

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



Pastoral Staff

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Deacons - Dcn Ed Hayes x0

Retired: Dcn William Kogler,
Dcn Biagio Muratore

Parish Center Office – Receptionist x0
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Music Ministry

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Parish Outreach

Outreach@saintmargaret.com x119

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



January 30, 2022

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

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.

When I started these columns on parish finances two weeks ago, I covered the subject of Mass attendance first. I would like to begin with this topic now as I finish up this series. I wish to emphasize therefore that **parish finances are healthiest when Catholics attend Mass regularly**. This point may be obvious but it underscores how devotion to the faith is connected to fiscal strength. Those who come to church are more likely to support the parish financially than are those who do not come to church regularly.

So, let me urge all Saint Margaret parishioners to heed the commandment to keep holy the sabbath and come to church on Sundays (or on Saturday evenings) and Holy Days of Obligation. Holiness and stewardship go together. When we practice the former, we attend to the latter **at the same time**.

Church-going is related to discernment. By discernment, I mean our faith bids us to decide things in life by the criterion of faith. In other words, we decide things according to a well-formed conscience. In my first column, I used the expression **generous sacrificial giving**. I return to it now because generosity is integrally related to faith. Faith-filled people are generous because the Lord is first generous with them. He has given us life, talents and grace. We show our gratitude to the Lord for His blessings by generously using what He has conferred upon us. God did not spare His Son; rather, He gave the Son to us lest we perish and die. Eternal life, we know, comes to us at a cost – the cost being a life. By sacrificing Himself on the Cross for us, Jesus teaches that true love cannot be shown without sacrifice.

We exercise generosity and sacrifice in that to which we give the treasure portion of our stewardship. That **generous sacrificial giving** is made manifest in writing out a check, placing it in an offering envelope which comes to my home, and then placing that same envelope in a basket which comes to me in God's home – the church. That solemn act of **generous sacrificial giving** honors what God has done for me in the gift of His Incarnate Son.

If you are unable to be present for Mass on a weekend, if you are ill, for instance, or if you happen to be away on vacation – whenever you are prevented from worshipping with us, please send your **weekly offering** in the regular mail or electronically. The bulletin offers details on how to contribute to Saint Margaret electronically. A fair number of parishioners already supports our parish this way. Join those who give of themselves even if they cannot be present in the pew for a good reason.

With all of the attention on how to give up to this point, let me say a few words here at the end about what we need as a parish. You may have seen over the last few weeks in the bulletin that the weekend collection has come in at \$11,000.00 or so. May I ask that we seek to raise that total figure about a thousand dollars more **each weekend up to 12,000.00**. The method for doing so I outlined in my column last weekend. Recall how I used the categories: under \$10.00; between \$10.00 and \$25.00; over \$25.00 and up to \$49.00 and \$50.00 and higher. We can get to \$12,000.00 if enough parishioners take a step – a step being an increase within a category **or** a jump to the next category. I ask that you consider my request prayerfully and act accordingly. Thank you.

I will give further updates in the weeks and months to come through the bulletin. As always, I am grateful for the trust you show in supporting Saint Margaret. Let us seek to do more financially that we may continue to be faithful to the mission we have in this portion of the Lord's vineyard.

Msgr. Batule
Pastor

A few things from the Pastor

The Memorial of Saint Blaise is Thursday, February 3rd and the Blessing of Throats will be available **after** the 9:00 AM Mass.

As you know, there are a number of weekends every year where there is a **second collection** taken up at Mass. The **second collection** is a **requirement** for every parish in the diocese. It is taken up immediately after the first collection, which is always for the Parish of Saint Margaret. Your envelope packet every month or so tells you the date when the **second collection** is taken up.

I received a call from an Officer at Suffolk's Sixth Precinct last week. She was inquiring if we would be interested in an Officer coming to Saint Margaret to talk to seniors on safety. If you are interested in attending a presentation here at Saint Margaret on this topic, kindly call the office at the parish center. If enough seniors are interested, we will schedule such a session.



May 13-15, 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

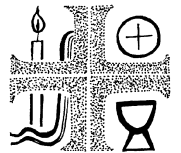
1-800-470-2230 website www.helpourmarriage.org

Becoming a Catholic Christian & Completing your Confirmation ~ 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).



"The Historical Jesus"

Lecture with Msgr. John Meier, celebrated Scriptural theologian

St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers ~ Thursday, February 3

6:30pm - Reception/7:30pm - Lecture

Suggested Donation: \$20.00 ~ Purchase tickets at:

www.dunwoodie.edu/125thanniversary,

or call (914) 968-6200, x8201



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.



