The Roman Catholic Parishes of

Sacred Heart, Goodrich

St. Margaret Mary, Herscher

St. James the Apostle, Irwin

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — **OCTOBER 24-25, 2026**



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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—4:45pm

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable -" Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house."

—Blessed Mother Teresa

All Saints' Day				**October 31-November 1, 2026**
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Oct. 31 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Nov. 1 7 :30 am	St. James Sunday, Nov. 1 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Nov. 1 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Father Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Brett Buza Roger Jensen Bob Schultz Dave Emling	Daryl Ferris David Kirkpatrick	Jerry Ogrentz Duane Papineau Arlen Hansen Bob Buente	Joe Smolkovich Kim Smicker Erik Wheeler Corrinn Wheeler
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Terri Weakley	Jeff O'Connor	Mary Hope Pleckham
Eucharistic Minister			Joe Benoit	Corinn Wheeler
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—the Peerboltes	Darren/Hollie Lovell

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Oct. 26 (SMM)
8:00 am **+Aldine O'Brien** (Sandra Ryan)

Tuesday, Oct. 27 (SH)
8:00 am **+ Melvin "Skip" Prince** (Don/Marie Feller)

Wednesday, Oct. 28 (SJ)
8:00 am **Special Intenetion of Rita Thiesen** (Pam Cuchiara)

Friday, Oct. 30 (SMM)
8:00am **+Adam Andrzejewski** (Pat Gray)

Saturday, Oct. 31 (SMM)
5:00 pm **+Madonna Hoffman** (Lavonne/Kimberly Maurseth)

+Donna Ruder (Mariann Lane)

Sunday, Nov. 1
7:30 am (SH) **Special intention of Shirley St. Germaine** (Rhonda/Joe Berns)

9:00 am (SJ) **+Joe & Darlene Peerbolte** (Darwin/Mary Peerbolte)

+Rhonda Harris (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

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

Looking Ahead

Sunday, Oct. 25—SMM RE Reverse Trick or Treat and soup/ salas luncheon
Wednesday, Oct. 28—Adult Ed 6:00 SMM
Oct. 31/Nov. 1—Boxes of Joy due back at church
Monday, Nov. 2—All Souls' Day Mass 7pm at SH
November 9, 10, 11—TriParish Mission
Thursday, Nov. 12—SH CCW meeting at 6:30
Monday, Nov. 16—SMM CCW meeting

Question of the week
- How can I give of myself this week and to whom?

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 –Tanhya Osenga 426-2550
Julie Bisaillon 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 –
Prayer Line–
SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 jdstreefarms1@gmail.com

Collections Weekend of Oct. 17-18, 2026

St. Margaret Mary—$1,959	World Missions—$380
St. James—$ 1,477	World Missions—$483
Sacred Heart— $811	World Missions—$389



The annual Council of Churches Thanksgiving service will be held at St. Margaret Mary on Sunday, November 22 at 7pm. This is a fund-raiser for the needy of our community. The Council of Churches provides food baskets, money for meals on Wheels, and other help throughout our community.

There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church for desserts for a social time after the service.

Gospel Shorts Remembering the Basics

If you ask a teenager what 13 x 13 is, they will pull out their calculator. Want to bake a cake? Simply open a box and add the water and cooking oil. It seems like for the sake of expediency we have neglected the basics of many skills.

This is fine if we are baking a cake. But there are other basics in life that we cannot skip over, such as learning patience, or unconditional love, or how to forgive. In the Gospel, our Lord reminds us of the two basics of love which form the basis of every relationship we have as Christians. To learn to love God with all your heart, soul and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves (still the basic commandment for healthy relationships) is not something we can figure out on a calculator or buy in a box. It is learned if we are willing to be taught and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Come let us remember the basics that Jesus taught and see how we may apply them to our high–speed fix–it lives.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Bonnie Siedentop

mother of Julie (Chad) Schoolman,

Jon and Jed (Sarah) Siedentop

grandmother of Jacob, Kaitlyn, Brooke, Ben, Anna, & Jenna

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

Our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

St. James Fall Donations

We are partnering with Georgie's Closet in Bradley for our fall donations this year. They are looking for NEW underwear in all sizes (kids-adults), diapers and pull-ups (all sizes) and baby wipes. NEW blankets and bath towels will also be accepted.

