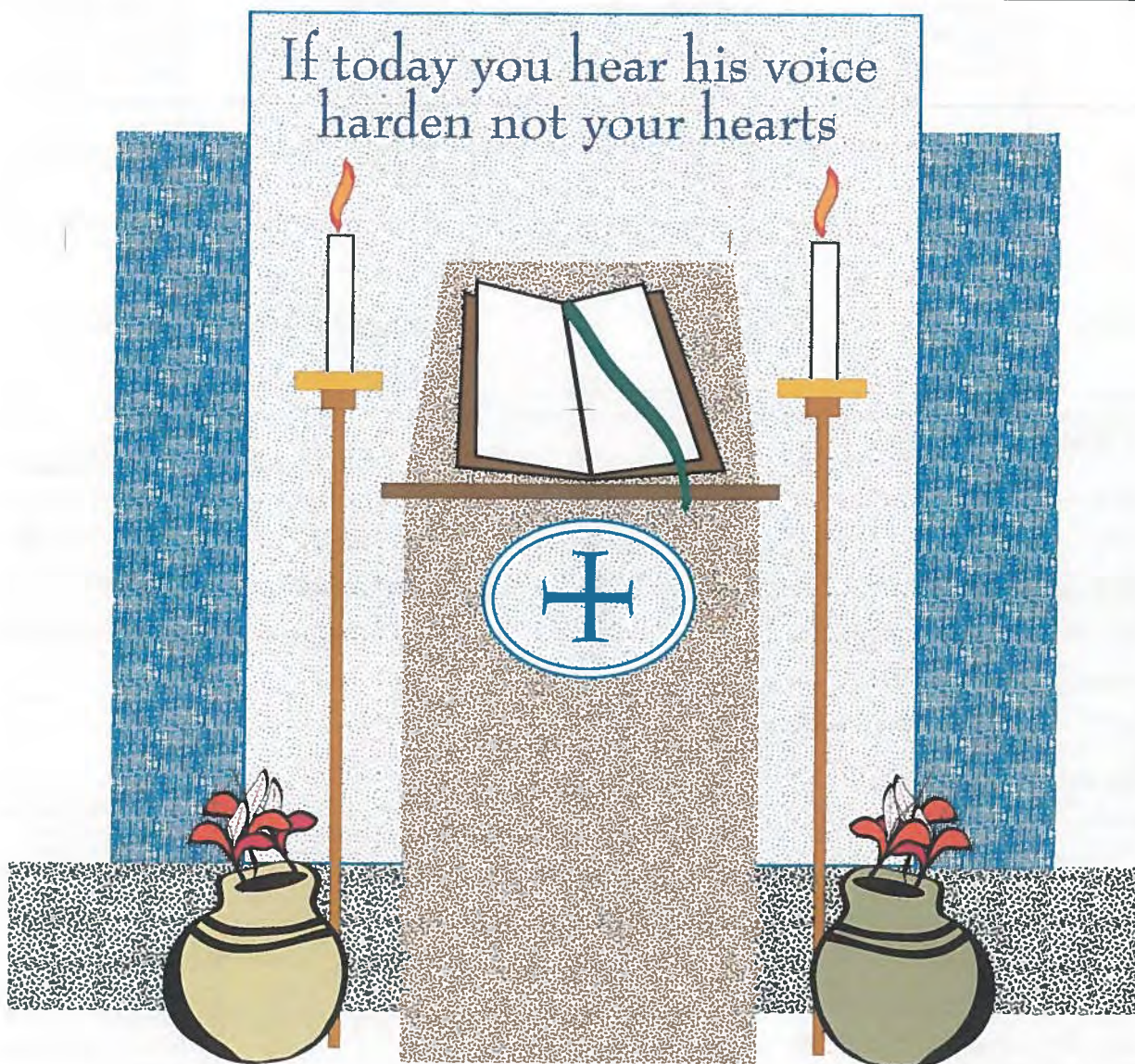


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 13-14, 2024



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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
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

Collections Week of Jan. 6-7, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,619

St. James—\$1,156

Sacred Heart—\$870

Thank you for your continued generosity

Thank you for your generosity!



**DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODY
IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ?**

1 COR. 6:19

Healing begins with our taking our pain out of its diabolic isolation and seeing that whatever we suffer, we suffer it in communion with all of humanity.

