

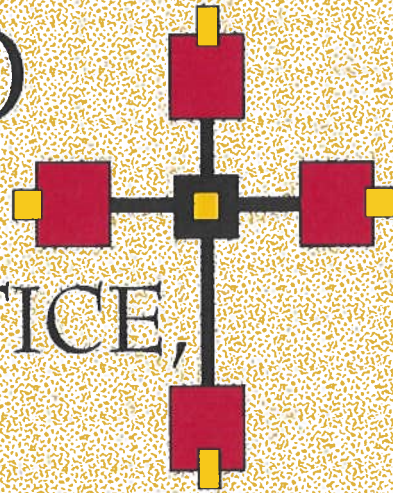
The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2025

BLESSED

are the ones  
who keep the faith,  
SECURE JUSTICE,  
FOR THE  
OPPRESSED  
and feed the hungry.



Let your actions proclaim the Gospel!



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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: "Nothing is more fallacious than wealth. Today it is for thee; tomorrow it is against thee.."**  
*—Saint John Chrysostom*

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time			October 4-5, 2025	
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Oct. 4 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Oct. 5 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Oct. 5 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Oct. 5 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiler Bob Schultz Dave Emling	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Dallas Ferris Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Cathy Jensen	Larry Wolles Sean Riordan Kim Smicker Joe Smolkovich
Lector	Hillary Smith	Mike Hertz	Jeff O'Connor	Dana Masching
Eucharistic Minister				Karen Rushman
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Donna Bernicky R. Leader—Rita Thiesen	Kim Smicker

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, Sept. 29 (SH)

8:00 am +Kevin McGarry (Jeff/Diane Long)

#### Tuesday, Sept. 30 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

#### Wednesday, Oct. 1 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

#### Friday, Oct. 3 (SJ) First Friday

8:00 am +Dolores Clodi (Sue Kuntz)

#### Saturday, Oct. 4 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

#### Sunday, Oct. 5

7:30 am (SH) +Ron Meli (Rodney/Kathy Meli)

+George Grosso (Jerry/Terri Weakley)

9:00 am (SJ) +Richard & Edna Legris, Steve Legris, &  
Michelle Frost (Darwin/Mary Peerbolte)

10:30 am (SMM) +Cindy Frerichs (Julie Austin)

+Marie Duval (Everett/Dee Solon)

### A Look Ahead

**Monday, Sept. 29**—Tri-Parish Prayer Meeting 7 pm at SJ

**Monday, Oct. 6**—Tri-Parish Prayer Meeting at SJ 7pm

**Wednesday, Oct. 8**—Adult Ed SJ 7pm

**Sat., October 11**—Rosary Rally SMM noon

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](http://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](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James— Tanhya Osenga [tosenga81@gmail.com](mailto:tosenga81@gmail.com)

**Parish Nurse** – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

**Prayer Line—**

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [ldstreefarms@aol.com](mailto:ldstreefarms@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 do I choose to ignore who appears to be in need? To whom can I reach out with compassion and charity and without judgment or condescension?



### Collections Weekend of Sept. 20-21

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,684

Sacred Heart—\$1,306

St. James—\$1,207

Thank you for your generosity!



Letters of application are now being accepted for the Theresa Fritz Catholic Education Scholarship for the 2025-2026 school year. Applicants must be a parishioner of St. Margaret

Mary and attend a Catholic grade or high school or a Catholic university. Please submit a letter to Fr. Ron at the Tri-Parish office explaining which school you are attending and your reason(s) for choosing a Catholic school. Letters need to be received in the office by October 3, 2025.

### Kids Helping Kids

The tri-parish religious ed programs are working together this year to raise money for a charity that helps children. Sacred Heart will be doing a few fundraisers this year for this purpose. There is a jug in the back of the church for anyone to make any donations. It will be there throughout the school year.

### It's Time to Sign Up!!!!

If you haven't signed up to get your picture taken for the new Tri-Parish directory, you can call the office between 9 am—Noon on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays.

If you prefer, go to the website [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com). Our church code is: il427 Password is: photos. There is no pressure to purchase pictures at your session. If you get your photo taken, you will receive a Free 8 x 10 and a new Church Directory!! What a deal!! If you choose to submit a photo, there will be a \$15 Charge.

Also: if you would like to get multi-generational pictures taken (Photo will not be in the directory) with your adult children and grandchildren, you can book back to back appointments with no sitting fee. If there are more than 5 people, please book 2 time slots.

Dates are October 16, 17, and 18.



