

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 18-19, 2025



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: "The first lesson from Cana is: "Aid yourself, and Heaven will aid you."

—Bishop Fulton Sheen

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 25-26, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Jan. 25 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Jan. 26 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Jan. 26 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Jan. 26 10:30 am
Celebrant	Bishop Glancy	Bishop Glancy	Bishop Glancy Deacon Ron	Bishop Glancy
Ushers	Dave Emling Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen	David Kirkpatrick Kyle Ferris	Dallas Ferris Bob Buente Todd Mesewicz Arlen Hansen	Sean Riordan Larr Wolles Kim Smicker Erik Wheeler
Lector	Rob Landeck	Cindy Gagnon	Carrie Abrassart	Dana Masching
Eucharistic Minister				Marie Johnson
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Kathy Dumas	Corinn Wheeler

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Jan. 20 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Tuesday, Jan. 21 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, Jan. 22 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, Jan. 24 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, Jan. 25 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family)

Sunday, Jan. 26

7:30 am +Carson Cross (His Family)

+Heidi Bisailon (Jackie Cross)

9:00am (SJ) +Carson Cross (Darwin/Mary Peerbolte)

10:30 am (SMM) +Emma King (Norm/Sharon Riordan)

A Look Ahead

Monday, January 27—SMM CCW meeting 7 pm

Monday, Jan.27—Knights of Columbus meeting 7pm SJ
Jan/ 25/26 Weekend—2nd Collection for Church in Latin America

Wednesday, February 19—SH CCW meeting 6:30 pm

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 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

What gifts that the Spirit gives me can I use to make a transformation in my life or for those I know?

Collections Weekend of Jan 11-12, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,473

St. James—\$1,598

Sacred Heart—\$959

Thank you for your generosity!

Beginning January 6, there will be no weekday masses at any of the Tripuris churches until further notice. Below is the weekday mass schedules for parishes surrounding us.

St. Patrick Dwight-

Tuesday: 6:00 pm

Thursday: 8:00 am (Coffee Shop follows)

St. Peter, Clifton-

Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 am

Assumption BVM, Ashkum

Thursday and Friday 8:00 am

St. John Paul II

Monday-Friday 7:30 am

**A Stewardship Moment Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Weekend of January 18/19, 2025**

In today's second reading, Saint Paul makes a list of gifts dispensed to members of the Christian community by the Holy Spirit. Each gift bestowed has a specific purpose for the person for whom it is intended: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, mighty deeds, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation. Good stewards know these gifts are not meant to be kept hidden by the recipient but to be shared with the community and beyond. As we begin a new year, let us reflect on the gift the Holy Spirit has given to each of us. Do we recognize this gift? How was it intended that we use this gift? Are we being good stewards of this gift?

Gospel Shorts When Christ is Invited

Jesus was invited to a wedding. Apparently, he arrived late. Never mind. Festivities lasted seven full days. It is understandable that the wine was running low. When Mary told him that there was a need for more wine, Christ performed his first miracle. He changed water into wine.

There is symbolism in the story. Wine in that day was a symbol of joy. The point the account makes is that when Christ is invited any place, he brings change. And his changes mean joy. Invite him into your life and find joy. Invite him into your family and find joy. When Christ is invited, sorrow is changed to joy, emptiness to fulfillment, and tragedy to triumph.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ Our CCW meeting will be held on Monday, January 27 at 7 pm. After a short meeting, we will have an after holiday party. Anyone who would like to participate can bring a non-Christmas gift up to \$20 for the exchange. Refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there.

St. James—

- ◆ We are collecting winter wear accessories (mittens, hats, etc) in the hallway of St. James for the Salvation Army. Thanks to all who participate!

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of January 19th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in memory of Patricia Denault and Betty Wenzelman and the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Leland Denault and Emmerson Wenzelman
- ◆ The next Sacred Heart C.C.W. meeting will be Wed., Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. Denise Wenzelman will be hostess.
- ◆ Sacred Heart C.C.W. will be sponsoring a BAKE SALE, Sunday Feb. 2 from 8 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. in conjunction with the Salina Fire Dept. Breakfast in Bonfield. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and some sweets, while at the same time helping our community. Members will meet Sat. Feb. 1 at 1 p.m. at the church hall to package bake goods, and as always we appreciate everyone's help.

All Parishes—

- ◆ The next Adult Religious Ed Class will be announced.
- ◆ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ◆ There will be no Knights of Columbus meeting on December 23, 2024. The next meeting will be January 27, 2025.
- ◆ Call the parish office to request your statement of donations to the parish for 2024.

