

# ***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  
Sharon Swift, Principal  
*principal@stmargaretschoolmv.org*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

718-326-0922  
Karen Gonzales  
Coordinator  
*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

## **GIFT SHOP**

Sue Karcher, Coordinator  
*stmmvcalendar@gmail.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:**

*stmmvcalendar@gmail.com*



**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY  
IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
AUGUST 27, 2023**

## **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age!”*

*~ Matthew 28: 19-20*

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### SUN. ~ AUGUST 27 - TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 Anna Roemmelt  
10:00 Anna Carosi  
NOON Chester & Eleanor Kapica  
5:00PM Ann & Frank Colasuonno

### MON. ~ AUGUST 28 - ST. AUGUSTINE

7:00 Augie DeSimone  
9:00 Mariah & James Stephens

### TUE. ~ AUGUST 29 - THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

7:00 Marilyn Shea  
9:00 Robert J. & Karen (Morrissey)  
Schaefer

### WED. ~ AUGUST 30 - WEEKDAY

7:00 Anna Carosi  
9:00 Harvey & Philomina Karcher

### THU. ~ AUGUST 31 - WEEKDAY

7:00 Josephine Walsh  
9:00 Vera Krzewski/Velma Strack

### FRI. ~ SEPTEMBER 1 - WEEKDAY

7:00 Tom Cordero  
9:00 Lena & Gaetano Casasanta

### SAT. ~ SEPTEMBER 2 - WEEKDAY

9:00 **Collective:** Deceased Priests of the  
Brooklyn and Rockville Centre  
Dioceses/Bill & Lee DiGiovanna/  
Jeanette & Anthony Tavarone/  
Souls in Purgatory  
9:30 **Holy Hour**  
5:00PM Marion Veneziano

### SUN. ~ SEPTEMBER 3 - TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 People of the Parish  
10:00 In Onore per la Madonna DiLoreto/  
Marcellino Troia/Maria Curatolo/  
Salvatore & Rita Palmeri/Geraldine  
Ciaccio/Concezio, Francesca,  
Salvatore & Vincent Battaglini/  
NOON Frank Coccaro  
5:00PM Gerard & Jeanie Cirone

**World Day of Prayer**  
**FOR THE CARE OF CREATION**  
1 SEPTEMBER



## PARISH INFORMATION

### Rectory Office Hours

**Monday - Friday - 9am to Noon  
and 1pm to 5pm**

**Saturday - 9am to 2pm**

*Other times by appointment only.*

**Sunday - closed**

**CONFESSIONS** - Saturday, 4:00-4:45 PM.

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

### **THE ROSARY AND DIVINE MERCY**

devotion are prayed every morning in the church  
at 8:30 AM.

**BAPTISMS** take place on the 1st Sunday and 3rd  
Saturday of each month, at 1:30 PM. Please call  
the rectory for an appointment and to register your  
child.

**WEDDINGS MUST** be scheduled at least six (6)  
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).

**ENGLISH CHOIR** rehearses on Wednesdays at  
7 PM in the Church. Tenors and baritones needed!

**THE YOUTH CHOIR** rehearses on Wednesdays  
at 3pm in the Church.

**SENIOR CITIZENS** - first and third Wednesday  
of the month, 11:30am, Parish Center, **beginning**  
**September 6.**

**ALTAR SERVER ASSIGNMENTS HAVE  
RESUMED. SEE SCHEDULE.**

### **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.*

# PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Linda Frazier, Cari Ann Falk-LoBello, Glen Falk, Ronald Frazier, Lee Falk, Justin James Quirke, Allen McConville, The Scaturro Family, James Graff, The Mojica Family, Mary Policke, The Valasquez Family, Caroline Martin, Hazel Scanlon, Pauline Vella, Sam Cianciolo, Jeremiah Harris, Cathy Wilkenson, Maria Cermeli, Frank Marlow, Stephen Crane, Sara Alvarado, Denis Mets, Samantha Cianciolo, Maria Colalella, Vicki Lydecker, Vito Dugandzic, Lisa Lanzetta, Maria Barretta, Paula Kammer, Carol Hensley, Joan Hanahoe, Grace Sorrentino, Bob Bicknese, Jerry Feldman, Kathleen Mercado, Janice McManus-Genevrino, Katie Bryzgoria, Tabitha Hayden, Cecilia Ann Feliciano, Donna & Bo Stubbs, Sharie & Carol Ann Slusser, Darlene Lanza, Matthew Young, James Spoto (FDNY), Bob Weiner, Rose MacNamara, Peter DiRocco, Howard Zissel, Anna Braccioforte, Mark Lewis, Carmella Guerra, Emma Green, Sr. Noemi Valdes, Yulka Vukicevic, Richard Page, Theresa Erdtmann, John Fleisch, Hilda Vannata, Sue Cerbone, M. Ann P.,

***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:

*Rev. Nicholas M. Colalella  
Paul Zwolak*

Pray for first responders and medical personnel.

