

# ***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**  
**Victoria Smallwood**  
**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](mailto:stmargaretmv@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.stmargaretmv.com](http://www.stmargaretmv.com)**

**Schedule/Calendar:**  
*parishcalendar@aol.com*



**THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT  
(GAUDETE SUNDAY)  
DECEMBER 12, 2021**

## **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**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>DECEMBER 12 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT/GAUDETE SUNDAY</b>
8:00	People of the Parish
10:00	Vincenza, Mariano e Salvatore Palmeri/ Geraldine Ciaccio/Antonino Catalano/Michele Lore/Salvatore Mauro/Margherita Varvaro/ Sr. Brigid Kelly (anniv)
NOON	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b>
3:00PM	Edward & Nellie (Malone) Tolles
5:00PM	
<b>MON.</b>	<b>DECEMBER 13 - ST. LUCY</b>
7:00	Intention of Liam Butler
9:00	Wilhelm Bettinger—(Bi-lingual, It/Eng.)
<b>TUE.</b>	<b>DECEMBER 14 - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS</b>
7:00	Kenneth J. Eschner
9:00	Edward & Nellie (Malone) Tolles
<b>WED.</b>	<b>DECEMBER 15 - ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
7:00	Bernard Helldorfer
9:00	Joseph Begy/Casimir Krzewski
<b>THU.</b>	<b>DECEMBER 16 - ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
7:00	Anna Cavaliere
9:00	Charles Droz
<b>FRI.</b>	<b>DECEMBER 17 - ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
7:00	Tom Reilly
9:00	Kitty Galvin
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>DECEMBER 18 - ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
9:00	<b>collective:</b> James & John Bohan/Pete & Rose LoMurno/Frank Byrne/Int. Sheila Walsh
5:00PM	George Smith
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>DECEMBER 19 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b>
8:00	Julius Aversa
10:00	Il Popolo della Parrocchia/Anna Lattanzio/ Giuseppa Morreale/Salvatore Montalbano/ Domenica e Pietro Martorana/Maria e Francesco VIRRUSO/Pelegirino e Giuseppa Benfari/Constance & Harold Wilken/Neil Greer/ Caterina Diramondo/
NOON	Fire Lt. Kevin J. & William Pfeifer
5:00PM	Daniel Fitzgerald



**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

## **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. Please call the rectory for an appointment and to register your child.

**WEDDINGS MUST** be scheduled at least six months in advance by appointment with a priest or a deacon. Please call the rectory office. **BEFORE YOU MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE CATERING HALL.** For marriage preparation information visit [www.pre-cana.org](http://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 REHEARSALS ARE SUSPENDED.**

**BOY SCOUT TROOP #119 MEETINGS ARE SUSPENDED.**

**CUB PACK #119 MEETINGS ARE SUSPENDED.**

**SENIOR CITIZENS** meet every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon in the Parish Center.

# PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

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 Marchindondo, The Scaturro Family, 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, Anthony Pittelli, Jill Archbold, Fr. Paul Weirichs CP, Hannah Lehman, John Austin Bryzgoria, Dave Kazmier, John Nogiewich, Tim Rooney, Frank Ciccone, Cindy (Peli) Heege, Charlie Krzewski, Helga Zender, Deacon John DeBiase, Tom Haubert, John Miller, Cathie Greulich, Carmen Gonzalez, Edward Stoltzenberg, Santos Santiago, William & Patricia Scharach, Bernard Russo, John & Katie Bryzgoria, Eric Velasquez, Joseph Simon, Emma Green, Mary Policke, Donna Stubbs, Heig Allocca, Joyce Seecheeck, The Valasquez Family, Kathryn Hummel, Caroline Martin, Michelle LaBove, Christine Arundel, Jamie Allison, Eileen Hagan, Regina Caridi, Lenny Masone, Lorraine Colon, James Buchanan, Joseph Guecia, Jacob Zane, Joan Grippo,

***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 James Bohan  
at the request of Margaret & Maurice Bohan.*

### **ALTAR CANDLES THIS WEEK**

*are offered in memory of Anna Cavaliere  
at the request of Peter, Angela & Lauren Arena.*

