

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

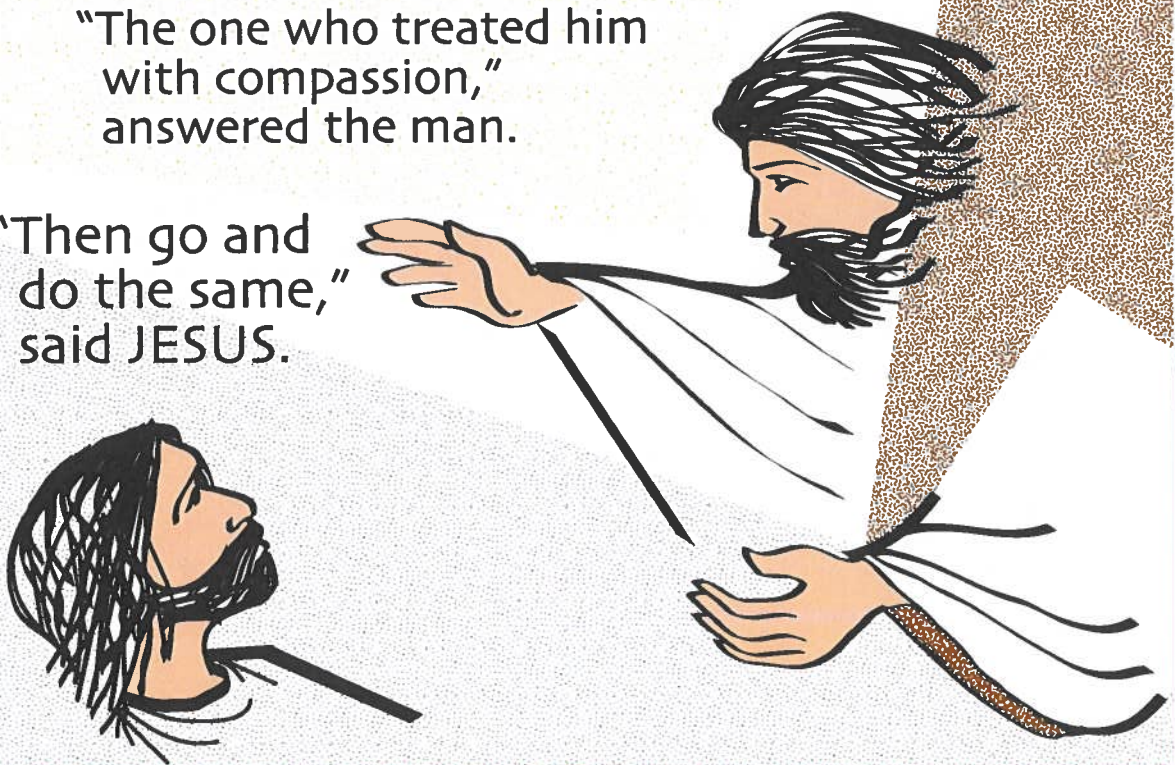
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 12-13, 2025

"Which of the three was neighbor to the man who fell among robbers?" asked JESUS.

"The one who treated him with compassion," answered the man.

"Then go and do the same," said JESUS.



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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: "If we see someone who needs help, do we stop? There is so much suffering and poverty, and a great need for good Samaritans."

—Pope Francis

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 19-20, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, July 19 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, July 20 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, July 20 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, July 20 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen	David Kirkpatrick Kyle Ferris	Jerry Ogrentz Dallas Ferris Jeff Steinke Dave Ladehoff	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Darren Lovell Larry Wolles
Lector	Rob Landeck	Cindy Gagnon	Mary Peerbolte	Steve Jacob
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Kathy Dumas	Kim Smicker

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, July 14 (SMM)

8:00 am +Harold Fournier (Scott Frerichs)

Tuesday, July 15 (SJ)

8:00 am +Sondra Hertz (Charles/Lluvia Gricius)

