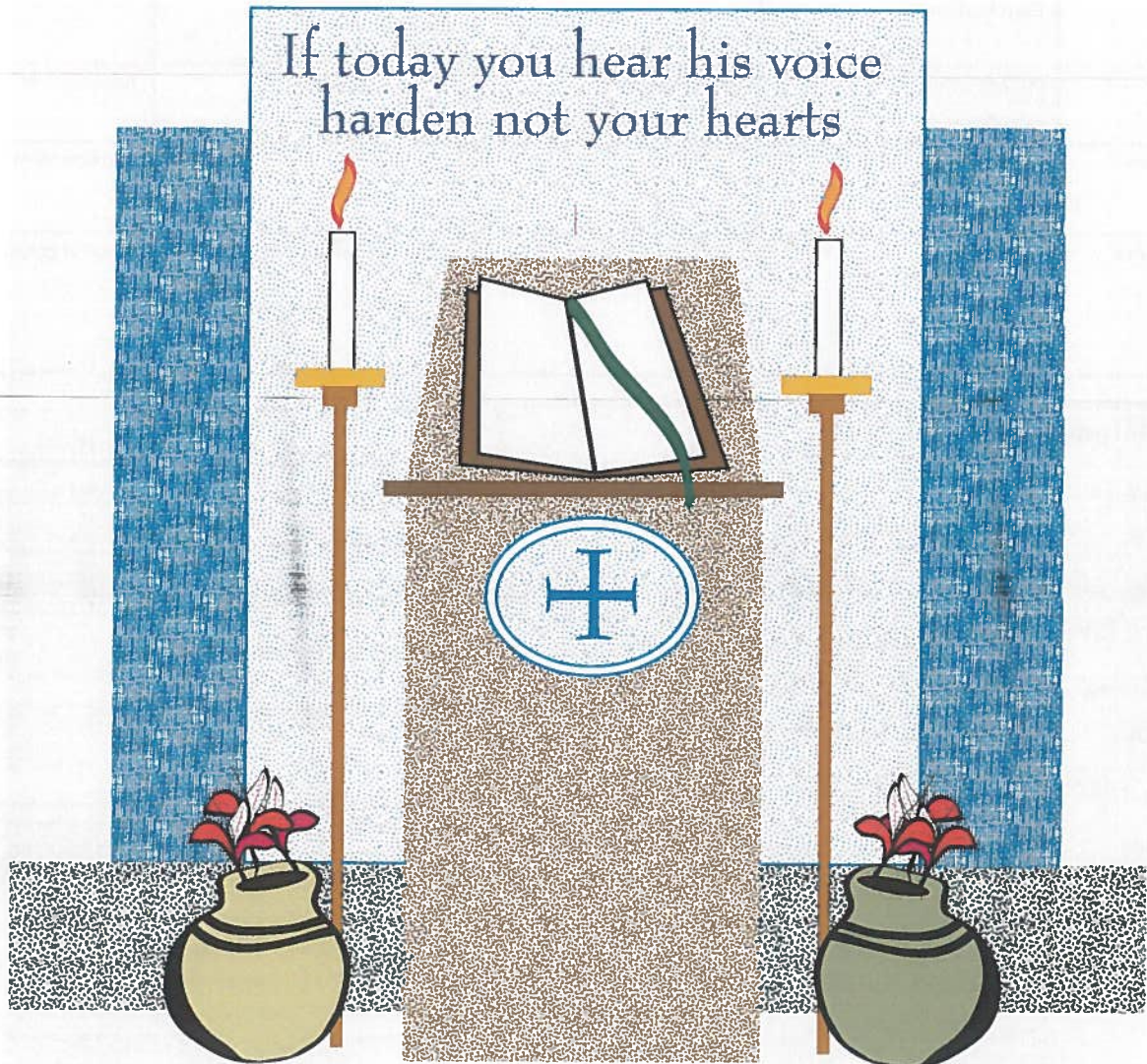


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JANUARY 27-28, 2024**



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

**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**

People who take time to be alone usually have depth, originality, and quiet reserve.