### **TABERNACLE LAMP THIS WEEK**

*is lit in memory of Gerry Frohnhoefer  
at the request of The St. Vincent dePaul Society.*



**SAINT  
LUCY  
DECEMBER 13**

## TODAY'S READINGS

***Third Sunday in Advent  
Cycle C - Hymnal number 866***

Zep 3:14-18a

Is 12:2-6

Phil 4:4-7

Lk 3:10-18

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 23:2-7, 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, 17-19, 23  
Mt 21:28-32

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

Thursday: Is 54:1-10  
Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b  
Lk 7:24-30

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

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

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a  
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
Heb 10:5-10  
Lk 1:39-45

***From the Pastor's Desk:***

***“Waiting in Fear or Joyful Hope?”***

We've heard some fearful messages over the last few weeks telling us about the troubled end times and the return of Christ in glory and majesty to judge the living and the dead. Now in the middle of Advent we turn our attention to the promised coming of the Messiah two thousand years ago. Once again, the central figure in our Gospel reading is St. John the Baptist. While his message remains consistent, i.e., that there is a need for repentance, yet is there a tone of hope about it. Why repent and reform, if there is no hope for forgiveness and a new beginning?

The response of the people to St. John's call for a radical change of mind and heart (“metanoia” in St. Luke's Greek) may be expressed simply as, “Uh-oh! Now what do we do?” His challenge certainly shook them up, and rightly so. Nevertheless, his response to their implorations for direction should not have come as a surprise to them, for the Law and the Prophets had presented the answer to their questions over and over again throughout the centuries. St. John's instructions may be boiled down to these words of the Prophet Micah:

“You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: only to do justice, to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6: 8)

Like the people in the time of St. John the Baptist and of every other period in history before or since, we also find it disturbing when someone tells us that we have to change our ways, to put our sins behind us, and to accept the grace of God in order to live a new and fuller life of holiness. Although this holy season of Advent is not looked upon as having the penitential gravity of Lent, its purpose is much the same: to enter into a concentrated period of reform and renewal, not simply to celebrate a particularly solemn feast but rather to prepare to receive the Lord always with openness, faith, hope, love, and joy.

That last attitude, joy, often is misplaced in our preoccupation with the more superficial aspects of these December days. We take momentary joy in the displays of our homes, in the foods that we prepare and share, and in the presents that we're able to give, all things that are here today and gone tomorrow. Meanwhile, we can miss the great reason for our lasting joy: our salvation and redemption in Jesus Christ. It is this joy that should mark our celebration today, the Third Sunday of Advent, as we join with all of Holy Mother Church in echoing the words of St. Paul to his disciples in Philippi: “Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again: rejoice! The Lord is near.”

Our celebration of the Lord's birth is less than two weeks off. We probably will spend the intervening time on the incidentals like shopping and decorating and attending premature Christmas parties. We also need to accept St. John's challenge, however, and to work on achieving the joy that will last: the renewal of our lives by the grace of God by putting our sins behind us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and living instead a life of holiness, justice, mercy, compassion, charity, and forgiveness. Then truly will we be children of God.

God the Father never gives up on us but has sent us His only-begotten Son for our redemption. Each day He extends to us His love, pardon, and peace and gives us all that we need to answer the Baptist's challenge. That should be the reason not for fear but for joyful hope as we wait and prepare to celebrate Christ's birth in humility and His future coming in glory.

~ *Fr. Armato*



## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We went **OVER THE TOP** for the **2021 Annual Catholic Appeal** campaign with **\$79,565 in pledges** received from **181 families** against **this year's goal of \$76,014**. That's **104.7% of goal**. **Thanks to all who supported this year's Campaign!**

**Please pay your pledge by Christmas, if you have not done so already.**

Money raised by this campaign is used to support programs for our elderly and youth, nursing facilities, seminarians and retired priests, and other diocesan and parish pastoral needs.

