

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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 26-27, 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

Quotable: "Be slow to speak, and only after having first listened quietly, so that you may understand the meaning, leanings, and wishes of those who do speak."

—Saint Ignatius

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time				November 2-3, 2024
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Nov. 2 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Nov. 3 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Nov. 3 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Nov. 3 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron, Deacon Rom	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Dan Hoffman Gery Wright Bob Schultz	Daryl Ferris Kyle Ferris	Dan Forsythe Dennis O'Connor Bob Buente Arlen Hansen	Joe Smolkovich Sean Riordan Wayne Bisailon Erik Wheeler
Lector	Dave Emling	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Kelly Buente	Corinn Wheeler
Eucharistic Minister				Karen Rushman
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Peerbotes	Erik & Corinn Wheeler

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Oct. 28 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Tuesday, Oct. 29 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, Oct. 30 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Thursday, Oct. 31 All Saints Day Vigil (SH)

7:00 pm +Adam Andrzejewski (Jackie Cross Family)

Friday, Nov. 1

8:00 am SMM +Frank Matzinger (Uts Dubravec)

7:00 pm SJ +Dorla Cooper (Dennis/Renee Behrends Family)

Saturday, Nov. 2 (SMM) All Souls Day

5:00 pm For All Deceased Souls of the past year

Sunday, Nov. 3

7:30 am (SH) +George Grosso (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

+Rhonda Harris (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

9:00am (SJ) +Virginia Fritz (Jerry/Jolynn Ogrentz)

A Look Ahead

Oct. 26-27—Second Collection Hurricane Relief

Wed., Oct. 30—Adult Ed SMM 7pm

Thurs., Oct. 31—All Saints Day Vigil Mass 7 pm at SH

Friday, Nov. 1—First Friday Adoration at SMM

Friday, Nov. 1—All Saints Day Mass

Nov. 10, 11, 12—Tri Parish Mission 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

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 -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

Question of the week

What will I do this week to discern the way for me? What else do I want to see?

Collections Week of Oct. 19-20, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,546 World Mission—\$293
St. James—\$1,332 World Mission—\$384
Sacred Heart—\$1,325 World Mission—\$253

Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts— And Jesus Stopped...

Do you ever feel like your prayers are unimportant in the ears of God, or that God kind of puts prayers in order of importance from “dying of cancer” to “having a heart transplant” to “saving the starving in Africa” all the way down to your little prayer. And so you keep asking — almost begging — God to hear you, to listen to you, to answer you. In our Gospel for today, we see a Jesus we have seen often in our stories about his ministry, but it is not a Jesus who listens only to the woman whose son had died, or a Jesus who responds only to the man who was filled with demons.

Today’s Gospel is about a Jesus who can hear the cry of one beggar in the back of a crowd on a busy highway, a Jesus who can hear the prayers of one homeless child on a backstreet ghetto, a Jesus who not only hears, but stops and calls us to him. And when he calls us, he treats us as if our request is the most important prayer he has to consider. We are not called to be beggars, but to be believers and to be healed so that our lives might become a living testimony to the power and love of Christ.



What an easy way to support St. Margaret Mary CCW! We ask all women of the parish to donate whatever it would cost you to make 2 batches of cookies or candy. (more if you desire) Drop this amount in a collection basket stating it is for the Bakeless Bake Sale. That’s all there is to this fundraiser. This is our major fundraiser to raise money for our ministries throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your support!

St Margaret Mary Totes



During our whole group time, the students put together little mass totes for kids/families. These are now available in the back of church for families of little ones to use during mass. These will have little children's Bibles, books, coloring, package of wipes, Kleenex etc in them. Please feel free to use these totes during Mass. Just return them to the basket after Mass so they are ready for use the following weekend as well. The students hope your little ones enjoy

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ Boxes of Joy are available. Remember to include your \$9 for mailing. If you use the qr code to pay your \$9 for shipping, please contact the office to let us know. Remember boxes are due back on Nov. 3.

St. James—

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ Boxes of Joy are available. The pamphlets have an envelope for the \$9 to cover postage for one box. If sending more than 1 box, just make out one check to SH CCW. We will be sending one check for all the boxes. Must be turned in by Nov. 2.

