

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
Sharon Swift, Principal
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

718-326-0922
Karen Gonzales
Coordinator
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MUSIC MINISTRY

718-326-1911
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Diane Competello, Asst. Director
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LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTERS

Kathryn Burger Hazel Scanlon
Jeanne Perry Sue Karcher

GIFT SHOP

Sue Karcher, Coordinator
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CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICES:

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SCHEDULE/CALENDAR:

stmmvcalendar@gmail.com



**THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
GAUDETE SUNDAY
DECEMBER 17, 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 17 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / GAUDETE SUNDAY
8:00	The People of the Parish
10:00	Caterina Diraimondo/Francesco DeCapite/James Bohan (anniv)/ Concetta Armano
NOON	Robert Saar
5:00PM	Daniel Fitzgerald
MON. ~	DECEMBER 18 - ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:00	Tom, Rosaleen, Catherine and Michael Reilly
9:00	James Bohan (anniv)
TUE. ~	DECEMBER 19 - ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:00	John Connolly
9:00	Pete & Rose LoMurno
WED. ~	DECEMBER 20 - ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:00	Agatha & Louie Palumbo
9:00	Loretta Prosser
THU. ~	DECEMBER 21 - ST/ PETER CANISIUS
7:00	Marie Sparacio
9:00	Joe Reilly
FRI. ~	DECEMBER 22 - ADVENT WEEKDAY
7:00	John Reissig
9:00	Rosaleen, Tom, Catherine and Michael Reilly
SAT. ~	DECEMBER 23 - ST. JOHN OF KANTY
9:00	Collective: Karl Sippenauer (anniv)/ Giacomino Gennari
5:00PM	Anna & Julius Averna
SUN. ~	DECEMBER 24 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:00	Anna Roemmelt
10:00	Il Popolo della Parrocchia/Mary Jean Agustin/Ted Lubanski
NOON	Peter Bojceniuik
	CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00PM	Carl Dokter/Louise Moeller/Karen & Robert Schaefer/George Smith
11:30PM	Christmas carols
MIDNIGHT	The People of the Parish



THIRD
SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
GAUDETE SUNDAY
DECEMBER 17

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, Martina Bruno, John Abel, Anthony Fiorello,

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:***

Giuseppe Gagliano,

*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 Peter Bojceniuk
at the request of Helen Bojceniuk.*

ALTAR CANDLES

*are offered in memory of Peter Bojceniuk
at the request of Helen Bojceniuk.*

TABERNACLE LAMP

*is lit in memory of Peter Bojceniuk
at the request of Helen Bojceniuk.*

TODAY'S READINGS

*Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday
Cycle B - Hymnal # 865*

Isaiah 61:1-11
Luke 1:46-54
I Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8; 19-28

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jeremiah 23:5-8
Psalm 72:1-19
Matthew 1:18-24

Tuesday: Judges 13:2-25
Psalm 71:3-17
Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday: Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-17
Luke 1:26-38

Thursday: Song of Solomon 2:8-14 or
Zephaniah 3:14-18
Psalm 33:2-21
Luke 1:39-45

Friday: I Samuel 1:24-28;
I Samuel 2:1-8
Luke 1:46-56

Saturday: Malachi 3:1-24
Psalm 25:4-14
Luke 1:57-66

Sunday: II Samuel 7:1-16
Psalm 89:2-29
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

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

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Rejoice!”

The season of Advent continues to find us scurrying about, scrambling (even more so this year, with a shortened Advent) to get shopping and decorating and food preparation done in the weeks leading up to Christmas. We often find ourselves coming up short in the midst of our busyness: another gift left unbought, another decoration left un-hung, another delicacy left unprepared, another card to write. We're so busy, in fact, that we forget what we're supposed to be about: namely, proclaiming the Gift of salvation in Christ Jesus and preparing His way.

The first reading and Gospel passage for this Third, or Gaudete (“Rejoice!”), Sunday of Advent, speak to us once again about two prophets, Isaiah and St. John the Baptist, who were chosen by God some seven centuries apart to proclaim the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. The prophecies of both men were fulfilled, not by the prophets themselves, but by Jesus of Nazareth at His first coming.

St. Luke records that Jesus read Isaiah's prophecy at the synagogue in Nazareth in an act that almost cost Him very His life as he began His mission of redemption, and St. John testified to the coming of the true Light of the Messiah, admitting with great humility that he himself was not the Promised One.

This Sunday takes its name from St. Paul's instruction to his disciples in Thessalonica, northern Greece, to “rejoice always!” He encouraged them in today's epistle to persevere in doing what is right while waiting for Christ to return in glory when He would perfect the faithful in holiness: “The One Who calls you is faithful, and He will also accomplish it.”

Like Isaiah and St. John the Baptist, you and I have been called to proclaim Jesus Christ, the often-unrecognized Messiah, and to restore a sense of hope in the desert of a world made dry and despondent by sin and which has closed its eyes to the mercy, joy, and faithfulness of our God, Who never abandons His children. Like the Thessalonians, you and I also must persevere in constant prayer of supplication and thanksgiving, and in good works, rejoicing in hope founded upon our faith in Christ and our experiences of His presence in our lives.

Moreover, you and I, as latter-day prophets (those through whom God speaks to the world), are to proclaim the love that God has for all people by the way that we live according to the teachings of Christ and His Church. The message of this “Good News” is to go out to all people in every age through the words and deeds of His chosen ones, His disciples, who have been anointed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit and set apart for continuing His saving and reconciling mission.

Prepare the way of the Lord! This is the task that we have been chosen and sent to proclaim. First, however, we must prepare ourselves by straightening out our own lives, ridding ourselves of our sins (our failures to love God and one another) through confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Then, we must grow stronger in our faith through a constant awareness of God's presence. We do this through prayer and the celebrations of the Sacraments, so that we may put to good use the varied gifts, the talents, which God has given to each one of us for building up His Kingdom here and now.

Therefore, we need to be attentive to the call of the prophets – ancient and modern – to remove the obstacles of sin and fear that separate us from receiving God's loving mercy and forgiveness. Prepare not only your home, but also your soul, the dwelling place of God's Holy Spirit within you. We, too, have been “clothed with a robe of salvation and wrapped in a mantle of justice.”

Let us remember, then, to prepare the way of the Lord in this busy season, to carry the true Light to the world by celebrating Christ's first coming with joy, proclaiming His presence among us, and remaining faithful, constantly ready to receive Him with joyful hope and love when He comes again in glory. Rejoice!

~ *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, January 6.

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



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

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday and Monday, December 24-25

Blessing of Christ Child for family creches at all Masses.

"GAUDETE" SUNDAY

On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is rose-colored. The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." This celebration is a reminder that God who loves us, is still in charge, and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy!

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 the our Lady of Fatima, the Sacraments, Scripture study, videos to keep the kids occupied during Presidents Week, and much more.

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.



**CHEERS TO
160 ACADEMIC YEARS!**

Please join us for our Anniversary

GALA

*January 13, 2024
Celebratory Mass at 5:00pm
Reception at 6:00pm - Parish Center*

*\$50.00 per ticket
Dinner, beer, wine, soda included.
To purchase tickets, please call the
school office, 718-326-0922*



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

2023

CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 18

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

Saturday, December 23

3:30 to 4:45pm

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Saturday, December 23, 5:00pm

Sunday, December 24

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

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

FEAST: HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 30, 5:00pm

Sunday, December 31

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

SOLEMNITY: MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday, December 31, 5:00pm

Monday, January 1, 2024

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

NO EVENING MASS

Mass times are subject to change.

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