Donations can be left by the display in the hall through mid-November.

Georgie's Closet

Parish News:

⇒ **All Parishes—**

⇒ Consider joining the Tri Parish Prayer Group which meets each Monday at 7 pm at St James church.

⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

St. Margaret Mary-

⇒ It's once again time for our "Bakeless" Bake sale! Please help us to help others, your donations make it possible for us to buy gifts for the elderly at Christmas who otherwise would not receive a gift, we help fund the Pregnancy Resource Center, Allam Charitable, Boxes of Joy, Harbor House and Fortitude. Please help out if you are able. You can drop an envelope in the collection basket marked SMM CCW.

St. James-

⇒ *Boxes of Joy need to be turned in by Sunday, October 25th. The $9 mailing fee can be either cash or a check made out to St. James CCW (we'll send in one check for all boxes donated). Thank you to everyone who participated*

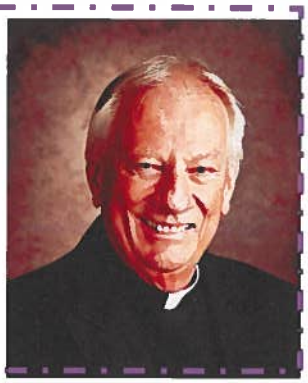
Sacred Heart—

⇒ Tickets for the Sacred Heart Cash Bash on November 21 are now on sale. One $50 ticket admits two adults. You may purchase them after Mass on Sunday.

Don't forget to mark those calendars for Nov. 9-11!!

Our parish mission is quickly approaching. Rev. Robert Gielow, CM will be presenting.

We hope to see you there!





Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Tom O'Connor

brother of Gene & Kathy O'Connor

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

Our sincere sympathy and prayers for Gene and Kathy and all family, and friends.

Reflection The Power of Intercession

Away in foreign fields, they wondered how their simple word had power.

At home, some Christians, two or three, had met to pray an hour.

We are always wondering — wondering how.

Because we do not see someone, perhaps unknown and far away — on bended knee.

From the Pastor's Pen

October 24-25,2026



Saint of the week: **St. Tabitha (Oct. 25)** was a married lay woman in Joppa (in modern Israel). She was a seamstress and later a widow. Tabitha is mentioned in the *Acts of the Apostles*. When she fell ill and died, she was raised from the dead by Saint Peter the Apostle.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Crispian and his twin brother Crispin (Oct. 25 were members of the imperial Roman nobility According to Christian tradition, the 3rd-century twin brothers fled Rome for Soissons, France, where they preached Christianity during the day and made or repaired shoes by night. They provided shoes to the poor for free while sharing their faith, supporting themselves through their trade before being martyred around AD 286 under Emperor Diocletian. Saint Crispin (along with his twin brother, Saint Crispian, along with his twin brother Crispin are known as the patron saint of shoemakers, cobblers, and leather workers, as well as tanners, weavers, saddlers, and glove makers.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

When the Pharisees heard how he had bested the Sadducees, they gathered their forces for an assault. One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: "Teacher, which command in God's Law is the most important?"

Jesus said, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them" *(from Matthew 22)*.



Public Square Rosary Rally Saturday, October 10 at St. Margaret Mary



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Questions Catholics Ask **Is Jesus truly the Son of God or is it just a story?**

This question hinges on the term "Son of God," which sounds simple but is actually theologically dense. "Just a story," of course, implies the alternative to claiming Jesus as God's Son is to admit it's a false identification. I should probably say up front that, for Christians, Jesus is truly the Son of God. It's fundamental to our faith that Jesus is the divine Son. But we further embrace that Jesus enjoys a dual nature: born of a woman and therefore truly human; yet with origins in God and therefore truly divine. Fully human, AND fully divine. Jesus is both, Christians say. To claim him as one or the other—as merely an exemplary mortal, or a divinity who presents a brief human mirage—is to express any number of heresies recorded in church history.

