

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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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 EPIPHANY

OF

THE

LORD

JANUARY 7, 2024

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. ~ JANUARY 7, 2024 -
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
- MON. ~ JANUARY 8 -
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
10:00 Connie Faccibene
NOON Jean & Tim Moriarty
- TUE. ~ JANUARY 9 - WEEKDAY**
7:00 Madeline Sepe
9:00 Fred Kasner
- WED. ~ JANUARY 10 - WEEKDAY**
7:00 Deacon Vincent & Dolores DeBiase
9:00 Maria Pugliese
- THU. ~ JANUARY 11 - WEEKDAY**
7:00 Josephine & Joe Fitapelli
9:00 Augusta Mundy (birth)
7:30PM **Mass and Adoration**
- FRI. ~ JANUARY 12 - WEEKDAY**
7:00 Dorothy Mis
9:00 Claire Abbate
- SAT. ~ JANUARY 13 - ST. HILARY**
9:00 **Memorial Mass:** Charlotte Kraus,
Anna Milillo, Eileen A. Moraglia,
Giuseppe Gagliano, Jane Addario,
Christopher J. Yaipen, Elizabeth
Devaney,
Sister Jean Redigan
5:00PM
- SUN. ~ JANUARY 14 - SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**
8:00 Regina Guidoni
10:00 Il Popolo della Parrocchia/Francesco
DeCapite/Filippo, Leonardo e Maria
Curatolo/Geraldine Ciaccio/Antonino
Catalano/Vincenza, Mariano,
Salvatore e Rita Palmeri/Daniele
Bussa/
NOON Herta Matchulat
5:00PM Jeffrey Matusiak



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 7

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 Fleisch, 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, Benjamin Armato,

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:

DOROTHY MIS, MARY ELLEN BEAUMONT

*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 Louise & Joe Pecoraro
at the request of the Barbaro Family.*

ALTAR CANDLES

*are offered in memory of Louise & Joe Pecoraro
at the request of the Barbaro Family.*

TABERNACLE LAMP

*is lit in memory of Louise & Joe Pecoraro
at the request of the Barbaro Family.*

TODAY'S READINGS

*The Epiphany of the Lord
Cycle B - Hymnal # 878*

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-7
Psalm 29:1-10
Mark 1:7-11

Tuesday: I Samuel 1:9-20
I Samuel 2:1-7
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday: I Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm 40:2-10
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday: I Samuel 4:1-11
Psalm 44:10-25
Mark 1:40-45

Friday: I Samuel 8:4-22
Psalm 89:16-19
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday: I Samuel 9:1-19; 10:1
Psalm 21:2-7
Mark 2:13-17

Sunday: I Samuel 3:3-19
Psalm 40:2-10
I Corinthians 6:13-20
John 1:35-42

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

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Offering a True Gift”

This Sunday, we Americans celebrate the solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord (most of the Church observed the traditional day yesterday, January 6). “Epiphany” has Greek roots, meaning manifestation, or showing forth, in this case, the Messiah being recognized by gentiles, represented by the Magi.

Who and how many these strangers were and exactly where they came from are not detailed in the Gospel account (only St. Matthew even refers to them). Tradition numbers them as three, because of the number of gifts that they presented (frankincense, gold, and myrrh), names them Gaspar, Balthazar, and Melchior, coming from lands representing the three continents known in the Roman Empire at that time: Asia, Africa, and Europe. The importance of the story is that salvation has come to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, Who is true God and true man, the newborn “King of the Jews”.

The point of the story that St. Matthew presents in his Gospel account is that God miraculously revealed to the Gentiles the birth of the Messiah promised to the Jewish people, One Who was rejected, or ignored by and even feared by His own people, who should have known better. St. Matthew drew on themes and incidents scattered throughout the Hebrew Scriptures in order to show that there was an authentic connection between the ancient promises that God had made to His people for century after century and the fulfillment of those promises in Jesus, the Child born in Bethlehem. All of the evidence lined up for St. Matthew perfectly, just as he knew that his readers should understand it.

Our first reading from the Old Testament ties into the Gospel, since we also must understand the Old Testament in order to understand the New Testament. Several of the seemingly small details that we portray in our Nativity scenes (like the camels, the kings, and the gifts that they offered to the Infant) come from today’s first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Truly, it is a beautiful story, and it remains full of meaning for us more than twenty centuries removed from the actions presented.

The bottom line of today’s feast and readings can be summarized by the last line of the second reading, from St. Paul’s letter to his Gentile disciples in Ephesus in Asia Minor, “that the Gentiles are coheirs [with the Jews], members of the same Body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.” Fortunately, you and I are included among their number. The victory that God achieved in Jesus Christ is ours: the victory of grace, eternal life, and reconciliation with God over sin, death, and separation from Him.

Today’s solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord often is referred to as “Little Christmas”. Most Christians still celebrate it on January 6, twelve days after the solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord. Regardless of what it’s called or when it is celebrated, its meaning and importance remain for us today: we, too, united as members of the Body of Christ, Who fulfilled the promises made over the centuries to the Chosen People, are spiritual descendants of Abraham and thereby heirs to God’s promises. Gentiles though we are, we, too, can call Abraham “our Father in Faith” because of Jesus Christ.

God’s promise of salvation and reconciliation now extends to all people of every land and time through Jesus Christ. All people are called to the universal Kingdom of God. Whether or not we accept the Promise and answer affirmatively is another matter, for answering in the affirmative and becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ will upset the apple cart and cost the follower his/her life. There is no such thing as cheap grace. Our eternal life cost the life of the Son of God; it will cost us our life as well, but in losing it for Him we shall find it.

We need not travel to far and distant lands in search of the Promised One to offer Him ornate gifts, as did the Magi. He is present to us in His holy Word, in His Sacraments, in His people (the Church), and in our souls. He wants to share His life with us. What can we offer Him in return? Each of us is called to manifest His presence by our lives, in all that we say and do. Thus, we do Him homage and proclaim Him by living as His faithful disciples, offering Him the true gift of our very selves, we who by His grace are His coheirs of the redemption that He has won for us!

~ *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, February 3.

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

and Join the Celebration!

IRISH NIGHT

Saturday, March 2, 2024
5:00pm Mass followed by
reception at 6:00pm

Looking forward to seeing you again!

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. See page 2 for listings.**

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

RESERVE YOUR TICKET

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 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.



***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 are included.

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

HOLY MASS AND ADORATION

Holy Mass will precede our monthly evening period of Eucharistic Adoration for young adults this Thursday, January 11, beginning at 7:30pm.

All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

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.