

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

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 26-27, 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: "And what was the first rule of our dear Savior's life? You know it was to do his Father's will. Well, then, the first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner he wills; and thirdly, to do it because it is his will."
—Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 2-3, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, August 2 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, August 3 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, August 3 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, August 3 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiler Dave Emling Bob Schultz	David Kirkpatrick James Mallaney	Dennis O'Connor Jeff Steinke Dallas Ferris Dave Ladehoff	Wayne Bisailon Darren Lovell Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler
Lector	Rob Landeck	Darlene Cipcich	Mary Peerbolte	Corinn Wheeler
Eucharistic Minister				Wayne Bisailon
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Donna Bernicky R. Leader—The Peerboltes	Wayne Bisailon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, July 28 (SMM)

8:00 am +Anne Wheeler (Jackie Cross)

Tuesday, July 29 (SH)

8:00 am +Irene Jensen (Rhonda/Joe Berns)

Wednesday, July 30 (SJ)

8:00 am +Jeff Cooley (Maryanne Cooley)

Friday, August 1 (SMM)

8:00 am +Amos Regnier (Pat Gray)

Saturday, August 2 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, August 3

7:30 am (SH) +Vincent Feller (Don/Marie Feller)

+Tom Buckley (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

9:00am (SJ) +Leola Ader (Sue Kuntz)

+Virginia Fritz (Jerry/JoLynn Ogrentz)

10:30 am (SMM)+ Rudy Splear (Dave/Ellen Emling)

A Look Ahead

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

Friday, August 1—First Friday Adoration at SMM

Thursday, August 14—Vigil Mass Assumption at SH 7 pm

Friday, August 15—Assumption Mass at SMM 8 am and at St. James at 7pm

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 Over the coming week, take time each day to persistently ask God for a need of yours or a friend's. At the end of the week, answer this question: What have I learned by persisting in prayer daily for this need?

Collections Weekend of July 12-13

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,793

Sacred Heart—\$895

St. James—\$1,462

Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts - The Three 'Rs' of Prayer

Sometimes it is very hard to pray — we don't know what to say, or we don't know how to pray. And yet, if we admit these fears about prayer, we feel spiritually undeveloped. In Luke 11, though, the disciples ask Jesus specifically, "Teach us how to pray; what to say; what to do."

See, it is all right to be confused about prayer or apprehensive about it. In teaching The Lord's Prayer, Jesus takes us more deeply into what we can call "the three 'Rs' of prayer": prayer as a ritual (and therefore something we can safely return to), as sometimes recited by rote, yet always there to comfort; prayer as a reminder of God's care for us and love toward us; and, prayer as a rejuvenator that "gets us going again" through the power of God's spirit.

Reflection The Holy Spirit at Home

The Holy Spirit comes to us where we live, and he loves us as we are.

Our home and our family and friends are part of his plan, the will of God for us.

Home is where we learn to be amiable. And since homes are where sinners live, we need to practice being kind, patient and forgiving as well.

We must speak our love and thankfulness often, giving loving service any way we can, and spending precious time together. Our home and those we love will not be there forever — life is fragile, ever-changing.

Parish News:

All Parishes—

⇒

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

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James-

Sacred Heart-

⇒ Sacre Heart Church needs to fill a few open spots on the church cleaning schedule. April, June and Sept. are all open. If you would like, share the cleaning with a friend, spouse, or relative. A poster with the schedule is on the bulletin board as you enter the church. Please feel free to sign up. Questions—call Terri at 815-514-8171. Thanks again to all those who volunteer their time and support our parish.

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

Ice Cream Social

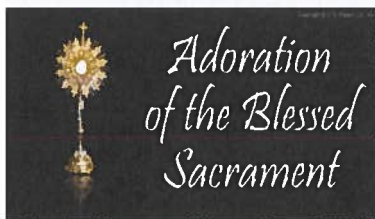
Sunday, July 27, 2025 2:00 pm—4:00 pm

Ice Cream Sundaes
Cookies

Bingo
Basket Raffle
50/50 Raffle



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



Adoration

Adoration in August will be at SMM followed by 3:00 Benediction.

