

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

*Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service*



## ***Pastoral Staff***

Rev. James Wood - Pastor x111  
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**Holy Angels Regional Catholic School**  
Patchogue, NY 631-475-0422  
Jeannine Stewart, Principal

## ***Celebration of the Eucharist***

Weekday: (Mon, through Fri) 9am

Sunday: Sat - 5pm,

Sun - 8am, 10am & 12 noon

**Confessions:** Saturday—1-2 PM in the  
Parish Center or by appointment.



**First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 29, 2020**

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**Phone: (631) 732-3131**

**the Parish Office**  
*will be open limited hours during the week*

***Mon, Tue & Wed 9am to 1pm***

*Any meeting will be by appointment Only.*

Fax (631) 732 - 8827

**www.saintmargaret.com**  
**81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813**

*Family members, please resubmit names for those who are ill. We will list them for 4 weeks, and then remove them unless told otherwise. Please note-due to privacy issues, we can include names given by the individual or a health care proxy only. Thank you.*

### *Dear Parishioners and Visitors,*

At first glance, Advent and Lent seem very different. Advent is so fast, busy, and buoyant, full of people and prone to parties, (at least in the years before the pandemic). Lent feels more solemn, involving extra prayer, fasting and almsgiving, with an emphasis on quiet and reflection. Advent ends with the birth of a child, Lent closes on the passion of a man. But if we look deeper, we see that our celebration of Advent calls us to face a death of sorts – the ending of the world as we know it when Christ Jesus returns. And Lent leads to the Holy Week Triduum, going through death to new life – in the dawn of Easter morning. In a spiritual sense, Advent and Lent invite us to prepare for the coming Kingdom by waiting on one and the same hope.

Incarnation (God became human) and Resurrection (Jesus rose from the dead) are two facets of the same mystery: how God can share in our mortal life and how we might share in God's eternal life. Both open doors that have never been opened and allow passage into realms never dreamed of. Incarnation and Resurrection burst the limits of what we think possible, of what could be true for ourselves. Because we can only live from one moment to another, we can only see Jesus's Birth, his Passion and his Resurrection as distinct moments in time. But they are inseparable and part of a whole truth about our relationship with God and God's with us.

Advent is not simply an extended celebration of Christmas, or worse, the shopping season in anticipation of Christmas. Advent can serve as a period of preparation for wonder. We take time to quiet ourselves, to step aside, to purify, to contemplate, and to allow ourselves to be transformed by what we see. ~Fr. Jim

## **Pandemic Improv - Can you help?**

Like all households, St. Margaret of Scotland church has been adapting to the changes the coronavirus has placed on us. Thanks to the generosity and flexibility of parishioners, we have been able to provide as normal a parish life as possible.

But, special demands centering on Christmas are another issue!

With the limitations and uncertainty that we are living with, some changes have to be made. Most importantly, **the schedule of Christmas Masses needs to be different**. For Christmas Eve, we plan on a 2:00pm, a 4:00pm and an 8:00pm Mass. Christmas Day will have three Masses also. However, due to the limited space in our lobby, we will be unable to have any Masses downstairs, which is why we are using the one-time permission from the Bishop for a 2:00pm Mass on this Christmas Eve, in place of the Auditorium 4:00pm Mass.

In addition, here are some practical details that need people to help:

- 1) **Greeters (Ushers) for the Christmas Eve and Day Masses.** The number of ushers has taken a hit due to the virus, and so, the current active members could not cover all the Masses. Having people at the front doors and in the church to assist people is essential.
- 2) **Church Christmas decorating.** Here also, the pandemic has cut into our volunteers. You can help by giving some time to get things out of storage and set up. There will not be as much as in previous years, but we want to have the Church look festive.
- 3) **Church seating roping.** With the pandemic staying as long as it has, the original plan of using painters tape to limit seating has passed its time. We would like to have something more attractive to mark the pews. Some churches are using roping, hanging them from the tops of the pews. If you can help with planning and creating these ropings, you would be adding to the weekly attractiveness of our church.

