

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 6-7, 2024

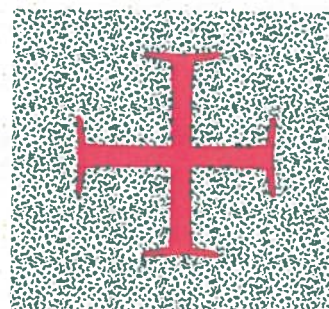


GOD of MERCY

You wash away our sins,

give us
new birth
in the
SPIRIT

and redeem us in the
Blood of CHRIST



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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

Quotes: "Souls that make an appeal to my mercy delight me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask.."
—Words of Divine Mercy as revealed to Saint Faustina Kowalska

April 13-14, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, April 13 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, April 14 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, April 14 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, April 14 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen	Kyle Ferris Dennis Pankey	Jerry Ogrentz Arlen Hansen Bob Buente Jeff Martin	Darren Lovell Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles Kim Smicker
Lector	Dave Emling	Mike Hertz	Carrie Abrassart	Julie Splear
Servers				Sydney Sheldon
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Kim Smicker Mary McDonald

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 8 (SMM)
 8:00 am No Mass

Tuesday, April 9 (SH)
 8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, April 10 (SJ)
 8:00 am No Mass

Friday, April 12 (SH)
 8:00 am +Jamies Jepsen (Thomas/Nancy)

Saturday, April 13 (SMM)
 5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, April 14
 7:30 am (SH) +James Riley, Tina Berns, Hilda Riley,
 Bernice Pool, Bernadette Denault, Bonnie
 Draper, James Palinski (The Family)
 9:00am (SJ) +Noreen Saathoff (Jerry/Mary O'Connor))
 +Ted Bernaski (Joe/Carrie Abrassart)
 10:30am (SMM) +Harold Fournier (Bob/Colleen Schultz)
 +Jim Webber (Family of Donna Ruder))

A Look Ahead

Thursday, April 11—Night In Italy (SMM) 5-7pm
Monday, April 15—Combined Parish Council meeting .
 Location TBA
Sunday, April 21—Youth Mass at SMM and SJ
Saturday, April 27—First Communion at SMM
Sunday, April 28—Confirmation 3:00 at SJ

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](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)
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
 Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015
 St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com
Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048
Prayer Line– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773
 SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 ldstreefarms@aol.com
 St. James— Mary Offerman-602-670-8888 (call or text)

Question of the week:

In what way do I notice the gift of God's mercy today? To whom do I need to extend mercy?

Collections Week of March 30-31, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$3,483 Holy Land - \$405
St. Jame—\$3,485 Holy Land—\$110
Sacred Heart—\$1,777 Holy Land—\$375

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection Scriptural Rosary...Origin of the Mysteries

During the thirteenth century, a prayer form, which would soon give the Rosary its Mysteries, began to develop. Many medieval theologians had long considered the 150 Psalms to be veiled prophecies about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. By deep meditation and skillful interpretation of the Psalms certain of these men began to compose 'Psalms of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' These were series of 150 praises in honor of Jesus, based upon interpretations of the 150 Psalms.

Soon 'psalters' devoted to 150 praises of Mary were also composed. When a psalter of Marian praises numbered 50 instead of 150, it was commonly called a 'rosarium,' or a bouquet.

Thus, during the thirteenth century there were four distinct 'psalters' in use at the same time: the 150 Our Fathers, the 150 Angelic Salutations, the 150 praises of Jesus, and the 150 praises of Mary. In an age when unity was held in such high regard, perhaps it was inevitable that these four prayer forms should eventually be combined.

Gospel Shorts—Christ's Word of Assurance

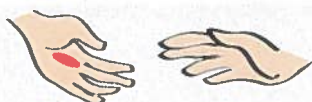
On the night of the first Easter, the friends of Jesus were huddled fearfully together behind closed and locked doors. They knew that they were targets of those who hated Jesus. Their lives were in danger and they wondered what to do.

Into their midst came the resurrected Lord. "Peace," He said, "Peace to you," Then he gave them the comforting gift of the Holy Spirit, Christ's presence and power emboldened them. They were instilled with courage and inner confidence. It is true, if we will have it so, that the same risen Christ who offered them the assurance of inner peace and strength will do so for us as well.



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

my LORD and
my GOD



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Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ Night In Italy April 11 5-7PM

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of March 31, the Blessed Virgin candle burned in memory of Lorraine Brennan.
- ◆ Sacred Heart CCW will meet 6:30 pm Tuesday April 9th in the church hall. Hostesses are Tina Petersen and Marilyn Pfeiffer.
- ◆ A big "Thank You" to everyone who contributed in anyway to our Spring Luncheon. Your generosity is a blessing to us.

St. James—

- ◆ Landscaping project— The last second collection for the project will be today, Sunday April 7. Thank you for your support for our project to beautify our grounds.

All Parishes—

Congratulations to Laurie Palinski, Sacred Heart's CCW Woman of the Year and to Donna Jacob, the Woman of the Year chosen by St. Margaret Mary's CCW.



