

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

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 12-13, 2025



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: "Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?"
—Traditional African-American spiritual

Fifth Sunday of Lent			April 19-20, 2025	
Liturgical Schedule	Sacred Heart Saturday, April 19 7:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, April 20 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, April 20 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, April 20 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Neitzke	Fr. Ron Neitzke Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Neitzke	Fr. Ron Neitzke
Ushers	Daryl Ferris Dennis Pankey	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Vic Carlile Jeff Steinke Jerry Ogrentz Dennis O'Connor	Joe Smolkovich Kim Smicker Wayne Bisaillon Brent Fulton
Lector	Terri Weakley Darlene Cipcich	Rhonda Berns	Andy Hansen	Steve Jacob
Eucharistic Minister			Dallas Ferris	
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Donna Bernicky	Wayne Bisaillon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 14 (SMM)

8:00 am +Marie Duval (Marian Sanders)

Tuesday, April 15 (SH)

8:00 am +Janet Denault Menke (Norm/Mary Denault)

Wednesday, April 16 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) +Francis Dale Weber (The Family)

Friday, April 18 (SMM)

8:00 am No morning mass

Saturday, April 19 Easter Vigil at Sacred Heart 7:00 pm

+Jerry Whalen (Whalen Family)

Sunday, April 20

7:30 am (SH) +James Riley, Tina Berns, Bernice Pool,
Bernadette Denault, Bonnie Draper, Hilda
Riley, James Palinski (The Family)

9:00am (SJ) +Noreen Saathoff (Jerry/Mary O'Connor)
+Virginia Gadbois (Birdie/Larry Stevenson)

10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

Thursday, April 24—SH Spring Luncheon

Saturday, April 26—First Communion at SMM

Sunday, April 27—Youth Mass at SMM

Saturday, May 3—First Communion 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

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisaillon 426-2550

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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

Who can I forgive with the Lord's mercy this week?

Collections Weekend of April 5-6, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$

St. James—\$

Sacred Heart—\$

Thank you for your generosity!

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, Apr. 13—Palm Sunday— regular weekend masses

Mon., Apr. 14—Seven Last Words—7:00 PM (SMM)

Tues., Apr. 15—Confession—7:00 PM (SJ)

Wed., Apr. 16—Tenebrae—7:00 PM (SJ)

Thurs., Apr. 17—Mass of the Last Supper—7:00PM (SMM)

Fri., Apr. 18—Stations of the Cross—3:00 PM (SJ)

Fri., Apr. 18—Liturgy of the Passion—7:00 PM (SJ)

Sat., Apr. 19—Blessing of Easter Baskets—Noon (SH)

Sat., Apr. 19—Easter Vigil—7:00 PM (SH)

Sun., Apr. 20—Easter Sunday—Regular Sunday Mass



Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

⇒ We will be collecting non perishable food for Herscher Council of Churches spring food baskets (Easter Baskets). Please place in the bin at the back of the church.

⇒ Ladies, please join us in the kitchen after mass on Sunday, April 6 to make our delicious spaghetti sauce for our A Night in Italy event on April 10.

⇒ Please watch for details on the Night In Italy 2025. It will be held on Thursday, April 10th. Sign up sheet for volunteers and food donations in back of the church.

St. James

⇒ Our Lenten Project will be the Food Pantry of Kankakee. Items will be collected starting March 5.

Sacred Heart—

⇒ **Spring Luncheon Thursday, April 24 11am**

All Parishes—

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

⇒ The Kankakee Deanery Council of Catholic Women Spring Institute will be held at Maternity BVM on Wednesday, June 5, 2025. Registration will begin at 5:00 pm followed by mass and dinner. For more information or to sign up for this event, please contact



I would like to thank everyone in our tri-parish community for helping me celebrate my 90th birthday. God is good and has showered His many blessings upon me and my family.

Jackie Cross

Gospel Shorts When Christ Gets Personal

The scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees thought of Christ as a meddlesome troublemaker. Were they right? Sometimes, when we turn from the will of God and Christ challenges our consciences, we may think of Him as bothersome too.

