

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



Pastoral Staff

Msgr. Robert Batule - *Pastor* x111

Deacons - Dcn Ed Hayes x0

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Faith Formation Office

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Parish Outreach

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Holy Angels Regional Catholic School

Patchogue, NY 631-475-0422
Jeannine Stewart, Principal



August 29, 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

Celebration of the Eucharist

Weekday: (Mon, through Fri) 9am

Sunday: Sat - 5pm,

Sun - 8am, 10am & 12 noon

Confessions: Saturday: 4 - 4:45 PM

in the **Church** or by appointment.

In the end of August, things are pretty quiet as schools open soon, as families wrap up vacations and people return to work. It's a really good time to pick up a book, head to the beach or have a long, leisurely lunch at a local eatery. We sense that the rush of the schedule is at abeyance for a little while longer, and why not rest up before having to put it into overdrive just after Labor Day.

In the second reading at Mass this weekend, we have a passage from the Letter of Saint James, a part of the New Testament literature which we call the Catholic Letters. The Catholic Letters emphasize themes which stand out from the Protestantism of Luther, Calvin and Zwingli in the sixteenth century. Back then, the Protestant reformers had pushed the necessity of faith so far that they wound up denying a place for works in salvation. This position came to be known as *faith alone*. It is not a biblically tenable position because it runs counter to the Letter of Saint James.

The sacred author writes in the Letter of Saint James that we must “be doers of the word and not hearers only.” Such a declaration makes clear that we cannot be passive before the word, the word of God, that is. We must assume an active posture with respect to God’s word according to the Letter of Saint James, endeavoring to act on our faith through works. Faith begins with hearing but it surely does not end there. Indeed, faith reaches its culmination in and through works.

To be a “doer of the word” requires that we discern and judge; otherwise, our action runs the risk of being just acting and not anything more than that. That discernment and judgment do not come to us magically or *deus ex machina*. They come to us precisely because we are at rest, precisely because we are drawn down – so to speak. Time and again, Jesus took occasion in his ministry to withdraw from the hurried if not frenetic pace of things in the earthly Kingdom. We need to follow his example.

Enjoy these remaining “off” days of late August. How profitable they are for us – especially when we may not have to produce anything. We ought to be content, I say, with a vital preparation for doing the word. What we hear in prayer and recollection these days, we trust, will soon enough bear fruit in our doing.

Msgr. Batule

Pastor

Do you know?



Question for this week: Who is the American author from the Southern United States of the last century whose Catholic faith informed her writing?

Answer to last week’s question: Terence Cardinal Cooke was the last American archbishop to be the Military vicar for the united States Armed Forces.



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 _____

We Gather...

We invite all lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to join us on Wednesday, September 8th at **7:00 PM** for a Holy Hour in church. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and it will conclude with Benediction at 8:00 PM.

Following the Holy Hour, there will be a meeting to review procedures and practices in the basement of the parish center building. We will finish by **9:00 PM**.

Parish Updates

Beginning the 1st of September, the office in the parish center will have new hours. As of this new date, the office is open from **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM** Monday through Thursday and **9:00 AM to 1:00 PM** on Friday. Please make note of the new and expanded hours for serving the parishioners of Saint Margaret.

Starting September 1st, the donation for announced masses and unannounced masses will be **\$20.00**. The increase is to meet the diocesan norm of **\$20.00**, which has been at this rate for more than several years. We are grateful that you remember deceased loved ones through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Please continue this meritorious practice.

We invite you to visit the grotto in honor of Our Lady on church property. It has been beautified with new plantings and reflects an inspiring devotion to the Mother of God. We are grateful for the work done there and trust that many parishioners will be drawn to it for prayer and recollection. Thank you!

We are returning to the ordinary way of distributing Holy Communion at weekend and daily Masses. Kindly allow worshippers in the pews closest to the sanctuary to approach for the reception of Holy Communion **first**. This coincides with the return of the distribution of Holy Communion in the center aisle. This goes into effect on the weekend following Labor Day (September 11th and 12th).

