

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 22-23, 2024

Quiet!  
Be still!

The wind ceased  
and there was  
great calm.  
They were filled  
with great awe  
and said to one another,  
“Who then is this  
whom even the wind  
and sea obey?”



©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

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:** " Do not look forward to the trials and crosses of this life and fear. Rather, look to them with full confidence that, as they arise, God, to whom you belong, will deliver you from them.

—Saint Francis de Sales

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 29-30, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, June 29 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, June 30 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, June 30 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, June 30 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Roger Jensen David Emling Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman	James Mallaney Daryl Ferris	Jeff Martin Jerry Ogrentz Jeff Steinke Arlen Hansen	Wayne Bisailon Kim Smicker Brent Fulton Jeremy Wolles
Lector	Hillary Webb	Cindy Gagnon	Carrie Abrassart	Diane Long
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Kathy Dumas	Wayne Bisailon

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, June 24**

8:00 am +Donna Ruder (Pat Gray)

**Tuesday, June 25 (SH)**

8:00 an +Ray Sliwinski (Dorothy Mescher)

**Wednesday, June 26 (SJ)**

8:00 am No Mass

**Friday, June 28 (SMM)**

8:00 am No Mass

**Saturday, June 29 (SMM)**

5:00 pm +Jim Feller (Dave/Ellen Emling)  
+ Jim Gray (Pat Gray)

**Sunday, June 30**

7:30 am (SH) + Jerry Whalen (Diane Whalen)  
+Jerry Mescher (Dorothy Mescher)

9:00am (SJ) +Pat Perreault (Ruth Heideman)  
+Sondra Hertz (Marla Lindquist)

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

**A Look Ahead**

**Wednesday, June 26**—No morning Mass

**Friday, June 28**—No morning Mass

**June 29/30**—Second Collection—Peter Pence

**Friday, July 5**—First Friday Adoration at SJ

**July 6/7**— K of C Food for Families food collection

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 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](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

**Collections Week of June 15-16, 2024**

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,889 Pension—\$555  
St. James—\$1,506 Pension—\$537  
Sacred Heart—\$1,379 Pension—\$589

Thank you for your generosity!

**Reflection**

**Look for God in Small Things or in All Things**

God decided to become visible to a king and a peasant and sent an angel to inform them of the blessed event. "O king," the angel announced. "God has deigned to be revealed to you in whatever manner you wish. In what form do you want God to appear?"

Seated pompously on his throne and surrounded by awestruck subjects, the king royally proclaimed: "How else would I wish to see God, save in majesty and power? Show God to us in the full glory of power."

God granted his wish and appeared as a bolt of lightning that instantly pulverized the king and his court. Nothing, not even a cinder, remained.

The angel then manifested herself to a peasant saying. "God deigns to be revealed to you in whatever manner you desire. How do you wish to see God?"

Scratching his head and puzzling a long while, the peasant finally said: "I am a poor man and not worthy to see God face to face. But if it is God's will to be revealed to me, let it be in those things with which I am familiar. Let me see God in the earth I plough, the water I drink, and the food I eat. Let me see the presence of God in the faces of my family, neighbors, and — if God deems it as good for myself and others — even in my own reflection as well."

God granted the peasant his wish, and he lived a long and

**Gospel Shorts— "Confronting Christ"**

When the disciples were caught in a storm on the Sea of Galilee, they panicked. They saw Jesus asleep in the stern of the boat and they began to yell for him to do something. "Do you not care if we perish?", they screamed.

It is understandable and perfectly all right if we confront Christ when our troubles seem overwhelming. "Why sleepest thou, O Lord?", the psalmist complained in his difficulties. (Ps. 44:23), Job too wondered where God was in his time of sorrow.

What is important to remember is that Christ was indeed present with his friends and Christ brought calmness to the situation. Similarly, Christ stills the storms in our hearts and enables us to remain strong until the tempest passes.

**Question of the week**

What storms am I weathering right now? What storms can I see threatening those I know? How can my faith help me handle mine and assist others in theirs?

**Parish News:**

St. Margaret Mary—  
St. James—  
Sacred Heart—  
All Parishes—

- ◆ **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.**



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**+Janet Denault Menke**

May Janet and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.  
Our sincere sympathy to all her family and to her friends.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**+Jamie C. Sebastiani**

May Jamie and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.  
Our sincere sympathy to all his family and to her friends.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**+Marian McKenna**

May Marian and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.  
Our sincere sympathy to all her family and to her friends.

