

# ***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](mailto:stmargaretmv@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.stmargaretmv.com](http://www.stmargaretmv.com)**

## **SCHEDULE/CALENDAR:**

*stmmvcalendar@gmail.com*



**FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 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. ~ DEC. 24 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
8:00 Anna Roemmelt  
10:00 Il Popolo della Parrocchia/  
Mary Jean Agustin/Ted Lubanski  
NOON Peter Bojceniuk

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
5:00PM Carl Dokter/Louise Moeller/Karen  
& Robert Schaefer/George Smith  
11:30PM Carols  
MIDNIGHT People of the Parish

**MON. ~ DEC. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY**  
8:00 Stuart DeBold  
10:00 Filippo, Leonardo e Maria Curatolo/  
Geraldine Ciaccio/Salvatore e Rita  
Palmeri/Calogero e Maria Ciaccio/  
Pellegrino e Giuseppa Benfari/  
Maria e Francesco Virruso  
NOON Anna Nick & Family/Stalzer Family  
**NO EVENING MASS**

**TUE. ~ DEC. 26 - ST. STEPHEN**  
7:00 John Pascale  
9:00 Robert Pozarycki

**WED. ~ DEC. 27 - ST. JOHN, APOSTLE  
AND EVANGELIST**  
7:00 Philomina Karcher (anniv)  
9:00 Lugarda Urena

**THU. ~ DEC. 28 - THE HOLY INNOCENTS**  
7:00 Carol McDonald (birth)  
9:00 Rev. Msgr. John Lavin (anniv)

**FRI. ~ DEC. 29 - ST. THOMAS BECKET**  
7:00 Tom Cordero  
9:00 Robert R. Gockley, Sr.

**SAT. ~ DEC. 30 - OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY  
OF THE LORD**  
9:00 **Collective:** John & Theresa Rice/  
Marco J. Colalella/Vittorio e Angelina  
Grillo  
5:00PM Santora, Cermeli & Gardini Families

**SUN. ~ DEC. 31 - THE HOLY FAMILY**  
8:00 Mary, Edith & Anna Vassallo  
10:00 Davide Colalella (bith)/Eileen Moraglia  
NOON The People of the Parish

**SOLEMNITY: MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**  
5:00PM Frank & Anthony F. Cocco

## 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** - 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.*



**FOURTH  
SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT  
DECEMBER 24**

# 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:*

**Christopher Joseph Yaipen**

*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  
Gaetano & Josephine Morreale  
at the request of their Grandchildren.*

### ALTAR CANDLES

*are offered in memory of Louis & Jean Meyers  
at the request of their Grandchildren.*

### TABERNACLE LAMP

*is lit in memory of Maria Bachman  
at the request of Ben Armato, uncle.*

## TODAY'S READINGS

*Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Cycle B - Hymnal # 868*

II Samuel 7:1-16; Psalm 89:2-5; 27, 29  
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Vigil Mass - Hymnal #870

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89:4-29; Acts 13:16-25;  
Matthew 1:1-25

Mass at Night (Midnight) - Hymnal 871

Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96:1-13; Timothy 2:11-14;  
Luke 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn - Hymnal 872

Isaiah 62:11-12; Psalm 97:1-12; Timothy 3:4-7;  
Luke 2:15-20

Mass during the Day - Hymnal 873

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-6; Hebrews 1:1-6;  
John 1:1-18

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3-17;  
Matthew 10:17-22

Wednesday: I John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-12;  
John 20:1, 2&8

Thursday: I John 1:5, 2:2; Psalm 124:2-8  
Matthew 2:13-18

Friday: I John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-6  
Luke 2:22-35

Saturday: I John 2:12-17; Psalm 96:7-10  
Luke 2:36-40

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-14; Psalm 128:1-5;  
Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

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

*From the Pastor's Desk:*

*“The Gift beyond All Imagining”*

Imagine that you intend to give a gift to that special someone in your life. Before you can give your gift, however, that person gives you an even greater gift, one to which yours cannot compare. Such are the scenes presented in today's first reading and Gospel.

