

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

Sr. Bridget Olwell, OSU
bridgetosu7@gmail.com

ST. MARGARET CATHOLIC ACADEMY

718-326-0922
Victoria Richardson, Principal
stmargprincipal@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

718-326-0922
Ms. Victoria LoBosco
Mrs. Karen Gonzales
Coordinators
stmargaretre@gmail.com

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
parishcalendar@aol.com

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICES:

Mary Pascale, Receptionist
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Website: www.stmargaretmv.com

Schedule/Calendar:
parishcalendar@aol.com



**THIRD SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT
GAUDETE SUNDAY
DECEMBER 13, 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 13 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT/GAUDETE SUNDAY
7:30	Julius Aversa
9:00	Santa Lucia/Leonardo Curatolo/ Geraldine Ciaccio/Mary York/John Bohan/ Giovanni e Gaetana Caruso/ Eileen & Margaret Flynn
10:30	Rosanna Palackal
NOON	Edward & Nellie (Malone) Tolles
5:00PM	
MON.	DECEMBER 14 - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
7:00	Rose D'Amato
9:00	Amelia Oswald
TUE.	DECEMBER 15 - ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:00	Casimir Krzewski/Joseph Begy
9:00	Ruth Phillips
WED.	DECEMBER 16 - ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:00	Gloria Prima
9:00	Charles Droz
THU.	DECEMBER 17 - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:00	Peter Radske (anniv)
9:00	Peter Brennan
FRI.	DECEMBER 18 - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:00	Patrick Nolan
9:00	James & John Bohan
SAT.	DECEMBER 19 - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
9:00	Collective: Aloysius & Rebecca David/ Daniel Fitzgerald
5:00PM	
SUN.	DECEMBER 20 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
7:30	People of the Parish
9:00	Rosario, Rosaria e Nunzio Taormina/ Daniele Bussa/Geraldine Ciaccio
10:30	Rosaleen, Tom, Catherine & Michael Reilly
NOON	Fire Lt. Kevin J. & William Pfeifer
5:00PM	Adriana Caruso



***SAINT
LUCY
DECEMBER 13***

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 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 Bryzgornia, 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 Scharach, Marco Colalella, Fr. William Farrugia,

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:

*Daniel Boyle, Janie Corbo,
May they rest in Christ's Peace!*

MEMORIALS

WINE & HOST THIS WEEK

*are offered in memory of Attilio Caranfa
at the request of Enio & Isa Prozzi.*

ALTAR CANDLES THIS WEEK

*are offered in memory of James Bohan
at the request of The Bohan Family.*

TABERNACLE LAMP THIS WEEK

*is lit in memory of James Bohan
at the request of The Bohan Family.*



***ST. JOHN
OF THE CROSS
DECEMBER 14***

TODAY'S READINGS

Third Sunday of Advent

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a
Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
Ps 85:9ab, 10-14
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10
Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17
Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17
Lk 1:5-25

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Rom 16:25-27
Lk 1:26-38

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Chosen and Sent to Proclaim”

The season of Advent usually finds us scurrying about, scrambling to get shopping and decorating and food preparation done in the weeks leading up to Christmas. We often find ourselves coming up short in the midst of our busyness: always one more gift left unbought, one more decoration left unhung, one more delicacy left unprepared. We're so busy, in fact, that we forget what we're supposed to be about, namely, proclaiming the Gift of our salvation in Christ and preparing His way.

The first reading and Gospel passage for this Third, or Gaudete (“Rejoice!”), Sunday of Advent, speak to us about two prophets, Isaiah and St. John the Baptist, who were chosen by God some seven centuries apart to proclaim the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. The prophecies of both men were fulfilled, not by the prophets themselves, but by Jesus of Nazareth at His first coming.

St. Luke records that Jesus read Isaiah's prophecy at the synagogue in Nazareth in an act that almost cost Him His life as he began His mission of redemption, and St. John testified to the coming of the true Light of the Messiah, admitting with great humility that he himself was not the Promised One.

