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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2023

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself take up his and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary

Sacred Heart

Sat. 5:00 pm Sun. 10:30 am

Sun. 7:30 am

Sun 9:00 am

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary

Sacred Heart

Sat. 4:15 pm

Sun. 7:05-7:20 am

Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "When the soul has by degrees known the love of its Creator towards it, it loves him, and loving him, loves all things whatsoever that God loves."

"St. Catherine of Siena"

Septembe	er 9-10 2023	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, September 9 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, September 10 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, September 10 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, September 10 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Bob Schultz Dave Emling Dan Hoffman	David Kirkpatrick Kyle Ferris	Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke Dallas Ferris Dave Ladehoff	Kim Smicker Darren Lovell Marko Smolkovich Brent Fulton
Lector	Hillary Webb	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Jeff O'Connor	Corinn Wheeler
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter – Dallas Ferris R. Leader — Rita Thiesen	Julie Splear

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Sept. 4 (SJ)

9:00 am +Noreen Saathoff (Dennis/Sue O'Connor)

Tuesday, Sept. 5 (SH)

8:00 am (SH) +Dorine Schafer (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, Sept. 6 (SJ)

8:00 am Intentions of Rita Thiesen (Pam Cuchiara)

Friday, Sept. 8 (SMM)

8:00 am +Louis, Charlotte, Madeline Hildebrand

(Mariann Lane)

Saturday, Sept. 9 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Madonna Hoffman (Dan Hoffman)

+Bill Fritz (Jerome Schneider)

Sunday, Sept. 10

7:30 am +Leland Denault (Mike/Shelley Hertz)

9:00 am (SJ) +Juanita Papineau (Gary/Carla Papineau)

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

Questions of the week:

In what ways do I find it difficult to deny my own desires, priorities, and will, to follow Christ? How can my faith in the resurrection ease my willingness to do so?

A Look Ahead

Wednesday, Sept. 6—Combined Parish Council at SMM 7:00 pm

Sunday, Sept. 10—Donuts for Deacon Ron at SH

Monday, Sept. 18—SMM CCW meeting

Sunday, Sept. 24—Religious Ed classes begin at SJ

Saturday, Sept. 30—Blessing of the Police Squads 12pm

Sunday, October 22—St. James Donut Sunday 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 – <u>www.triparishcatholics.org</u>
Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office -Barb Riker 426-2550

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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)

Collections Week of August 26-27, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,810 St. James—\$1,260 Sacred Heart—\$1,047

Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts

Living By a Higher Loyalty

The wonderful recovery programs of AA and other 12–step processes speak of living in denial. We can often find the same kind of denial in the Christian faith ... denying the power of sin over our lives, or denying the call of Christ to place him at the center of our very being. But there is another invitation of our Lord in today's Gospel in which he calls us to walk in denial ... a denial of ourselves, our desires, our comfort, our security, and our wishes and follow him. It involves not merely a once and for all choice of Christ as our Lord and Savior, but a daily choice to say "yes" to him in every area, and "no" to self.

Reflection

What Is Love

Love has hands to help others. It has feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the signs and sorrows of humankind. This is what love looks like.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Connie (Tobenski) Dionne

wife of Rex Dionne

May she and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.
Our sincere sympathy to Connie's family and friends.

National Day of Remembrance

On Saturday, September 9, pro-life Americans will honor the memory of the more than 60 million unborn victims of abortion during the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. A solemn prayer service will honor the memory of the more than 60 million unborn victims of abortion Resurrection Cemetery in Romeoville at 1 p.m. Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks, bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, will preside. Speakers include Rest in His Arms founder Susan Schulenberg and Laura Reyes, who will give her touching testimony.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

- ♦ Thank you to all parish ladies for your continued support of our Funeral luncheons. Your dishes are available for pick-up in the church hall.
- ♦ CCW meeting at 7 pm on Mon., Sept. 18. Please see the information on page 6.
- Boxes of Joy will be available in the church entrance soon.
 Please help fill a box for children who may not otherwise have any Christmas. More information coming.

