

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 7-8, 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: "This is the very perfection of a man, to find out his own imperfections."

—Saint Augustine

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sept. 14-15, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Sept. 14 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Sept. 15 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Sept. 15 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Sept. 15 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Nugent	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Gery Wright Bob Schultz Todd Datweiler	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	Bob Buente Vick Carlile Dennis O'Connor Jeff Martin	Wayne Bisailon Kim Smicker Galen Fritz Joe Smolkovich
Lector	Hillary Webb	Terri Weakley	Carrie Abrassart	Julie Splear
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Karen Miller	Kim Smicker

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Sept. 9 (SMM)

8:00 am + Marie Duval (Darren/Hollie Lovell)

Tuesday, Sept. 10 (SH)

8:00 am +Jerry Mescher (Dorothy Mescher)

Wednesday, Sept. 11 (SJ)

8:00 am +Harold & Louise Devine (Frances Powers)

Friday, Sept. 13 (SMM)

8:00 am +Adam Andrzejewski (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Saturday, Sept. 14 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, Sept. 15

7:30 am (SH) +Vicki Webber (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

+Inez Crawford (Bouchard Family)

9:00am (SJ) +Pat Perreault (Darwin/Mary Peerbolte)

+Francis Dale Weber (The Family)

10:30am (SMM) +Cindy Frerichs (Uta Dubravec)

+Joan Scanlon (Scott Frerichs)

A Look Ahead

Sunday, Sept. 8— RE classes begin at SH

Sunday, Sept. 8—RE Registration at SJ

Tues., Sept. 10—CCW at SH 7pm

Sunday, Sept. 15—CCW at SJ after Mass

Sunday, Sept. 15—Religious Education Kickoff SJ & SMM

Saturday, Oct. 12—Rosary Rally 12:00 pm at SMM

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—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

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 Jdstreeffarms@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 August 31– Sept. 1, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,105

St. James—\$2,354

Sacred Heart—\$1,123

Thank you for your generosity!



During the month of Sept., Sacred Heart C.C.W will be collecting baby items and monetary donations to benefit "Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Ctr., in Kankakee. There will be a basket at the entrance to the church that you may put your donations and baby bottles that you can use as a bank

to put your cash or check in (make checks out to Sacred Heart C.C.W.) The Pregnancy Ctr. has a list of items that they could use and there will be copies available. Many Thanks!!

Reflection—Labor of Love

Sometimes it may be difficult to see our daily work as a creative act in union with God.

A man named Brother Lawrence has left us his secret of deep prayer in the midst of work. Since he cooked for his monastery, he spent most of this time shopping, cooking, and managing the kitchen. In *The Practice of the Presence of God*, he tells us that he learned about communion with God from his work rather than from his time in chapel:

- Know that God is present in your life and everything in it.
- Be attentive to the present moment, to everything you do or think or say or suffer or enjoy.
- Try as often as you can to recall God's presence in every moment. Call for God's help to do the best you can out of love.

Question of the week

When have I failed to be open to Jesus' message? Opening myself to his challenging message, how will I proclaim it by my words and actions?

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

Then he left the region of Tyre, went through Sidon back to Galilee Lake and over to the district of the Ten Towns. Some people brought a man who could neither hear nor speak and asked Jesus to lay a healing hand on him. He took the man off by himself, put his fingers in the man's ears and some spit on the man's tongue. Then Jesus looked up in prayer, groaned mightily, and commanded, "Ephphatha!—Open up!" And it happened. The man's hearing was clear and his speech plain—just like that.

Jesus urged them to keep it quiet, but they talked it up all the more, beside themselves with excitement. "He's done it all and done it well. He gives hearing to the deaf, speech to the speechless" (from Mark 7).

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ The first CCW meeting of the fall will be held Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 pm. There will be a \$25 Casey's gift card given to one lucky attendee. Please join us!

St. James—

- ◆ All are invited to join our first CCW meeting of the year on Sunday, September 15 after the 9 am mass in the hall

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ Sacred Heart Church will soon be selling tickets for their "Fall Cash Bash" which will take place Sat., November 23rd from 4p.m. till 8 p.m. in the church hall. Tickets are \$50 a piece and will admit 2 adults with a chance of a 1st Prize of \$1,500 or \$500 2nd Prize. There will be games of Euchre (with a buy in by 5pm) & Black Jack. Basket Raffle, Silent & Live auctions, 50/50 's with plenty of food and drinks. For more info call Terri 815 514-8171
- ◆ Sacred Heart C.C.W. meeting is Tues. Sept. 10th in the church hall at 6:30p.m. Hostesses are Laurie Palinski & Terri Weakley.

