

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

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE      NOVEMBER 22-23, 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:** "Stripped of everything yet rich in love, from his throne on the cross he no longer teaches the crowds by his words; he no longer lifts his hands as a teacher. He does more: pointing a finger at no one, he opens his arms to all. That is how he shows himself to be our king: with open arms  
—Pope Francis

### First Sunday of Advent

**November 29-30, 2025**

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Nov 29 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Nov. 30 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Nov. 30 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Nov. 30 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Brett Buza Roger Jensen Dave Emling Bob Schultz	David Kirkpatrick Kyle Ferris	Dan Forsythe Cathy Jensen Jerry Ogrentz Mary Offerman	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Dustin Truetner Darren Lovell
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Rhonda Berns	Andy Hansen	Steve Jacob
Eucharistic			Darwin Peerbolte	Wayne Bisailon
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Mary Offerman R. Leader—Peerboltes	Greeter—Stacie Powers

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, Nov. 24 (SMM)

8:00 am +Mary McDonald (Steve/Donna Jacob)

#### Tuesday, Nov. 25 (SH)

8:00 am +Darlene Bertrand (Jackie Cross & Family)

#### Wednesday, Nov. 26 (SJ)

8:00 am +Rhonda Harris (Cathy/Bruce Jensen)

7:00 pm Vigil +Deceased Members of Stevenson & Daley Families (Birdie/Larry Stevenson)

#### Thursday, Nov. 27 (SH)

9:00 am +Irene Jensen (Joe/Rhonda Berns)

#### Friday, Nov. 28 (SMM)

8:00 am +Pat & Mary Lou Fosnaugh (Anita Schluter)

#### Saturday, Nov. 29 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Tom & Nina Smolkovich (Dave/Ellen Emlin)

#### Sunday, Nov. 30

7:30 am (SH) +Gary Jensen & Vicki Webber (Debbie Jensen)

+ Don St. Germaine, Sr (Shirley St. Germaine)

9:00 am (SJ) +Jeff Cooley (Maryanne Cooley)

+Dorene O'Connor (Fritz Huber Family)

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

### A Look Ahead

**Saturday, Nov. 22**—SH Cash Bash 4-8pm

**Sunday, Nov. 23**—Council of Churches Thanksgiving service 7:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church

Mon., Nov. 24—Prayer Group Meeting 7pm at SJ

**Mon., Nov. 24**— SMM CCW meeting 7pm

**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](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 [Jdstreefarm@aol.com](mailto:Jdstreefarm@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 November 15-16, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,164	Human Dev.—\$401
Sacred Heart—\$1,411	Human Dev.—\$274
St. James—\$1,627	Human Dev.—\$274

Thank you for your generosity!

### Holiday Ministries

**Wednesday, Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Vigil St. James 7:00 pm**

Greeter—Jerry Ogrentz

Ushers—Jeff Martin, Jeff Steinke, Dallas Ferris, Dave Ladehoff

Lector—Mary Peerbolte

Com. Minister—Mary Peerbolte

**Thursday, Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day Sacred Heart 9:00 am**

Greeter/Ushers Dennis Pankey, Daryl Ferris

Lector—Cindy Gagnon

### Gospel Shorts - Followers of the King

In the story that tells of the last minutes of the pre-resurrection Jesus on this earth, a number of people take a final shot at the Son of God. Even as he moves toward death for sin, the sin of which we are all so guilty, people's self-appointed and unloving judgship is directed at Jesus. However, this story of the bad guys at Calvary is not told to focus our attention on these unnamed sinners of yester-year. Rather, it invites us to reflect on our own relationship with the One whom we call King. Do we name him as did the jeering crowds, the soldiers, and the thief? Or is our naming of Christ as King an extension of understanding his kingship in the way that he showed himself to us. How do we really name the King to whom we sing?

Joy in January will be held at the Kankakee Country Club on January 3, 2026. Reservation deadline is December 10, 2025. For more information or if you wish to attend this event, please contact your CCW President.



Sacred Heart Religious Ed "Kids Helping Kids" Fundraisers (benefitting Ronald McDonald House)

The Religious Ed students will be selling Christmas crafts after mass December 7th, 14th, and 21st.

