

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

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ST. MARGARET CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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GIFT SHOP

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SCHEDULE/CALENDAR:

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**THIRD
SUNDAY
IN
LENT
MARCH 3, 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. ~ 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
- MON. ~ MARCH 4 - ST. CASIMIR**
7:00 Purgatorial Society
9:00 Carmene, Antonio e Carolina Diccio
- TUE. ~ MARCH 5 - LENTEN WEEKDAY**
7:00 Geraldine Ciaccio (birth)
9:00 Maryann Salvato (birth)
9:30 Stations of the Cross (Italian)
- WED. ~ MARCH 6 - LENTEN WEEKDAY**
7:00 Edward H. Morrissey & Nellie Tolles
9:00 Louis Meyers
- THU. ~ MARCH 7 - STS. PERPETUA & FELICITY**
7:00 Int. Sean Carthy
9:00 Frank Shaklo
- FRI. ~ MARCH 8 - ST. JOHN OF GOD**
ABSTINENCE
7:00 Int. Patrick Carthy
9:00 Peter Twomey
9:30 Stations of the Cross (English)
- SAT. ~ MARCH 9 - ST. FRANCES OF ROME**
9:00 **Memorial Mass:** Andrean Pasculli,
Frank Altese, Patricia Kloper, Giorgio Arcamone,
5:00PM The People of the Parish
- SUN. ~ MARCH 10 - FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
8:00 William J. Roemmelt
10:00 Adriana Gibb/Agostino Recca
NOON Hank Banker
5:00PM Thomas O'Leary



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, Wilhelm Wilps, Michael Crane, Stephen Crane, Michael Reilly,

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

TABERNACLE LAMP

is lit in memory of Madeline Sepe.



TODAY'S READINGS

*Third Sunday in Lent
Cycle B - Hymnal # 890*

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19:8-11

I Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: II Kings 5:1-15
Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday: Daniel 3:25-43
Psalm 25:4-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 4:1-9
Psalm 147:12-20
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: Jeremiah 7:23-28
Psalm 95:1-9
Luke 11:14-23

Friday: Hosea 14:2-10
Psalm 81:6-17
Mark 12:28-34

Saturday: Hosea 6:1-6
Psalm 51:3-21
Luke 18:9-14

Sunday: II Chronicles 36:14-23
Psalm 137:1-6
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3:14-21

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

From the Pastor's Desk:

WWJD? Really?"

It was (is?) popular among “hip” or “woke” Christians to wear a bracelet containing the four letters, WWJD, meaning “What Would Jesus Do?” – a guide to Christian decision-making in situations involving moral choices and interpersonal relations. The supposition is that Jesus would be non-confrontational, kind, gentle, and loving – in short, sort of a go-along-to-get-along, mellow, cool kind of guy in T-shirt, denim jeans, and sandals.

The scene in today’s Gospel passage in which He overturns the tables of the moneychangers and whips the merchants out of the Temple area should disabuse us of that delusion. We may ask, “Whatever came over good, old, friendly Jesus?”

That “whatever” is known as righteous indignation and justified anger. The sight of the misuse of the holiest place in all of Jewish society and religion stirred Him to react in such a violent way, fulfilling an ancient prophecy (Psalm 69:9). It’s the type of anger that should arise within us when we see something unjust or abusive taking place right in front of us and to which we ought to respond by righting the wrong or defending the victim.

One need not be a crusader or Don Quixote, but we seem to have lost that fire in the belly to fight for the right, to defend the innocent victim, to stand up for our principles and our Faith. We’ve become pathetically passive, more apt to remain comfortably at home or to stand at a safe distance taking pictures with our cell phones rather than getting involved. (How will we respond in this critical year of national elections?) Small wonder it is, then, that we’ve reduced the divine guidelines of life to being mere platitudes, just one more set of options.

We’ve watered down the Ten Commandments, treating them simply as some suggestions among other equally valid philosophies of life, or reducing them to the two basics of loving God and loving neighbor, watering down in the process what it truly means to love either God or neighbor. Yet the “Big Ten” have not been repealed or reduced, for to love is not an emotional or romantic response but one that requires all of one’s heart, soul, mind, and strength. They remain in effect to help us to love properly and fully, as God loves us and would have us love.

Christ was upset because true worship of God was to be at the center of Jewish life, and what was supposed to be the focal point of worship for the Chosen People, namely the great Temple in Jerusalem, had been turned into the ancient equivalent of a currency exchange and shopping mall for religious goods.

Lest we get too smug over the matter, let us remember that the same thing can happen to us in a different way. We do it not so much by way of opening stores in churches (our Parish Gift Shop is located conveniently but remotely in the rectory) but rather by replacing the worship that we practice in the temple of our souls with that which is this-worldly, not holy. We can get so preoccupied with passing delights, sinful or not, that we forget that our first calling is to become saints for all eternity – to be “Saints among the Saints in the Halls of Heaven”, as Eucharistic Prayer I for Reconciliation puts it. The call to sanctity and sainthood is not just for those whose memory we honor on feast days or by adopting their names at the time of our Baptism or Confirmation. It is a universal vocation, the divine, prime directive of every man, woman, and child. Instead, we replace God and our quest for Him with that which neither is God nor leads us to Him.

This holy season of Lent is an opportunity for us to drive out from our hearts whatever it is that prevents us from placing God at the center of our lives and from loving God and neighbor as we should. We should begin by making a thorough examination of conscience, followed by a good, sacramental confession. Then we must live in right relationships with God and one another by carrying out His Commandments, the instructions of Christ as found in the Gospels, and the consistent teachings of His Church as respects faith and morals.

“I have not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it,” Jesus told the people. The Commandments are still in effect today to guide us to eternal life in the Kingdom won for us by His faithful obedience and devotion to the will of God the Father. Jesus taught us how to live them properly and completely. Let the temple of your soul be a place of prayer, and your heart be a source of compassion. Use your mind to contemplate whatever is good, true, and holy, and your strength for the cause of justice and right.

“You were not created for comfort,” Pope Benedict XVI told us, “but for action.” The time for apathy and passivity is over. God has given you this day to act, to draw close to Him, to build up spiritually yourself, your family, and your community in holiness.

May God grant you the grace to hear His Word and to take it to heart in all that you say and think and do! WWJD? Do you really have to ask?

~ *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, April 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!

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, **3/6** - 3/13 and 3/20

Thursdays, **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. See listing on page 2.

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.

"CABRINI"

The new movie about the life and work of St. Frances X. Cabrini, including here in our own city and diocese, will be shown beginning next week at the Cinemas at Atlas Park.

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 Stations of the Cross; the Sacrament of Reconciliation; Lenten and Easter devotions and practices; St. Joseph; 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.

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. We will provide weekly progress reports beginning with next weekend's *Mass Bells*.

ST. MARGARET GIFT SHOP



open Sunday, 9am til 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 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.