All Parishes—

- ◆ Thank you to all who helped with the Labor Day festivities—working in the beer tent, working on the float, riding the float, and pulling it in the parade. A special shoutout to Darren & Hollie Lovell for taking the lead once again on our beautiful float!
- ◆ Anyone interested in becoming Catholic, should contact Deacon Ron about arranging a class schedule. 815-933-4077.
- ◆ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Rhonda Harris

daughter of Deacon Ron (Cindy) Gagnon

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

Our sincere sympathy to all her family and friends.

Saint of the week: St. Corbinian (Sept. 8) was the son of Waldegiso, who may have died when Corbinian was an infant. Nothing else is known of his youth. He became a hermit for fourteen years in a cell near the church of Saint-Germain in Châtres, France. His reputation for holiness, as a miracle worker, and as a spiritual director soon spread. Students were attracted to him, and he formed a community for them, but directing them took him away from his life of prayer. He wanted to return to the life of a hermit, and since he had a personal devotion to Saint Peter the Apostle, he moved to Rome, Italy. There he asked for the blessing of Pope Saint Gregory II. Gregory realized that Corbinian should not hide his talents and ordained him as a missionary bishop to Bavaria (in modern Germany) where he would be supported by Duke Grimoald. He established his base in Freising and made many converts throughout the region. Corbinian was the spiritual teacher of Saint Arbeo of Freising. When Corbinian denounced the incestuous marriage of Duke Grimoald to Biltrudis, the nobility turned against him, and Biltrudis even conspired to have him killed. Corbinian fled to Meran, Italy until Grimoald was killed in battle and Biltrudis carried off by the Franks; he then returned to Bavaria and resumed the mission that occupied the rest of his life.



Obscure Saint of the week: St. Disibod of Disenberg (Sept. 8) traveled from his native Ireland c.640 to live as a pilgrim and a hermit on the banks of the Rhine River near the city of Mainz (in modern Germany); tradition says that his traveling companions were named Giswald, Clement and Sallust. His reputation for holiness and wisdom attracted a number of would-be spiritual students, and with them he built a monastery on the banks of the river Nahe, placing it under the Benedictine Rule; legend says that a deer helped pick the construction site by digging up a spring of fresh water, and it was confirmed when Disibod stuck his walking stick in the ground and the area became green with plants. The settlement that grew up around it became the city of Disenberg (Disibodenburg). Against his wishes, he was elevated to regional bishop, serving mainly in the rural areas without a

fixed diocese and living in a traditionally Irish bee-hive anchorite's cell. He won many converts in the region and was reported to be a miracle worker. Saint Hildegard of Bingen later stayed in the monastery and wrote a biography of him based on visions she received.



Questions Catholics Ask

Are halos biblical, or just an artist's idea?

Halos are visual shorthand, part of the symbolic vocabulary of Christianity that was for centuries the only catechism for multitudes of believers who couldn't read. In a more literate age, such symbols are no longer necessary. But we still use them, since they reveal at a glance that *this* person is a guide and helper on our own road to sanctity.

God's glory is understood as a form of

The idea that light emanates from holy ones is also biblically attested. God's glory is understood as a form of radiance. When Moses goes up Mt. Sinai to encounter God face to face, he returns so radiant that he must veil his face from the community so as not to risk contact between the sacred and profane—always a haz-

ardous business. Thereafter, whenever Moses enters the Tent of Presence to meet with God, he covers his face afterwards. Close encounters with God appear to place us in contagious proximity to divine glory. The emanation from Moses was later translated from Hebrew by biblical scholar Saint Jerome as horns rather than rays of light, which is why some artists depicted Moses with horns.