St. James-

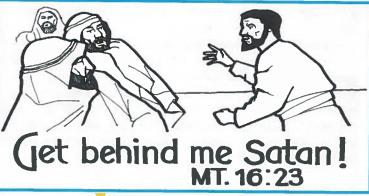
All are invited to our first CCW meeting of the year—Sunday,
 September 10 after church in the hall.

Sacred Heart-

- ◆ The week of September 3rd the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for the St. Germaine family.
- We will be cleaning the church hall post construction on Thursday, September 7 at 9:00 am. We would appreciate any help you can give.

All Parishes—

- Please do not use the Christ is Our Hope envelopes that are included with your regular offertory envelopes. They are no longer printing that publication.
- ♦ Adult Education—Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 20 at St. Margaret Mary.





-	Current Status for 2023 CMAA			
Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid	
St. MM	\$9,900	\$8,570	\$8,223	
St. James	\$8,000	\$7,655	\$7,550	
Sacred Heart	\$6,100	\$7,634	\$6,244	



Saint of the week: St. Peter Claver (Sept. 9) was the son of a farmer. Peter studied at the University of Barcelona. He became a Jesuit at the age of 20 and was ordained a priest. Peter was influenced by Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez to become a missionary in America. He ministered, physically and spiritually, to slaves when they arrived in Cartegena, converting a reported 300,000, and working for humane treatment on the plantations for 40 years. He organized charitable societies among the Spanish in America similar to those organized in Europe by Saint Vincent de Paul.

Obscure saints of the week: St. Gorgonius of Nicomedia (Sept. 9) was a soldier and favorite trusted servant in the court of Emperor Diocletian. He converted to Christianity. Gorgonius was tortured and martyred with a group of other Christians during the persecutions of Diocletian.



The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Then Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was now necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, submit to an ordeal of suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day be raised up alive. Peter took him in hand, protesting, "Impossible, Master! That can never be!"

But Jesus didn't swerve. "Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works."

Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?

"Don't be in such a hurry to go into business for yourself. Before you know it the Son of Man will arrive with all the splendor of his Father, accompanied by an army of angels. You'll get everything you have coming to you, a personal gift" (from Matthew 16).

Questions Catholics Ask What about all the different Gods is Hebrew Scripture?

I can say this about polytheism in the Bible: It's there. The worship of many divinities leads to the central conflict for the prophets: Which God is to be Israel's God? Just because Abraham steps out of the polytheism of his ancestors into a radical covenant with the God YHWH doesn't mean he, or his heirs, stop believing in the existence of other deities. They simply choose to cast their lot with the God of many promises: land, descendants, and future. YHWH will be their God, and they will be his people.

Many names for God are used in the Hebrew Bible. YHWH (pronounced "Yahweh") is the name Abraham and Moses are given to identify God. God is also called EI, a common Semitic word (among Israelites, Arabs, ancient Akkadians, and others) for divine beings both as the generic eI and the proper name EI, the father of all of Canaan's gods. EI occurs 286 times in the Old Testament. When used to refer to Israel's God, it's usually added to another term: for example, EI Bethel, the God revealed to Jacob at Bethel. Shaddai, the almighty "God of the mountain," was an even older name for God that shows up in poems in the Books of Genesis, Numbers, Job, some psalms, and Ezekiel. That Israel's God would be identified with Mt. Sinai isn't surprising, given the centrality of the covenant with Moses.

God has many names in scripture, but did Israel worship more than one God? Yes, to their shame, if the Books of Samuel, Kings, and prophecy are taken seriously. Baal-worship is the bane of the prophets, and Jeremiah asserts the women of Jerusalem chased after "the Queen of Heaven," so goddesses were in the mix, too. The Book of Deuteronomy warns against the sun- and moon-worship practiced by the Amorite and Phoenician peoples, and King Josiah had to end sacrifices to heavenly bodies in 2 Kings 23.

