

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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

MARCH 23-24, 2024

HOSANNA



Blessed is he who
comes in the name
of the LORD

Open wide the doors
and gates
Lift high the
ancient portals
The KING of GLORY
enters!

©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

Collections Week of March 16-17, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—1,637
St. Jame—\$2,305
Sacred Heart—\$1,151

Thank you for your generosity!

Senior Luncheon sponsored by Herscher Council of Churches is being held on April 11th, at 1PM at Courtyard Estates of Herscher. Freewill donation. Call Jackie if attending or with questions at 815-421-4048



Prayers and sympathy for Debbie Jensen on the loss of her sister Vicki Webber, May she rest in God's eternal peace.

Sacred Heart CCW will be hosting their Spring Luncheon on Thursday, April 4 at 11:30 am at the church hall. Mark your calendars for this fun day with bunco, cards, board games, and plenty of food. There will be cash and basket raffles, 50/50, and door prizes! Tickets are available at the door for \$10.

If you would like to donate a basket for the raffle or door prizes, let Terri, Tina, Denise, or Laurie know. Thanks again for your continued support!



Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—Night In Italy April 11, 5-7PM

Sacred Heart— Spring Luncheon April 4, 11:30AM

St. James—Landscaping project— The next second collection for the project will be Sunday April 7. Thank you for your support for our project to beautify our grounds.

All Parishes—

- ◆ We are preparing for a security audit and need an accounting of keys to parish buildings. If you have a key to any of the parish buildings, please let us know. We will also need to know the purpose for you having keys.

Holy Week Schedule

3/25 Seven Last Words—7:00 PM (SJ)

3/26 Confession—7:00 PM (SMM)

3/27 Tenebrae—7:00 PM (SH)

3/28 Mass of the Lords Supper—7:00 PM (SJ)

3/29 Stations of the Cross—3:00 PM (SH)

3/29 Liturgy of the Passion—7:00 PM (SH)

3/30 Blessing of Easter Baskets—Noon (SMM)

3/30 Easter Vigil—7:00 PM (SMM)

St Joseph Parish in Bradley will be holding a Divine Mercy Celebration on Sunday, April 7th. Confessions begin at 1:30pm with Divine Mercy Holy Hour beginning at 2:00. All are invited to attend.

Old eyeglasses sitting around? This



agency collects old eyeglasses, makes the necessary repairs, then sends them overseas to people in need. The

Knights of Columbus will be placing collection boxes in the back of each church. Please consider helping with this project by donating your unused glasses. Prescription and reading glasses are needed. Please do not include glass cases.



Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24

Procession:

Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16

Mass:

Is 50:4-7

Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Phil 2:6-11

Mk 14:1 – 15:47

Monday, March 25

Is 42:1-7

Ps 27:1-3, 13-14

Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 26

Is 49:1-6

Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6b, 15, 17

Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday, March 27

Is 50:4-9a

Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34

Mt 26:14-25

Thursday, March 28

Holy Thursday

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14

Ps 116:12-13, 15-18

1 Cor 11:23-26

Jn 13:1-15

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

Is 52:13 – 53:12

Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25

Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Jn 18:1 – 19:42

Saturday, March 30

Holy Saturday

Imagine the mixed emotions and excitement that day when Jesus, the humble King, entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey amidst shouts of "Hosanna" and palm branches being waved in the air and tossed at his feet. To live in that time in Jerusalem was to live in a pressure cooker of political and religious upheaval. Many were indeed looking for a Savior, but Jesus knew that not everyone who was jumping up and down had the same expectations of him.

In the crowd, along with his disciples, were those who were ecstatic about the miracles they had witnessed or heard about, and they were convinced that he was the Messiah, the King of Israel. Some were traveling and just curious about who this man could be. Then there were the Pharisees who hated Jesus and distrusted him because they thought his teachings were too loose and he threatened their security, prestige, and status in the community.

As exciting as this big entrance procession was, Jesus must have carried much trepidation in his heart with the knowledge that he was fulfilling the messianic prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 by triumphantly riding in on a donkey's colt. He knew that many of these same people who were welcoming him so eagerly would soon turn against him and this would set his Father's plan into motion for his suffering, death, and resurrection.

Jesus could have turned back, but he courageously

cooperated with his Father's holy will and moved forward in trust. It was not

until later after Jesus was glorified and the Holy Spirit enlightened them that his disciples understood all that had happened.



This Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, as we hold our blessed palms in our hands and sing joyful hosannas at Mass, let us be reminded that Jesus, our beloved Savior, modeled for

us the rhythm and hope for our own lives. Because of what Jesus did for us by suffering, dying, and rising from the dead, we too will have joy, followed by sorrow, and then joy once again. Good will conquer evil and life will conquer death.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Have there been times when you did not fully understand why things were happening in your life, but later realized that God seemed to be orchestrating everything for your best interest?
- † In what ways are you being called to trust God right now in your life?
- † How should we respond to modern-day Pharisees who feel threatened by the love we show our neighbors?
- † How has the Holy Spirit enlightened you after the fact in ministry?

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Mk 14:1-15:47



“

The Lord GOD has
given me a well-
trained tongue,
that I might know
how to speak to the
weary a word that
will rouse them.

(Is 50:4)

”



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

“The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.” This sentence from our first reading is taken from one of the four “Songs of the Suffering Servant” in Isaiah. The New Testament identifies this Servant as Jesus, and we know that Jesus accepted the suffering that was foretold in the verses that follow this one: “I gave my back to those who beat me ... my face I did not hide from insults and spitting.” As aspiring servants of God on this Palm Sunday, the most holy of days when we hear Mark’s account of Jesus’ passion, how does this sentence speak to us? What does it mean to have a well-trained tongue? To me it is a call to speak to the Lord in prayer as well as to speak the Good News of the Gospel whenever and wherever we can.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How can we gain the confidence to believe that our tongue is “well-trained”? We know we are all given the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we must trust in that promise and invoke his presence often. Who knows? A kind word or gesture from us may just “speak” to a weary person who is struggling. Paul writes that in his passion, Jesus “emptied himself” in the hours before his death and “[became] obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Paul’s next words give us the answer to our question above: “Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend ... and *every tongue confess* [emphasis added] that Jesus Christ is Lord.” The fullness of the kingdom will be realized only when Jesus comes again. But in the meantime, we have the Eucharist that Jesus instituted at the Last Supper to sustain us and give us strength for our task to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and spread the kingdom of God one day at a time.

PRAY “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.” These words from today’s passion narrative demonstrate Jesus’ complete, obedient surrender of his will to his Father’s divine will. As flawed human beings, we will never be able to perfectly emulate our Savior’s actions, but what better way to begin Holy Week than to try? Through prayer, strive to surrender yourself to God this week by trusting him completely, and striving to do his will with humility and Christ-like obedience.