

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

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 20-21, 2026



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—4:45pm
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Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable- "Those who are in great fear are so intent on their own passion that they pay no attention to the suffering of others."
 —Saint Thomas Aquinas

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time				June 27-28, 2026
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, June 27 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, June 28 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, June 28 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, June 28 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Brett Buza Todd Datweiler Dave Emling Bob Schultz	Daryl Ferris Dennis Pankey	Dallas Ferris Dennis O'Connor Jeff Steinke Jeff Martin	Darren Lovell Larry Wolles Kris Landeck Kim Smicker
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Mike Hertz	Jeff O'Connor	Steve Jacob
Eucharistic Minister			Donna Bernicky	Wayne Bisailon
Servers				Gavin Down
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Wayne Bisailon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, June 22 (SMM)

8:00 am +Gary Jensen (His Family)

Tuesday, June 23 (SH)

8:00 am +Edwin Boudreau (Janet Andrzejewski)

Wednesday, June 24 (SJ)

8:00 am +Leola Ader (Kim Astroth)

Friday, June 26 (SMM)

8:00am +Donna Ruder (Jackie Eberle)

Saturday, June 27 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Bill Fritz (His Family)
 +James Jepsen (Thomas/Nancy Kneer)

Sunday, June 28

7:30 am (SH) +Father Paul Jasinski CSV

9:00 am (SJ) For Past and Present Priests of St. James

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

Looking Ahead

Sunday, June 21—Fathers' Day

Weekend of June 21—2nd Collection Religious Pensions

Mon., June 22—Knights of Columbus meeting at 7pm at SJ

Monday, June 22—TriParish Prayer Group will meet at 7 pm at St James church

Friday, July 3—First Friday Mass and Adoration at SH

Weekend of July 4-5—K of C Food Drive

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 jdstreefarms1@gmail.com

Question of the week—

What do I fear the most about witnessing to my faith in the light of day? How can I see my failing to stand up for what I believe in as a greater fear?

Collections Weekend of June 13-14, 2026

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,093

St. James—\$1,246

Sacred Heart— \$ 1,462

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish News:

All Parishes—

- ⇒ The next Knights of Columbus meeting will be Monday, June 22, 2026 at 7:00PM at St James
- ⇒ TriParish Prayer Group will meet each Monday at 7 pm at St James church
- ⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James

- ⇒ The Rosary Committee is looking for a volunteer to chair the committee. Directions for purchasing supplies and making the rosaries is available. The funds are provided by the St. James CCW. If you're interested in either leading the committee or in helping make the rosaries please contact Bea Papineau

Sacred Heart—

- ⇒ The week of June 21st, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for all fathers, and the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of all fathers who have gone before us.
- ⇒ Sacred Heart CCW will be having the following Summer meeting: Tues. July 14th, 6:30pm & Tues. Aug.11th at 6:30pm. Noone is hosting - everyone is asked to bring a sack to share for all 3 meetings. All women in the parish over 18 are considered members and are welcome! Come join the fun!

Gospel Shorts A Rebirth of Worth for You

We live in a complex, multi-dimensional world that is far faster and more difficult in many ways than the world in which our ancestors lived. And yet, they faced many of the same challenges we do when it comes to attitude and feelings of worth. Jesus was aware of this as he prepared to send out his disciples alone for the first time. He would not be there to "pick up the pieces" when things went wrong, when doubts would come along, and when indifferent listeners would tell the disciples to take a hike.

By using the analogy of the sparrows in God's creation, and God's attention to detail (to the point of literally numbering the hairs on our heads), Jesus reminded his followers then and now, that God is the source of our worth — and that we must let that worth run its course by living as God desires us to live.

Reflection— For Dads

If you share in all their interests — all their happiness and cares;

Encourage without nagging — show your love in thought and deed;

If you help them find their talents and are proud when they employ them;

If you show by good example what is right and what is wrong;

If you teach them independence so they learn to get along;

If you see their need for freedom and yet help them realize that there's something warm and lasting in old-fashioned family ties;

If you listen to their problems with an understanding heart;

And your influence goes with them even when you're far apart;

Then your children will respect you and in you they'll always see just the kind of fine and special Dad that you hoped and prayed you'd be!