**These are the areas that are most obvious; others will follow.**

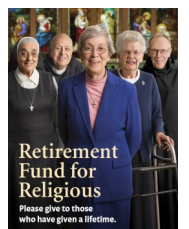
If you are interested or would like more information, please email the parish at: [bgoode@saintmargaret.com](mailto:bgoode@saintmargaret.com)

or call 631-732-3131 x133



## **Retired Religious**

Thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies—often for little or no pay. Now, their religious communities do not have enough savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need by giving in the collection of Dec. 12-13. Please be generous.



# Faith Formation

## **LEVEL 6**

**Your next gathering will be Tues., Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 6:30-8pm**

## **LEVEL 5**

**Your next gathering will be Weds., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ 6:30-8pm**

## **LEVEL 8**

**Your next gathering will be Thurs., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 6:30-8pm**

**Catechists  
& Volunteers  
are needed one  
day a month**

## **SUNDAY MASS ON ST. MARGARET'S WEBSITE**

In addition to our weekend Masses, available at 5<sup>pm</sup> Saturday and 8<sup>am</sup>, 10<sup>am</sup> and Noon, the Sunday Mass continues to be streamed each weekend. There are two ways to watch it:

First, on our website [WWW.SAINTMARGARET.COM](http://WWW.SAINTMARGARET.COM). Click the "Learn More" link on the "Online Masses and Latest Bulletin" page. It will take you to an info page; click link for "Online Mass." All the Masses since March are available. (In addition to our Mass, there is a link for the masses celebrated each day from St Agnes Cathedral.)

Second, there is a St. Margaret of Scotland channel on YouTube. Go to the YouTube app, search for St. Margaret of Scotland and [look for our logo](#). (There are other parishes with the same name.) Only the video for the current weekend is available.



### **St. Margaret's Website**

**Keep up to date with all Faith Formation, info & bulletins.  
Go check it out & make it a favorite!**

**SAINTMARGARET.COM**

## **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

## **RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION ~ Saturday ~ 1:00pm to 2:00pm**

Due to the need for privacy without using an enclosed room, parishes have had to be creative in finding a suitable space for hearing confessions. We will be using the Parish Center foyer. The red front door will be propped open and a screen will be inside, between the priest and the penitent. There will be no chair or kneeler since we could not disinfect them. You simply come in, stay standing, confess, receive your penance and depart.



*If you see someone in the foyer, do not come up the walkway! Remain on the sidewalk (or in your car) to keep a safe distance.*

## **COPING WITH the HOLIDAYS - VIRTUAL WORKSHOP - For Those Who Have Lost a Loved One Due to COVID-19**

Good Shepherd Hospice is offering a free virtual workshop for those who are grieving a loss due to COVID-19. This workshop, which is facilitated by Bereavement Specialists, will offer support, education and strategies to cope with loss of a loved one during the holiday season.

The workshop will be Thursday, 12/3/2020, from 7:00PM-8:30PM. To register, please call 631-465-6262 / 516-465-6262.

**\*\*Zoom and email information required to participate**





# *The Case for Christmas* Online Bible Study



starting November 30, 2020 and ending January 1, 2021

*The Case for Christmas* is a 4-week video Bible study you can do on your own or with friends, family, and neighbors!

In this free 4-week Online video Bible Study, you'll explore the scenes surrounding the birth of Jesus—and see the Christmas story in a new light! You'll learn to separate the holiday from the holy day, the facts from the fantasy, and the truth from the tradition to know with confidence that the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth are accurate and true!

*You can do on your own or with friends, family, and neighbors!*

When you register, you'll get the **FREE download of the Advent Toolkit** with beautiful art prints and a Scripture reading plan as you countdown to Christmas. With these online lessons, you'll appreciate the meaning of Christmas in a new light!

For more information and/or to register for *The Case for Christmas* Online Bible Study, [starting November 30, 2020 and ending January 1, 2021](http://biblegateway.com/landing/case-for-christmas-sign-up/),

- either (1) type the address below into your browser, or  
(2) open our online bulletin and copy the address & paste it to the browser.