David thought that he'd repay God for all the blessings that he had received by building God a grand temple in Jerusalem, a house in which God could dwell among His people rather than in the tent where the Ark of the Covenant had been kept for centuries. Surely, God would be grateful for David's gift (as if any building could contain Him).

Instead, God had something far grander prepared for David: a “house” – not a palace built of fine stone and cedar, but a posterity that would last throughout the ages. For a society that believed that one's memory was blessed and kept alive only through descendants, there was nothing greater to achieve or to receive, the Christian theological concept of eternal life not yet having been developed at that point.

In the Gospel passage, God's Gift of Himself to Mary also would outdo Mary's gift of herself to God. The Angel's greeting to her refers to her as “full of grace”. In a sort of preemptive strike against Satan by the saving act of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, there was no trace of sin in Mary's life, consecrated to God from the very moment of her conception. As if that were not enough, Mary was given the singular honor of being the true tabernacle and dwelling place of God in the midst of His creation. She was to be the Mother of God in the sense that the Child to be born of her would be truly God and truly human, as confirmed at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in 431.

That's all nice, but where does it leave us? What sort of gift can we give to God, when He constantly and immeasurably beats every gift that He is offered? Well, it's not a matter of competition, since we'd lose every time, but there is a sense in which we can match God. The only thing that we can offer God, Who has given us everything – our very life, our redemption from sin, and a share in His own divine life – is to offer Him ourselves. That is to say, we are to accept His grace in order to live as He has taught us through His Commandments, the Prophets, His Son, the teachings of the Church, the lives of the saints, and the example of the good people whom we ourselves have known.

This year, as happens every five or six years, we will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning and the Vigil Mass of Christmas at 5 pm. (Sorry, no “twofers”!) Christ is not one more in a long line of prophets. He is the very fulfillment of all of the promises of reconciliation and salvation that God made to humanity from Adam and Eve onward. It's easy to get caught up in the sentimentality of this holy season, especially tonight with beautiful music and family suppers and exchanging of gifts, focusing on things that are so much less than the reality that we are going to celebrate. The distractions this year also may be great, between the wars abroad, social unrest in our own country, the resurgence of diseases, economic woes, natural disasters worldwide, and perhaps more personal losses, but our hope and our trust should remain with God, firmly supported by our faith in Him.

What can we offer to God, Who has no need of anything? He certainly doesn't need us, but He does want us. He has made us for Himself, St. Augustine said, to share His love; we are His, we belong to Him, sang the psalmist. At the same time, He is also ours. He is Emanuel, God with us, Who has given Himself to us despite our unworthiness, and so we are to give Him ourselves in return – body and soul.

We never lose or forfeit our lives when we surrender them to the will and love of our gracious God. It is only when we do that that we truly will receive the Gift beyond all imagining: no bows, ribbons, or wrappings, and even better than the gift that David received, for we shall receive the fullness of God's promises and the reality of eternal life, united with Him as His children in the joys of His Kingdom.

May the joy, peace, and love of the Christ Child be with you! God bless us, every one!

~ *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 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 overage 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.**

## COMING IN FEBRUARY 2024

**Maggie's Little Theater  
Production of**

STEEL  
*Magnolias*

### PERFORMANCE DATES

Saturdays, February 3 & 10 at 8:00pm

Sundays, February 4 & 11 at 2:30pm

Friday, February 9 at 8:00pm

**TICKETS ON SALE JANUARY 2, 2024**

## 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**

## 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. 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

## PLEASE TAKE NOTE ...

Sunday and Monday, December 24-25

***Blessing of Christ Child for family creches  
at all Masses.***

## 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.



## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - 2023**

### **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.*



## ***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, and soda included.*

*To purchase tickets, please call the  
school office, 718-326-0922*

## **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](mailto:stmmvcalendar@gmail.com)**