The students will sell 50/50 tickers late February and early March.

We will have a "Donut Sunday" on March 15th (after 7:30 am mass) where we will draw the winner of the 50/50 raffle.

Please help our kids raise money for such a good cause. Thank you!



IN ALL THINGS, GIVE  
THANKS!

### Parish News:

#### All Parishes—

- ⇒ The Knights of Columbus will be passing out the book Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy by Matthew Kelly after masses next weekend, November 22-23. In this crazy hectic world, this is a great read.
- ⇒ **Prayer meeting on Nov. 24. No adult ed on Nov. 26.**
- ⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ⇒ **Oh, darn, I meant to do that!** It's not too late to be included in our parish directory. If we get 6 more sittings scheduled, the company will return to take pictures for those of you who were unable to attend the earlier picture days. Don't miss out on the new 2025 directory!



#### St. Margaret Mary-

- ⇒ The next CCW meeting is on Monday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 pm.

#### St. James-

- ⇒ Joy in January is Saturday, Jan 3. Please sign up on the bulletin board by December 8-cost will be \$19 to attend.
- ⇒ The CCW ladies would like to donate a basket for the Christmas pageant. We will be collecting gift cards to place on a Christmas tree. Give any cards to Reatta Gohlke or Mary Peerbolte before December 14. Thank you.
- ⇒ *Don't forget to drop off any new gloves, hats, winter gear in the church vestibule. We will be collecting for the area needy through November 30th*
- ⇒ *Mark your calendars! We will be cleaning and decorating the church for Christmas on December 9th starting at 5 pm (cleaning) and 6 pm (decorating). Whatever time you could give is greatly appreciated .*
- ⇒ *The CCW Christmas party will be at the Herscher Restaurant on December 7th after mass. Please sign up by November 30th so a reservation can be made .*

#### Sacred Heart-

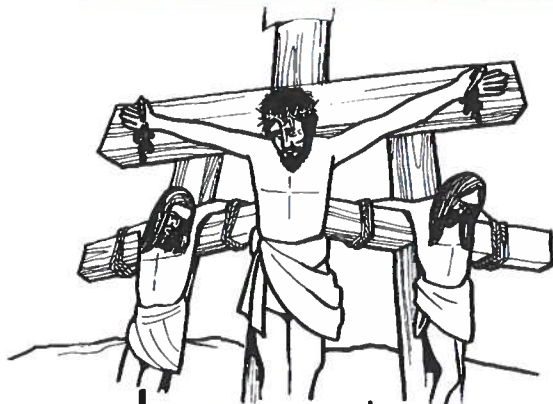
- ⇒ The week of November 23rd, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in memory of Roberta Gagnon and the St. Joseph candle burns for the deceased members of the Congregation of Notre Dame Sisters.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Andrew Dung Lac (November 24)** was a priest in the apostolic vicariate of West Tonkin. He worked in the missions with the priests of the *Foreign Mission Society of Paris*. Andrew was imprisoned and repeatedly tortured in the persecutions of Minh-Meng. He died with Saint Peter Thi. He was one of the *Martyrs of Vietnam*.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Bieuzy of Brittany (Nov. 24)** was the spiritual student of Saint Gildas the Wise. He followed Gildas in his work in Brittany (part of modern France) Known for his gift of healing people and animals. He was murdered by a nobleman refusing the man's summons to heal some rabid dogs.



Jesus, remember me  
LK. 23:42



Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

©Religious Graphics, Ltd

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

The people stood there staring at Jesus, and the ringleaders' made faces, taunting, "He saved others. Let's see him save himself! The Messiah of God—ha! The Chosen—ha!"

The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him, making a game of it. They toasted him with sour wine: "So you're King of the Jews! Save yourself!"

Printed over him was a sign: this is the king of the jews.

One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him: "Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!"

But the other one made him shut up: "Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same as him. We deserve this, but not him—he did nothing to deserve this."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter your Kingdom."

He said, "Don't worry, I will. Today you will join me in paradise" (from Luke 23).



