

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

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JULY 6-7, 2024**



**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:** "We must often draw the comparison between time and eternity. This is the remedy of all our troubles. How small will the present moment appear when we enter that great ocean."

—Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 13-14, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, July 13 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, July 14 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, July 14 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, July 14 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Gery Wright Dave Emling Roger Jensen Dan Hoffman	Kyle Ferris Dennis Pankey	Jeff Steinke Dallas Ferris Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe	Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles Kim Smicker Brent Fulton
Lector	Rob Landeck	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Dave Ladehoff	Steve Jacob
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Karen Miller	Brent Fulton

### A Look Ahead

Tuesday, July 9—SMM Parish Council 7 pm

Friday, July 12— Herscher Corn Bow.

### Mass Intentions for the Week

**Monday, July 8 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Bill Koerner (Sheila Koerner)

**Tuesday, July 9 (SH)**

8:00 am +Inez Crawford (Joshua/Hillary Houberg)

**Wednesday, July 10 (SJ)**

8:00 am + Paul Muhlstadt (Kathy/Richard Dumas)

**Friday, July 12 (SMM)**

8:00 am +Laura Jensen (Diane Oskroba)

**Saturday, July 13 (SMM)**

5:00 pm +Ron & Marie Andersen (Jackie Eberle)

**Sunday, July 14**

7:30 am (SH) For All the Parish Family

9:00am (SJ) +Diane Devine Madsen (Tom, Kathy, Gene O'Connor)

+Fred Gohlke (Larry/Janice O'Connor)

10:30am (SMM) +Cindy Frerichs (Bonnie Siedentop)

+Harold Fournier (Monica Ruder)

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 [triparishcatholiccommunities](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)

**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 [Jdstreefarms@aol.com](mailto:Jdstreefarms@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

**Question of the week** How do I react when someone criticizes or challenges me? Do I dismiss their words at once? How can I prayerfully consider their criticism or advice?

**Collections Week of June 29-30, 2024**

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,011 Peter's Pence-\$438  
St. James—\$1,408 Peter's Pence-\$339  
Sacred Heart—\$826 Peter's Pence-\$398

Thank you for your generosity!

**Reflection Disguise of the Poor**

Our lives are woven with Jesus in the Eucharist, and the faith and the love that comes from the Eucharist enable us to see him in the distressing disguise of the poor.

Mother Teresa (1910–1997)

**A Stewardship Moment**

**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of July 6-7, 2024**

Today's Gospel reveals Jesus being amazed that the people in his hometown of Nazareth do not accept his teaching and ministry; he is amazed at their lack of faith (Mk6:6). Good stewards recognize and participate in Christ's teaching, reconciling and healing presence in their community. Are we good stewards of our family of faith? Do we value and support the ministries that take place in Christ's name? Are we attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our parish and encourage those who work to enhance our life of faith?



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**+John Kidwell**

**father of Chris (Carol) Kidwell**

May John and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

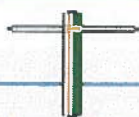
Our sincere sympathy to all his family and friends.

**Gospel Shorts— One of Us**

God came to us in a particular person, to save all people. God came at a specific time to make all time different. God experienced real events in life, to show us how life can be different.

The particularity of what God did is both a problem for us and our salvation. It seems so unbelievable that God would come in an apparently ordinary person — the boy next door. We may have difficulty with Jesus' humanness, as the people of Jesus' hometown did. But it is also in that specific act that God shows how far he will go in his love for us — even to be one of us — and therefore save us. Only in this very specific, very human person could God reach us, and show us "the life that is life indeed."

God showed his love for us, not in an abstract way, but in the specific gift of Jesus Christ, our brother.



**Suffer all things for the sake of CHRIST**

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**Parish News:**

St. Margaret Mary—

St. James—

Sacred Heart—

All Parishes—

- ◆ Due to vacation, fair schedules, etc. there will be no Knights of Columbus meeting in the month of July. Next meeting will be August 26, 2024 at St James at 7:00 PM
- ◆ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ◆ The phone number for the rectory will no longer be in service. All calls should be made to the parish office number 815-426-2550.



Welcome into the faith to  
**Lyla Mae Stone**  
daughter of Addie and Kyle Stone  
who was baptized at St. Margaret Mary  
on May 29, 2024

Good and Gracious God,

We thank You for this gift of summer;  
of being able to pause, relax  
and enjoy the abundant gifts  
You have given us.

