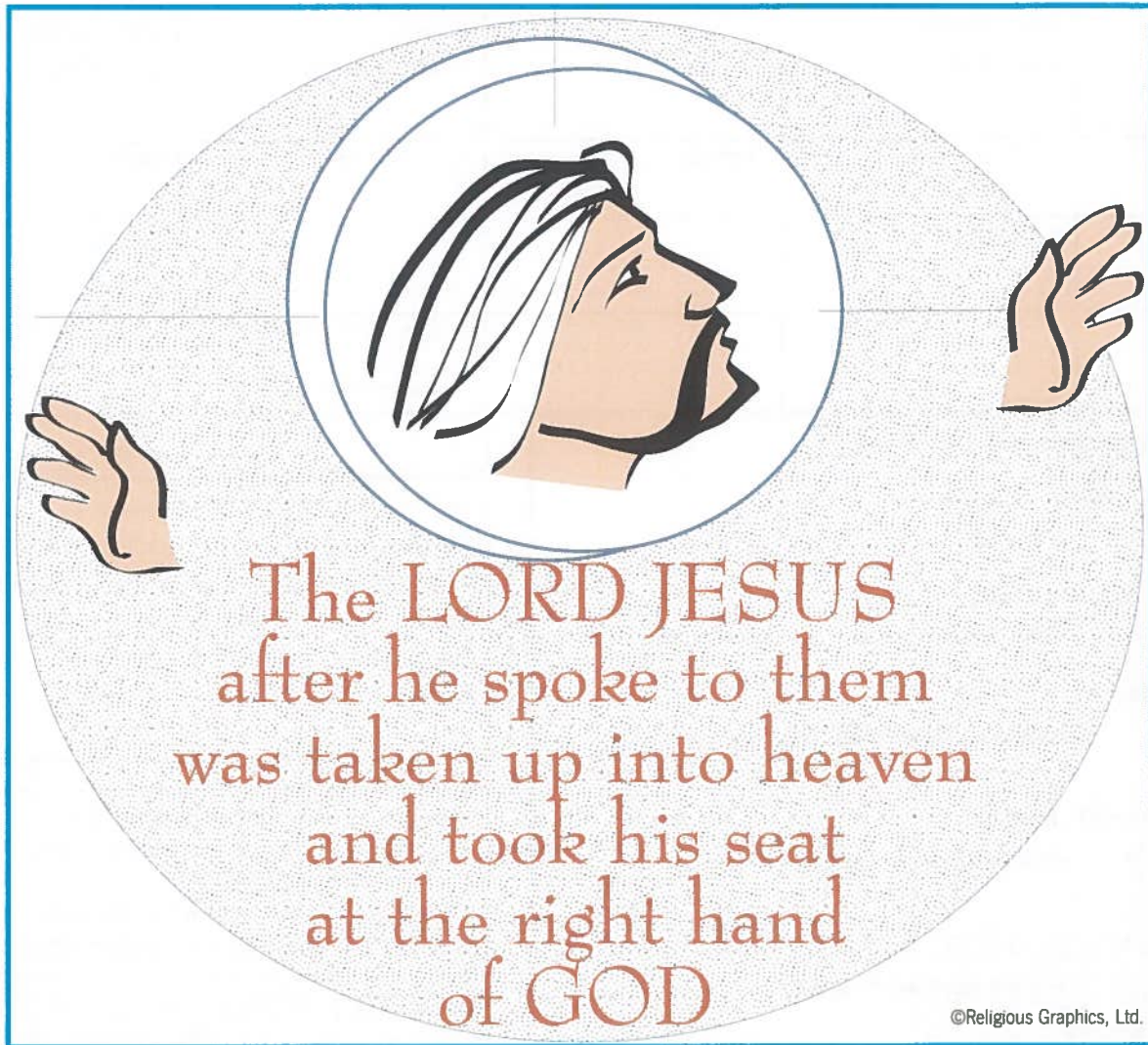


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 11-12, 2024



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: " For although He ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in Him by grace."