**[biblegateway.com/landing/case-for-christmas-sign-up/](http://biblegateway.com/landing/case-for-christmas-sign-up/)**

## Parish Social Ministry

### CHRISTMAS WISH LIST~ By Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>



*St. Margaret's Outreach is asking for donations of  
**STORE GIFT CARDS & FAST FOOD GIFT CARDS (TEENS) IN LIEU OF TOYS AND GAMES***

Please keep in mind we can  
always use  
**NEW Socks, Underwear, Hats,  
Gloves & Scarves!**

***Christmas Door Collection***  
**The weekend of Dec 4 / 5**

Basket will be in the lobby after all the Masses.  
***Thank you for your generosity!***



*Drop off at the Parish Center ~ Mon., Tues., Weds. 9-1 or  
Thursday at the back door of the Parish Center from 9-11 am. Thank you!*

**Thank You  
to all who donated to the Pantry  
this past week**

**St. Vincent de Paul Society  
has opened the Clothing Bins  
next to the ballfield on the north side of our  
property for your donations.**  
*Thank you for your patience and donations.*

### THANKSGIVING Thank you!

St. Margaret's Outreach would like to thank every one who donated to our Thanksgiving Distribution. Every gift card, turkey or groceries you donated helped over 65 families! They were assisted with a meal, turkey and a smile from our wonderful volunteers!

Thank you also to Newfield High School for a tremendous food drive and turkeys! Box loads of food were dropped off to fill our shelves!



# A SPECIAL INVITATION

We would like to make this special time an opportunity for parish members to help make our church especially beautiful for our Christmas celebrations and celebrate the memory of those who made past Christmases special. All are invited to make a memorial donation which will be used for our decorations. All the names of those memorialized (both living and deceased) will be printed in our **bulletin of Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**. (Please note: donations are NOT for any particular or individual plant, but toward the overall expenses of the decorations.) Please fill out the form below and place it and your donation in an envelope marked "Memorial Donation." **You can put it in the basket with your regular collection, mail it, or drop it off at the office. Thank you.**



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## Memorial Donation – Christmas 2020 (deadline: December 14<sup>th</sup>)

Donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person or Couple Memorialized \_\_\_\_\_

Living \_\_\_\_\_ Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

## MASS BOOK ~ 2021

The Parish Mass Book is open for intentions. Please be mindful of our office hours on the cover.



## Holiday Gift Buying

The Thrift Shop and Barn at St. Gerard Majella Church is offering you a **Shop Smart stress free holiday gift buying** experience. Many boxed sets to choose from. Open Monday thru Thursday from 10am - 4pm. Located at 316 Terryville Rd. , Pt Jefferson Station.

## New Parishioner?

### Moving out of the parish?

Kindly fill out the form below—drop it in collection basket or mail to Parish Center. It will help us keep our files up-to-date and welcome newcomers.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

New Parishioner \_\_\_\_\_ Moving \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Care: Maximum Safety for Urgent and Emergent Needs

Catholic Health Heightened Safety Measures  
Protects Emergency Department Patients

Catholic Health Services (CHS) maintains the highest level of safety across its integrated health care system. We've elevated that stellar care as we battle COVID-19. This is critical, because even during a pandemic, people will have accidents or health issues requiring emergency care. CHS wants you to know our emergency departments (ED) are safe centers of care. In fact, CHS has been successfully treating patients across the system and performing emergency surgeries throughout this pandemic. Similarly, CHS has been delivering babies, protecting the well-being of both mother and child.

CHS has put extensive measures in place to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus—from intensive sanitization to safe social distancing to isolation of COVID-19 patients.

If you or a family member are experiencing any symptoms that may require emergency care, call 911 or drive directly to a CHS hospital. We're ready, safe and able to help you. You may also contact our ambulance partner, Hunter Ambulance by calling (516/631) 719-HELP.