"PLEASE HELP ME, FATHER," FRED WATCHES FOOTBALL ON TV ALL DAY LONG AND I CAN'T GET HIM TO STOP..."



"SEND HIM OVER AND WE'LL TALK"



Catholic Snacks, Get Fed  
How to make total consecration to Mary.  
What's your favorite Marian feast day?

Okay, let's be honest: the Total Consecration to Mary—and the traditional 33-day preparation for it—is a daunting and confusing concept for first-timers. So let's break down the steps of this truly beautiful and enriching devotion.

The first thing to do is pick your favorite Marian feast day and make a note of the date 33 days prior—for example, if you choose the Holy Name of Mary on September 12, highlight August 10 as the day to start your preparation for consecration.

Next, you need to know the format laid down by St. Louis de Montfort. The consecration consists of an initial 12-day preparation followed by three consecutive weeks, each week focusing on a different theme.

So, you first prepare your soul to be given wholly to the Blessed Mother; then, you spend a week on each of the following themes: knowledge of oneself, knowledge of Mary, and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

St. Louis prescribed a set of prayers for the preparation period and for each week. For example, during the 12-day period, you pray the Veni Creator (Come Holy Spirit), Ave Maris Stella (Hail, Star of the Ocean), Magnificat, and Glory Be. After these prayers, he recommends that you read from a spiritual work.

The 34th day—that favorite feast day of yours—is your consecration day. St. Louis recommends going to Confession and receiving the Holy Eucharist at Mass. Then, read the Consecration Prayer, date it, and sign your name. Keep in mind that this consecration is like a vow, and is a solemn act.

Fortunately, there are several books devoted to the 33-day consecration. They include short daily readings taken from spiritual works recommended by the saint—this is especially helpful for first-timers, as you don't have to decide what to read each day!

-reprinted with permission The Catholic Company [www.thecatholiccompany.com](http://www.thecatholiccompany.com)



### Community Thanksgiving

On behalf of the Council of Churches, Trinity Lutheran Church will host the annual Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 23 at 7 pm.

A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Council's ministry which includes Meals on Wheels, holiday food baskets for the needy, emergency food assistance, senior luncheons, and welcome packets for new residents. Refreshments will be served following the service. Please come and join us!



The sixth grade religious ed class at St. James sold candy bars for the Kids Helping Kids project. Thanks to the generosity of our parish, we sold out! Thank you to all who bought or just donated to our cause!



Catholic Conference  
of Illinois

## ACTION ALERT

**Please contact Governor Pritzker to  
VETO SB 1950 - Legalizing Assisted Suicide**

At 2:54 a.m. on October 31 the Illinois State Senate narrowly passed SB 1950. The State House narrowly passed the bill in the Spring. The bill is now on the Governor's desk. This is the last chance to stop assisted suicide from becoming law in Illinois.

In Canada where assisted suicide has been legal since 2016, 1 in 20 deaths are now due to assisted suicide/euthanasia. Too many are giving up on life under this law.

**PLEASE CALL GOV. PRITZKER  
AND INFORM HIM:**

- People with disabilities, the poor and marginalized fear coercion and abuse under assisted suicide laws.
- Suicide rates increase in states where assisted suicide is legal, especially among veterans.
- There is a possible cost savings to insurance companies as they can provide cheaper lethal drugs instead of lifesaving treatments.

Go to [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org) for e-mail links, or call the Governor's office directly at 312.814.2121.





Thank you to the family of Vicki Webber who donated this beautiful site at St. Peter and Paul cemetery in her memory. Take a moment to pray and reflect on your memories of your loved ones as you visit the cemetery.

### Questions Catholics Ask

**I keep hearing we're all supposed to be saints. Is that realistic?**

Yes—if we have a good appreciation of what a saint is.

A saint is a sinner who just keeps trying, as the saying goes. The essential interior difference between the average person and the saint is perseverance in the quest for fullness of life.

But even that sounds like jargon. Fullness of life? It's a Scripture term meaning everything human life is supposed to be but often isn't. Genesis says we're made in the divine image, so whatever divine life is, that's what we have the inbred capacity and yearning for.



Instead of fullness of life, most of us settle for just a sip.

