

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



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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) 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.



Second Sunday of Advent

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8th

Mass ~ 9:00 AM & 7:30 PM



December 5, 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

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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.

It's a curious thing how an ascetic living in the desert moved people of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go out and see him. (cf. Mk 1:5) Our curiosity is piqued even more when we hear how Saint John the Baptist got this to happen. It surely was not because people wanted to see him eat locusts and wild honey (cf. Mk 1:6) – although this reported detail alone probably raised some eyebrows in first century Palestine as it does today. The astonishment has to be, I think, over the message preached by the cousin of Jesus. It is said accurately that he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (cf. Mk 1:4)

That's right. John told people they had sinned and this, amazingly, did not repel people; it attracted them instead. When we want people to pay us some attention, flattery is a good first strategy. And it's a good first strategy because it usually works. But the Baptist would have none of this approach. So, what did he have going for him that he got such favorable results? He simply told the truth.

In telling the truth, the impact is greater if you can say how you are involved. And John does that too. He declares, "I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals." (Mk 1: 7) He is not placing himself above anyone else; he has as much work to do as the next person.

Our Advent observance advances today a step beyond waiting patiently for the Lord to come. In our watchfulness and vigilance, we have realized that something has gone wrong. The path the Lord wants to take to meet us has become obstructed and we can no longer see Him coming to us. That path has to be made straight or else we will miss the time of our visitation.

It is John's mission to get us ready for the Messiah by telling us to own up to our sins. Because on our own, we would stubbornly resist this exercise. We would pretend our own unworthiness was no big deal at all and we would just rationalize it away. We need therefore someone who will prod us and get us to train our sights on what is really going on in our lives.

In the passage in which John tells Herod that "it is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife," (Mk 6:18) the evangelist includes in the account that the king regarded John as a holy man and in listening to the Baptist speak he was very much perplexed. (cf. Mk 6:20) Herod's conscience was troubled and that's what happens when we have to confront our own misdeeds. Our consciences are aggrieved over our sins and they must be set right again.

This Advent season, we would do well to examine our consciences carefully and then petition the Lord for His forgiveness through a use of the Sacrament of Penance. Whether we repent of a grievous sin or one of those many venial sins to which we have become habituated due to laziness, the Lord's mercy is always refreshing to the soul. Be refreshed and made clean, you sons and daughters of the Lord Most High, a new day is dawning. Your salvation is nearer now than on the day you first believed. (cf. Rom 13:11)

Msgr. Bob Batule
Pastor

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.

All are invited to attend.



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!



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.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is Wednesday, December 8th. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are offered at 9:00 AM and 7:30 PM. Join us as we honor Our Lady, the Patroness of our nation.

We are having a service of **Lessons and Carols** on Sunday, December 19th at 4:00 PM in the church. The service consists of scripture readings and hymns to prepare us for the Solemnity of the Lord's birth on December 25th.

We cordially invite you to join us for the occasion. It will be approximately one hour in length.

There will be a reception immediately following the service in the church basement.

To help us prepare for the birth of Jesus later in the month, there will be a **Holy Hour** on Monday, December 6th at 7:30 PM in the church. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for an hour and it will conclude with Benediction. Msgr. Batule will preside.

Faith Formation

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



Oplatek – A Polish Christmas Tradition

One of the highlights of Christmas festivities in Poland is the Oplatek (pronounced "o-PWAA-tek"). The Oplatek 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 oplatek, people exchange wishes for a blessed Christmas and good health and prosperity. After all those present have broken and shared the Oplatek, good food and Christmas car-ols (in Polish and English) are enjoyed.



This year, members of our Polish community will gather for a traditional Oplatek 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 5th. Call the Parish Center at 631-732-3131 x133 or Henryk Chelminski at 631-693-9310. Email: HENRYKCHEL@GMAIL.COM.

Dcn. Bill Kogler's 40th Diaconate Celebration



Parish Outreach



CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

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



Please keep in mind we can always use

NEW Socks, Underwear, Hats, Gloves & Scarves!

Nail Polish Sets

Board Games

Pajama Pants

Books

New Kids' Blankets

Art / Craft Supplies

Bath & Body Works

Educational Games

Gift Cards

Fast Food Gift Card

Men/Women Size Clothing for Teens

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



Lunch With Santa

Take your family picture with Santa & enjoy lunch with friends and family.

*Adults \$13 per person, / children 5-12 yrs. old \$6
4 yrs. & younger - free.*

Call the Parish Center

631-732-3131 or 631-682-8711 to register.