## Sunday, Nov 29, 2020 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Keep your eyes open

Nothing is more empowering than a fresh start. Advent brings with it a new gospel to guide us through the new liturgical year: Mark, the shortest of the four narratives about Jesus. Consider reading all 16 chapters at the start of the liturgical year to grasp the breathless beauty of Mark's story. Reflect on other ways to stay alert to new spiritual discoveries, in keeping with Jesus' summons: "Watch!" Pay attention, not just to the news of the day but also to the movements of the Spirit in you. Where might you be prompted to forgive, be generous, get involved, or keep silent? TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37 (2)*. "What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

## Monday, Nov 30 FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE First responder

Saint Andrew has a special place in the collective heart of Scotland. He is sometimes known as the "first called" apostle because of his early encounter and following of Jesus, alongside his better-known brother and fellow fisherman Simon Peter. When confronting his own crucifixion in the year 60, it is said Andrew chose an X-shaped cross, or saltire, because he felt unworthy to be crucified on the same kind of cross as Jesus. That saltire is now Scotland's national flag. Follow the Scottish example: Give first-called Andrew a special place in your heart. TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684)*. "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

## Tuesday, Dec 01 ADVENT WEEKDAY A light shines in the darkness

In this first week of Advent, the church highlights the theme of hope. We remember that the "people who walk in darkness will see a great light." Good news at this time of long nights as we are reeling mentally, physically, financially, emotionally from the coronavirus pandemic and find it hard to cope. But today is also World AIDS Day, a time to remember another virus-borne pandemic that has killed more than 30 million worldwide, calling to mind the inspiring way our world can come together at its best to respond to terrible diseases. Pray for an increase in hope and healing today. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176)*. "There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain."

## Wednesday, Dec 02 ADVENT WEEKDAY Martyrs in our time

Forty years ago today, four American churchwomen were murdered and dumped in a shallow grave in a cow pasture in Santiago Nonualco, El Salvador. Maryknoll sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline sister Dorothy Kazel, and lay missionary Jean Donovan were victims of the country's civil war, killed by members of the Salvadoran National Guard. The women knew they faced danger and yet they could not leave the people. Jean Donovan wrote in a letter two weeks before her death: "Several times I have decided to leave El Salvador. I almost could, except for the children, the poor bruised victims of this insanity." Inspired by the life and martyrdom of Archbishop Saint Oscar Romero, all four women shared a commitment to the church's "preferential option for the poor." Ita, Maura, Dorothy, and Jean—you walk with us still and we remember. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177)*. "Jesus summoned his disciples and said, 'My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they . . . have nothing to eat.'"

## Thursday, Dec 03 MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST Gain from apparent loss

While focus is often on Francis' youthful fervor, which sparked his missionary adventures in Asia, less emphasis falls on his maturation. In Japan, he learned to appreciate local culture, connecting it with the gospel. While ocean travel in the 16th century was perilous, long separation from Ignatius of Loyola may have been an even greater suffering. Francis was one of Ignatius' first companions at the founding of the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits, as they are commonly known. And imagine Francis' disappointment when he couldn't reach his ultimate dream destination: China. Have you ever had a "dream deferred," an unrealized goal? What have you learned from the apparent failure that you might not have learned from success? TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178)*. "The house . . . did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock."

## Friday, Dec 04 MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF DAMASCUS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH An iconic witness

History takes some strange turns. John Damascene is considered one of the great fathers of the Eastern Church, known today for its beautiful iconographic representations of the communion of saints. Yet back in the seventh century, John had to *defend* the use of icons against a movement in the East to ban them. And who protected him from being arrested by his powerful opponents? The Muslim caliph of Damascus under whose rule John lived and served administratively. Beneath the twists of history, search for the hidden story of salvation, unfolding through the centuries and before our eyes in these iconic times as well. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179)*. "Then he touched their eyes and said, 'Let it be done for you according to your faith.' And their eyes were opened."

## Saturday, Dec 05 ADVENT WEEKDAY Pay it forward

Why is it that the season of Lent seems to get all the instructions of what to do—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—but with Advent, we have no handy summary about what to actually do during the season—besides wait? Sure, we have our creches and wreaths, maybe even a Jesse tree or, better yet, an Advent calendar with chocolate hidden behind each door. While all these customs are good, how can we "effect"—that is, bring about—the new life we so eagerly await? The world may have an answer for us. Today marks International Volunteer Day. How can you put into action on behalf of others your faith and expectation of new life in God? TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180)*. "Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."



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