There are
different gifts
but the same
SPIRIT





Obscure saint of the week: St. Bassian of Lodi (Jan 19) was the son of Servius, prefect of Syracuse, Sicily. He studied in Rome and became a convert to Christianity. His family opposed the conversion, and when Bassian was ordered back to Syracuse, he fled to Ravenna, Italy. Later Bassian became the bishop of Lodi, Italy c.373. He attended the *Council of Aquileia* in 381. In addition, he was a friend of Saint Felix of Como and of Saint Ambrose of Milan; Bassian was at the deathbed of Saint Ambrose.



Obscure saint of the week : St. Contentius of Bayeux (Jan. 19) was the bishop of Bayeux, Normandy, France, from 480 until his death. He was so zealous in his preaching the proper way to live that he angered many powerful local people and occasionally had to withdraw to live as a hermit for his own safety.

Reflection

The Person Down the Road

In thirty, forty, or fifty years you'll meet a person down the road. Whether that someone is kind and gentle or selfish and demanding depends on what you do today. If you live only in terms of what you can get out of life, this person will be crabby, self-centered, and spiteful. But if you open your life to others and live as a giver, this person will be kind, open, and generous.

This somebody whom you'll meet down the road some day is you. The person you will be tomorrow depends on the life you live today. Every day, in every way, you are becoming more and more like yourself. Make sure the person you are becoming is someone whom you'll enjoy being around.

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him, "They're just about out of wine."

Jesus said, "Is that any of our business, Mother—yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me."

She went ahead anyway, telling the servants, "Whatever he tells you, do it."

Six stoneware water pots were there, used by the Jews for ritual washings. Each held 20 to 30 gallons. Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the pots with water." And they filled them to the brim.

"Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host," Jesus said, and they did.

When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, "Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best till now!"

This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him (*from John 2*).

Help Socially Isolated Seniors

Catholic Charities' Senior Companion Program (SCP) is looking for people 55 years and older interested in visiting with another homebound senior living in Kankakee or Iroquois County. This is strictly a friendly visit; no homecare duties are involved. Volunteers who meet income eligibility guidelines will receive a tax-free hourly stipend and a mileage reimbursement for time spent with clients.

Senior Companion volunteers provide assistance and friendship to older adults with difficulty with daily living tasks. This program helps seniors stay independent longer and provides respite to family caregivers. Senior Companion volunteers report better health and longevity, having served the community. Are you ready to forge new relationships and make a significant difference in the lives of others?

In Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, call Bry Williams at 815-933-7791 ext. 9928 or mail americorpsseniors@cc-doj.org in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. For more information about Catholic Charities' programs and services, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org

Questions Catholics Ask

Where did the "Hail Mary" prayer come from?

No one knows who put together the series of Bible verses and intercession we know as the Hail Mary. There were several stages to the evolution of this prayer. The title "Mother of God" (*Theotokos*, or God-bearer in Greek) was used for Mary after church councils of the 4th and 5th centuries sanctioned it as theologically correct to describe her as more than "Christ-bearer" (*Christotokos*). Forms of this prayer existed in the 6th-century Eastern church. In the West, it was included in the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the 11th century. The Hail Mary came into wider use in the 16th century, as the Crusaders invoked Mary to assist their quest to recapture the Holy Land.



While we think of it as a Marian prayer, the Hail Mary is literally

The prayer is grounded in Scripture with the angel's greeting to Mary: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." It continues with Elizabeth's blessing on her young cousin during their visitation: "Blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb." Elizabeth offers a standard Jewish birth-blessing which praises the mother for the child she carries.

While we think of it as a Marian prayer, the Hail Mary is literally Christ-centered, as all Christian prayer should be. Many ancient writings held the key to their interpretation or thematic significance in the center. The hinge word of the Hail Mary is the name "Jesus."

What follows is an invocation for Mary's help ("pray for us") as she is close to God, being both holy and divine mother. Since the prayer begins with the angel's identification of Mary as Spirit-filled ("full of grace"), hinges on her relationship to Jesus, and ends with her relationship to God, the Hail Mary in its entirety reveals Mary's role as a willing participant in the work of the Trinity. The final line, "now and at the hour of our death," was the last addition to the prayer and made it a particularly poignant entreaty for those facing battle, the threat of plague, or other dangerous circumstances.

The Hail Mary also acknowledges that Mary of Nazareth, a young girl whose faith in God is strong and true, is elevated to the status of Abraham, whose faith made him the father of nations. The Jewish community identifies itself as Abraham's children. It's fitting that Christians perceive themselves as the children of Mary, our mother in faith.

