

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



Pastoral Staff

Rev. James Wood - *Pastor* x111
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Rev. Paul Butler - *Pastoral Vicar* x118
pbutler@saintmargaret.com

Deacons - Ed Hayes x0
Retired: William Kogler, Biagio Muratore

Parish Center Office – Receptionist x0
Julie Burtoff, Admin Assistant x133
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Faith Formation Office
Jackie Mirenda, Coordinator x131
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Music Ministry
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Parish Outreach
Outreach@saintmargaret.com
Julie Burtoff, x119

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.



Holy Family Sunday



December 25 & 27, 2020

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

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Even with the limitations and fears caused by the pandemic, the desire to be with those we love is a strong one. Whether it is through a Zoom Christmas or one where people are together after careful decisions (or, unfortunately, even gatherings without planning), we want to be together with those who love and care for us. This yearning comes from a basic human need. For some, that place is our “biological” family. For others, it is our “intentional” family.

With this in mind, let’s look at some usually overlooked parts of the Christmas story.

First, if this was Joseph’s ancestral village, where was his extended family? (Kin connections were much more important in the ancient world than today.) Why should they have to stay at an inn? More heartbreaking than the fact that Joseph and Mary were denied room at the inn is the fact that they had to ask for a room at all. For Joseph’s family, apparently, they did not count.

Second, Joseph and Mary were going to Bethlehem because the occupying power (Rome) ordered a census. Like any ruler, the Emperor wanted to know the number of his subjects and how he could get the most money out of them. In other words, they were to be counted as something that could be used. We tend to be suspicious about being “counted” because the purpose is to be “counted *on*”—counted on to buy something, counted on to vote for someone, counted on to give a good review of this or that. Rarely do we just *count*.

And this brings us back to the question of why we want to be “home” for Christmas. We go there to count, not for what we have to offer, but because we belong, and hopefully, we are loved. This is how God counts. Jesus introduced a new census to the world—one that counts on the love we give and receive.



Merry Christmas! Fr. Jim

RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION ~ Saturdays ~ 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Due to the need for privacy without using an enclosed room, we are using the Parish Center foyer. A screen divides the foyer between the priest and the penitent. There is no chair or kneeler since we could not disinfect them. You simply come in, stand, confess, receive your penance and depart.



In warm weather, the red front door is propped open. *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.*

In cold weather, the door needs to stay closed.
Please knock and wait to be invited in.



January 1st Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, December 31st, 5:00 PM
Wednesday, January 1st, 10:00 AM

St. Margaret's Website

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

SAINTMARGARET.COM

Merry Christmas

From Fr. Jim, Fr. Paul and St. Margaret's Staff



Faith Formation



*A Blessed Christmas Season to all from
St. Margaret of Scotland Faith Formation.*

Jackie Miranda

SUNDAY MASS ON ST. MARGARET'S WEBSITE

In addition to our weekend Masses, available at 5^{pm} Saturday and 8^{am}, 10^{am} 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. 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.



Full Time Business Manager

The Parish of St. Gerard Majella in Port Jefferson Station is seeking a full time Business Manager to oversee the physical and financial resources of the parish. This position requires flexibility in schedule to attend meetings, coordinate projects and attend to emergencies. This position reports directly to the Pastor. College degree required, preferably in Accounting or related fields. Send cover letter and resume to Fr. Gregory Rannazzisi, Pastor, by email only: frgreg@stgmajella.org.

Congratulations Honor Roll Students

St. Margaret's Parish family would like to congratulate the Honor Roll for students from **St. Anthony's High School, Huntington**



Tiffany Bosch, Valerie Bosch, Sarah Breuer, Cassandra Hussey, Vincent Indelicato, Aelish Symonds, & Ajani Valerio

We commend their efforts to excel!

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.

For all our parishioners suffering from chronic illness, as well as

Deirdre Mahon Vartiainen	
John & Patricia Friscina	Terri Persina
Estelle Beauchamp	Alyssa Baisch
Lucy & Sarah Behie	Jillian Brown
Virginia Butler	Robert J. Heege
Eric Cohen	Kathleen Weiss
Lorraine Vogel	De Santis Family
Laura Durant	June Tamillow
Frank Guttilla	Robert Valletta
Joseph Kiely	Sharon Klyn
Warne Family	Michael C. Liotta
Anne Logan	Christine Mc Cusker
Dominic Percoco	Gina Rosenberg
Laura Positano	Cathy Reynolds
Patricia Wowk	Natasha Roucoulet

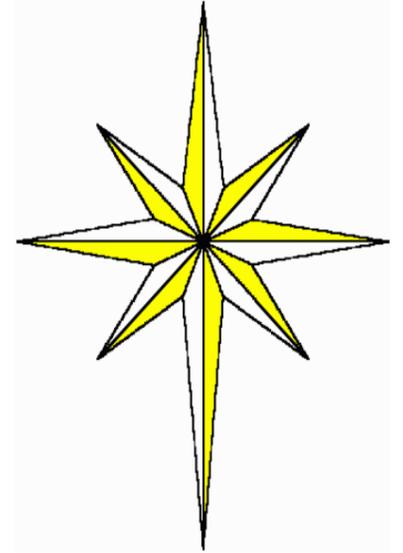
Veronica Sheridan-Cox
Wendiann & Nicholas Alfieri
Christina & Baby Muller
Marilyn & Steven Vacchio
Babies Greyson & Aubrey
Jennifer, John & Olivia Rose Altieri

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.