All Parishes—

- ◆ **Adult Religious Ed Class—Class Wednesday, Oct. 30 7pm**
- ◆ Please check the ministry calendar as we are adding a Eucharistic Minister at SJ and Sunday at SMM on the weeks Deacon is not present.
- ◆ **Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.**

1st Friday Adoration



First Friday Mass and Adoration will be held on Nov. 1st at St. Margaret Mary. It will conclude at 3:00 with Benediction

“In that little Host is the solution to all the problems of the world.”

-Pope John Paul II



Please pray for the repose of the soul of
+Delores Clodi

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

Our sincere sympathy to all her family and friends.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of
+Charles Down

husband of Mary Jane

father of Brian (Jennifer), Colleen (Tom), and Christine (Shawn)

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

Our sincere sympathy to all his family and friends.

Saint of the week: : St. Elesbaan of Ethiopia (Oct. 27) was a Christian king in Ethiopia in the early 6th century. With the support of Byzantine emperors Justin I and Justinian, he invaded the southern Arabian peninsula where Christianity was under attack. Late in life he abdicated his throne to live as a prayerful, penitent hermit and then a monk in Jerusalem.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Emilina of Boulancourt (Oct. 27) joined the Cistercian Abbey of Boulancourt at Longeville, France when still very young. Noted for her deep prayer life, fasts, and austere, sometimes severe self-imposed penances such as wearing a pointed chain under her habit, walking barefooted throughout the year and fasting from food and liquids three days a week. Word of her devotion soon spread, and pilgrims came to consult her about holiness and prayer. She had the gift of prophecy, and sometimes prophesied about visitors before they arrived. She never sought honor or glory for herself from her gifts, but dealt with visitors humbly and patiently, always concerned with their conversion and relationship with God.

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

They spent some time in Jericho. As Jesus was leaving town, trailed by his disciples and a parade of people, a blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, was sitting alongside the road. When he heard that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by, he began to cry out, "Son of David, Jesus! Mercy, have mercy on me!" Many tried to hush him up, but he yelled all the louder, "Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped in his tracks. "Call him over."

They called him. "It's your lucky day! Get up! He's calling you to come!" Throwing off his coat, he was on his feet at once and came to Jesus.

Jesus said, "What can I do for you?"

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

"On your way," said Jesus. "Your faith has saved and healed you."

In that very instant he recovered his sight and followed Jesus down the road (from Mark 10).

SUBS FOR A CAUSE

Please join us for a fundraiser to support:

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

Come to **Subway**
Located at 646 S. Main Street, Bourbonnais
Between 4-7pm
On Tuesday, November 5, 2024

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

All you have to do to participate is show this flyer (printed, or on mobile device) or just mention the fundraiser to the cashier.

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

SUBWAY



There will be a second collection (no envelopes) 10/26 -27 for hurricane relief... you can go to ccdoc.org and donate on line or you can write a check to the parish and we will send one check. 100% of donation will go to the people struggling to get drinking water and personal hygiene products.

Reflection — All Hallows

Halloween is the night of October 31. The word means "Hallow's Eve." "Hallows" is another word for saints. November 1 is All Saints' Day. November 2 is All Souls' Day. Together, these days once were called "Hallowmas."

So Halloween isn't just the way we end October. It also is the way we begin November. On Halloween night — the holy eve of All Saints' Day — we begin the church's month to remember the dead.

Take time now to plan more than a costume. Start collecting pictures, letters or other reminders of relatives or friends who have died. Plan to pray for them ... and with them ... beginning on Halloween and then all through November. Clear a space in your bedroom or in your home to place your reminders.

Catholic Snacks , Get Fed

What is the difference between demons and ghosts?
And why is it important to distinguish between them?

Ghosts and demons, oh my!

Around this time of year, all things supernatural tend to be treated the same way: just another spooky thing for Halloween fun.

However, contrary to popular belief, not everything supernatural is just a ruse. Ghosts and demons are real, and they all should be taken with spiritual seriousness!

Demons are *fallen* angels who rebelled against God. That's what demons are: corrupt angels.

They are **not** mere human concepts or symbols of evil. They are real, fallen angelic persons.

The leader of these evil spirits is known by various names, although "the devil" and "Satan" are the most common.