We're designed to be creative, wise, loving, compassionate, just, limitless, eternal. But too often, we turn out dulled and thwarted, pinning our hopes on foolish goals and pursuits, jaded and cynical, lonely, judgmental, and biased. Far from being expansive creatures, we hurl away our freedoms in favor of programmed entertainments and prepackaged consumer ambitions. Instead of fullness of life, most of us settle for just a sip.

The way to get it all, curiously, involves giving a lot of what we currently value away. The secular gurus of simplification are right: our modern lives are choking us with stuff, and we need to divest, downsize, and aim to own less, want less, do less. Thérèse of Lisieux counseled that Our Lord cherishes simplicity. We have to un-complicate our calendars and find silence in the cacophony demanding our attention. Once we create some blissful empty space, we can load up on virtues, which Anthony of the Desert considered a better source of nourishment than what's usually on the table.

Being holy doesn't involve cosmic revelations. Vincent de Paul offered a simple way: will what God wills, see as God sees. If that's still too lofty a starting place, consider Dominic's advice to master your passions or be mastered by them. Newly canonized Pope John XXIII believed ten minutes of spiritual reading a day would feed the soul. Camillus de Lellis had his own pithy formula: Think well. Speak well. Do well.

If this short listing convinces us of anything, it's that many paths lead to holy living. What's vital is to begin—somewhere. You can't go wrong by embracing the spirit of humility, which is every saint's favorite virtue. Paint the house of your soul with it, John Chrysostom recommended. Or how about capitalizing on love? Clare of Assisi observed that we become what we love. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love Christ, we become sons and daughters of God.

**Scripture:** Psalm 16:11; Matthew 5:3-12; John 10:10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Ephesians 2:19-22; 3:14-19; Galatians 4:3-7; Colossians 2:6-10; 1 Timothy 1:16

## 2025 Advent Programming

**Busy Person's Retreat**  
Individually scheduled

### Gospel Film Series

November 30, December 7, 14, & 21  
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Via ZOOM

### Weekend Retreat – Awake, O Sleeper!

December 5 - 7  
7:00 p.m. Friday - 1:00 p.m. Sunday  
At Nazareth Spirituality Center, Batavia, IL

### 1-Day Retreat – Awake, O Sleeper!

December 6  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
At St. Patrick's Church, Champaign/Urbana, IL

### 1-Day Retreat – Awake, O Sleeper!

December 13  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
At One Heart, One Soul Spirituality Center,  
Kankakee, IL

### Epiphany Evening of Reflection

January 6, 2026  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Via ZOOM

To register, please follow  
this link:

**REGISTRATION**

Questions? Contact Susan Amann:  
[samann@sscm-usa.org](mailto:samann@sscm-usa.org)

## Reflection—Thanksgiving Proclamation

"It is right that we should be grateful for the plenty amidst which we live; the productivity of our farms, the output of our factories, the skill of our artisans and the ingenuity of our inventors. But in the midst of our Thanksgiving, let us not be unmindful of the plight of those in many parts of the world to whom hunger is no stranger and the plight of those millions more who live without the blessings of liberty and freedom. With some we are able to share our material abundance. To all we can offer the sustenance of hope that we shall not fail in our unceasing efforts to make this a peaceful and prosperous world for all mankind."

*John F. Kennedy*







November 23, 2025

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

2 Sm 5:1-3 | Col 1:12-20 | Lk 23:35-43

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

Since the birth of my oldest child, I have seen and heard many things about what I *should* do as a mother. I have heard everything from which products I should purchase to how I should help my child develop a healthy sleep routine. But my identity as a mother is not dependent upon any of these things; instead, it rests on my relationship with God as his beloved daughter and who he has called me to be as a mother. Those living at the time of Jesus were also trying to understand his identity as king according to their own expectations of what a king was meant to be. They certainly did not expect their king to be crucified by the Romans as we read about in our Gospel today. But Jesus did not come to rule as an earthly king. He *is* king because of his identity as the beloved Son of God, whose mission it was to offer his life for the salvation of all. Jesus did not allow society's understanding of a king to dictate how he lived his mission. Likewise, we must act confidently in accordance with the particular call that God has entrusted to us.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

