

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



Celebration of the Eucharist

Weekday: (Mon through Fri) 9:00am

Saturday: 5:00pm,

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am & 12 noon

Confessions:

Saturday - 4:00-4:45 PM in the Church
or by appointment.

Pastoral Staff

Msgr. Robert Batule - *Pastor* x111

Rev. Patrick Abu-Bonsra - Parochial Vicar
x116 pabubonsra@saintmargaret.com

Deacons - Dcn Ed Hayes x0

Retired: Dcn William Kogler,
Dcn 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 x119

Holy Angels Regional Catholic School

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



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Phone: (631) 732-3131

Parish Office

Monday through Thursday ~ 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Friday ~ 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Fax (631) 732 - 8827

www.saintmargaret.com

81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813

A favorite expression at this time of year is “the holidays.” People use it to refer to a period of time – late in the calendar year – when people get together as in “over the holidays.” Or perhaps you have heard this expression when people are doing their shopping “for the holidays.” It’s a generic term really, and that itself may be the first indication that the phrase is not very helpful. It is just too ambiguous. For it causes us to inquire, “To what holidays are you referring?”

“The holidays” we all know from common parlance and sheer repetition for decades now means the period from Thanksgiving to Christmas. The race is on then. Get as many things “in” because time is working against you. If you delay, you might lose out and “the holidays” won’t be so merry after all. Better to push ahead and keep crossing things off your list. Time is definitely not your ally; in fact, it’s your adversary.

“The holidays” have basically overwhelmed Advent. Indeed, it wouldn’t surprise if there are Catholics – younger ones, of course – who may not even recognize the word and would have to look up its significance online. Well, at least that’s a start. Looking it up and discovering that it’s actually still observed is a worthy exercise. But keeping a consciousness of Advent is a difficult matter given that there is so much pressure coming from the culture to make the month or so between Thanksgiving and Christmas a rolling timeline of culinary delights and festive decorations.

Whatever became of our Advent calendars? Whatever became of our Advent wreaths? Whatever became of our O Antiphons?

We need to recover a true sense of time as waiting. Our waiting for small things certainly helps, but Advent is waiting for the Lord Himself. There isn’t a more important waiting than this one – for the arrival of Emmanuel, that is, God with us. Those doors on the Advent calendars, those candles on the Advent wreaths and those verses of Vespers are ways for us to prepare our hearts to receive the One Whose coming in time gives us the chance at living outside of time eternally.

Advent teaches us a patience to wait upon the gifts of God. It is not as if God entered into history once and then vanished beyond our sight, not to be heard from or seen again. No, He is still with us; Emmanuel remains. That Presence is found in the Eucharist and in Penance. Both are sacraments of the New Dispensation which permit us to wait in faith for the Lord’s Second Coming at the end of time. Till then, we have Saint John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the former, there is the call to conversion and to turn away from sin. In the latter, there is an obedience to the Word, the same Word which took on flesh inside of her.

The Incarnation is so extraordinary an achievement of God that it calls for an Advent, a time before, to re-create in us the attitude of the shepherds in the fields who, when they gazed on the Christ Child, glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen. (cf. Lk 2:20) Let us start our waiting this weekend.

Msgr. Batule
Pastor



Baptisms

Hailey Paige Alvarez
Billie Rhiannon Durkin-Gordon

Mass Book for 2022

The **Mass Book for 2022 is open**. We encourage you to remember deceased relatives and friends at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Through the Communion of Saints, we are never removed from those whom we love. We hope for a reunion with them in God’s providence, and praying for them now helps to bring that reunion a nearer prospect.

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.





Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 19th ~ 4:00 PM in the church.

We invite all parishioners to join us. The service consists of biblical readings and hymns as we await the birth of Our Savior.

The St. Margaret Music Ministry will lead us in the singing portion of the prayer service.

Hospitality will be held immediately following in the auditorium.

All are welcome !



Holy Hour

There will be a Holy Hour in the church on Monday, December 6th beginning at 7:30 PM.

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at the start and there is Benediction at the close of the hour.

Msgr. Batule will preside at this Advent devotion.