This Sunday takes its name from St. Paul's instruction to his disciples in the city of Thessalonica to “rejoice always!” In today's Epistle, he encouraged them to persevere in doing what is right and holy while waiting for Christ's Second Coming in glory and reassured them that Christ would return again: “The One Who calls you is faithful, and He will also accomplish it.”

Like Isaiah and St. John the Baptist, you and I have been called to proclaim Jesus Christ, the often-unrecognized Messiah, and to restore a sense of hope in the desert of a world made dry and despondent by sin and which has closed its eyes to the mercy and faithfulness of God, Who never abandons His children. Like the Thessalonians, we too must persevere in constant prayer and thanksgiving, rejoicing in a hope that is founded upon our faith in Christ and our experience of His presence.

Moreover, you and I, as latter-day prophets (those through whom God speaks to the world), are to proclaim the love that God has for all people by the way that we live our lives according to the teachings of Christ and His Church. The message of this “Good News” is to go out to all people in every age through the words and deeds of His chosen ones, His disciples, who have been anointed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit and set apart for continuing His salvific mission.

Prepare the way of the Lord! This is the mission for which we have been chosen and sent to proclaim. We must prepare ourselves first, though, by straightening out our own lives, ridding ourselves of our sins, our failures to love God and one another. Then, we are to grow stronger in our faith through a constant awareness of God's presence to us via prayer and the celebrations of the Sacraments, so that we may put to good use the varied gifts, the talents, which God has given to each one of us for building up His Kingdom in this world.

Be attentive, then, to the call of the prophets to remove the obstacles of sin and fear that separate us from receiving God's loving mercy and forgiveness. Prepare not only your home, but also your soul, the dwelling place of God's Holy Spirit. We have been “clothed with a robe of salvation and wrapped in a mantle of justice.”

Let us remember, then, to prepare the way of the Lord in this busy season, to bring the true Light of the world by celebrating Christ's first coming with joy, proclaiming His presence among us, and remaining faithful, constantly ready to receive Him with joyful hope and love when He comes again. Rejoice!

~ *Fr. Armato*

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The **2020 Annual Catholic Appeal** campaign continues toward our goal of **\$80,015**. So far, **177 families have pledged \$66,818 (83.5%)**. We have **\$13,197 to go**.

With about 650 families registered in the Parish, it comes to an *average donation of \$125 per family*. Even in these difficult times, it's certainly not a burden if we **ALL** pitch in between now and Christmas.

First come your own family needs, then those of the Parish. Finally, please consider your ACA responses so that we may continue to serve the needs of our Parish and our Diocese.

www.annualcatholicappeal.org

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. *Use the forms provided in the church. Forms, and your donation can be returned to the Rectory or in the collection basket.*

CHURCH OPEN HOURS

The church will be open only for the celebration of Masses and baptisms. It will be closed at all other time 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 distancing in church.

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

Thank you for your generous donations to the food pantry. At this time we are asking for **grocery store gift cards**, which can be placed in the rectory office mail slot.

Again, we thank you for your continued support!

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, to 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.



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 Competello, after any of the Masses in the next few weeks.

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.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

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 celebrations.

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

The next memorial mass will be celebrated at 11:45am Saturday, January 9.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

2020

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 19th

3:00 to 4:30pm

Monday, December 21st

7:30 to 9:00am - 3:00 to 5:00pm - 7:00 to 8:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Thursday, December 24th

5:00pm Vigil Mass

11:30pm Sacred Music program

12:00 Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Friday, December 25th

8:00am - 10:00am (Bilingual, It./Eng.)

12:00 Noon

NO EVENING MASS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY,

THE MOTHER OF GOD

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

(NEW YEAR'S EVE)

Thursday, December 31st

Vigil Mass 5:00pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Friday, January 1, 2021

9:00am (Bilingual, It./Eng.)

10:30am, 12 Noon

NO EVENING MASS

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

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.

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.