

# 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

## Divine Mercy Sunday



*April 24<sup>th</sup> ~ 3 PM Church*  
*Jesus I Trust in You*

## April 24, 2022

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**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](http://www.saintmargaret.com)

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



*As we make our way through the Easter season, I offer some thoughts on the mysteries of faith. This first installment concerns the Holy Eucharist.*

Every year on the Fourth of July, my sister gathers her children along with anyone else who is visiting for a recitation of the *Declaration of Independence*. What better way to tell the story of America's independence than to read aloud and together the very words which gave birth to a nation!

“When in the course of human events, . . .” the *Declaration* famously begins. In Thomas Jefferson's memorable prose, the document continues, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

On Holy Thursday night, we recognize not the birth of a nation but the birth of a people – God's people. We have been formed not from a common language, nor from a common culture. We have been constituted by the sacrifice of Christ Whose Body and Blood have been given to us as an everlasting memorial in the Holy Eucharist.

We reflect on how a people born of the Holy Eucharist ought to get along in the world. To do this, I recall an event closely related to the birth of the One Who instituted the Holy Eucharist.

In Saint Luke's Gospel, the evangelist records how Mary and Joseph brought the Infant to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (cf. Lk 2:22) When they meet Simeon, that just man awaiting the consolation of Israel, the Blessed Mother is told: “[T]his child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted.” (Lk 2:34)

It is not just Jesus Who is a sign of contradiction. We are all signs of contradiction – at least that is supposed to be what we are. But are we really?

When we stop and consider what set Catholics apart in the past – that is, they didn't use contraception, they didn't abort their children, they didn't get divorced, and they didn't remarry after divorce, we see that Catholics today are no different than other people with respect to the lifestyles I just mentioned.

Why can't we be just like everybody else? Well, because we're not just any people; we are God's people! The Lord has established a covenant with His people; we are a light for the nations. (cf. Is 42:6) And by making us a light to the nations, God's gift of salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. (cf. Is 49:6)

Fr. Richard Neuhaus, an astute commentator on things Catholic, once wrote: “[I]n her deepest self-understanding the Church maintains a countercultural edge. When that edge is blunted, when it is no longer part of the felt experience of being Catholic, something has gone seriously wrong.”

What we are witnessing now is the unravelling of the social fabric. There is a massive denial of fundamental truths concerning the value of every human life; the inherent dignity of the family; the meaning and purpose of our sexuality; the traditional understanding of marriage and the right to religious freedom. And many people – people of faith – are left wondering how do we make ascendant again what we know to be true?

We need to recover the intrinsic connection between *cult* and *culture*. Where cult flourishes, so does culture. The cult of course is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist – where it is the vital, irreplaceable center of our lives, culture tends to be healthier and in better condition. It's no wonder that our culture is in such bad shape as just about 15% of Catholics attends Mass weekly at this point in time.

Just going to Mass regularly is a counter-cultural act now! Not unexpectedly then, we have a lot of work to do. We must continue to exercise a counter-cultural witness, especially in the areas I cited already: the sanctity of life, the dignity of marriage and the family, and religious freedom. We must be willing, as Fr. Neuhaus once said, to be *against* the world *for* the world.

*To be continued next week . . .*

Msgr. Batule  
Pastor

### From the Pastor's Desk

There will be a meeting of all current Altar Servers on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in the church. If you have been serving Mass the last couple of months, you are requested to attend. The meeting will not last more than one hour.

There will be training for all new Altar Servers in September, about the time that school resumes. There will be several sessions which any new server is **required to attend**. Sessions will be on a weekday afternoon after school. Those youngsters in grade 5 and up are eligible. Continue to watch the bulletin for more information on new Altar Server training.



### Mother's Day May Crowning

*We will be honoring the Blessed Mother after the 12:00 noon Mass on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Communion children and their families are invited to come and join as the parish processes to crown our Statue of Mary to thank God for the gift of such a loving Mother.*

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, when the Church marks the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, there will be a Procession with the Blessed Sacrament following the 12 noon Mass.

Msgr. Batule ~ Pastor

### From the Pastor's Desk



We wish to announce that adult Catholics who have not celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation and wish to do so are going to be able to do just that on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at the 12 noon Mass. In advance of that day, there will be catechesis offered on Wednesday nights beginning April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the parish center building. The sessions will last five (5) weeks and conclude on May 25<sup>th</sup>. If you have not yet contacted us, please do so that you may be included in the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation on the Solemnity of Pentecost.

We invite any interested adult parishioners who are already confirmed to join us for these sessions. We will consider the following topics over the five weeks: Faith, Christ, Church, Sacraments and Morals. We anticipate each session going about 75 – 90 minutes.