Faith Formation

FALL REGISTRATION

If you have not received a form, please contact Jackie at the Faith Formation office at 631-732-3131 x131. Return ASAP for placement.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF YOUR ORIENTATION DAY

Volunteers Needed

*Catechists and assistants needed. Please call Jackie if you are able to help out!
631-732-3131 x131*



Prep Course for Catholic High School St. John the Baptist ~ West Islip

If you are planning to have your son or daughter attend one of the nine Catholic high schools on Long Island in September 2022, he or she is required to take an entrance exam in the 8th grade as part of the admissions process. We will be administering this exam on **Nov. 6, 2021**. Five Saturday prep classes will be held to assist the student. If you would like to more information and/or sign up, go to STJOHNTHEBAPTISTDHS.NET and follow the admissions tab for the application or call 631-587-8000 x117.

The church is open at 8:30 AM Monday through Friday. We encourage parishioners and other church-goers to come early for Mass.

The recitation of the rosary is encouraged among those so inclined.



Parish Social Ministry

WE WILL NO LONGER HAVE THE TABLE AT THE BACK OF THE PARISH CENTER.

PLEASE bring all donations to the front door of the Parish Center or bring to the box in the rear of the Church.

**Cereal, Egg noodles, Beef Stew,
Pancake Mix**

A very special THANK YOU to all!

Free Comprehensive Child Care

The Children's Community Head Start Birth to Five Program provides a FREE educational program including developmental activities and meals. Health, Nutrition, Family Services and Parent Involvement are also a part of our program. Children with special needs are welcome. Home based and center based programs available ~ children ages birth to five years in Central Suffolk County. To see if you qualify call 631-585-2020-Ronkonkoma & 631-476-9698-Port Jefferson or visit WWW.CHILDRENSCOMMUNITYHS.ORG



Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is a 24/7 national network that provides comprehensive Catholic, informative and spiritual programming. CFN is at the service of the Word, the Church, the Bishops and the Encounter of Faith and Culture. Available on your local cable providers, all of your favorite digital platforms, the free CFN app.



 Channel 29/137
  Channel 296
  Channel 162/471





www.CFNtv.org

Also available in Spanish
at www.CFNespañol.org



Virtual Bereavement Support

The heartache of grief can be complicated when losing a loved one to an addiction.

YES Community Counseling Center is continuing their support group for adults who have lost a loved one to an addiction. The Support Group meets the **second Monday of each month** from 7-8PM. To register for the Zoom invite contact Kathleen Coletta, LCSW-R via email at kcoletta@yesccc.org or 516-799-3203 ~ YESCCC.ORG.

Bereavement Support Program St. Mary's in East Islip

Support Groups are opened to anyone who has suffered a loss at **least three months prior** to the start of the group. Loss must have occurred prior to June 16, 2021. There is no cost but a commitment to attend each meeting throughout the program is required. Groups are offered in a closed and confidential setting with highly trained facilitators and limited to 13 people. All Covid CDC guidelines will be properly adhered. Eight Week Group beginning Thursday evenings at 7pm ~ **September 16th through November 4th**. **Pre-registration is required** Call 631-581-4266 ext. 125 to register

Catholic Charities Senior Housing

Catholic Charities has Senior Housing in Nassau and Suffolk Counties in 16 locations. Rent is calculated based on the income at 30 % ~ below \$45K for one person and \$52K for two people over 62 years. For info or an application, call STANAN MANAGEMENT at 516-486-1000. Each site has its own applications an waiting list. Their current wait time is approx. 2 1/2 - 3 years.

St. Sylvester's CYO Track

St. Sylvester's is accepting registrations for the Fall 2021 season (Sept.-Oct.) The team is open to boys and girls in kindergarten through 8th grade. Contact Jerry at jfigoros8@gmail.com or 631-585-4048

Sunday, Aug 29, 2021 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Purity is not an abstinence test

Many of us who grew up in a moralizing culture were taught to imagine purity as having mainly to do with chastity. In which case, our aim was higher than the almost-but-not-quite perfection you might get from Ivory Soap, which years ago advertised itself as 99 and 44/100 percent pure. We may therefore be astonished that, according to the apostle James, purity in religion has something to do with how we respond to the abandoned in this world. Think charity, not chastity, to bump up your purity percentile. TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (125)*. "Religion that is pure . . . is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction."

