

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

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPT. 26-27, 2026

**HAVE IN YOU
THE SAME ATTITUDE
THAT IS ALSO IN
CHRIST JESUS**



**JESUS CHRIST
is LORD**

**HE HUMBLIED HIMSELF
BECOMING OBEDIENT
TO THE POINT OF DEATH,
ACCEPTING EVEN DEATH
ON A CROSS. BECAUSE
OF THIS, GOD BESTOWED
ON HIM THE NAME
WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY
NAME, SO THAT AT THE
NAME OF JESUS EVERY
KNEE SHOULD BEND AND
EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!**

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Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary Sat. 5:00 pm Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart Sun. 7:30 am
St. James Sun 9:00 am

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary Sat. 4:15 pm—4:45pm

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable - " God places his trust in us, imperfect but forgiven sinners, so that his grace may shine through our lives, and his power that transforms evil into good may be revealed."

~Pope Leo XIV

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 3-4, 2026

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Oct. 3 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Oct. 4 7:30 am	St. James Oct. 4 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Oct. 4 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Father Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Gery Wright Dave Emling Brett Buza Galen Fritz	Daryl Ferris David Kirkpatrick	Dave Ladehoff Jerry Ogrentz Arlen Hansen Dennis O'Connor	Deam Riordan Kim Smicker Larry Wolles Brent Fulton
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Rhonda Berns	Mary Peerbolte	Diane Long
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				Avery Adams
Greeters			Greeter—Rita ThiesenR. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	The Wheelers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Sept. 28 (SMM)

8:00 am +Dick Fitch (Kathy Dumas)

Tuesday, Sept. 29 (SJ)

8:00 am + Leland Denault (Steve/Donna Jacob)

Wednesday, Sept. 30

+ Dorene O'Connor (Dale/Cheryl Hasselbring)

Friday, Oct. 2 (SH)

8:00am +Joe Ahern (Thomas/Noemi Ahern)

Saturday, Oct. 3 (SMM)

5:00 pm +For All the Parish Family

Sunday, Oct. 4

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

+James Palinski (The Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Jams & Eleanor McBarnes (Larry/Janice O'Connor)

+Decease members of Tadey Family (Dan/Chris Forsythe)

10:30 am (SMM) +Sterling Bouchard (Mary Ann Wagner)

Looking Ahead

Sunday, Sept. 27— St. Peter's Clifton Chicken Dinner 11am-3

Monday, Sept. 28—Combined Parish Council meeting 7:00 at SMM

Monday, Sept. 28—Prayer Group st SJ

Wednesday, Sept. 30—Adult Ed Class at 6pm at SJ

Sunday, Oct. 4—SH Bake Sale at Bonfield Fire Station

Saturday, Oct. 10—Rosary Rally at noon at SMM

Oct. 31/Nov. 1—Boxes of Joy due back at church

Monday, Nov. 16—SMM CCW meeting

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rgckg@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 –

Prayer Line–

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 jdstreefarms1@gmail.com

Question of the week—

To what have I said no recently that I regret now? How can I turn around and make up for that?

Collections Weekend of Sept. 19-20, 2026

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,821

St. James—\$ 1,195

Sacred Heart— \$1,359

Thank you for your generosity!



Your Tri-Parish Knights participate in a Dart-Ball League with other local churches of all denominations. The league will start up for this year on November 16 and run through the end of February on every other Monday evening. Contact Dave Emling at [\(309\) 235-4392](tel:3092354392) for more details. You do not need to be a knight to participate. Both men and women are invited. It's a great evening and an enjoyable way to meet new folks from the other local churches

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Doreen Frerichs



mother of Colleen (Bob) Schultz, Brian Frerichs,
Scott Frerichs, and Craig (Liz) Frerichs
grandmother of 10

May Doreen and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.
Our sincere sympathy to Doreen's family and friends.



First Friday is October 2nd. Mass will be at 8:00am at Sacred Heart followed by Adoration and concluding with Benediction.

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

-St. John Vianney

Gospel Shorts When Yes Is Not Enough

All of our religious life is peppered with yeses to God in one form or another. We speak them in hymn and creed and prayer. We spout our God directed yeses in the direction of commandments and the gospel message proclaimed from Bethlehem to the garden of the resurrection. We proclaim belief in the pronouncements of parables and the messages of the miracles. But lest we allow our many yeses, sung, spoken or thought, lull us into spiritual smugness Jesus tells a story.