Msgr. Batule and Fr. Patrick will lead the sessions.

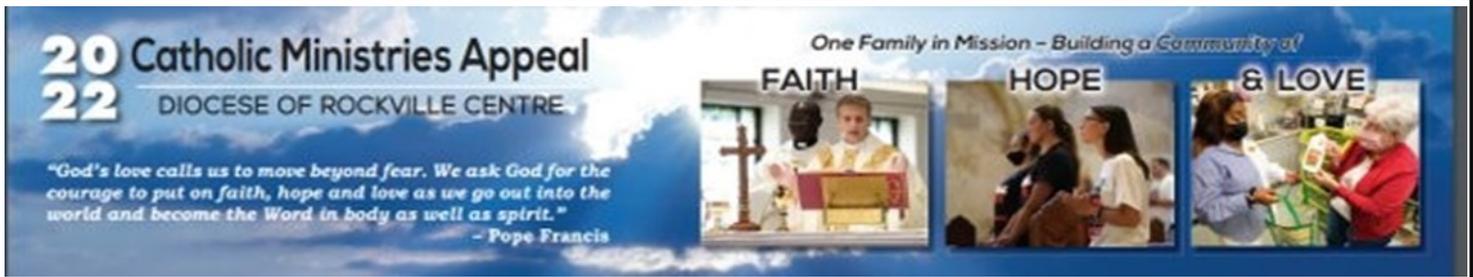
## Memorial Easter Flowers



*A Special Thank You to all donors for your generosity that helped make our church look beautiful this Easter Season.*

*The honor and memories of your loved ones shone through in the beauty of your contributions.*

*May God bless you and keep you.*



**Happy Mother's Day!** As we join together to celebrate the wonderful Moms in our lives, let's also take time to remember and pray for all the thousands of Moms who worry about how they are going to put food on the table for their children this week.



Please consider supporting the work of the **Catholic Ministries Appeal** so that we can continue to care for God's children and their families through our Parish Outreach programs and Catholic Charities.

***Our hope is that each family will make a gift. We cannot ask everyone to consider the same size gift, but after prayer and reflection, each family is invited to make a gift in response to God's generosity in their lives.***

***No gift is too small and all gifts make a difference in the lives of others!***

**For more information visit [www.drvc.org/CMA](http://www.drvc.org/CMA)**

**or call 516-678-5800- ext. 296 Thank You!**

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Please make checks payable to **Catholic Ministries Appeal**.

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Total Pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Down payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday, Apr 24, 2022 SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY****Mercy seasons justice**

Mercy is described as a double blessing in Shakespeare's famous "quality of mercy" speech delivered in *The Merchant of Venice*. Mercy blesses the giver as well as the receiver. We're blessed by being merciful since God promises to be generous to us in the same measure we use with others. Withholding compassion punishes both the denier and the denied. Saint Gertrude the Great expresses gratitude to God for how divine mercy "has led me through the many obstacles I have placed in the way of your love." Love better by loving with compassion. TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 5:12-16; Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31 (45)*. "Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, 'Peace be with you.' "

**Monday, Apr 25 FEAST OF MARK, EVANGELIST Hear him roar**

Even though the Gospel of Mark comes second in the New Testament, it was the first one written and served as source material for the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The author of Mark was not one of the 12 apostles but was a friend of Peter, who called him "son," and Paul, with whom he had a bumpy relationship. Mark is depicted in art with the symbol of a winged lion—his gospel may be simple and to the point, but the "roar" of his words certainly took flight! Don't underestimate the power of your own words about the Lord—they too may endure! TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20 (555)*. "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."

**Tuesday, Apr 26 EASTER WEEKDAY Martyrs for the poor**

On this day in 1998, Guatemalan Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera was bludgeoned to death for daring to defend the nation's indigenous people. Conedera was not the first Latin American religious leader—nor the last—to be martyred for championing the "least of these" as Jesus did. But the fate of all such martyrs shines a bright light on Catholic Social Teaching as it emerged from pivotal gatherings of Latin American bishops, for instance the Medellín (1968) and Puebla (1979) conferences. Quoting Puebla, how can you make a "preferential option for the poor" today? TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15 (268)*. "So must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

**Wednesday, Apr 27 EASTER WEEKDAY The light outshines the darkness**

Holocaust Remembrance Day begins at sundown this evening. The Holocaust was one of the darkest moments in human history. It seemed that evil might triumph over good, darkness over light. The Catholic Church of times past sadly watered the deadly seeds of anti-Semitism. Thankfully that has changed in recent decades. Pope John Paul II was instrumental in his visits to synagogues and reinterpreting the New Testament to avoid the anti-Jewish implications that dominated for centuries. Pope Francis has prayed at the Western Wall and Yad Vashem, denouncing anti-Semitism, standing up for Jews when anti-Semitism occurs. Just as Easter Sunday comes after the horror of Good Friday, the light does indeed prevail. We are an Easter people. TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 (269)*. "But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."

