

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.

Peace on Earth



December 25, 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

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Pastoral Staff

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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

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jburtoff@saintmargaret.com

Faith Formation Office

Jackie Mirenda, Coordinator x131
jmirenda@saintmargaret.com

Music Ministry

Dr. Daniel Crews, Director x117
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Parish Outreach

Outreach@saintmargaret.com x119

Holy Angels Regional Catholic School

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

It's hard to argue against technological advancement when a certain surgery adds fifteen years to the life of a loved one. It's hard to argue against the information age when a computer allows you to down-load data from a library in Vienna on to your p.c. in a matter of several minutes. But there is a down-side to technological advancement and the information age. Technological advancement and the information age have weakened our capacity to wonder.

The philosopher Sam Keen once wrote that wonder is the basis for all philosophy. In order to get at the meaning of life, he wrote, you must wonder.

What the philosophers call wondering about the curiosities of life, Christians call beholding the mysteries of life. Along with the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, Christians most wonder about the Incarnation. How is it that a Divine Person took on flesh and became like us in all things but sin?

We call Christmas a mystery because the birth of Jesus Christ is unlike any other birth. Jesus was born to a married woman who never at any time had sexual relations with her husband. The Holy Spirit had come upon Mary and overshadowed her (cf. Lk 1:35), thereby conceiving the Child. Without the seed of man, the Child grew in His mother's womb until such time that a son was born. (cf. Matt 1:25)

I must confess that it is getting harder and harder in our culture to find the image of the Madonna and Child. Some devout Christians who send Christmas cards still use this image but advertisers don't. Advertisers and merchandisers don't use the image of the Madonna and Child because it doesn't sell.

Mystery doesn't sell but neither can we rid ourselves of it completely. The greatest unsolved mysteries are not the stories of a television show but the largely silent witness of those who love unto death.

When Christ was born in Bethlehem, very few were there. The Madonna was there, of course, and so was Joseph her just, industrious and chaste spouse. The shepherds were there, too. (cf. Lk 2:16-17) But apart from these, only the angels witnessed this mysterious occurrence. (cf. Lk 2:15)

When Christ died on Calvary, very few were there again. According to the evangelist, the mother of Jesus, along with her sister and two other Marys assembled at the foot of the Cross along with the Beloved Apostle John. (cf. Jn 19:25) Before drawing His last breath, Jesus entrusted the care of His mother to a new son, a son born of apostolic love. (cf. Jn 19:27)

As the Christ Child lay in the manger (cf. Lk 2:8), His tender flesh pressed against wood. More than thirty years later, the flesh of the God-Man pressed against the wood of the Cross. The Incarnation was an embrace of pain and suffering as well as delight and joy. The Incarnation is a divine commitment to love unto death.

We are children of the manger and the Cross. We bubble with excitement over sacramental marriages and sacramental ordinations. As memories of the ceremonies begin to fade, do we set down our crosses? No, we take them up and follow in the footsteps of the Master. (cf. Mk 8:34) In doing so, we do not so much save our lives as we lose them. (cf. Mk 8:35)

Now here's something that definitely won't sell: losing your life. Not even the philosophers can accept this. How can you find the meaning of your life if you lose your life? It doesn't make sense.

Pope John Paul II called losing your life the law of the gift. In other words, you never discover the true meaning of your life until you lose it in commitment. Christ is committed to us in the Incarnation and the Cross. Both mysteries are grounded in love. Although not the only commitments to Christ, sacramental marriage and sacramental ordination are public expressions of a mysterious love unto death. In marriage, the flesh of husband and wife are joined together to project into the world the *imago Dei*, the image of God. In ordination, a mere man is given the awesome power to call down the flesh of the Son of God on an altar.

In his book *The Rumor of Angels*, Peter Berger writes that we have signals of transcendence in our midst. The angels no doubt testified to the presence of the Divine on earth two thousand years ago. Today, angels continue this great work but we can't see them. We can see, however, those committed human beings who love unto death. They are the signals of transcendence who remind a skeptical world that Christmas is first, last and always a mystery.

If we can give thanks for a flesh that is destroyed, then surely we can give thanks today for a flesh that is brand new. In this Eucharist, immolated flesh becomes life-giving flesh. The Incarnation of Jesus made Him subject to death. But God has conquered death through the Resurrection. The love we celebrate today is not just a love unto death but a love through death and unto everlasting life.

Merry Christmas!



Merry Christmas from Msgr. Batule,
Fr. Patrick & all St. Margaret's Staff.



**January 1st
Solemnity of Mary**

Saturday, December 31st, 5:00 PM
Sunday, January 1st, 8:00 & 10:00 AM
AND 12:00 NOON

The Parish Center will be closed on
Monday, December 26th for Christmas.



St. Margaret's Bible Study

The Parish Bible Study will begin at
10 AM on Wednesday, January 11th
and continue on Wednesdays in the
Parish Center.