Occasionally Christ seems to become quite personal and quite disturbing. Remember at the Last Supper how he said that someone was going to betray him? Because each of those present had already had times when they were shaky in their relationship with Christ, each one asked, "Is it I?"

Today, Christ uses our consciences to get personal and concerned about our loyalty. By remaining open to his teachings, and faithful to his Word, we can prove our faithfulness and remain completely true to him.

The Saving Presence of God

I will look on this Lent as an opportunity to reexamine my life; reform my life; renew my life.

A Stewardship Moment

Palm Sunday

Passion of the Lord Weekend of April 12/13, 2025

• In the prelude to today's great Passion Narrative, Saint Paul reminds us that we find our hope in the "emptiness" and "humility" of Christ Jesus; a life that led to the cross, but through the cross, to glory and exaltation. The way is not easy. Good stewards know that it requires a willingness to lay aside all rights of personal privilege; emptying ourselves in the service of others; embracing values different from the values of the world. It requires an understanding that to be "in Christ" means to be a servant because Christ came into the world, not as Lord but as servant. What crosses are we willing to carry? What worldly values we are willing to forego in order to share Christ's glory?



Welcome into the faith to

Caroline Ogrentz

daughter of Drew and Ellen Ogrentz
who was baptized at St. James

on April 5, 2025

Obscure saint of the week: Saint Martin I (Apr. 13) was chosen as the 74th pope in 649 without imperial approval. Martin conducted the *Lateran Council* which condemned the patriarch of Constantinople for Monothelitism, which claimed that Christ had no human will. This put him in opposition to the emperor who had him arrested and tortured. Paul, Patriarch of Constantinople, repented of his stance which saved Martin from execution, but the pope died soon after from damage done during his imprisonment. Because of this Martin is considered a martyr, the last martyred pope.



Other obscure saint of the week: St. Hermengild (April 13) was the son of the Spanish Visigoth Arian king Levigild and raised in Arianism. In 579 he married the Catholic princess Indgund, who, with Saint Leander, the bishop of Seville, Spain, converted him back to orthodox Christianity. He was immediately disinherited by his father.

Hermengild publicly renounced and fought against Arianism; he expected support from outside anti-Arian groups, but it never materialized, and he was defeated by his father's forces. At one point he reconciled with his father, but his stepmother, Goswintha, caused friction between them because of her staunch Arian views. He was arrested, tortured, and martyred on orders of his father for refusing to denounce Catholicism and for refusing to accept communion from a heretic bishop.



He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...
PHIL.2:7

Statues

I recently mentioned that it was brought to my attention that we do not have a statue of St. Margaret Mary at St. Margaret Mary church. Not only is that true but we don't have a statue at St. James at St. James church. I am in the process of getting a statue of each of these saints but would like to purchase them with donations from parishioners. My plan is to have a plaque made and list all the donors who contributed to the purchase of these statues. Also, a memorial for a loved one can be used toward the statues. More information will follow. In addition, we may have options on what the statue may look like.



"Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."

John 13: 10



See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Isaiah 52:13

St. Joseph Parish in Bradley Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

St. Joseph Parish invites all faithful to join in a special celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday, April 27, 2025. Observed on the Sunday after Easter, this feast highlights God's infinite mercy and the extraordinary graces He offers to all who trust in Him.

Established by St. John Paul II in response to the revelations given to St. Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy Sunday provides an opportunity for the faithful to receive a plenary indulgence by:

- Receiving Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday weekend
- Going to Confession (within about 20 days)
- Praying for the intentions of the Holy Father
- Striving for detachment from sin

This year's observance at St. Joseph Parish is particularly significant as our church has been designated a Jubilee Church in the Diocese of Joliet, offering an additional opportunity to receive the abundant graces of the Jubilee Year.

Event Schedule:

- 1:30 PM – Reconciliation (continues throughout the event)
- 2:00 PM – Prayer Service
- Holy Hour with Adoration & Divine Mercy Chaplet

This is a powerful opportunity to seek God's mercy, deepen your faith, and experience the grace of the Jubilee Year. All are welcome!

