

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 31—JUNE 1, 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: "“Had Christ remained on earth, sight would have taken the place of faith.”

~ Venerable Servant of God Fulton Sheen

Pentecost

June 7-8, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, June 7 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, June 8 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, June 8 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, June 8 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Dave Emling Bob Schultz Todd Datweiler	Dennis Pankey James Mallaney	Arlen Hansen Jeff Martin Cathy Jensen, Jerry Ogrentz	Brent Fulton Sean Rioran Darren Lovell Galen Fritz
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Darlene Cipcich	Andy Hansen	Corinn Wheeler
Eucharistic Minister				Dana Masching
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Donna Bernicky R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Kim Smicker

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, June 2 (SMM)

9:00 am +John Andrzejewski (Dennis/Janice Schneider)

Tuesday, June 3 (SH)

8:00 am +Tom Buckley (Joe/Tina Petersen)

Wednesday, June 4 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) No Mass

Friday, June 6 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, June 7 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Heidi McDaniel (Mariann Lane)

+George Schmidt (Mariann Lane)

Sunday, June 8

7:30 am (SH) +Jerry Whalen (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)

9:00am (SJ) +Ivan Denault ((Steve/Christel Denault)

+Marge Nelson (Steve/Dena Coy)

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

A Look Ahead

May 31-June 1— Fr. Allam's Mission Appeal

Sunday, June 15—Fathers' Day

June 14/15—2nd Collection for Infirm/Retired Priests

Monday, June 23—K of C meeting

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

How have I borne witness to Jesus Christ? How will I bear witness between now and Pentecost?

Collections Weekend of May 24-25, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,341

Sacred Heart—\$802

St. James—\$1,336

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflections Food for Thought

During the Afghanistan War a man was lost in the desert for twenty-one days before he was found.

Asked if he had learned anything from the experience he replied, "Yes. If I can only have an abundance of food to eat and plenty of water to drink, I shall be riotously happy for the rest of my life."

A Stewardship Moment

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Weekend of May 31/June 1

Today we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of our Lord, a feast which, in part, celebrates the confidence he placed in his close followers to continue his ministry. In the Gospel reading Jesus reminds his followers of the purpose of his mission, and commissions them to continue his work by proclaiming his word and by living courageously that which they preached. He also promises them the Holy Spirit who he said would strengthen them for the task ahead. As stewards of Jesus' life and ministry, a good question for us to reflect on this week might be this: Has Christ's confidence in the quality of our own witness been well placed?



A man's wedding band was found on the floor at St. James Hall on April 24. Please call 815-514-8171 if it is yours. (May or may not look like this one)



I am with you
even to the end
of the world

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Parish News:

All Parishes—

- ⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ⇒ There will be no Knights of Columbus meeting in May due to Memorial Day. The next meeting will be June 23, 2025 .