—Saint Augustine

Pentecost Sunday

May 18-19,2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 18 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, May 19 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, May 19 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, May 19 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Allam	Fr. Allam	Fr. Allam Deacon Ron	Fr. Allam
Ushers	Gery Wright Dave Emling Dan Hoffman Bob Schultz	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	Vic Carlile Jeff Steinke Jerry Ogrentz Dennis O'Connor	Joe Smolkovich Wayne Bisailon Brent Fulton Kim Smicker
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Terri Weakley	Andy Hansen	Steve Jacob
Servers	Xander Buza			Carolie Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Karen Miller	Wayne Bisailon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, May 13 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Tuesday, May 14 (SH)

8:00 an +Lorraine Brennan (Loriann Bruer)

Wednesday, May 15 (SJ)

8:00 am +Virginia Fritz (Rita Thiesen)

Friday, May 17 (SMM)

8:00 am +Brian Buckley (Jackie Eberle)

Saturday, May 18 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, May 19

7:30 am (SH) + Ed Riley (Jackie Cross)

9:00am (SJ) +Pat Perreault (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

+Frances Dale Weber (Sharon Stanley)

10:30am (SMM) +Mary Kelch (Marlene Papineau)

+Madeline Bouchard (Roger/Margaret Jensen)

Question of the week:

Instead of "standing around," what will I do this week to put the Good News into action in my family or community?

A Look Ahead

May 11/12 & May 17/18—Fr. Allam

Tuesday, May 14—SH CCW meeting 6:30 pm

May 17/18—Second Collection for Fr. Allam's Ministry

Sunday, May 19—Donut Sunday at St. James

Monday, May 20—K of C meeting 7 pm at St. James

Sunday, May 26—Sacred Heart Breakfast 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

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 Jdstreefarms@aol.com

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

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Collections Week of May 4-5, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,226

St. Jame—\$2,385

Sacred Heart—\$1,113

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection A Gift Called Mother

I have felt cool hands on my feverish brow —
a gift I call tenderness.

I have seen tears shed for both my happiness and pain —
a gift I call caring.

I have felt a helpful force in times of need —
a gift I call prayer.

I have been pardoned for my wrongs —
a gift I call forgiveness.

I have been cherished despite my flaws —
a gift I call understanding.

I have been taught about God —
a gift I call Love.

I have been given these blessings by my greatest treasure —
a gift I call MOTHER.

Father Allam will be returning to the Tri-Parish community to say masses the weekends of May 11-12 and May 18-19. Father will be sharing his mission work in India with us the first weekend. There will be a second collection for Father Allam's Safe Harbor Mission the weekend of May 18-19. Please support his mission work if you are able. Checks should be made to Safe Harbor.



Due to our regular Knights meeting falling on Memorial Day, the May Knights meeting will be held on May 20 at 7:00 PM at St. James



Current Status for 2024 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Sacred Heart	\$6,000	\$7,050	\$3,955
St. MM	\$9,400	\$7,705	\$7,080
St. James	\$8,800	\$5,115	\$4,857

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ Spring Institute is Wednesday, June 5th at St. James. If you'd like to attend please sign up by 5/12/24. The cost is \$20 with the participant paying \$10 and the CCW covering the other half. Any questions-please see the flyer on the board.

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of May 12th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for all mothers and the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of mothers who have gone before us
- ◆ The list of names of mothers with flowers that have been dedicated to them may be found on the Tri Parish Website or at the entrance to the church.
- ◆ Our CCW meeting will be Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 pm. Hostesses will be Terri Weakley and Kate Cloonen.
- ◆ Sunday, May 26 following Mass, S. H. CCW is having a free breakfast, open to everyone. The menu will include biscuits & gravy, eggs, ham, cheesy potatoes, donuts, fruit and more. There will be door prizes. It will be a great time for fellowship

St. James—

- ◆ **Starting July7 , 2024, grave sites at St. James Cemetery will be \$800.**
- ◆ There will be an Open House for Rita Thiesen's 75th birthday in the Church Hall on Sunday, June 9th from 1-4pm. Please join us.
- ◆ All are invited to Donut Sunday on Sunday, May 19th after church in the St. James Hall. If you'd like to bring a pastry to share please sign up on the bulletin board.
- ◆ Spring Institute is Wednesday, June 5th at St. James. If you'd like to attend please sign up by 5/19/24. The cost is \$20 with the participant paying \$10 and the CCW covering the other half. Any questions-please see the flyer on the board.

