

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



Pastoral Staff

Rev. James Wood - *Pastor* x111
jwood@saintmargaret.com

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
jburtoff@saintmargaret.com

Faith Formation Office
Jackie Mirenda, Coordinator x131
Jmirenda@saintmargaret.com

Music Ministry
Dr. Daniel Crews, Director x117
dcrews@saintmargaret.com

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.



The Temptation of Jesus

February 21, 2021

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



Time, Talent & Treasure

Stewardship Thought for the Week.

Pillar of Service: : One great gift we can give to another is prayer. This week, say a prayer for a family member or friend you haven't specifically prayed for in a while; welcome them into your heart.

Sacrificial Giving

Thank you to all who so generously give to the support of our parish. You are returning to God what God has so generously given to you.

	#	2020	2021	#
Collected at Mass	304	9,462	3,019	87
Mailed Envelopes	18	605	7,212	124
Electronic Donations	23	1,129	3,312	43
Total Collection	345	\$11,196	\$13,543	254
Mass Attendance	5pm	8am	10am	12pm
Last Sunday	59	46	75	74
Last Year	234	171	244	303
				Total
				254
				952

Readings for Next Sunday Second Sunday of Lent

- First Reading Gn 22: 1-2,9a,10-13,15-18
 Second Reading Rom 8: 31b-34
 Gospel Mk 9: 2-10

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: We welcome all new parishioners! We ask them to register at the Parish Center and encourage the use of weekly envelopes. If you are moving, please notify the office.

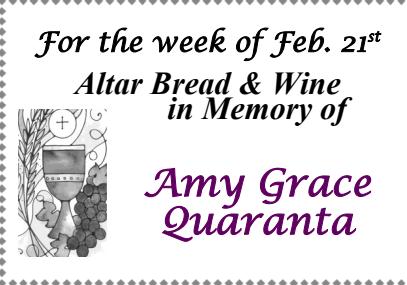
MARRIAGES: Couples should make arrangements in person at least one year in advance for required interview. At least one of the parties must live within the parish boundaries, or be a registered member of the parish. Please call the Parish Center for an appointment. No dates will be set over the telephone.

BAPTISMS: Prospective parents should telephone the Parish Center about three months before the expected birth to discuss the arrangements for your child's baptism and enroll you in the required baptismal class. Baptism classes are held monthly on the 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month. The baptism date will be set at the time of the class. The child's birth certificate as well as the godparent's "sponsor certificate" (godparents must be Confirmed practicing Catholics) must be presented before a date is finalized.

Please note the change of office hours due to COVID 19 Pandemic.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE ~ Parish Center: Monday - Wednesday:
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Or call for appointment—x131.

PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY ~ Parish Center: Thursday 10 am –2 pm.
Or call for appointment—x119.



Masses for the Week
As We Resume Public Masses, all attending: please observe social distancing

Monday - February 22nd

Special Intention Jessica Beljour

Tuesday - February 23rd

February 24th

Amy Grace Quaranta

Thursday, - February 25th

Friday - February 26th

Norman Gottfried

Saturday - February 27th

11^{am} Video Mass

For All St. Margaret's Parishioners

5^{pm}

Sunday – February 28th

8^{am}

10^{am}

Special Intention George Marmorato

12^{pm}

Helen Hureau
Margherita LaSale

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



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

MaryJane & William Kogler
Veronica Sheridan-Cox
Wendianne & 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.

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

The temptation story from Mark's gospel (the earliest Gospel) is far shorter than those in Matthew and Luke. Both evangelists take this opportunity to explore the nature of human temptation as well as to point out Jesus' victory over it. Mark, however, recounts the event in two sentences. Rather than detailing three encounters with Satan complete with dueling scripture, we hear only that the Spirit drove Jesus to the desert, the home of evil spirits. There Satan attempted to exert his authority, but in vain. Interestingly, what Mark does include is a final image of Jesus in the desert situated between ministering angels and wild beasts that do not appear to be a threat to him.

Because this is a temptation story, we may automatically presume that Jesus' strength comes from his "angelic" side, and that temptation seeks entry through his "animal" nature. Yet it was the angels who first rebelled against God in both Jewish and Christian traditions; they alone have the possibility to switch sides through a free choice. Biblical animals, burdened with no such freedom, remain loyal and obedient throughout. Perhaps it might be that our "higher" self—our prized intellect—is where pride and its fall are more readily manifest. ~**Fr. Jim**

RECONCILIATION / CONFESION ~ 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, stay standing, 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.

Guidelines for Fasting & Abstinence

In keeping with the spirit of penance, Catholics are asked to observe the following practices:

Good Friday is a day of fast* and abstinence**

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence**

***Fasting:** All between the ages of 18 and 59 may eat only one full meal & two small meals on these days (no snacks).

****Abstinence:** All from the age of seven onwards abstain from meat on these days.

Illness always exempts people from these requirements.