Wednesday, July 16 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) No Mass

Friday, July 18 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, July 19 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Jim Gray (Pat Gray)

+Donna Ruder (Pat Gray)

Sunday, July 20

7:30 am (SH) +Dorine Schafer (Scanlon Collision)

+Carson Cross (The Family)

9:00am (SJ) +Pat Perreault (Tom/Maureen O'Connor)

+Virginia Gadbois (Sue McFarland)

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

A Look Ahead

July 19/20—K of C Auxiliary selling 50/50 tickets

Sunday, July 27—K of C Ladies Auxiliary Ice Cream Social

Friday, August 1—First Friday Adoration at SMM

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 To whom can I become a neighbor? How will I follow my compassionate heart even if my head comes up with a dozen different excuses?

Collections Weekend of July 5-6

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,652

Sacred Heart—\$1,122

St. James—\$2,265

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection

Characteristics of a Christian Leader

- Their faith is alive and active.
- Their faith in Christ is most important to them.
- They are willing to sacrifice some of their time over a two-year period.
- They are creative and energetic.
- They can work as a member of a team and offer support to one another.
- They are registered, contributing members of the church.

Gospel Shorts - Hurried Students

One of the most well known parables is also the one with the most ignored message. The story of the good Samaritan is about much more than writing a check for a needy cause. It is about slowing down from the hurries of life to recognize the needs that cross our paths. When we start to see beyond those things we have set as matters of consequence, we can't help but shine with the truth that Jesus said is the only real matter of any consequence.

Sacred Heart of Jesus

Every culture and every country of the world recognize the HEART as the symbol of love. Thus, from the very beginning, the Catholic Church has used the symbol of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to represent his divine love for us. It also symbolizes our need to return love to Christ and to respond to his love for us. Many familiar Catholic religious devotions such as the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the First Friday Holy Hour, Mass and Communion and many others are designed to emphasize his love for us and the need of our efforts to return love to him. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place our trust in you.

Statues of St. Margaret Mary and St. James the Apostle

The making of the statues of St. Margaret Mary and St. James has begun. We are looking to raise additional funds to buy pedestals for the statues and other miscellaneous items. If you want to contribute to this project, please put your donation into an envelope and write "statue" on the outside of it. Also, please put a note in the envelope stating "gift of" or "in memory of" so we can make the appropriate notation. Thank you!

Parish News:

All Parishes—

- ⇒ We could use a few more money counters. If you are interested, call the office for more information.
- ⇒ The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will be selling 50/50 Raffle Tickets after all the masses the weekend of July 19th/20th .
- ⇒ There will be no Knights of Columbus Meeting in July due to summer vacations. The next meeting will be August 25, at 7:00 PM at St James.
- ⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James-

Sacred Heart-

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 27, 2025 2:00 pm—4:00 pm



Ice Cream Sundaes
Cookies

Bingo
Basket Raffle
50/50 Raffle

Free Will Donation
St. James Church Hall (in Irwin)
4372 Main St. Kankakee, IL

LOVE one another, says the LORD

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Obscure saint of the week: St. Eugene of Carthage (July 13) was the bishop of Carthage, North Africa in 481. Eugene was exiled to the desert of Tripoli with many of his parishioners, some of them children, by Arian Vandals. They were allowed to return in 488, but Eugene was exiled again in 496, and he eventually settled in Albi, Italy.



Other obscure saint of the week: St. Mildred of Thanet (July 13) was the daughter of Merewalh, King of Mercia, and Saint Ermenburga of Thanet, the sister of Saint Milburga and Saint Mildgytha. Mildred was educated at the convent school of Chelles, near Paris. She rejected an offer of marriage and entered the convent of Minster on the Isle of Thanet, a house which was founded by her mother and is still in use as one of the oldest continuously occupied structures in Britain. Mildred was a Benedictine nun; she worked with Saint Theodore of Canterbury. She was selected to be the abbess at Minster where one of her novices was Saint Edburga. She was noted for her generosity to the poor and special attention to social outcasts. Yearly pilgrimages to her relics at Minster continue today.



