

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

ALL SOUL DAYS

NOVEMBER 1-2, 2025



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OUR PAST YEAR'S BELOVED
DECEASED

DARLENE BERTRAND

THOMAS BUCKLEY

ROBERT EICH

SHEILDA KOERNER

ANTA MARCOTTE

MARY JO McDONALD

GARY NELSON

RITA O'CONNOR

HARRY PHILLIPS

CLARICE PLANTE

MARVIN SAATHOFF

RONALD SCHNEIDER

RUDY SPLEAR

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO
THEM O LORD, AND LET
PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON
THEM. MAY THEY REST IN
ETERNAL PEACE. AMEN

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: "Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and then suddenly you are doing the impossible."
—Attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi

Feast of St. John Lateran				November 8-9, 2025
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Nov. 8 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Nov. 9 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Nov. 9 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Nov. 9 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Galen Fritz Gery Wright Bob Schultz	David Kirkpatrick James Mallaney	Dennis O'Connor Jeff Martin Jeff Steinke Dallas Ferris	Kim Smicker Joe Smolkovich Dustin Truetner Darren Lovell
Lector	Rob Landeck	Mike Hertz	Kelly Buente	Dana Masching
Eucharistic Minister				Karen Rushman
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Dallas Ferris R. Leader—Rita Thiesen	Kim Smicker

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Nov. 3 (SH)

8:00 am +Emile Denault (Joe/Rhonda Berns)

Tuesday, Nov. 4 (SH)

8:00 am +Leland Denault (Cindy/Debbie Witheft)

Wednesday, Nov. 5 (SJ)

8:00 am +Virginia Fritz (Jerry/JoLynn Ogrentz)

Friday, Nov. 7 (SMM) First Friday

8:00 am +Brian Buckley (Yvonne/Diane Saffer)

Saturday, Nov. 8 (SMM)

5:00 pm +John Andrzejewski (The Family)

Sunday, Nov. 9

7:30 am (SH) +Jerry Whalen (The Family)

+Tom Buckley (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

9:00 am (SJ) +Juanita Papineau (Gary/Carla Papineau)

+Pat Perreault (Mary/Darwin Peerbolte)

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

Question of the week:

Who do I remember in a special way today? Throughout this coming week, can I commit to unite myself with them in prayer?

A Look Ahead

Friday, Nov. 7—First Friday Adoration at SMM

Wed., Nov. 12—Sacred Heart Cash Bash committee meeting parish hall 6:30 pm

Nov. 15–16- Parish Mission Weekend Liturgies

Nov. 16/19—Mission Services 7pm

Saturday, Nov. 22—SH Cash Bash 4-8pm

Tues., Dec. 9—SH CCW Christmas Party

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 – [triparishcatholiccommunities](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)

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

Collections Weekend of Oct. 25-26

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,741

Sacred Heart—\$1,247

St. James—\$1,347

Thank you for your generosity!

IN MEMORY OF

The *Feast of All Souls*, the day designated in the liturgical calendar for remembrance of, and prayer for, the dead is significant. This Feast proclaims the communion of the living and the dead, and of the promise of God's mercy in a judgment not our own. We are people of hope. On the *Feast of All Souls* we pray that our loved ones will experience the joy of seeing God face to face, and that one day we will join them.

John Calvin

Gospel Shorts - From Rejection to Acceptance

Zacchaeus was a mean-spirited little man (little in every way), who was rejected by his fellow citizens. Yet, hated and shunned by others, Jesus reached out to him with acceptance. Indeed, Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' home for a visit. That shocked the crowd observing the event.

But Jesus knew what he was doing. His acceptance of the despised tax collector moved Zacchaeus to want to change his life and lifestyle. He returned what he had cheated others out of fourfold and gave half of his wealth to the poor. Amazing! His story is a reminder that looking to and following Christ can get our lives in proper balance especially in relationship to God and others.

Thank
you

The family of Darlene Bertrand would like to thank everyone who provided food and worked at her funeral luncheon. Everything was great. We greatly appreciate it.
Gene and Family

Reflection There's No Time Like Now

Margaret Storm Jameson, an English novelist, says: "Most of us spend 58 minutes an hour living in the past with regret for lost joys, or shame for things badly done (both utterly useless and weakening) or in a future which we either long for or dread."

