

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 15-16, 2023



*The seed is the Word of God
and Christ is the sower.*

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Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

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: "May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and for evermore."

—Saint Patrick

July 22-23, 2023

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, July 22 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, July 23 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, July 23 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, July 23 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Gery Wright Bob Schultz Roger Jensen Dan Hoffman	Daryl Ferris Dennis Pankey	Cathy Jensen Vic Carlile Jerry Ogrentz Dan Forsythe	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles
Lector	Dave Emling	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Andy Hansen	Diane Long
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter— Rita Thiesen Leader— Joyce Ferris	Wayne Bisailon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, July 17 (SMM)

8:00 am +Tom & Nina Smolkovich (Roger/Margaret Jensen)

Tuesday, July 18 (SH)

9:00 am +Carson Cross (Gene/Darlene Bertrand)

Wednesday, July 19 (SJ)

8:00 am +Laura Jensen (Tom/Maureen O'Connor)

Friday, July 21

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, July 22 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Jim Webber (Madeline Bouchard)

+Jerome Ruder (Mariann Lane)

Sunday, July 23

7:30 am +Rick, Margaret, & Paul Meli (Kathy/
Rodney Meli)

9:00 am (SJ) +Damien & Jeannette O'Connor (Larry/
Janice O'Connor)

10:30am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

Friday, July 21—No Mass

Friday, August 4—First Friday Adoration at St. James

August 5/6—K of C Food for Family food drive

**Sunday, July 16 & 23—Religious Ed Registration at SJ
after Mass**

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.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

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

St. James – Carolyn Levyclevystjames@gmail.com

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)

Question of the week:

What kind of fruitful work am I able to do? How can I change my behavior or attitude so that I may bear fruit?

Collections Week of July 8-9, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,570

St. James—\$2,207

Sacred Heart—\$1,520

Thank you for your generosity!



COME ONE, COME ALL!

SAINT JAMES REGISTRATION 2023-2024

PRESCHOOL 4 – EIGHTH GRADE

JULY 16TH & 23RD AFTER 9AM MASS – CHURCH HALL

Preschool for 4-year olds is returning to St. James Religious Education Program. Register early, class size has a limit

PETITION FOR CATECHIST

Plant Seeds of Faith and the Church in God's precious 4-year olds. Petition for Catechist to teach 4-year preschool. See Carolyn Levy, DRE during registration July 16th or 23rd after the 9am Mass in Church Hall.

**I GROW in
your FAITH**

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Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

St. James—

Sacred Heart—

All Parishes—

- ◆ There will be no Knight of Columbus meeting in July. Next meeting will be 28 August 2023.

If you have pictures of events in your parish that you would like in the bulletin, please email them to debjen04@gmail.com They will be put in the bulletin as space permits.

Reflection The Pipe Organ and the Liturgy

In church documents, the organ has been called the “King of Instruments.” It can focus our feelings and moderate our moods. The pipe organ calls us to prayer from the first note of the prelude. The gathering hymn enlivens the assembly as choir and congregation join in worship together. The psalm enables us to respond to the word just now proclaimed. Listen to the way the organ is used to set moods, and to lead us into sung responses like the “Holy, Holy” and the “Lamb of God.” Think about our weekend liturgies, weddings, baptisms, funerals and seasonal feasts like Christmas and Easter. What would these

Questions Catholics Ask Are there other kinds of Catholics besides Roman?

A more precise question might be: Are there Catholics besides those of the Roman rite that are recognized by the church? Anglicanism considers itself both “catholic” and reformed, though they aren’t “Catholic” by Roman standards. While the official relationship between the Vatican and the Church of England is described as warm and cordial, and the Anglican Communion “occupies a special place” (the Second Vatican Council’s *Decree on Ecumenism*, no. 13), Roman Catholics do not share full communion with Anglicans, which is the all-important sign of unity.

Orthodox churches are another matter. While the split with Rome occurred for Anglicans during the era of the Protestant Reformation, the schism between East and West happened five centuries earlier and is still considered the “great schism.” Because the Eastern tradition maintains apostolic succession, their priesthood and sacraments are recognized as valid by the Roman church. Therefore worship in common is both permissible and encouraged by Rome (*Decree on Ecumenism*, no. 15), although the churches’ shared sense of communion is partial and still problematic.