All Parishes—

- ◆ Please prayerfully consider serving in one of our ministry opportunities. There will be a form in the next week or so to sign up. We are looking for ushers, lectors, greeters, rosary leaders, and altar servers .
- ◆ **The phone number for the rectory will no longer be in service. All calls should be made to the parish office number 815-426-2550.**



Obscure saint of the week: Saints Achilleus and Nereus of Terracina (May 12) Achilleus was a soldier in the imperial Roman army, and a member of the Praetorian Guard. He converted to Christianity and was baptized by Saint Peter the Apostle. He was exiled for his faith to the land of Pontia where he suffered with Saint Flavia Domitilla and was martyred with his brother Saint Nereus.



St. Nereus

Nereus was also a soldier in the imperial Roman army and a member of the Praetorian Guard. Like his brother, he converted to Christianity and was baptized by Saint Peter the Apostle. Exiled for his faith to the island of Pontia, he suffered with Saint Flavia Domitilla and was martyred with his brother Saint Achilleus.



St. Achilleus



Obscure saint of the week: St. Pancras of Rome (May 12) was a fourteen-year-old orphan, brought to Rome by his uncle, Saint Dionysius. He converted to Christianity and was martyred with Saint Nereus, Saint Achilleus, and Saint Domitilla for publicly proclaiming his faith.

Pope Saint Vitalian sent his relics from the cemetery of Calepodius in Rome to the British Isles as part of the evangelization of England so they would have relics of the Church at large and to install in altars in new churches. Saint Augustine of Canterbury dedicated the first church in England to Saint Pancras and subsequent churches throughout England are similarly named for him.

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Which saints were also wives and mothers?

In every century, God has raised up valiant women who achieved holiness through the vocation of marriage.

St. Frances of Rome (15th c.). St. Frances was a devoted wife and mother in a marriage that lasted forty years. She and her husband Lorenzo welcomed six children into the world but mourned the childhood deaths of five of them. Frances perfectly harmonized a wife's prayer life with her domestic duties. She said, "A married woman must leave all her devotions when the household demands it," having still managed to cultivate a profound interior life.



St. Jane Frances de Chantal (17th c.). St. Jane was an embodiment of the "valiant woman" of the Book of Proverbs. She loved her husband dearly and ran his household competently during his frequent absences at the royal court. Jane endured the deaths of three of her six children, and the death of her husband after nine years of marriage. She went on to found the Order of the Visitation with St. Francis de Sales.

St. Gianna Molla (20th c.). St. Gianna was an Italian wife, mother, and medical doctor. During her fourth pregnancy, a tumor was discovered on her uterus that forced her to choose whether to have an immediate hysterectomy or to continue with the pregnancy. The first option would have ensured her personal welfare but caused the death of her child; the second gave the child the best chance but was very risky for the mother. Gianna's choice, resulting in life for her child and death for herself in 1962, has made her a heroine to mothers everywhere.

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CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO THE FIRST COMMUNICANTS AT ST. JAMES:

THEODORE HODGIN
ETHAN REGNIER
ADELYNN WISE

CHARLOTTE O'CONNOR
NORA SCANLON
TYLER WULFF

FRITZ OSENGA
ANDON SUMMERS



When our mothers are tired, Lord, give them strength. When they feel alone, give them comfort. When they feel overwhelmed with the challenges of parenting, help them to know peace. In their darkest moments, be their Light. At times in our lives, our mothers are everything to us, meeting our every need. We ask You to provide them today with whatever gift they need. In gratitude, we pray. Amen

Questions Catholics Ask What is meant by "just war"?

Just war theory offers eight criteria for engagement.

Begin with the Christian premise that obliges us toward peace and against war. Just war theory is the body of moral reasoning developed to discern when the primary bias against war may shift toward an obligation to protect and defend. History proves there are times when violence can't be avoided and must be engaged. Just war theory insists that war can never serve a political or economic purpose. Military action must serve a fundamentally moral purpose. Both societies and individuals are accountable for the decision to fight and must soberly consider why they do.

