

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
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CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICES:

Mary Pascale, Receptionist
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E-mail: stmargaretmv@gmail.com
Website: www.stmargaretmv.com

SCHEDULE/CALENDAR:

stmmvcalendar@gmail.com



**FOURTH
SUNDAY
IN
ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 28, 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 28 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 Mary Hawd
10:00 Michael, Luigi e Saverio Bosco/
Anna Silaco/Giovanni Campo/
Marianna and Jack Mule
NOON Lila Ashebergas
5:00PM The People of the Parish

MON. ~ JANUARY 29 - WEEKDAY

7:00 Marie A. Ritti
9:00 Anthony Lopresti

TUE. ~ JANUARY 30 - WEEKDAY

7:00 Joseph Fitapelli
9:00 Eileen DeLeonardis

WED. ~ JANUARY 31 - ST. JOHN BOSCO

7:00 George Wierzbowski
9:00 Harold Banker

THU. ~ FEBRUARY 1 - WEEKDAY

7:00 Mark Porcaro (anni)
9:00 Dottie Miller

FRI. ~ FEBRUARY 2 - THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

7:00 Robert Schmalz
9:00 David J. McConville

SAT. ~ FEBRUARY 3 - STS. BLAISE AND ANSGAR

9:00 **Collective:** Deceased Priests of the
Brooklyn & Rockville Centre
Dioceses/Bill & Lee DiGiovanna/
Souls in Purgatory
9:30 **Holy Hour**
5:00PM The People of the Parish

SUN. ~ FEBRUARY 4 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 James Mancauso
10:00 Stella Ricovero/SanFrancesco di
Paola/Alessio Atria/Giuseppe,
Vincenza, Antonio e Vito Sanfilippo/
Maria Siragusa/Frank Costanzo
NOON Scout Sunday/George Bley/Mr. Taite
Arthur Rogers
5:00PM Blanche Dathe



BLESSING OF THROATS

in honor of Saint Blaise will take place as follows: Saturday, February 3 at the 9am and 5pm Masses and on Sunday, February 4 at the 8am, 10am, 12 Noon and 5pm Masses

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 Bryzgoria, 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, 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:

DAWN C. PUGLISI

*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

TABERNACLE LAMP

is lit in memory of Hank Banker.



THE
PRESENTATION
OF THE
LORD
FEBRUARY 2

TODAY'S READINGS

*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B - Hymnal # 938*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 95:1-9
I Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: II Samuel 15:13-30, 16:5-13
Psalm 3:2-7
Mark 5:1-20
- Tuesday: II Samuel 18:9-25; 30 19:3
Psalm 86: 1-6
Mark 5:21-43
- Wednesday: II Samuel 24:2, 9-17
Psalm 32:1-7
Mark 6:1-6
- Thursday: I Kings 2:1-12
I Chronicles 29:10-12
Mark 6:7-13
- Friday: Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 24:7-10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40
- Saturday: I Kings 3:4-13
Psalm 119:9-14
Mark 6:30-34
- Sunday: Job 7:1-7
Psalm 147:1-6
I Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

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

From the Pastor's Desk:

“So Far, and Yet So Close”

If you're a Boomer like me, you might remember the Four Seasons song with the line, “So close, so close, and yet so far!” (Give yourself a pat on the back, if you still remember and can sing the rest of it!) Our God can be said to be the reverse of that idea, for, as distant as He is, living outside the limitations of time and space, He has chosen to be ever so close to us in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of the Father, Who, in turn, has given us the Sacraments as a means of maintaining an intimate relationship between God and His Church.

Now, that can be a comforting idea, but it also can be a troubling one, as we see in today's first reading. The God of their ancestors was rather overwhelming and terrifying for the Israelites during the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land. They wanted and needed an intermediary, whom God provided by choosing Moses as His prophet (spokesman) to guide His people to freedom and newness of life. Moreover, God would continue to guide His people through subsequent prophets down throughout the centuries.