**2021
CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL**
DIOCESE OF
ROCKVILLE CENTRE



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your sustained support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) and our parish communities here on Long Island. Every year when we support the CMA, we create pathways to faith for our diocesan family. The Appeal invigorates our journey of dramatic missionary growth in our Diocese and unites us as One Family in Mission as we fulfill our baptismal call to evangelize and show mercy to our brothers and sisters in need. As Pope Francis has said, "Go and show love to everyone, because your life is a precious mission." As you prayerfully consider a gift to this year's CMA, please take a moment to reflect on the many ways our families and neighbors find their path to Christ because of your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal. With my prayers and best wishes to you and your family. Sincerely in Christ, *Most Reverend John O. Barres Bishop of Rockville Centre*



100% of every dollar raised is restricted to serve the objectives, programs, and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Lent 2021

Dear Friends:

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan...After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God."(Mark 1:12 – 14) Each year on the First Sunday of Lent, the Church presents for our reflection and prayer the experience of Jesus in the desert. Jesus's experience in the desert follows immediately upon His baptism by Saint John the Baptist and immediately precedes His public ministry and proclamation of the Kingdom of God, in word and in deed. Saint Mark points out to us that the Spirit, who had just descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove, drove Jesus into the desert.

The desert was a barren place, a place of lifelessness, the home of the devil and evil. The Spirit sends Jesus into the desert to prepare himself for the years of His public ministry, ultimately leading to His Death and Resurrection. Jesus spends time away from the world to prepare himself. But He also goes forth into the desert to begin His battle against evil, sin and death. Jesus goes into the very dwelling of evil to begin the confrontation. This battle will continue throughout the rest of Jesus's life. The ultimate victory will come on Good Friday through His ultimate act of love on the Cross.

Our yearly experience of Lent, our forty day "desert experience," can be viewed in the same way. We are inspired and sent by the Spirit to spend some time apart from the world of noise and recover the beauty of silence. But, we are also sent to do battle. Our experience of true silence should allow us the opportunity to both listen to the voice and promptings of God as well as to better know ourselves. This personal battle against sin and evil can be painful, because we come to realize that we are all in need of constant conversion. There are real changes each and every one of us need to make in our lives and our hearts this Lent. But like Jesus, we are not alone. The Lord was ministered to by angels during His forty days in the desert. We are constantly aided by our guardian angels, by the angels and saints in heaven, by the community of the baptized, and by the grace of the sacraments of the Church. Like Jesus, we need to emerge from the desert ready to take on the evils of the world and work to spread the Gospel.

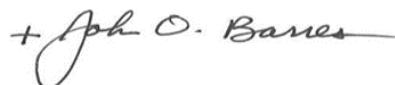
It was only a few short weeks into Lent 2020 that the experience of Covid-19 made radical changes to our society, our Church, and our families. The experience of desert isolation was no longer a metaphor but a lived reality. The experience of having our parishes locked down for months was painful for all of us. Many of us still experience this isolation in many ways. But as Christians we always remain men and women of hope. We know that the Cross of Good Friday leads to the empty tomb of Easter Sunday.

Pope Francis has declared this year as a special Year of Saint Joseph. In Saint Joseph we find a man of profound hope and strength as well as prayerful silence. Scripture does not record one word spoken by Saint Joseph. But Scripture does tell us of his unwavering faith and trust, which go beyond words. Following Jesus, and like Saint Joseph, men and women in the first centuries of the Church began to leave the towns and villages and settle in the isolation of the desert. Like the Lord, they sought to rid themselves of the distractions of everyday life so they too could do battle with evil, and through their quiet example proclaim the Kingdom of God.

This continued throughout the history of the Church, even to our present moment. Saint Antony, Saint Benedict, Saint Bruno, and so many others show us the lived experience of the desert is not an escape from the reality of life but a privileged encounter with the Lord and a revelation of our true selves. While most of us are not called to the monastic or solitary life, the last twelve months have given each of us an experience of solitude. We are encouraged to remain "socially distant." In the midst of the real suffering and hardships this has caused, perhaps the hidden grace is that it has led us to be "temporary monastics."

Our typical Lenten "desert experience" of forty days has lasted a bit longer. But we will come out of it! And like the Lord, when we emerge our goal is to proclaim the Gospel of God according to our vocation and the graces given to us. In addition to our personal sins and the evils present in our own hearts, we live in a world that is right now suffering from real physical illness as well as real division and hurt of every kind. Jesus emerged from the desert bringing the healing presence of God to all he encountered. As the baptized, the Church, the continuing presence of Jesus in the world, we need to do the same. The same Holy Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert is driving us on.

Sincerely in Christ



Most Reverend John O. Barres Bishop
of Rockville Centre

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Tune into “Religion and Rock,” a nationally syndicated, 60 minute, classic rock program. Each week, Msgr. Jim Vlaun, a priest of our Diocese, takes a theme and explores it through various songs.

