

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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 15-16,



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

Quotable: " He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

—Saint Basil the Great

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 22-23, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, June 22 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, June 23 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, June 23 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, June 23 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen Gery Wright	David Kirkpatrick Daryl Ferris	Dan Forsythe Dennis O'Connor Dallas Ferris Bob Buente	Darren Lovell Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Larry Wolles
Lector	Dave Emling	Rhonda Berns	Mary Peerbolte	Dana Masching
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Donna Bernicky R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Stacey Powers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, June 17

8:00 am +Carole Bassott (Sheila Koerner)

Tuesday, June 18 (SH)

8:00 am +Emma "Mikey" King (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)

Wednesday, June 19 (SJ)

8:00 am +George Grosso (Theresa Grosso)

Friday, June 21 (SMM)

8:00 am +Frances Gash (Sheila Koerner)

Saturday, June 22 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, June 23

7:30 am (SH) + Connie Dionne (Ron/Cindy Gagnon)

+Vicki Webber (Karen Miller)

9:00am (SJ) +Mark Beniot (The Family)

+Howard Nelson (Steve/Dena Coy)

10:30am (SMM) +Justin Thorndyke (Sheila Koerner)

+Bruce Colthurst (Sheila Koerner)

A Look Ahead

June 15/16—Second Collection for Infirm & Retired Priests

Saturday, June 22—75th Anniversary Regional Mass at Bishop McNamara 4:00 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

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 -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 June, 8-9, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,453

St. James—\$1,718

Sacred Heart—\$1,208

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection A Faithful Friend

Friends are an important part of our lives. Some are casual acquaintances; others close friends; still others more intimate, dear ones. How we appreciate those whom we characterize as “faithful friends”, friends who are steadfastly loyal, friends on whom we can depend at all times and for every need.

Yet, most of us have experienced the hurt that comes from friends who are unfaithful. Even members of our family may prove unfaithful.

How reassuring to know there is one who is faithful — faithful always and faithful in everything. “Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God” (Deuteronomy 7:9). Because of his very nature, he could not be God and be unfaithful. We read in 2 Timothy 2:13:

If we are faithless, he will remain faithful for he cannot disown himself.

He never changes. He never fails. He never goes back on one of his promises. God, being who God is, cannot cease to be what he is. God cannot act out of character. Because he is faithful, he will be faithful in his actions.

At times we may forget his faithfulness to us. When trials and testings come, it may seem as if God has surely forgotten us. When friends fail us and our lives are falling apart, we may feel he has forsaken us. There seems to be so few people we can trust. Many people do not keep their word. Our faith in human nature becomes shaken, and we wonder if anyone is honest.

Yet, there is One, the faithful God, on whom we can depend. God will never let us down. God has promised.

Gospel Shorts— “Seeds of Greatness”

It is popular for many Christians to wear a necklace which holds a tiny mustard seed enclosed in a glass bubble. It is worn to remind us of the truth of Jesus’ teaching about the power which is contained in a faith the size of that mustard seed. This seed is also the basis of a comparison with the kingdom of God from the Gospel of Mark. That which is seemingly unimportant and insignificant has the potential for great things if used in cooperation with God’s power and the laws of his Kingdom.

Do the prayers of one person have the power to change the direction of an entire congregation? How about a single attitude demonstrated consistently in a marriage or with your children? Have you ever given the last dollar you had in the offering plate and witnessed the miracle of multiplication from your simple gift? The wisdom of God is as foolishness to men. But we will seek to understand the best we can this key to releasing God’s power into our everyday lives.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

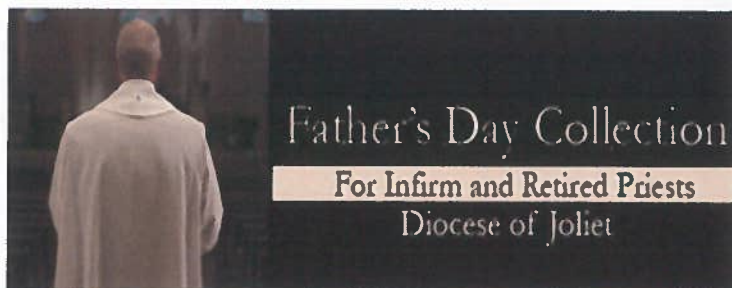
St. James—

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of June 16th, The Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for all fathers and the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of all fathers who have gone before us