The only way to live is to accept each minute as an unrepeatable miracle, which is exactly what it is — a miracle and unrepeatable.

Work at your work. Play at your play. Shed your tears. Enjoy your laughter. Now is the time of your life.



St. Margaret Mary Ladies—Please sign up in the church entrance to bring a dessert for the mission fellowship time on Sunday and Wednesday.

Parish News:

All Parishes—

⇒  Our Tri Parish Mission will begin the weekend of Nov. 15-16 with evening sessions on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Details on page 4.

⇒ There will be no Prayer meeting on Monday, Nov. 3.

⇒ **Adult Ed** class will meet on October 29 at SJ.

⇒ **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-

⇒ Ladies of the parish—Don't forget to support your CCW by donating to our Bakeless Bake Sale. The money supports our various mission projects. Just put your donation in an envelope marked CCW and drop it in the collection basket

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

St. James-

⇒ We will be collecting donations of winter weather wear at St. James through mid November. Thank you for your generosity to help those in need

Sacred Heart-

⇒ Anyone wishing to donate a finished basket for the basket raffle at the "Fall Cash Bash" or an item for the silent/live auction, please make sure to include a list all the items in the basket along with your name on a paper and place it on the outside of the basket. All donations can be placed on the bar in the hall. Thanks again for your generosity!

⇒ Sacred Heart Church is selling tickets for their "Fall Cash Bash" which will take place Sat., November 22 from 4p.m. till 8 p.m. in the church hall. Tickets are \$50 a piece and will admit 2 adults with a chance of a 1st Prize of \$1,500 or \$500 2nd Prize.

Obscure saint of the week: St. Victorinus of Pettau (Nov. 2) wrote a number of well-known and scholarly commentaries on the Old and New Testament; only scraps of the writings about Genesis and Revelations have survived. His works were greatly admired by Saint Jerome, and are believed to be the first writings in Latin by a Christian on the Old Testament. A noted preacher, he became the bishop of Pettau, Upper Pannonia (in modern Styria Austria). He fought several of the heresies of the day. Victorinus was martyred in the persecutions of Diocletian.



Like many in his day, Victorinus was a Millenarian – he believed that Christ would return to the earth to rule for a thousand years. This thinking was later condemned as heresy, and many of his writings were suppressed and subsequently lost.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Guenael (Nov. 3) was the son of a Breton chieftain. He was educated at Landevennec, Brittany (in modern France) under Saint Winwaloe in 489. He became a monk at Landevennec. Later he was appointed the abbot of Landevennec in 532. Guenael became a missionary to Britain and Ireland where he abolished the last pagan customs. He helped establish Cornouailles in Brittany in 546.

TRI-PARISH COMMUNITIES PARISH MISSION

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday and Sunday, November 15, 16

Mission Services: Sunday Evening, November 16
through Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

Morning Mass (*different topics*),

Monday through Wednesday, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Evening
VISION *Seeing as God Sees*
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher

Monday Evening
INTEGRITY *A Time to Choose*
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

Tuesday Evening
DISCIPLESHIP *Followers of Jesus*
St. James, Irwin

Wednesday Evening
GOD'S DREAM *A Time to Act*
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher



THE PATH TO A BETTER FUTURE

Pope Francis' book,
Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future,
offers a provocative context for our three-day retreat.
The time will be filled with
storytelling, Sacred Scripture, and lots of HOPE.
There will be an opportunity to celebrate
the Sacrament of Penance,
and Fr. Jack will be available throughout the day
for those who wish to share a problem or an insight.
All are invited! Bring a friend!

**Join your fellow parishioners
for four nights of joyful
spiritual renewal!**

Directed by Fr. Jack Conley
Passionist Priest from Chicago



Tri-Parish Catholic Communities
207 East 5th Street
Herscher, IL 60941
(815) 426-2550

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. The person who aligns with me hungers no more and thirsts no more, ever. I have told you this explicitly because even though you have seen me in action, you don't really believe me. Every person the Father gives me eventually comes running to me. And once that person is with me, I hold on and don't let go. I came down from heaven not to follow my own whim but to accomplish the will of the One who sent me.

"This, in a nutshell, is that will: that everything handed over to me by the Father be completed—not a single detail missed—and at the wrap-up of time I have everything and everyone put together, upright and whole. This is what my Father wants: that anyone who sees the Son and trusts who he is and what he does and then aligns with him will enter real life, eternal life. My part is to put them on their feet alive and whole at the completion of time" (*from John 6*).