Faith Formation

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 12th ~ 3 PM



The children of Saint Margaret's parish prepare a gift for the Christ Child. They honor His birth by retelling the Christmas story for their family, friends and all of our parishioners.

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Come and sing! Rehearsals for our Children's Chorus in the Parish Center on Saturdays beginning in November. All boys and girls (from 2nd grade and above) are invited to come and sing. Contact Ms. Joanne at 631-698-1597 / comatwins@optonline.net for information



Oplątek – A Polish Christmas Tradition

One of the highlights of Christmas festivities in Poland is the Oplątek (pronounced "o-PWAA-tek"). The Oplątek is a decorated Christmas wafer, similar to a large white host. Each person receives one, and then invites the others gathered to break a piece off and eat it. While they are breaking one another's oplątek, people exchange wishes for a blessed Christmas and good health and prosperity. After all those present have broken and shared the Oplątek, good food and Christmas car-ols (in Polish and English) are enjoyed.



This year, members of our Polish community will gather for a traditional Oplątek celebration, and they invite all parishioners to join them in this beautiful tradition.

We will meet in the auditorium on Saturday, **December 11th at 6:30 PM.** If you would like to come, we ask you to do few things: (1) number of people coming & (2) plan on bringing a traditional Christmas dish that can be shared at the potluck meal, (3) consider a monetary donation (\$25 per family) to cover the costs and church offering. Since arrangements take time, we ask that you call or email before December 4th. Call the Parish Center at 631-732-3131 x133 or Henryk Chelminski at 631-693-9310. Email: HENRYKCHEL@GMAIL.COM.

Becoming a Catholic Christian~ RCIA

Do you know a friend or family member who has expressed a desire to learn more about the Catholic faith? Is there someone who has mentioned to you that they are thinking about becoming a Catholic and does not know how to proceed? Are **you** someone who is reading this yourself and would like to learn more about the Catholic faith? If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes," then you are invited to continue your exploration with the members of our RCIA team. RCIA stands for **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.**

The first stage is called "Inquiry," a time to ask questions and receive answers without any pressure to make a decision. The goal is to help adults move toward a commitment to the Lord and full participation in the Catholic community at their pace. It is meant specifically for adults who are seeking Baptism, or those who have been baptized but have not received Confirmation or Eucharist. For more information, please call the Parish Center (631-732-3131 x 133).



Parish Outreach



CHRISTMAS WISH LIST



*St. Margaret's Outreach is asking for donations of **NEW** toys for children & teens in need this Christmas Season.*

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Nail Polish Sets</i> | <i>New Kids' Blankets</i> | <i>Gift Cards</i> |
| <i>Board Games</i> | <i>Art / Craft Supplies</i> | <i>Fast Food Gift Card</i> |
| <i>Pajama Pants</i> | <i>Bath & Body Works</i> | <i><u>Men/Women Size</u></i> |
| <i>Books</i> | <i>Educational Games</i> | <i><u>Clothing for Teens</u></i> |

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

**PLEASE BRING UNWAPPED TO PARISH CENTER
BY DECEMBER 13TH. THANK YOU!**

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 helped over 50 families! They were assisted with a meal, turkey and a smile from our wonderful volunteers!

- Mt. Sinai Yacht Club
- Country Village Estates
- Newfield High School
- Central Brookhaven Lions Club
- Everyone who donated to our Parish Outreach



St. Frances Cabrini ~ Catholic Daughters Fund Raiser

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court #2438 at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Coram is holding their December fundraiser. Many charitable endeavors will benefit. For information on their Calendar Raffle and how you can get an entry, go to their website—sfccoram.org, then go to Home/Bulletin/November14. If you have questions please call 631-882-5798 to speak with Hazel Roberts, their Regent.