My Lord and my God
JN. 20:28

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.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Margaret of Castello (April 13) was a blind, lame, deformed, hunchback. When she was six years old, her noble parents walled her up beside a chapel; she could not get out but could attend Mass and receive the Sacraments. After 14 years of imprisonment, her parents took her to a shrine to pray for a cure. When none occurred, they abandoned her. She became a lay Dominican and spent her life in prayer and charity. When she died, the townspeople thronged her funeral, and demanded she be buried in a tomb inside the church. The priest protested, but a crippled girl was miraculously cured at the funeral, and he consented.

Obscure saint of the week: Saint Sabas Reyes Salazar (April 13) was a seminarian at Guadalajara, Mexico. He was ordained in the diocese of Taumalipus, Mexico in 1911. Sabas worked in several parishes in Guadalupe. Later he was sent to Tototlan, Mexico to escape the government's persecution of the Church and its priests.

In January 1927 government troops commandeered his church; they smashed images, burned statues, and used the building as a stable. Father Sabas's parishioners told him to escape, but he said God had placed him there for a reason, and that they should pray for divine help against the soldiers.

On April 11, 1927, just as he finished a baptism in a private home, federal troops broke in to arrest him. Over the next two days he was severely beaten, burned, and tortured as the troops tried to learn the hiding places of other priests; he told his captors nothing. Martyr.



The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master."

But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it (from John 20).



Congratulations to Mark Weidner and Kyle Palinski who were joyfully welcomed into full communion with the Roman Catholic church at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 30, 2024.



Family Bingo night at St. Margaret Mary following the Youth Mass on March 9.



Blessings to the second graders from St. James and St. Margaret Mary who made their first Reconciliation on March 9.

Questions Catholics Ask What's that picture of Jesus with rays flowing from Him?

Although ubiquitous now, the image known as Divine Mercy is a relative newcomer on the Catholic devotional scene. It originated with Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), Poland's "Apostle of the Divine Mercy." With only three years of formal education, Maria Faustina was hired as a domestic servant while a teenager. But the "bright lights" she'd seen in prayer from a young age continued during her employment, eventually drawing her toward religious life. Entering the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, Maria Faustina served as cook, gardener, and doorkeeper—jobs reserved for the humblest members of a community. For the next half dozen years she continued to experience visions, prophecies, and "internal stigmata": a spiritual sharing in Christ's sufferings with no physical mark.

In 1931 Sister Faustina had a vision unparalleled by those that had gone before: She saw Jesus clothed in white, one hand raised in blessing, the other at his breast. From his body two radiant streams flowed, one red, the other pale. Faustina felt called to recreate this image with the signature "Jesus, I trust in you." Her spiritual director procured an artist to reproduce what she saw in her vision. Pope John Paul II canonized Faustina in 2000 and established the Second Sunday of the Easter season as Divine Mercy Sunday in accordance with her revelation, heightening the familiarity of this image.

In the gospel for this same Sunday, the Octave (eighth day) of the Easter celebration, Jesus imparts the Holy Spirit to disciples who had so recently deserted their Lord in his darkest hour—a gift brimming with mercy when you think about it. An additional reading for this feast reminds us of "the water and the blood" that flowed from the side of Jesus on the cross. The beams of red and white light radiating in the Divine Mercy image are thought to be reminders of these signs. The white light recalls the water of baptism, which by the mercy of God redeems us from original sin. The red light represents the cup of the Eucharist, Christ's blood shed for our redemption.

On Divine Mercy Sunday we recall how the compassion of God restores us to life through these sacramental actions. What was once revealed to a humble Polish nun in this benevolent image remains a moving portrait of the ever-present mercy of God, radiating relentlessly from the heart of Christ.

Scripture

- [John 19:31-35](#); [John 20:19-31](#); [1 John 5:6](#)

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

What is an "octave"? Why are we celebrating one this week?

The Church knows that one day of rejoicing just isn't enough.

Easter is the "Solemnity of Solemnities"—the biggest feast day of the year. It's so big, in fact, that the Church celebrates it for not one, but *eight full days!*

For her most important feast days, the Church assigns "octaves": eight days of rejoicing in which we celebrate each day as though it were the feast day itself.

The tradition of octaves goes back to the 4th century and is possibly connected to one or both of two events.

During the week after Easter and Pentecost, the newly-baptized neophytes would continue to wear the white garments they received at their baptism, rejoicing for eight days in the joyful celebration of their new life in Christ. In the older calendar, the Sunday after Easter is called "Dominica in Albis"—the "Sunday in White"—to commemorate the laying aside of the white garments.

The other event is the dedication of the churches of Tyre and Jerusalem by the Emperor Constantine. This was the first "octave" properly-speaking that we know of, and was done in emulation of the Jewish custom of an eight-day feast in dedicating the Temple.

Octaves underwent many other additions, deletions, and developments over the course of history. The older calendar of the Church also retains the octave of Pentecost.

