

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
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
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CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICES:

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SCHEDULE/CALENDAR:

stmmvcalendar@gmail.com



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 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 31 - THE HOLY FAMILY**
8:00 Mary, Edith & Anna Vassallo
10:00 Davide Colalella (birth)/
Eileen Moraglia
NOON The People of the Parish
SOLEMNITY: MARY MOTHER OF GOD
5:00PM Frank & Anthony F. Cocco
- MON. ~ JANUARY 1, 2024 - SOLEMNITY: MARY MOTHER OF GOD**
10:00 Anna e Guido Carosi/Frances e
Louis Tavarone
NOON John Pascale
NO EVENING MASS
- TUE. ~ JANUARY 2 - STS. BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN**
7:00 Purgatorial Society
9:00 Velma Begy
- WED. ~ JANUARY 3 - CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY**
7:00 Manuel Celleri
9:00 Enrico Franzese
- THU. ~ JANUARY 4 - ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON**
7:00 Madeline Sepe
9:00 Louis Meyers
- FRI. ~ JANUARY 5 - ST. JOHN NEUMANN**
7:00 Elizabeth Petersen
9:00 Sr. Rose Godfrey Cerar
- SAT. ~ JANUARY 6 - ST. ANDRE BESSETTE**
9:00 **Collective:** Deceased Priests of the Brooklyn & Rockville Centre Dioceses/Bill & Lee DiGiovanna/
Souls in purgatory
Holy Hour
9:30 Annette Scalise
5:00PM
- SUN. ~ JANUARY 7 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
8:00 The People of the Parish
10:00 Ada Bajlo/Geraldine Ciaccio
NOON Thomas Mazza
5:00PM Angie & Rick Ferzola



THE
HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY
AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 31

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, The Valasquez Family, Pauline Vella, Maria Cermeli, Maria Colalella, Maria Barretta, Paula Kammer, Carol Hensley, Joan Hanahoe, Grace Sorrentino, Bob Bicknese, Janice McManus-Genevrino, Katie Bryzgornia, 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, Anthony DiChiara, Zofia Dirocco,

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:

JANE ADDARIO, ELIZABETH DEVANEY

*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 Lugarde Urena
at the request of The Parente Family.*

TABERNACLE LAMP

is lit in memory of Edward Twomey.

ALTAR CANDLES

*are offered in memory of Thaddeus Lubanski
at the request of the Lubanski Family.*

TODAY'S READINGS

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Cycle B - Hymnal # 874*

Sirach 3:2-14
Psalm 128:105
Colossians 3:12-21
Hebrews 11:8-19
Luke 2:22-40

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 67:2-8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:15-21

Tuesday: I John 2:22-28
Psalm 98:1-4
John 1:19-28

Wednesday: I John 2:29-3:6
Psalm 98:1-6
John 1:29-34

Thursday: I John 3:7-10
Psalm 98:1-9
John 1:35-42

Friday: I John 3:11-21
Psalm 100:1-5
John 1:43-51

Saturday: I John 5:5-13
Psalm 147:12-20
Mark 1:7-11

Sunday: Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-13
Ephesians 3:2-6
Matthew 2:1-12

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

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Family, Faith, and Faithfulness”

The term “family” has different meanings. For instance, we speak about the human family, or a family of nations or of languages, or, biologically, of animals and plants.

The word conjures up various images in people’s minds. The 1950s TV image of a father, a mother, and two or more children seems dated today. We are told that this model not only is not comprehensive enough but also is downright discriminatory. One has only to look at the so-called families on modern TV programs to see the distorted diversity of the “new norms”, each of which, we are told, is to be accepted as equally valid and true as the old model in which many, if not most, of us were raised. A family, however, is not just a random collection of characters, as the PC/woke crowd wants us to believe.

A true family is one that images the Most Holy Trinity. Therefore, it is to be a communion of persons united by the ties of mutual love, i.e., the total giving of the self to the other, in the manner of the Persons of the Divine Trinity. The proper human family, then, begins with a husband and a wife bound together in a permanent and faithful covenant of love, which, if physically fruitful, may be blessed with the birth of one or more children. This is what Professor Scott Hahn refers to as “the first society” in his excellent book by that name, which I strongly recommend for everyone to read.