St. Margaret Mary-

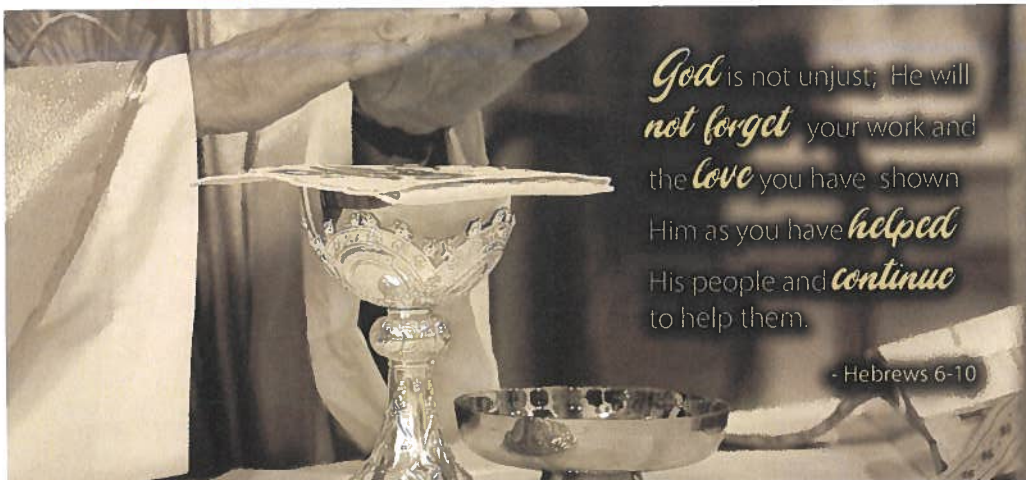
St. James-

Sacred Heart-

- ⇒ The week of June 1st, the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Jim Riley.
- ⇒ We will again honor fathers on Fathers' Day. White carnations represent pure love and will be honoring deceased fathers. Red are a symbol of gratitude and admiration and are honoring living fathers. Cost is \$1.25 per flower. Checks to Sacred Heart Church. Place the names and money in envelopes provided. Just write same if nothing has changed from last year.



**"This Jesus who has been taken up from you
into heaven will return in the same way..."**
ACTS 1:11



God is not unjust; He will
not forget your work and
the *love* you have shown
Him as you have *helped*
His people and *continue*
to help them.

- Hebrews 6-10



Father's Day Collection

For Infirm and Retired Priests of the Diocese of Joliet • June 14-15, 2025



Lord Jesus,
You ascended in glory, not to leave
us behind, but to go before us
and prepare a place for us.

Fill our hearts with longing for
heaven, courage for the mission,
and joy in Your victory.

Help us to be faithful witnesses
of Your love until You come again
in glory.

Amen

Obscure saint of the week: St. Peter the Exorcist (June 2) was an exorcist in Rome, Italy. He helped convert Saint Artemius of Rome, Saint Candida of Rome, and Saint Paulina of Rome. He was known for his piety and dedication to his work. Peter worked with and was martyred with Saint Marcellinus in the persecutions of Diocletian. His name is mentioned in the first Eucharistic prayer.



Other obscure saint of the week: St. Blandina (June 2) was a slave. With several others, she was set upon by a pagan mob, arrested, tried and convicted of the crime of Christianity, along with several nonsense charges like cannibalism, during the persecutions of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. She was one of the *Martyrs of Lyon and Vienne*.

Prayer for Ascension Sunday

Risen Jesus,
help us to begin
living eternal life today.
Help us to know
your presence with us now,
even as we anticipate
the joy of heaven.
Teach us to live this life
in a way that draws us
into eternal life with you.
Amen.



The priest who blew up his own church Part II

Today we continue on the trail of Fr. Braun.

With anti-clerical, anti-Catholic laws in force in Mexico, the priests and faithful were suffering persecution and martyrdom. From New Mexico, Fr. Braun and another intrepid Franciscan volunteered on three trips to assist their Franciscan brethren across the border. They would disguise themselves as businessmen to buy Franciscan property and save it from confiscation.

St. Joseph's Apache Mission was at last completed (except for the windows, which the community couldn't afford and which would be added later) in 1939 and dedicated on the Fourth of July.

That year, another world war broke out. At this point, you can probably guess what Fr. Braun did next.



A recent photo of St. Joseph's Mission (photo by [Jocnewt/CC BY-SA 3.0](#))

He reported for duty as an Army chaplain in the Philippines in November of 1940. He served the soldiers of the New Mexico National Guard during the infamous Battle of Bataan in early 1942 and, along with them, was taken prisoner by the Japanese.

During the time of his imprisonment, he suffered torture, multiple diseases, and starvation, but none of that stopped him from caring for the sick and dying, burying the dead, and celebrating Mass in secret before convincing the Japanese to allow services. He gave up his own rations and craftily stole food for the starving prisoners—becoming so adept at it that he was nicknamed “Al Capone.”

He gave the prisoners solace and strength even when they were loaded onto the infamous “hell ships” which the Japanese utilized to ship the prisoners north and prevent their liberation.

Three and a half years of imprisonment elapsed before Fr. Braun and the surviving prisoners were freed in August of 1945. Only a little over half of the New Mexicans who served in Bataan made it home.