The first principle of just war tradition, then, defines war as a moral issue. The second holds that even a just war can't be engaged without limits or restraints. Theologian Paul Wadell notes that even a legitimate war is an occasion to be mourned, not celebrated. The duty not to harm or injure another is "intrinsically binding" for Christians. Acts of violence even during wartime are to be avoided when possible and limited when necessary, to protect the innocent and to restore justice.

In the early church, pacifism preceded just war tradition. Until Constantine's reign in the fourth century, soldiers who became Christians laid down their arms. Pacifism was necessary for two reasons: because military service involved idolatry toward the emperor, and because killing was a direct violation of the command of Jesus to love your enemy. The alliance of church with state under Constantine ensured that church policy leaned toward supporting the interests of the empire. Christianity's original pacifism wavered. Fourth-century theologians Ambrose and Augustine developed arguments that could, under limited conditions, make war not only permissible but obligatory in the service of a victimized neighbor. Augustine particularly emphasized that a sinful world often presents no perfect solutions to unjust situations.

Just war theory offers eight criteria for engagement. Seven determine whether a conflict is justified, including: just cause, competent authority, last resort, comparative justice, proportionality, right intention, and probability of success. The eighth consideration is reserved for an inevitable engagement and involves right conduct in wartime. In his 2020 encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, Pope Francis urged us to consider that "it is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a 'just war.' Never again war!" Clearly, it's never enough simply to declare a cause righteous in one's own mind and issue a call to arms.

References Isaiah 9:5-6; 11:1-9; 57:19; Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; Matthew 5:9, 21-26, 38-48; Luke 6:27-36



ST JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

DAMIEN

A ONE-MAN PLAY BY ALDYTH MORRIS - AN INSPIRATIONAL TRUE STORY

"A brilliant portrayal of a modern-day saint."

"A must see for anyone who believes in real heroes."

"Wayne Messmer brings Father Damien to life telling an unforgettable true story of love for one's fellow man."

"Damien is a hero for men and women for all ages. His character is a glowing example of what faith and courage looks like."



"The world needs more men of real conviction like Father Damien"

"This performance is highly recommended to anyone who believes in the power of the truth of one voice."

"A theatrical event that I shall never forget..."

"Wayne Messmer delivers a truly amazing portrayal of a truly remarkable man."

WAYNE MESSMER

AS FATHER (Saint) DAMIEN, "THE LEPER PRIEST OF MOLOKAI"
Produced by: WPM Productions, Inc.

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024 ~ 7:00pm

ST JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC CHURCH
907 S 9TH Ave., Kankakee, IL 60901

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

\$15.00 per person

www.jp2kankakee.org/damien

"I feel as though I actually met Father Damien... and I will always remember him"

Help Socially Isolated Seniors

Catholic Charities' Senior Companion Program (SCP) is looking for people 55 years and older who are interested in visiting with another homebound senior living in Kankakee or Iroquois 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 living 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. As of April 30, 2024, 46 seniors were waiting for a companion in Kankakee County and six in Iroquois County. Are you ready to forge new relationships and make a significant difference in the lives of others?

In Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, call Bry Williams at 815-933-7791 ext. 9928 or mail americorpsseniors@cc-doj.org. For more information about the programs and services provided by Catholic Charities, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.



May 12, 2024

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 | Mk 16:15-20

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

It's easy for me to get impatient with the Lord - to wonder why he makes me wait for an answer to a prayer or, worse, why his answer may be no. However, when I look back at the lessons of the Bible, it becomes clear that God works on his timetable, not mine. That same message comes through in today's first reading. The apostles ask Jesus whether he will be restoring the kingdom to Israel, and he is clear in his answer: "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority." And then, after saying this, he ascends to the Father. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus has left his disciples again. But instead of leaving them to weep and mourn - as happened after his death - this time, our Lord left them with a mission. They were to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." They did, faithfully, and they traveled far and wide. Armed with the gift of the Holy Spirit which they received at Pentecost, they baptized countless people as they shared the Good News about Jesus and his gift of salvation.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