The idea of God's closeness to us also can be disconcerting. We might prefer to keep a “safe distance” between us and God, looking more for piety and religion than for a demanding relationship with the living God. Nevertheless, as disciples of Christ, our belief in His proximity to us in Word and in Sacrament, especially through His Real Presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament, should be a comfort and a joy that strengthens us and helps us to live the life of our calling as His disciples and children of God, following Him more faithfully day by day into the fullness of life in the Father's Kingdom.

One of the saddest things about the COVID restrictions that were forced upon us three years ago was the separation of Catholics from the reception of the Sacraments, especially the Most Holy Eucharist. We are a tactile people, for whom watching a Mass on TV or live-stream and making an act of spiritual communion truly is not an adequate substitute for assisting at Mass in person and receiving Christ, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. We also can't confess to a TV screen or to a computer, and neither of those can anoint the sick or baptize infants. Fortunately, we are now well beyond those tyrannical restrictions, yet so many of our brothers and sisters still have not returned to the community at prayer.

Our God does not appear to us in frightening lightning and thunder, or a pillar of fire, or a great cloud as He did during the Exodus that we should shy away from Him in fear and trembling. Moreover, He has sent us not just another prophet as He promised through Moses, but, “in the fullness of time”, His only-begotten Son, the One Who faithfully witnesses to the fullness of the truth of the Father's love for us, and has made us His adopted children. It is Christ Jesus Who has freed us from sin and death and Who guides us through the deserts and tribulations of life into the perfect safety and joy of Heaven, our true and eternal Promised Land.

The Church throughout the world is in the midst of a three-year celebration of Eucharistic revival, building up to the next Jubilee Year in 2025. It is a celebration of Christ among us in a manner par excellence. We hold a monthly holy hour here at St. Margaret's on the first Saturday of every month after the 9:00 am Mass, complete with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, as well as some time for communal prayer and quiet, personal reflection. We do the same for young adults and others who wish to attend on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm.

Come and adore the Lord Jesus! Draw near to Him Who is not a million miles away from us, but Who is in our midst. Speak to Him from your heart, and there listen to Him speak to you ever so quietly. Astonishing things can happen in our own time when we place ourselves in the hands of a loving God Who acts with power and authority – so far, and yet so close to 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!

ESTATE PLANNING

Did you know that there are ways to support our parish and the mission of the Church that can also provide you with tax benefit and potentially even a source of income?

If you have an asset such as appreciated stocks, a retirement plan, art, real estate, or other assets, a planned gift could be a smarter way to give than cash alone. You can sustain our beloved parish with a planned gift while also making smart financial decisions to benefit your family.

For more information, please call the Catholic Foundation at 718-965-7375.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thanks to the **161 families** who have participated so far, we have gone over our *2023 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign* goal. So far, **\$87,820 has been pledged. That's 115.5% of our goal of \$76,014, with an average of \$11,806!**

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

MANY THANKS from the New York Blood Center to all who responded to the request for much needed blood.

Our recent Blood Drive was a **HUGE SUCCESS!** We are happy to report that **67 units** were collected, a great testament to the members of our community.

We commend the New York Blood Center staff for a job well done!

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, February 10.

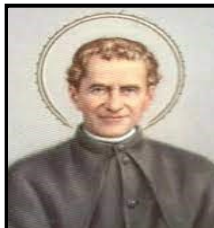
PARISH FINANCES

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 on, as you wish.



SAINT
JOHN
BOSCO
JANUARY 31

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.



JOIN THE CELEBRATION

IRISH NIGHT

HONORING NANCY MOTTO

Saturday, March 2, 2024
5:00pm Mass followed by
reception until 11pm

Traditional Irish dinner, beer, wine, soda, coffee, tea

Music by: **The Cunningham Brothers**

\$75p/p. For info. or tickets call: Susan Conte,
646-330-8451; Anne Lenihan, 718-3509448;
Bridie Mitchell, 917-302-3569 or
Maureen Postel, 917-589-6804

Looking forward to seeing you again.
Let's keep the tradition ALIVE!!

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
if you would like a statement mailed to you.

Letters will go out after February 5th.

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 TICKETS AT

www.Maggieslittletheater.org,
or by calling 347-286-85098

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