John Miller

<b>February 3-4, 2024</b>		<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		
<b>Liturgical Schedule</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Feb. 3rd 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sacred Heart Sunday, Feb, 4th 7:30 am</b>	<b>St. James Sunday, Feb. 4th 9:00 am</b>	<b>St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Feb. 4th 10:30 am</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Todd Datweiler Dave Emling Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman	Daryl Ferris Dennis Pankey	Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke Dallas Ferris Arlen Hansen	Darren Lovell Larry & Jeremy Wolles Kim Smicker
<b>Lector</b>	Hillary Webb	Terri Weakley	Dave Ladehoff	Julie Splear
<b>Servers</b>				Sydney Weldon
<b>Greeters</b>			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Karen Miller	Wayne Bisailon

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, January 29 (SMM)**

8:00 am +James Feller (Norm & Sharon Riordan)

**Tuesday, January 30 (SH)**

8:00 am (SH) +Robert LaGesse (Jerry & Terri Weakley)

**Wednesday, January 31 (SJ)**

8:00 am +Mark Benoit

**Friday, February 2 (First Friday SJ)**

8:00 am +Gerald Bernicky (Jerry & Terri Weakley)

**Saturday, February 3 (SMM)**

5:00 pm +Bill Fritz (Jerome Schneider)

+Igor Dubravec (The Family)

**Sunday, February 4**

7:30 am +Leland Denault (Marianne Heinzl)

9:00 am (SJ) Rita Thiesen (Pam Cuchiara)

10:30am (SMM) +Marie & Bob Duval (Martha Schneider)

+Laura Jensen (Gerald Kroesch)

**A Look Ahead**

**Sun., Feb 4**—RE classes at SJ, SMM and SH

**Ash Wednesday—Feb. 14**

**St. James - 8:00 AM**

**Sacred Heart—Noon**

**St Margaret Mary—7:00 PM**

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](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

**Religious Education** –

St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)

St. James – Carolyn [Levyclevystjames@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Jdstreefarms@aol.com)

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)



**Collections Week of Jan. 20-212024**

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,092

St. James—\$2,337

Sacred Heart—\$755

Thank you for your generosity!

**Parish News:**

St. Margaret Mary—

Sacred Heart— The Blessed Virgin Mary Candle burns in memory of Carson Cross.

St. James—

All Parishes—

- ◆ Don't forget to pick up your offertory envelopes in each parish. If you don't find yours, please call the office.

Tri-Parish Community, I want to thank you for your thoughts, prayers and food during my hospitalization .

I am hoping to be home next week.

Therese Phillips



**St James Religious Education Request:**

**Spring Cleaning??**

We are looking for some larger baskets for our 2024 Christmas raffle.

Drop any baskets off in the St James Hall outside of office door. Thank you!



North Iroquois Catholic Community  
welcomes back

**Fr Jim Sichko**



Come to St John the Baptist Church, L'Erable  
for a **Pre-Lenten Mission**,  
given by world-reknowned,  
"Missionary of Mercy,"

Fr Jim Sichko



**Everyone is Welcome!**

At 6pm

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday

February 4th, 5th, & 6th

Gospel Shorts

Do It Now!

And they went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught.

Mark 1: 21

A great exercise is reading St. Mark's Gospel at one sitting. After the hour or so it takes to read it, one is almost left breathless. Why? Jesus is invariably pictured as doing things "immediately." Clearly, we see Jesus as a doer, an activist, going from one place to another preaching, teaching, healing, encouraging, blessing, etc. He was a man in a hurry.

What about his followers? If we are to truly represent him, our work is cut out for us. Evil is very real all about us. Shouldn't we show forth the light of Christ in this dark world? Each of us can develop our own ministry somewhere in this world. Maybe it is as undramatic as visiting the elderly or working with unappreciative youth or as one person said, being a loving missionary to our neighbors. The main thing is to do it and to do it, not sometime in the future, but beginning now. Today!



## CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

### GRANT APPLICATION OPEN

The 2024 Catholic Campaign for Human Development Grant through the Diocese of Joliet is now open for 2024 applications. Applicants must reside within the boundaries of the Diocese of Joliet and complete the CCHD application available on the DOJ website (*see left*), including all supporting documents requested. Only completed applications will be considered. CCHD is looking for organizations that seek to engage in one of the Works of Mercy: Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Poor, Visit the Imprisoned, Visit the Sick, Shelter the Homeless, Bury the Dead, and Give Drink to the Thirsty.

**QUESTIONS?** Please contact Tanya Singh at [cchd@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:cchd@dioceseofjoliet.org). Applications will be accepted from January 15 through March 1, 2024. *Thank you!*

For more info and to apply, visit [catechesis.diojoliet.org/cchd](http://catechesis.diojoliet.org/cchd)



## Bulletin January 28 th

Saint of the week: St. Joseph Freinademetz, priest and missionary. Feast day January 28 th .Born into a pious farm family, the fourth of twelve children, Joseph was a polymath who knew seven languages. Ordained in Bressanone, Italian Tyrol on July 25, 1875. He joined the Divine Word Missionaries when the congregation was only three years old. Joseph became a missionary to China in 1879; he spent the rest of his life there, and did all he could to be Chinese in order to convert the Chinese.

He worked initially with Franciscan missionaries so he and his group could get acclimated.

The bishop of Hong Kong planned to put Father Joseph in charge of the group, and later to ordain him as bishop; Joseph refused to leave the bishop's office until his superior had changed his mind and given the honor to someone else. It was a time of persecution of Christians in China; many in authority resented foreigners of anysort, and others were openly anti-Christian no matter if the faithful were native or foreign. Father Joseph, his co-workers and his flock were chased from

place to place, arrested, and routinely beaten. Joseph is reported to have preached to his attackers while they were beating him; they were so moved and impressed, they left. The abuse of the missionaries led to some foreign governments to dispatch armed forces to China to protect them. The Chinese government reacted by expelling all foreigners. Father Joseph stayed to minister covertly to the converts, finally resuming his work openly after the deportation orders were lifted. On the roads and from the mission, he worked to teach and convert up to the very end of his life.





Obscure saint of the week: Saint Julian of Cuenca,

Educated at the cathedral school of Burgos, Spain and the University of Palencia, Spain. He taught theology and philosophy at Palencia from 1153 to 1163. Julian worked on the side making baskets and trade goods for extra money, and then would give away almost everything to the poor. In 1163 he retired to live as a hermit outside Palencia. He was ordained a deacon in 1166. He and a fellow hermit, Lesmes, became wandering preachers. Julian became the archdeacon of the Archdiocese of Toledo, Spain in 1191 where he served as administrator, preacher – and basket weaver to make money for the poor.

When King Alphonso IX recaptured Cuenca of Castile from the Moors, Julian became its bishop in June 1196. He was known as a reformer and noted preacher whose charity extended to everyone, regardless of faith. And, yes, he continued making baskets.



### Help Socially Isolated Seniors

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

Senior Companion volunteers provide assistance and friendship to older adults with difficulty with daily tasks. This program helps seniors stay independent longer and provides respite to family caregivers. Senior Companion volunteers report better health and longevity, having served the community. Are you ready to forge new relationships and make a significant difference in the lives of others?

Call Bry Williams at 815-933-7791 ext. 9928 or online at [americorpsseniors@cc-doj.org](mailto:americorpsseniors@cc-doj.org) For more information about the programs and services provided by Catholic Charities visit [catholiccharitiesjoliet.org](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org)

January 28, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 18:15-20 | 1 Cor 7:32-35 | Mk 1:21-28

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

Oh, to not be anxious! What would that be like – to not have to worry about how we'll pay the bills or whether our kids are safe or if our health will fall? While anxiety is a very human emotion, we can take comfort in knowing that our God is more powerful than anything that may worry us. It is also important to note that in today's reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, what he means by "anxious" is not a modern psychological concept with only a negative connotation. The connotation is more "to be concerned with," or "caring about" something, and can refer to things that are very good – including spouses and families! But when we care for many things, including our relationship with God, it is only natural for us to be anxious at times. But Jesus Christ gives us the assurance that the troubles of this world are temporary, and the peace of God eternal. Paul is encouraging the Corinthians, and us, to understand the importance of an undivided devotion to God, to care for him above all things – no matter if we are married or single – so that our whole life is devoted to holiness.