After the war, Fr. Braun returned to St. Joseph's and rededicated the church to the veterans of both World Wars. For his actions in the war, he received a second Silver Star and the Legion of Merit.

But as much as he loved St. Joseph's Mission, Fr. Braun's health—deeply impacted by his years as a POW—required him to take less strenuous posts. His final mission would be to the “Golden Gate Barrio,” an impoverished Hispanic community in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1949. There, despite his injuries, he served his parishioners with vigor, building up a vibrant parish community. Among the projects he spearheaded was a new church, Sacred Heart, which was dedicated in 1956 and still stands today.

Fr. Braun spent the evening of his long life in the care of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Despite the amputation of one leg and confinement to a wheelchair, he kept his indomitable spirit, celebrating Mass for the nuns and other residents up until five days before his death.

He passed from this world on March 6th, 1983. His body was returned to his beloved Mescalero and buried at St. Joseph's Mission, as he had wished.

And this, at last, is the end of Fr. Braun's story—quickly summarized.

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Reflection

The Present Moment

The clock master was about to fix the pendulum of a clock when, to his surprise, he heard the pendulum speak.

“Please, sir, leave me alone,” the pendulum pleaded. “It will be an act of kindness on your part. Think of the number of times I will have to tick day and night. So many times each minute, sixty minutes an hour, twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty-five days a year. For year upon year ... millions of ticks. I could never do it.”

But the clock master answered wisely, “Don't think of the future. Just do one tick at a time and you will enjoy every tick for the rest of your life.”



Divinizing any creature (including wealth, power, celebrity) remains a fundamental religious prohibition.

Images have been a part of worship since the era of cave paintings. But they have a bad reputation in the Bible, starting with the First Commandment. As a result, both Jews and Muslims ban the use of images in their art and architecture (but please read Chaim Potok's wonderful novel *My Name Is Asher Lev* for insights into how an artist's inspiration to create clashes with the prohibition against images). The biblical problem is spelled out in that original commandment:

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

The law's primary concern is exclusive fidelity to the God of Israel. Having just emerged from Egypt—a culture of abundant images from its hieroglyphic writing and statues to pyramids and the Great Sphinx—it was paramount not to confuse Israel's God with the deities of the land of slavery. Yet also and more poignantly, the liberating God who effected the nation's rescue is a Lord who is fundamentally free as well. Image-making can only shrink the divinity in the people's imagination. Just think how depictions of the Ancient of Days in a long white beard convinced many generations that being made in God's image implies being white and male. A God carved by human hands seems easily controllable by human rituals or reprisals. So: if God doesn't come through on your request, just withhold next year's harvest sacrifice.

Of course we know how the story goes. Even while Moses is actively receiving this prohibition on Mount Sinai, the community below is shaping a golden calf with its treasure. Ignorance of the law (that wasn't a law five minutes ago) evidently is no excuse! Yet consider how the fashioning of the Ark of the Covenant includes two cherubim of beaten gold in its design, just five chapters later. God also commands Moses to make an image of a seraph serpent to cure the people at a later date. Cherubim are likenesses of heaven above, serpents of earth below—both pointedly forbidden. The commandment's goal is even sharper here: not to forbid all image-making, but only that revered and served as a rival deity. "No graven images" discouraged idolatry and, simultaneously, any images that might limit or define the liberating and liberated God.

Divinizing any creature (including wealth, power, celebrity) remains a fundamental religious prohibition. The catechism notes, however, that by his incarnation Jesus introduces a new "economy" of images that assist us in venerating, not the images themselves, but the God incarnate whom they represent. (CCC no.2131-2132)



"Have you done something to warrant a

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 JUNE CELEBRATIONS



On June 25 our Holy Father will be remembering in prayer and celebrating with the Bishops of the Church. We can join our Holy Father on this day by remembering in prayer Bishop Hicks, Bishop Spies, Bishop Conlon and all the previous Bishops who have served as shepherds in the Diocese of Joliet. A 'thank you' to our Bishops would be a wonderful way to acknowledge their service to everyone in the Diocese of Joliet. The Bishops' address is: The Blanchette Catholic Center, 16555 Weber Road, Crest Hill, IL 60403.