**Thursday, Apr 28 MEMORIAL OF PETER CHANEL, PRIEST, MARTYR The stuff that healers are made of**

The martyrdom of Marist priest Father Peter Chanel, S.M. on the South Seas island of Fortuna could be an action movie. There's a disgruntled king. A bloody fight. Peter Chanel, healer, steps in to treat the injured man, his enemy by any definition. Chanel momentarily turns, and the enemy rises up and strikes him dead. Chanel's murderer much later undergoes a conversion himself and becomes Christian, as does most of the island. One of Chanel's catechumens had said of him, "He loves us. He does what he teaches. He forgives his enemies. His teaching is good." Your personal battles may be less cinematic, but in the communion of saints, Chanel is available to inspire right action against the odds. TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36 (270)*. "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life."

**Friday, Apr 29 MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF SIENA, LAY DOMINICAN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Grounded in love**

Saint Catherine of Siena, O.P. models for us balance in our life of prayer and social commitment. Early in her life, she stayed at home and focused fervently on prayer. But God had other plans. Catherine had a vision in which Christ reminded her of the call to love God and neighbor. Catherine's spiritual director wrote that God spoke the following to Catherine: "It is the justice of these two commandments that I want you now to fulfill. On two feet you must walk my way; on two wings you must fly to heaven." TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271)*. "A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick."

**Saturday, Apr 30 EASTER WEEKDAY Live free of fear**

John Dear is a Catholic priest and longtime peace activist, having been arrested more than 75 times in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience. But it wasn't always that way. When he entered priestly formation, he couldn't imagine himself as an activist. His inspiration was Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J., renowned peace activist, poet, and Jesuit priest who died on this day in 2016. Dear writes: "I first met Dan . . . in the early 1980s . . . I remember asking him how in the world I could ever work for peace. 'What are you afraid of?' he asked me. 'Don't be afraid. Don't live in fear. Live in faith and hope and peace.' I was shocked. No one ever said such things to me. I decided then and there to give it a try. Later, I realized: we all need a teacher who tells us not to be afraid." Whatever your particular calling, don't let fear keep you from being your fullest, Christ-like self. TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (272)*. "They saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they began to be afraid. But he said to them, 'It is I. Do not be afraid.' "

# Parish Outreach



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: Jelly, Non Sugar Cereal, Mayonnaise**  
***A very special THANK YOU to all!***

**Please Pray for our  
Our First Communion  
Children**



**as they prepare to receive on May 7<sup>th</sup>**



**And  
Confirmation Candidates**

**as they prepare for the  
Sacrament on May 19<sup>th</sup>**

## Congratulations Honor Roll Students

St. Margaret's Parish family would like to congratulate the Honor Roll students from **St. Anthony's High School, Huntington**



Nelson Beausoleil, Tiffany Bosch, Valerie Bosch, Sarah Breuer, Cassandra Hussey, Sean McMillin, Cameron-Noelle Mendoza, Daniel Sawicki, Aelish Symonds, Donovan Symonds & Anjani Valerio

*We commend their efforts to excel!*



## Prayers for our military

Jaime Ottenwalder, USN  
Anthony Anglikowski, USN  
Ivan Slawsky, USN

## Free Covid Test Kits @ Parish Center

Please feel free to come into the Parish Center during office hours to pick up free test kits. They have been donated through the office of Nick Caracappa, Suffolk County Legislator.

## Vacation Bible School

Save the Date!

July 11 ~15, 2022



The Diocese of Rockville Centre

# GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES

## Honoring Couples Married Fifty Years

The Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to honor those couples who have celebrated Fifty Years of Marriage between 2020 and 2022 by inviting them to attend one of the Masses below for a special blessing.

**Sunday, May 1, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.**

Church of Christ the King, Commack  
Celebrant: Most Reverend Richard G. Henning

**Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.**

Church of St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays  
Celebrant: Most Reverend John O. Barres

**Sunday, May 22, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.**

Church of St. James, Seaford  
Celebrant: Most Reverend Luis Romero

Register online at [drvc-faith.org](http://drvc-faith.org)

Registration must be received by Friday, April 22, 2022

For questions, please contact Lisette Robustelli, Associate Director at (516)678-5800 ext. 200 or via email at [LRobustelli@drvc.org](mailto:LRobustelli@drvc.org)