Venerable Norbert McAuliffe
on the Blessed Sacrament

When Brother Norbert was asked by someone on what someone should do during a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, he replied, "*Just sit there and let God's love come to you from the tabernacle.*"



CONGRATULATIONS TO
ASHTEN MASCHING,
DAUGHTER OF DAVID & DANA MASCHING
AND LANE HOFFMAN
SON OF BILL & POLLY HOFFMAN
WHO WERE UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY
ON SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025
AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN BLOOMINGTON

Pray as
JESUS himself
taught us

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GOD'S WILL

GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IS NEITHER CASUAL NOR RANDOM. IT IS TO BE FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURES, IN TRADITION AND IN THE SACRAMENTS. STUDY AND GUARD THE RICH DEPOSIT OF FAITH WITH INTENSE PRAYER, SO THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE IT TO OTHERS. LORD, BE WITH ME.

Obscure saint of the week: St. Celestine I (July 27) was the son of Priscus; he may have been related to Emperor Valentinian. In addition, Celestine may have worked with Saint Ambrose of Milan. He was ordained a deacon in Rome, in 416. Almost nothing else is known about Celestine before his unanimous election as the 43rd pope.

He ordered the bishops of Vienne and Narbonne in Gaul to correct doctrinal errors and abuses. He sent Saint Germanus of Auxerre to Britain to oppose Pelagianism in 429 and later wrote a treatise himself against semi-Pelagianism. Celestine opposed the Manichaeans, Donatists, and Novatians whose heresies were spreading. He convened a council in Rome in 430, sent legates to the General Council of Ephesus in 431 to condemn Nestorianism, excommunicated Nestorius and deposed him. Celestine dispatched Palladius to evangelize Ireland in 431.

He was a friend of and correspondent with Saint Augustine of Hippo; their letters indicate that Rome was the final authority for theology in the 5th century. He restored the basilica of Saint Mary Trastevere after it had been damaged in Alaric's sack of Rome. He worked to reform the clergy of Gaul and ordered that absolution should never be denied to the dying who were sincere in their repentance.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Juliana of Mataró (July 27) was the blood sister of Saint Semproniana of Mataró. Juliana was baptized by and spiritual student of Saint Cugat del Valles. Later she became a nun. Juliana was imprisoned and martyred in the persecutions of Diocletian for trying to bury the martyred body of Saint Cugat.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

One day he was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, "Master, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples."

So he said, "When you pray, say,

Father,

Reveal who you are.

Set the world right.

Keep us alive with three square meals.

Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.

Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil."

Then he said, "Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. An old friend traveling through just showed up, and I don't have a thing on hand.'

"The friend answers from his bed, 'Don't bother me. The door's locked; my children are all down for the night; I can't get up to give you anything.'

"But let me tell you, even if he won't get up because he's a friend, if you stand your ground, knocking and waking all the neighbors, he'll finally get up and get you whatever you need.


"Here's what I'm saying:

Ask and you'll get;


Seek and you'll find;

Knock and the door will open.

"Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your little boy asks for a serving of fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? If your little girl asks for an egg, do you trick her with a spider? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing—you're at least decent to your own children. And don't you think the Father who conceived you in love will give the Holy Spirit when you ask him?" (from Luke 11).







**The Ford-Iroquois
Council of Catholic
Women & Rural Life
Commission
Present:**





"Gifts from the Land"

Begins with the Celebration of **Mass at 10 am**
 Followed by Guest Speakers:
~Fr. Burke Masters~
 Pastor of St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale
 and Author of "A Grand Skunk for God"
~Sandy Wilken~
 Jamie's Mill
~Maddie Buckley~
 Hanson Land and Cattle
~Bonnie Selndon~
 Heartland Candles
 and more!!

Join Us
Friday, August 1st
 at
 Assumption of the BVM
 208 N. Second Street
 Ashkun
 Free-will lunch
 provided

For further details and to RSVP,
 contact Debbie Krones at
 815-228-2921 or Cheryl Weber at
 815-644-4700.

*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!**



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

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Is Carlo Acutis the first Influencer Saint?
 The Church is about to canonize a coder.

In many ways, he was just an
 ordinary teenager...

But now the teen once dubbed
 "God's influencer" is only weeks
 away from becoming the
 Church's first millennial saint—
 proof that holiness and high-
 speed internet can peacefully
 coexist.