This is a story of a yes-man and who failed to follow through, and it is a story of another man who turned his life around. The story gives us all pause to look at how we might fit the picture of the yes man, at how we may often out of habit proclaim our yes only to go off in an opposite direction. But this is also a story that invites us to make good on yesterday's yeses and turn around the times we may have uttered a no. It is a parable of both challenge and invitation.

Parish News:

⇒ **All Parishes—**

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

⇒ Consider joining the Tri Parish Prayer Group which meets 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-

⇒ See Boxes of Joy on pg. 6

St. James-

⇒ **Any students not registered for Religious Ed classes should do so as soon as possible. We welcome any new students to our program . Contact Tahnya Osenga to register.**

Sacred Heart—

⇒ Tickets for the Sacred Heart Cash Bash on November 21 are now on sale. One \$50 ticket admits two adults. You may purchase them after Mass on Sunday.

⇒ Our CCW Bake Sale is only a week away— Sunday, October 4 at the Salina Fire Dept. Breakfast in Bonfield from 8am till 11am. We will be packaging baked items Sat. Oct. 3 in the hall at 1 pm.

⇒ See Boxes of Joy on pg. 6

Reflection How Well Do You Know Each Other

Here's one mealtime game that could help family members discover how well they really know one another.

Have the members think of what they would buy for the others if they had all the money in the world. Then have all think of what they would buy for themselves with their limitless finances. The results of the game could tell how much family members really know one another and how much they understand what all the others really desire most in life.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of September 26/27, 2026

Saint Augustine, a doctor of the church, once wrote that he first, second, and third most important attitude in Christianity is humility. In today's second reading, Saint Paul is concerned with how we conduct ourselves in our community of faith. He urges us to let our conduct be worthy of the Gospel we say that we believe; and that it all begins with humility. He asks us to consider others better than ourselves, and to serve them by looking out for their best interest, not ours. Consider how Saint Paul's appeal to imitating Christ's humility can enhance your relationships.

Christ has died Christ has risen Christ will come again



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Saint of the week: St. Bonifilius of Foligno (Sept. 27) was born to the nobility. Bonifilius became a Benedictine monk and then abbot of Santa Maria di Storaco Abbey where he was known for his knowledge of the scriptures. A noted and popular preacher he was made the bishop of Foligno, Italy in 1078. Bonifilius was a pilgrim and crusader to the Holy Lands from 1096 to 1104, after which he retired from his see to return to life as a monk. His biography was written by Saint Sylvester Guzzolini.

Other obscure saint of the week: St. Gaius of Milan (Sept. 27) was the spiritual student of Saint Barnabas the Apostle. He was the first century bishop of Milan, Italy for 24 years. He baptized Saint Vitalis, Saint Gervase and Saint Protase.



Understanding the Sacraments part 6

The Eucharist

Eucharist is the third of the Sacraments of Initiation, it takes place within the Mass. The Mass itself is two liturgies combined into one. The first part is the Liturgy of the Word which is reflective of the synagogue service in Judaism. The second part is the Liturgy of the Eucharist which mirrors the service conducted in the Temple. Any of the Eucharist not distributed during the Mass is stored in a metal box called the Tabernacle.

What do we as Catholics believe about the Eucharist? To give you the best summation of Catholic Eucharistic theology I turned to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The bishops tell us that the Eucharist is: What is the Eucharist?

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The term "Eucharist" originates from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning thanksgiving.

In the celebration of the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the instrumentality of the priest. The whole Christ is truly present — body, blood, soul, and divinity — under the appearances of bread and wine, the glorified Christ who rose from the dead. This is what the Church means when she speaks of the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist.

Why does Jesus give himself to us as food and drink?

Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist as spiritual nourishment because he loves us. By eating the Body and drinking the Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, we become united to the person of Christ through his humanity. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (Jn 6:56). In being united to the humanity of Christ, we are at the same time united to his divinity. Our mortal and corruptible natures are transformed by being joined to the source of life.

Is the Eucharist a symbol?