If you accept Jesus is the Son of God, what are you saying? In the Old Testament, son of God was a title used to describe heavenly beings altogether: angels or superhuman creatures sent to enact the divine will. In ancient Hebrew idiom, the word "son" implied membership in a species: so "son of God" suggested a being of a celestial subset none too specifically parsed. Please note: the nation Israel was also identified as God's son. The covenant bond made Israel an adopted child of God. Israel's identity as son of God was not, however, equivalent to other nation's identification of their leaders as divine sons, as the Pharaoh of Egypt was considered to be. For Israel, it was a designation of relationship, not substance or essence.

In the New Testament, Son of God is applied to Jesus 31 times in Matthew, Mark and Luke's gospels, and 23 times in John's, where it is the preferred title. The NT letters employ the term 42 times. Clearly the first generations of the church found this title key to their understanding of Jesus' identity. They didn't limit it to the definition implied by OT usage, nor to the title's meaning in Greek culture: that of a hero, king, or demigod. For early Christians, "Son of God" became a unique category for Jesus. While we are all "children of God," Jesus is "Son of God" in a way no one has been or will be. More than a statement of relationship or location with the celestial ranks, Jesus shares God's very substance (is "consubstantial," in the Creed) and cannot be known apart from this essential unity.

Scriptures: Genesis 6:2; Pss 29:1, 89:7; Job 1:6; 38:7; Exodus 4:22-23;Deuteronomy 14:1-2; 32:19; Isaiah 1:2; 43:6; Jeremiah 31:9, 20; Hosea 2:1; 11:1; Mathew 3:17; 16:16; John 1:34; 11:27; Romans 5:10; Galatians 4:4-7

catholic charities
Diocese of Joliet

If you have participated in the past, just contact Stacie for a recipient's name and wish list.

SHARING THE 25 WARMTH

Dear Friend,

For 25 years, Sharing the Warmth has helped make Christmas brighter for local seniors in need.

Through this special Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet program, donors are anonymously matched with one or more seniors and receive a copy of their Christmas wish list. You choose what you'd like to provide, personally wrap the gifts and add a card if you wish. We'll make sure everything is hand-delivered in time for Christmas.

For many of the seniors we serve, the holidays can be an especially lonely time. Sharing the Warmth is a way to let someone know they are remembered, valued and cared for.

To participate, please complete the enclosed donor application and return it to Catholic Charities by November 13, 2026.

If you've participated before, thank you for making this tradition so special. We hope you'll join us again for our 25th year and invite family, friends, or coworkers to participate, too.

Questions? Please contact me at 815-724-1128 or stw@cc-doj.org. Thank you for helping us share the warmth this Christmas. May God bless you and your family throughout the holiday season and always.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wick
Sharing the Warmth Program Coordinator

Scan to fill out registration form! →

Reflection Anyway

People can be unreasonable, illogical and self–centered — but love them … Anyway

Do good for others, and your motives will be suspect — but do good … Anyway

Small people with big ideas can be discouraged by big people with small minds — but think big … Anyway

Give the best you have to give and people will find fault — but give your best … Anyway

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight by well–meaning, thoughtless people — but build … Anyway

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true adversaries — but succeed … Anyway

Question authority and you will stand alone — but ask … Anyway

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow — but do good … Anyway

A Stewardship Moment Weekend of October 24/25, 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

There is one command that summarizes this weekend's Gospel: to love. For Jesus there is no distinction between these two commands of loving God and neighbor. One naturally flows from the other. In fact, for Jesus, these commands constitute a way of life for Christian stewards; a unique approach to life and to their relationship with others. Our neighbors include everyone with whom we come into contact: family members, friends, people we don't like, strangers and particularly those most in need of our love and compassion. Love calls us to open our hearts and do more to help others grow closer to the Lord. How might we follow Christ's love command more fervently?

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

5 Catholic Halloween activities to try with kids this year.

Halloween is coming. You'd never know it has Catholic roots when walking down the street in October and seeing houses covered with fake spiderwebs, skeletons, and gruesome decorations. So much of the modern holiday seems focused on the macabre.