Pray for the men from our Parish who are serving in  
the defense of our country:

*Lt. Col. Thomas Frohnhoefer  
Sgt. Robert A. Domenici  
Pfc. Alexander Gockley*

Pray for peace in Eastern Europe.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be*



## ***WE RECALL OUR BELOVED DECEASED***

***especially this week:***

***JOHN CORSO***

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and may perpetual light shine upon them!  
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful  
departed, through Thy mercy,  
rest in peace! Amen!*

## MEMORIALS THIS WEEK

### TABERNACLE LAMP

*is lit in memory of Anthony & Jeanette Tavarone.*

## SAVE THE DATE

Msgr. Thelen will be retiring officially at the end of this month. Join us for a farewell celebration at the 12 Noon Mass on Sunday, September 10, to be followed by light refreshments in the Parish Hall.

## TODAY'S READINGS

***Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle A - Hymnal # 988***

Isaiah 22:19-23  
Psalm 138:1-8  
Romans 11:33-36  
Matthew 16:13-20

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: I Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Psalm 149:1-9  
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday: I Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Psalm 139:1-6  
Mark 6:17-29

Wednesday: I Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Psalm 139:7-12  
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday: I Thessalonians 3:7-13  
Psalm 90:3-17  
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday: I Thessalonians 4:1-8  
Psalm 97:1-12  
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday: I Thessalonians 4:9-11  
Psalm 98:1-9  
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday: Jeremiah 20:7-9  
Psalm 63:2-9  
Romans 12:1-2  
Matthew 16:21-27

*"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ"  
~ St. Jerome*

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

### ***“Who do YOU say I am?”***

Summer is often a time to slow down and regroup mentally and physically, a time for some R&R. We meet Jesus with His closest disciples today in a sort of oasis in northern modern-day Israel, a place to rest and reflect and to discuss matters away from the usual bustle of crowds. There are no parables or miracles today, but Jesus asks them a couple of questions. First, who do the people think the Son of Man (a title for the Messiah) is? The Twelve give stock answers based on what they've heard from the crowds. They're not even close to being correct. Then He asks them point blank and personally, “But you, who do YOU say that I am?”

Moving from mere hearsay information, Christ challenges the Twelve to make a commitment. No longer can they simply go by popular opinions and polls. There can be no sitting on the fence. They have to make a choice, a declaration and profession of their own faith in Him that will require clear words backed by a tremendous commitment on their part, even to the point of dying for Him.

Simon sticks his neck out and gives the correct answer: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!” Now, Simon says this not because he's a genius or has made an in-depth study of Scripture or because he's considered the matter for some time. The Father, through the Spirit, has moved him to this insight. In return, Christ bestows two gifts on Simon: a new name and a new position. He is renamed Peter (*Petros* in Greek, *Cephas* in Aramaic), “the Rock”, and he is given the high-priestly custody of the “keys to the Kingdom of Heaven”, to absolve sins or not, as he sees fit.

Peter's answer forms the foundation of what the Church believes. We do not follow just one more prophet among others or even the last and greatest of them. We follow the Incarnate Word, the only-begotten Son of the Father, Who has come from the Father to atone for sins and to reconcile mankind with God. The ancient Fathers of the Church are in agreement that the other Apostles share in what Peter receives as their head: the authority to forgive sins. This sacred office and privileged gift continue today through the ministry of priests, as the successors of St. Peter and the other Apostles, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The question that Christ posed to His twelve closest disciples is the same question that He asks each and every one of us: “Who do YOU say that I am?” How do we answer such a question? Our response cannot be simply an empty statement that we've picked up from study, or have heard from our elders or in some homily. It is more than a simple matter of book learning. Our response must be given not only with the assent of the mind but also, and most especially, by the way that we live our lives as people of faith in intimate union with Jesus Christ.

We have not been created as automatons or walking encyclopedias of religious information. Neither are we merely workers in some social services corporation or members of a prayer group. God has created us for Himself, St. Augustine says, that we might have an intimate relationship with Him in Christ, sharing in the Divine life sacramentally now and, hopefully, in its fullness for all eternity.

We cannot call ourselves Christians, acknowledging Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God”, and then act in knowingly open contradiction to His teachings and those of the Church that He founded, figuring that we always could ask for forgiveness afterwards. Yes, the mercy and compassion of God are beyond measure or human comprehension, but that would be the sin of presumption. God is no fool. He knows the intricate depths of the human heart and mind.

Discipleship in Christ is not a buffet from which we get to choose whatever meets our personal tastes and fancies, leaving the less appealing parts of the Gospel behind. It must be all or nothing at all. If you cannot accept or live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church, you will have to call yourself something else, for the title of “Catholic Christian” has been taken.