Calling all Catholic Boys and Girls

The Bishop's Crew for Suffolk County, Diocese of Rockville Centre, is looking for motivated young men and women, ages 14 - 20 to join us.

We are a county wide unit chartered by the Diocese.

In addition to venturing activities, we provide support to the Catholic Committee on Scouting's religious emblems programs, retreats and events.

This is a great opportunity for Catholic youth to make friends, have fun, learn new skills, earn recognition, perform community service to the church and community, earn recognitions and scholarship opportunities.

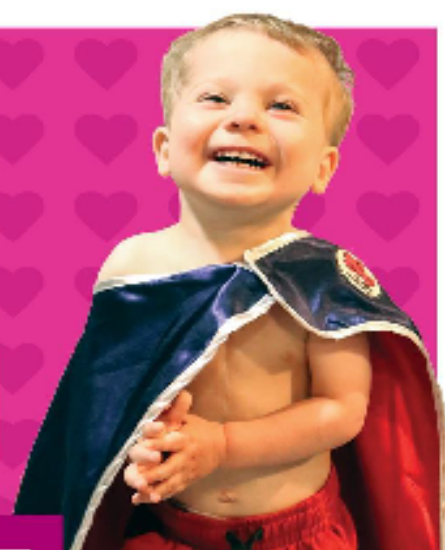
We are open to all Catholic youth, ages 14 -20. Previous scouting experience is not required! Current scouts can join while remaining in their current unit.

To join us or learn more, contact Suffolk CCOS Chairman and Crew Advisor, Al Rodriguez at suffolkccos@aol.com

Give from the heart

February is American Heart Month.

DONATIONS
SAVE LIVES



BLOOD DRIVE

In Memory of Richard Beauchamp
St. Margaret of Scotland
Wednesday, February 23



3:00pm – 7:30pm

81 College Rd., Selden – Auditorium



All donors will receive a McDonald's voucher!

Appointments are strongly preferred- Scan the QR code above or call 1-800-933-2566/ visit www.nybc.org

Any further questions contact Kristen at KReutter@nybc.org

Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits. Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your ID with your name and photo. Masks are required for all donors regardless of vaccination status. Visit nybc.org/coronavirus for complete COVID-19 safety protocols.



800.933.BLOOD • nybc.org



[#nybloodcenter](https://twitter.com/nybloodcenter)

Sunday, Jan 30, 2022 **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Children should be seen, heard—and guided**

It's been a tough two years on everyone, but especially on the kids. Childhood was upended by the pandemic. Schooling has been a heroic effort, and peer interactions have been stifled. This generation of young ones will have a special burden in trying to make up for lost time, missed opportunities, and natural social interactions. They've also learned unexpected lessons about global interconnectedness, the rich advantages of technology, and the bitter realities of social inequity. Today begins Catholic Schools Week, with the theme "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service," to remind us that our schools enable children to put what they learn in the context of gospel values. Support faith-based education! TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13; Luke 4:21-30 (72). "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you."*

Monday, Jan 31 **MEMORIAL OF JOHN BOSCO Celebrating a lovely education**

Saint John Bosco, a 19th-century Italian priest, was an educator ahead of his time. He understood the power of positive reinforcement long before modern psychology came along—and he applied this theory to teaching poor kids who had rough lives. His method? Quite simply, love. Rather than punish kids, he was kind. During Catholic Schools Week, offer a prayer of thanks for the educators who nurtured you through your formative years. Whether you went to Catholic schools or not, those special teachers were reflecting Christ's love back to you. Remember how their good works shaped the Christian you are today. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20 (323). "Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you."*

Tuesday, Feb 01 **Catholic education for a better world**

On this Tuesday of Catholic Schools Week, the focus is on the student. The National Catholic Education Association encourages schools to today recognize students' accomplishments—but also have them embrace the "grounding in faith, knowledge, and service" a Catholic education provides. In a June 2021 address to Latin American Catholic schools, Pope Francis expands this vision even more. He urges "welcoming schools" that "do not retreat into a selfish elitism, but that learn to live together with everyone . . . knowing that everything is connected." His wish? That "schools have conscience and create conscience." Pray for all Catholic students today. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3; Mark 5:21-43 (324). "The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. At that they were utterly astounded."*

Wednesday, Feb 02 **FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Comfort food for the soul**

