

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

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
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SCHEDULE/CALENDAR:

stmmvcalendar@gmail.com



**FIRST SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 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. ~ DECEMBER 3 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 Robert Hawd
10:00 Filippo, Leonardo e Maria Curatolo/
Geraldine Ciaccio/Rosaria, Rosario
e Nunzio Taormina/Daniele Bussa/
Intention of Mary Barrins
NOON Fred Basedow
5:00PM The People of the Parish

MON. ~ DECEMBER 4 - ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

7:00 Purgatorial Society
9:00 James Bohan (birth)

TUE. ~ DECEMBER 5 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:00 Philip Composto
9:00 Maria & Pasquale DiFonte

WED. ~ DECEMBER 6 - ST. NICHOLAS

7:00 Guido Carosi
9:00 Margaret Ellen Jehle

THU. ~ DECEMBER 7 - ST. AMBROSE

7:00 Intention of Michael Carthy
9:00 Filippo & Girolama Curatolo
7:30PM The People of the Parish

FRI. ~ DECEMBER 8 - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

7:00 Robert W. Eschner
9:00 Int. Sal & Frances Dortenzio Family
NOON Farrell Shalvey
7:30PM Carol Baston

SAT. ~ DECEMBER 9 - ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

9:00 **Memorial Mass:** Bruna Pamari,
Linda A. Maurer, Calogero Troia, John
Martinkat, Gaudenzia Cipolla, Domenica
Vassallo, Consuelo Farina, Vivian
Santacapita,
5:00PM The People of the Parish

SUN. ~ DECEMBER 10 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 Gaetano Morreale
10:00 Vincenza, Mariano, Salvatore e Rita
Palmeri/Geraldine Ciaccio/Antonino
Catalano
NOON David P. Jones (anniv)
3:00PM **Lessons & Carols**
5:00PM Balbina Russo



FIRST
SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 3

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, James Graff, The Mojica Family, Mary Policke, The Valasquez Family, 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, Carmela Guerra, Emma Green, Sr. Noemi Valdes, Yulka Vukicevic, Richard Page, Theresa Erdtmann, John Flesch, Sue Cerbone, M. Ann P., Jamie Allison, Alana Cermeli, John Mattia, Mary Lou Simon, Craig Pacheco, Mike DeCarlo, Vicki Zelinski, R. Soto, James Buchanan, Elizabeth Devaney, Fr. Paul Wierichs, CP,

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:

**CONSUELO FARINA, VIVIAN SANTACAPITA
CONCETTA ARMANO, ANNA MILILLO**

*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 Salvatore Fazzolari,
at the request of Elena, Ricky & Steven.*



**THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
DECEMBER 8**

TODAY'S READINGS

*First Sunday of Advent
Cycle B - Hymnal # 859*

Isaiah 63:16-19; 64:2-7
Psalm 80:2-19
I Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122:1-9
Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-17
Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10
Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6
Psalm 118:1, 8-9; 19-27
Matthew 7:21-27

Friday: Genesis 3:9-20
Psalm 98:1-4
Ephesians 1:3-12
Luke 1:26-38

Saturday: Isaiah 30:19-26
Psalm 147:1-6
Matthew 9:35-10:1-8

Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:9-14
II Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

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

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Watch, Stay Alert – and Get Busy”

The story is told of a young curate asking his elderly pastor, “What would you do if someone were to come and tell you that Jesus was coming down the block?” Without missing a beat, the elder priest answered, “Look busy!”

Well, all of us, clergy and laity alike, are called to do more than *look* busy. We are supposed to be busy every day, working to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth. The opportunities and the ways in which we go about it vary, but each of us has a role to play in God's plan for the salvation of the world.

That doesn't mean that we must be “gotta-run-gotta-do” all the time, but everything that we say and do should have a positive impact on the world around us. Whether we are praying privately or in common, or doing some corporal or spiritual work of mercy as noted in last week's Gospel, or reading and meditating on the Scriptures, or just quietly reflecting on God's presence in our lives, everything is to be centered in God and done for love of Him. We should begin in prayer, be sustained by prayer, and conclude with prayer.

Moreover, we are to be docile, open to being formed by God like the clay in the hands of a potter who intends to make beautiful, useful things. We are not simply things created casually at whim, though. Our true and faithful God has created us for Himself, that we might have “fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,” and share in His love and eternal life. As such, we are given both responsibilities to participate in the work of God and the grace needed to fulfill those responsibilities. We have been “enriched in every way” in Christ Jesus, St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Corinthians, so that we “are not lacking in any spiritual gift as [we] wait for the revelation [i.e., the Coming] of our Lord Jesus Christ.” This holy season of Advent isn't just a matter of preparing to celebrate Christmas, but is also a time to prepare to receive Christ when He returns in glory.