Questions Catholics Ask

What is the Easter Duty?

The Easter duty has seen some flux in church tradition. The Eucharistic Precept, as it's formally called in the list of Church Precepts, was conceived in the 6th century as a way to ensure that the Sacrament of Holy Communion wouldn't be neglected by the faithful. Early church councils enforced regional versions of the precept, which in one form mandated receiving communion three times annually: at Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.



The Easter duty is again viewed properly as a minimal requirement rather than a recommendation.

The Fourth Lateran Council (1215) reduced the mandate to once annually at Easter time, widening its application to the whole church. The Council of Trent and the Code of Canon Law restated this obligation. Ironically, the attempt to safeguard reception of the Eucharist by insisting on minimal participation had the opposite effect. Clergy preached on the evils of taking communion in a sinful state a little too effectively. Churchgoers developed a fear of receiving the Eucharist "unworthily." Many were convinced they could never be in the proper state of grace to merit the privilege. Add to that the phenomenon of what we might call "mortal-sin creep": in the hands of a number of confessors, venial sins got an automatic upgrade to fatal status.

It wasn't until the 20th-century arrival of Pope Pius X, "the pope of frequent communion," that Catholics returned to the sacrament more regularly. The Easter duty is again viewed properly as a minimal requirement rather than a recommendation. What hasn't always been clear in the Easter duty is the definition of Easter. Technically Easter is not a day on the church calendar so much as an Octave (eight-days-long feast) contained within a seven-week celebration. The latest Code of Canon Law (1983) defines the fulfillment of the Easter duty to the time from Palm Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. This period, from Holy Week through the Easter Season, offers an eight-week window to meet the obligation.

However, in the United States, the Eucharistic Precept can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday. Lent adds an additional five weeks; the time from Pentecost to Trinity Sunday, another week. Altogether, this opens 14 weeks of the church year to fulfillment of the Easter duty.

Many Catholics are under the impression that the Easter duty also requires going to Confession. While receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation annually is certainly a good idea, it's not part of the requirement.

Scripture: Psalm 119 (In praise of precepts and instructions); Proverbs 1:2-7; 4:13; 8:33; 10:17; 23:23; Mark 14:22-24; Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:14-20; John 6:27, 34-35, 48-59; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 11:23-27; 14:26; 1 Timothy 1:5

If the disciples weren't Greek, why was the Bible written in Greek?

We know Alexander the Great as the young king who astounded the entire civilized world of his time.

With his army, Alexander accomplished military feats which—to this day—stand out as daring, seemingly-impossible, and incredibly successful. He conquered the entire civilized world with the exception of China only in his brief, thirteen-year reign.

After his death, the empire he formed shattered immediately... yet the effects of that empire have permanently marked the course of history.

His conquests brought the Jews—until then a mainly nomadic, isolated people—into contact with other races. The Jews were a tight bunch who alone worshiped the true God; now they brushed shoulders with Greeks, learned their language, even—to a certain degree—adopted some Greek culture.



Greek became the common language of Alexander's empire, a characteristic which remained long after his successors divided the lands. This is

why the New Testament was written entirely in Greek: the Apostles and evangelists wanted to spread the Faith everywhere, and the common language enabled them to do this.

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Sponsored by
Sacred Heart Parish C.C.W.
at St. James Church Hall
4372 Main St., Irwin, IL

