

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

718-326-0922
Ms. Victoria LoBosco
Mrs. Karen Gonzales
Coordinators
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MUSIC MINISTRY

718-326-1911
Don Competello, Director
Diane Competello, Asst. Director
DnDSingit@aol.com

LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTERS

Kathryn Burger Hazel Scanlon
Jeanne Perry Sue Karcher
Mary Anne Todzia

GIFT SHOP

Sue Karcher, Coordinator
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CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICES:

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Schedule/Calendar:
parishcalendar@aol.com



**SECOND SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 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.	DECEMBER 6 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Concetta & John Avena Geraldine Ciaccio/Filippo e Girolama Curatolo Pietra Biondo/MariaSoldano/ Frank Lackner 10:30 NOON 5:00PM Martin & Charlotte Wintergerst People of the Parish
MON.	DECEMBER 7 - ST. AMBROSE 7:00 Purgatorial Society 9:00 Robert R. Gockley, Sr. 7:30PM Rosemarie Sparacio
TUE.	DECEMBER 8 - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY/HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION 7:00 People of the Parish 9:00 Frony DiCenso NOON Veronika Schug 7:30PM Mary Narky
WED.	DECEMBER 9 - ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN 7:00 Ed Blake 9:00 Anita Wunsch
THU.	DECEMBER 10 - ADVENT WEEKDAY 7:00 George Bley 9:00 David P. Jones (anniv)
FRI.	DECEMBER 11 - ST. DAMASUS I, POPE 7:00 Joe VanSchaick 9:00 Ida Lento/Maria Falsetta
SAT.	DECEMBER 12 - OUR LADY OF GUDALUPE 9:00 Collective: Deceased Priests of the Brooklyn & Rockville Centre Dioceses/Edward & Nellie (Malone) Tolles/Lauretta Burrelesci/Rev. August J. Iantosca 11:45 Memorial Mass: Walter J. Tuft, John Bohan, Donald W. Flynn, 5:00PM People of the Parish
SUN.	DECEMBER 13 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7:30 Julius Avena 9:00 Santa Lucia/ Leonardo Curatolo/Mary York/ Geraldine Ciaccio/John Bohan/Giovanni e Gaetana Caruso 10:30 Eileen & Margaret Flynn NOON Rosamma Palackal 5:00PM Edward & Nellie (Malone) Tolles



***SECOND
SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6***

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***

Especially:

Arthur C. Woods

May they rest in Christ's Peace!

MEMORIALS

WINE & HOST THIS WEEK

*are offered in memory of John Bohan at the
request of The St. Vincent dePaul Society.*

ALTAR CANDLES THIS WEEK

*are offered in memory of David P. Jones
at the request of Barbara Mundy.*

TABERNACLE LAMP THIS WEEK

*is lit in memory of Ida Lento & Maria Falsetta,
at the request of Lucy, Jennifer & Michael Sutera.*



***THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
DECEMBER 8***

TODAY'S READINGS

Second Sunday of Advent

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10
Ps 85:9ab, 10-14
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20
Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31
Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20
Ps 145:1, 9-13ab
Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19
Ps 1:1-4, 6
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a,
Rv 12:1-6a, 10ab
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11
Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Prepared?”

Early last week, while doing some Thanksgiving shopping on Metro, I noticed that there were no street decorations as in previous years. I figured that it was the result of a bad local economy and that the merchants weren't going to put up the usual “holiday” displays suspended across the street. That guess was proven wrong last Saturday morning, however, as the decorating crews were hard at work rigging lights, preparing the heart of Middle Village for Christmas.

For what are we preparing our hearts, though, and how prepared are we? Our focus in the first half of Advent (up to December 17) ought to be not on marking the First Coming of our Savior at Christmas. That's what the second half of the season is all about, though even then we stray off course.

The Scriptures today speak to us about two historical events: the Promise of a Savior to the People of Israel seven centuries before Christ and the fulfillment of that Promise in the mysteriously unnamed One heralded by St. John the Baptist. (Spoiler alert: that would be Jesus Christ.)

Isaiah proclaimed a word of hope and consolation for Israel to prepare a royal highway for the coming of a redeemer who, though powerful as a conquering general, would come with the compassionate tenderness of a shepherd to put an end to the people's suffering and disgrace and to make all thing new. The people were to prepare the highway by returning to the Covenant, living according to the Commandments and the teachings of Moses and the Prophets, removing the obstacles that impeded their relationship with God by reforming their lives.