**A Stewardship Moment**

**Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time Weekend of June 22/23, 2024**

In today's Gospel reading we hear Jesus commanding the wind and sea to be at peace, to be still. The Gospel scene depicting Jesus and his disciples on a boat seems appropriate for the summer. It is a season to contemplate nature and to find God in the wonders of His creation. It is also a time to contemplate, as stewards of the Lord's abundant gifts, all of creation as God's gift and that ultimately it is God who has control over the world and not us.



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection will be held July 6-7 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



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Agrippina of Rome (June 23)** was born to the imperial Roman nobility. She became a consecrated virgin, the closest thing at that time to a nun. She was tortured and martyred during the persecutions of Valerian.



**Obscure saint of the week:** St. Etheldreda was the sister of Saint Jurmin and relative of King Anna of East Anglia, England. She was a princess and later widowed after three years marriage; rumor had it that the marriage was never consummated as Etheldreda had taken a vow of perpetual virginity. She married again for political reasons. Her new husband knew of her vow, but grew tired of living as brother and sister and began to make advances on her; she refused him. He tried to bribe the local bishop, Saint Wilfrid of York, to release her from her vow; Wilfrid refused, and instead helped Audrey escape to a promontory called Colbert's Head. A high tide then came in – and stayed high for seven days; it kept her separated from her husband and was considered divine intervention. The young man gave up; the marriage was annulled, and Audrey took the veil. She spent a year with her niece, Saint Ebbe the Elder. She founded the great abbey of Ely, where she lived an austere life.

Etheldreda died of an enormous and unsightly tumor on her neck. She gratefully accepted this as Divine retribution for all the necklaces she had worn in her early years.

In the Middle Ages, a festival called *Saint Audrey's Fair*, was held at Ely on her feast day. The exceptional shoddiness of the merchandise, especially the neckerchiefs, contributed to the English language the word *tawdry*, a corruption of *Saint Audrey*.

**The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English**

Late that day he said to them, "Let's go across to the other side." They took him in the boat as he was. Other boats came along. A huge storm came up. Waves poured into the boat, threatening to sink it. And Jesus was in the stern, head on a pillow, sleeping! They roused him, saying, "Teacher, is it nothing to you that we're going down?"

Awake now, he told the wind to pipe down and said to the sea, "Quiet! Settle down!" The wind ran out of breath; the sea became smooth as glass. Jesus reprimanded the disciples: "Why are you such cowards? Don't you have any faith at all?"

They were in absolute awe, staggered. "Who is this, anyway?" they asked. "Wind and sea at his beck and call!" (from Mark 4).



**Quiet! Be still!**  
**MARK 4:39**

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday Adoration**

First Friday Mass and adoration will be at Saint James on Friday July 5th. Benediction will take place at 3:00.



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

-St. John Vianney

*The Body of Christ. Amen!*

## Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Where is the earliest depiction of Our Lady?  
This treasure is hidden away deep in the catacombs

In the midst of heavy persecution, early Christians risked death to paint the earliest known image of Our Lady.

High on the walls of the Priscilla Catacombs in Rome, a beautiful yet faded fresco depicts the Virgin Mary tenderly nursing the Child Jesus. In contrast to the harsh realities of their persecution, the compassionate gaze of Our Lady, filled with maternal love, offered hope and solace to those enduring such trials. It is no wonder these members of the early Church risked so much to paint our comforting Blessed Mother.

Even the symbolism within this depiction of Our Lady brought peace to her afflicted viewers. She is portrayed in clothes that would have been familiar to the persecuted Romans, making her an even more maternal figure. She wears a woolen garment typical of Roman matrons and a short veil worn by dedicated



Beside her stands a man in a heavy cloak, pointing towards the Star of Bethlehem. Some scholars argue that this is the prophet Isaiah, who foretold: "The Lord Himself shall give you a sign. Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel." However, this is not entirely agreed upon and other scholars suggest the man is the prophet Balaam, who prophesied: "A star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."

The figures are shaded by a tree branch that stretches out above them, likely alluding to the Old Testament prophecy: "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."