*Sponsored by Heart of the Island
Knights of Columbus*

**Sat. ~ Dec. 18th
12 ~ 3 PM
AUDITORIUM**

**Tickets on sale in
lobby
December 4/5 & 11/12**

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.**



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

Donor(s) _____

Address _____

Name of Person or Couple Memorialized _____

Living _____ Deceased _____

Sunday, Dec 05, 2021 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT In praise of community service

Consider him an early volunteer. John the Baptist preached and baptized through the countryside, preparing the community for the way, truth, and life about to open to them. He wasn't paid for these services, which is probably why his diet was locusts and honey, and his clothing coarse. Today on International Volunteer Day, we give thanks for all who helped their neighbors with grocery runs and check-ins during the long season of sickness. We can continue this spirit of social engagement: giving blood, organizing group clean-ups, shoveling a neighbor's sidewalk. Volunteering builds empathy! TODAY'S READINGS: *Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6 (6)*. "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.' "

Monday, Dec 06 MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP The wonder of it all

Very little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas, but he evolved into a legendary figure so intertwined with Christmas, it's almost as if he were part of the Nativity story. The actual Nicholas lived 300 years after the birth of Jesus. Whether he secretly gave gifts to children or not, the spirit of his story is real. Centuries later as presents are wrapped in mystery and kept under the tree in anticipation, emotions of waiting for the Christ Child heighten as we ponder a miracle we can't fathom. Thank you, Saint Nicholas, for a tradition that helps incarnate our joy and wonder! TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181)*. "We have seen incredible things today."

Tuesday, Dec 07 MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Wage peace

Advent anticipates the Prince of Peace. But as we recall Pearl Harbor, Catholics also embrace a tradition that includes just war theory—sketched out by the likes of Saint Augustine, fleshed out by the likes of Saint Ambrose. King David "never waged war unless he was driven to it," Ambrose observed, illustrating that wars should be fought only as a last resort. Further, war should be waged selflessly—to help and protect others. War that "preserves one's country [or] defends the weak . . . is full of justice." Pray for those in the armed services who sacrifice and protect, and also pray for peace. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182)*. "Comfort, give comfort to my people."

Wednesday, Dec 08 SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST

DAY OF THE U.S.A.) A day of pure celebration

Today we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, the church's teaching that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception. It is one of only two dogmas proclaimed infallibly by a pope. All of today's readings are related: They trace the tale back to the Fall, followed by a celebration of the "marvelous deeds" of God's salvation, culminating in the gospel reading of the Annunciation, where Mary learns she will bear a son who will reverse the curse of sin. Today, honor our Blessed Mother and thank God for her preservation from sin so that she might bring Christ into the world. TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689)*. "... he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him."

Thursday, Dec 09 MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATZIN Be a witness to the miracle of God's love

We are told that Saint Juan Diego was undistinguished before he became the person to whom the Virgin Mary appeared at Tepeyac, Mexico in 1531. Juan Diego had an opportunity to open himself to God's grace—Mary's appearance and miracle. He responded in faith by listening to the Virgin and persistently communicating her message, even though as an indigenous person, his word was at first discounted. His part in the miracle at Tepeyac has had enduring impact by opening other indigenous and mestizo Mexicans to the gospel message, and by opening church leaders—albeit slowly, in fits and starts—to the message indigenous peoples have for the wider church. Are you ready to receive God's grace, as did Juan Diego? TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184)*. "Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Friday, Dec 10 MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO Jesus makes his presence known

Emmanuel, "God is with us," is our guiding truth. Christians find many ways to remind ourselves of God's Real Presence. Of course, the primary way is through the Eucharist. But shrines and relics are also a very Catholic way of pointing to the reality of Christ in our lives. Take for example the shrine of Our Lady of Loreto, which resides in Loreto, Italy, a small town on the Adriatic coast. It is there that the original home of Mary is said to have been moved, either by angels or more probably by a wealthy Italian merchant, after the late 13th-century siege of Jerusalem. At this shrine we can presumably touch the same stones that Jesus touched as a boy. What a remarkable reminder that the Word was made flesh and lived among us. Pray to Our Lady of Loreto for continued reminders of God's abiding presence. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185/689B)*. "The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us!'"

Saturday, Dec 11 MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE By the book

By the fourth century of the Christian era there were 20 or so gospels floating around the early church communities along with the familiar four. Dozens of epistles existed in addition to the 21 we now recognize. It was today's saint, Pope Damasus I (c. 305–384), who presided over the Council of Rome in 382 that determined the canon, or official list, of the Bible. He also encouraged Saint Jerome to produce a translation of the existing Greek and Hebrew texts into Latin, the common language of the day. Inexpensive versions of the Catholic *New American Bible Revised Edition* make great Christmas gifts for friends and family looking to deepen their faith. TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186)*. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."



Advent Wreath to Color