Monday, Aug 30 Remember your name

After being baptized with water, Catholics are anointed with oil and these words are said over them, "As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body . . ." That means we share in those offices of Christ. Those are big roles—how to live up to them? Priests worship and make offerings to God, prophets speak the truth and live the gospel, royalty leads and takes care of others. If you remind yourself regularly of the sacred titles you were given at Baptism, how might that help you fulfill your promise? TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30 (431)*. "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Tuesday, Aug 31 Hope works

Today, in Poland, it's the Day of Solidarity and Freedom—a modern Independence Day celebration after years of oppressive Soviet rule. In the 1980s, labor activist Lech Walesa helped stoke the flames of democratic social change. But it was Poland's favorite son, Pope John Paul II, who provided the spark. In his 1979 papal visit, John Paul II gave the people an electric hope that change was possible. "Let the Spirit descend and renew the face of the Earth. This Earth," he said. With Labor Day nearly here, remember how solidarity and workers' rights are cornerstones of Social Teaching. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37 (432)*. "They were all amazed and said to one another, 'What is there about his word?'"

Wednesday, Sep 01 Living waters run deep

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation celebrated today "offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation," says Pope Francis, who elevated this day in 2015 with the publication of his encyclical on the care of creation, *Laudato Si'*. As we move past August, Water Quality Month, be particularly mindful of your stewardship over the precious resource of clean drinking water. May all of us "come to the water" together as we care for our common home. TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44 (433)*. "I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Thursday, Sep 02 Get unstuck

In today's gospel Simon Peter is so overcome by his own sinfulness, he tells Jesus to go away from him. What exactly is "sinfulness"? Lots of actions and inactions fall into that category, but the essence of Catholic teaching on sin is that it separates us from God. Selfishness, violence, and other sins drive a wedge between us and God. Peter knew that instinctively. Remove that wedge by asking God for forgiveness, and ponder what you can do to free yourself to reconcile a relationship that has become estranged. TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11 (434)*. "Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.'"

Friday, Sep 03 MEMORIAL OF GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Keep it all in balance

It's never easy to find the right balance between sitting quietly and attentively on the sidelines and joining in the scrum of life's adventures. Our life of prayer helps us to discern how best to hold these together and to respond with love for ourselves and the common good. Gregory was a Benedictine monk of the late sixth century and loved his life as a contemplative. Yet, when called upon to take the helm of a church suffering from the fall of Rome and the plague, he stepped up and found his calling expressed in new ways through prayer, caring for those in need, and leading compassionately. Find the right balance between action and contemplation. TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 5:33-39 (435)*. "In him all the fullness was pleased to dwell."

Saturday, Sep 04 The fruits of creation for all of creation

It's interesting to note that in the story of Jesus' hungry disciples eating the grain from a farmer's field, the objection raised by the Pharisees is not that they took the grain, but that they did so on the Sabbath. In fact, eating grain or produce from a neighbor's farm while passing through was permitted by Jewish law (*Deuteronomy 23:25-26*), provided one did not carry off any surplus. It was considered a common courtesy and obligation of charity to share the abundance of creation with one's neighbor. Perhaps we can embrace that same ethic in our own stewardship of the abundance God has entrusted to us. TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5 (436)*. "While Jesus was going through a field of grain on a sabbath, his disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them."





September 10-12th, 2021

1-800-470-2230

You Can Help Heal Your Marriage!

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other?

Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other?

Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins on

Friday, September 10, 2021 -

please call 1-800-470-2230

and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

Please call or go on the web to make a reservation!

Weekends get filled up very quickly

1-800-470-2230 website www.retrouvaille.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter



To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and are seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00pm to 9:30pm.

Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Chuck & Maria Reiss at 631-486-8607 or go to <https://wwmenyli.org/>.