-reprinted with permission The Catholic Company [www.thecatholiccompany.com](http://www.thecatholiccompany.com)

### Bits and Dots

Where facts are few, experts are many ... The truth, like the rose, has thorns ... Love is like a beggar, who still keeps begging even after we have given him everything ... The nicest things about new friends is that they haven't heard your old stories yet ... You better kill the bear before you sell his skin ... Under great oaks, only mushrooms grow ... A smile oils life's burdens ... The first dog always knows why he barks, but the others only bark because they heard barking ... In every person there is a quantity of horse sense. But there is also a good percentage of jackass ... Never give your car keys to a parking attendant who is wearing a crash helmet ... Imagination is the highest kite that one can fly ... Patience is the ability to put up with people we'd like to put down.



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection will be held July 6-7 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"



### 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>

## Questions Catholics Ask "What Is Grace?"

A big question to address in a small space! The simple definition of grace is *God's favor*. But what it means to receive such benevolence is demonstrated in boundless ways. As a child in religion class, I remember imagining grace as a birthday present in a brightly wrapped box with a big bow on top. That's because Sister told us grace is a gift, and the only gifts I'd ever seen looked like this.

The Old Testament describes God's favor differently. It's expressed in the act of creation, as well as the covenant with Israel, and the liberating force of Exodus. In the New Testament, Saint Paul rightly calls Jesus Christ the grace of God, using the Greek word *charis*, from which also comes *charisma*, the empowering gifts of the Spirit.

So how do we "get" grace, or know it when we see it operating? Divine grace comes to us through the mercy, forgiveness, and rescue of God at work in our lives. The classic definition of a sacrament is that of a sign rooted in Christ which provides grace. So add the sacraments of the Church to the ways in which we receive this gift. The Eastern Fathers went so far as to say that sacraments "divinize" us: God becomes flesh so that flesh can share in the divine life, including God's immortality. In the West, Saint Augustine argued that grace heals and liberates our sin-inclined wills so that we can do the will of God. Without grace, we're literally lost. Saint Thomas Aquinas envisioned grace as elevating us to a higher level in closer union with God. Thomas Merton saw grace as the antidote to the "death dance" in our blood. The bottom line on all of these approaches to understanding grace—life-giving force, bonded relationship, liberating power, incarnation and participation in divine gifts, healing, uplifting, unifying, detoxifying—is that it comes to us free and unmerited. We can't earn it by obeying laws or racking up spiritual points. God doesn't "owe" us grace even if we're saintly every moment of the day. In a sense, my childhood notion of grace still applies. Like any present offered in love and presented in grand style, grace comes to us free of charge.

But just like any gift that comes in a pretty package, grace is hardly received if we don't open the box and actually make use of it.

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 55:1-3; John 1:14-17; 14:23; Acts 6:8; 11:23; 13:43; 14:3, 26; 15:11, 40; 18:27; 20:24; Romans 1:5-7; 3:24-26; 5:1-2, 15-21; 6:1-23; 11:5-6; 12:3-8; 15:15-16; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; 3:10-17; 4:7; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 4:15; 6:1-2; 8:1-2; 9:8; 12:9-10; Galatians 1:6, 15; 2:19-21; 5:4, 22-23; Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:4-10; 3:2-12; 4:7; Philippians 1:7; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:9; 4:16; 13:9; James 4:6; 2 Peter 1:4-10



Like any present offered in love and presented in grand style, grace comes to us free of charge.

## CRUNCH FOR A CAUSE

Please join us for a fundraiser to support:

### Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

Come to **TACO JOHN'S**  
Located at 562 William Latham Drive, Bourbonnais  
Between 4-7pm  
on Wednesday, June 26, 2024

**50%** of your entire purchase will be given to the to the organization

All you have to do to participate is show this flyer (printed, or on mobile device) or just mention it to the cashier.

Proceeds benefit local charities and nursing homes, Clergy Appreciation lunch and supporting seminarians.



#### Current Status for 2024 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Sacred Heart	\$6,000	\$7,050	\$5,075
St. MM	\$9,400	\$8,835	\$8,345
St. James	\$8,800	\$7,305	\$7,082

A pastor was speaking to a group of second-graders about the resurrection of Jesus when one student asked, "What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?"

The pastor explained that the Gospels do not tell us what He said.