Beyond those two distinctions, there are rites that do enjoy full communion with the Latin (Roman) rite: the Byzantine (the largest, including Albanian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Greek, Hungarian, Italo-Albanian, Macedonian, Melkite, Romanian, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovak, and Ukrainian); the Alexandrian (some Copts of Egypt and Ge’ez Ethiopian), the “West Syrian” (Syriac, Syro-Malankara also in India, and Maronite—Lebanese—the president of Lebanon must by law be a Maronite); the “East Syrian” (Chaldean, with headquarters in Baghdad, and Syro-Malabar in India); and the Armenian.

If you have friends in these rites, you can go to Mass with them and receive communion—but stay awake and pay attention because when you’re not in Rome you can’t always do what the Romans do. The other rites have separate codes of canon law (church law) and very different customs. Some bless themselves with three fingers or genuflect three times, in honor of the Trinity. Communion may be served under both kinds on a little spoon or in the kneeling posture. Parts of the liturgy may be celebrated behind an ornate and beautiful screen called the *iconostasis*.

Because many of these rites evolved closer to the East, they resemble Orthodox liturgy more than Roman. The clergy are invariably male, may be married, and most likely have more beard than you’re used to. Though it may not be Rome, it is, eucharistically speaking, still home.

Scripture

• John 17:20-26; Romans 12:3-8; 14:1-15:13; 1 Corinthians 12:4-26; Philippians 2:1-4



St. Obscure saints of the week: St. Andre de Soveral (July 16) André joined the Jesuits in 1593, making his novitiate in Bahia, Brazil. He worked at the College of Olinda catechetical center, and in 1606 began missionary work in the Rio Grande do Norte area. By 1614 he was the parish priest of Cunhau and a member of the diocesan clergy. One of the *Martyrs of Brazil* murdered by Calvinist fanatics.



St. Fulrad of Saint Denis Born wealthy, Fulrad became a Benedictine monk at the Saint-Denis abbey near Paris, France where he was chosen abbot in 750. Using his position and family wealth, he expanded the abbey and its ownership of surrounding lands as well as founding new monasteries in Alsace-Lorraine and Alemannia. Courtier, chaplain and counselor to both Pippin and Blessed Charlemagne. He was also a diplomat and traveled to war with Charlemagne, he helped obtain papal approval for Pepin as king, and was on hand for the most significant events in the formation of the early kingdom of the Franks. He was a delegate for Pippin when Ravenna was conferred the Papal States in 756.

Fulrad worked to insure closer ties between the Franks and the Vatican.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

“What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

The disciples came up and asked, “Why do you tell stories?”

He replied, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight. In their present state they can stare till doomsday and not see it, listen till they’re blue in the face and not get it. I don’t want Isaiah’s forecast repeated all over again:

Your ears are open but you don’t hear a thing.

Your eyes are awake but you don’t see a thing.

The people are blockheads!

They stick their fingers in their ears so they won’t have to listen;

They screw their eyes shut so they won’t have to look,

so they won’t have to deal with me face-to-face

and let me heal them.

“But you have God-blessed eyes—eyes that see! And God-blessed ears—ears that hear! A lot of people, prophets and humble believers among them, would have given anything to see what you are seeing, to hear what you are hearing, but never had the chance.

“Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the Kingdom and doesn’t take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person’s heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

“The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

“The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the Kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

“The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams” (from *Matthew 13*).

Baptismal policy at the Tri Parish Community

As I have mentioned at Mass, we have modified our policies on hall rental, baptisms, funerals, and weddings. Below are the approved policies for having a baptism at the Tri-Parish Community.

Baptism preparation: If this is your first child both parents are required to meet with the deacon and attend the baptism preparation class.

Book the date with the Tri Parish Office: Please call the Tri Parish office and set a date for the baptism. The date will depend on the availability of the deacon or priest. Please set the date with the parish before you make plans for any family gathering.

Godparents: At least one, and preferably both, of the Godparents must be a **practicing Catholic**. Baptized non Catholics can serve as a Christian witness in place of one of the Godparents.

Godparent/Sponsor Eligibility: To be a godparent in Baptism or a Sponsor in Confirmation, a person must fulfill the following conditions:

- (1) Not be the parent;
- (2) Be at least 16 years of age, having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation;
- (3) Be a practicing Catholic, able to receive communion;
- (4) If married, be in a valid Marriage (meaning, married in the Catholic Church or have had your marriage validated by a Catholic priest or deacon – sacramental marriage).