1st 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, November 7 at
St. Margaret Mary. Adoration will
conclude with Benediction at 3:00.



Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
Are there any farmer saints?
It's harvest season. Let's meet two farmer saints

"The land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us." — Psalm 67:6

If you're anything like us, you find something desirable in the simplicity found in working the land.

We're not alone in this though! Several saints were formed in the beautiful humble practice of working the land.

Today let's meet two of them:

St. Isidore the Farmer:

Isidore of Madrid spent his life plowing other people's fields. He'd stop for daily Mass before sunrise. Though his co-workers grumbled that he wasted time, they'd return to find his furrows perfectly straight, as if angels had taken up his plow.

His secret wasn't efficiency. It was trust. He believed that when he gave God the first fruits of his day, grace would multiply his labor. And it did. His story reminds us that holiness doesn't require changing your life's work but rather sanctifying the work you already do.

St. Ansovinus:

Bishop Ansovinus of Camerino wasn't a farmer himself, but he deeply loved the farming people he served. He walked among them, blessed their seeds, fields, and barns, and prayed that both their land and their hearts would bear good fruit. During times of drought, his prayers were said to bring rain.

He reminds us that tending land and tending souls are both forms of stewardship, both slow works that require trust in the unseen.

While we may feel pretty disconnected from the life of tilling the land, this season and these saints should remind us that our own souls need similar care to the land: planting, waiting, pruning, and gathering.

Holiness, like farming, takes time. It's born of small faithfulness found in little seeds and believing that, in the end, God brings the harvest.

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2nd collection for Seminarian Formation Nov. 9

Support our future priests through the second collection for Seminarian Formation!

Priests are essential to our Catholic faith, as only these holy men can transform bread and wine into the life-giving Body and Blood of Christ. The Holy Spirit has blessed the Diocese of Joliet with an abundance of vocations to the priesthood.

Currently, our diocese has 27 men in seminary formation, which costs \$53,900 a year per seminarian. To ensure we are always able to support our seminarians both prayerfully and financially, the Diocese of Joliet has established this second collection.

At Masses next weekend, our parish will take up a second collection for this effort. Gifts will be invested in an endowment designated specifically for seminarian education.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this second collection. To learn more about this campaign, or to make a gift online, use your smart phone to scan this QR code:



EWTN will be airing a new show, **Hidden Gems: Catholic Shrines in America** an inspiring and visually rich

series of half hour episodes that takes viewers to Catholic sites around the globe. Each episode uncovers the beauty, history, and faith woven into local American churches, shrines, and sacred spaces and reveals them to a greater audience. Former SMM parishioner Nell Andrzejewski is the host of the show.

EWTN is the world's largest Catholic media network that broadcast to 425 million people in 160 countries with 11 networks.

For more information and to watch episodes on demand go to: Shrines.TV. Four upcoming *Hidden Gems* episodes will air on EWTN at 4:30 CST on the following dates:

Nov. 10 "Trinity Heights-Queen of Peace" Sioux City, IA
Jan 8, 2026: "Grotto of the Redemption" West Bend, IA

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Sacred Heart Parish
Goodrich

588 S.10,000 W. Rd., Bonfield, IL, 60913
10 miles west of Kankakee on Rt. 17

Fall Cash Bash

Saturday, November 22nd
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Euchre (buy in by 5pm), Black Jack
Live & Silent Auctions
50/50 & Basket Raffles
Food, Beer, Soda, Water & Wine

Donation \$50.00 Admits 2 Adults
Includes "Cash Bash" ticket -
1st Prize \$1,500 2nd Prize \$500

For more info: Terri 815 514-8171 Shirley 815 592-3464



2025 Rosary Rally held at St. Margaret Mary on Saturday, October 11, 2025.



November 2, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)

