

ST. MARGARET ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

66-05 79th Place, Middle Village, New York 11379

~ MASS BELLS ~

PASTOR

Rev. ROBERT J. ARMATO

PAROCHIAL VICARS

REV. MSGR. ROBERT J. THELEN
REV. JOSEPH PALACKAL, CMI

IN RESIDENCE

REV. MICHAEL UDOH

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

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ST. MARGARET CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTERS

Kathryn Burger Hazel Scanlon
Jeanne Perry Sue Karcher
Mary Anne Todzia

GIFT SHOP

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CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICES:

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Schedule/Calendar:
parishcalendar@aol.com



**FIRST SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the St. Margaret Parish Community, are a Catholic Parish of diverse ages, gifts and backgrounds. We dedicate ourselves to our personal relationship with Jesus and to growing as a community of faith.

We endeavor to serve the community through education, and service and social ministries, and commit ourselves to the nurturing of the spiritual life by celebrating the Sacraments, by enriching our life of prayer and by deepening our understanding of the Scriptures. We strive to reach out and respond to the changing needs of our community.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SUN.	NOVEMBER 29 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7:30 Robert Hawd 9:00 Geraldine Ciaccio/Pietro e Angelo Alu/ 10:30 Owen A. O'Brien (anniv)/Buscemi Family NOON People of the Parish 5:00PM Phillip Prima
MON.	NOVEMBER 30 - ST. ANDREW 7:00 Mary Narky 9:00 William Nichols
TUE.	DECEMBER 1 - ADVENT WEEKDAY 7:00 Thomas Foudy (anniv) 9:00 Marie Buchman
WED.	DECEMBER 2 - ADVENT WEEKDAY 7:00 Alberino DiCenso 9:00 Tom Farrenkopf (birth)
THU.	DECEMBER 3 - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER 7:00 Richie DiGioia 9:00 Karl Matzelle
FRI.	DECEMBER 4 - ST. JOHN DAMASCENE 7:00 Philip Composto 9:00 Frank Jacobovics
SAT.	DECEMBER 5 - ADVENT WEEKDAY 9:00 Collective: Bill & Lee DiGiovanna/Souls in purgatory/Guido Carosi/ 9:30 Holy Hour 5:00PM Marianna Bencivenni
SUN.	DECEMBER 6 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7:30 Concetta & John Aversa 9:00 Filippo e Girolama Curatolo/Pietra Biondo Geraldine Ciaccio/Maria Soldano/ 10:30 Frank Lackner NOON Martin & Charlotte Wintergerst 5:00PM People of the Parish



**FIRST
SUNDAY
IN
ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29**

PARISH INFORMATION

Rectory Office Hours

**Monday - Friday - 9am to Noon
and 1pm to 5pm
Saturday - by appointment
Sunday - closed**

CONFESSIONS - Saturday, 4:00-4:45pm in the church.

NOVENA to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Mondays after the 9am Mass.

THE ROSARY AND DIVINE MERCY devotion are prayed every morning in the church at 8:30am.

BAPTISMS take place on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, at 1:30pm and 2:30pm. Please call the rectory for an appointment and to register your child. No more than two children will be baptized at each session, with a maximum of 25 guests per family.

WEDDINGS MUST be scheduled at least six months in advance by appointment with a priest or a deacon. Please call the rectory office. For marriage preparation information visit www.pre-cana.org.

THE ENGLISH CHOIR rehearses on Wednesday, at 7 pm in the Church. Tenors and baritones needed!

IL CORO ITALIANO pratica ogni Domenica prima della Messa Italiana.