The family is the basic building block of all of society, whether secular (our local community, city, nation, or the world), or religious (our parish, the diocese, or the universal Church), among others. Each of these entities is composed of a family of families united together, each one carrying out its proper role in the structure of the greater society in order to achieve a common good. As such, the family is the initial and natural setting in which children are born, nurtured, and formed to share in the life, traditions, and heritage of the larger community, and where they are taught respectful and proper human relationships with and responsibilities toward other persons.

Although this once was considered the norm, many people today struggle with it, going their own way of life in alternative relationships. Many of these are temporary, some are sadly unsuccessful, and others even are destructive to the parties involved. What is missing in so many cases is that unifying bond of true love (not merely romantic, physical, or affectionate feelings) that unites a man and a woman and brings them together in a permanent bond for their own mutual good, that of their offspring, and that of the greater community.

On today’s feast of the Holy Family, the Scriptures speak to us, quite naturally, of families of faith, namely, of our ancestors in the Faith: the elderly couple Abraham and Sarah in the first and second readings, and the young Holy Family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in the Gospel. The former are given to us as examples of people whose strong faith enabled them to trust in God’s goodness, as strange as its realization may have seemed to them at the time. The latter are presented to us as the example of a realistically achievable relationship. All were simple people who cooperated with the grace of God.

Every family is called to a life of holiness and, thereby, to right relationship among its members and with God, Who is the unseen member of each and every family. Parents must set the example of love and respect for others through their love for one another, raising and forming their children in the Faith.

“No one gives what they do not have”, says an ancient maxim. Parents, therefore, must practice the Faith themselves, trusting in God Who gives them the grace to carry out their duties in mutual love within the bond of holy marriage and as parents. For us as Catholics, this requires participating in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, coming to Mass together each weekend, and sharing the faith at home through prayer and putting the teachings of Christ into effect in their daily lives.

As we set out on a new year, let us rededicate ourselves to practicing our faith and to cooperating with God, so that we may grow stronger in our love for Him and for one another as members of the family of St. Margaret’s Parish. May God our Father grant you and yours every grace and blessing, and may the Holy Family of Nazareth intercede for you always!

~ *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!

PARISH FINANCES

Thank you for your generosity in the regular and special collections this Christmas, 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.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thanks to the 152 families who have participated so far, we have gone over our 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign goal. So far, **\$82,690 has been pledged. That's 108.8% of our goal of \$76,014, with an overage of \$6,676!**

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday-Sunday, January 6-7

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

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!**

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.**

Maggie's Little Theater Presents Robert Harling's

STEEL
Magnolias

PERFORMANCE DATES

Saturdays, February 3 & 10 at 8:00pm

Sundays, February 4 & 11 at 2:30pm

Friday, February 9 at 8:00pm

**TICKET RESERVATIONS
BEGIN JANUARY 2, 2024**

Please reserve at www.maggieslittletheater.org
or by calling 347-286-8508.

Tickets: Adults, \$22 - Seniors 65 & over \$20 -
Children 11 & under \$20.

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 and personal spiritual growth. Recent presentations include various Christmas videos for adults, children, and the whole family, and many other topics, as well.

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 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

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

for tax purposes

**WILL BE ISSUED
ONLY UPON REQUEST**

Please call the Rectory, 718-326-1911

AFTER JANUARY 7th

if you would like a statement mailed to you.

Letters will go out after February 5th.

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE


There is an **URGENT NEED** for blood donations and the New York Blood Center is asking, again, for our help.



St. Margaret Parish will sponsor a Blood Drive on **Sunday, January 14, 2024 from 9am til 3pm, in the Parish Hall.** Please remember to eat and drink before you come and to bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo.

It is requested that you schedule an appointment by calling **800-933-2566**. Appointments are preferred; however, walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.

Bring a mask; requirements may change depending on CDC guidelines.



***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*