

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

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 15—16, 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 -" Hope is the lifeline that connects us to God's mercy and grace."

—Saint Faustina

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 22-23, 2026

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, August 22 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, August 23 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, August 23 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, August 23 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Father Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Galen Fritz Roger Jensen Todd Datweiler Gery Wright	Dennis Pankey James Mallaney	Dallas Ferris Dennis O'Conner Jeff Steinke Duane Papineau	Wayne Bisaillon Larry Wolles Kim Smicker Kris Landeck
Lector	Dave Emling	Cindy Gagnon	Jeff O'Connor	Corinn Wheeler
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				Avery Adams
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Wayne Bisaillon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, August 17 (SMM)

8:00 am +John Andrzejewski (Janet Andrzejewski)

Tuesday, August 18 (SJ)

8:00 am + Jerome Denault (Jackie Cross & Family)

Wednesday, August 19

+ Bill O'Connor (Craig/Pam Walker)

Friday, August 21 (SMM)

8:00am +Marie Duval (Jeff/Diane Long)

Saturday, August 22 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Ronald Schneider (Roger/Margaret Jensen)

+Tom Lane (Mariann Lane)

Sunday, August 23

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

+Joe King (Dale Pfeiffer Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Ivan Denault (Steve/Christel Denault)

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

Looking Ahead

Monday, August 24—K of C meeting 7pm at St. James

Monday, Sept. 7—Herscher Labor Day Celebration

Sunday, September 13—Religious Ed Begins at SJ and SMM

Saturday, Sept. 19—Bus Trip to Mundelein Seminary

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—Tanhya Osenga 426-2550

Julie Bisaillon 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—

- When have I felt morally justified in crossing boundaries and how persistent did I need to be to do so?

Collections Weekend of August 8-9, 2026

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,018

St. James—\$1,374

Sacred Heart— \$770

Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts When Christ Silent

The Canaanite woman asked Jesus to help her daughter who had a problem. At first, Christ "did not answer her a word," St. Matthew tells us. Eventually, being greatly impressed by the Gentile woman's faith, He restored her daughter to normality. What are we to think when Christ seems silent in our situation? Should we use that time to "grow" our faith? Could it be an opportunity for us to make sure that we put first things first? Christ and his Kingdom work should always have a higher priority than our personal desires.



Letters of application are now being accepted for the Theresa Fritz Catholic Education Scholarship for the 2026-2027 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 September 4, 2026.

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Time to Sign Up for Adult Ed Classes

Our adult ed classes will resume in September, the topic will be The Gospel of St. Mark. If you would like to attend these classes, please call the office (815-426-2550) and register so we can

order the books. The start date will be Wednesday September 9th.

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported Father Allam's mission work in India. We were able to send him a total of \$11,319 to further his work with the needy.

LOVE

is the command of the Lord

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Parish News:

All Parishes—

⇒ Tuesday morning masses will be at St. James until further notice.

⇒ Tri Parish 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-

⇒ Sacred Heart—

⇒ Important Notice— Beginning on Sunday, July 26 until further notice, Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart will be held in the church hall. Weekday masses on Tuesday will be held at St. James.



The Knights of Columbus meeting will be August 24 at 7:00 pm in the St. James hall.

Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase.

~Martin Luther King



A Tri-Parish outing is in the works! A bus trip to Mundelein Seminary is being planned for Saturday, September 19. It will be a day of touring the campus, the chapels on the grounds, learning about the history of Mundelein Seminary and of course a delicious lunch.

If you are interested, please call the church office as soon as you can commit so we will know what bus to get. The bus will leave St. Margaret Mary parking lot.

The exact time has not been set yet.

University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Mundelein Seminary



Join us as we tour this beautiful campus!

Saint of the week: St. Stephen of Hungary (August 16) was born to a pagan family but was baptized at age 10 with his father. He became the king of the Magyars in Hungary. Stephen married Blessed Gisella of Ungarn, sister of emperor Saint Henry II. He evangelized both their peoples. Saint Astricus served as his advisor. Stephen united the Magyars into a single nation, suppressing revolts led by pagan nobles. Stephen was crowned king on Christmas Day 1001 by Emperor Otto III by authority of Pope Sylvester II. He organized dioceses and founded monasteries. He is the father of Saint Emeric; Stephen brought Saint Gerard Sagredo to tutor his son.