The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?"

He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?"

He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself."

"Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live."

Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?"

Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

"A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.'

"What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"

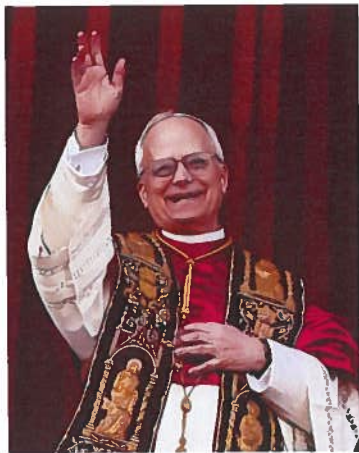
"The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, "Go and do the same" (*from Luke 10*).

LOVE the LORD
your GOD with
all your heart
with all your soul
with all your strength



Questions Catholics Ask
Exactly how is the Pope, a human being, infallible?



Significant restrictions apply on how infallibility is to be claimed.

You've identified the issue! The Pope isn't infallible, precisely because he's mortal like the rest of us. God alone is infallible. So why does the church talk about infallibility?

The issue arose as to how the church of Jesus Christ might express its authority on matters of faith and morals. The First Vatican Council ((1869-71) issued the constitution *Pater Aeternus* ("Eternal Pastor"), which describes "the infallible magisterium [teaching authority] of

the Roman Pontiff." Note: the Eternal Pastor is Jesus, not the pope. Also note, it's the teaching authority exercised by the pope, not the man himself, which is described as error-free. The pope is neither infallible (immune from error) nor impeccable (immune from sin). A brief survey of the history of the papacy will demonstrate this.

Significant restrictions apply on how infallibility is to be claimed. It's only in effect when the pope speaks *ex cathedra* ("from the chair" or office of Peter). So nothing he says casually over breakfast is intended. Only when the pope "defines a doctrine of faith and morals that must be held by the Universal Church" are his words deemed empowered with "that infallibility with which the Divine Redeemer willed to endow his Church."

Since the promulgation of *Pater Aeternus*, infallibility has been invoked explicitly once: in the declaration of the Assumption of Mary by Pope Pius XII in 1950. Belief in the Assumption was professed since the early centuries of the church and was not a novel revelation by Pius. Which is significant, since infallibility isn't intended to grant popes the power to invent new doctrines. So don't feel anxious about waking up some morning to discover some trending idea grafted onto Catholicism.

Debate and discussion regarding infallibility, meanwhile, have been non-stop. Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*) submitted that magisterial infallibility doesn't necessarily attach to the pope but to the church. This means the college of bishops, in communion with the bishop of Rome, exercise infallibility. It's a corporate endowment: your local bishop doesn't get to speak infallibly as an individual.

Not everyone got on board with the infallibility clause. A dissenting group left the church to begin the "Old Catholic Church." Some bishops felt the teaching was unnecessary, ambiguously stated, or seriously flawed. Theologians also warn of "creeping infallibility" undermining the need for teaching to evolve and church practice to reform. It helps to keep in mind that even infallibility has its limits.

Scriptures: Isaiah 22:22; Matthew 16:13-19; Luke 22:32; John 1:42; 17:20-21; 21:15-17



But a Samaritan...cared for him
LK.10:33-34

A Stewardship Prayer for July

Lord and Creator,

You are the source of wisdom and grace,
the author of human freedom and creativity.

We thank you for these gifts, and ask that
you teach us

to be good stewards of our creative spirits.

Show us how to quiet ourselves, and to learn
the art of re-creation, reflection , and
relaxation

so that we might recharge and refill ourselves
for the work you have planned for us.