The transformed bread and wine are truly the Body and Blood of Christ and are not merely symbols. When Christ said "This is my body" and "This is my blood," the bread and wine are transubstantiated. Though the bread and wine appear the same to our human faculties, they are actually the real body and blood of Jesus.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the preparation of the gifts and the altar. As the ministers prepare the altar, representatives of the people bring forward the bread and wine that will become the Body and Blood of Christ. The celebrant blesses and praises God for these gifts and places them on the altar, the place of the Eucharistic sacrifice. In addition to the bread and wine, monetary gifts for the support of the Church and the care of the poor may be brought forward. The Prayer over the Offerings concludes this preparation and disposes all for the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer is the heart of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In this prayer, the celebrant acts in the person of Christ as head of his body, the Church. He gathers not only the bread and the wine, but the substance of our lives and joins them to Christ's perfect sacrifice, offering them to the Father.

The introductory dialogue establishes that this prayer is the prayer of the baptized and ordained, is offered in the presence of God, and has thanksgiving as its central focus. Following this dialogue, the celebrant begins the Preface, which consists of four different Eucharistic Prayers. After these prayers, communion is then given.

In conclusion, the Eucharist is the core and center of our faith and worship life. It should always be approached with reverence and joy.

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

"Tell me what you think of this story: A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, 'Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard.'

"The son answered, 'I don't want to.' Later on he thought better of it and went.

"The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, 'Sure, glad to.' But he never went.

"Which of the two sons did what the father asked?"

They said, "The first."

Jesus said, "Yes, and I tell you that crooks and whores are going to precede you into God's kingdom. John came to you showing you the right road. You turned up your noses at him, but the crooks and whores believed him. Even when you saw their changed lives, you didn't care enough to change and believe him" (from Matthew 21).



ST. MARGARET MARY SERVICE PROJECT!

While underwear is traditionally a big part of Undy Sunday, **our current needs in Kankakee are a little different this year.** We have a good supply of underwear for our clients, but we have a significant need for adult incontinence products and bed pads. By focusing your collection on these items,

you'll be helping us provide exactly what our clients need right now.

We have two ways to participate—bringing items in person to church or shopping through the Amazon Wish List.

Items to Collect:

~Pull-on adult diapers/incontinence underwear, sizes L-3XL *Please choose pull-on styles rather than tabbed briefs.*

~Disposable bed pads (chux/chuck pads)

Please bring in only new, unopened packages. Thank you for your help and support. The last day for donations is Oct 18.

UNDY SUNDAY AMAZON WISH LIST



• Sacred Heart C.C.W. Baby Shower Drive Benefiting the Pregnancy Resource Center of Kankakee

Sacred Heart's Council of Catholic Women invites you to participate in our annual Baby Shower Drive! The drive begins today and runs through **Sept. 28**

How You Can Help:

Donate Items: Drop off needed items in the basket located at the entrance of the church.

- **Baby Bottle Campaign:** Pick up a baby bottle at the church entrance to fill with cash or a check, and return it by September 28th.
- **Make a Donation:** Checks can be made payable to **Sacred Heart C.C.W.** If you prefer, place your check in an envelope labeled "Baby Shower" and drop it in the Mass offering basket.

The C.C.W. remains committed to advocating for the dignity, health, and well-being of unborn children and their mothers. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Questions Catholics Ask

The Eucharistic celebration is called "the source and summit" of our faith—both the origin and epitome of what we believe—in church documents. The Table of the Lord, AKA the altar, is at the center of our lives as Catholic Christians. Everything we do emanates from that starting point.

So where that celebration takes place is of no small consideration. According to the *General Instructions for the Roman Missal* (GIRM 288), the People of God normally gather in a church. When the local building is too small for the assembly, as for a papal Mass, another "respectable" setting (auditorium or stadium) can be employed. Another lovely provision is this: "sacred buildings and requisites for divine worship should be truly worthy and beautiful and be signs and symbols of heavenly realities." So all that floor polishing and statue dusting my mother does in her home parish with her friends is canonically approved.

Canon Law (n. 932) specifies that Mass is to be celebrated on a dedicated or blessed altar, as well as in a sacred place—unless "necessity requires otherwise." Necessity has made the hood of a Jeep into an altar in wartime; wooden pallets or crates can be fashioned into a vineyard altar for farm workers; a hut can serve as a chapel in mission lands. In lands where Mass is prohibited, the celebration can be held in hidden places like mines, caves, or tents. Leading youth groups on hikes, Archbishop Karol Wojtyla (Saint John Paul II) celebrated Eucharist on a flat boulder in the woods. In any setting, the traditional cloth and corporal should be used to designate the table or surface commandeered for divine service.