The demons hate mankind in a way that surpasses our comprehension. We are created in the image of God, and they hate God; we are beneath them by nature, and yet God has made *us* His children and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The demons want our souls in hell. They want us to be as miserable as they are. And they loathe creation, for it is good, and it is God's.

So, should we be afraid of demons? **No**. We should, however, be *aware of them* and their power. is it important to distinguish them?

Now that we understand what demons are, we can say for certain that demons are not ghosts.

Ghosts, properly understood, are disembodied souls, and disembodied souls belong to human beings who have died.

But who are these souls, and can they *really* appear to the living?

Often, these souls are residents of purgatory, where they are undergoing a period of purification before entering heaven. And yes, these souls are occasionally permitted to return to earth to beg for prayers.

But sometimes these are the souls of the damned who also are occasionally permitted to visit the living to warn them of the fate that awaits them if they do not amend their ways.

However, demons are capable of pretending to be departed souls; so not all "ghosts" are really human souls.

And remember: *not every claim of ghostly activity is genuine*.

Most paranormal reports can be attributed to natural causes.

The best approach to all supernatural activity is prayer: prayer to defend yourself spiritually against demons and prayer for all the poor souls suffering in purgatory!

Learn more about the supernatural and our battle with evil in Monsignor Stephen Rossetti's book *Diary of an American Exorcist*. In this powerful book, Msgr. Rossetti gives an inside look at the intense experiences of an exorcist without hype or varnish. Through his own battles with the devil, he teaches you about what possession is (and is not), common tactics of the devil, and the incredible healing power of Christ.



Sacred Heart Church will soon be selling tickets for their "Fall Cash Bash" which will take place Sat., November 23 from 4p.m. till 8 p.m. in the church hall. Tickets are \$50 a piece and will admit 2 adults with a chance of a 1st Prize of \$1,500 or \$500 2nd Prize. There will be games of Euchre and Bunco (with a buy in by 5pm) & Black Jack. The evening will include basket raffles, silent & live auctions, 50/50 's and plenty of food and drinks.

For more info call Terri 815 514-8171

Questions Catholics Ask

What is Heaven?

When our loved ones die, faith prompts us to speak of them as being in a better place. This pinnacle of betterment is theologically described as perfect union with God. What could be better, truly, than to be finally and completely overtaken by the love that made us in the first place? We also speak of heaven as being God's home as well as our ultimate destination. Those whom we love and lose are therefore not lost at all in death. They've simply "gone home."

However, Christian salvation is even more comprehensive than we sometimes imagine. The world God created is not made in vain but is even now groaning for its own version of rescue in a new heaven and new earth identified as the "new creation." Just as our beloved and beautiful world was never destined for the scrap heap, so our mortal bodies aren't intended to end as "ashes to ashes, and dust to dust." All is to be renewed, restored, revitalized in a "world without end" confirmed in our every doxology. Cosmically speaking, in eternity the material world matters—pun very much intended.

So the kingdom of heaven Jesus repeatedly teaches in Matthew's gospel isn't a spiritual land elsewhere. It's an immediate reality that has ramifications both now and forever. This makes it imperative that we do our "inner work," since our internal condition (traditionally called our state of grace) is represented in that now-and-everlasting realm. We also have to be mindful stewards of our social relationships, as well as the direction history is taking as a whole. I like Jesuit Paul Crowley's phrase here: "Heaven is thus not a radical interruption of these dimensions of human personhood; rather, the entirety of human personhood is taken up into God in the glory of risen life which bears the name heaven." Simply put, heaven isn't "where" we meet God face to face. It's "when." And it's not an interruption of all we presently know and love. It's a glorification of it all. How wonderful is that?

Another Jesuit, theologian Karl Rahner, has something else to say about heaven that's equally fascinating. He suggests that Jesus didn't return to a pre-existing place called heaven at his Ascension. Rather, Jesus established the possibility of heaven—that is, perfect and eternal union with God—by entering into his glory. Heaven is possible for those prepared to be overwhelmed by love.

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1; Pss 2:4; 11:4; 139:8; Isaiah 66:1; Wisdom 3:1-9; Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32-34; Romans 8:18-23; Revelation 21:1-5



The kingdom of heaven Jesus repeatedly teaches in Matthew's gospel isn't a spiritual land elsewhere.