Help us never to be too busy to pause and
realize

your gracious presence all around us:
in nature, in other people, in ourselves.

Slow us down, Lord, and teach us to be
stewards of our time of recreation.

Amen



Why is July the Month of the Precious Blood?

This monthly devotional stems from a pope's response to revolution. Italy was in political turmoil for the first half of the 19th century. At that time, Austria ruled over some parts of Italy, and Italian revolutionaries were trying to throw off that rule. Petty skirmishes eventually led to a declaration of war on Austria in 1848—and the Holy Father was caught in the middle.

Early in his pontificate, Blessed Pope Pius IX had extended political pardon to Italian revolutionaries who were exiled or imprisoned. His liberality, however, was greeted with demands to make further political concessions to the revolutionaries.

Finally, revolutionaries attacked the pope's rule in the Vatican State itself. Some of the pope's ministers were even murdered.

By 1848, Pius IX found himself besieged in his own papal palace because he refused to sanction the war on Catholic Austria. Foreign ambassadors staying with the pope helped him disguise himself and flee the Vatican. He went to Gaeta, accompanied by a superior general of the Fathers of the Precious Blood.

Inspired by the superior general, Pius IX decided to institute an official feast for the Most Precious Blood, praying for the end of the war and bloodshed in Italy.

Soon after he announced this decision—at the end of June, 1849—the war subsided. The first Sunday of July was set aside for the Most Precious Blood, and later Pope St. Pius X fixed the feast on July 1st. (In the current calendar, this feast is no longer fixed, but is a moveable votive Mass.)

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A Prayer for the Families Who Lost Loved Ones in the Texas Floods

Lord, we pray for the families of all the flood victims who lost their lives, many of whom lost their lives trying to save others. Please grant the families, friends, and the broader Kerr County community pockets of comfort and peace in the midst of this heavy reality they are living in. We pray that these families would only draw closer to you during this time of intense grief and after, Jesus. Help them to know You are with them in their pain and sorrow. Jesus, you have made it possible, as the Savior of the world, for those who believe and accept Your gracious gift of salvation to enter into eternity the second their body ceases to exist on this earth. Thank You that every believer who lost their life, is with You in heaven, free from pain and suffering, delighting in Your presence. Holy Spirit, we pray for those grieving to hold fast to Your new mercies every morning and to hold them tightly in the dark hours of the night when hopeless thoughts sink in. Help them to release those thoughts of helplessness and hopelessness as they wonder why it had to be their loved one; fill their minds with light and love, and heal the deep wounds that crack open so easily.

Contact Debbie Jensen for ticket 815-953-6492. Proceeds for Wreaths Across America Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Herscher American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #795
Luncheon & Bunco Party

Sunday--August 10, 2025
1:00 p.m. \$20.00
Herscher Legion Community Building
102 S. Oak Street, Herscher

Fundraiser for **Wreaths Across America**

Lunch served with lemonade, water and cash bar
Then play bunco

Basket Raffle Door prizes plus awards for the winners!

50/50 Raffle

Limited number of tickets for purchase
Auxiliary Members have tickets available
Questions, call Thelma Webber @815-953-2908



July 13, 2025

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 30:10-14 | Col 1:15-20 | Lk 10:25-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Do you ever feel as though the concept of God's plan for your life feels too distant and abstract to perceive? If you raised your hand, just know I'm raising mine, too. The life of a Christian striving for virtue and closeness with our creator is not always simple! But Moses' words to the Israelites in today's first reading pierce my heart, even centuries after he spoke them: "For this command that I enjoin on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you." Moses is talking to the Israelites about God's instructions that will lead them to the Promised Land, but it's a relevant reminder for us, too. God's command is not some vague message written in the sky, or some ancient code we need to decipher. *It is written in our hearts.* Our job is simply to return to the Lord our God so that we might understand it. If you ever feel as though God's ways are inscrutable, return to him, perhaps using this particular Scripture. When we call upon God, he always responds. And in his response there is great mercy and love. We are meant to share this mercy and love we receive with others.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I think it's natural, in our fallen humanity, to overcomplicate the Lord's commandments. But in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus spells it out for us in plain terms: show mercy to our neighbor. How often do we encounter someone in need? Probably daily. How often do we respond with love, generosity, and mercy? This is the question we must ask ourselves. Though the call is clear and concise, the reality is demanding. But Jesus also reminds us that our acts of mercy aren't without merit - they are precisely what will carry us onward to our eternal reward. "Do this and you will live," Jesus says.