Carlo Acutis loved soccer, wore
 his favorite Nikes everywhere,
 and devoured computer-science textbooks before most kids
 had mastered long division. When he noticed that Google re-
 turned more gossip than Gospel, he built a **slick, database-
 driven website** that mapped Eucharistic miracles around the
 world and gathered Marian apparitions into one searchable
 hub. What began as a home-grown project in his bedroom be-
 came a multilingual portal used by catechists, youth ministers,
 and the simply curious on every continent.

His stated mission: *"To get as many people as possible to fall in
 love with the Eucharist."* With a few clicks he was doing just
 that—years before "digital evangelization" was a buzzword.

Yet his life and legacy was far more than just Java Script and
 Halo...

Diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia at 15, Carlo
 offered every needle-stick for the pope and the Church, telling
 his mom, "I'm happy to die because I've lived my life without
 wasting even a minute on things that don't please God." Four-
 teen years after his death, crowds packed Assisi's piazzas on
 Oct. 12, 2020, for his beatification—watching on giant LED
 screens he would've loved to configure.

Now he is on the path to sainthood.

On June 13, 2025, Pope Leo XIV announced that Carlo Acutis
 and fellow young Catholic powerhouse Pier Giorgio Frassati will
 be canonized **together on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, in St. Peter's
 Square**. The joint ceremony, part of the Jubilee celebrations,
 will spotlight two very different but equally contagious styles of
 evangelization—Frassati's mountaintop charity and Carlo's Wi-
 Fi apostolate.

Carlo's example is important because he showed that the inter-
 net can promote faith rather than undermine it. At a time
 when many online platforms profit from conflict, Carlo showed
 how code, good design, and digital reach can instead lead peo-
 ple toward truth and hope.

—reprinted with permission The Catholic Company
www.thecatholiccompany.com

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

Tri-Parish Prayer Group

We are starting a weekly prayer group for the three parishes of St. Margaret Mary, St James the Apostles, and Sacred Heart. Do you ever feel burdened by life's problems and worries? Do you yearn for a better prayer life? Perhaps you want to be more faithful to pray for your family and friends, our parish, the church and the world. Maybe you simply desire some quiet time to praise and thank God, to listen for his voice in the busyness of life, to grow in friendship with Christ and your fellow parishioners. Jesus knows our needs, and He invites us to come to him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Mt 11:28



What are the benefits of a weekly prayer group?

There is strength in numbers. Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Mt 18: 20

We grow, not in isolation, but as a member of the Body of Christ. We support each other; we learn from each other. We pray for and with each other.

Our prayer time would last about an hour. We will tentatively try Monday evenings at 7 pm at St. James. The format would be flexible. It could include various prayer forms: the Divine Office Evening Prayer, Scripture sharing, preview of the Sunday Gospel, the Chaplet of Mercy, Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, quiet time, faith sharing, singing, prayers of praise and intercession.

When Jesus first called the disciple Philip, Philip in turn brought Nathanael to Jesus with the words "Come and see." We invite you to **come and see**: Mondays at 7 pm at St. James Hall.

Questions? Call Darwin & Mary Peerbolte at 815-981-5481

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!



When you pray, say: Father,
hallowed be your name
LK. 11:2

A Stewardship Moment

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of July 26/27, 2025

A prominent theme in today's Gospel parable is generosity. Late at night, a sleepy friend responds to his neighbor's request for food for an unexpected guest. Jesus suggests that it would be unthinkable for a friend to deny a friend in need. A friend would most certainly give what is asked and more. Through this story, Jesus illustrates God's generosity. Good stewards realize the extraordinary love and graciousness with which God showers us. We need never convince God to be generous. God is already that generous friend. His abundant love bathes us in goodness. This week, prayerfully reflect on God's generosity to us. What should our response be to that generosity?



July 27, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:20-32 | Col 2:12-14 | Lk 11:1-13