Other obscure saint of the week: St. Roch (August 16) was a French noble who early developed a sympathy for the poor and sick. He was reported to have been born with the image of a red cross on his breast. He was orphaned at age 20, he gave his fortune to the poor and became a mendicant pilgrim; he may have been a Franciscan tertiary. While on pilgrimage Roch encountered an area afflicted with plague. He stayed to minister to the sick, and affected several miraculous cures, usually by making the sign of the cross over them but contracted the plague himself. He walked into a forest to die, but was befriended by a dog. The dog fed him with food stolen from his master's table, and Roch eventually recovered.

When Roch returned to Montpellier, France, he was arrested for being a spy. He languished in jail for five years, never mentioning his noble connections, cared for by an angel until his death.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

From there Jesus took a trip to Tyre and Sidon. They had hardly arrived when a Canaanite woman came down from the hills and pleaded, "Mercy, Master, Son of David! My daughter is cruelly afflicted by an evil spirit."

Jesus ignored her. The disciples came and complained, "Now she's bothering us. Would you please take care of her? She's driving us crazy."

Jesus refused, telling them, "I've got my hands full dealing with the lost sheep of Israel."

Then the woman came back to Jesus, went to her knees, and begged. "Master, help me."

He said, "It's not right to take bread out of children's mouths and throw it to dogs."

She was quick: "You're right, Master, but beggar dogs do get scraps from the master's table."

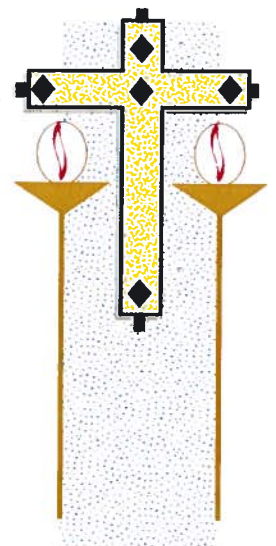
Jesus gave in. "Oh, woman, your faith is something else. What you want is what you get!" Right then her daughter became well (from Matthew 15).



Have pity on me!
MT. 15:22

Reflection—The Prophet

The true prophet's voice is often quiet and fleeting, but nonetheless strong. She or he is living an honest, courageous life guided by truth and compassion. With the grace of God they are trying to live out the truth, and whether knowingly or not, they follow the advice of Gandhi: "Let our first act every morning be this resolve: I shall not fear anyone on earth. I shall fear only God. I shall not bear ill-will toward anyone. I shall conquer untruth by truth and in resisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffering."



Questions Catholics Ask

Why do we worship in buildings instead of in God's beautiful creation?

(The word *temple* means "to be cut from": to be separate from ordinary use and reserved for sacred encounter)

The fixed sanctuary of meeting between God and mortals is an old concept. Your instinct is correct that creation seems perfect for the job. Sacred space is meant to display the cosmos in miniature: a unified center where heaven, earth, and the underworld intersect. Just as mountains reach into the heavens, and roots push deep into the soil, the holy place conjoins the three anciently acknowledged realms. The achievement of this unity is evident in the designs of temples, cathedrals, pyramids, ziggurats, pagodas, monoliths, and even the towering sacred trees venerated in northern lands.

As in many religions, the Judeo-Christian tradition regards this design as divinely supplied. So Moses gets the blueprint for a sanctuary from God at Sinai, as does King Solomon for the Jerusalem temple. Ezekiel receives a revitalized one in a vision after the first temple is destroyed. John at Patmos envisions the Lamb as an incarnate temple in the reign of God at the end of time. In these episodes (which have parallels across ancient cultures), the leader or seer is given precise measurements for the job, including careful attention to the worship space's orientation toward nature's four directions and often including a source of living water. Other traditions incorporate architectural elements to interact with the sun and moon, and the seasonal calendar. The design of sacred space always acknowledges the superiority of God's world design and is not intended to replace it, but rather to celebrate it.

Attention is likewise paid to the *meaning* of creation, and not just its patterns. The story of creation—again, in our biblical tradition and in other world religions—is a triumph of divine order over primordial chaos. Sacred geometry is therefore strictly observed in these designs, which explains the astonishing exactness of many structures from antiquity, as well as the patience of builders who begin a cathedral which none of them will see completed.

The word *temple* means "to be cut from": to be separate from ordinary use and reserved for sacred encounter. Our word *contemplate* reflects the understanding that contemplation is an activity enhanced by the temple, and also that the temple's mysteries ideally reside inside the worshipper as well as around him or her. Jesus epitomized this understanding when he identified his own body with the Jerusalem temple. Paul repeated this teaching when he called each believer a temple. The more we consider sacred space, the more it can teach us.