Scholars of the biblical creation story have viewed it as a systematic subjugation of other gods: the Persian belief in the uncreated light (Day 1); Baal who brings forth rain and growing things (Days 2 and 3); all heavenly bodies including the Egyptian sun god Re (Day 4); primeval sea monsters of Mesopotamian mythology (Day 5); and humanity, whose purpose is to share creation's steward-ship with God in dignity rather than bear the yoke of the gods as in the stories of other deities (Day 6). Most ancient creation stories speak of divine rest; only in Israel's story is humanity invited to share in it with the institution of the Sabbath (Day 7). It could be argued that none of that needed to be written if there weren't a significant attraction to polytheism in ancient Israel.

Scripture

• Genesis 1:1-2:4; Joshua 24:1-24; YHWH: Exodus 3:4-15; Shaddai: Genesis 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 43:14; 48:3; 49:25; Exodus 6:3; Numbers 24:4,



Hi everyone,

I'm Vic Carlile, the 2023 Individuals with Intellectual Disability Drive (Tootsie Roll Drive) chairman, and I'm asking for your help. It's that time of year again, and your Tri-Parish Knights of Columbus Blessed Trinity Council 15032 will be holding our annual Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Drive on September 15, 16 and 17.

One of our main objectives is to aid and contribute to organizations devoted to the care of individuals and particularly those inflicted with one or more forms of Intellectual disability. Such as Best Buddies Herscher High School and KCTC (Kankakee County Training Center) to name a couple.

To do this it takes a lot of volunteers to make it a successful drive. I'm asking that you donate just two (2) hours out of your weekend. We will be collecting donations at Casey's in Herscher, Herscher State Bank, Herscher State Bank of Limestone, Dollar General in Herscher and perhaps with your help, some other locations.

If you can help us in this worthy Christian endeavor, please contact me by email or text and we can get you scheduled. We're counting on you to make this the most successful drive we've ever had. Please contact me by September 9th.

My email is viccarlile51@gmail.com or text me at 8159556477

Respectfully

Vic Carlile

Chairman 2023 Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Drive

Aloha Fr. Ron Neitzke and the Tri-Parish Office,

Thank you so much for your email and your generous support for our Maui Relief efforts. Catholic Charities Hawaii is deeply touched by the kindness from the Tri-Parish Catholic Communities.

We are there now on Maui, and will be long after through recovery and rebuilding. It's a long journey ahead.

Together, with your support, Catholic Charities Hawaii is able to provide hope for those many individuals and families impacted by the wildfires on Maui.

Please let us know if we can provide you with any additional information.

Again, on behalf of our entire Catholic Charities Hawaii organization we express our sincere gratitude.

Warm Mahalo & Aloha.

Kellie

The Tri-Parish Community will have an opportunity to help the people of Maui after the devastating wildfires that swept through Lahaina and the surrounding areas. We will be taking up a second collection on the weekends of Sept. 2-3 and the weekend of Sept. 9-10. Please consider helping with any amount that you are able to donate. Thank you.

Labor Day

When: 1st Monday of September

ORIGIN STORY

Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated at a time when American industry was rapedly expanding but there were few logal protections for American workers.

ORIGINS

In the late 1800s, many Americans were working 12 hours a day six or seven days a week. Even children, some as young as age five or six, were working in mines, mills, and factories.

Labour union leaders Peter J. McGuire and Matthew Maguire each are said to have advocated for a holiday in New York City in 1892 to celebrate working people, though which of them was the true founder of Labor Day is still debated.

The idea of a "workingmen's holiday," celebrated on the first Monday in September, caught on in other industrial centres across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watership moment in American labour history brought workers' rights squarely into the public's view.

HOW IT'S CELEBRATED TODAY

Labor Day is celebrated each year on the first Monday of September. It falls on a different date every year just life Thanksolvion.



Some people enjoy a long weekend for family get togethers, pionics, end of summer celebrations, and parades, while others use labor has to who to the





Growing / Together in Faith

Religious Education classes will be beginning soon in all three parishes.