### Parish News:

#### All Parishes—

⇒ *The Kankakee Deanery CCW Board organizes the events of which your CCW parish women attend - Joy in January and Spring Institute. The Board would like to invite women of your parish to attend our next board meeting. It is with a desire for your input and ideas. Our meeting is October 27, 2025 (5:00 p.m.) at St. John Paul II. Any questions, please contact Rhonda Berns at 815-545-9519.*

⇒ *Our Adult Ed class will next meet on October 8 at 7 pm at St. James.*

⇒ *It's time for a new Pictorial Directory! Our dates are Oct. 16-18. Just for participating you will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a church directory. Be watching for more upcoming information,.*

⇒ *Wits Workout will be moved to St. James hall from August 25 until further notice. Everyone is welcome; you can begin at any time. Wits Workout is on Monday from 1-2pm. If you would like to join us, please call Natalia at Catholic Charities at 815-933-7791 ext. 9954.*

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

#### St. Margaret Mary-

Undy Sunday donations will be collected in the entry Oct. 10-19th See page 4 for more information.

⇒ *Weekday masses until further notice are Mondays at Sacred Heart and Fridays at St. James.*

#### St. James-

⇒ *Pumpkin and Gourd Sale Today, September 28th.*

#### Sacred Heart-

⇒ *Sunday Oct. 5th will be the CCW's annual Bake Sale at the Salina Fire Dept. in Bonfield. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated*



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

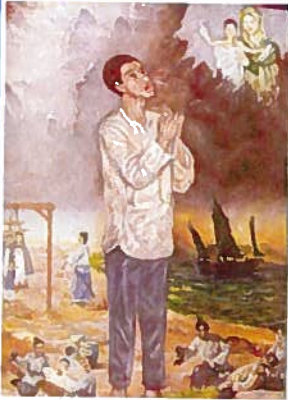
**+Harry Philips**

husband of Therese Philips

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



Our sincere sympathy to Therese, his children, extended family and friends.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Lorenzo Ruiz of Manila (Sept. 28)** was born to a Chinese father and Filipino mother, both Christians. Lorenzo learned Chinese and Tagalog at home, Spanish from the Dominicans whom he served as an altar boy and sacristan. He was a professional calligrapher and document transcriptionist. A member of the *Confraternity of the Holy Rosary*, he was a married layman, and the father of two sons and a daughter.

For unclear reasons, Lorenzo was accused of murder. He sought asylum on board a ship with three Dominican priests, Saint Antonio Gonzalez, Saint Guillermo Courtet, and Saint Miguel de Aozaraza, a Japanese priest, Saint Vicente Shiwosuka de la Cruz, and a layman named Saint Lazaro of Kyoto, a leper. Only when they were at sea did he learn that they were going to Japan during a time of intense Christian persecution.

Lorenzo could have gone to Formosa (modern Taiwan), but feared the Spaniards there would hang him, and so he stayed with the missionaries as they landed at Okinawa. The group was soon exposed as Christian, arrested, and taken to Nagasaki, Japan. They were tortured in several ways for days. Lorenzo and the Japanese priest broke at one point and were ready to renounce their faith in exchange for release, but after their moment of crisis, they reclaimed their faith and defied their tormentors. He was the first canonized Filipino martyr.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Eustochium** was the daughter of Saint Paula of Rome and Roman senator Toxotius. She was the sister of Saint Blaesilla. She was the spiritual student of Saint Jerome in 382. Eustochium made a personal vow of perpetual virginity. She spoke Latin and Greek and could read Hebrew. Eustochium traveled with Paula and Jerome to the Holy Land where she helped with the Vulgate Bible translation, working as Jerome's housekeeper, reading and writing for him when his eyesight began to fail. When Paula died in 404, Eustochium took over the spiritual direction of three women's communities formerly guided by her mother.

### Gospel Shorts - Live Simply, So That Others May Simply Live

The parable of Lazarus and the rich man speaks to our hearts. In some ways, we may be able to identify with either of the individuals. In any event, we are asked to place ourselves into the scene and to ask some difficult questions if we identify ourselves with the rich man. How do we share the gifts and richness that we have? Are we blind to the needs of those who (although are not at our feet) are in front of our eyes, at our door, or on the street where we live?

If we see ourselves as the poor man, do we see a hope for our resurrection into new life through and during our suffering? We all have a part to play in the drama of the spiritual journey, and Jesus calls us to the same happy ending into the Kingdom. How well do we respond to those needy at our door?



### 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Adoration

"Every consecrated host is made to burn itself up with love in a human heart."

-St. John Vianney

First Friday Mass and Adoration will be held on Friday, October 3 at St. James. Adoration will conclude with Benediction at 3:00.

### Reflection Final Destination

Time had come for the funeral of a woman who always kept her church and community in an uproar with her gossip. It was a dark, stormy day, and the lights were on in the chapel. The preacher was quietly conducting the service.

Suddenly a bolt of lightning shook the building and the lights went out. The preacher stopped talking and, in the sudden stillness, a voice was heard from the audience.

"She got there!"