Seven hundred years later, St. John the Baptist also called the people to repent of their sins, their obstacles, so as to be forgiven by God and thus enter into a new, right relationship with Him. St. John set the stage to prepare the people for the coming fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, and thousands heeded his call.

The messages of Isaiah and St. John, are not simply matters of historical events, though. They are prophets for our days as well as their own, and their challenges apply equally well to us today, indeed, to people of every age, for every person has need for repentance and reformation, whether our sins be great or small.

This has been a disastrous year, one that no one would like to repeat. Yet, some good things have come along, like a greater appreciation for life and the love of family and friends. There is also the opportunity to slow down and to examine our lives and relationships with God and one another, as well as to give us more time for prayer (private if not communal) and for putting ourselves on a straighter path so as to hasten the Coming of the Lord by conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, as St. Peter urges in today's Epistle.

It's very easy to get distracted by thing of lesser or no importance at this time of year. The so-called “Christmas” specials and movies are but one example. While there will be less partying this year, we still have a tendency to spend more time on decorating and cleaning the house, shopping for gifts, and preparing holiday foods than we do in decorating our lives with good works, cleaning our souls by going to confession, doing acts of charity and forgiveness, and nourishing our souls with the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Christ will come suddenly, at the end of all time and more immediately at the end of our time. For God, time is one eternal moment; ours on this earth is not. We do not know how much of it we have been given, but God offers us enough to repent of our sins and come to newness of life through His Holy Spirit.

Be attentive, then, to the call to remove the obstacles of sin and fear that separate us from receiving God's loving mercy and forgiveness, that we truly may prepare the way of the Lord, celebrating His first coming with joy and ready to receive Him with hope and love when He comes again. Prepare!

~ *Fr. Armato*

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The **2020 Annual Catholic Appeal** campaign continues toward our goal of **\$80,015**. So far, **176 families** have pledged **\$63,818 (79.8%)**. We have **\$16,197 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

THROUGH 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 thank you all for your overwhelming donations to the food pantry during the Thanksgiving holiday season. At this time we are asking for **grocery store gift cards**, which can be placed in the rectory office mail slot.

As always, thank you for your generosity!

PARISH FINANCES

We depend on your kindness very heavily at this time of year. Please be generous in the special collections, especially in your **Christmas Gift to Your Parish**, since we are projecting an *operating loss of over \$300,000* for the current fiscal year, 9/1/20-8/31/21. We are at the point where we cannot pay our bills without dipping into what remains of rapidly thinning reserves.

Thanks to all of you who continue to 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.

NEW HYMNALS

We have put our new hardbound hymnal with the full three-year cycle of Scripture readings into the pews 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. **Please use the request forms available in the church vestibule and at the Rectory for your intentions.**

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 on 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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please help to offset the cost of decorating the church for Christmas by using the flower envelope found in your packet or one available in the church.

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. Please see the listing on pg. 2 of this bulletin.

THE ST. VINCENT dePAUL CHRISTMAS “GIVING TREE”



WHEN: Through December 12th

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

WHERE: To Convent, 66-25 79th Place on Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 12 Noon or in the black bin in the vestibule of the church, at any time.

Thank you for your generosity.

Merry Christmas!



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Masses will be celebrated at 5:00 pm (Vigil) and Midnight on Christmas Eve and at 8:00 am, 10:00 am (English-Italian), and 12:00 Noon on Christmas Day.

Seating will be limited due to pandemic restrictions (capacity is up to 240 at this time, but subject to change).

The choir will present a program of sacred music before the midnight Mass, beginning at 11:30 pm.

WREATH MEMORIALS

There will be just three large wreaths to memorialize this Christmas (\$100 each). Please contact the Rectory, if you would like to donate one.

YOUNG SINGERS WANTED

As of Epiphany Sunday, January 3, we will have music to varying degrees at all weekend Masses. In order to enhance the celebration at the Sunday 5:00 Mass, we’d like to form a group of young people to sing contemporary as well as traditional hymns.

If you’re interested and in your late teens to twenty-something, please contact our Director of Music, Don Compello, after any of the Masses in the next few weeks.