Sacred Heart—Sunday, Sept. 24

St. Margaret Mary—St. Margaret Mary Kick off is Sun., September 17 at 9:30am. The link to register is in the St. Margaret Mary Religious Education Facebook group. Families can also contact me at this e-mail address and I will send the link to register.

St. James - Religious Education Program begins September 10, 2023, after 10 a.m. Mass?

CRUNCH FOR A CAUSE

Please join us for a fundraiser to support:

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

Come to TACO JOHN'S
located at 562 William Latham Drive, Bourbonnais
between 4-7pm
on Wednesday, September 13th

50% of your entire purchase will be given to the organization

All you have to do to participate is show this flyer (printed, or on mobile device) or just mention it to the cashier.



Save the Date—Saturday, November 18th

Sacred Heart Parishes Fall Cash Bash 4pm—8 pm

The cash bash will include: Euchre and Texas Hold'em Tournaments, basket and silent auctions, 50/50, Black Jack and more.

Tickets are available this weekend at the entrance to the church. This fundraiser will be replacing the stag donation. Plan on coming and enjoying an evening of fun.







St. Margaret Mary CCW meeting will be on Sept. 18. at 7:00 pm. After the meeting we will be doing a fall craft with Jodi Martin leading us. Cost will be \$20 per person for a 3 pumpkin set. No crafting skills necessary. You will be able to use any colors you choose on either set. There is a signup sheet in the church entrance where you will need to choose which set of three you would like to do. Please sign up by Sept. 11.





September 3, 2023

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7-9 | Rom 12:1-2 | Mt 16:21-27

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

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

I am glad I was duped. Yep, the illusionist in the show we attended had me fooled into seeing something one way and it turns out it was completely false. The show was entertaining, and worth the time and expense we invested to enjoy it. And ... it may be the only circumstance where the word "duped" can be used in the same sentence as "glad." That certainly wasn't Jeremiah's experience! His prayer reflects frustration and hurt, and even a little bit of disgust at how he has been treated because of the Lord: "I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more." But then, even in his discontent and disillusion, he holds on to the truth. For right after this rebellious admission, he confesses that the need to prophesy "becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it." He knows he was never really duped there was no lie from the Lord. And the fact is, he believes and trusts in the Lord enough to pray to him in the first place; even in his prayer of lament he is praising the Lord as God and redeemer. Jeremiah's example is a good one for us: Never lose sight of the Lord as our God. Pray to him; give over our frustrations to him; and allow him to be the fire burning in our heart that we cannot quench.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Reading today's Gospel leaves me feeling awkward and even embarrassed for St. Peter. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, calling the first pope Satan and telling Peter to get behind him - super embarrassing, especially when Peter had good intentions in trying to protect Jesus. What's the old saying, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions"? There's another axiom, a little less dire but just as pointed: "People judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heart of gold, but so does a hard-boiled egg." Intentions matter - but how we enact and employ those intentions are important, too. Christ tells us in today's Gospel, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Faith in God, believing in his promises, and wanting to obey his commandments are wonderful and essential - and they are the foundation of a life lived for Christ. But they are not the entirety of it, and while denying ourselves and taking up our cross is never easy, it is necessary. "What profit would there by for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" Christ asks. Let's pray for the grace of pure intentions and the strength to live them in service to the Lord.

PRAY Heavenly Father, uncover my eyes and reveal any obstacles keeping me from thinking as you do. Give me the courage to overcome these obstacles, and grant me the strength to take up my cross and follow you, even in the face of difficulty. I ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.

Sunday, Sep 03, 2023

It's a wonderful life

Our days are engulfed in chaos, conflict, and dispiriting news. Then along comes a director like Frank Capra (1897-1991), churning out what have been called "fantasies of good will," imposing order with his ragged little messiahs who take meaningful stands against king-sized injustices. A self-described "Christmas Catholic," Capra fought his moral battles on the silver screen. He believed each person is "essentially good, a living atom of divinity.... Films must be made to say these things, to counteract the violence and the meanness, to buy time to demobilize the hatreds." Take your stand. Tell a story of hope.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27 (124). "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."