Wis 3:1-9 | Rom 5:5-11 | Jn 6:37-40

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

There's a place in every human heart that harbors the fear of rejection. This can affect our relationship with others as well as our relationship with God. In response, many of us develop coping strategies in an attempt to take control of our lives. When fear of rejection threatens our peace, return to today's Gospel. What does Jesus say? "I will not reject anyone who comes to me." Let's pause to read that line again: *I will not reject anyone who comes to me.* Allow that message to pierce your heart. Jesus will not reject you. Jesus will not fail you. He will not abandon you. In fact, he has prepared a place for you in his kingdom and is waiting for your response of love.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today, we commemorate all the faithful departed on this sacred feast of All Souls Day. Yes, we mourn the loss of those whom we loved who have died. Even as we mourn, we cling to hope as a community of believers, trusting that God has kept his promise to grant them eternal life. Indeed, as our first reading reminds us, "the souls of the just are in the hands of God. ... They are in peace." In addition to the treasure of canonized saints the Church gives us to admire and emulate, many of us could write a list of "saints" who have touched us in our own lives - those "who have gone before us with the sign of faith" (*Eucharistic Prayer I*). Think of them today, now. Call to mind their virtue and how they loved those they encountered, including you. Then, let their witness propel you on your own journey of faith.

REFLECT

Though we often associate death with sorrow and grief, for the faithful Catholic, it is also the way we enter eternal life. Heaven is the hoped-for reward of all our prayers, works, sufferings, and enjoyments. As she lay dying, St. Thérèse of Lisieux said to her fellow sisters, "I am not dying; I am entering into life." Still, it is not uncommon to grapple with fear of our own death (or the death of our living loved ones). If you find yourself facing this fear, invite Jesus to gently reveal the source of your anxieties, and ask him to flood those places of your heart and mind with his light and hope. And remember: Jesus will never reject anyone who comes to him.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. John 6:40

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes
in him
may have eternal life.

Gospel

John 6:37-40; L668.8

Jesus said to the crowds:

“Everything that the Father
gives me will come to me,
and I will not reject anyone
who comes to me,
because I came down from
heaven not to do my
own will
but the will of the one who
sent me.

And this is the will of the one
who sent me,
that I should not lose any-
thing of what he gave
me,
but that I should raise it on the last
day.

For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and
believes in him
may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last
day.”

See Appendix A 309, for the other readings,
or any other readings from the Masses for the
Dead (L1011–1016).

Reflecting on the Gospel

The suggested readings for All Souls' Day invite us to trust in the mercy of God and in his desire to care for each of us for eternity. “God will reward the just and punish the wicked” is one of the central themes of Scripture and often one of the first things people use to describe who God is—God is “the man upstairs” who judges us when we die. However, such a statement without any addition ignores the foundational identity of God: God is not an impartial judge.

God knows us, cares for us, and wills that we should spend eternity with him.

If we trust the words of Saint Paul in Romans, death is no longer something to fear. In fact, by our baptism, we were baptized into the death of Christ. By entering the waters of baptism, we die with Christ, shedding the “old self,” so that we can rise with Christ. Baptistries in the early church were often built to look like tombs for this reason. In our baptism, we look to the cross of Christ as hope for our own resurrection. If death has no power over Christ, then it can have no power over us, his brothers and sisters. A God who loved us enough to become one of us and die for us is certainly no outside observer. In the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus for us, God firmly takes our side.

The accusation is often made of Christianity that faith in the resurrection is simply a nice delusion replacing the harsh reality of permanent death. Anyone who knows the loss of a loved one knows the seeming finality of death, of saying goodbye to someone they held dear. That pain is real, and nothing can reverse that loss. Yet the first reading from Wisdom says that the just only seem to be dead for the “foolish.” Is it foolish to cling to hope that God would indeed raise the just? If we can recognize the evil of death when we see it, shall we not also see goodness? Faith can be difficult when reality seems to show anything but God's love and presence. We cling to the cross of Christ at the darkest times, when all else seems lost, because nothing else will hold. *Ave Crux, spes unica*—hail the cross, our only hope.

In the entire corpus of Scripture, even in the face of rejection, blasphemy, and idolatry, God is nothing other than faithful to his chosen people. If God can be steadfast in these moments, then certainly God will also be faithful to the one who humbly seeks him in our own time. Jesus promises in the gospel that all who come to him will be raised on the last day. On All Souls' Day, we remember this promise with our own loved ones in mind, asking that God will show them mercy as we know God desires to. Prayer for the dead is a spiritual work of mercy because we offer our own love for those in need, willing something that God desires for them. In praying for the dead, we trust that out of love and in response to our faith, God will raise us all from death into eternal life.