THE YOUTH CHOIR rehearses on Monday, from 6-7 pm in the Church. For more info, DnDsingit@aol.com **SUSPENDED**

BOY SCOUT TROOP #119 meets on Tuesdays from 7:15-9 pm in the Parish Hall. New members are welcome, age 10 1/2 & up. Call Mr. Krzewski, 718-894-4099. **SUSPENDED**

CUB PACK #119 meets on Mondays from 7-8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. New members welcome, age 6 to 10-1/2. Call Mr. Krzewski, 718-894-4099. **SUSPENDED**

SENIOR CITIZENS meet every Wednesday at 12 Noon in the Parish Center. **SUSPENDED**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Connie Faccibene, Linda Frazier, Cari Ann Falk-LoBello, Glen Falk, Ronald Frazier, Robert Sabini, Lee Falk, McKinley Kelleher, Sean Harrison, Justin James Quirke, Elizabeth Ott, Mary Harrison, Gloria Mojica, Gloria Pemaj, Allen McConville, Jack Marchindiondo, The Scaturro Family, Louis Pittelli, Louis Pittelli, James Graff, Immaculate Marge D'Elia, Jim O'Friscoll, Mary Rigovich, Matteo Sabini, Bob Biolsi, The Mojica Family, Msgr. Leonard Badia, Matthew Zender, Joseph & Mary Augustine, Anthony Pittelli, Josephine Hartnett, Karen Schaefer, Jill Archbold, Fr. Paul Weirichs CP, Hannah Lehman, Daniel Wilson, John Austin Bryzgoria, Dave Kazmier, John Nogiewich, Tim Rooney, Frank Ciccone, Cindy (Peli) Heege, Dr. Ajay Lodha, Dr. Vincent P. Rappa, Charlie Krzewski, Helga Zender, Deacon John DeBiase, Tom Haubert, John Miller, Cathie Greulich, Sr. Mary James Fox, Edward Pandolfo, Paul Colangelo, Carmen Gonzalez, Edward Stoltzenberg, Santos Santiago, William & Patricia Scharbach,

The names will remain for 3 months, please call 718-326-1911 and ask for continued prayers.

Prayer Requests

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood
and Religious Life.

Pray for first responders and
medical personnel.

Please pray for our men and women from our Parish
serving in the defense of our country:

Lt. Col. Thomas Frohnhoefer
Sgt. Robert A. Domenici



***WE RECALL
OUR
BELOVED DECEASED***

*May they rest
in Christ's Peace!*

MEMORIALS

WINE & HOST THIS WEEK

are offered in memory of Fred Basedow.

ALTAR CANDLES THIS WEEK

are offered in memory of Guido Carosi.

TABERNACLE LAMP THIS WEEK

is lit in memory of Anthony Tavarone



***SAINT
FRANCIS XAVIER
DECEMBER 3***

TODAY'S READINGS

First Sunday in Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
1 Cor 1:3-9
Mk 13:33-37

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rom 10:9-18
Ps 19:8-11
Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6
Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24
Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Ps 147:1-6
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Ps 85:9-14
2 Pt 3:8-14
Mk 1:1-8

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Watch, Be Attentive, and Be Busy”

The story is told of a young curate asking his elderly pastor, “Monsignor, what would you do if someone were to come in and tell you that Jesus was coming down the block?” Without missing a beat, the elder priest answered, “Look busy!”

Well, all of us, clergy and laity alike, are called to do more than “look busy.” We are supposed to BE busy every day, working to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth. The opportunities and the ways in which we go about it may vary, but each one of us has a role to play in God’s plan for the salvation of the world.

That doesn’t mean that we have to be “gotta-run-gotta-do” all the time or that we priests must be “sacramental Sams”, but everything that we say and do should have a positive impact on the world around us. Whether we are praying privately or in common, or doing some corporal or spiritual work of mercy as noted in last week’s Gospel and pastor’s posting, or reading and meditating on the Scriptures, or just quietly reflecting on God’s presence in our lives, everything is to be centered in God and done for love of Him in a spirit of joyful thanksgiving for His Love.