## Questions Catholics Ask How can I prove the existence of God to atheists?

Proofs for God's existence have been regularly proposed by the learned. Christian apologetics—which doesn't manufacture apologies, but rather justifications, for believing—has also been busy offering defenses for the faith since the second century. None of this is guaranteed to make your spiritually skeptical buddy fall on his knees and profess the Creed. Faith isn't an argument. It's a fundamental commitment we each make for ourselves.

Justin Martyr (100-167) was among the first apologists to present Christianity in a way his Greco-Roman culture might find both reasonable and appealing. Thomas Merton (1915-1968), with his autobiographical *Seven-Storey Mountain*, attempted to do the same for 20th-century skeptics. Folks as diverse as missionaries, scholars, fiction writers, and filmmakers have tried to make faith reasonable and attractive to those outside the church. See a recent attempt in the 2018 film "An Interview with God," starring David Strathairn in the title role.

The watchmaker analogy is often invoked to demonstrate the plausibility of belief. Say you find a watch on the beach. Even though you don't see a watchmaker, you know there must be one. A watch is too perfect a mechanism to have evolved on its own. So too, one might say, the world itself.

Saint Anselm (1033-1109) claimed God must exist since we can imagine the most perfect Being. What would make this Being even more perfect is to actually exist. Other scholars like Baruch Spinoza (1232-1677), Rene Descartes (1596-1650), and Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) also formulated intellectual proofs. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) offered five possible proofs: there must be an Unmoved Mover at the back of all movement, an Uncaused Cause at the start of all being—and ditto for contingency, gradation, and design.

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) offered a wager rather than a proof. We have the option to believe or not. If we believe and are wrong, we live a good life with the respect of friends, enjoy the consolations of religion, and are none the wiser after death. No harm done! If we don't believe and are wrong, we have lots of explaining to do, and possibly face eternal damnation. If however, we believe and are correct, we receive eternal reward. Belief is a better wager than unbelief.

Perhaps the best choice of all is not to argue, prove, or bet. Just offer the example of a life of genuine discipleship, and see who's attracted!

**Scripture:** John 20:24-29; 1 Corinthians 13:8-13; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1; James 2:14-18; 1 John 1:1-4



Faith isn't an argument. It's a fundamental commitment we each make for ourselves.



COLLECTION DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE CLIENTS  
OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES.

**OCTOBER 18-19, 2025**

We will be collecting donations of basic needs items for the clients of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet at the Parish the weekend of October 18-19. Any donation of new underwear, socks, and diapers are welcome. Catholic Charities has requested that we focus on the following items this year:

- Adult diapers in all sizes (Small to XXXL)
- Diabetic or easy-on socks
- Non-skid house slippers with backs (for fall prevention)
- Men's underwear (any size)
- Women's underwear (any size)

*Thank you for caring  
for the poor and  
vulnerable in our  
community.*



WE  
THOUGH  
MANY  
ARE  
ONE

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## 2025 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY RALLY

Where: St. Margaret Mary Church, Main St., Herscher, Illinois

When: October 11, 2025 – ROSARY WILL BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON



Please join us in praying for our nation





Sacred Heart's parishioners have been hard at work finishing up on all the remodeling and updating the Parish Hall.



### PUMPKIN AND GOURD SALE

Sunday September 28th St. James will be selling pumpkins and gourds after the 9am Mass. A free will donation will be accepted. The proceeds from the sale will be going to the RE program to benefit the Kids Helping Kids project. Thank you for supporting the RE children's outreach project.

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

"There once was a rich man, expensively dressed in the latest fashions, wasting his days in conspicuous consumption. A poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, had been dumped on his doorstep. All he lived for was to get a meal from scraps off the rich man's table. His best friends were the dogs who came and licked his sores.

"Then he died, this poor man, and was taken up by the angels to the lap of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell and in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham in the distance and Lazarus in his lap. He called out, 'Father Abraham, mercy! Have mercy! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water to cool my tongue. I'm in agony in this fire.'

"But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that in your lifetime you got the good things and Lazarus the bad things. It's not like that here. Here he's consoled and you're tormented. Besides, in all these matters there is a huge chasm set between us so that no one can go from us to you even if he wanted to, nor can anyone cross over from you to us.'

"The rich man said, 'Then let me ask you, Father: Send him to the house of my father where I have five brothers, so he can tell them the score and warn them so they won't end up here in this place of torment.'

"Abraham answered, 'They have Moses and the Prophets to tell them the score. Let them listen to them.'

" 'I know, Father Abraham,' he said, 'but they're not listening. If someone came back to them from the dead, they would change their ways.'

"Abraham replied, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they're not going to be convinced by someone who rises from the dead' " (from Luke 16).