Spring Luncheon
With
Bunco & Cards

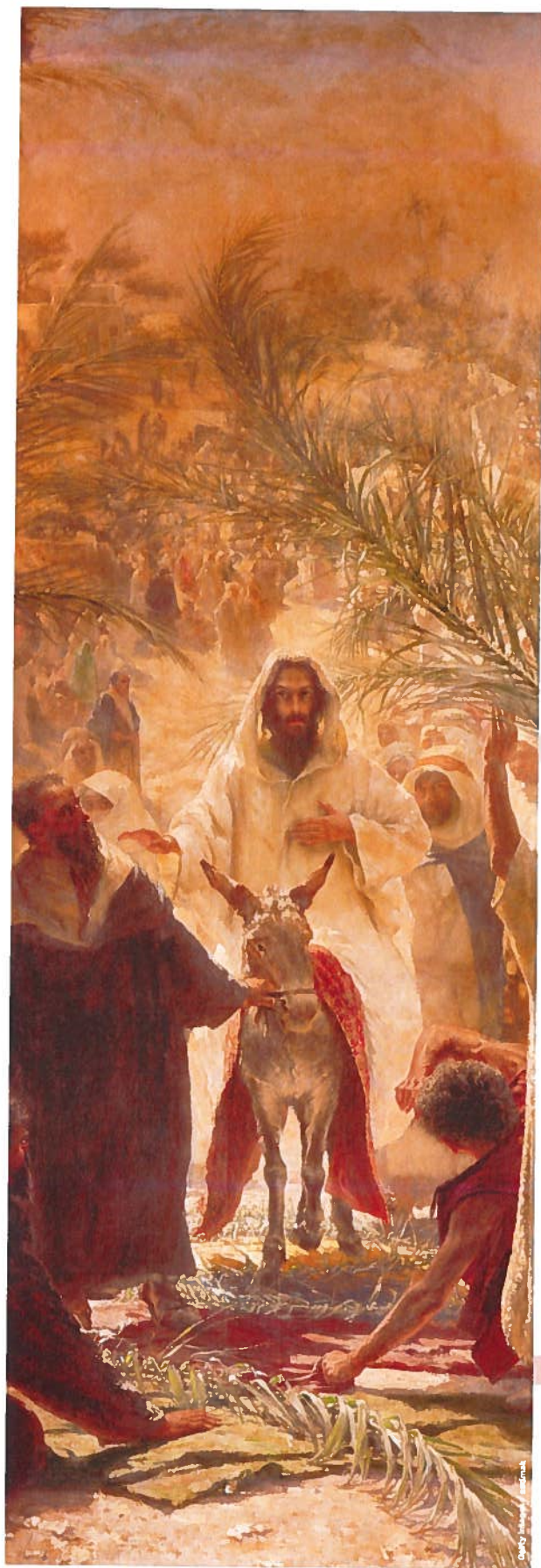
**Cash & Basket Raffles, 50/50
Door Prizes**

**Thurs. April 24th
11:00 a.m.**

**Delicious Lunch Buffet
Ticket \$10.00 at the door
Call Terri for more info. 815 514-8171**

The more you give, the more you get ...
 The more you laugh, the less you fret ...
 The more you do unselfishly, the more you live abundantly. ...
 The more of everything you share, the more you'll always have
 to spare... The more you love, the more you'll find that life is
 good and friends are kind.





April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Lk 22:14—23:56

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

More than any other time of year, we are able to follow the actual events of Jesus' life this week according to the sequence in which they occurred. Today's procession with palms honors his entry into Jerusalem, where he would prepare to celebrate the Passover with his disciples. We can imagine Jesus spending the subsequent days preaching in the Temple and the nights conversing with his Father in prayer. Then, on Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper will inaugurate the Triduum, the time which commemorates Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. The Church places these events before our eyes each year as an invitation to enter as fully as possible into Jesus' mind and heart during Holy Week. Even if we regret not being more faithful to the goals we established at the beginning of Lent, we can still seize the opportunity of this week to accompany Jesus as he prepares to die for love of us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The crowds of followers who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem triumphantly today will be silent by Friday. Among his closest disciples, all will fall asleep during his prayer of agony on the Mount of Olives. Peter himself, who says on Holy Thursday, "I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you," will deny three times that he knew Jesus. The chief priests and scribes (who, one would think, should have recognized the Messiah) will deliver him to Pilate to be crucified. In each of these examples, love for Jesus (or, in the case of the priests and scribes, fidelity to God) is tested and found wanting during Holy Week. Of course, we know that Jesus still proceeded to die so that salvation would be available to *all* of these people. He likewise made it possible for every future generation – including our own – to return to him in moments when we find our own love wanting. We do this by turning away from sin and seeking his forgiveness, especially in the sacrament of confession. Therefore, let us, who have acclaimed Jesus as king today, keep him as king of our hearts – not only this week, but every day of our lives.