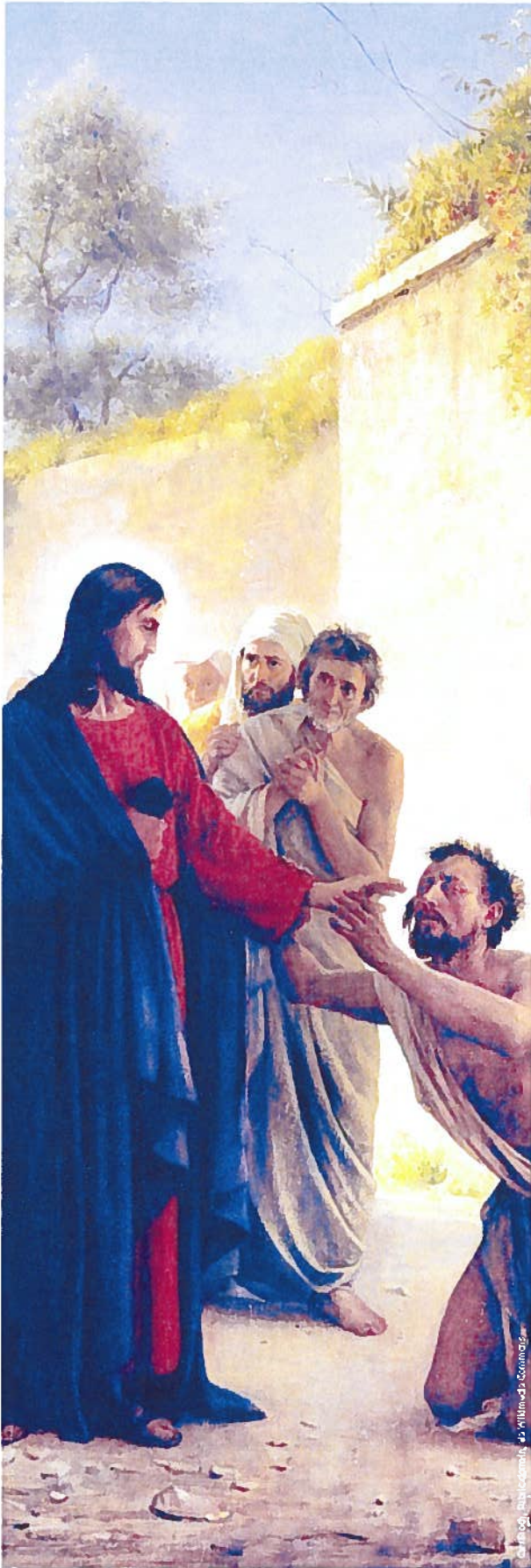


LIVE ★ WITH ★ PURPOSE

There are two different opportunities for you to place a wreath on a Veteran's grave for the holidays. One is for a gravesite at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the other is for veterans that are buried in local cemeteries. The information for both opportunities is below. Thank you in advance for showing support for our veterans.

Wreaths Across America is a yearly campaign to have a wreath placed on every gravesite at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. The cost is \$17 to sponsor a wreath. For more information, call Debbie at 815-953-6492. There are forms in the entrance of all three parishes. These wreaths will be placed on the gravesites on December 14. You may designate a particular grave or just sponsor a wreath for a grave that does not have a sponsor. For ordering wreaths online, follow this link- <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/16036/Overview/?relatedId=167754> or go to Facebook—Wreaths Across America Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

Anyone interested in sponsoring a wreath for our parish veterans at St. Peter and Paul cemetery may do so by contacting Lori (lmteders@hotmail.com, or 815-955-3375) or by using this website <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/172360/Overview>. You may also sponsor a wreath at any of the other local cemeteries with the same contact info above. Also, we will be seeking volunteers to lay the wreaths on December 14. Ceremony at the Legion at 11AM and placing wreaths immediately following.