A Stewardship Moment

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of June 20/21, 2026

Jesus minces no words with his disciples: If we acknowledge Jesus publicly, Jesus will remember us before God, our Father. If we deny Jesus, he will forget us. It is very rare that a Christian will denounce Jesus publicly. But we can deny Jesus in more subtle ways. There are many people who conveniently forget all about Jesus Christ and the work of his Kingdom in their daily lives, in moments of weakness, spiritual immaturity or when times get tough. Good stewards strengthen their confession of Christ by praying and attending Mass regularly, examining their lives and going to confession frequently, and reminding themselves daily that Christ resides in them. Take a look at your own daily life. Do you acknowledge Christ before others? How often do you remind yourself that Jesus lives in you?



We are in need of someone to clean St. James and Sacred Heart Churches and halls. If you are interested or know of someone who would like to help us out please give the office a call at 815-426-2550. Julie has the answers to any questions you may have.

HAPPY FATHER'S Day!

Saint of the week: St. Paulinus of Nola (June 22) was a friend of Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Nicetas of Remesiana and noted for his holiness by at least six of his contemporary saints.

He was a distinguished lawyer, held several public offices in the Empire, then retired from public ministry with his wife, Therasia, first to Bordeaux, France where they were baptized, and then to Therasia's estate in Spain. After the death of their only son at the age of only a few weeks, the couple decided to spend the rest of their lives devoted to God. They gave away most of their estates and dedicated themselves to increasing their holiness.

Paulinus was ordained, then he and Therasia moved to Nola, Italy, gave away the rest of their property and dedicated themselves to helping the poor. Paulinus was chosen bishop of Nola by popular demand, and he governed the diocese for more than 21 years while living in his own home as a monk and continuing to aid the poor. His writings contain one of the earliest examples of a Christian wedding song.



Other obscure saint of the week: St. Aaron of Brittany (June 22) migrated to Cesambre, a small island near Aleth in Armorica, Brittany (modern St Malo, France) to live as a hermit. The island was accessible only at low tide and for centuries was known as *Aaron* in his honor. His reputation attracted spiritual students, including Saint Malo. The students formed a monastery, and Aaron lived there as a monk, and served as their abbot.

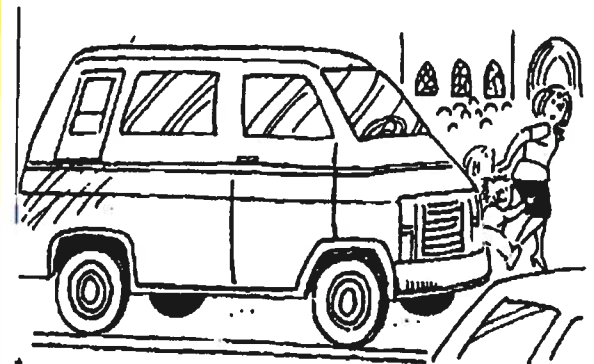
The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

"Don't be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are. So don't hesitate to go public now.

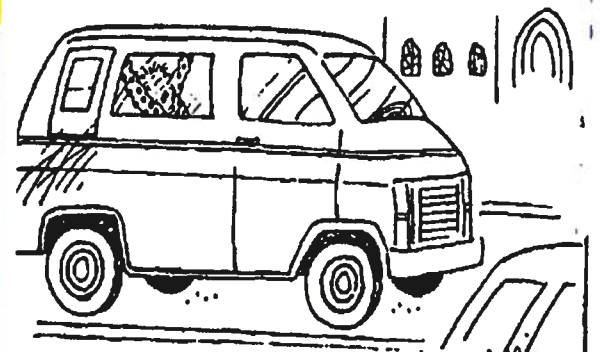
"Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life—body and soul—in his hands.

"What's the price of a pet canary? Some loose change, right? And God cares what happens to it even more than you do. He pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail—even numbering the hairs on your head! So don't be intimidated by all this bully talk. You're worth more than a million canaries.

"Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Father in heaven. If you turn tail and run, do you think I'll cover for you?" (from Matthew 10).



"HURRY, KIDS! DON'T WORRY ABOUT DADDY—HE'LL CATCH UP..."



For *God* is not unjust
so as to overlook your work
and the *love* you have
demonstrated for His name
by having served and continuing
to *save* the holy ones.

~ Hebrews 6:10



Father's Day Collection

For Infirm and Retired Priests

Diocese of Joliet • June 20-21, 2026



What is the story behind the depiction of George Washington and the Prayer at Valley Forge?