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-22; Exodus 25-31; 1 Kings 5:15-7:51; Isaiah 28:16; Ezekiel 40-47:12; Matthew 16:18; John 2:13-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Revelation 21:22-25

A Stewardship Moment

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of August 15/16, 2026

In today's first reading, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah during a time of political upheaval and moral decline. The prophet had warned of God's judgment against people for the feelings of self-importance they found in their possessions, and condemned them for various forms of economic injustice such as exploiting the poor and immigrants. Good stewards know that Isaiah's message is as compelling today as it was in the time of the kingdom of Judah: Do the right thing. Offer justice and compassion toward others. Be honest in all your dealings. And remember to observe the day of the Lord.

Reflection— Plan for Tomorrow

Tomorrow is a special day ... Because it is unspent ... And so it offers all its time ... For us to be content ... It has not even made a start ... And therefore it is free ... For us to use in any way ... To keep us company ... We may devote its hours to ... A very worthy cause ... Or figure every minute as ... Another chance to pause ... In any case we ought to stop ... And think of it today ... And try to measure out our work ... With time enough for play ... We ought to make a schedule for ... Our labor and our rest ... So every second will be one ... In which we do our best.



He walked out the door not knowing where he'd sleep

Kortlan never thought he'd be homeless. He was working, he had an apartment – and then he lost both. He walked out the door that day not knowing where he'd sleep that night. He'd never been to a shelter before. Five months later, he's still moved by how it turned out.

"I'm a living witness – if you work hard on your end, you'll have a happy ending." – Kortlan



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RETRouvaille
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES
OF JOLIET, ILLINOIS



Stop fighting *with* each other, and start fighting *for* each other! Retrouvaille helps you rediscover calm conversation, productive conflict management, and a deeper understanding of each other that leads to improved trust, commitment, forgiveness, and love.

Our next weekend program is

September 18 - 20, 2026 at the Carmelite Spiritual Center, Darlen, IL

For more information, call us at 815-246-2080, email us at JolietRegistration@HelpOurMarriage.org, or visit us online at HelpOurMarriage.org/Joliet

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
What does infallibility really mean?

The next time someone says Catholics believe everything the pope says, you'll know the truth.

One common misconception about the Catholic Church is that: "If the pope says it, Catholics have to believe it."

In fact, St. John Henry Newman spent an entire book explaining why that isn't true.

In 1874, just a few years after the First Vatican Council formally defined the doctrine of papal infallibility, England's former Prime Minister, William Gladstone, accused Catholics of being little more than slaves to the pope. He claimed that Catholics surrendered their freedom of thought and couldn't be loyal citizens because they were bound to believe everything the pope said.

Newman knew better.

Although he personally thought it was the wrong time to formally define papal infallibility, he faithfully accepted the Church's decision once it was made. Then, when Catholics were unfairly criticized, he wrote his famous *Letter to the Duke of Norfolk* to explain what the Church had always believed.

Papal infallibility does not mean the pope is always right. It does not mean everything he says is inspired. It does not mean Catholics must agree with every opinion, homily, or remark made by a pope.

Instead, the doctrine is actually quite narrow.

The Holy Spirit protects the pope from teaching error **only when, as the supreme shepherd of the Church, he definitively proclaims a doctrine of faith or morals that is to be held by the whole Church.** These solemn teachings are rare. In fact, the last universally recognized ex cathedra declaration was in 1950, when Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide His Church into all truth (John 16:13). Papal infallibility isn't about giving extraordinary powers to one man. It's about Christ faithfully keeping His promise to His Church.

The next time someone says Catholics believe everything the pope says, you'll know the truth. Catholics don't believe the pope is incapable of making mistakes.

We believe Christ is faithful to protect His Church when she definitively teaches the faith He entrusted to the Apostles.

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Caregiver Educational Series

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet invites family caregivers to a **Caregiver Educational Series** at the Kankakee Public Library on Wednesdays in September from 1:30–2:30 p.m. Sessions will feature local experts discussing programs and services for caregivers, dementia communication and behaviors, guardianship and power of attorney, caregiver burnout, and new rules for end-of-life care.