October 27, 2024

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 31:7-9 | Heb 5:1-6 | Mk 10:46-52

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Although today's Gospel recounts the healing of Bartimaeus' physical blindness, the story is a summons for each of us to be healed of our spiritual blindness. Spiritual blindness, an effect of sin, clouds our ability to perceive who we are and who God is. Paradoxically, Bartimaeus' spiritual eyesight is clear; he recognizes who Jesus is and he sees his own desperate need for Jesus' help. For us, however, sin acts like dust, obstructing our vision and preventing us from perceiving God's presence. We find it difficult to recognize God in other people and in the sacraments; and we likewise become incapable of perceiving ourselves as God sees us. If we wish to have our spiritual eyesight restored, we would do well to imitate Bartimaeus' humble, confident prayer: "Master, I want to see." Acknowledging our need before God and begging for his help, we invite him to heal our hearts, so that we, like Bartimaeus, may follow Jesus "on the way."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Where can we seek the healing of our "spiritual sight"? We should look for it from the same person from whom Bartimaeus begged to be cured of his physical blindness: Jesus. But whereas Bartimaeus' encounter with Jesus took place amid noisy crowds of followers and curious onlookers, our most intimate relations with Our Lord take place in the quiet context of prayer and the sacraments. Above all, confession and Eucharistic adoration offer us opportunities to meet God and petition him for the cleansing of our hearts. In confession, we humbly acknowledge our need for conversion and invite God to heal us. In Eucharistic adoration, we approach Jesus with the faith of Bartimaeus, seeing past the appearance of bread and declaring that the consecrated host is indeed God himself. Through these eyes of faith, the Lord heals any blindness, and we can see "and [follow] him on the way."

PRAY Choose a regular time to take advantage of the two opportunities for healing we've discussed - confession and Eucharistic adoration. If you do not already go to confession regularly, consider making it a monthly commitment. Finally, set aside time this week to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, either in Eucharistic adoration or before the tabernacle in your church. Try visiting him weekly - and then watch how your time in his presence transforms you.

Tri-Parish Mission

All sessions begin
at 7:00 pm

Sunday, Nov. 10 at St. Margaret Mary

Monday, Nov. 11 at Sacred Heart Tuesday, Nov. 12 at St. James



Fr. Jim Sichko Biography

Fr. Jim Sichko is a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington, KY, and has been an internationally known preacher, evangelist, and motivational speaker for over 25 years. In 2015, Pope Francis commissioned Fr. Jim as a Papal Missionary of Mercy in conjunction with the Extraordinary Jubilee Year, making him one of 100 in the United States and 1,000 in the world.

Known for his presentations entitled "60 minutes for Jesus," Fr. Jim's talks and parish missions are geared for every member of the household, from youth to adulthood, and for anyone regardless of religious affiliation or not. Known as "the best opening act ever" by Dolly Parton, Fr. Jim uses real life experiences, personal stories, and humor, to motivate any audience to recognize the good within themselves and others, while challenging them to make the world a better place.

Fr. Jim has been featured in numerous media outlets including CBS News, EWTN, Fox News, America Media, Esquire Magazine, and the National Catholic Reporter. Celebrated for his "simple acts of kindness" from the streets of Lexington to the flood torn cities of

Eastern Kentucky, Fr. Jim's frequent collaboration with Delta Airlines, Amazon, Willett Bourbon Distillery, True Blue Customs, and the City of Lexington, along with numerous celebrities, politicians, and entrepreneurs, have made thousands of kind acts a reality.

Fr. Jim has spoken across six continents and all 50 states. Preaching the Gospel even through social media, his daily posts reach over 70,000 followers on Facebook, 24,000 on X (formerly Twitter), and over 10,000 on Instagram.

He is the author of two books: *Encountering God: As a Traveling Papal Missionary of Mercy* and *Among Friends: Stories from the Journey*. Fr. Jim is also the founder of Miss Marie's Spaghetti Sauce. Named after his mother and created from her secret Italian recipe, proceeds from the nationally acclaimed brand benefit the Southeast Texas Hospice and outreach work in the Diocese of Lexington.

Known for his nonstop, energetic pace, Fr. Jim's current schedule has him "out on the road and in the air" 300 days a year for special events, Masses, and Parish Missions.

All Saints Day Mass Schedule (Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday, Oct. 31 Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart 7:00 pm

Friday, November 1 Mass at SMM 8 am followed by Adoration

Friday, November 1 Mass at St. James 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 2 All Souls Day Mass 5:00 pm at SMM



"Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."
MARK 10:47



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection will be held Nov. 1-2 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need. We thank you for your support!!



JESUS himself
is our priest and
sacrifice