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

"Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Sounds lovely, doesn't it? I remember understanding this verse as though God is like a genie in a bottle and prayer is like a delivery service. But when I encountered true hardship, this interpretation was tested. I was seeking, but I couldn't find what I wanted. My request seemed to go unanswered. I was asking, but my hands were empty. I couldn't reconcile this. Did this mean God wasn't telling me the truth? Trusting that couldn't be the case, I pressed in a little harder. In time, and through the grace of God, I realized I'd been reading this verse through selfish eyes. I was understanding this passage to say, "ask for whatever you feel like in the moment, and I'll drop it on your doorstep." But what does Jesus *actually* say? He says that if we ask, he will always give us *the Holy Spirit*. This understanding can change how we pray. The Lord doesn't promise to instantly cure our maladies, or to remove every ounce of pain on this side of the veil. But he does promise to send his Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be with us through it all. And that is far better than any type of delivery service.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's psalm echoes the Gospel message that the Lord never abandons us. In our response, we unite our voices with the universal Church as we say, "Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me." We encounter hardship on a daily basis. From the tiny irritations that tempt our tempers to flare to the heavy crosses we carry, we are reminded of how much we need God's help. And yet, how often is our response to turn inward and grow weary, discouraged, or angry? Next time we come eye to eye with a challenge, let's try to respond like the psalmist, and cry out to the Advocate. He is very near. *Come Holy Spirit*.

REFLECT

We are reminded in today's readings that the Lord is always near, that he hears us, and that he responds generously. Thank God this is true even when it doesn't seem like it. As we face our daily hardships, let's not forget to ask Jesus for help. Don't forget that he never rations the Spirit, and though he will never force himself on you, he's waiting eagerly to pour his love into your heart. Ask! Seek! Knock! He knows your voice, and he is ready to respond.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Rom 8:15bc

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You have received a Spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, Abba, Father.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 11:1-13, L111C

Jesus was praying in a certain place,
and when he had finished,
one of his disciples said to him,
"Lord, teach us to pray just as
John taught his disciples."
He said to them, "When you pray,
say:
Father, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
for we ourselves forgive every-
one in debt to us,
and do not subject us to the final
test."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of
you has a friend
to whom he goes at midnight and says,
'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,
for a friend of mine has arrived at
my house from a journey
and I have nothing to offer him,'
and he says in reply from within,
'Do not bother me; the door has al-
ready been locked
and my children and I are already in
bed.
I cannot get up to give you anything.'
I tell you,
if he does not get up to give the
visitor the loaves
because of their friendship,
he will get up to give him whatever
he needs
because of his persistence.

Continued in Appendix A, p. 304.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Sometimes we feel like we have to bargain with God in order to receive his favors. In the gospel today, Jesus tells a parable, followed by several sayings, to convey how extraordinarily loving and gracious God is and how greatly God wants to shower us with what is good. We don't have to try to convince God to be generous toward us—that is the very thing God wants to do!



Jesus tells a parable about a person who has a special need late at night, after a guest arrives unexpectedly. He goes to his neighbor to ask for bread to serve to the guest. Even though the neighbor and his family are sound asleep, surely he will respond. In the very unlikely case that the neighbor's care for his friend falters, his sensitivity to the shame that failure to respond would bring on his own household would propel him to open the door and supply the bread. The motive ascribed to the friend making the request in verse 8, *anaideia*, is often rendered "persistence." But the Greek word is more accurately translated "shamelessness."

The sense is that the sleeping friend responds to the request for bread to avoid having shame come upon his household and the village, who all share responsibility for hospitality to the guest. The opening line of the parable asks a rhetorical question that sets up the expected response: It is completely unthinkable that a friend would act shamefully by denying a friend in need. A friend would most certainly give what is asked and more. The point of the parable is that God's response to us when we are needy is like that of the generously giving friend. The translation "persistence" originates from the Latin versions from the fifth century onward that inaccurately rendered *anaideia* as *importunitatem*.

The sayings that follow the parable reinforce its meaning, elaborating that God stands ready and eager to open the door to whoever knocks and to give whatever we ask, just as parents desire to give good gifts to their children. The gospel challenges the idea that God sends suffering to test or challenge or strengthen us and insists that God desires only good for us. We do not have to badger God or bargain with God to give us good things.

A careful reading of today's first Scripture passage, from Genesis, reinforces this point. Abraham begins to bargain with God, taking it for granted that God has made a judgment to sweep away all those who are presumed guilty. Over and over God's response is, "I will not destroy."

In the opening lines of the gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray, showing them how to begin by centering on God's holiness, God's realm, and God's bountiful gifts of daily food and forgiveness. By accepting these unearned and abundant gifts, disciples are transformed into people who are increasingly giving and forgiving, like God. The persistence needed is not to keep imploring God so as to change God's mind, but to keep on faithfully praying so as to be changed into an icon of the divine generosity.