All Parishes—

- ◆ **Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.**
- ◆ **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.**



Support Our Spiritual Fathers This Father's Day

A Stewardship Moment 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of June 15-16, 2024

In today’s Gospel, Jesus compares the beginning of God’s kingdom to a mustard seed. This tiny seed, which fits in the palm of a hand, can grow to fifteen feet with sprawling branches! Like the mustard seed, the Christian community had a tiny, seemingly insignificant beginning. The church, which began with about 120 followers, added three thousand people on Pentecost Day following the descent of the Holy Spirit. Since then, the number of Christ’s disciples has grown incalculably and continues to grow throughout the world. Good stewards go about God’s business of “planting seeds” among all those whom they encounter. What will we do this week to add to God’s kingdom?



Please pray for the repose of the soul of
+Kurt White

brother of Rick (Kathy) White

May Kurt and all the faithful departed
rest in eternal peace.

Our sincere sympathy to all Kurt’s family and to her friends.



Obscure saint of the week: St Benno of Meissen (June 16) was born to the Saxon nobility. He was the son of Blessed Bezela of Goda. As an adult he was heavily involved in the power politics of his day. He was educated in the abbey of Saint Michael, Hildesheim, Germany. Benno was ordained a priest and became the canon at the imperial chapel at Gozlar, Hanover. Later he was appointed the chaplain to Emperor Henry III. Benno rose to become the bishop of Meissen in 1066. He participated in the synod of Forcheim, Germany in 1078.



He spent a year in prison for backing the nobility and Pope Saint Gregory VII against Emperor Henry IV over lay investiture and the control of the Church by the State. At one point he was summoned to Rome, Italy; he ordered the canons to lock the cathedral while he was gone in case Emperor Henry tried to occupy it. Henry did and threw the keys of the cathedral into the river as a symbol to show no one could lock the church against him. When Benno returned, he went to the river and found the key; legend says it was protected by a fish.

Following the death of Pope Gregory VII, Benno pledged his allegiance to the anti-pope Guibert, but in 1097 he returned to support of the lawful Pope Urban II.

Even with all the political involvement and turmoil, Benno never lost sight of his calling as a diocesan bishop. He visited parishes, preached and conducted Mass, enforced discipline among his clergy, and fought simony any place he found it. He was an accomplished musician, supported music and chant in the churches and monasteries and wrote on the Gospels. In his later years he served as a missionary to the Wends.

Benno continued to be an involved and controversial figure in politics even after his death. His biographer, Jerome Emser, worked a lot of Church versus State material into the book. Martin Luther wrote a furious diatribe against Benno's canonization.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Cyriacus of Iconium (June 16) was the son of Saint Julitta. When Cyriacus was a small child, his mother was sentenced to death at Tarsus during the persecutions of Diocletian. Cyriacus made a childish attack on Alexander, the sentencing magistrate, and announced that he was a Christian like his mother. The angry magistrate threw the child to the ground, smashing his skull and killing him instantly.

Blessed Charlemagne dreamed he was saved from death by a wild boar during a hunt by the appearance of a child who promised to save him if Charlemagne would clothe him. The bishop of Nevers explained that the child was Cyriacus, and that he wanted the emperor to repair the roof of Saint Cyr's cathedral. This led to the Cyriacus' representation as a naked child riding a wild boar.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!

"How can we picture God's kingdom? What kind of story can we use? It's like a pine nut. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go, yet once it is planted it grows into a huge pine tree with thick branches. Eagles nest in it."

With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity. He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots (from Mark 4).

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Why do we call priests "Father"?

Have you ever wondered why we also refer to Catholic priests as "Father"?

Catholics are unique because our dads aren't the only men we call father. We also address each of our priests in the same way.

The Church has used this title for clergy since its earliest days. In the beginning, the title "Father" was reserved for the pope, but it eventually widened in use until all bishops and priests were also addressed in the same way.