Both the responsibilities and the gifts are awesome (i.e., filled with awe). We, the created, are to share intimately in the life and work of the Creator as His beloved children. God has entrusted us with much; we must act responsibly toward carrying out the mission that we have been given, not tiring of being the one who always responds in the midst of those who couldn't care less, or of simply waiting around for the Lord to give us some spectacular Cecil B. DeMille sign that we're on the proper course.

So how can we be on constant guard duty, keeping a perpetual watch, that the Lord may not catch us sleeping? We are properly prepared when we live our lives according to the Gospel, i.e., to the teachings of Christ and of His Church. This can be quite difficult in a world that has wandered far from the Truth, whose deeds are sinful and unclean, polluted and withered. Yet, God remains with us just as He was with the ancient Chosen People of Israel and all the faithful since.

In the face of all that is morally wrong, we are to persevere by the grace of God in doing what is right; in the face of evil, to persevere in doing what is holy; in the face of injustice, to do what is just in the eyes of God; in the face of what divides people from one another, to strive for unity, centered, not in some shifting political ideology or popular secular agenda, but in a solid relationship with God.

We know not when, but the Lord Jesus will come suddenly “like a thief in the night”, not only at the end of all time, but also at the end of *our* time. Meanwhile, He calls us to be vigilant, to be watchful and alert. That doesn't mean that we should lock ourselves in our homes, Bible in one hand and the Rosary in the other, waiting for Jesus to come and get us.

Instead, it means that we must live each day not in fear but rather in joyful hope of His returning to bring us into the fullness of His own divine life, sharing in the Father's joy. It also means that we must grow more deeply and profoundly in our relationship with Him each day through prayer, frequent celebration of the Sacraments, and acts of loving service to God and one another.

May Christ find us watchful and alert whenever He returns, by doing as He has commanded us: loving one another as He has loved us. Then we will be prepared to receive Him whenever He comes and knocks to bring us home to the House of the Father!

~ *Fr. Armato*

YOUNG ADULTS HOLY HOUR

Our next holy hour for young adults (18 through 30-something) will take place on Thursday, December 14 at 7:30pm in the church.

All are welcome!



PRAYERS FOR PEACE

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

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas. We must not forget the sacramental needs of the homebound with respect to Anointing of the Sick, Confession, and Holy Communion.

Please call the rectory to arrange for a priest to come to celebrate these Sacraments with the elderly or infirm as soon as possible so that we can schedule a visit.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thanks to the 146 families who have participated so far, we have gone over our 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign goal. So far, **\$81,065 has been pledged. That's 106.6% of our goal of \$76,014, with an average of \$5,051!**

There is still time for you to donate. All money received over goal by the end of this year will return to our Parish and will be applied toward the expenses for the unexpected replacement of the boiler in the Parish Hall, which cost us about \$40,000. *Please remember to finish paying your pledge in full by Christmas.*

Please be sure to designate St. Margaret Parish (#4117) for your donations.



**SAINT
NICHOLAS
DECEMBER 6**

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

The pantry is in need of ground coffee, tuna, pasta sauce, cereal, canned fruit, soup, peanut butter, jelly. Please bring one item or more of the above items.

We also can use 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!**

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, December 9 at 9:00am. See pg. 2 of this bulletin for listings.

PARISH FINANCES

Thank you for your generosity in the regular and special collections, whether through e-giving or in the collection basket!

We are trying to provide regular services with a reduced staff. Our in-pew collections fluctuate from week to week and continue to fall short of covering our regular operating expenses despite budget cuts. .

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: Advent preparation; Advent wreaths; "Mary of Nazareth"; Jesus and the Eucharist; Catholic marriage; Catholic customs; videos for children; family activities; 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.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

*to join our adult and children's
Choirs for an afternoon of*

Lessons and Carols

*which will be dedicated to a peaceful
resolution to the conflicts of the world
and for the well being of our children,
now, and in the future.*

*This prayerful and spiritual service will
take place on Sunday, December 10, 2023,
at 3:00pm in the Church.*

*The singing of hymns is one of the best ways to put
ourselves in tune with the "Spirit of the Lord"*



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

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Once again, the St. Vincent dePaul
Society is sponsoring the Christmas

"Giving Tree"

Proceeds will go to less fortunate children in our
parish and neighboring parishes.

WHAT: New, **unwrapped** toys or clothing for
children ages infant to 12 years.

WHEN: **Through December 6**

WHERE: Please choose a gift card, (or two)
from the vestibule of the church and return your
gifts to the black bin in the church, or the convent,
(66-25 79 Place) on Wednesday or Saturday from
10am until 12 Noon.

Thank you for your generosity, may you have a
blessed Christmas!



SAVE THE DATES

NEXT Sunday, December 10, 3:00pm
Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 18 - **"Mercy Monday"**
Confessions will be heard:
7:30-9:00am, 3:00-5:00pm and 7:00-8:00pm

Saturday, January 13, 5:00pm
**SM School/Academy 160th Anniversary
Mass followed by Dinner-Dance**