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. 25th & 26th**. (*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.**



[cut here] -----

Memorial Donation – Christmas 2021 (deadline: December 14th)

Donor(s) _____

Address _____

Name of Person or Couple Memorialized _____

Living _____ Deceased _____

Sunday, Nov 28 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Light up the night

In an unusual conjoining of celebrations, we begin the season of Advent today as our Jewish friends begin the eight-day festival of lights known as Chanukah tonight. It's intriguing to reflect on how Advent too is an extended celebration of moving from the darkness of history into the light of Christ's coming. Light remains a symbol of spiritual illumination, abandoning the gloom of ignorance for knowledge and the shadow of foolishness for wisdom. As we string holiday lights and decorate with sparkling ornaments, let's consciously choose against error's dark deceptions and ally ourselves with the light of truth. TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 (3)*. "Be vigilant at all times . . . to stand before the Son of Man."

Monday, Nov 29 ADVENT WEEKDAY Have yourself an evergreen Advent

The origins of the Advent wreath are unclear. Like many holiday traditions, they may be pre-Christian, and like many of today's Christmas traditions, Advent wreaths were popularized by Germans, who brought them to the United States. No matter where they came from or how they differ, Advent wreaths are rich in symbolism. The candles are lit as a sign of hope to dispel the darkness. The evergreen, wrapped in a circle, signifies continuous life. The prickly leaves of holly are like the crown of thorns. Pinecones symbolize resurrection. If you don't already have one, consider making one as a craft project this Advent, and add elements that have symbolic meaning for you. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11 (175)*. "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed."

Tuesday, Nov 30 FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE Can you follow directions?

Sometimes what we appreciate about saints comes from other saints. Such is the case with Saint Andrew and his brother, Simon Peter, of whom Saint Gregory the Great said: "At a single command" from Jesus, they "leaving their nets followed the Redeemer. Up to that time, they had not seen him perform any miracles. They had heard nothing from him concerning a reward of eternal joy." All Jesus had to do was ask them to follow. This Advent, listen for what Jesus may be asking of you; pray for the trust that Andrew had, to simply follow. TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684)*. "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Wednesday, Dec 01 ADVENT WEEKDAY Guess who is on the way?

On this Wednesday of the First Week of Advent, we look forward to the second coming of Christ. *Advent* comes from the Latin word for *arriving*. We have all experienced brokenness and hopelessness in our lives. You may know and cross paths with someone yearning for Jesus' healing power and awareness of his presence in their life. Has your mind, heart, body, and spirit been hungry for spiritual nourishment? Have you been healed by Jesus? Do you want to share that same healing experience with others? Consider simple ways that you can share with a hurting friend the Good News that Jesus is on the way! TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177)*. "I do not want to send them away hungry."

Thursday, Dec 02 ADVENT WEEKDAY Seek to unite, not divide

It's human nature to see the good in our own habits, ways, and traditions, but at the same time, Pope Francis has encouraged Christians to acknowledge the validity of other spiritual paths to God. The Holy Father's focus on what unites humanity spiritually is an important lesson for a world community that depends more than ever on cooperation. As you begin Advent, look for ways that you are united spiritually with people who are part of your life, no matter what their faith tradition is. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178)*. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven."

Friday, Dec 03 ADVENT WEEKDAY Creation celebrates diversity

"If you embrace diversity, but ignore disability, you're doing it wrong." This popular phrase on social media reflects the venerable tradition of Catholic social teaching. On this Day of Persons with Disabilities, remember that in following Jesus, we are committed to promoting and protecting the dignity of all humans. At times, we as church have led the way in this, and other times we have fallen short. Nevertheless, it is fundamental to our faith. Why? Because we believe that each person is made in the image of God. Imagine that: In you—with all your strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and unique traits—we see an image of God. What does that do within you? TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179)*. "And their eyes were opened."

Saturday, Dec 04 MEMORIAL OF JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH The embodiment of faith

John Damascene, priest, monk, and poet, was an early defender of the use of religious icons—images of the sacred—at a time in the early Middle Ages when a movement to strip religious life and worship of all images—called *iconoclasm*—had a following. Thanks to John's vision—perhaps rooted in his sense of the power of the poetic to move people—religious icons are cherished, especially in the Eastern church but also throughout the Catholic world. Our faith is an embodied faith, an incarnated faith. Wear it proudly! TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180)*. "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."



Advent Wreath to Color