While our priests are not our biological fathers, they *are* our **spiritual fathers**. Just as a father leads his family and protects them from harm, so do our priests guide and defend us, the people God has entrusted to their care. They also provide us with the spiritual nourishment we need to grow in holiness and ultimately reach Heaven: in particular, the nourishment of the Eucharist and the healing power of Confession.

A virtuous father takes responsibility for himself, as well as for the welfare of his wife and children. Likewise, a good priest cares for his spiritual family and holds himself accountable for their spiritual wellbeing. While we see them most frequently saying Mass, they also hear confessions, provide spiritual direction, visit and anoint the sick, help couples prepare for marriage, baptize, and much more.

During their daily prayer and Liturgy of the Hours, they are praying and interceding for us and our intentions, placing our needs and petitions at the feet of the Father, God.

Priests are called to sacrifice so much in order to serve us. A man whom God calls to the Roman Catholic priesthood gives up having his own earthly marriage and physical family in order to be fully and wholehearted available to whomever God places on his path. Priests dedicate every day of their lives to serving their flocks sacramentally and practically and sacrifice biological fatherhood in order to live out God's gift of spiritual fatherhood.



We call priests "father" because of their spiritual leadership in that great family which makes up the Body of Christ. Today, we certainly encourage you to honor your dad's love and sacrifice over the years—however, don't forget about your priest, who also gave his life to serve you and help lead your soul to heaven!

Are you prepared to celebrate all the fathers in your life this Father's Day? If you're looking for the perfect Catholic gift, look no further than this [Real Men Grill & Pray Apron!](#) This apron makes a great gift for the grill master in your life!

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The kingdom of God... is like a mustard seed...
MARK 4:30-31



Questions Catholics Ask

“What difference does it make that the current Pope is a Jesuit?”

Of 266 popes so far, about 34 have belonged to religious orders. The exact count varies, but the most frequent pope-supplying order are the Benedictines (17), followed by Augustinians (six), and Dominicans and Franciscans (four each). The Cistercians supplied two. Pope Francis is the first Jesuit, and the first non-European pope in nearly 1,300 years. That latter fact is at least as influential on the direction of his papacy as his Jesuit-ness.

But certainly being a Jesuit affects how Francis thinks and prioritizes for the Church. According to Jesuit writer Frank Houdek, Jesuit spirituality—as presented in the *Constitutions* of their Society and particularly in the *Spiritual Exercises* of their founder Saint Ignatius—is based on six essential elements. The first is that their identity is in Christ—which you can probably guess from their official name, the Society of Jesus. This Christocentrism isn't merely dogmatic but involves fostering a personal bond with the living Christ. The second component of Jesuit life is recognizing oneself as a collaborator with the activity of God. Just as Jesuits take seriously the living Christ, they also passionately hold that God is engaged with the world and it's our responsibility to be coworkers and not obstacles to divine movement.

The third Jesuit conviction is a keen emphasis on spiritual discernment rather than pragmatic decision-making. Divine patterns and rhythms are discernible in our personal and communal life and we can develop a sense of where God is leading if we are attentive. Magnanimity of spirit is next, and it's a word we non-Jesuits may not use often. The magnanimous heart is generous, courageous, and heroic in its efforts. The good Jesuit envisions himself as a superhero for God's intentions, and maybe that's why we read so many hagiographies of Jesuit martyrs. Perhaps Pope Francis felt that tug of heroism when he accepted his election to the papacy. The fifth element of Jesuit life is fraternity, but that sounds like what any religious community is about, doesn't it? Yes, but Jesuits imagine themselves as "friends in the Lord" and friends OF the Lord: that is, in the company of Jesus together. Perhaps the best-known Jesuit theme is the last: "finding God in all things." Prayer and service, affect and intellect, all are integrated into the Jesuit mission. Listen to the Pope's teachings, and see how many of these ideas you hear echoed in his words.

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:1-19; Psalms 19; 61; 71; 90; 121; 130; 139; Song of Songs 8:6-7; Isaiah 45:4; Jeremiah 29:11-14; Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 4:14-21; 18:18-30; 24:13-35; John 15:11-17; 21:1-18; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Galatians 2:19-20; Ephesians 2:10; 5:1-2



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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, June 26, 2024

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

Proceeds benefit local charities and nursing homes, Clergy Appreciation lunch and supporting seminarians.