Christians everywhere can appreciate the humility reflected in a leader who recognized that human effort alone is not enough.

Few images are more recognizable in American art than George Washington kneeling in prayer at Valley Forge.

The scene has appeared in paintings, prints, stamps, books, and even congressional artwork. It depicts the commander of the Continental Army on his knees during one of the darkest moments of the American Revolution, seeking God's help as his soldiers endured the brutal winter of 1777-1778.

But did it actually happen?

The honest answer is that historians are not sure.

The famous story comes largely from Mason Locke Weems, an early biographer of Washington who also popularized the famous tale of the cherry tree. According to Weems, a local Quaker named Isaac Potts witnessed Washington praying alone in the woods and became convinced that a leader who prayed so fervently could not fail.

The account appeared years after the events at Valley Forge and shares some of the legendary qualities found in Weems's other stories about Washington. Yet that does not mean the image is entirely false.

George Washington was a religious man, even if he tended to keep his personal devotional life private. He regularly attended church, encouraged religious observance among his troops, called for days of prayer and thanksgiving, and frequently referred to Divine Providence in his writings.

In other words, historians may debate whether Washington knelt in that exact spot, at that exact moment, in that exact way, but few doubt that he believed the success of the American cause ultimately depended upon God's providence.

The painting is not meant as a historical photograph but as a visual reflection of a larger truth. Valley Forge was a moment of profound uncertainty. Soldiers lacked food, clothing, and supplies. Disease spread through the camp, and the future of the Revolution was far from certain.

Faced with circumstances beyond his control, Washington did what generations of leaders, soldiers, and ordinary people have done before and since: he turned to God.

As America approaches its 250th anniversary, the image remains a reminder that the nation's founding generation often spoke of Providence and understood that liberty carried both responsibilities and sacrifices. Christians everywhere can appreciate the humility reflected in a leader who recognized that human effort alone is not enough.

Perhaps that is why the image has endured. Not because it proves a particular historical event, but because it places Washington where every Christian eventually finds himself: in need of God's help. The challenges at Valley Forge were real, and so was the uncertainty surrounding the future of the nation.

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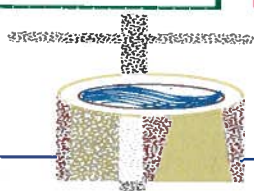


Reflection— In Community

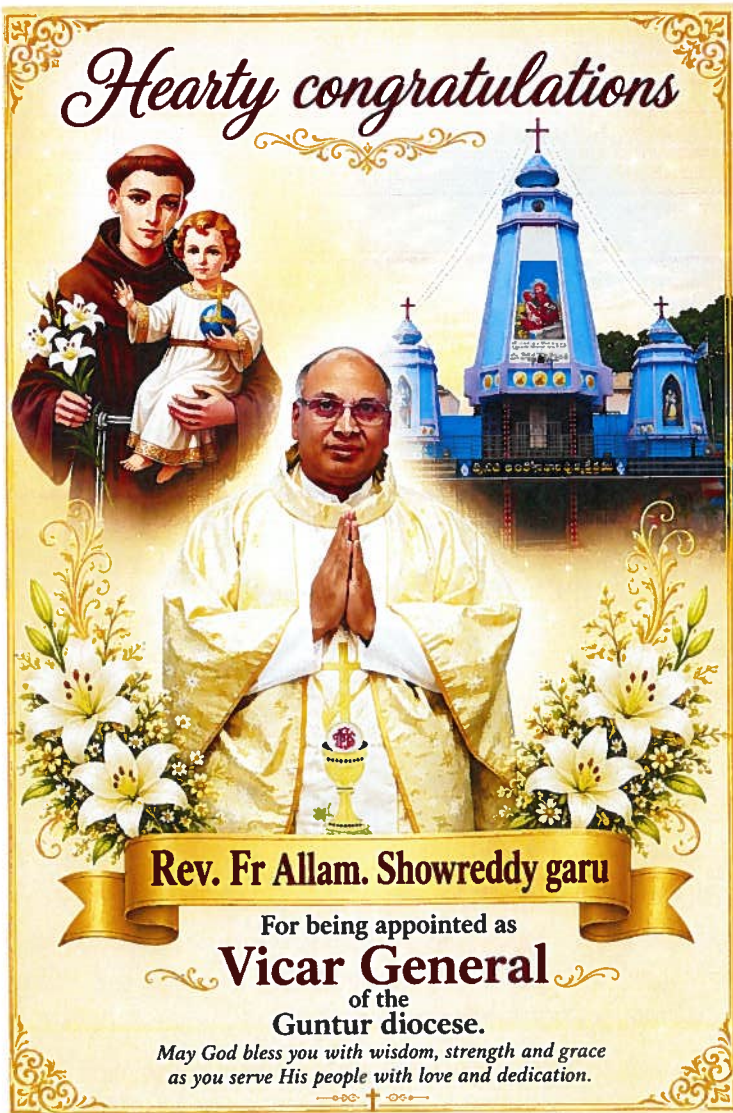
Christ doesn't send us out alone to do his work. He sends others along to help carry the load. We should always listen to each other, encourage each other, and eagerly spur each other on. We should share all that we have, whether it's material or spiritual, as we work together.

