

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
Phone: 718-326-1911
Fax: 718-326-1883
E-mail: stmargaretmv@gmail.com
Website: www.stmargaretmv.com

SCHEDULE/CALENDAR:

stmmvcalendar@gmail.com



**SECOND SUNDAY
OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 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 10 - SECOND SUNDAY IN 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

MON. ~ DECEMBER 11 - ST. DAMASUS I, POPE

7:00 Mary Benevento
9:00 Leonardo Curatolo

TUE. ~ DECEMBER 12 - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

7:00 Sr. Brigid Kelly (anniv)
9:00 Lauretta Burriesci

WED. ~ DECEMBER 13 - ST. LUCY

7:00 Anna Carosi
9:00 (IT/EN) Edward & Nellie (Malone) Tolles

THU. ~ DECEMBER 14 - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

7:00 Amelia Oswald
9:00 Vincent Familio (birth)
7:30PM Holy Hour

FRI. ~ DECEMBER 15 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:00 Irene & Arthur Connolly
9:00 Joseph Begy/Casimir Krzewski

SAT. ~ DECEMBER 16 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

9:00 **Collective:** Helen & Elizabeth
Melchior/Rosa Melchior (anniv)/
Roberto & Maria A. Cacciatore/
Concetta & John Aversa
5:00PM

SUN. ~ DECEMBER 17 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 The People of the Parish
10:00 James Bohan (anniv)/Caterina
Diraimondo/Concetta Armano/
Francesco DeCapite/
NOON Robert Saar
5:00PM Daniel Fitzgerald



SECOND
SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 10

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, Lorraine Colon,

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:

CHARLOTTE KRAUS, EILEEN A. MORAGLIA,

*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 Charles Droz.

ALTAR CANDLES

*are offered in memory of David P. Jones
at the request of Barbara Mundy.*

TABERNACLE LAMP

*is lit in memory of the deceased
members of St. Margaret Choir.*

TODAY'S READINGS

*Second Sunday of Advent
Cycle B - Hymnal # 862*

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 85:9-14
Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zechariah 2:14-17
Judith 13:18-19
Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday: Isaiah 40:25-31
Psalm 103:1-10
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday: Isaiah 41:13-20
Psalm 145:1, 9-13
Matthew 11:11-15

Friday: Isaiah 48:17-19
Psalm 1:1-6
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday: Sirach 48:1-11
Psalm 80:1-19
Matthew 17:9-13

Sunday: Isaiah 61:1-11
Luke 1:46-54
I Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-28

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

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Prepared?”

This holy season of Advent is always one of intense preparation. We're a week into the season, and it appears that it's just dawning on people that this is the shortest Advent possible – four Sundays, but only three weeks – barely time to get everything done by Christmas, which will be in just two weeks!

For what are we preparing our hearts, though, and how prepared are we? Our focus in the first half of Advent (up to December 17) should not be on celebrating the First Coming of our Savior at Christmas in Bethlehem. That is what the second half of the season is all about. Even then, however, it's very easy for us to stray off course. The premature playing of Christmas and secular “songs of the season”, as good as the intentions may be to lift spirits, doesn't help us to focus properly.

The Scriptures today speak to us about two historical events: the promise of a Savior to the Children of Israel seven centuries before Christ and the fulfillment of that promise by the mysteriously unnamed One heralded by St. John the Baptist. (Spoiler alert: That would be his cousin, Jesus Christ.)

Isaiah proclaimed a word of hope, consolation, and reconciliation to Israel and called for the people to prepare a royal highway for the coming of a redeemer who, though more powerful than any conquering general, would come with the compassionate tenderness of a shepherd to put an end to their suffering and disgrace and to make all things new. The people were to prepare this highway symbolically by returning to the Covenant, living according to the Commandments and the teachings of Moses and the Prophets, and by removing the obstacles, distractions, and infidelities that impeded their relationship with God. The call was for a radical change of heart, of the center of their being, by reforming their lives.

Just about 700 years later, St. John the Baptist also called the people to repent of their sins, their spiritual obstacles, so as to be forgiven by God and thereby enter into a new, right relationship with Him. St. John set the stage to prepare the people for the coming fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, and thousands heeded his call.

The messages of Isaiah and St. John are not simply matters of historical events, though. They are prophets for our own days as well as their own. Their challenges apply equally well to us today, indeed, to people of every age, for every person has need for repentance and reformation, whether our sins be great or small.

With all the typical and exceptional ups and downs of this year, some good things, hopefully, have come along, like a greater appreciation for life and the love of family and friends. Hopefully, we have opportunities to slow down and to examine our lives and relationships with God and one another, as well as to give us more time for prayer – private and communal. We also can take time for putting ourselves on a straighter path so as to hasten the Coming of the Lord by conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, as St. Peter urges in today's epistle.

It's very easy to get distracted by things of lesser or no importance at this time of year. The so-called “Christmas” specials and movies are but one example (even without Hallmark's Christmas-in-July programming). We still have a tendency to spend more time on decorating and cleaning the house, shopping for gifts, and preparing holiday foods than we do in decorating our lives with good works, cleansing our souls through sacramental confession, doing acts of charity and forgiveness, and nourishing our souls with the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

As much as we might not care to think about it (though we should), Christ will come suddenly, at the end of all time and, more immediately, at the end of our time. For God, time is one eternal “now”; ours on this earth is not. We do not know how much of it we've been given, but, as St. Peter assures us, God offers us enough to repent of our sins and come to newness of life through His Holy Spirit.

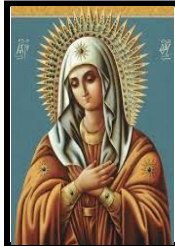
Be attentive, then, to the call to remove the obstacles of sin and fear that separate you from receiving God's loving mercy and forgiveness. May we truly prepare the way of the Lord, celebrating soon His first coming with joy and ready to receive Him with hope and love when He comes again in glory. Prepare!

~ *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!

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thanks to the 147 families who have participated so far, we have gone over our 2023 Annual Catholic appeal Campaign goal. So far, **\$81,465 has been pledged. That's 107.2% of our goal of \$76,014, with an average of \$5,451!**

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.

SAVE THE DATES

Monday, December 18 - "Mercy Monday"

Confessions will be heard:

7:30-9:00am, 3:00-5:00pm and 7:00-8:00pm

Saturday, December 23, 3:30 -4:45pm

Last opportunity for confession before Christmas

Saturday-Monday, December 23-25

Blessing of Christ Child for family creches at all Masses

Saturday, January 13, 5:00pm

SM School/Academy 160th Anniversary Mass followed by Dinner-Dance

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, January 13 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!

We are trying to provide regular services with a reduced staff, but we still fall far 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 aids; saints of December; the Eucharist; our Blessed Mother; Advent and Christmas 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.



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



**SAINT
LUCY
DECEMBER 13**



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

2023

LESSONS & CAROLS

Today, Sunday, December 10, 3:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 18

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

Saturday, December 23

4:00 to 4:45pm

SOLEMNITY: THE LORD'S NATIVITY

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Sunday, December 24

5:00pm and Midnight

Carols at 11:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Monday, December 25

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

NO EVENING MASS

SOLEMNITY: MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

(New Year's Eve)

Sunday, December 31

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

12 Noon, 5:00pm

(New Year's Day)

Monday, January 1, 2024

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

NO EVENING MASS

Mass times are subject to change.

Please check Mass Bells.

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 **TODAY** Sunday, December 10
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"*