But Halloween is another word for "All Hallows' Eve," the eve of All Saints' Day. Instead of conceding the day to the celebration of dark things, Christian families can make Halloween a celebration of what it really means. And we can do it without too much fuss!

A few simple Catholic traditions, some good old-fashioned fall fun, and a little attention to the holy days that follow can make Halloween just as memorable for our children while pointing them toward something much better. And especially if you have young children, there are plenty of ways to make it memorable.

A few simple Catholic traditions, some good old-fashioned fall fun, and a little attention to the holy days that follow can make Halloween just as memorable for our children while pointing them toward something much better. And especially if you have young children, there are plenty of ways to make it memorable.

1. Bring back the soul cake. In the British Isles, children once went door-to-door asking for "soul cakes" and promising to pray for the deceased family members of those who gave them one. Bring the tradition home by decorating cookies or cupcakes. Before eating them, explain the traditional meaning and ask them to remember those in your family who have died and pray for them.

2. Play a few easy and fun saint games. Go on a saint scavenger hunt. Hide pictures of saints around the house or yard with a piece of candy beside each one. For older children, add clues they have to solve before finding the next saint. Or, if you have older children, play a saint guessing game. Give clues and see who can name the saint first: "I lived in Assisi and loved animals." "I fought a dragon." "I am the patron saint of lost things." Keep the clues simple for little ones and make them harder for older children.

3. Add some old-fashioned fall fun. Set up pumpkin bowling with empty plastic bottles, hang cider donuts from strings and try to eat them without hands, decorate little pumpkins, or have a candy-corn relay. Halloween activities don't all need a deeper meaning; just create simple fun to have together.

4. Trick-or-treat on your street or in your neighborhood. Suppose your neighbors want to see the kids in costume; head outside after the games are over for some trick-or-treating. Walk your own street, knock on doors, visit the neighbors, and enjoy being part of your neighborhood.

5. Remember where Halloween leads us: to All Saints' Day on November 1st and All Souls' Day on November 2nd. Before everyone heads home or before bed, say a quick prayer for the dead and wish each other a happy All Hallows' Eve!

Put the Hallow back in Halloween

At its roots, Halloween is a Catholic holiday, and Catholic families can reclaim what's holy about it!. We can fill the evening with faith, family, neighbors, and plenty of good fun.

Start a new Halloween tradition; try soul cakes, a saint scavenger hunt, or one of the other activities this year. End the evening with a prayer for the dead before heading out to trick or treat.

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Boxes of Joy time is upon us once again!

The boxes are available for pickup in the entrances of the churches. (if not yet, they will be soon) Each CCW would like the boxes returned to church by the Oct. 31/Nov. 1 weekend.

There is a list of suggestions for filling the boxes. Please include a check for $9 to pay for postage for each box you turn in. The checks should be made out to your CCW and then one check will be written out for each parish's postage.

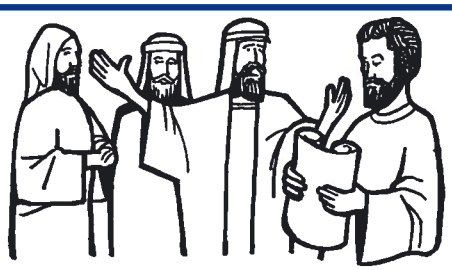
Sacred Heart's Kids Helping Vets Fundraiser



The fundraising project this year is Kids Helping Vets for "K9s for Vets". The kids decorate d this jug which will be at the back of the church during this school year for those who would like to donate their loose change. We will also be having other fundraisers during the school year. Thank you for helping raise money for this worthwhile cause!



Please keep Pope Leo XIV in your prayers.



TEACHER, WHICH COMMANDMENT IN THE LAW IS THE GREATEST?