Moreover, we are to be docile, to be open to being molded, formed by God as is the clay in the hands of a potter who intends to make beautiful, useful things. We are not simply things created casually at whim, but have been created by the purposeful Creator for Himself that we might share in His love and His own eternal life. As such, we are given both responsibilities to participate in carrying out the work of God and whatever grace we need to fulfill those responsibilities. We have been “enriched in every way” in Christ Jesus, St. Paul tells us through his letter to the Corinthians, so that we “are not lacking in any spiritual gift as [we] wait for the revelation [i.e., the Coming] of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The responsibilities and the gifts are both awesome, literally full of awe, that we, the created, may share in the life and work of the Creator as His associates, and even more, as His beloved children. We have been entrusted with much; we must act in a responsible way toward carrying out the mission that we have received, not growing weary of being the one who always responds in the midst of those who couldn’t care less, or of waiting for the Lord to act in an unambiguous and obvious way in our lives so as to give us a clear signal that we’re on course.

So how are we to be on constant guard duty, or keep up a perpetual watch so that the Lord will not catch us sleeping? We are properly prepared when we live our lives according to the Gospel, to the teachings of Christ and of His Church. This can be quite difficult in a world and in a nation that have wandered far from the Truth, whose deeds are sinful and unclean, polluted and withered. Yet, God remains with us as He was with the ancient People of Israel, His chosen ones.

In the face of all that is wrong, we are to persevere by the grace of God in doing what is right; in the face of evil, to persevere in doing what is holy; in the face of injustice, to do what is just in the eyes of God; in the face of that which divides people from one another, to strive for unity, centered, not in some shifting political ideology or popular secular agenda, but in a solid relationship with God.

The Lord will come suddenly, not only at the end of time, but also at the end of our time. In the meanwhile, He calls us to be vigilant, to keep guard, to watch. That doesn’t mean locking ourselves in our homes, Bible in one hand and the Rosary in the other, waiting for Jesus to come down the block. It means that we live each day not in fear but in joyful hope of His returning to bring us to the fullness of life. It also means that we must grow in our relationship with Him daily in prayer, in the celebration of the Sacraments, and in the everyday activities of loving service to God and one another.

May He find us alert, doing what He has given us to do and living as He has commanded us to live, prepared to receive Him when He comes and knocks!

~ *Fr. Armato*

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The **2020 Annual Catholic Appeal** campaign continues toward our goal of **\$80,015**. So far, **173 families have pledged \$63,293 (79.1%)**. We have **\$16,722 to go**.

First come your own family needs, then those of the Parish and Diocese. With about 650 families registered in the Parish, our goal comes to an average of \$125 per family. Even in these difficult times, though, it shouldn't be a burden, if we ALL pitch in between now and Christmas. Please use the envelopes available in church, if you have not made a pledge as yet.

www.annualcatholicappeal.org

CHURCH OPEN HOURS

The church will be open only for the celebration of Masses and baptisms. It will be closed at all other times to enable us to clean and sanitize the facilities.

Please observe these rules for your safety and that of others:

Do NOT enter the church, if you are sick. Anyone entering the church MUST wear a facemask or covering. "Social distancing" MUST be observed at all times.

Sit **only** in the areas that are marked by a taped cross.

The lavatories are locked.

Do NOT leave **ANYTHING** in the pews or at the entrances.

Mass attendance is increasing little by little. We still have a long way to go to get back to normal. In the meanwhile, please remember that families or couples are allowed to sit together, but individuals still must observe social distance in church.



URSULINE SISTERS

JOY OF GIVING VIRTUAL AUCTION

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 UNTIL
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Beautiful items for everyone.

Christmas shopping made easy!

The link to the virtual auction registration and item previews will be posted on their website:

www.tildonkursuline.org

Questions? Contact Anne, 718-591-0681, ext. 2060 or
awalsh@tildonkursuline.org

THE ST. VINCENT dePAUL FOOD PANTRY



is located in the Convent
66-25 79th Place

The Pantry is open every
WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY
from 10:00am to 12:00Noon

We are in need of special foods for the holidays. Mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, coffee, juice and cookies.

Please place your donations in the bin located by the center entrance to the church.

Grocery store gift cards are also welcome.

As always, thank you for your generosity!

PARISH FINANCES

Thanks to all of you who continue to make your contributions at Mass or at the Rectory offices, or who have used weekly or monthly e-giving!