At this time of year,  
our thoughts may turn to vacations  
and outings. We may experience  
seashores, mountains or lakesides.  
We may enjoy fishing, swimming and barbecues.

But whatever our summer opportunities,  
we realize they are ultimately gifts from You  
and these gifts, Lord,  
are ultimately meant to be shared.

Show us the joys of generosity,  
keep us mindful of others and open our hearts  
to our parish, neighborhood and world. They  
need the generous spirit of good stewards.

As we enjoy the leisure that summer brings,  
we thank You for Your many gifts,  
and ask that You make us a gift to others as well.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen





**Saint of the week: St. Augustine Zhao Rong (July 9)** As a soldier he escorted Saint Gabriel John Tauin du-Fresse to Beijing, China during his missionary work. He became a convert to Christianity and was ordained a priest. He worked in the Sichuan apostolic vicariate. Augustine was arrested for his faith and his work. He died in prison. One of the *Martyrs of China*.



**Obscure Saint of the week: St. Antonino Fantosati (July 7)** Antonino joined the Franciscan Order of Reformed Friars Minor on July 28, 1862 at the convent of Spineta in Todi, Italy. He was ordained a priest on June 13, 1865. He became a missionary to China in 1867; he served for his remaining 33 years. He was chosen vicar apostolic for southern Hunan, China and titular bishop of Adraa on April 5, 1892. St. Antonino was one of the *Martyrs of China*, killed during the *Boxer Rebellion*.

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

He left there and returned to his hometown. His disciples came along. On the Sabbath, he gave a lecture in the meeting place. He made a real hit, impressing everyone. "We had no idea he was this good!" they said. "How did he get so wise all of a sudden, get such ability?"

But in the next breath they were cutting him down: "He's ,ko just a carpenter—Mary's boy. We've known him since he was a kid. We know his brothers, James, Justus, Jude, and Simon, and his sisters. Who does he think he is?" They tripped over what little they knew about him and fell, sprawling. And they never got any further.

Jesus told them, "A prophet has little honor in his hometown, among his relatives, on the streets he played in as a child." Jesus wasn't able to do much of anything there—he laid hands on a few sick people and healed them, that's all. He couldn't get over their stubbornness. He left and made a circuit of the other villages, teaching (*from Mark 6*).

## Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

### What is a Life Rosary?

**There is a powerful prayer that saves lives.**

As we celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the 2022 landmark decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, we give thanks to God for the progress the pro-life movement has made in the United States.

There is still so much work to be done. However, one of the most effective things you can do is also one of the easiest: praying the Rosary.

Think of the power of the Rosary for the pro-life movement: each Hail Mary is a call to the Virgin Mary, who is revered as the mother of all humanity. This invocation seeks her intercession for the protection of unborn children and the conversion of hearts and minds towards a culture that respects life from conception to natural death.

The Rosary also provides a unifying prayer for the pro-life community. At pro-life gatherings such as the March for Life and 40 Days for Life campaigns, the Rosary is often a central component. These communal prayers create a beautiful sense of solidarity and shared purpose among participants.

Even in private prayer, the Rosary is a powerful tool for change and unity. A particularly impactful method of praying it for the pro-life cause is the Life Rosary.

This simply involves adding brief meditations before each Mystery that help direct your prayer to the intention of increasing respect for innocent human life in our society.

If you would like to begin praying the Life Rosary, you can visit the USCCB's site for a guide. On Tuesdays, the Church traditionally prays the Sorrowful Mysteries. Here is a link to the USCCB's pro-life meditations for the Sorrowful Mysteries.

If you are looking for a complete guide to praying the Life Rosary, look no further than *The Life Rosary* by Mary Sambo! This powerful guide compiles meditations, verses from Scripture, and other pro-life prayers into one helpful pro-life prayer manual. Perfect for individual prayer or for use with your pro-life group.

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## Topic: Sun Safety

Celebrate UV safety month during our sunniest month of the year! The sun warms our skin and can lend us its golden hue, but it unfortunately damages skin as well, leading to dryness, damage, and an increasing likelihood of developing skin cancer. Protect yourself this summer with a sunscreen with at least SPF 30, UV protective sunglasses, and consider protective clothing and full coverage shoes as well as wide brimmed hats to shade the face.