June 1, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 | Lk 24:46-53

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

Every day the world urges us to place our trust in countless things: money, brands, self-improvement methods — all with instant results! As Christians, however, we know that only God's promises are worth betting everything on, and they are not fulfilled on our self-determined timelines. Today's readings portray Jesus, the wounds of his crucifixion still visible, accompanying his followers for 40 days after his resurrection. Now the Apostles, some with questions of their own, are asked to wait once more for "the promise of the Father" of which they heard Jesus speak: baptism by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. For the Apostles as for us, following Christ is not an easy path, the Apostles likely were wondering what to expect in this "baptism." The fulfillment of God's promises doesn't always happen quickly, nor are we usually able to grasp the big picture at the moment of fulfillment. Nevertheless, it is in these periods of waiting that faith takes root and deepens. Uncertainty makes room for faith, and as the Holy Spirit descends into our life and makes things clear, we see the beauty in God's mysterious and loving plan for us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

There's a saying, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." It is often a matter of timing and expectations around life that can sew doubt into our faith. In the first reading, the Apostles ask the resurrected Christ if now he would restore the kingdom of Israel. He responds, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons." We are reminded that our faith never obligates us to know what events are to come, and which date in our calendars to mark. Our role, as the second reading says, is to let our "hearts be enlightened, that [we] may know what is the hope that belongs to his call." We wait in faith for the Holy Spirit to move and enlighten us to what God wills. We can rest secure in the assurance that we will be given all we need.

PRAY

Is your prayer sometimes full of questions about God's timing and intentions, or are you able to wait in faith for God to act? Ask the Holy Spirit for the faith and hope you need to remain at peace as you wait. Then, keep your eyes fixed on Christ, and be not afraid.



SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matt 28:19a, 20b

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 24:46-53; L58C

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name

to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things.

And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as

Bethany,

raised his hands, and blessed them.

As he blessed them he parted from them

and was taken up to heaven.

They did him homage

and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

and they were continually in the temple praising God.

Reflecting on the Gospel

In her book *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*, poet laureate Maya Angelou tells of her memory of her grandmother who raised her in the little town of Stamps, Arkansas. Her difficult life caused her to rely utterly on the power of God. Angelou writes that Mamma would clasp her hands behind her back, look up into a distant sky, and declare, "I will step out on the word of

God." Maya continues, "She would look up as if she could will herself into the heavens, and tell her family in particular and the world in general, 'I will step out on the word of God.'" "Immediately," Angelou recalls, "I could see her flung into space, moons at her feet and stars at her head, comets swirling around her. Naturally it wasn't difficult for me to have faith. I grew up knowing that the word of God has power."

In today's readings, we have similar images of Jesus "taken up" into the sky, having spent an earthly lifetime stepping out on the word of God. The disciples want to know if now is the time that he is going to restore the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6). They have hopes and expectations for the future fixed in past experiences of God's saving hand in their history. Jesus does not

directly answer their question but points them to the power of the Holy Spirit, with which they will be clothed. This power will guide them so that they will be able to step out on the word that has been entrusted to them, courageously witnessing to the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

What Jesus instructs the disciples to proclaim is that God holds out to all people the priceless raiment of divine forgiveness and asks in return only that they let themselves be clothed with power from on high to turn away from anything that stands between them and the divine clothier. Disciples are not to stand looking up into the sky, gazing after the One who has now been taken up. Their work is to teach others that same trust in the power of the word to uphold them and clothe them with power.

Although the Gospel of Luke depicts the ascension as a separate event that occurs forty days after the resurrection, in the first centuries the church did not treat it either in its writings or in its liturgies as a separate happening from the resurrection. Rather, the passion, death, resurrection, ascension, glorification, and giving of the Spirit are all various facets of one moment. Luke, in fact, as we see in today's readings, tells the story of the ascension twice: once at the end of the gospel, as occurring on the day of resurrection, and again at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, as happening forty days later. It is one grand act of God, one word on which we step out, one power that clothes us, until the day we, too, are taken into the divine realm forever.

