

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



Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 2022

Phone: (631) 732-3131

Parish Office

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

Friday ~ 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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www.saintmargaret.com

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Holy Angels Regional Catholic School

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

Today is the Feast of the Lord's Baptism. In the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus's Baptism is the start of His public ministry. With our celebration of Jesus' birth for the last two weeks and more, we have not yet heard the Incarnate Son speak; soon He will however. With our delight over the Messiah's Nativity since December 25th, we have not yet heard accounts of the Lord's miracles or other acts of goodness (cf. Acts 10:38); soon though, we will.

Pleasing God, it would seem, is just to be expected from One Whose service is inseparable from His Sonship. Jesus says as much in Saint John's Gospel. Speaking to the Jews of His relationship to the Father, Jesus' own words are: "The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him." (Jn 8:29)

The Baptism of Jesus is followed at some point in the public ministry by the Lord's Transfiguration. According to the Synoptic Gospels, before Peter, James and John, Jesus is transfigured in glory on the top of Mount Tabor. On this occasion, too, the Father's approval is expressed: "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (Matt 17:5)

If we want to please the Lord, the first thing to do is listen to Him. The disciples – Peter included, perhaps especially him – did not always understand this. After saying that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer, die, and rise there, Peter takes Jesus aside and rebukes the Lord. "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." (Matt 16:22) Peter's rebuke of Jesus, though, is eclipsed by Jesus own chastisement of the apostle: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me." (Matt 16:23) Peter's impetuosity stems from his failure to listen. But Peter's failure to listen is not chronic. After hearing Jesus' proclamation that He is the Bread come down from heaven and that eating His Body and drinking His Blood delivers us from death, and seeing some of the disciples walk away, Peter says to Jesus: "You have the words of eternal life." (Jn 6:68) This act of faith could not have been uttered were it not for Peter listening attentively to the Master's words.

Pleasing the Lord by listening to Him is not the first thing that comes to the minds of many disciples. For many disciples, doing something is how we please the Lord. Martha, a disciple of the Lord, represents these followers of Jesus who think that doing something is how we please the Lord. Seeing that Mary her sister was not helping her in serving, she wants Jesus to castigate Mary but He would not. "There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her," Jesus retorts instead. (Lk 10:42)

On this Sunday on which we reflect on our own baptismal covenant with God, we cannot fail to notice that our own commitment to the Lord is inexorably strengthened when we pray. For when we pray, we realize that we cannot escape our status as children – adopted children of God. Indeed, what Jesus is by nature, we become through faith.

Today's feast is a reminder to all of us that the Baptism of the Lord begins a very active public ministry for Jesus; He does a great many things in it. Yet, He shows repeatedly that an active public ministry cannot be sustained without having recourse regularly to prayer. If we really want to work on the Lord's behalf, we will not accomplish much for His Kingdom and the Body of Christ without praying.

Let's start this new year off right. Let's resolve to pray more so that we can do more in Christ!

Msgr. Batule
Pastor

As we begin a new year, let me take the opportunity to thank those who helped us to celebrate the Christmas mystery here at Saint Margaret: those being our deacons, lectors, extraordinary ministers, musicians and members of the choirs, ushers, altar servers, and those who assisted in the decoration of the church.

We appreciate your efforts and the roles you played liturgically and artistically.

Remember as the new calendar year unfolds to keep your commitments according to the schedules you have. This is particularly necessary when there is inclement weather and when you are away from home according to your own planning. Thank you for your attentiveness. We are all the better for it.

We return to Ordinary Time on Monday, January 10th. We will observe the liturgical rhythm of that season until Wednesday, March 2nd when we start our Lenten observance.

Msgr. Batule~ Pastor



A New Dawn for Catholic Education on Long Island

In January 2020, the *Marianists*, *Tomorrow's Hope Foundation*, and the *Department of Education* launched the Morning Star Initiative (MSI) to revitalize Catholic education on Long Island through a robustly Catholic culture, academic excellence, safe and supportive communities, and fiscally sustainable schools.

DONOR IMPACT TO DATE

To date, fellow Catholics and foundations have pledged more than \$3 million to Tomorrow's Hope Foundation for vital MSI programs and local Catholic school needs, including:

- Tuition assistance for underserved students
- New learning devices for thousands of students and teachers
- Internet connectivity for 300 school families
- The launch of iReady, an innovative web-based student benchmarking tool, among all the Catholic elementary schools
- Vital startup investments in two MSI pilot schools

WHY GIVE?

By supporting MSI, donors can invest in a sustainable and robust educational model for our children and for future generations. Please help make that a reality by making a gift today.

I am very confident in Brother Tom and the Marianist Brothers who are leading this [MSI] effort, and I am hopeful that other individuals and organizations will support this cause to help ensure our Catholic schools have a bright future."

— MICHAEL PASCUCCI, MSI DONOR

GET INVOLVED

Contact kbill@thfny.com or call (516) 745-7640



Morning Star Initiative



To make a tax deductible donation, please scan the QR code below or complete this form and mail your check to *Tomorrow's Hope Foundation* with "MSI" written in the memo line.

Tomorrow's Hope Foundation
50 Charles Lindbergh Blvd, Suite 500
Uniondale, NY 11553



First, Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parish: _____



Baptisms

Charlie Parker Merrick
Sienna Rose Russo

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Come and sing! Rehearsals for our Children's Chorus in the Parish Center on Saturdays. 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



\$ Tax Statements Call the Parish Center if you would like your 2021 tax statement at 732-3131 x133. Please leave a clear message with your name, address and if you know your envelope number which is located under the DATE. Statements will be mailed near the end of the January. Thank you.

All Capital Campaign Contributions over \$250.00 will be mailed automatically and separately. If below this amount please call and leave a message on x 128 to receive a copy.