Deacon Ed Hayes will be the facilitator.
Please bring your Bible.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

*For your personal adoration
and prayers.*

**FIRST THURSDAYS ~ JAN. 5TH, FEB. 2ND
3:00 - 6:00 PM in the Church**



Parish Social Ministry

Outreach Christmas

*Thank you to all who participated in our Christmas Day. It was a tremendous success!
We were able to help 80 children have a wonderful Christmas!*



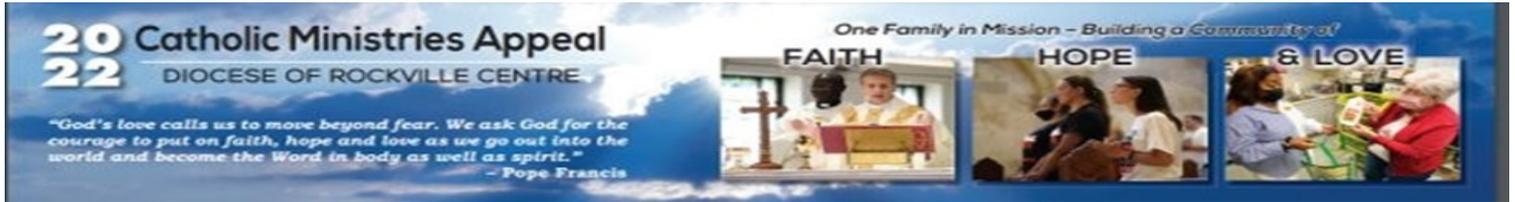
To clarify the matter of second collections, the following is offered to the parishioners of Saint Margaret.

Second collections are designated by the Diocese every year. We know when they occur by a **listing** of them and the **envelopes** for them which are mailed to parishioners who support our parish financially. It needs to be stated that designated second collections are **to be taken up at all Masses, in all parishes** in the Diocese.

If you are offering your donation to the parish weekly or monthly and you don't know when the second collections are, please see a listing for them in in the ushers' room in the vestibule of the church or the bulletin boards of the church. We are grateful for your support of these second collections. They are not however optional and neither are they income for the parish.

Msgr. Batule





Thank you for your generous support of the 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please prayerfully consider making a donation the appeal.

To give securely online, please go to

<https://www.drvc.org/donate/cma/>

There is still time to make a gift. All new pledges must be in by 12/31/22 and paid in full by 1/31/23.

Completing your 2022 pledges ensures that our Parish will benefit by receiving our full rebate.



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. **It is not a marriage retreat, nor counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story. It is a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect and build a healthy, happier stronger marriage. Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths or no faith background are encouraged to attend.**

For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming date of January 27th, please call 1-800-470-2230 you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help. ~

website www.helpourmarriage.org.

Couples of all faiths, or no faith, are encouraged to attend. No one is turned away for lack of funds.

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.

Mass Book for 2023

The Mass Book for 2023 is open in the parish center.

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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter



Attention married couples & Priests.

Are you looking for a great Christmas gift?

A weekend away for just you and your spouse to help your good marriage be great!!



Are you ready for more growth and happiness in your marriage or priesthood? Uncover the secrets to a lasting, supportive, transformational marriage on a World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Every relationship is a journey the grind of everyday life can cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This experience will help you listen, share and connect more deeply.

Our next weekend experience will be - February 3-5 at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception Huntington, Long Island. Register at WWME.org or contact: Chuck & Maria Reiss (631) 486-8607.

Love is patient, love is kind. Increase your love for one another on an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience.

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.

Living Waters Wholistic Healing

Therapeutic Catholic Counseling dedicated to healing the whole individual with a an integrated approach to the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual. For more info go to livingwaterstherapy.org.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN - 8TH GRADE · PATCHOGUE, NY



JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE!

SUNDAY · JANUARY 29, 2023
12:00 - 2:00PM

At the Holy Angels Regional School Open House, you will have the chance to meet faculty and staff, tour the buildings and see how Holy Angels can be the best fit for your child! All are welcome!

"Making the switch from public school to Holy Angels was by far the best decision we ever made; our children could not be happier and are thriving both academically and socially. We are confident that attending Holy Angels is preparing our children for their future!"

-A Holy Angels Regional School Parent

Why Holy Angels Regional School?

- For 100 years, Holy Angels has offered academic excellence, which fosters individual growth and development of the whole child: intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, physically, and socially according to time-tested, Catholic faith-based models of teaching and learning.
- Holy Angels is committed to integrate the Gospel message with the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development of students, enabling them to become the leaders of tomorrow.
- Holy Angels cultivates a robustly Catholic culture centered on the spiritual, intellectual, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church and challenges it's students to learn, lead, and serve as Jesus taught.
- Holy Angels provides a safe and supportive community that recognizes the dignity of every person and promotes human flourishing in a familial atmosphere.



- 🌐 holyangelsregional.org
- ☎ (631) 475-0422
- 📍 1 Division Street, Patchogue 11772
- 📱 @HolyAngelsRegional
- 📷 @HolyAngelsPatchogue



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

A three-year initiative to inspire and prepare the People of God through a renewed encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Learn more by visiting:

www.eucharisticrevival.org