

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
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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
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:

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SCHEDULE/CALENDAR:

stmmvcalendar@gmail.com



**FIRST
SUNDAY**

IN

LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 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. ~ FEBRUARY 18 - FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00 John & Anna Rice
10:00 Il Popolo della Parrocchia/Agostino
Recca/William Kava/Carminé
Fiscina/Paul Tymus
NOON Mary Ellen Beaumont
5:00PM Angie & Rick Ferzola

MON. ~ FEBRUARY 19 - PRESIDENTS' DAY

7:00 ~ **No Mass** ~
9:00 Intention of Norma Manno

TUE. ~ FEBRUARY 20 - LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:00 Steven Dominic Belviso (anniv)
9:00 Int. Edward Lenihan
9:30 Stations of the Cross (Italian)

WED. ~ FEBRUARY 21 - ST. PETER DAMIAN

7:00 Kathleen Lenihan Kiernan
9:00 The Pirtz & McDevitt Families

THU. ~ FEBRUARY 22 - THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER

7:00 Sr. Jean Redigan
9:00 Joseph & Lena Mazzola

FRI. ~ FEBRUARY 23 - ST. POLYCARP ABSTINENCE

7:00 Joe & Joan Henn
9:00 Dorothy Gower
9:30 Stations of the Cross (English)

SAT. ~ FEBRUARY 24 - LENTEN WEEKDAY

9:00 **Collective:** Charles Frick/Angelina
Grillo
5:00PM John O'Shea (anniv)

SUN. ~ FEBRUARY 25 - SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00 Elissa DeBenedictis
10:00 Geraldine Ciaccio (anni)/Anna Silaco/
Hank Banker
NOON The People of the Parish
5:00PM Daniel Fitzgerald

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, Lee Falk, Justin James Quirke, Allen McConville, James Graff, The Mojica Family, The Valasquez Family, Maria Colalella, 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 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, Fr. Paul Wierichs, CP, Lorraine Colon, Martina Bruno, John Abel, Anthony Fiorello, Anthony DiChiara, Zofia Dirocco, Jerry Feldnan, Chris Rossi, Cathy Lynch, Virginia Biehl, Ben Armato, Olivia Calastro,

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:

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:

PATRICIA KLOPER,

*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 Linda McGowan
at the request of Anneliese & Michael Roemmelt.*

TABERNACLE LAMP

*is lit in memory of Joseph & Lena Mazzola
at the request of Ben Armato.*



TODAY'S READINGS

*First Sunday in Lent
Cycle B - Hymnal # 884*

Genesis 9:8-15

Psalm 25:4-9

I Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Leviticus 19:1-18
Psalm 19:8-15
Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday; Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm 34:4-19
Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10
Psalm 51:3-19
Joel 2:12-13
Luke 11:29-32

Thursday: I Peter 5:1-4
Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 16-18
Matthew 16:13-19

Friday: Ezra 18:21-28
Psalm 130:1-8
Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Psalm 119:1-8
Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday: Genesis 22:1-18
Psalm 116:10-19
Romans 8:31-34
Mark 9:2-10

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

From the Pastor's Desk:

“Don't Give Up!”

It is the ancient custom of the Church on the first Sunday in Lent to read one of the accounts of Christ's temptation by Satan in the wilderness, as recorded by Saints Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Of the three, St. Mark cuts to the chase with just a very brief comment about Satan's unsuccessful attempt before getting to the heart of Christ's mission: “This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel!” Christ's message is powerful, direct, and demanding.

According to St. Mark, these are the first words that He spoke as He set out to fulfill the Father's will, eventually suffering “for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that He might lead you to God,” as St. Peter puts it in today's second reading. That is the story of our salvation in a nutshell.

Many of us have composed a list of things that we intend to give up for Lent and perhaps another of practices that we intend to take up. Chances are that we will blow both lists by Holy Week, if we haven't done so already. Perhaps we set our sights too high on Ash Wednesday; we have the best of intentions, but we haven't spent enough time taking a good, hard look at ourselves before setting out. The latter needs to be an integral part of the practices of Lent.

Other than considering “fasting” in the broadest of terms, the Bible doesn't say anything about giving up cigarettes, or candy, or pasta, or the many other things that we usually put on our lists. While these are all good things for us to drop, what the Scriptures DO tell us to give up are the sins and injustices that we commit. Too often we focus on the easier activities and miss the point: our conversion of heart.

Lent should be a time of penitential yet joyful renewal. We begin by examining our lives in order to recognize our brokenness before the Lord and what needs to be changed so as to put our relationship with God back into proper order. You cannot repent properly, if you do not know what it is for which you need to repent. (That happens all too often when people come to confession.)

