

ST. MARGARET ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

66-05 79th Place, Middle Village, New York 11379

~ MASS BELLS ~

PASTOR

Rev. ROBERT J. ARMATO

PAROCHIAL VICAR

REV. JOSEPH PALACKAL, CMI

IN RESIDENCE

REV. MICHAEL UDOH

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

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ST. MARGARET CATHOLIC ACADEMY

718-326-0922

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTERS

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GIFT SHOP

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SCHEDULE/CALENDAR:

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**TWENTY-FIFTH
SUNDAY
IN
ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 24, 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. ~ SEPTEMBER 24 - TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
8:00 George Cacioppo
10:00 Filippo e Maria Curatolo/Geraldine Ciaccio/Giuseppe Impastato/Giulia Pugliese/Salvatore Fazzolari
NOON Martin & Charlotte Wintergerst
5:00PM The People of the Parish
- MON. ~ SEPTEMBER 25 - WEEKDAY**
7:00 Connie Salvato (birth)
9:00 Josephine Morreale/Joseph Kresse
- TUE. ~ SEPTEMBER 26 - STS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN**
7:00 Graciela Serra
9:00 Angela M. Lenihan
- WED. ~ SEPTEMBER 27 - ST. VINCENT dePAUL**
7:00 Edward Loftus (anniv)
9:00 Joseph & Florence Dalton
- THU. ~ SEPTEMBER 28 - STS. WENCESLAUS LAWRENCE RUIZ**
7:00 Mark York
9:00 Anthony Lopresti
- FRI. ~ SEPTEMBER 29 - STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL**
7:00 Frony DiCenso
9:00 Cathy Joyce
- SAT. ~ SEPTEMBER 30 - ST. JEROME**
9:00 **Collective:** Stanley Swiatocha/
Harvey & Philomina Karcher
5:00PM The People of the Parish
- SUN. ~ OCTOBER 1 - TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
8:00 Margaret Roemmelt
10:00 Marcellino Troia/Cynthia Martino/
Maria Curatolo/Geraldine Ciaccio
NOON Rita M. Heilman
5:00PM Carl Dokter



SAINTS
MICHAEL,
GABRIEL
AND
RAPHAEL
SEPTEMBER 29

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.

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 - meet the first and third Wednesday of the month, 11:30am, Parish Center.

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 Bryzgornia, 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, Carmela Guerra, Emma Green, Sr. Noemi Valdes, Yulka Vukicevic, Richard Page, Theresa Erdtmann, John Fleisch, Hilda Vannata, Sue Cerbone, M. Ann P., Jamie Allison, Alana Cermeli, John Mattia, Mary Lou Simon, Craig Pacheco,

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

*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

WINE & HOSTS

*are offered in memory of Josephine Gatta
at the request of Isa & Anthony Prozzi.*

RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION

Registration for this year's Religious Education Program classes is now closed. Classes resume at the usual times beginning this Tuesday:

Grades 1-4 ~ 3:30 to 4:45pm
Grades 5-8 ~ 5:15-6:30pm

TODAY'S READINGS

***Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A - Hymnal # 1000***

Isaiah 55:6-9
Psalm 145:2-18
Philippians 1:20-27
Matthew 20:1-16

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ezra 1:1-6
Psalm 126:1-6
Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday: Ezra 6:7-20
Psalm 122:1-5
Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday: Ezra 9:5-9
Tobit 13:2-8
Luke 9:1-6

Thursday: Haggai 1:1-8
Psalm 149:1-9
Luke 9:7-9

Friday: Daniel 7:9-14
Psalm 138:1-5
John 1:47-51

Saturday: Zechariah 2:5-15
Jeremiah 31:10-13
Luke 9:43-45

Sunday: Ezekiel 18:25-28
Psalm 25:4-9
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

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

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Generosity Beyond Measure”

We continue to hear themes of mercy and justice in today's readings, building on last week's Scriptures. They are not exactly what we might expect to find, however, for our ways and thoughts usually do not match God's. Ours are conditioned by our human experiences, whereas God's are eternal and beyond our limited human understanding and comprehension.

Today's Gospel, for example, is enough to give most workers a case of the apoplexy. Our individual reaction to it probably puts us squarely in the camp of the first group of workers who spend the whole day toiling in the heat as opposed to those hired to labor just one hour in the relative cool of the evening after the heavy lifting has been done. We find the disproportionate wages rather disturbing, according to our modern concept of “just wages”, tempered by union demands and governmental employment regulations. “Not fair,” we might cry out. Time to walk out and form picket lines!

Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel follows on St. Peter asking Him, “We've given up everything to follow You. What's in it for us?” to which Christ replies, basically, “You'll get a hundred times whatever you've given up – family, friends, property, goals, everyone and everything you hold dear – AND you will inherit eternal life. But the first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Before we start calculating in terms of dollars and cents or printing up the protest signs, however, we must understand that Christ is not presenting us with a case of heavenly economics and labor practices. It's not quite as simple as that. As He often does, He is using the typical rabbinical language of His times to make a teaching point. Besides, what is the cash value of eternal life?

That question applies to the meaning of the parable. Each of us is called into God's Kingdom and to produce “good fruit” by living rightly in His eyes. Some people respond early on; others respond later in life. The “wages” that are paid to each are the same, though: eternal life, which, being a share in the infinite love of God, cannot be measured. Both infinite love and eternal life are limitless and boundless by their very nature; one cannot have more or less of either.

St. Matthew also presents this parable as a lesson to teach his target community (probably in Syrian Antioch, a mixed group of Gentile and Jewish converts to the Christian Way), who may have been at odds with one another. God would treat the latecomers, i.e., the Gentile disciples who had received and responded to the Good News relatively recently, in exactly the same way as He would the long-term workers, the Jews who had struggled to live by the Covenant for centuries.

This is an important lesson for us, too, for we also respond to the Gospel in different ways, to different degrees, and at different moments in life. Some of us are hard at work, trying to live a holy life from our youth, while others don't come to Christ until late adolescence, mature adulthood, or even the closing of our days. Sometimes, we're deaf to God's call, or we're distracted by or too attached to the things of this world, or we're afraid to respond. Fortunately for us, God is patient and persistent in calling us call to work in His Vineyard so that we might come to share equally in the abundance of His eternal life. Whoever respond to God's call to repent of their sins and reform their lives will find in Him the same abundance of mercy, compassion, love, and forgiveness. Better late than never!

Of course, it's best to know, to love, and to serve God for as much of this life as we can so as to experience even in the here and now a deep and abiding relationship with Him AND to find eternal happiness with Him in the life to come. He isn't cheating anyone who responds early on in life, nor is He wasteful with what He gives to the relative latecomers.

So, turn to God, Who is rich in mercy and abundant in kindness and Who calls us to share in His life and His love. Get active, too, in our little corner of the Vineyard called St. Margaret's Parish. Be thankful that God's ways are not like our ways, nor are His thoughts like ours, for He is generous beyond measure!

~ *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, October 7.

Come and spend some quality time with the Lord



PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

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

2024 MASSES & MEMORIALS

The 2024 book for requesting Masses and memorials for your loved ones will open shortly. Meanwhile, memorials and Masses for 2023 are still available, including Saturday and Sunday morning Masses.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign is going well, so far, with **\$69,655 pledged already by 122 donors. That's 91.6% of our goal of \$76,014.**

We have "only" **\$6,359** to get to our goal. Let's do it before the end of this month! 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 CHURCH!**

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL RALLY

Our Diocese will sponsor a day of Eucharistic Revival at Maimonides Park in Brooklyn Saturday, October 7, from 8am to 3pm, a day of prayer for all ages.

Tickets are free, but must be obtained through the Rectory. Contact the Rectory by this Tuesday so that tickets can be ordered.

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.

Thank you for your generosity in our second collection last weekend in support of the missions. Your donation of \$2,100 has been sent to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

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** 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: gender theory; teenage mental health; happiness in marriage; the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist; the Rosary; St. John Paul II; September saints; daily reflections; "Brother Francis" videos for children; and many other topics for adults and youth.

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.



DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

will be given in
St. Margaret Parish Hall on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
from 9am to 3:30pm

THE COST: \$50.00 per person

THE BENEFITS: 10% discount on liability and collision insurance for 3 years. Up to 4 points deducted from your driving record.

CONTACT: Sister Bridget,
718-326-1911, for more information
or to register.



ST. MARGARET GIFT SHOP

**open Sunday,
9am until 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

HOLYLAND PILGRIMAGE

Fr. Joseph Palackal will lead a ten-day pilgrimage to the Holyland next year, 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

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Sessions will take place during the month of October.

WHY: To increase understanding of the Eucharist
To restore a vibrant belief in the Eucharist
To promote reflection and encourage action in living our Eucharistic belief.

HOW: View Bishop Robert Barron's DVD on the Eucharist (4 sessions)

Refer to Scripture and Church teachings
Discuss questions for understanding and use questions for reflection provided on the different aspects of the Eucharist

Sacred meal; sacrifice; Real Presence
Fr. Joseph will facilitate these sessions and provide instruction for discussion and reflection.

SESSION DATES ARE:

Wednesdays, October 4, 11, 18, 25 at Noon
Thursdays, October 5, 12, 19, 26 at 7:00pm

REGISTRATION

After all Masses - **this weekend**
September 23/24