So, rejoice! As St. Paul would say: "Again, I say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

There is much cause for rejoicing during this week. Not only are we in the octave for Easter but we are anticipating the great feast of Divine Mercy this Sunday (April 7th) on Divine Mercy Sunday! Prepare your family for this beautiful feast with this beautiful [Divine Mercy Prayer Rosary Hanger!](#) Featuring the beautiful Divine Mercy image and the words of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, this rosary rack will inspire your family to keep Christ and His infinite mercy close throughout the year.

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April 7, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 4:32-35 | 1 Jn 5:1-6 | Jn 20:19-31

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

We tend to beat up St. Thomas for his doubt, when what is really most amazing in the scene from today's Gospel is his understanding, and the first public pronouncement of, Jesus Christ's divinity. He *gets* it. And he proclaims it without hesitation: "My Lord and my God." I think about what Thomas' face might have looked like at that moment, and I imagine a countenance of conviction alongside humility - joyful tears in the eyes that reflect awe and wonder. The truth behind his realization and understanding is that God is faithful, God is loving, God is merciful. Of course, *knowing* that with our heart and mind needs to be translated into *doing* with our every action. The early Christian communities seemed to have lived this well, happily sharing their possessions and selling what they didn't need. Not because they had been forced to, but because the "commandments [were] not burdensome" for those who loved God. God loved us first, and by his grace, and his mercy, we are commanded and empowered to love one another.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

God is merciful - Divine Mercy. And that is what we celebrate today, in addition to the second Sunday of Easter. The first Divine Mercy Sunday observance occurred in the year 2000, when St. John Paul II canonized Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska. The Polish sister received private revelations from the Lord about his great mercy in the 1930s, and she outlined these in a diary she kept at the instruction of her confessors. A passage from her diary says: "The graces of my mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is - trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive." (1578) The apostles in today's passage told Thomas that they had *seen the Lord* - the resurrected Lord. They trusted that Jesus' messages to them were true and that they indeed need not fear. The message of Divine Mercy should likewise comfort us and also provide a model for our actions. In the same way the apostles helped Thomas to trust and come to deep knowledge and understanding, let us strive to be "of one heart and mind" with our fellow disciples and love them as we have been loved by God.

PRAY The words of St. Faustina's diary have been used to create the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. This prayer is said using a rosary, but with some differences in the prayers. Once you know the words, the chaplet is a simple prayer to recite, and it is traditionally said at 3 p.m. in remembrance of Jesus' merciful act of dying on the cross for us. If you have never recited the chaplet, try praying it this week.



Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday, April 7
Acts 4:32-35
Ps 118:2-4,13-15,22-24
1 Jn 5:1-6
Jn 20:19-31

Monday, April 8
Annunciation of the Lord
Is 7:10-14; 8:10
Ps 40:7-11
Heb 10:4-10
Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, April 9
Acts 4:32-37
Ps 93:1-2,5
Jn 3:7-15

Wednesday, April 10
Acts 5:17-26
Ps 34:2-9
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday, April 11
St. Stanislaus
Acts 5:27-33
Ps 34:2,9,17-20
Jn 3:31-36

Friday, April 12
Acts 5:34-42
Ps 27:1,4,13-14
Jn 6:1-15

Saturday, April 13
Acts 6:1-7
Ps 33:1-2,4-5,18-19
Jn 6:16-21

Divine Mercy Sunday is one of the Church's most inspiring and comforting feast days. In today's Gospel, Christ's compassion and love shine when he appeared to his disciples in the locked Upper Room on that first Easter evening after he rose from the dead.

Frightened and confused, his friends were shaken following the traumatic events they had just experienced, and they huddled in fear and confusion. They had received a report that Jesus had risen and was alive! What would Jesus say to them now? Would he be angry with their denials, betrayal, and fear?

When our Lord appeared to them, he immediately put them at ease with his words of grace, "Peace be with you." He gifted them with the Holy Spirit and gave them the power and mission to forgive sins.

Thomas, who missed the first appearance of Jesus, was filled with questions and doubts. Jesus showed much patience and compassion, just as he did with the other disciples, and

he continues to do for us. Jesus greeted him with peace and offered Thomas another chance, the experience of touching his wounds to help him believe, which won his heart for Christ.

Although Jesus affirms faith without sight, sometimes even the most passionate and faith-filled souls experience fear, doubts, failures, confusion, and setbacks. God's unlimited mercy and

love are unstoppable; he will continue pursuing souls and giving them more opportunities to trust in him and experiences to win their hearts. At the heart of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a powerful prayer was offered by Jesus to St. Faustina, which has seen many miracles unfold and brought people to conversion:



Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement

for our sins and those of the whole world. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Jesus, I trust in You.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Do you only feel at peace when things are going the way you want them to? How do you feel God's peace in difficult times?
- † Is there someone who needs mercy and forgiveness from you?
- † How does society's tendency towards lack of faith affect *your* faith and inner peace?
- † How do the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist give you the peace of Christ?
- † How can you offer the peace of Christ to others?