Scriptures: Genesis 12:2-3; Exodus 3:12; Judges 6:12; Judith 13:18; Zephaniah 3:14-17; Zechariah 9:9; Luke 1:28; 2:42; 18:13; John 19:25-27; Revelation 21:3



LOOKING FOR A FUN, NEW WAY TO BE MORE ACTIVE?



Bingo + Exercise = Bingocize®

BINGOCIZE® is a 20-week health promotion program that combines the game of bingo with fall prevention exercise. Play bingo with us and meet new people while learning about techniques to reduce falls.

**Dates: Monday afternoons,
January 6th through June 9th, 2025
Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
(No class on 1/20, 2/17, or 5/26)**

**Location: St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, 207 E. 5th
St., Herscher IL, 60941**

**TO REGISTER,
CALL NATALIA
(815) 933-7791 EXT 9954**



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Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.

Please keep California in your prayers as the fires continue to rage.

KJRHNEWS

*Heavenly Father,
We turn to You in this time of great trial, as the wild-fires rage across Los Angeles. Protect those in danger, comfort those who have lost their homes, and welcome into Your eternal embrace the souls of those who have perished.*

Lord, we pray for the firefighters and first responders. Grant them strength, courage, and safety as they battle the flames. May Your guiding hand lead them to protect lives and property.

Holy Spirit, inspire us to be instruments of Your peace and love, supporting our brothers and sisters in need with our prayers, resources, and compassion.

Mother Mary, Queen of Angels, intercede for us in this hour of need. Bring hope to the hopeless and healing to the afflicted.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
This saint had 3 saintly grandchildren
St. Macrina the Elder left a saintly family legacy.



Grandmothers can fly under the radar, but it's about time we recognized a very special grandmother...

Meet St. Macrina the Elder, a 4th-century grandmother who practically wrote the manual on shaping a faithful and loving family.

Macrina wasn't just any grandmother. She was the powerhouse behind not one, not two, but three saintly grandkids—Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, and Macrina the Younger.

She didn't come by all those grandmothereing skills from an easy life. She lived through some of the toughest times of the early Church. She and her husband fled persecution during Emperor Diocletian's reign, hiding in the forests of Pontus in order to keep practicing their faith.

What really makes Macrina so relatable, though, is her role as the glue of her family. Like so many other grandmothers, she planted seeds of faith in the hearts of her grandchildren that would grow and bear fruit for generations.

In Macrina's case, this fruit was destined to benefit the entire Church. You see, in addition to her nurturing love, Macrina had an impressive understanding of theology that she worked to inspire in her family. It's said she passed on the teachings of St. Gregory Thaumaturgus to her children and grandchildren, inspiring their deep theological work. Her influence turned her family into a dynasty of holiness.

Think about it: how many grandmothers today quietly shape the future by babysitting, sharing life lessons, and teaching their grandkids prayers? Macrina was doing all of that centuries ago, showing us that grandmothers don't need to be flashy to leave a legacy—they just need to be steadfast in their faith and love.

So, if you're a grandmother—or if you love one—consider calling on St. Macrina. She's a reminder that the small, faithful things grandmothers do every day can ripple through history, just like her family's legacy has. Plus, who wouldn't want a saint in their corner who knows a thing or two about tough times and teaching the next generation to shine?

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Do whatever He tells you.
JN.2:5

During this Jubilee year, we are invited to make a pilgrimage to Rome to visit holy sites, perform pious works, and seek opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, and other ways to strengthen and revive our faith. If you plan to travel to Rome during this Jubilee year, please consult the *U.S. Visitors to the Vatican* website at www.pnac.org/visitorsoffice/about-the-visitors-office/, which provides information to help you plan your pilgrimage for a truly prayerful experience.

While the Pope is excited about visitors to Rome during this special year, he also understands that, realistically, most people are not able to travel to the city of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Therefore, he encourages us all to celebrate in our local churches and communities.