Here's a surprise: When the cause is just and with proper approvals, a priest can also celebrate Mass in an ecclesial community or church structure that is not in full communion with the Catholic Church "so long as there is no scandal." (n. 933) The aforementioned scandal might include the confusion that results if some did not appreciate the difference between, say, the Lutheran host church and the Roman Catholic liturgy being offered. Such time-shares are often necessary when a Catholic church has been damaged or destroyed by natural disaster, terrorist attack, or military forces. The bottom line is that sacred space with an attention to beauty and respectful worship is the norm for Mass. But even more important than the venue is the necessity to make the Eucharist available to all under every circumstance.

Scripture: Mark 14:22-24; Luke 21:5-6; 2 Corinthians 4:7-11; 5:1; 1 Peter 2:4-6

Where Can Mass Be Celebrated ?

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

What Happened to the two men who shared Christ's Cross?
Simon of Cyrene and the Good Thief shared in Christ's suffering on Calvary.
What can their encounters with the Cross teach us about our own?

On September 14, we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. We know that the Cross changed the world. But have you ever thought about what happened to the men who actually shared in Christ's suffering that day?

Simon of Cyrene hadn't planned to carry Jesus' Cross.

He was passing by when the soldiers seized him and "laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus" (Luke 23:26). Suddenly, Simon found himself walking behind a condemned man, carrying the very wood upon which Christ would die.

Scripture doesn't tell us what Simon thought or whether that encounter led to his conversion. It does leave us wondering what happened after that walk to Calvary. Simon did not seek out the cross. It was thrust upon him, much as the crosses in our own lives often are. Yet in carrying Christ's Cross, Simon was brought into an intimacy with His suffering that he would likely not have chosen for himself.

Then there was another man who shared Christ's suffering even more literally.

The Good Thief was crucified beside Jesus. Unlike Simon, he deserved his sentence, and he admitted it. Yet as he suffered beside Christ, his heart was converted, and he said:

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42).

And from the Cross came the answer: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

The Good Thief could do nothing to change his past. He couldn't climb down from his cross and begin again. He could only turn toward Christ from the cross he was already carrying.

This is a powerful image as we contemplate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

We don't often choose our crosses. Simon didn't. But sometimes we create them through our own choices, as the Good Thief had.

But whatever crosses we bear, and we will bear them, we can make them an opportunity to unite with the suffering Christ, and this changes everything.

Today's takeaway "STAY CLOSE TO THE CROSS"

Simon and the Good Thief remind us that a cross we never wanted can become the very place where we encounter Christ most closely.

TURN TOWARD HIM

Think of one cross you are carrying right now. Instead of asking only for it to be taken away, ask Christ to show you how He is meeting you in it.

When: October 10, 2026 – ROSARY WILL BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON

At St. Margaret Mary



Please join us in praying for our nation

Please bring a lawn chair.

For more information, please contact:

Cindy Gagnon – (815) 933-4077; Rhonda Berns – (815) 426-5015; Kathy Meli – (815) 928-8988



Boxes of Joy
time is upon us
once again!

The boxes are available for pickup in the entrances of the churches. (if not yet, they will be soon) Each CCW would like the

boxes returned to church by the Oct. 31/Nov. 1 weekend.

There is a list of suggestions for filling the boxes. Please include a check for \$9 to pay for postage for each box you turn in. The checks should be made out to your CCW and then one

**The Oldest Computer
Was Owned By Adam
And Eve. It Was An
Apple With Very Limited
Memory. Just 1 Byte
And Everything
Crashed!**



September 27, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28 | Phil 2:1-11 | Mt 21:28-32