Monday, Sep 04, 2023

Come aside and rest awhile

In a Prayer for Labor Day, the U.S. bishops invite us to ask God: "Make a place in our hearts for compassion to the men and women who labor tirelessly for basic necessities." Labor has always held a place of dignity within our faith. Scripture tells us that the laborer is worthy of his hire (1 Tim. 5:18), and many a church document, including *Rerum Novarum*, outline the value of workers and their work: "Justice, therefore, demands that the interests of the working classes should be carefully watched over, so that they who contribute so largely to the advantage of the community may themselves share in the benefits which they create." And, today, in honor of our labor, it's time to take a break.

TODAYS READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30 (431). "Is this not the son of Joseph?"

Tuesday, Sep 05, 2023

The first daughter of charity

It's not every day that a Catholic saint is honored with a United Nations resolution. But then, Mother Teresa is hardly an everyday saint. The U.N. honored the famous nun from Kolkata, known the world over for her hands-on care of the poor, with a resolution in 2013. It declared that on the September 5th anniversary of Mother Teresa's death each year, the world would now observe an International Day of Charity. Let's take her at her word: "Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same—with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37 (432). "All of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness."

Wednesday, Sep 06, 2023

Pray for the persecuted and forgotten

On this day, many Christians of the Eastern tradition celebrate the feast of Saint Donatian and his companions, a group of lesser-known fifth-century martyrs driven out of North Africa by the Arian King Huneric, who persecuted a great many Trinitarians for their faith. Though we may not today face death for our confession, many of our brothers and sisters around the world do, and it is for them that we must pray with the help of Donatian and all who died

for the name of Christ. Even more, we are tasked to help them materially if we can, since—as the Lord says—whatsoever we do for the least of his siblings, we do for him.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44 (433). "We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the holy ones because of the hope reserved for you in heaven."

Thursday, Sep 07, 2023

School days, Golden Rule days

It's back-to-school season. Learning is foundational to our democracy and also to informed faith. In 2,000 years' time, Christianity has overcome countless heresies (a type of twisting of the belief) and accumulated many saints, martyrs, stories, and traditions. With school back in session, consider sending yourself to "school" to learn more about your own religion. Check out study materials from the U.S. Catholic bishops and formed.org, a program both individuals and parishes can use for faith formation. Make a choice to grow in wisdom and understanding.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11 (434). "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

Friday, Sep 08, 2023

A nativity set for the ages

The church officially celebrates three Nativities: the Nativity of Jesus, the Son of God (Christmas); the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (24 June); and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8 September). These events tell us everything we need to know about God, faith, and the path to salvation. Through Jesus' Incarnation, we learn that God is with us—always and everywhere. Through John's witness we come to understand that we are not God—not even close—and we must prepare ourselves to welcome God's great goodness into our lives. And through Mary, we are shown the meaning of true discipleship—how to answer God's call and follow Christ through the joyful, sorrowful, and luminous mysteries of our lives in faith. Celebrate this dynamic trio by living in their light.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TODAY'S READINGS. Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 (636). "They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us."

Saturday, Sep 09, 2023

Give us this day some peace

"Racism has been part of the social fabric of America since its European colonization. Whether it be the tragic past of Native Americans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, or Blacks, the story is one of slavery, peonage, economic exploitation, brutal repression, and cultural neglect." This observation from the 1979 bishops' pastoral *Brothers and Sisters to Us* is why the church in the United States has established today as a "Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities" to promote healing of the racial divides of our nation. Make an honest examination of conscience regarding your thoughts, words, and deeds toward people of other ethnic and racial backgrounds.

MEMORIAL OF PETER CLAVER, PRIEST TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5 (436). "You once were alienated and hostile in mind because of evil deeds."

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



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