**At his gate lay a beggar  
named Lazarus LK.16:20**





September 28, 2025

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 6:1a, 4-7 | 1 Tim 6:11-16 | Lk 16:19-31

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

Have you ever had a moment when you felt yourself to be the underdog, and wished that there were some champion who would come and defend your cause? Today, we see God described in those terms. Our psalm tells us that the Lord “raises up those who are bowed down,” that he “protects strangers,” and “the fatherless and the widow he sustains.” But God doesn’t stop there. He wants *us* to become champions for the poor. Notice that our Gospel reading depicts the poor man named Lazarus in such a way that we cannot help but feel compassion for him. Here is a man who is in dire need, covered in sores, right outside the door of a rich man who has more than enough to provide for his own needs and those of Lazarus – but does nothing to help him. In fact, the rich man’s *dog* shows more compassion toward Lazarus (by licking his sores) than the rich man! The story is meant to prick our consciences and move us to have the same kind of response that God has – of compassion – leading us to become champions for those in need.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Throughout our history, the Church has been particularly effective at spreading the faith during those times when we’ve put care for the poor and vulnerable at the center of our action. Before the advancements of modern medicine, members of the early Church risked their lives to care for those sick with contagious diseases. Their selfless example led many to faith in Christ. While our situation is much different today, we are called at the beginning of the first reading to not be complacent in our efforts to care for the poor. As we serve those most in need, our witness will likewise draw others to seek to know and follow the God of compassion whom we serve.

### **SERVE**

One of the ways we can fight against complacency is to engage in service. Check your parish or local charitable organizations for opportunities to serve those in need in your community. No matter what kind of service you choose to engage in, do everything with “love, patience, and gentleness,” as Paul reminds us today. Then we will be models of God’s own care for the poor.

## SPIRITUALITY

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. 2 Cor 8:9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, he

became poor,

so that by his poverty you might become rich.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 16:19-31; L138C

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

"There was a rich man who

dressed in purple garments

and fine linen

and dined sumptuously each day.

And lying at his door was a poor man

named Lazarus, covered with

sores,

who would gladly have eaten his

fill of the scraps

that fell from the rich man's table.

Dogs even used to come and lick his

sores.

When the poor man died,

he was carried away by angels to the

bosom of Abraham.

The rich man also died and was buried,

and from the netherworld, where he

was in torment,

he raised his eyes and saw Abraham

far off

and Lazarus at his side.

And he cried out, 'Father Abraham,

have pity on me.

Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his fin-

ger in water and cool my tongue,

for I am suffering torment in these

flames.'

Abraham replied,

'My child, remember that you

received

what was good during your lifetime

while Lazarus likewise received what

was bad;

but now he is comforted here,

whereas you are tormented.

*Continued in Appendix A, p. 307.*

### Reflecting on the Gospel

Sometimes it seems—to those willing to see—that there is an unbridgeable gap between the wealth and comfort provided to many by American society and the almost unspeakable living conditions of those with whom we share our planet, such as in Haiti or Somalia. In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a story of a rich man who steps over a destitute brother who is lying right at his doorstep. The rich man pays no attention to the poor man, Lazarus, until he

needs something from him. From his tormented place in the afterlife, the rich man wants Lazarus to bring him the relief of cool water. When Abraham replies that this is impossible, then the rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers.

The rich man was not able during his earthly life, nor afterward, to perceive the poor man as one of his brothers, even when he sees Lazarus intimately embraced (literally, "in his bosom," v. 22; v. 23 in Greek) as one of Abraham's own. The rich man calls Abraham his own father in order to claim what he thinks is his privileged inheritance. He has not shared his

wealth as Abraham did when he was wealthy (Gen 24:35), nor does he claim the rest of Abraham's children as his brothers and sisters. He sees Lazarus only as his servant and messenger.

Abraham does not grant the rich man either request. The vast differences between him and Lazarus could have been bridged during the rich man's lifetime, but he chose not to respond to his brother. Now the consequences of those repeated choices cannot be reversed. He had everything he needed from Moses and the prophets to know what to do. So do his rich brothers. It is not enough to claim kinship with Abraham.

As John the Baptist had warned the crowds who came to be baptized, it is also necessary to "produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (Luke 3:8). Jesus's practice of recognizing people who were marginalized as sisters and brothers, children of Abraham, like the woman bent double for eighteen years (Luke 13:16) and Zacchaeus the tax collector (Luke 19:9), also shows the way. Ironically, the rich man asks for Lazarus to "warn" his brothers, using the verb *diamartyromai*, one that occurs nine times in the Acts of the Apostles to refer to "bearing witness" to the risen Jesus. Even testimony about the risen Jesus will not turn the hearts of the rich brothers.

Moses, the prophets, and Jesus have given us all we need to know in order to bridge the chasm between rich and poor in this life. We begin by recognizing those made poor not as an abstraction but as real persons who have names, most of whom are women and children, who are sister and brother to us, and to whom we are bound in covenantal love. From there, the gap is bridgeable.