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

Ask any long-time educator, and they'll tell you we often learn more from our mistakes than from doing it perfectly from the start. Today's Gospel also seems to send the same message: Jesus tells us that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before the chief priests and elders. Perhaps this is because they – having lived a sinful life – know firsthand the emptiness of not following God's ways. Having gotten it wrong, they now earnestly seek what is right. The mystic Julian of Norwich writes, "First the fall, and then the recovery from the fall, and both are the mercy of God." Even in our wanderings, God is at work, drawing us to return to him. Ezekiel tells us that when we respond to that grace and turn from the wickedness we have committed, doing what is right and just, we will surely not die, but receive the gift of eternal life from the God who is Mercy itself.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Speaking to the Christian community at Philippi, St. Paul reminds them to have "the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." The previous lines offer a glimpse of what that attitude entails: encouragement, love, compassion, mercy, unity, humility, regarding others as more important than ourselves. These attitudes should shape our way of relating to those whom we are trying to evangelize. Rather than judging them or thinking of ourselves as more important, we are called to serve them with humility, offering them our encouragement to seek the Lord who loves them so much that he gave his life for them.

REFLECT

Today's Gospel includes the story of a son who initially says no to his father's request but then changes his mind and does it. The Gospel ends with a line about how the chief priests and elders did not change their minds even when they saw tax collectors and prostitutes responding to John's call to repentance. Indeed, the Greek word for conversion is *metanoia*, which has been defined as "a change of mind that leads to a change in action." Take some time today to do an examination of conscience, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of thinking that need conversion and change. What might the Holy Spirit want to change your mind about this day?

“
HAVE IN YOU
THE SAME
ATTITUDE THAT
IS ALSO IN
Christ Jesus.
”

(PHIL 2:5)

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:27

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matt 21:28-32; L136A

Jesus said to the chief
priests and elders of
the people:

“What is your opinion?

A man had two sons.

He came to the first and
said,

‘Son, go out and work in
the vineyard today.’

He said in reply, ‘I will not,’
but afterwards changed
his mind and
went.

The man came to the
other son and gave the same order.
He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not
go.

Which of the two did his father’s will?”
They answered, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you,
tax collectors and prostitutes
are entering the kingdom of God
before you.

When John came to you in the way of
righteousness,
you did not believe him;
but tax collectors and prostitutes did.
Yet even when you saw that,
you did not later change your minds
and believe him.”



Reflecting on the Gospel

In the literary context of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus directs the parable we hear proclaimed today at the religious leaders who have tried to shame and discredit him publicly by challenging his authority. Jesus uses a technique similar to that of the prophet Nathan, who confronted King David about his sin with Bathsheba by telling a story about a rich man who took the one precious lamb of a poor man (2 Sam 12:1-12). Nathan invited David to pronounce judgment on a hypothetical situation, which ended up being a pronouncement on himself.

In similar fashion, Jesus’s parable is designed to jar the religious leaders into conversion, so that there is coherence between what they say and teach, and what they do. Earlier, Jesus had warned disciples that merely saying “Lord, Lord” was not sufficient; they must also do the will of God (7:21-27). In Matthew 23:3, Jesus warns the crowds and his disciples not to follow the example of the scribes and the Pharisees, because they do not practice what they preach. Today’s gospel holds out hope to the religious leaders: there is still time to turn around and make their deeds match their words.

A startling statement at the conclusion of the parable is meant to jolt the leaders into a change of heart: tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the reign of God ahead of them. This saying does not refer to the actual makeup of the retinue of Jesus’s disciples. Rather, it is a hyperbole meant to contrast the best and the worst imaginable. The point is that the religious leaders who should be the ones leading others into God’s reign are not, while those who are thought least able to do so are repenting and

believing and entering the reign of God.

Of course, it is always easier to see the discrepancies between saying and doing in someone else’s behavior. I can smugly point a finger at the Pharisees in the gospel, or at other contemporary leaders, and see their need to change. It is harder to see the lack of a match between my own words and deeds. It is easy to say yes to following Jesus, but how difficult it is to do what that demands of us. If I say I value prayer, for example, do I actually carve out a consistent time and place to do it? If I say I am concerned for those who are poor, how is that visible in my lifestyle choices?

Fortunately, the burden of arriving at consistency in word and deed does not fall on our shoulders alone. Christ’s “yes” to the self-emptying love described so eloquently by Paul in today’s second reading is the empowering force that allows us not only to say yes, but also to do the corresponding deeds. Each day Christ’s “yes” is pronounced anew in us, giving us myriad opportunities to open ourselves to conversion of heart and let those we regard least likely to do so to show us the way to enter God’s reign.