Communion to the sick:

If you know of someone who is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion please call the office and we will arrange for someone to bring them the Eucharist. If you would like to be a Minister of the Eucharist to the sick, please let the office know and we will add you to the list of volunteers visiting shut-ins.



**THERE IS ONE FAITH
ONE BAPTISM
ONE LORD WHO IS GOD OF ALL**



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection will be held July 4-5 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need. We thank you for your support!!

"For I was hungry and you gave me food..."
"Matthew 25:35"



You are worth more than many sparrows
MT. 10:31

Questions Catholics Ask

Why is prejudice against Catholics called "the deepest bias in the history of the American people"?

The spirit of nativism arose in some Protestant enclaves, as migrating waves from historically Catholic countries arrived on "their" shores.

Historian Arthur Schlesinger, Sr.—not a Catholic—made the oft-quoted assertion. It acknowledges that England rallied to Protestantism with the establishment of its national church, and British mistrust of Rome was imported to the New World. So few Catholics came to the colonies (35,000, or 1% of the population by 1790) that no threat seemed apparent. Catholics kept to themselves in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The 1800s, however, saw a century of massive immigration. The spirit of nativism arose in some Protestant enclaves, as migrating waves from historically Catholic countries arrived on "their" shores. Catholicism gained an official foothold with the appointment of John Carroll as Bishop of the new See of Baltimore. Carroll put an emphasis on opening seminaries and schools, to create a homegrown, educated leadership and laity capable of engaging the national conversation. The schools attracted religious orders from Europe to staff them, and as convent schools sprung up in the Northeast and Midwest, nativist alarms grew louder.

A church was burned in Charlestown, Massachusetts, followed by two more in Philadelphia. Convents and rectories were likewise visited with arson. A visiting papal nuncio was burned in effigy in many cities. In Indiana, Mother Theodore Guerin's sisters were spat upon in the streets and denied the customary store credit. Wherever Katharine Drexel purchased land for schools, she typically worked through agents so the sellers didn't know the buyer was Catholic.

Nativist groups assumed names such as the "United Sons of America" in 1844 and "Order of the Star-Spangled Banner" in 1849. The latter became known as the "Know-Nothings" for their secrecy about their membership. Future U.S. saints including Guerin, Drexel, Philippine Duchesne, John Neumann, Marianne Cope, and Frances Cabrini all reported dealings with Know-Nothings and their offshoots. Finally, the most aspiring opposition group, the American Protective Association, was founded in 1887. APA members swore not to hire Catholics, enter into business with them, or elect them to public office. They sought to curtail immigration to stanch the Catholic population, and falsified scandalous documents from the pope or bishops to perpetuate fear of Rome. At its height in 1894, a million Americans were on the rolls of the APA, and the group controlled local governments in Detroit, Milwaukee, and Kansas City.

The APA fizzled by 1911; by 1915, a reconstituted Ku Klux Klan added anti-Catholicism to its principles. The story of U.S. bias has hardly reached its end.