Upon Christ's Nativity, or Christmas

Now in a manger lies the eternal Word:
The Word He is, yet can no speech afford;
He is the Bread of Life, yet hungry lies;
The Living Fountain, yet for drink He cries;
He cannot help or clothe Himself at need
Who did the lilies clothe and ravens feed;
He is the Light of Lights, yet now doth shroud
His glory with our nature as a cloud.
He came to us a Little One, that we
Like little children might in malice be;
Little He is, and wrapped in clouts, lest He
Might strike us dead if clothed with majesty.

Christ had four beds and those not soft nor brave:
The Virgin's womb, the manger, cross, and grave.
The angels sing this day, and so will I
That have more reason to be glad than they. *Rowland Watkyns (fl. 1662)*



The Night the Animals Talked

Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem, a working stable, filled with animals of all kinds. Into these humble surroundings, encircled by the innocent creatures of God, the Savior of our human family came into the world; God is with us!

St. Luke's Gospel goes on to tell us that angels and shepherds rejoiced and praised God. The following legend reminds us that ALL creation was touched by this miraculous event.

In that long-ago and faraway stable, the animals watched in wonder as the new-born Babe, born exactly at midnight, was lovingly wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger. As part of this miraculous event, God blessed the animals with the gift of human voice and immediately they began to praise God for the mighty Savior who was born a helpless Infant. This went on for several minutes and just before the entrance of the shepherds (who had hurried to the stable because angels had told them the Christ had been born there), the animals again fell silent. But for a moment, the world was in harmony.

The important message of the story is that animals know God and are in relationship with God. Animals in their animal way praise God. Until we get talked out of it, many of us are comfortable with the very Biblical vision that all of creation, everything and everyone, can praise God.

For some reason, the legend of the talking animals is strongest in Scandinavia. In the frosty mountains and on snowy fields out in the country, children still creep out to stables and stalls just before midnight hoping to hear a miracle.

Yet, the deeper miracle is available to all: Faith that Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ, has come as Savior of all Creation! The Good News is here: heaven and earth are joined.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2020

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

When he was elected as a Successor of St. Peter on March 13, 2013, our Holy Father chose the name *Francis*. It was a weighty decision with a prophetic message. Especially now, seven years later and with the publication of his latest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* from the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi on October 3, 2020, the significance of the choice is clear: Pope Francis connects his papacy to St. Francis.

Through the ministry of our Holy Father, St. Francis of Assisi is close to the Church in these times. Therefore, as we draw near to Bethlehem at the end of this difficult year, I wish to recall two points Pope Francis highlights from the life of St. Francis. One will help us celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord; the other indicates a grace for which to pray during the holy season.

First, in his 2019 Apostolic Letter *Admirabile Signum: On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*, Pope Francis emphasizes St. Francis of Assisi's foundational role in our celebration of Christmas. The Holy Father recalls the origins of the crèche and the first nativity scene inspired by the holy friar in 1223, by which the saint sought "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem." Importantly, the remembrance of Christ's birth that St. Francis desired to convey was brought alive in Greccio, a small village in Italy, not by statues but by people from the surrounding towns and countryside. Together with St. Francis, his friars, an ox and a donkey, they gathered at a cave to behold a manger full of hay over which the Eucharist was celebrated. That Christmas night, almost 800 years ago, Pope Francis reminds us, "the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present." That night, there was "no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery." (2) Encountering Christ, there was simply joy and hope.

This Christmas, in our world laden with the Crosses of COVID-19, political and economic turmoil, racism, financial hardship, and so many other societal ills and challenges – challenges that impact us on Long Island – let us remember this lesson from Greccio: Christmas is an event to be lived. It demands our participation. Like the women and men who embodied that first crèche, we must be present to Christ who is born for us. We must behold and receive Him.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Second, in *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis shows St. Francis as an icon of Christocentric- listening. With great humility and charity, the saint reverently listened to others. He was present to the various voices in his life – the voice of God, the voice of his neighbor, the voice of the poor, the voice of the sick, the voice of nature – and by truly hearing them, he was an instrument of peace, healing, and understanding. How different it can be for us! The Holy Father says well what we know: “Today’s world is largely a deaf world...At times, the frantic pace of the modern world prevents us from listening attentively to what another person is saying.” Aware of this fact, the Pope encourages us, in the midst of our hectic and polarized world, to be like St. Francis and “not lose our ability to listen.” (48)

This Christmas, when we approach the crib, let us ask for the grace to be attentive listeners. Let us ask for the grace to be like St. Francis, so that we may hear the voice of God and the voice of our neighbor and respond with the radical charity he exhibited.1

Like Pope Francis, may we be moved by the example of St. Francis, and may St. Francis of Assisi’s love for the Mystery of the Nativity, his ecstatic mysticism, his love for the poor, and his spirit of universal fraternity animate our celebration of Christmas this year.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *John O. Barres*
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Christmas Thank You!

St. Margaret’s Outreach would like to thank ALL who donated to our families. It is a wonderful time of year for giving and was felt by many. Throughout the year many items were contributed to our Outreach.

Everything was offered including gift cards to our many clients!

All families were so thankful for your generosity!

God Bless, *Julie Burtoff* ~ Outreach Coordinator

