

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
Phone: 718-326-1911

Fax: 718-326-1883
E-mail: stmargaretmv@gmail.com

Website: www.stmargaretmv.com

Schedule/Calendar:
parishcalendar@aol.com



**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 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 20 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
7:30	People of the Parish
9:00	Rosario, Rosaria e Nunzio Taormina/ Geraldine Ciaccio/Daniele Busca/
10:30	Rosaleen, Tom, Catherine & Michael Reilly
NOON	Fire Lt. Kevin J. & William Pfeifer
5:00PM	Adriana Caruso
MON.	DECEMBER 21 - ST. PETER CANISIUS
7:00	Agatha & Louis Palumbo
9:00	Marie Sparacio
TUE.	DECEMBER 22 - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:00	Irene & Arthur Connolly
9:00	Intention of Frank Miller
WED.	DECEMBER 23 - ST. JOHN OF KANTY
7:00	Karl Sippenauer (anniv)
9:00	Anne Maley
THU.	DECEMBER 24 - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY/CHRISTMAS EVE
7:00	Ferdinand Troje
9:00	Geraldine & John Ward
5:00PM	Carl Dokter, Louise Moeller, Robert Schaefer
11:30PM	Sacred Music Program
MIDNIGHT	People of the Parish
FRI.	DECEMBER 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
8:00	The Anna & Wilhelm Nick and Stalzer Families
10:00	Maria Bachman/Mimma VIRRUSO/Francesco e Maria VIRRUSO/Pellegrino e Giuseppa Banfari/ Vito e Giovanna Barresi/Geraldine Ciaccio/ Maria Curatolo/Luigi Bonello/
NOON	Margaret & Eileen Flynn NO EVENING MASS
SAT.	DECEMBER 26 - ST. STEPHEN
9:00	collective: Anne Abbruzzese
5:00PM	Catherine & Edward Flynn
SUN.	DECEMBER 27 - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
7:30	Philomena Karcher (ANNI)
9:00	Il Popolo della Parrocchia/Geraldine Ciaccio/ Adriana e Andrea Sciuilara/
10:30	Pete & Rose LoMurno
NOON	Peter Bojcenjuk
5:00PM	Angie Ferzola

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**

THE RECTORY WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 AND ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25. PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 OF THIS BULLETIN FOR SCHEDULE OF MASSES. HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

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 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 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:

May they rest in Christ's Peace!

MEMORIALS

WINE & HOST THIS WEEK

*are offered in memory of David J. McConville
at the request of Lauraine McConville.*

ALTAR CANDLES THIS WEEK

*are offered in memory of David J. McConville
at the request of Lauraine McConville.*

TABERNACLE LAMP THIS WEEK

*is lit in memory of Maria Bachman
at the request of uncle, Ben Armato.*



***The priests and staff of
St. Margaret Parish
wish you a blessed
Christmas!***

TODAY'S READINGS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28
1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14
Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29
Lk 1:67-79
Vigil: Is 62:1-5
Ps 89 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Friday: **Night:** Is 9:1-6
Ps 96:1-3, 11-12, 13
Ti 2:11-14
Lk 2:1-14
Day: Is 52:7-10
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10 - Acts 7:54-59
Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17
Mt 10:17-22

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or
Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9
Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 or
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Giving Gifts”

Imagine, if you will, that you want to give a gift to someone special and important in your life. Before you can give your gift, however, that person gives you an even greater gift, one to which yours can't compare. Such are the scenes presented in today's first reading and Gospel.

David thought that he would repay God for all the blessings that he had received by building God a grand temple, a house in which He could dwell among His people. After all, the gods that the pagans worshipped all had temples, and they were not gods at all, and yet here was the God of Israel still in a tent after several centuries, long after His people had settled down in the Promised Land. Surely, God would be grateful for David's gift, as if a building could contain Him.