Rather, we need to begin Lent with a candid look at where we are. Then, having examined our lives in the light of the Gospel, we can ask God for the grace of true repentance, which then becomes our main focus for Lent. Accepting the Gospel also gives us the gift of hope in God's mercy and forgiveness, that we are not entirely lost, but can be saved by the power of God's love. Only a gracious, merciful, loving, and forgiving God would suffer and die in order to re-establish His Covenant with sinful humanity.

The practice of fasting from things or bad habits helps us to discipline our bodies, minds, and spirits as we develop a proper and deeper relationship with God. Our fasting should involve avoiding sin and the near occasion of sin, as we promise in the Act of Contrition.

The practice of almsgiving reminds us that, as we expect to be treated by God with compassion and dignity, so we must treat others in the same way. We are not worthy of God's gifts, yet He bestows them upon us. Each person around us, regardless of his or her station or condition in society, has the same God-given dignity as ourselves and, therefore, must be treated with equal dignity.

Finally, the spiritual component of prayer is highly essential to this season. It might be formal or informal, individual or communal, ritual or simple, spoken or silent. The practice of prayer enables us both to speak to God and to listen to Him speaking to us. Don't do all the talking, and don't get upset if He's silent or just whispers when you want Him to speak loudly and clearly. Be still, and keep listening.

Be flexible this Lent with what you will give up and what you will take on. Whatever you do, do not get discouraged; that's just what Satan wants, as he tempts us to take the easy way out or to give up in frustration at the first sign of difficulty. Constancy in prayer will help you both to know what you need to do and to call upon God for help. Never give up; God never gives up on you!

May the Lord bless you as you begin your spiritual journey this Lent!

~ *Fr. Armato*

ITALIAN APOSTOLATE NEWS

Our diocesan Italian Apostolate will hold a Lenten Day of Prayer run by Radio Maria at Regina Pacis Basilica (65th Street and 12th Avenue in Brooklyn) from 10am to 3:30pm on Saturday, February 24. It will include time for confession and Eucharistic adoration as well as Mass and Via Crucis.

For more information and reservations, call 718-236-0909. Veniamo numerosi!



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, whether through e-giving or in the collection basket!

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

We went over our *2023 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign* goal by \$11,806, which helps to offset some of our expenses. Can we do it again?

The goal for our 2024 Campaign is \$76,014 once more. I ask every member of the Parish to consider participating in the 2024 Appeal with a “fair-share gift” of \$125 or more, as your means may allow. Your generosity will help both our Parish and our Diocese to serve the spiritual and physical needs of our people.

Prior donors already have received a mailing; envelopes also will be placed in the church in the coming weeks.

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!

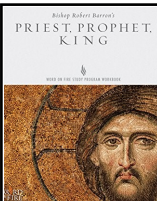
**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE PERISHABLE
ITEMS IN THE BIN IN THE CHURCH!**

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, March 9, at 9:00am.**



LENTEN STUDY SERIES

Lent is Here!

We invite you to participate in our
Lenten Study Series
Bishop Robert Barron’s Video

“Priest, Prophet, and King”

This program will help us to understand those who foreshadowed Jesus, the perfect Priest, Prophet and King!

We will be able to deepen our understanding of how each of us, as Baptized Christians, participate in the life and work of Christ, sharing in this three-fold office of priest, prophet and King.

The program will be held on Wednesdays at Noon and on Thursdays at 7pm, in the Convent Meeting room.

The dates are as follows:

Wednesdays, 2/21 - 2/28 - 3/6 - 3/13 and 3/20

Thursdays, 2/22 - 2/29 - 3/7 - 3/14 and 3/21

Father Joseph will facilitate the discussions. We look forward to your presence and participation!

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: Lent; saints and feasts of February; the Stations of the Cross; the mission of the family and videos for children and the whole family to enjoy together.

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, 718-350-9448;
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.

BRIDGE TO LIFE



The St. Vincent dePaul Society is
conducting it's **13th Annual Campaign**
for *Bridge to Life*.

Bridge to life gives prospective moms an alternative; good pre-natal care, safe delivery and medical and economic help for moms and infants.

WHEN: Through Good Friday, March 29

HOW: Envelopes marked "*Bridge to Life*" are on the radiators in church or provide your own. Cash or checks (payable to **Bridge to Life**) and/or new or gently used infant and toddler clothing or diapers size 2-5.

WHERE: Place envelopes in collection baskets or in the rectory mail slot. Place clothing in the black bin in the church vestibule or at the Convent (66-25 79th Place) on Wednesdays or Saturdays, from 10am until 12 Noon.

Please be as generous as possible. Make this your Lenten sacrifice.