dysfunctional living situation. A young girl who lived in the house, Francesca, was at the center of the controversy. She and Margaret became close friends but Margaret soon learned that Francesca knew little of her faith. Margaret began the task of teaching her about her faith. Francesca had not been to confession since she was a small child and now she was sixteen. Margaret instructed her on how to make a good confession and a general one.

Francesca's parents were fond of Margaret but were uncomfortable about the influence she had over their daughter. They themselves were not religious but saw this as a positive in their daughter's search for a husband. Francesca was beginning to become more interested in religious life than marriage. Francesca's parents had no intention of allowing her to become a nun. As Margaret and Francesca became closer Francesca thought less of being married and more of being a nun.

Margaret thought it was incumbent on her to approach Francesca's parents and ask that they allow her to enter religious life. One day visitors came to see the parents and Margaret took this as an opportunity to open the door for Francesca to become a nun. As the guests piled compliments on Margaret and the other Mantellate sisters Margaret said "I beg both of you to permit your daughter to become one of us". Francesca's parents were shocked and then her mother spoke up "Our daughter will never wear the religious habit". Margaret continued as if nothing was said, "It won't be long before you and your daughter are wearing the Mantellate habit. The room erupted in laughter as Francesca's mother enjoyed her riches and a luxurious lifestyle.

Several months later Francesca's father got sick and died. Her mother, broken up by her husband's death, renounced all her world possessions and turned to her faith for consolation. Months later both Francesca and her mother became Mantellate nuns. Margaret went to live with another family, the Venturino family, where she would live for the rest of her life.