Instead, God had something far grander prepared for David: a “house”, not a palace built of fine stone but a posterity that would last throughout the ages. For a society that believed that one's memory was blessed and kept alive only through one's descendants, there was nothing greater to achieve or receive, the theological concept of eternal life as we understand it not having been developed yet.

In the Gospel passage, God's Gift of Himself to Mary also would outdo Mary's gift of herself to God. Tradition holds that Mary was dedicated at an early age to serving God in purity, but little could she or anyone else imagine how that would be fulfilled. The Angel's greeting to her refers to her as “full of grace”. As such, there was no place for sin in her life. God, Who foresaw her response from all eternity, not only had kept her pure, free from personal sin throughout her life, but also had granted her the unique grace of being conceived in spiritual purity without the stain of original sin that the rest of us bore until our baptism.

As if that were not enough, Mary was given the singular honor of being the original tabernacle, the true dwelling place of God in the midst of His creation: she was to be the Mother of God in the sense that the Child to be born of her would be fully God and fully human, true God and true man.

Nice, but, where does all this leave us? What sort of gift can we give to God, when He constantly and immeasurably one-ups every gift that He is offered? Well, it's not a matter of competition. We'd lose every time, were that the case. But there is one area in which we can match God. The only thing that we can offer God, Who has given us everything, including our redemption from sin and a share in His own divine life, is to offer Him ourselves. That is to say, we are to accept His grace in order that we might live our lives as He has taught us through His Commandments, the Prophets, His Son, the teaching of the Church, the lives of the saints, and the example of the good people whom we ourselves have known.

We are about to mark the feast day of the birth of the Christ, not just one more prophet in a long line of them, but the very fulfillment of all the promises that God had made from Creation. It's easy to get caught up in the sentimentality of this holy season and to focus on things that are a far second to the reality that we are going to celebrate. The distractions this year are, perhaps, greater than any we've known before, between depressingly strict precautions that inhibit our celebrations and the losses that we've experienced and sadden us at an otherwise joyful time.

What can we offer to God aside from something of which He has no need? He does not need us, yet He wants us. He has made us for Himself, St. Augustine said; we are His, we belong to Him, said the psalmist. At the same time, He is also ours. He has given us Himself, and so we must give Him ourselves in return.

We never lose or forfeit our lives when we surrender them to the will and love of our gracious God. It is only then that we truly receive the Gift that keeps on giving: no bows, ribbons or wrappings, and even better that what David received, for we shall receive the fullness of God's promises and the reality of eternal life.

May God bless you, and may the peace and love of the Christ Child, God-made-man, reign in your hearts!

~Fr. Armato

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The **2020 Annual Catholic Appeal** campaign continues toward our goal of **\$80,015**. So far, **183 families have pledged \$72,848 (91.0%)**. We have **\$7,167 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

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.

NEW HYMNALS

We have put out our Mass aids, a hardbound hymnal combined with the full three-year cycle of Scripture readings. 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.*

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 collection, 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.



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.

MASS SCHEDULE TO CHANGE

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.**

FORMED IS COMING!

FORMED, produced by the Augustine Institute, is coming to St. Margaret's in early 2021, and will be available without charge to all parishioners.

FORMED is an on-line resource for adult and youth faith formation, prayer, sacramental preparation, and so much more. All that is needed to visit the website is Internet access and an e-mail account.

More information will be provided in the coming weeks, but you can preview it now at formed.org.

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, January 9, 2021.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY

Confessions in preparation for Christmas will be heard this Monday from 7:30 to 9:00am, 3:00 to 5:00pm, and 7:00 to 8:00pm.

This will be the last opportunity for confessions before Christmas.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

2020

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 19th

3:00 to 4:45pm

Reconciliation 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, 12Noon

NO EVENING MASS

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

BAPTISMS

Beginning in January, the Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated only at 1:30pm on the first and third Sundays of each month (except April) with up to four children baptized at each celebration.

No more than twenty-five (25) family members and friends per child may attend, so that we can maintain social distancing.