In solidarity with the universal Jubilee year, we will be offering the following Masses here in the Diocese of Joliet:

- **Jubilee Mass for Deacons:** February 22, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Persons with Disabilities:** June 1, 2025, 12:30 p.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Priests:** September 16, 2025 (for priests only during Convocation)
- **Jubilee Mass for Grandparents:** October 4, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Cathedral
- **Jubilee Mass for Consecrated Life:** October 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Blanchette Catholic Center (Invitation Only)
- **Jubilee Mass for Catechists:** October 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m., Cathedral



January 19, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 62:1-5 | 1 Cor 12:4-11 | Jn 2:1-11

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

Pop quiz: What was the name of the bride and groom at the wedding in today's Gospel? If you're unsure, you're not alone; the bridegroom is mentioned only in passing and the names of the newlyweds are not recorded at all in Scripture. Instead, the most prominent man in the account is Jesus; the most prominent woman is his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. In light of today's first reading, this apparent omission begins to make sense. "As a young man marries a virgin," the prophet Isaiah writes, "your Builder shall marry you." Jesus is the "Builder" of the universe, the Word through whom all things were created. Mary, whom Jesus calls "Woman," stands as a representative of the Church. This image of God as Bridegroom of his people, common throughout the Old Testament, thus takes on its full significance in Christ. He is the Bridegroom who will "wed" himself to his Church irrevocably when he offers his life for her on the cross.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It is clear that Scriptures give us many "stories behind the stories" – a sort of "visible invisible" as we see with today's Gospel of the Wedding at Cana. What we think is happening, and who we assume are the main characters, are important and yet also diminished beside the infinite and eternal, self-sacrificing love of God. How much of our own lives contains such stories of God's immense and great love for us, behind the scenes that play out day to day? The Lord gives us all good gifts, and he uses them to help us see, know, understand and love him. The smallest moment, or the most important detail, may not be recorded or remembered, but the generosity and irrevocable love of God will never fade and will always sustain us.

JOURNAL

Although God's love for us never diminishes, we sometimes struggle to maintain the enthusiasm of our earliest encounters with him. This week, create a spiritual "photo album" you can use to remind yourself of God's blessings in your life. Recall pivotal moments in your spiritual life, write them down in a notebook, and return to them with praise and thanksgiving whenever you feel your heart drifting from the Lord.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See 2 Thess 2:14

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God has called us through the Gospel to possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel John 2:1-11; L66C

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.
When the wine ran short,
the mother of Jesus said to him,
"They have no wine."
And Jesus said to her,
"Woman, how does your concern affect me?
My hour has not yet come."
His mother said to the servers,
"Do whatever he tells you."
Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings,
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.
Jesus told them,
"Fill the jars with water."
So they filled them to the brim.
Then he told them,
"Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter."
So they took it.
And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,
without knowing where it came from—although the servers who had drawn the water knew—,
the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,
"Everyone serves good wine first,
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;
but you have kept the good wine until now."
Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee
and so revealed his glory,
and his disciples began to believe in him.

Reflecting on the Gospel

In the United States, a soon-to-be married couple usually registers at a major department store for the gifts they would most like to receive for their wedding. They choose the pattern of china they like, the glassware, and silverware. They list small appliances and other useful items for the home they desire. Friends and relatives choose gifts for the couple from among these items, and the store

keeps track of whether or not someone else has already purchased them. It is a very efficient system, not at all like the way the Spirit gives gifts.

There is no predictability about how the Spirit distributes the various charisms. One might ask God for a particular gift, and it may or may not be granted. A totally unexpected gift might land in one's lap, bringing surprise and delight—something you might never have thought to ask for, something that ends up a perfect fit! Sometimes there are unsolicited gifts that can seem like white elephants, to be tucked away until a time when they can be "re-gifted."

In the second reading today,

Paul lists a whole array of gifts that the Spirit gives, each one carefully chosen for the individual for whom it is intended: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, mighty deeds, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation. We might picture the Spirit delighting in choosing a gift for each one—a gift that weds the recipient to the Holy One and impregnates each with God's fruitful power. None of the Spirit's gifts are meant to be kept under wraps. They are always meant to bear fruit, not only in the recipient's life, but also in service toward others.

The wedding scene in today's gospel depicts Jesus as hesitant to open his Spirit-given gifts in public. He thinks the time has not yet come. But, as his mother rightly discerns, the need is urgent. Like all prophets, Jesus is reluctant and objects, just as Jeremiah protested that he was too young, and Moses avowed that he could not speak well. Jesus's mother, however, seems to take on the role of the wedding planner. She works behind the scenes, using her gifts of insight and knowledge, setting the stage for the sign that Jesus will perform. She knows that the time has come for her Son to offer his gifts publicly to bring the marriage between humanity and divinity to consummation.

Just as a wedding is only the beginning of a lifelong love affair, so the sign Jesus performs at Cana is the beginning of his many signs that revealed his glory. It is also the beginning of the disciples' belief in Jesus, who himself is the bridegroom, as John the Baptist acknowledges (John 3:29). The gift of Jesus himself is one that far surpasses any other that we could have on our "wish list"!