Designed by **Vecteezy**



June 16, 2024

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 17:22-24 | 2 Cor 5:6-10 | Mk 4:26-34

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

If we walk through the woods on a beautiful spring day, we'll see the signs of life bursting forward. Green shoots coming up from the ground, leaf buds poking out from the branches of a tree - even the birds and animals are busily scampering. Life, growth, and new beginnings are all around. Today's readings have a common theme of nature as one of the ways we can experience God's design. Like the crowds Jesus taught, we may not know the exact cause of what makes a plant grow from a tiny seed to a towering tree, but that's OK - we don't have to know. As St. Paul writes, "we walk by faith, not by sight." We trust the Lord to lead and guide us. And, like the harvester in the parable, we can observe, tend, and act when the time is right to bring in the harvest, for, as Paul continues in his letter: "We aspire to please [God]."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

What does it look like to play an active role in bringing in the harvest? Faith is a lifelong journey, and everyone is in a different place. The delicate shoot needs different care than the full-grown tree. In prayer, God can speak to us to help us discern the best way to help the people he has put in our lives. Perhaps we offer encouragement, or a shoulder to lean on. Maybe someone needs a friend to converse with. No matter where or who we are, each one of us can be like the harvester that Jesus references, observing and acting as appropriate, helping support the seed of faith God plants in each person. And as we heard in the Gospel today, the smallest seed can become the largest of plants; therefore, our work is plentiful as laborers working to help build God's kingdom here on earth.

PRAY Pray for the wisdom to recognize where you are in your journey, what you need to keep growing, and how you can offer to help others.

Lord God, fill me with your gifts and put your words in my mouth, that through them, others may be filled with the power and warmth of your love. Amen.

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

June 16, 2024: Ez 17:22-24 | Ps 92:2-3,13-16 |
2 Cor 5:6-10 | Mk 4:26-34

Pray: Good and gracious God, help me to sow seeds of love, hope, and trust in You and to be patient as You help them grow, bear fruit, and multiply in your Kingdom. Amen.

We plant, but God's grace makes seeds grow.

Jesus often used simple yet profound parables and stories in His teachings about the Kingdom of God. He likened the growth of tiny seeds to the patience and trust required in our spiritual journey. This message resonates with us today, reminding us that even the smallest acts of faith can lead to incredible spiritual growth...in ourselves and others.

In our daily lives, we can take comfort in the fact that the Holy Spirit, our divine Gardener, works wonders with the seeds of faith we sow. When we do our part and leave the rest to God, the Holy Spirit grows miracles around us. We must trust the supernatural work of God to take our efforts and turn them into good. Our part involves planting seeds of faith through our steady prayers, trusting in God's Holy Will through our small and large actions of obedience, and generously sharing the Gospel of Christ with others through our words and loving deeds. This is what Jesus meant by building the Kingdom of God. Just as one cannot stand in front of a flower garden and notice it growing moment-by-moment from the seeds we plant, we know that if we keep watering and weeding, God will provide everything else and, in good time (God's perfect timing), the garden of our lives will blossom and be beautiful.

Through our Baptism, we are not just followers but active participants in building up the Kingdom of God.



This involves sharing the Gospel and our faith in Jesus daily. The seeds we plant are often little things like

mentioning prayer and thankfulness to God when speaking with family and friends. It might be the little acts of kindness we show others when they need help or a lift. Our joy and hope in Christ are seen in our steadfast commitment to attending Mass and living a sacramental life even when life becomes busy and challenging. These seemingly small actions are the seeds that, with the grace of God and guidance of the Holy Spirit, can grow into a flourishing Kingdom of God in our lives and communities.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How are you planting seeds of faith in your family, community of friends and acquaintances, and the larger world? How are you tending to the seeds of faith you are planting in others?
- † Who planted and tended to the seeds of faith in you, and was patience needed for you to grow?
- † As weeds can crowd out a garden and stunt growth, what must we work to weed out of our lives and society to help the Kingdom of God grow in holiness?
- † How does trusting in the potential of God's grace to grow the seeds of faith we plant help us in ministry?