**Please note: NO money received through this campaign is used in the settlement of ANY lawsuits.**



## LESSONS & CAROLS

*You are cordially invited to attend Lessons & Carols **TODAY**, December 12, at 3:00pm. in the church.*

*This year's afternoon will be dedicated to the anniversaries of the Clergy and Religious of our parish.*

*We welcome you back to church and are grateful for your support of our music ministry.*

*Please join the choir and the children of St. Margaret Catholic Academy for a prayerful and spiritual afternoon.*

## PARISH LIFE

Life and mission in the Parish are strong: the **Senior Citizens** have resumed meeting, the **CYO** is up and running again, **adult study groups** have been gathering each week, **altar servers** are back with a new group installed last Sunday, our **Adult Choir** is growing and rehearsing for Christmas, the **Maggie's Little Theatre** troupe are working on a show for February, the **St. Vincent dePaul Society** is busy caring for our neighbors who are in need, and our **Gift Shop** is now open for business with items for Advent and Christmas. **Get involved in the life of YOUR Parish!**

## 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**

The Food Pantry is in need of Holiday foods. Ground coffee (no decaf, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, instant mashed potatoes, jams, gravy and canned fruit. As always, 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!

## 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 15, 2022.**

## CHURCH OPEN HOURS

We are back to 100% occupancy for use of the church for Mass and other celebrations. The Church will be open for private prayer until 12 Noon on weekdays, from 8:30am to 6pm on Saturdays, and between Masses on Sundays.

Come early and/or stay afterwards to pray, and bring someone to Mass with you!

**Please observe these common sense rules for your safety and that of others as we enter into a new phase of the pandemic:**

- ~ Do **NOT** enter the church, if you are feeling sick.
- ~ Church teaching does **NOT** prohibit vaccinations; they are encouraged.
- ~ Wearing a facemask or covering is recommended (and may become mandated), **EVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN VACCINATED**. In your charity, consider those around you.
- ~ Receive Communion in the hand.

## FORMED

**FORMED**, produced by the Augustine Institute, has come to St. Margaret's and is available without charge to all parishioners. All that is needed to visit the website is Internet access and an e-mail account.

**FORMED** is an on-line resource for adult and youth faith formation, prayer, sacramental preparation, and so much more. Recent presentations include videos on Advent and Christmas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Immaculate Conception of the BVM, daily reflections, Parish revival, men's and women's interests, teaching toddlers, saints and heroes for children, and many other interesting topics.

The app can be downloaded very easily to your computer or ROKU and also to your cell phone or iPad so that you can enjoy the presentations wherever you happen to be.

To **register** on FORMED:

- 1) Go to FORMED.org/signup
- 2) Enter our Zip Code, 11379, and select St. Margaret.
- 3) Enter your name and email address.

If you **already have a FORMED account**:

- 1) Go to FORMED.org
- 2) Click on "Sign In"
- 3) Enter your email address
- 4) Click the link to your email
- 5) BOOM! You're in and free to explore to your heart's delight.

## PARISH FINANCES

Thanks to all of you who are responding to the stewardship initiative and continue to support *your* parish as best as possible during these difficult times, whether through e-giving or in-pew offerings!

*Please prayerfully consider your current level of stewardship and commit to increasing your on-going support as your means will allow.*

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 **faithdirect.net** and enter our parish code, **NY299**. You can change your decision later on, as you wish

*A Financial Report will be released to the Parish via the Mass Bells in the coming weeks for your review.*



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

2021

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 18

3:00 to 4:30pm

Monday, December 20

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

### SOLEMNITY OF THE

### LORD'S NATIVITY

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Friday, December 24

5:00pm/ 11:30pm Sacred Music Program/ Midnight

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Saturday, December 25

8:00am, 10:00am (Bilingual - It/Eng.), 12 Noon

### NO EVENING MASS

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY

### THE MOTHER OF GOD

*(not a holy day of obligation)*

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

Friday, December 31

Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Saturday, January 1, 2022

10am (Bilingual - (It/Eng.)), 12 Noon

### NO EVENING MASS

## MARY'S GARDEN

Work has begun on sprucing up the garden areas in front of the Parish Hall as a place for prayer to our Blessed Mother. Some money has been donated already, but further donations are needed. More information will follow shortly.

## ALTAR SERVERS

Congratulations to our newly installed altar servers, and thanks to Fr. Palackal and Linda Andrzejewski for their efforts! We look forward to all of our servers enhancing our celebration of Mass.

## ST. JOSEPH

The *Year of St. Joseph* has come to a close, but continue your devotions to him. You always can **go to Joseph** with your problems.