Mexican American neighborhoods will be filled with the sweet aroma of warm tamales today, served because of a special connection this day has to January 6, the Epiphany. On Epiphany, La Rosca, a cake in the shape of a crown, is shared by family and friends in honor of the Magi, a.k.a., the three kings. The person who finds a small figure of Jesus hidden in their slice of cake is tasked with throwing a tamale party today, the day the infant Jesus is presented at the Temple. Welcome Jesus to your table today. TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (524). "When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord."*

Thursday, Feb 03 **Lift up her voice**

Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, O.S.P., died on this day in 1882. Born into a well-educated family of means in the Caribbean, she immigrated to Baltimore in the early 1800s as a free black woman in a slave state. Seeing the need for education among her fellow Caribbean immigrants, she taught out of her home, opened a school in 1828, took first religious vows a year later, and founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence. Mary Elizabeth and her fellow sisters devoted themselves to works of mercy and social reform, working with communities of color facing poverty, racism, and the degradations of slavery. Nearly 200 years later, the order's work continues strong, as does the canonization process for this remarkable woman. Let Mary Elizabeth's example inspire you to respond to injustice with courageous compassion. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13 (326). "The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them."*

Friday, Feb 04 **Invest your humanity**

On this Friday of Catholic Schools Week, Pope Francis offers supportive words for Catholic educators. "To educate is an act of love, it is to give life. And love is demanding, it calls for the best resources, for a reawakening of the passion to begin this path patiently with young people. The educator in Catholic schools must be, first and foremost, competent and qualified but, at the same time, someone who is rich in humanity" and able to promote spiritual growth. For this, Francis said in 2014, "it is necessary to invest." How can you help support Catholic educators today? TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 47:2-11; Mark 6:14-29 (327). "He added beauty to the feasts and solemnized the seasons of each year."*

Saturday, Feb 05 **Be careful what you ask for**

The wisest thing Solomon ever did was to ask for wisdom. Given the chance to ask for anything, he didn't go the route of wealth, fame, immortality, but rather chose the road less traveled. For, as one biblical commentator put it, wisdom is "a bountiful crop with a meager harvest." Often personified in biblical testimony as the feminine face of the Divine, Proverbs tells us that she "cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: 'How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?'" We are Solomon, and the choice is ours to make. What will you choose? TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 3:4-13; Mark 6:30-34 (328). "The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. . . . 'In addition, I give you what you have not asked for.'"*

Offertory Support through **ONLINE BILL PAY**

is the form of Electronic Giving we have been using in the parish. Your bank offers this service, sending money out of your bank account to whomever you wish. ONLINE BILL PAY services will print an actual check and mail it to St. Margaret of Scotland. Sending your regular Offertory support electronically will save you time and money. It is an easy way to continue your support of St Margaret of Scotland Parish during this difficult time. Your Bank **does not charge** a fee for this service. You have complete control of your funds, starting, stopping and changing at your will. We have no access to your accounts, receiving only what you wish. If you pay your bills this way currently, you know how easy it is.

**To set up sending your Offertory Support
all you need is:**

Your St. Margaret Account Number: (**Located on your stewardship envelope directly under the date**) (or call the Parish Center 631-732-3131 x0 for your number). Please make sure this number is listed under notations or in address.

St. Margaret's Mailing Address:

St. Margaret of Scotland Church
81 College Road
Selden, NY 11784

1. Visit your bank's website or call your bank for more information.
2. On your bank's website: Click on BILL PAY or Pay Bills: each bank may have a different name for bill pay service.
3. Click on "Set up NEW PAYEE": Complete all required fields.
4. Enter amount you will be remitting. Schedule payments for desired frequency (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly: 52x, 26x, 12x).

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



VETERANS BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

A representative from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will once again be on hand to assist veterans with submitting disability claims as well as benefits for widows/widowers of deceased veterans. Veterans should bring their **DD214** and any service documents they may have.

Where: Middle Country Library-Selden and Centereach Library.

When: First Wednesday of every month in Selden & the third Weds. of every month in Centereach from 9:30am to 1:30pm.

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.



The 2022 Mass Book is open for you to have family members and friends remembered at the divine liturgy Monday through Friday at 9:00 AM and at all the weekend Masses. Please consider reserving a Mass intention for a deceased relative or friend at some point this year. Anniversaries of birth and death are common dates to choose. It is a most salutary gesture for it expresses a desire that we live with the Lord for all eternity. The parish center office is where you can arrange for Mass intentions during the week (Monday to Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and on Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM).



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 February 1, 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."