Virtual Bereavement Support

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.

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/>.



Parish Outreach

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



Thank you!

Knights of Columbus, Marinello's Funeral Home, Selden Fire Department Truck 1, Central Brookhaven Lion's Club, Decision Women in Commerce and the Professions, Country Village Estates, Suffolk County Legislator Nick Caracappa, & Newfield High School.



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

We are in need of: Juice Boxes, Jars of Juice & Jelly, Sliced Bread, Saltines

A very special THANK YOU to all!

Sunday, Jan 09, 2022 FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Tell it like it is

The hidden days are over. When the Spirit descends on Jesus and the heavenly voice proclaims him beloved, Jesus is effectively outed as the Divine Son. Did Jesus know this was the hour when his private life would come to an end? When any dreams he may have had for a quiet domestic existence were surrendered for good? The underlying truth is that on the day of our Baptism, we each surrender the notion of a private world that's all about us. As Pope Francis puts it, "Immersing us in Christ, Baptism also makes us members of his body, which is the Church, and participants in its mission in the world." Be the beloved. Share the love. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or 40:1-5, 9-11; Acts 10:34-38 or Titus 2:11-14; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (21).* "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Monday, Jan 10 Give every child a chance

According to the National Center for Child Poverty, about 15 million children in the United States—21 percent of all children—live in families with incomes below the federal poverty line. The Christ Child Society seeks to address the critical needs of these children. U.S.-born Servant of God Mary Virginia Merrick, who died on this day in 1955, founded the Christ Child Society in 1887 at the age of 20—despite being paralyzed from a childhood injury. Today, its 6,000 members volunteer nearly 400,000 hours and serve more than 75,000 children and their families annually. You may find a chapter—or start one—at nationalchristchild.org. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20 (305).* "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Tuesday, Jan 11 Pray the way to a more perfect union

Dom Lambert Beauduin, a Belgian Benedictine monk, died this day in 1960—but not without influencing the way we pray at Mass. As a liturgical scholar, Beauduin championed—years before Vatican II—the idea of worshipers actively participating in the Mass rather than sitting in pews to pray their private devotions. He promoted the idea of congregants literally "being on the same page," able to follow along with the Latin by using worship aides to translate the words of priests and prayers. "Beauduin had an insatiable thirst for unity," notes a biographer. Pray for greater unity in our church today. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28 (306).* "On the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught."

Wednesday, Jan 12 Here I am, Lord

Jesus saw his healing ministry of the sick and spiritually oppressed as a call from God. It is the same call each of us receives, not only to serve God and his people but to serve ourselves—to be our best selves, which will bring us the greatest joy. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, known as an apostle of love, explains the profound grace that comes with responding to God's call in his "Jesus, the very thought of thee" hymn: ". . . how kind thou art! How good to those who seek! But what to those who find? Ah, this No tongue nor pen can show;/ The love of Jesus, what it is None but His loved ones know." TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39 (307).* "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

Thursday, Jan 13 MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH In defense of the faith

Saint Hilary (d. 468) was a bishop during a time of great contention in the early church. He was popularly selected to lead, and he undertook scholarship that continues to be recognized today. His informal title, "Hammer of the Arians," has a violent ring to it, but in fact, he defended the Trinity against the Arian heresy through his writing, even though his opponents used the more forcible method of exile. Living a truly Christian life—loving those who oppose you, forgiving wrongs, turning the other cheek—has often been ridiculed by those who prefer the use of force. You can "defend" the faith by the way you choose to live. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45 (308).* "A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, 'If you wish, you can make me clean.'"

Friday, Jan 14 I feel your pain

Healing gospel-style involves assessing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the ill person. As Pope Francis says, Jesus asks us: "To stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them." This holistic approach is slowly being embraced by Western physicians. Today's healthcare providers are encouraged to use such tools as the FICA method to assess a patient's faith; its importance in their decision-making; their connection to a community of like-minded believers; and the recommended action related to the spiritual assessment. We're all commissioned to be healers to some extent; the next time someone comes to you in pain, remember this compassionate approach. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12 (309).* "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?'"

Saturday, Jan 15 The stone rejected

In our continued observance of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year, we are reminded by Pope Francis to consider the complexities of people's lives when we're tempted to judge their family or marital situation. "It can no longer simply be said," writes the pope, "that all those living in any 'irregular situation' are living in a state of mortal sin." Non-traditional families need to be offered "understanding, comfort, and acceptance." We need to stop applying moral laws as if they were, in the pope's words, "stones to throw at a person's life." Consider today the grace of God's mercy, compassion, and forgiveness operating in your own life. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17 (310).* "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."





January 21-22, 2022

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 **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.helpourmarriage.org

Hands Needed!

Our Music Ministry is in need of someone to assist in placing the words on our screen during Mass. All that is required is clicking the next screen with one button. Please see Dan, our Music Minister, after Mass or call at 631-732-3131 x117. Prayerfully consider.



Heart of the Island Council- Knights of Columbus

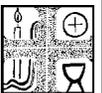
The Knights of Columbus is a membership organization founded by Fr. McGivney in 1882 on the principles of Charity, Unity & Fraternity. The members of our local council serve in many ministries of the Church. Prospective members call Tom Piderit at 917-365-7546. .



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).



Diocesan COVID Update:

"The Governor of New York State has included houses of worship in her recent directives. Therefore, since the Church does not require parishioners to present proof of vaccination in order to worship God, we ask that all parishioners (two years of age and older) comply with the requirement to wear masks when participating in any activities on parish grounds. This State requirement is currently in effect through January 15, 2022. We will continue to adapt accordingly as new information becomes available. Your patience and Christian charity towards one another during this difficult time is appreciated."