Broadcast on Sundays from 7:00 AM- 8:00 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM; on Saturdays at 11:00 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11:00 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117.

For more info, go to: www.religionandrock.com

Faith Formation

LEVEL 2

Your next gathering will be Mon., Feb. 22nd ~ 6-7pm

LEVEL 7

Your next gathering will be Tues., Feb. 23rd ~ 6:30-8pm

LEVEL 5

Your next gathering will be Weds., Feb. 24th ~ 6:30-8pm

LEVEL 8

Your next gathering will be Thurs., Feb. 25th ~ 6:30-8pm



Parish Social Ministry

We will be available to accept donations at the Parish Center Back Door on **Thursday from 9am until 11am or during office hours listed on the front cover.**

Food / Toiletry Items

Canned fruit, small jars of jelly, egg noodles, toothpaste

A very special THANK YOU to all!

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.

Please do **not** leave clothing at our Thrift Shop entrance or our Parish Center doors. We do not have a Thrift Shop open to accommodate. You may take items to St. Gerard Majella on Terryville Rd., PJS or Resurrection Parish on Granny Road in Farmington. **Thank you.**

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 _____

SUNDAY MASS ON ST. MARGARET'S WEBSITE

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



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.

St. Margaret's Website

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

SAINTMARGARET.COM

Sunday, Feb 21, 2021 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Doing the rite thing

Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a countercultural choice. They're going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive First Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it's a journey of the heart. For all, it's what they've seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let's help keep the inspiration going! TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (23). "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Monday, Feb 22 FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE Recognize the chair

Jesus loved us so much that he entrusted us to someone he trusted deeply. In fact, in the Gospel of John, Jesus asked Peter three times if his devotion was assured. He named him "rock" so he would be a solid foundation upon which to build the church, and for 2,000 years Peter's successors have had the responsibility of tending his sheep. Today we celebrate the seat of the pope's authority as Christ's representative on Earth, the protector Jesus wanted for his flock. Ask the Holy Spirit to always guide the one who sits in Peter's chair. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535). "I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven."*

Tuesday, Feb 23 MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR Words to live forever by

Polycarp's death in 155 is one of the first accounts of Christian martyrdom in a public arena. The elderly bishop was resolute and serene even as he was burned and stabbed before a frenzied crowd. Included in the accounts is the two hours of prayer Polycarp began upon his arrest, so powerful it unnerved his Roman guards. But Polycarp was also an Apostolic Father, specifically a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. Thus, he had firsthand knowledge of John's words from Jesus: "Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

Wednesday, Feb 24 LENTEN WEEKDAY A good day to make amends

We are one week into this Lenten season, so perhaps it is time to have a conversation with our Lord. Imagine you are walking with Jesus, side by side, and he asks you, "Is there any person you think of who you have hurt or judged, or any action that comes to mind that you know was wrong? Anything you repent?" You take a moment, and standing next to him, you feel his love for you. Regret and sorrow arise as you admit the mistakes that come to mind. You ask for the grace to make amends in whatever way possible. Find a way today to make something right. TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). "At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."*

Thursday, Feb 25 LENTEN WEEKDAY Has prayer moved you?

It is tempting to think about prayer in a transactional way: I ask, therefore God gives. Today's gospel may even appear to encourage this form of thought: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find." But Catholic teaching urges us to see God's response to prayer broadly. Pope Francis explains: "Prayer always transforms reality: if things around us do not change, at least our hearts are changed. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to every man and woman who prays." If you have a prayer that seems unanswered, consider how your heart was moved by the mere act of praying. TODAY'S READINGS: *Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227). "For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds."*

Friday, Feb 26 LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE The low rumble within

Anger is one of our human "passions," the Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs, neither good nor bad in and of itself. Anger can provide us with helpful information that we feel wronged by someone or something. It may be intense or a low rumble within. Lent is an opportunity to become still, listen to our anger, and examine its source. How might we invite God into these rough spaces for healing? Desiring healing does not disregard hurt or suffering; rather we seek to "unhook" from anger to live in peace. Unhooking might mean talking with a loved one who hurt us. It might mean protesting against injustice. It might mean forgiving ourselves. What might be rumbling within your heart? TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). "Go first and be reconciled."*

Saturday, Feb 27 LENTEN WEEKDAY Agree to disagree

There is no more timely message for our divided age of partisan politics than "love your enemies." But how is that even possible? One perspective that some find helpful is that "you don't have to *like* someone to *love* them." Love in this context is not a warm, fuzzy feeling but a decision to treat with respect, to "do unto others." A tall order, but it does help to remove the expectation that we have to become fast friends with those we oppose. And maybe it will lead to a time when we can see difficult folks as people with whom we happen to disagree, rather than mortal enemies. Jesus was all about reconciliation. Let's take up the mantle. TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229). "But I say to you, love your enemies."*