The hand of one little girl shot up. "I know what He said: He said, 'Tah-dah!' "



June 23, 2024

## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 38:1, 8-11 | 2 Cor 5:14-17 | Mk 4:35-41

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

St. Boniface, an English Benedictine monk who died in the 8th century, wrote in a letter: "In her voyage across the ocean of this world, the Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship but to keep her on her course." Oceans and seas, lakes and rivers, baptism. The role of water in daily life and its use as a metaphor are woven throughout our Scriptures. In today's readings, we hear two references to the sea. First, we have God talking to Job out of a storm, reminding the prophet that he - the Lord - is the one who created the seas and keeps them firmly in their place. The Gospel passage provides us with a stark reminder of that truth. As the disciples and Jesus cross the sea, a storm crops up and threatens to sink their boat. But one command from Jesus and the water is still. St. Boniface had it right. We really all are on that ship with Jesus on its voyage across the ocean of this world, and trusting in him to keep us on course and safe from harm ensures we reach the destinations he intends for us.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How to do our part to keep this great ship that is the Church on course? Trust in Christ, trust that he is present within us and guiding us each day. No one is immune from stormy seas, and like the disciples, we can turn to Jesus in times of peril. He asked the disciples: "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" Like the disciples, we must experience the change of heart that is necessary to place complete trust in Jesus to replace our fear and anxiety. God has things under control. Of course, that is what can be so scary sometimes. I know God will take care of everything, but what if I don't like how he does it? What if I want him to answer my prayers one way and he answers them a different way? This is where Jesus might ask me: "Do you not yet have faith?" And I would have to reply, "I'm working on it."

**PRAY** We are assured throughout Scripture that God loves us, cares for us, and sustains us. But how do we move from knowing that in our heads to feeling it in our hearts? Prayer. If we center our life on Jesus and his commands, trusting in him will become second nature. Take some time this week and pray with today's Psalm (107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31), which praises God for his love for us and gives voice to trusting in his providence.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

June 23, 2024: Jb 38:1,8-11 | Ps 107:23-26,28-31 (1b) | 2 Cor 5:14-17 | Mk 4:35-41

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, thank you for the growth and peace you often bring through storms. Amen.

### Prepare for the Storms in Our Lives

Springtime weather is unpredictable and dangerous in Tornado Alley, the Midwestern region of the United States. Destructive, violent winds and funnel-shaped clouds can wreak havoc on communities. During storm season, meteorologists do their best to watch and warn everyone when conditions look volatile so they can heed warnings, take appropriate shelter, and be prepared. Meteorologists carefully observe atmospheric conditions, windspeeds, and supercell thunderstorm circulation, but there is usually a lot of uncertainty about when, where, and if a “terrible twister” is coming. Sometimes, disaster is unavoidable even when people are prepared, and good people become victims of tragedy.

Life often throws unexpected storms our way. When we think everything is under control, we might face a sudden health scare, a job loss, a relationship crisis, or the heart-wrenching loss of a loved one. Then what?

We can weather storms by building shelters for spiritual support and peace before bad things happen. We can acknowledge our need for God the Father who made and loves us. We can develop and nurture a personal relationship with Jesus, our Lord and Savior, through study, prayer, participation in Mass, and receiving the sacraments. We can prepare by surrendering our hearts to the Holy Spirit, who is with us to guide

and protect us against the evil snares of the devil. We can prepare our hearts to rely on God and to accept the things we cannot change with grace and peace, knowing that Christ keeps His promises to be with us always, even in the storms of life.



It is helpful to remember that the storms we face often draw us closer to God and teach us to rely on Him fully. When we suffer through storms, our reliance on divine help builds our hope and trust in Him, the “Father Almighty,” whom we affirm in our

Profession of Faith at Mass. This journey of faith and resilience allows us to share our experiences with others who need help. Mark’s Gospel reminds us not to be afraid and to be patient. As children of God, we are heirs of His grace and He promises to be with us always.

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † How are you nurturing your shelter in Christ ahead of possible storms?
- † How have you waited for God’s help during a storm, and what helped you be patient?
- † How have you shared the peace of Christ with others who are going through a storm?
- † If God is Almighty and loves us, why do “storms” – bad things – still happen to good people?
- † How does Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection bring hope in life’s storms? How does the Holy Spirit help in difficult situations?