The series will be held at **Kankakee Public Library, 201 E. Merchant St., Kankakee.** For more information or to register, call Amanda at **815-523-9919.**





August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Is 56:1, 6-7 | Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 | Mt 15:21-28

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

I have often wondered why Jesus' words to the Gentile woman in today's Gospel sound so harsh. The woman was simply asking Jesus to heal her daughter, as so many others before her had done. Jesus' reply that he had been sent only to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" may have been true under the old covenant. But with his coming, Jesus initiated the new covenant where all are invited, all are welcome. Through the woman's gift of faith (whose prayer says simply, "Lord, help me"), she brings herself and her daughter into the joy and goodness of the kingdom. Jesus commends her faith (and her persistence) and heals her daughter. This passage demonstrates the healing God wishes to provide for all of his people.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Thus says the Lord in Isaiah: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Responsorial psalm: "O God, let all the nations praise you!"

Jesus to the Canaanite (Gentile) woman: "O woman, great is your faith!"

Our readings today spell out loud and clear that our God's love and forgiveness is meant for all. Not just the few. This is good news, indeed. What does God ask of us in return? He asks that we strive to do *what is right ... what is just*. In short, we must *join [our]selves* to the Lord, as Isaiah says, and God will welcome us into his holy kingdom. How do we do that? We can start by trying to imitate the generosity of God's grace and welcome those who seek God's mercy and healing. In other words, we reach out in love to each other and seek to build up the unity of his Church, the Body of Christ.

WELCOME

On some level, all the readings today speak of disparate people coming to the faith: foreigners, all the nations, the Gentiles, a Canaanite woman. Does your parish have some form of welcoming ministry – a welcome desk, ushers, greeters? The power of a friendly smile, a warm handshake, a disposition of "we're happy you're here" cannot be underestimated for visitors to our churches. Consider becoming a part of the team that welcomes the stranger to your parish.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R/. Alleluia, alleluia.
Mary is taken up to heaven;
a chorus of angels exults.
R/. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Luke 1:39-56; L622

Mary set out

and traveled to the hill country in haste
to a town of Judah,
where she entered the house of
Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the infant leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy
Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and
said,
"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your
womb.

And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should
come to me?

For at the moment the sound of your
greeting reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.

Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled."

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of
the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his
lowly servant.

Continued in Appendix A, p. 304.

See Appendix A, p. 304, for the other readings.

Reflecting on the Gospel

In this gospel reading, we hear Mary proclaim what we now recognize as the *Magnificat*, a prayer of praise titled from the first line—*Magnificat anima mea Dominum*, Latin for "My soul magnifies the Lord." In this moment, Mary rejoices with Elizabeth and remembers all that God has done for her and for Israel throughout many generations. But what is most significant about this hymn of praise is that it is not just words. Mary is offering praise from her entire being.

Her words express what her actions demonstrate—the entirety of her life is a profession of praise for who God is and what God has done for God's beloved.

Today we celebrate Mary's glorious assumption, in which she was taken body and soul into heaven. Having been conceived without original sin and as she lived in the full grace of God without personal sin, Mary was not subject to the decay that comes with death. Instead, Mary experienced what the rest of us hope for and are promised: the resurrection of our earthly bodies when Christ returns. Mary was chosen and set apart by God from the moment of her immaculate conception, preparing her to fulfill the call that she had received. And she chose daily to live the words of her *Magnificat*, conforming her life to the will of a generous, mighty, and loving God. Elizabeth recognized the work of God in Mary's life as well, proclaiming, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." The presence of the Holy Spirit within Mary was so radiant that others could not help but see God's glorious grace at work within her.

What would it look like today to live in a way that magnifies the Lord and offers the entirety of one's life as an act of praise?

Mary proclaims, "From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name." In saying this she is not boasting; instead, she is proclaiming that the fruits of her life are due solely to the work of God. A person cannot bless themselves, but they can participate in the grace offered to receive a blessing. A person cannot save themselves, but they can accept the gift of salvation offered by conforming to the will of the Father. When we recognize that God is the source of all goodness, we begin to see that the goodness of our lives is not due to our own merits, and we can offer praise and thanksgiving to the One who desires to bless all creation. May we ask for the intercession of Mary to help us bring the words of her *Magnificat* to life.

Preparing to Proclaim

Key words and phrases: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."

To the point: Mary's *Magnificat* is one of the most important New Testament canticles, in which she proclaims the goodness of God and his action on behalf of the people Israel, especially the lowly. It is precisely because she proclaims God's greatness that she is assumed body and soul into heaven. In her words and actions, Mary said yes to God's call for her. Human but without sin, she was assumed into heaven to point us to our destiny at the bodily resurrection. God has "remembered his promise of mercy" for us, inviting us to be with him for eternity.