Books: *Documents of American Catholic History* – John Tracy Ellis (Wilmington, DE: Michael Glazier, 1987)



June 21, 2026

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Jer 20:10-13 | Rom 5:12-15 | Mt 10:26-33

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

Beginning with the original sin of Adam and Eve, humanity has lived in a way that has separated us from God's perfect love. Despite the many ways we have tried to draw near to God, it is impossible for us to repair this relationship on our own. The ways we turn away from God, therefore, require an outpouring of mercy and forgiveness, which our loving Father is eager to offer. When speaking of the grace that defeated the power of death, St. Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Romans that "the gift is not like the transgression." God's love for us is overflowing, and his desire to be in relationship with us is manifest in his giving his life for our salvation. Christ longs to heal and free us from the hold of sin in our lives, and we can experience this grace when we encounter Christ as the Divine Physician in the sacrament of reconciliation.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In witness to the promise of eternal life and joy, we are called to live in a countercultural way, adhering to the words of the Gospel and the Tradition of the Church. We know this is not always easy. Yet, the Lord – through the prophet Jeremiah – reassures us that God is with us, and that he will be our "mighty champion." In the Gospel passage, Jesus speaks to the Apostles as they prepare to travel and preach the Good News. He warns them they will experience persecution, but he also reminds them that God is abundantly generous in his care for them. God cares for us in the same way as we continue our work of evangelization. He values us as precious children, and he promises that we will not be left alone in whatever challenges we may encounter while proclaiming the truth of his love.

PRAY

It can be difficult to rest in the promise of a love that exceeds our human faults and failings. It may seem impossible to be fully known and yet still exceedingly loved. The gift God offers us of being known, loved, and forgiven demonstrates a level of goodness that far exceeds any wrong we may have done. In your prayer this week, ask God for the grace to trust in this abundance of love that he desires to give to you.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. John 15:26b, 27a

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.
The Spirit of truth will testify to me,
says the Lord;
and you also will testify.
R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matt 10:26-33; L94A

Jesus said to the Twelve:

"Fear no one.
Nothing is concealed that will
not be revealed,
nor secret that will not be
known.
What I say to you in the
darkness, speak in the
light;
what you hear whispered,
proclaim on the
housetops.
And do not be afraid of those who kill
the body but cannot kill the soul;
rather, be afraid of the one who can
destroy
both soul and body in Gehenna.
Are not two sparrows sold for a small
coin?
Yet not one of them falls to the ground
without your Father's knowledge.
Even all the hairs of your head are
counted.
So do not be afraid; you are worth
more than many sparrows.
Everyone who acknowledges me before
others
I will acknowledge before my
heavenly Father.
But whoever denies me before others,
I will deny before my heavenly
Father."

Reflecting on the Gospel

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." This memorable opening line from the inaugural address of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 lifted the hopes of a nation caught in the grips of the deepest economic depression it had ever experienced. Soon after, programs that aimed at relief, recovery, and reform were put into action and began to have the desired effects. In recent times, people

who work in organizational change management have observed that fear, along with cynicism and judgment, is one of the greatest obstacles to creating new structures and relationships. Jesus seems to have recognized this long before FDR and modern-day facilitators. One of his most oft-repeated instructions in the gospels is "do not be afraid."

These are similar to the opening words of today's gospel, repeated twice more in this short passage. It comes at the conclusion of the missionary discourse, as Jesus is sending out the Twelve to proclaim the good news, heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out demons. He has instructed them to go with nothing: no bag, no clothes, no food, no money, but to rely on the hospitality of others, embodying power in vulnerability and communion in



interdependence. He has warned them that they will be rejected by some, and even suffer physical abuse, and be handed over to the authorities. Jesus is not blind to the dangers of his mission, and he does not want his disciples to be unprepared when they face these threats.

At the same time, he does not want them to be frightened off by these possible consequences. They are to proclaim the good news openly from "the housetops." And even if they should lose their physical life, this is not the most fearsome thing that can happen. Jesus then speaks to them of their supreme value in the eyes of God, as a reason not to be afraid. Just as God takes note of the tiniest creatures, such as sparrows, even more will divine care encompass Jesus's disciples. It is notable that Jesus does not tell them that God will intervene and rescue them from bodily harm. Should such befall them, however, they are not to give in to fear, because God will be with them and will preserve their life beyond bodily existence.

This gospel gives us an opportunity to reflect on what it is we most fear in following Jesus—not so as to fuel the fear by focusing on it but, rather, to acknowledge honestly what are our obstacles to proclaiming the gospel more fully with our lives. When we face our fears, voice them aloud to another, and surrender them to the One who has counted every hair on our heads, we can defuse their paralyzing power over us. Placing our full attention on the One who cares for us and empowers us, there comes a freedom beyond fear.

In the first reading, Jeremiah voices a desire that his opponents be put to lasting shame and that God take vengeance on them. His fear is transformed into praise and trust, as he places everything in God's hands.