

# ***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*



**SECOND  
SUNDAY**

**IN**

**LENT**

**FEBRUARY 25, 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 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

### MON. ~ FEBRUARY 26 - LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:00 Nicholas Cascio  
9:00 Stanislawa & Roman Krzewski

### TUE. ~ FEBRUARY 27 - ST. GREGORY OF NAREK

7:00 Jack Cheperak  
9:00 Grace Ann Franzese  
9:30 Stations of the Cross (Italian)

### WED. ~ FEBRUARY 28 - LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:00 Pat & Joe DiChiaro  
9:00 Ita Moore

### THU. ~ FEBRUARY 29 - LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:00 Rosemarie Sparacio  
9:00 Ann Baird

### FRI. ~ MARCH 1 - LENTEN WEEKDAY

#### **ABSTINENCE**

7:00 Eamon Blake  
9:00 Albert & Julia Paetzig  
9:30 Stations of the Cross (English)

### SAT. ~ MARCH 2 - LENTEN WEEKDAY

9:00 **Collective:** Deceased Priests of the  
Brooklyn & Rockville Centre  
Dioceses/Bill & Lee DiGiovanna/  
Souls in Purgatory

#### **Holy Hour**

9:30  
5:00PM Angela M. Lenihan and Kathleen  
Lenihan Kiernan

### SUN. ~ MARCH 3 - THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00 Rosanna Maurer  
10:00 Joseph W. Mazzola/Daniele Bussa  
NOON Aurora Cermeli  
5:00PM The People of the Parish



SECOND  
SUNDAY  
IN  
LENT  
FEBRUARY 25

## 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.*

# 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, Wilhelm Wilps,

*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**

*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 Angela M. Lenihan and  
Kathleen Lenihan Kiernan  
at the request of the Irish Night Committee.*



**SATURDAY, MARCH 9**

## TODAY'S READINGS

*Second Sunday in Lent  
Cycle B - Hymnal # 887*

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

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Daniel 9:4-10  
Psalm 79:8-13  
Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10-20  
Psalm 50:8-23  
Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jeremiah 18:18-20  
Psalm 31:5-16  
Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1:1-6  
Luke 16:19-31

Friday: Genesis 37:3-28  
Psalm 105:16-21  
Matthew 21:33-46

Saturday: Micah 7:14-20  
Psalm 103:1-12  
Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday: Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19:8-11  
I Corinthians 1:22-25  
John 2:13-25

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

## *From the Pastor's Desk:*

### *"In God We Trust"*

On the back of every US currency bill and on the front of every US coin is the expression, "In God We Trust". It's such an everyday part of our lives that we don't give it a second thought. When was the last time that you looked at the money in your pocket and said, "Oh, WOW! I really should!"?

The Scriptures today speak to us about trusting God. Elderly Abraham was prepared to sacrifice Isaac, his young son and heir, at the command of God, which would have ended the prospect of countless descendants that God had promised him in a covenant bond. Still, he placed his trust in God and proceeded to comply until the Angel of the Lord stopped him. Abraham had proven his faithfulness to God, and God would remain faithful to His part of the covenant. We, children of Abraham by faith, are part of God's delivery on His promise.

That sense of divine faithfulness is driven home by St. Paul in the second reading, which is full of rhetorical questions. Unfortunately, we get a sort of "Reader's Digest" version of what St. Paul wrote. His more fully developed point is that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God. Unlike Abraham, God did not spare His only-begotten Son for our salvation. God keeps His promises and has given us the best He has to offer. He readily grants us everything that we need so that we might share in His eternal life. His love is ours in Christ Jesus.

The first reading and Gospel passages on Sundays are always connected, the first supporting the latter and the latter fulfilling the first. So it is this Sunday as Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, bear witness to Christ, and we hear the voice of the Father booming from the cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him!"

The instruction is not simply to "HEAR what He says" but to "LISTEN to Him." There's a big difference in English and in many other languages, as well. We "hear" sounds around us all the time. Sometimes, they become "white noise," blending into the background as we go about our work, or read, or relax. To "listen", however, implies that we are focused and taking the message to heart. That is what the Father demands of the stunned Apostles; it is what He demands of us, who are confused.

Why should we listen? Jesus is no mere miracle worker or latter day prophet or philosopher. He is the very Son of God, God incarnate, coeternal and consubstantial with the Father. His teachings are not simply notions that would be nice to follow or, alternatively, okay to ignore if they prove to be too inconvenient for us. There's no voting on the matter. If you want to live for all eternity in the peace, joy, happiness, and love of the Father, then you very well had better listen, pay attention, take to heart, and live your life according to the teachings of Jesus Christ His Son.

This holy season of Lent is a particular period in which we pay special attention to Christ's teachings, to see how well we live up to them and to determine what we need to do in order to get back on track. Thus, we use all forms of prayer to communicate with God, almsgiving as a way to look beyond ourselves to the needs of others, and fasting as a means of self-discipline, so as to strengthen the bond, the covenant, that God has made with humanity through the Blood of His Son and thereby inherit His promise of eternal life.

If you feel as if you already are struggling with Lent, that may be a good sign. Take a look at where you are and where you need to be, then trust God and ask Him for the grace of conversion of heart to help you to achieve your goal. Take it in small steps, and do not get discouraged if progress comes slowly or even if you fall. Christians are works in process; what we have begun is the work of a lifetime, until the day when we, too, may be counted as "Saints among the Saints of Heaven."

"God did not spare His own Son, but handed Him over for us all; how will He not give us everything else along with Him?" Trust God! He will bring to completion the good work that He has begun in you, so that you might share in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

~ *Fr. Armato*



## EUCHARISTIC 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 10:30am on the first Saturday of each month.

**The next holy hour is Saturday, March 2.**

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!

## 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, **2/28** - 3/6 - 3/13 and 3/20

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

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

## THE ST. VINCENT dePAUL CLOTHING PICK-UP

Will be held Sunday, March 10. The truck will be on 79th Place, near or in the parking lot from 8am until 12:30pm for your items.

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR ITEMS**  
**AT THE RECTORY OR CONVENT**  
**DOORS**

## 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 9am.**

## 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.



SAINT  
GREGORY OF  
NAREK  
FEBRUARY 27

## 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; Catholic customs; the Stations of the Cross; the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist; the Shroud of Turin; daily Mass readings; 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!!**

## 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.

## 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 its **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 79 Place) on Wednesdays or Saturdays, from 10am until 12Noon.

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