**GO EVANGELIZE**

**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

I am always thankful when something good that has been anticipated, or predicted, comes to pass: The sunshine and mild weather holds true for that outdoor event I hosted; or the generous gift that a longtime friend mailed arrives unscathed. There is some anxiety in the waiting for, but relief in the fulfillment of, these beneficent promises. And while these are somewhat superficial examples, they do point us in the same direction of hope and gratitude that the divine gifts of God elicit in us. In today's first reading, Moses promises the people that the Lord will raise up for them, from among their own kin, a prophet who will speak God's own words and to whom the people will listen. And the Lord did provide numerous prophets, and kings, and judges, and eventually his only begotten Son, to call his people back to himself, and to save them from the wages of sin and death. The hope and anticipation God's chosen people had was fulfilled in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We share in that gift of hope and of gratitude for our salvation.

**PRAY** Today's psalm (Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9) is a beautiful prayer of thanksgiving and encouragement. It helps us steer our minds from those things which may make us anxious. Spend time in the morning or evening each day of the coming week, praying and reflecting on the words.







Invest time each week to  
expand your vocabulary and  
deepen your faith.

28 January 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Benedictus \be-nə-'dik-təs\

From Latin meaning "blessed," the hymn sung by Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, an elder priest, who became mute on learning that he and Elizabeth would become parents late in life. After John's birth, Zechariah's tongue is loosed and he praises God with this canticle beginning: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come to his people and set them free" (Luke 1:68).

**Pronunciation:** <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-benedictus>

### CONTEXT

Since the early centuries, the **Benedictus** has been sung in the morning prayer of the church's liturgy because of its praise for the coming of the Redeemer and its allusion to Christ coming as the dawn to give light to those in darkness. —Stephen J. Binz

May I have the courage today/  
To live the life that I would  
love./ To postpone my dream no longer,  
/ But do at last what I  
came here for/ And waste my heart on fear no more.  
—John O'Donohue, **Benedictus: A Book of Blessings**

### WHY IT MATTERS

The **Benedictus** is one of four canticles sung at the start of Luke's gospel, including Mary's Magnificat, (*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord*), the song of the angels to the shepherds (*Glory to God in the highest!*), and Simeon's prayer at the presentation of Jesus in the temple (*Lord, now you let your servant go in peace*). Together these songs remind us that, in the face of good news, the most reasonable response is to sing. Joyful people know this.

From The General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours: The Gospel canticles, the *Benedictus*, the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc dimittis*, should be accorded the same solemnity and dignity as is usual for the hearing of the Gospel (138).

### RELATED WORDS

Magnificat | Nunc dimittis | Beatitudes

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### Why do we sing at Mass?

Saint Augustine, who said many things well, insisted: "Singing is for one who loves." This is the same Bishop Augustine who considered banning music from his church altogether. In the end he adhered to an older proverb: "Whoever sings well prays twice over." So pass out the song sheets.

Saint Paul was an earlier proponent of church music, back when church still gathered in somebody's house. He advocated that believers sing "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16). While Augustine got it right that singing is for lovers, happy people in general whistle while they work, and grateful people know they have something to sing about. This may explain why some folks in church are reluctant to sing. Without a significant increase in the spirit of joy and gratitude, don't expect an increase in responsive singers. Yet to those who love, feel joy, and are grateful, a little frivolity in public is in order.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <https://tinyurl.com/QCA-sing-Mass>

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (FEBRUARY 2)

### Listen to your elders

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and desired their son to be raised in the faith that had sustained them. They took Jesus to the Temple to be consecrated and presented to God, where they met Simeon and Anna, elders of the community. The elders immediately recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (524 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/020224.cfm>). "My eyes have seen your salvation."

### FAITH IN ACTION

Follow the wisdom of our biblical elders and call forth the gifts of a child to give light to the world.