Location: Please specify which of the three parishes you wish to celebrate the baptism at.

Fee: A free will donation is asked for the parish and a stipend for the minister would be appreciated as well.

Non parishioners: In addition to all of the above a letter of delegation granting us permission to conduct the baptism must be obtained in advance from your pastor.

A saint in our midst? Sr. Wilhelmina Lancaster (mid years)

After Mary Elizabeth graduated from high school she remained true to her commitment to the Lord and joined the Oblate Sisters of Providence, one of the few religious communities focused on African American vocations. Once she joined the order she took the name Sister Wilhelmina. Over her fifty years with the community many changes took place within the order and the Church. The Second Vatican Council changed the manner in which the liturgy was conducted, many orders of religious men and women changed the way they lived out their vocation, and a number of the orders modified or dropped the habit. Sr. Wilhelmina's order, the Oblate Sisters of Providence were among them. She saw value in the sisters wearing the habit as a way of witnessing to the world their commitment to Jesus Christ. Many of her fellow sisters stopped wearing the habit and eventually her order no longer produced them. Sr. Wilhelmina saw the habit as a symbol



of her being a bride of Christ so we sewed her own habits. She even thinks the habit saved her life as an irate student attacked her with a knife and her stiff collar deflected the knife. Some of the other sisters questioned Sr. Wilhelmina on why she continued to wear her habit while the other sisters disregarded theirs. But she insisted on wearing it with its symbolism.

Many years later she heard of a religious order called the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter which celebrated the sacraments in Latin. She also learned that this order was seeking to start an order for women religious. After fifty years with the Oblate Sisters of Providence and at the age of seventy St. Wilhelmina left the Oblates and founded a new religious order and monastery. This new order would be very monastic in practice by wearing the habit, living a vow of poverty and obedience, observing periods of silence, and living together in community. They would follow the rule of St. Benedict, pray the Divine Office in Latin, be Marian centered in their devotions, and pray for priests. They began this new community in Scranton, PA but at the invitation of Bishop Finn of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO they moved to their new location in Missouri. They dedicated their new abbey in 2018 and called it Abbey of our Lady of Ephesus. Sister Cecilia of the community became the first abbess.



July 16, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:10-11 | Rom 8:18-23 | Mt 13:1-23

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

At Mass with my family recently, my five-year-old daughter caught the last four words of the mystery of faith as if she was hearing them for the first time. She was bursting with excitement as we finished saying, “We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.” She turned to me and said, “Mom! We said, ‘until you come again.’ Does that mean Jesus is coming back? He’s coming HERE?” What a lovely, emotion-filled response to learning that truth. She has heard those words countless times, but this time she heard the truth behind them. Her soul has been made for relationship with God from her time in the womb. The Holy Spirit has been preparing her to receive those words when she was ready to hear them in their fullness, and as the responsorial psalm proclaimed: “The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.” For those in the young, challenging years when it may seem easier to leave the little ones at home rather than take them to Mass, let’s remember what we are told in the first reading from Isaiah. “Thus says the Lord: ... my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How often do you find yourself listening to a friend or family member not to really hear what they are saying, but to plan your response? Do we do that while we pray as well? Sometimes I catch myself praying with an inner monologue behind it, deciding how I want that prayer to be answered. Now all of this may not be exactly what Jesus meant when he said, “This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand*,” but it is worth exploring. When we are so anxious to get our words in – either to another person, or to God, we’re not really being the rich soil that the other’s words deserve. We’re not even the rocky ground or the thorny path of which the Lord speaks; we’re more like a giant rubber wall off of which the words bounce! Let’s take some time to consider how our practice of listening and receiving others, including the Lord, is preparing us (or not) for the return of Jesus. And if there is room to improve, now is a good time to do it.

PRAY Lord, Jesus Christ, prepare my heart and my soul so that your words and your desires for my life will not fall on rocky soil. Give me the strength to be a Godly sower to all I encounter, especially my family, so your glory will be revealed. Amen.