Learn how to perform a skin self-check here (though you should see a board-certified dermatologist for any areas of concern):

<https://www.aad.org/public/diseases/skin-cancer/find/check-skin>

Find information about what to wear to protect yourself from the sun here:

<https://www.aad.org/public/everyday-care/sun-protection/shade-clothing-sunscreen/what-to-wear-protect-skin-from-sun>

Faith Community Health at Carle connects you and your faith community to needed healthcare and wellness support, taking a whole-person approach to health.

To learn more about bringing healthcare and wellness resources to your faith community, call (217) 902-3160 or email [FaithCommunityHealth@carle.com](mailto:FaithCommunityHealth@carle.com).



Carle Faith Community  
Nursing Network

## Bishop MacNamara Garage Sale-

On July 16th from 8:30-12, all staff members, local parishes, and diocese members will be welcome to come to the cafeteria in the Kankakee Site to go through any of the items to see if there is anything they would like to add to their classrooms or office .

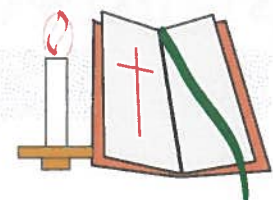


## Twelve Random Stewardship Ideas for the month of July

1. Invite a single friend over for a meal.
2. Turn off your digital world for one hour and spend that hour devoted to someone you love.
3. Attend an extra Mass on a weekday this month.
4. Abstain from something you like—meat, a latte, a cold drink-on Fridays and save the money for a charity.
5. Take your rosary with you for an early morning walk.
6. Recycle more.
7. Think of a charity which is amply blessed at Christmas. Remember it with a gift mid-year.
8. Each day, say prayer for those who suffer in one of the world's trouble spots.
9. Surprise an old friend with a phone call.
10. Buy or pick flowers for someone without a "reason".
11. If you hear a great homily, tell the homilist.
12. Stop for a moment during your busy day, relax and reflect on God's gifts to you that day.

To the word of the Lord  
we say Amen

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## Questions Catholics Ask

My mom asked me to promise her a Christian burial. What does that involve?

Good news: it no longer involves descending into a catacomb, which was the normative way Christians were buried for the first five centuries. Unlike most earlier societies, Christians weren't buried in these underground vaults with valuable objects they might require in the afterlife—a disappointment to grave robbers. But at my dad's viewing before the casket was closed, his small grandson saw fit to tuck a Hot Wheels car in beside Grandpap. That sort of generous gesture is entirely okay.

Your mother is asking for her departure from this world to be accompanied by the rituals of the church. Christians share with Jews and other ancient religions a respect for the dead and how their bodies are treated posthumously. This included washing and dressing the bodies with care. What distinguishes the Christian response to death is that we rejoice and give thanks for those who have "gone before us marked with the sign of faith." So no need to hire a band of mourners, though it's natural to shed a tear at the loss of our dear ones.



As early as the seventh century, a believer near death was given the Eucharist along with a reading from Scripture. After death, the body was delivered to the church, psalms were prayed, followed by a procession to the place of burial. Catholics still follow a similar format. Calling the priest to administer "last rites" when a person is expected to die is proper, a **ritual known as viaticum** ("on the way with you"). Even if your mother is unconscious, it's possible to perform this rite.

After death, the body may be brought for a church viewing, though this **vigil service popularly known as a wake or rosary** is often held at a funeral parlor. A priest may be present, or the vigil can be led by anyone. It typically includes a Liturgy of the Word: a song, prayer, Scripture reading, psalm, gospel, short reflection, and prayers of intercession, concluding with the Lord's Prayer. That's the standard vigil; however, many wakes involve little formal prayer, since many attendees aren't Catholic. While the church's preference is that the body be present for the vigil and funeral Masses, some families choose cremation. "In all, pastors are encouraged to show pastoral sensitivity." (Appendix #415 *Order of Christian Funerals*.)

The final part of fulfilling your mother's request is the **funeral and committal rituals**. Her pastor will know what's required for these rites at the church and gravesite. These four moments of passage together—the dying time, vigil, funeral, and burial—are marked by simple rites acknowledging a life is ending, yet life continues.

**Scripture:** Genesis 23:1-9; 49:29—50:14, 24-26; Exodus 13:19; Deuteronomy 34:5-8; Joshua 24:29-33; 2 Samuel 21:13-14; 1 Kings 2:10; 11:43; Tobit 1:16-20; 2:3-8; Sirach 38:16; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; 1 Corinthians 15:55



Is He not the carpenter, the son of Mary?  
**MARK 6:3**



### Golf Outing Details

Friday, August 2nd at Aspen Ridge Golf Course, Bradley, IL

Tee Times: 8:00am - 2:30pm

Fee: \$75 Per Person  
(Includes golf, cart, food, beer & pop, contests, and prizes.)