WORSHIP

Rich in solemnity and symbolism, the Triduum liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday allow us to accompany Jesus during these difficult days and express to him our love. Try to attend as many of these liturgies as your schedule allows and enter fully into Jesus' experience of Holy Week this year.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:8-9

Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is
above every name.

Gospel at the Procession with Palms

Luke 19:28-40; L37C

Jesus proceeded on his journey up
to Jerusalem.
As he drew near to Bethphage and
Bethany
at the place called the Mount of
Olives,
he sent two of his disciples.
He said, "Go into the village op-
posite you,
and as you enter it you will find
a colt tethered
on which no one has ever sat.
Untie it and bring it here.
And if anyone should ask you,
'Why are you untying it?'
you will answer,
'The Master has need of it.'"
So those who had been sent went off
and found everything just as he had
told them.
And as they were untying the colt, its
owners said to them,
"Why are you untying this colt?"
They answered,
"The Master has need of it."
So they brought it to Jesus,
threw their cloaks over the colt,
and helped Jesus to mount.
As he rode along,
the people were spreading their cloaks
on the road;
and now as he was approaching the
slope of the Mount of Olives,
the whole multitude of his disciples
began to praise God aloud with joy
for all the mighty deeds they had seen.

Continued in Appendix A, p. 280.

Gospel at Mass Luke 22:14-23:56; L38ABC
or Luke 23:1-49 in Appendix A, pp. 280-283.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Luke, more than the other evangelists, emphasizes Jesus's role as prophet. He interprets the death of Jesus as a rejection of his prophetic teaching and actions. Like all prophets, Jesus is lauded by those lifted up by his good news, but those whose privileged position is threatened by him seek to silence and kill him. In the passion narrative, we see Jesus facing deadly opposition and struggling one final time to discern what is the way to obediently bring his prophetic mission to completion. He prepares his disciples for his own death, instructing them at the Last Supper and modeling for them how they are to act as they continue his prophetic mission.



At Gethsemane, Jesus is kneeling upright, not prostrate on the ground, as Matthew and Mark portray him. He is in *agonia*, or agony, which connotes intense struggle, like an athlete, straining every muscle, sweating so profusely it is as if a vein were opened. He can see what the consequences will be if he stays the course. He still has an option to retreat over the Mount of Olives and into the Judean desert. As at other turning points in his life, like his baptism and transfiguration, he feels God's reassuring presence with him, strengthening him for what lies ahead.

Once again, he chooses to be obedient to the prophetic mission entrusted to him, even if the cost is his life. It is in this sense that Paul speaks of Jesus as "obedient even unto death." It is not obedience to a father who wills his son to die—for what parent would ever wish such a fate on their child? Rather, Jesus's obedience is to divine love for all humanity and to the prophetic mission to release all who are bound by sin and suffering, bringing jubilee freedom to all. It is a costly love that impels him.

At the Last Supper, Jesus interprets his impending death, saying to his disciples, "This is my body . . . given for you." In Luke, this gift is not one act that is thought to atone for sins but rather a lifelong self-surrender in service to the least. It is manifest in acts of healing and forgiveness right up until Jesus's last moments, when his final words are a prayer for God to forgive his executioners and of entrusting himself peacefully into God's hands (using Psalm 31), in contrast to the anguished cry of abandonment of the Markan Jesus (using Psalm 22).

As followers of such a prophet, our own obedience is modeled on his. First, prophetic obedience is enacted by turning one's ear to God morning after morning, to hear how to speak a rousing word to the weary, as Isaiah says. It also entails remembering, as Jesus said at the Last Supper—making present again his bold words and freeing actions of healing and forgiveness. As servant leaders, it also means going, like the Galilean women, to the places of death, keeping watch in solidarity with the crucified peoples of our world and continuing to protest the machinery of death, even as we ourselves risk falling victim to them.