Sunday, Jul 16, 2023

Pause before speaking

Words are deeds, as theologian Peter Kreeft astutely reminds us. When we speak our thoughts into the air, we are doing something. So many words circulate in the machinery of our media that we tend to take them for granted and view them as cheap or even meaningless. But words matter. They take root in our minds and hearts, as well as in the thoughts and feelings of people who receive them from us. Before you utter the response, make the call, or hit the send key, pause to contemplate what impact your words may have on someone else.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23 (103). *"My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it."*

Monday, Jul 17, 2023

Heartfelt holiness

Like any family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph experienced misunderstandings, disagreements, and hurt feelings within the family unit. Some of those experiences are told in the gospels, but there were surely others we never learned about. The Holy Family is a model for all families in the struggles and joys of family life. There are many devotional prayers to the Holy Family, including a litany and even a devotion to the hearts of the Holy Family. Most Catholics are familiar with the images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but perhaps less so with the Chaste Heart of Joseph. Consider adorning your family home with artwork of all three.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 1:8-14, 22; Matthew 10:34-11:1 (389). *"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."*

Tuesday, Jul 18, 2023

Instituting a better bedside manner

Hospitals in Rome and throughout Europe were abysmal in the 1500s, when Camillus de Lellis was admitted—twice—with an infected leg. Hospital workers were poor, often beggars and prisoners, who showed up mostly for free meals. Some even stole food from patients! Saint Camillus was so disgusted by this treatment that he got up from his bed to provide comfort—and cleanliness—to other patients. Thus his vocation was born, along with the Servants of the Sick, the religious institute Camillus founded after becoming a priest. A great Catholic tradition was likewise born: not just spiritual solace but clean and professional care as well. Visit the Catholic Health Association website to pray for hospital workers.

MEMORIAL OF CAMILLUS DE LELLIS, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 2:1-15a; Matthew 11:20-24 (390). *"She was moved with pity for him."*

Wednesday, Jul 19, 2023

Mercy me

Our tradition contains a variety of words to describe "missing the mark" when it comes to personal conduct: sin, transgression, and iniquity, a word used hundreds of times in scripture. Iniquity describes willful harming, where we choose to hurt or act with malice. It gets at the character or quality of our intentions. In a sense, our actions are all we really ever own. We carry them with us and we fall short at times. Thankfully, God's mercy is greater even than our iniquity. Examine your conscience, make amends

where possible, and call upon the Lord's mercy. Ask God to crown you with kindness and compassion, as today's psalm promises.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12; Matthew 11:25-27 (391).

"The Lord is kind and merciful. He pardons all your iniquities, he heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion."

Thursday, Jul 20, 2023

Inspiration for a dangerous mission

Today's saint, Apollinaris, was a bishop during the first century of the church, a dangerous time to be a Christian. Roman authorities and others disliked the followers of Jesus for disrupting social norms and threatening a social order that gave Roman emperors God-like authority. Christianity was also a new movement, making it even more untrustworthy. Apollinaris was bishop of Ravenna, Italy, and for that public role he was savagely beaten, later dying of his wounds. His martyrdom inspired early disciples. Who inspires you to live dangerously in faith?

MEMORIAL OF APOLLINARIS, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 3:13-20; Matthew 11:28-30 (392). *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart."*

Friday, Jul 21, 2023

A beautiful work in progress

God is the creator par excellence and invites all of creation, especially human beings, to share in the gift of creating. God enables us "to be intelligent and free causes in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony" (Catechism §307). There is a beauty in the incompleteness or "unfinishedness" of creation. Not only does it give us the opportunity to follow God's lead, but, according to distinguished professor and theologian Sister Anne Patrick, S.N.J.M., it reveals a beauty of its own and stirs us to gratitude for creation's patient unfolding. What gifts do you find in your own acts of creating?

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 11:10—12:14; Matthew 12:1-8 (393). *"I say to you, something greater than the temple is here."*

Saturday, Jul 22, 2023

Who do you say she is?

No biblical figure is surrounded by more mystery than Mary Magdalene. Who was she, really? What we know from the texts, says Catholic writer James Carroll, is that she was a leader in the community of Jesus' followers. While the men abandoned Jesus in his hour of need, Mary was one of the women who stayed with him even through the Crucifixion. She was the first person to whom Jesus appeared after his Resurrection and the first to preach that Good News, and her status as an apostle in the early church rivaled even that of Peter. Over time, her status was questioned, her reputation tarnished. Powerful women have contended with such treatment throughout the ages. Mary Magdalene stands as a symbol for gender equity and justice as well as faithful witness.

FEAST OF MARY MAGDALENE, APOSTLE TO THE APOSTLES

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 3:1-4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; John 20:1-2, 11-18 (603). *"On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb."*

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



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