It is difficult in these trying times to be a faithful, practicing disciple of Christ, but when has it not been so? We must remember that all of us, in fact all people, are called to live a life of holiness, to act with justice, to stand up for the truth, and to respect the sacred and intrinsic dignity of every human life as having been created in the image and likeness of God, regardless of how the world may ignore Him or try to shut Him out from the human conversation. Christ promises in today's Gospel that even the gates of hell will not hold out against His Church. We are supposed to be that Church today, the Church Militant, warriors for Christ.

So, live boldly, my brothers and sisters, and answer with conviction the question, “Who do YOU say that I am?” Proclaim by your way of life, to the glory of God the Father, that *Jesus Christ is Lord!*

~ ***Fr. Armato***



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

We hold a holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration consisting of Exposition and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, litany, scriptural reading, and time for quiet, personal prayer from 9:30 until 10:30 am on the first Saturday of each month.

**The next holy hour is Saturday, September 2.**

Come and spend some quality time with the Lord and pray for our country!



### PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

Continue to pray the Rosary for peace in Ukraine. May our Lady of Vladimir, Queen of Peace, intercede for her children!

## RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION

On-line registration is now open for our Religious Education Program classes.

Please use [stmargaretre@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretre@gmail.com) for all communication with Mrs. Gonzales.

Copies of the registration form can be picked up at the rectory or church vestibule. Complete and mail it in to the rectory with a check for the fees.

Weekly classes will be held on Tuesdays,  
from 3:30-4:45pm for Grades 1-4;  
and from 5:15-6:30pm for Grades 5-8

**Register by this Wednesday, August 30, to avoid late fees!**

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign is going well, so far, with **\$69,092 pledged already by 118 donors. That's 90.9% of our goal of \$76,014.**

We have "only" **\$6,922 to get to our goal.** Pledge forms are available in church. **Please be sure to designate St. Margaret Parish (#4117) for your donations.**

The Diocese uses the Campaign to provide services to senior citizens, outreach to the needy, youth programs, housing for retired senior priests, and for the formation of seminarians for the priesthood.

## THE ST. VINCENT dePAUL FOOD PANTRY



is located in the Convent  
66-25 79th Place and is open  
**WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY**  
**from 10:00am to 12:00Noon**

Most needed are supermarket gift cards or certificates which **we will use** to buy fresh fruits, eggs, cheese, butter and bread. You can place cards and certificates in the rectory office mail slot.

Again, we thank you for your continued support!

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE PERISHABLE  
ITEMS IN THE BIN IN THE VESTIBULE  
OF 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 on  
Saturday, September 9 at 9:00am.**

## PARISH FINANCES

Thank you for your generosity in the regular and special collections, whether through e-giving or in the collection basket! Our regular expenses, however, continue to outpace our regular income, and our regular collections drop off during the summer vacation months.

Please do your best to support *your* parish.

On-line giving helps to keep your donations current when you are away from the Parish. 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](http://faithdirect.net) and enter our parish code, **NY299**. You can change your decision later on, as you wish.

## CONNECT TO 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: Scripture studies; human sexuality; Our Lady in scripture and sacred art; prayer; the Eucharist; Catholic marriage; saints of August; "Brother Francis" videos for children; and many other 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.

## HOLYLAND PILGRIMAGE

Fr. Joseph Palackal will lead a ten-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land next year, from February 4-13. The price is \$3,699 per person, for round-trip airfare and first-class, double occupancy accommodations.

**Contact Fr. Palackal for more information**  
[jpalackal@gmail.com](mailto:jpalackal@gmail.com)

## BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

**MANY, MANY THANKS** from the New York Blood Center to all who responded to the recent request for much needed blood donations.

The Blood Drive on Sunday, August 13 was a **HUGE SUCCESS!** We are happy to report that **69 units of blood were collected**, a great testament to the dedication of the members of our community. We commend the New York Blood Center staff for a job well done!



## ST. MARGARET GIFT SHOP

**open Sunday, 9am til 1pm**

We have a selection of religious goods:

Rosaries - Medals - Gifts - Crucifixes -  
Statues - Bibles - Books **AND MORE!**

If we don't have it, we'll try to get it for you.

The Gift Shop is located in the rectory.

Please use the red side door in the parking lot.

If the door is closed, please knock.

**Contact: [stmmvcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:stmmvcalendar@gmail.com)**

**CLOSED THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

## CHOIR NEWS

Our adult choir has progressed over the years and has continued to enhance our liturgies, as well as singing for all major liturgies throughout the year.



In addition, it has become a tradition, that the choir offer Lessons & Carols during Advent.

We are always open to new members. Our first rehearsal of the season is **THIS** Wednesday, August 30, at 7pm in the church.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Please! If someone in your family is sick or elderly, call the rectory to arrange for a priest to come to celebrate the Sacraments of Anointing and Reconciliation and to bring them Communion. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy communion also are available to bring Communion to the homebound.

The Sacraments are for the living, not the dead. Don't wait until it's too late!

## FAMILY MASS

Our first "family Mass" of the new pastoral year will be celebrated at 12 Noon on Sunday, September 24. More information will follow shortly.