REFLECT

Today's readings remind us of our earthly call to love and to serve, and they are also a reminder of God's radical nearness to his people. The call to mercy is challenging. The mission to love is bold. The road to eternal glory is long and narrow. But God is never far away from us on this journey. Take time this week to consider where and how the Lord is speaking to you. How is he inviting you into his mission of mercy? Where is he offering you himself?

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. John 6:63c, 68c

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 10:25-37; L105C

There was a scholar of the law
who stood up to test Jesus
and said,

"Teacher, what must I do to
inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "What is writ-
ten in the law?"

How do you read it?"

He said in reply,

*"You shall love the Lord, your
God,
with all your heart,
with all your being,
with all your strength,
and with all your mind,
and your neighbor as
yourself."*

He replied to him, "You have
answered correctly;
do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify him-
self, he said to Jesus,

"And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied,

*"A man fell victim to robbers
as he went down from Jerusalem to
Jericho.*

*They stripped and beat him and went
off leaving him half-dead.*

*A priest happened to be going down
that road,*

*but when he saw him, he passed by
on the opposite side.*

*Likewise a Levite came to the place,
and when he saw him, he passed by
on the opposite side.*

Continued in Appendix A, p. 303.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Like the scholar of the law in today's gospel, we all know from experience that it is easy to talk ourselves out of doing a good deed; there are reasons to avoid it or to let someone else of greater means or experience help out. He knew what to do. He knew what his religious convictions prompted him to do. He could recite

the law perfectly. He also knew what his heart was urging him to do. He just needed somebody to reassure him that his rationalizations were well founded and that no one would expect him to do anything for some stranger in need.

It would have been easy for Jesus to give him the answer he wanted: "Yes, of course you're right. He is not your responsibility. Someone better equipped will tend to him." But he does not. Jesus knows that it will not be easy for the scholar to hear his answer. Better than rational arguments, a story will help the scholar move out of his head and listen to his heart. There is, however, a twist to the story that Jesus tells. It is not a straightforward tale about someone like the scholar who is "moved with compassion" that he might easily emulate.

The complication is that the scholar of the law would never identify with a hated Samaritan. More likely he would see himself in the person in need at the side of the road. From that perspective, he would watch in horror as the priest and Levite, the ones he would expect to act with pastoral attention, pass him by while justifying themselves. To receive lavish aid from a despised Samaritan breaks open the strictures of his heart, as he experiences a flood of grace from this unexpected source.

The question is not really "who is my neighbor?" Deep down the scholar knows that each human being and every creature are neighbor and kin. The scholar does not want to admit this to himself because of what it will ask of him. In the depths of his heart, however, he knows what he must do to aid a fellow traveler in need. It is not really too hard or too mysterious to figure out, as Moses tells the Israelites in the first reading. You do not need someone to "go up in the sky" or "cross the sea." How to live out God's way as elaborated in the Scriptures is actually "something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out," as Moses asserts.

Sometimes we need to be helped out of our rationalizations for not doing what our listening heart prompts us to do. At other times we are asked to be the one who can speak truth lovingly to a friend who struggles to do what compassion asks of him or her.

Heeding the voice of God to know the right action and the right time requires deep listening in contemplative silent prayer, in honest conversation with trusted friends, and with openness to hearing the cacophonous cries of needy neighbors.