After Jesus gives the disciples the command to go out and preach the Gospel, he says that "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." He offers salvation for those who believe in him. And he says that the disciples, and us, will be his witnesses in the world. Sacred tradition tells us that Andrew and Philip preached in Asia Minor while Bartholomew and Thomas spent time in India. Others are said to have gone to Palestine, Persia, and Ethiopia. All died a martyr's death - except John who had been entrusted with the care of our Blessed Mother. We are his witnesses today, and we are also commissioned to go into the world and proclaim the Gospel. Today, as we celebrate his ascension into heaven, let us allow ourselves a moment to gaze upward and behold Jesus' power and glory. Let the Ascension renew our commitment to do the work he has asked us to do, and remind us of his presence here with us in all that we do.

PRAY We know the mission Jesus has given us and we know we have the Holy Spirit to help us carry it out. For prayer this week, meditate on Paul's words to the Ephesians and ask the Lord for "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of [our] hearts be enlightened, that [we] may know what is the hope that belongs to his call."

The Ascension of the Lord

May 12, 2024: Acts 1:1-11 | Ps 47:2-3,6-9 | Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 | Mk 16:15-20

Pray: Holy Spirit, open my heart and enflame me with your love so I can share Jesus' Good News with everyone through my words and deeds. Amen.

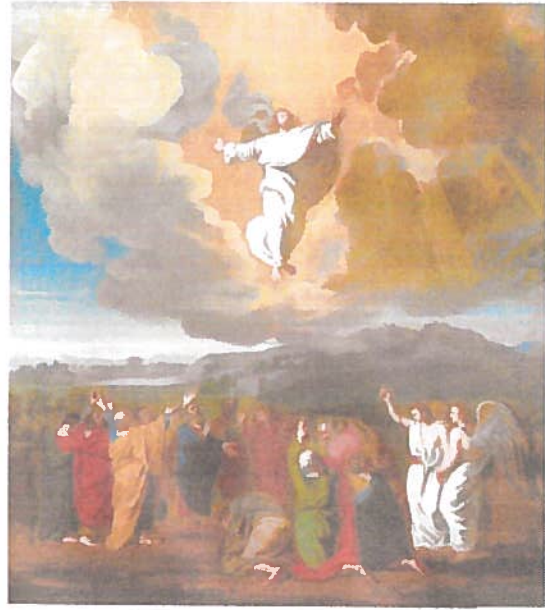
Called by Christ to Spread Love, Hope, Truth, and Peace.

At the Ascension, Jesus commissioned His disciples to proclaim the Gospel. Our baptismal calling invites us, too, to share the Gospel with everyone. The Gospel's Good News is this: God has a plan for each of us. Sin interferes with God's plan and separates us from Him. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, suffered, died, and rose so we could be forgiven and united to God forever.

Jesus and his teachings of love, mercy, forgiveness, and service to others offer a positive and fruitful way of living in this dark and selfish world and a sure pathway to our home in heaven.

St. Paul calls on all Christians to follow Jesus' example and love one another with humility, gentleness, and patience. Jesus's message of love, truth, forgiveness, peace, hope, and justice is for everyone.

Sacred Scripture repeatedly reveals God's preferential love for the poor, the vulnerable, the oppressed, and the lost. Christ calls His followers to unite with Him through the gifts and guidance of the Holy Spirit to reach the hearts of those who live in poverty. This poverty does not only exist in financial need. Jesus wants us to reach out to those starving for love, thirsting for friendship with God, and struggling for justice and peace.



Jesus is the answer. Our call as Christians is to know and love Christ so much that we reflect Him in our lives, and others will see Him in us. When we love God with our whole hearts, minds, and souls, we will see Christ in others, too, and we will joyfully share our faith and trust in the Lord as we strive in humility to serve those in need of God's mercy and grace.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Who is God calling you to share the Gospel with?
- † How might you get closer to Christ so that your love for Him will continue growing and your passion for sharing the Gospel will increase?
- † In what new ways are we being called to spread the Gospel of Christ? What new needs is God asking us to address?
- † Who are the poor and poor in spirit whom God wants us to help?