MT. 22:36



October 25, 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Ex 22:20-26 | 1 Thes 1:5c-10 | Mt 22:34-40

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

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Sounds simple, right? Not so much. Jesus' words in today's Gospel can't help but take us back to that age-old question: "And just who is my neighbor?" According to the Lord's words in the reading from Exodus, our neighbors are the alien, the widow, and the orphan. Documents from the USCCB such as "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity" and its writings on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person clearly reflect the position of the U.S. Bishops that it is essential for public policy to respect the dignity of all. While challenging at times, our faith doesn't offer guidance only for interior, spiritual realities. Indeed, our Church proclaims that we must let the demands of the Gospel shape the whole of our society. We are – to use St. John Paul II's phrase – to work to build a "culture of life," a "civilization of love." In the end, Catholic Social Teaching is nothing but the Church's effort to live Christ's call to love our neighbor as ourselves in the wider human community.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In response to the scholar of the law's question about which commandment is the greatest, Jesus responds by saying that it is to "love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Heart, soul, and mind are words that describe the innermost self. The Lord – it is clear – wants to be loved fully, by all that we have and are. He wants to be loved as the only Lord in our lives; there can be no other. St. Paul praises the Thessalonians for turning "to God from idols to serve the living and true God." In other words, they underwent a change of heart, where they turned away from loving things that were not God to loving and serving the only true God. This change of heart has enabled them to become witnesses to others of Christ's love. In our own lives, we must also undergo conversion if we wish to bear authentic witness to the Lord and to our faith. What are the idols we need to let go of to surrender our hearts, souls, and minds more fully to the Lord?

STUDY

As Catholics, we all have a responsibility to form our consciences and deepen our knowledge of the Church's teaching surrounding critical issues facing our world today. Spend some time this week familiarizing yourself with the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, which are "a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amid the challenges of modern society." (USCCB)

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
John 14:23

℟. Alleluia, alleluia.
Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.
℟. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matt 22:34-40; L148A

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees,
they gathered together, and one of them,
a scholar of the law, tested him by asking,
"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"
He said to him,
"You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your mind.
This is the greatest and the first commandment.
The second is like it:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."



Reflecting on the Gospel

Teachers of homiletics—those who prepare seminarians and others to be good preachers—will often ask students preparing a homily if they can summarize their point in one sentence. If they can't, they still have work to do to clarify what it is they want people to take away from their preaching.

In today's gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus which commandment in the law is the greatest. This episode is the third in a string of four controversy stories in Matthew 22, in which the religious leaders are trying to trap Jesus.

In Matthew's account, the Pharisees' question tests Jesus in two ways. First, all the commandments are important and all must be kept. If Jesus were to say that some could be disregarded, they would have caught him. More likely, the Pharisees were trying to see if Jesus could match other famous teachers of the time who could summarize the law. Rabbi Hillel, for example, summed up the commandments thus: "What is hateful to you do not do to your neighbor" (*b. Šabb.* 31a). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made a similar statement: "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets" (Matt 7:12). Now Jesus elaborates on that statement to bring into view the other side of the same coin: love of God.

The commandment to love God with one's whole heart, soul, and strength is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, the Shema, recited twice a day by Jews. The whole self is involved: the heart, considered the seat of emotions, and the soul, the center of vitality and consciousness and strength or power. The command to love the neighbor is from the Holiness Code (Lev 19:18), which asserts that love of God is manifest in love toward one's neighbor. These are not really two separate commandments, then, but rather two faces of the same love.

What is not explicit in this text, but appears in many other places in Scripture, is that God's love is preeminent. Before one is able to demonstrate love of God and love of neighbor, God has taken the initiative in loving. When one has become open to God's free, unmerited, unbounded love, and has let the love sink deeply into one's being, that one then has the capacity to give love in return. When divine love overwhelms us, we are prone to ask with the psalmist, "How can I repay the Lord / for all the great good done for me?" (Ps 116:12). The response is one simple word: love. It has two objects, which are inseparable: God and neighbor.

Today, with our rise in eco-justice consciousness, we would include all creation within our notion of "neighbor" to be loved. We would also include love of self, though this notion would have been foreign to people of the biblical world. They did not understand themselves in individualistic terms, but rather as enmeshed in a particular family, clan, and religious group, and dependent on others for their sense of self-identity.

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