<https://www.bishopmac.com/page/jackie-keller-memorial-golf-outing>



July 7, 2024

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 2:2-5 | 2 Cor 12:7-10 | Mk 6:1-6

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

The prophets of the Old Testament didn't exactly have it easy, and Ezekiel is no exception. The Lord tells him that he's being sent to the Israelites, calling them "rebels who have rebelled against me," who were "hard of face and obstinate of heart." In other words, God basically tells him that they will be a tough audience. Can you imagine how Ezekiel felt? Here, he is being dispatched to a people who will likely not welcome him in order to say things that probably no one will want to hear. And yet his work is crucial. God is sending his people a messenger, telling them he stills loves them and wants them to be his people. It should come as no surprise that we are called to do the same! Although we may not describe the people in our lives as obstinate or "a rebellious house," we know it's not always easy to share God's message. It matters that we do, though. We may not always know exactly what effects our words and actions have, but everything the Lord asks us to do has a purpose.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Rejection, apathy, complacency. Whatever name you want to give it, it's undeniable that witnessing to Christ in the world can be met with something less than pure enthusiasm. Even Jesus himself faced rejection in his own hometown, as we see in today's Gospel. But did he give up? Obviously, we know that he did not. In fact - in the very next verses of this chapter of Mark's Gospel - Jesus sends the Twelve out on mission. They are to represent him, and witness to him. Likewise, as Jesus' hands and feet in the world today, we are to be imitators of Christ (CCC 1694) and witnesses to his Good News. And, just as Jesus wasn't always welcomed by people, it shouldn't surprise us when something similar happens to us. Like Paul, however, we can be "content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ." And then we can call on him for help, because where we are weak, the Lord is strong. As in all things, his grace is sufficient for us.

**ACTION** We cannot control others' responses to God's gift of himself, we can only be faithful to our commitment to share it. This week, take time to think about what "thorn in your side" makes your witness difficult. What weakness do you need the Lord to enter into so that *his* power might prevail?

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 7, 2024: Ez 2:2-5 | Ps 123:1-4 | 2 Cor 12:7-10 | Mk 6:1-6

**Pray:** Holy Spirit, one with the Father and the Son, strengthen me with your courage, wisdom, and grace, and mold my heart like yours in love, truth, and action to carry on your mission of hope. Amen.

**God's grace is sufficient for us and makes us strong and resilient to challenges.**

This week's readings, which are remarkably relevant to the challenges we face as Christians today, offer hope and encouragement to all weary souls! In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel is called by God and transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. This divine intervention equips him to minister to the people of Israel, who were living rebellious lives and listening to false prophets. He was called to share the truth, encourage repentance, and help them change their ways, even amidst "hard faces and obstinate hearts."

In the second reading, like in Jesus's ministry, St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians speaks of personal suffering, disappointments, and challenges he faced in his ministry by people who took offense to what he was teaching and even questioned his authority.

Finally, the Gospel of Mark today offers a powerful message that resonates with our current struggles and offers us hope and strength. When Jesus and His apostles arrived in His hometown of Nazareth and began preaching and teaching, He was amazed and saddened by the lack of faith, trust,



and rejection He faced. Everyone's familiarity with Him as just another nice hometown boy made it hard for them to accept His extraordinary brilliance, let alone his divinity. His mission work and healing ministry suffered because they did not believe.

In the same sense, this familiarity and doubt often exist in our families, workplaces, churches, circle of friends, hometowns, and communities. It is good to remember that God sometimes uses people we know to deliver divinely inspired messages we need to hear. Our call is to love others by sharing the Gospel of Christ with courage, even when it is difficult. We can rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide us and to be persistent in sharing God's mercy and Truth through our words and actions. He will help us do this in love and wisdom. Some will listen, and others will reject, but we are responsible for offering the Lord's peace, joy, and hope to all. Be not afraid.

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † How has God spoken to you in the ordinary circumstances of your life using familiar people to talk to you?
- † How have you been called to share God's message of love, forgiveness, mercy, and hope with others in your midst, and how has it been easy or difficult?
- † Why is sharing the Gospel truth within our families and communities so tricky?
- † When society resists Christ's teachings, how can we continue in compassion and charity?