Now that the ushers are taking up the collections again, weekly donations have picked up a bit but not enough to make-up for the 40% of our parishioners who have not returned to Mass as yet.

The result is that we are projecting **an operating loss of over \$300,000** for the current fiscal year, 9/1/20-8/31/21. We are unable to pay our bills without dipping into what remains of our thinning reserves, which will be exhausted this year.

Please support your parish as best as possible during these difficult times, whether through e-giving or in-pew offerings.

To use **Faith Direct** for e-giving, go to the icon on our website and follow the instructions to sign up; or you can go straight to the **Faith Direct** website and enter our parish code, **NY299**. You can change your decision later on, as you wish.

ALL SOULS INDULGENCE

The Holy Father has extended the period for obtaining an indulgence for praying for the deceased and visiting their grave to the entire month of November. The usual conditions apply; confession and detachment from sin; reception of Holy Communion; visiting the grave; praying the Apostles Creed; and praying an Our Father and Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope.

MASS SCHEDULE TO CHANGE

Mass attendance has been falling, not only in our own parish, but also among our neighbors and in parishes in many parts of the country as the demographics have changed. Even prior to the pandemic, we could fit the entire weekend congregation from all six Masses into just two and still not fill the church, which holds 480 people. It has gotten worse, since reopening in July.

We are one of only two parishes in our immediate area with six weekend Masses, including two evening Masses. Our neighbors have cut back, while we have held steady since January 2017.

Our present schedule is no longer warranted, though. **As of Epiphany Sunday, January 3, 2021**, our weekend Mass schedule will be revised as follows:

SATURDAY

Vigil Mass at 5:00PM

SUNDAY MASSES

8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00 Noon, 5:00PM

This still offers a spread of timeslots to meet family and personal schedules. The **10:00AM Mass** will be **bi-lingual (English and Italian) and multi-intentional**.

Times for all other Masses and services, including confession times and baptisms, will remain unchanged at this time.

MONTHLY MEMORIAL MASS

A memorial Mass with music is celebrated each month for the repose of the souls of those who were buried from our church during the preceding month.

Families who wish to have an annual or “month’s mind” Mass offered for a loved one can join in the monthly celebration.

Contact the Rectory, **718-326-1911** to make the arrangements.

The next memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11:45am Saturday, December 12.

RETURNING TO SERVICE

All ushers and collection counters are requested to return to their regular service schedules. If you attend a Mass without ushers, please cooperate and help take up the collections, if asked.

Be sure to wear a mask while serving!

ST. MARGARET CATHOLIC ACADEMY

is participating in a

Boon Supply Fundraiser.

Boon Supply offers eco-conscious everyday items. The catalog is available on-line for a “contact-less” fundraiser. Orders are placed directly on-line and delivered to your home. Please use the following link to see the catalog:

boonsupply.com/1103047

Please take this opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and share the line with family and friends! All purchases made benefit our Academy.

Thank you in advance!

RCIA NEWS

Please contact Sr. Bridget at the Rectory as soon as possible, if you are over 18 years old and still have not received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, First Reconciliation, or First Communion, to register for RCIA formation sessions beginning this fall with celebration of the Sacraments taking place next spring.

THE ST. VINCENT dePAUL CHRISTMAS “GIVING TREE”



WHEN: November 30 to December 12

WHAT: New toys and children’s clothing, unwrapped, or Gift card to Target, Amazon, Kohls, Old Navy, Marshall’s or your choice.

WHERE: Convent, 66-25 79 Place, Wednesday and Saturday 10am -12 Noon or directly into the black bin, or near it, in the vestibule of the church, at any time. Many thanks for your generosity!

NEW HYMNALS

We are going to put out our Mass aids, a hardbound hymnal combined with the full three-year cycle of Scripture readings in place of the annual missalette. This will save us time, work, and money in the long run, since it will last for over seven years with proper care.

The new books can be memorialized for \$25 per intention, as we’ve done with the missalettes. ***Use the forms provided in church. Forms and your donation can be returned at the Rectory or in the collection basket.***