It may not have been a mistranslation. Egyptian and Mesopotamian gods and heroes wore horns as a sign of their glory, honor, and authority. Later on, horns and rays are rounded out into the more familiar halo, often painted with gold foil or set with precious metals and jewels in icons. Circles are perfect, like divinity. Christ receives the first round halo in art, then the angels, and finally the saints. Interesting, rare portraits of God the Father employed a triangular halo instead to recall the Trinity. Baby Jesus sometimes has one too—perhaps because he so recently departed the Trinitarian realm for earth. Jesus may also be crowned with a cruciform halo, which is uniquely his.

Faith, Hope, and Love are sometimes shown in art as human figures and when they are, they wear hexagonal halos. So too the cardinal virtues Justice, Prudence, Fortitude, and Temperance. The very rare square halo was used to denote a living person popularly proclaimed a saint, but technically not yet eligible for the crown of light. As minimalism became fashionable in art, the halo was reduced to a disc hovering overhead, or even a mere circlet of gold. Animals that symbolize holy ones—the Lamb of God, the Holy Spirit dove, and the four Evangelists of Revelation—might also wear halos. You and I, too, hope to do so.

Scripture: Exodus 34:27-35; Deuteronomy 5:23-27; 2 Chronicles 5:14; 26:18; Psalm 19:2; 79:9; 89:16; Isaiah 35:2; 60:1-3; Baruch 5:1-3, 9; Ezekiel 8:4; 43:2; Daniel 12:3; Wisdom 7:10, 25-30; Sirach 43:9; Mark 15:38; Matthew 27:51; Luke 23:45; John 1:3-9; Acts 7:55-56; Romans 8:16-17; 2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:3-6; Revelation 21:11, 22

Undy Sunday 2024 at St. Margaret Mary

Did you know that new underwear and socks are the most-requested but least-donated items at Catholic Charities? These basic items (new underwear, warm socks, a fresh diaper) are truly treasures to those who are living in poverty.

St. Margaret Mary is helping Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet and the individuals and families they serve by collecting the following NEW items for children and adults living in low-income households:

- Women's underwear (S-XL)
- Men's underwear (M-XL)
- Adult socks
- Diabetic socks
- Undershirts for men
- Front hook bras for women (S-XL)
- Adult disposable underwear



The collection will be held from Sept. 7 – Oct. 13 at SMM.

If you would prefer to send a monetary donation, please mail it to:
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet/Undy Sunday
16555 Weber Road
Crest Hill, IL 60403

Monetary donations can also be made online at catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.
Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the poor and vulnerable in our community!

Gospel Shorts—Hearing and Speaking

As Christ healed the deaf man and freed up his ability to speak clearly, so Christ can open our cluttered ears to hear his word: and release our tongues to speak freely about our faith. It's becoming more important all the time. As our society tries to move people of religious faith off to the side, as more and more try to pretend we don't exist, it will be important to say what we believe.

When we have heard clearly and know what we stand for, then we can speak articulately to tell how important our faith is. Christ gives us the power to hear and to speak. The news we have is such good news that it has to be told.



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection will be held Sept. 7-8 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need. We thank you for your support!!

2024 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY RALLY

Please join us in praying for our nation.

Where: St. Margaret Mary Church, Main St., Herscher, Illinois

When: October 12, 2024 – ROSARY WILL BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON



Please bring a lawn chair.

For more information, please contact:

Cindy Gagnon – (815) 933-4077; Rhonda Berns – (815) 426-5015; Kathy Meli – (815) 928-89



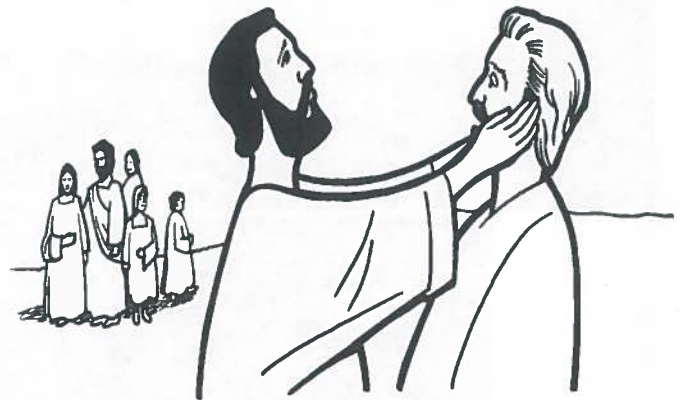
Religious Education Kickoff Sunday September 15

SJ—after Mass

SMM 9:30

St. Margaret Mary—Please email Jill at jfulton.stmm@gmail.com to get the link to register for 24-25 religious education classes

St. James—Registration will take place after Mass on Sept. 8th



AND IMMEDIATELY THE MAN'S EARS WERE OPENED
MK.7:35



Thank you to all our Super Hero riders!