I find it interesting that when David was anointed king of Israel, he is designated as a commander whose vocation it was to *shepherd* the tribes of Israel. Of course, now we also readily associate the term *shepherd* with Christ, the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep. The notion of kingship and shepherding, therefore, seem to be intertwined. In the sacrament of baptism, each of us is invited to participate in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. To join Christ in his mission as king, we must also lead lives of service in which we allow the love of God to generously flow through us by caring for others. Let us strive to be shepherds for those in our communities who are seeking to know Christ more intimately; let us participate in Christ's mission as king through humble service to others.

### **PRAY**

Today, take a few minutes to pray for all leaders. Ask the Lord to guide them in their leadership to be good shepherds to all those who fall under their governance. As you participate in your local community and parish, ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to join in Christ's mission as king by serving those in need.

## SPIRITUALITY

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 11:9, 10

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of  
the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father  
David that is to come!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 23:35-43; L162C

The rulers sneered at Jesus and  
said,

"He saved others, let him save  
himself

if he is the chosen one, the  
Christ of God."

Even the soldiers jeered at him.

As they approached to offer him  
wine they called out,

"If you are King of the Jews,  
save yourself."

Above him there was an inscription  
that read,

"This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there  
reviled Jesus, saying,

"Are you not the Christ?

Save yourself and us."

The other, however, rebuking him, said  
in reply,

"Have you no fear of God,  
for you are subject to the same  
condemnation?

And indeed, we have been condemned  
justly,

for the sentence we received corre-  
sponds to our crimes,  
but this man has done nothing  
criminal."

Then he said,

"Jesus, remember me when you come  
into your kingdom."

He replied to him,

"Amen, I say to you,  
today you will be with me in  
Paradise."

### Reflecting on the Gospel

In December 1997, Las Abejas, a group of forty-eight Indigenous communities, came to the world's attention when forty-five of their members, mostly women and children, were murdered. They were killed by paramilitary troops while they were fasting and praying for peace in their rough-hewn wooden chapel in the village of Acteal, Mexico. They call themselves Las Abejas ("the bees") because

they see themselves as a community of equal worker bees, striving together for peace, all serving the queen bee, which is the reign of God. No person other than Jesus and his kingdom can be the center of their hive of activity.

Several years after the massacre, a visiting group of American students and professors asked members of the community if they were not tempted to abandon their commitment to non-violence after they had lost so many of their mothers and sisters and brothers.

Without hesitation, they replied that they must continue to forgive their enemies and pray for their persecutors because that is what Jesus taught. It is a powerful appropriation of the example of Christ given to us in today's gospel.

Some people in Jesus's day were looking for a king like David, who would reassert Israel's independence, rid the land of the Romans, and make wise decisions for the people.

There were advantages to monarchical rule: one man invested with authority could carry the weight of governance and make decisions on behalf of the people. But there were also disadvantages. What if the ruler did not have foremost the peoples' best interest? What if his judgment was impaired by greed and hunger for power? What voice did the common folk have in decisions that affected their lives? What chance was there that women's perspectives would be heard?

When Jesus appeared, proclaiming God's kingdom, he offered an antidote to imperial ways. He criticized the way the "kings of the Gentiles" lorded their power over their people and demanded recognition for their benefaction.

By contrast, he urged the leaders among his followers to be the servants of all (Luke 22:25-26), a manner of life he modeled for them, as he took up his itinerant mission with people at the lowest rungs of society. Unlike an offended monarch who imposes harsh punishments for infractions, he instead exercised power through forgiveness and compassion when there were transgressions.

Today's gospel paints in stark contrast the power of imperial Rome, which brooks no challenges to its rule, and the "kingly" ways of Jesus that rest on forgiveness and love. Even as it appears that the former may win out, the gospel makes it utterly clear that Jesus's merciful rule cannot be extinguished by death.

Even as he is mocked and taunted in his dying moments, Jesus continues to exercise the power of forgiveness both toward his executioners (23:34) and toward one of the criminals who acknowledges his form of power and asks to be included in his realm.