—Henri Nouwen

If you would like a copy of your giving statement, please call the Tri-Parish office

(815) 426-2550

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—CCW Meeting Monday Jan. 22, 7PM

All ladies of the parish are welcome, we are having an after Christmas gift exchange—bring a non Christmas gift (value up to \$20)

Sacred Heart— Parish Council Meeting Jan. 23 at 7 PM

St. James—

All Parishes—

- ◆ Don't forget to pick up your offertory envelopes in each parish. If you don't find yours, please call the office.

Gospel Shorts

Where Do We Live

“Does the road you are on lead to my place?” (signed God), was one a popular billboard we

saw on our roads and streets. Too often, today, the signs of our times do not lead to peace, to

harmony. In the gospel of today, Jesus invites us to come and see where he lives, to go in the

right direction. But at the same time, Jesus is asking us to define where we live, what is

important in our lives, how we live out our faith.

To “come and see” is to heed the invitation of the Lord to walk in his path, to be a sign of

God's love, compassion, and service to others. We are called to bring others to Jesus by what

we say and do each day. Today, there are many homeless people who walk our streets. We

need never be homeless if we realize that God has made his home in us. Let us listen to the Lord.

Why do we call Mary our Blessed Mother?

Do you ever wonder why Mary is called “the Blessed Mother”?

January 1 st is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God!

Have you ever wondered why we call her the Blessed Mother?

In Sacred Scripture, after the angel Gabriel visits Mary in her home to tell her that she will bear the Savior of the world at the Annunciation, Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who calls Mary “the mother of my Lord” (Luke 1:43).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that because Mary is the mother of Jesus—and Jesus is God—she has the beautiful privilege of being called “the Mother of God.” She is not just the mother of His human nature; she is the mother of the whole Person of Christ, and Christ has two natures: human and divine. The Catechism explains:

“In fact, the One whom [Mary] conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father’s eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly the ‘Mother of God’ (Theo-tokos)” (CCC 495).

We call Mary the Blessed Mother because of Sacred Scripture. When Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed popularly known as the Magnificat, Mary replied,

“Behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed” (Luke 1:48).

is the fruit of your womb!” (Luke 1:42). And in her Song of Praise,



Samuel Praising to Eli the Judgements of God upon Eli's House by John Singleton, Copy, c.1700

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 | 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 | Jn 1:35-42

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

When Samuel hears the Lord speak in today's first reading, he mistakes it as Eli calling out to him in the temple. The third time Samuel asks if he called, Eli is wise enough to realize what is going on and guides Samuel: "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Samuel required guidance because he "was not familiar with the Lord, because the Lord had not revealed anything to him as yet." In a similar way does the Apostle Andrew come to the Lord. In today's Gospel, Andrew didn't know who Jesus was until John the Baptist told him: "Behold, the Lamb of God." Andrew then began to follow Jesus, and to bring others to him. There may be times when we, like both of these men, need someone else to help us hear the call of the Lord clearly, or see his presence among us. Those who serve the Lord in this way are a great gift to us, and enable us to be that gift for others. Pray for the grace to hear what we need to hear, to see what we need to see, and to say to others, "come, we have found the Messiah."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Despite our best efforts, the time and attention we give to our lives of faith can ebb and flow. Sometimes we can feel so connected with God that we sense his presence everywhere. But there may also be times when God feels distant and we struggle to hear his voice. Notice in today's readings how Samuel "was not familiar with the Lord" but was sleeping in the temple, close to the ark; notice how Andrew was hanging around John the Baptist and immediately followed Christ when told who he was. We can see that, already before "knowing," is a "desire to know." The Lord created us, formed us into being, and calls us to a relationship with him. We are drawn to him even before we can see or know what he has revealed to us. He is our source, and our ultimate end. We seek eternal life with Christ and a path of holiness to help us on our way. The stories of Samuel and the disciple Andrew impress upon us that God is always near and calling to us - we simply must give him the opportunity to speak, sometimes when we least expect it.

INVITATION We are all called to a life of holiness. But it's not always easy to grow in holiness and strengthen one's relationship with God on our own. Consider reaching out to your parish and asking about spiritual direction - a spiritual director will help you fine tune your ears to be more attentive to the Lord's voice.