September 8, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 35:4-7a | Jas 2:1-5 | Mk 7:31-37

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

My first thought upon reading today's Scriptures is that by healing the deaf man, Jesus is fulfilling what God had said he was going to do since the time of the prophet Isaiah: "making the eyes of the blind see and opening the ears of the deaf," as we heard in the first reading. And indeed this is what Jesus did. But when I re-read the Gospel I was intrigued by the line: "[Jesus] took him off by himself away from the crowd." Jesus had a reputation as a healer and a teacher, so it stands to reason that he healed people in front of the crowds often. Why, then, does Jesus remove the man from the crowd? In a commentary on this passage, Bishop Robert Barron suggests that Jesus removed the man from the crowd as a way of demonstrating that the loud and boisterous voices of the crowd could make it hard to hear when God is speaking to us. Even though this man was deaf and was not able to hear Jesus' words, the crowds were a distraction, and a barrier to intimacy and communion. Doesn't this same thing happen to us from time to time? The voices in our world that compete for our attention can make it difficult to hear God's word. But it can be done, and the rewards are great. God is present with us; let's make an effort this week to focus in on the things in our lives that point us toward God and ready ourselves to receive his grace.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears and looked up to heaven before healing the deaf man. By this action, Jesus is doing the will of the Father, which is to bring healing. Let's consider the question about competing voices in our lives and what we can do about it. For starters, we can carve out a time every day to quiet our hearts so we can hear the "still, small voice of God." Away from the crowd, we can put our whole being into truly hearing God's voice and asking for the help we need to be in right relationship with him. He longs to give us what we need but we must be open to receiving his gifts and his peace. If we are "tuned into" God, we can hear his Word clearly and speak that Word to others with conviction.

PRAY For me, there is no better way to spend quiet time with our Lord than Eucharistic adoration. Prayer and devotion in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament transforms and heals. Give it a try.

Phillips de Champaigne, Public domain, USW Media Commons

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 8, 2024: Is 35:4-7a | Ps 146:7-10 (1b)
| Jas 2:1-5 | Mk 7:31-37

Pray: Jesus, open my ears and heart to love and follow you more closely each day. Amen.

Open Your Heart with the Word of God and the Healing Grace of His Sacraments.

“Ephphatha” – Be opened! Jesus used this command to heal the deaf man with a speech impediment. Jesus performed (and still performs) many miracles without any tangible contact with the beneficiary; however, the Church believes that the signs and gestures He used to heal the man that day laid the foundation for the Seven Sacraments.

He continues to give us His healing and sanctifying graces through His “touch” offered in the Sacraments, normally through clergy as His instruments. In the Sacrament of Baptism, for example, the Church includes this ephphatha rite, asking that the newly baptized become open to the Word of God in his or her life.

Among crowds of people, many who were seeking healing, Christ chose this man to heal. What about all the other people who were flocking to Jesus, hoping to be healed, that did not get chosen for immediate healing? Did it mean He didn’t care for them? Not at all. Jesus loves everyone and was present with them, too, just as He continues to be with all those whose hearts are open in trust to His love, truth, and grace.

Jesus’ gift of healing comes in different forms in the perfect timing and way we need, whether for



our body or soul. We must believe and follow Jesus, the Son of God, and His teachings as we live our lives, love Him wholeheartedly, and trust in His perfect love and saving grace.

Just as the deaf man was healed in this Gospel’s miracle story, Christ continues to encourage all believers to “be opened” to the healing graces and spiritual nourishment of His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the healing Sacrament of Penance. We trust that the form of healing that God will grant us through our belief in Christ the Healer will always be what God, who loves us for eternity, deems best for our soul.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How have you experienced God’s healing presence in your life or witnessed it in someone else?
- † How has God used you as an instrument of healing for another person?
- † How can we demonstrate that we are trying to “be open” to God’s sanctifying graces in our lives?