

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



Celebration of the Eucharist

Weekday: (Mon through Fri) 9:00 AM

Saturday: 5:00 PM,

Sunday - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 noon

Confessions:

Saturday - 4:00-4:45 PM in the Church
or by appointment.



Pastoral Staff

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Holy Angels Regional Catholic School

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Jeannine Stewart, Principal

March 12, 2023

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Parish Office

Monday through Thursday ~ 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Friday ~ 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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As you may recall, I left off with the *Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* in my previous column with the section on conversion in the document. I will pick up there because conversion is always involved in the life of faith, including our participation in the Holy Eucharist.

We undergo conversion because the Lord calls us to this way of life. “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” (Mk 1:15) are the first spoken words by Jesus as He inaugurates His ministry. With these words, Jesus sets the tone for the disciples in following Him. These words are important around the Holy Eucharist too.

In the First Letter of Saint John (cf. 1 Jn 5:16-17), the sacred author refers to sins that rupture our communion with God and the Church and calls these sins deadly. The Bishops write that deadly sins *are . . . grave or mortal. One commits a mortal sin by freely, knowingly, and willingly choosing to do something that involves grave matter and that is opposed to charity, opposed to love of God and neighbor.*

The Bishops go on from there: *One is not to celebrate Mass or receive Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin without having sought the Sacrament of Penance and received absolution.* The Bishops continue with their explanation: *As the Church has consistently taught, a person who receives Holy Communion while in a state of mortal sin not only does not receive the grace that the sacrament conveys; he or she commits the sacrilege by failing to show the reverence due to the sacred Body and Blood of Christ.* What is the basis for the Church holding this position?

The Church cites Saint Paul in the New Testament. In his First Letter to the Corinthians, the apostle writes: *Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.* (1 Cor. 11:27-29) Moreover, the Bishops write: *To receive the Body and Blood of Christ while in a state of mortal sin represents a contradiction. The person who, by his or her own action, has broken communion with Christ and his Church but receives the Blessed Sacrament, acts incoherently, both claiming and rejecting communion at the same time. It is thus a counter sign, a lie – it expresses a communion that in fact has been broken.*

What the Bishops emphasize next is the visibility of ecclesial communion which has been broken when there is an unworthy reception of Holy Communion. That ecclesial communion *began in Baptism. [It] includes communion in the teaching of the apostles, in the sacraments and in the Church’s hierarchical order.*

Such an unworthy reception of Holy Communion *is also likely to cause scandal for others, weakening their resolve to be faithful to the demands of the Gospel.* The reception of Holy Communion is a deeply personal act but it is not a private act closed off from others. The parts of the Body are affected by the other parts. Saint Paul teaches this truth in the very same First Letter to the Corinthians. You can find his teaching in Chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians.

I continue with additional commentary on the Holy Eucharist in my next column.

As we are about the half-way point in our Lenten observance, I take the opportunity to remind parishioners that Holy Week starts with the Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday on April 1st. Holy Week culminates with the celebration of Easter Sunday on April 9th. Holy Week’s schedule will be posted on church bulletin boards and all registered parishioners will receive a copy in the regular mail. Please refer to that schedule so that you may conscientiously participate in the rites which present us with Christ’s salvific work on our behalf. Of special importance now would be an acknowledgement of **Reconciliation Monday** which is April 3rd. Confessions are heard in the church over 5 hours (2:00 – 4:00 PM and 6:00 – 9:00 PM). Please make time in your schedule to be reconciled with the Lord and His Church then or at other scheduled times when the Sacrament of Penance will be celebrated during the Sacred Triduum.

Till the next time.

Msgr. Batule
Pastor



Divine Mercy Novena

The Novena will begin on Good Friday, April 7th after the 9:00 AM Morning Prayer and after the 3:00 PM Passion.

Holy Saturday will be after the 9:00 Morning Prayer. Easter Sunday you may do private.

Daily Novena will be after morning Mass

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 16th ~ 3 PM in the Church

Catholic Relief Services

Next week our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need.

Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Lectors

All lectors are asked to attend a meeting on **Wednesday, April 19th at 7:00 PM** in the church. There will be a practice of reading liturgical texts at that time with an audio-visual taping of all lectors. Kindly mark your calendars now.



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.



Because no marriage is beyond hope...

A **marriage-saving** program is here in the New York/Metropolitan Area

April 21-23, 2023

- Is your marriage tearing you apart?
- Do you feel hurt and angry?
- Does talking make it worse?
- Thought of leaving or divorce?
- Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

Retrouvaille* can help.

To register or for more information:

1-800-470-2230

<https://www.helpourmarriage.org>

info@HelpOurMarriage.org

Retrouvaille is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges

It is not a marriage retreat, or counseling. You will not be asked to share the personal details of your story. Retrouvaille is different; it's 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. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.

To contact the Long Island/New York Business Office:
516.920.9337/LongIsland@HelpOurMarriage.org



St. Margaret of Scotland's 75th Anniversary

With our celebration of the parish's **75th Anniversary**, we are publishing a journal. If you have any material (e.g. newspaper articles) in your possession related to the founding of St. Margaret and you would like to loan it to the parish, please see Julie Burtoff in the parish center during regular business hours.

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi on June 11th, the principal Mass that day will be offered at 11:00 AM. It will be followed by an outdoor procession with the Blessed Sacrament off our property. It will conclude with Benediction back in the church. To continue our **celebration on the 11th of June**, there will be a reception on the grounds of the parish. Again, please follow the bulletin for more details over the coming months. Mark your calendar.

We ask you to hold the date of

Sunday, November 19th between 1 and 5 PM

for the principal celebration of the parish's **75th Anniversary**. In the meantime, please continue to follow the bulletin on all things related to the anniversary of Saint Margaret.

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.



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.

Children's Stations of the Cross



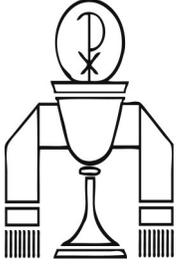
Friday, April 7th
11:00 am in the Church

Adult Confirmation Preparation

We invite adult Catholics who have never celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation to contact us should they want to be confirmed. Adult Catholics will be confirmed at Pentecost on Sunday, May 28th at the 12 noon Mass in the church. Those wishing to be confirmed **must** contact us now. Catechesis for Confirmation begins after Easter on Monday, April 17th at 7:30 PM in the parish center.



Eucharistic Miracles



An exhibit on **Eucharistic Miracles** will be coming to Saint Margaret in late April. Over the weekend of April 22nd/23rd, parishioners will have the opportunity to view the exhibit in the auditorium/church basement following parish Masses.

Don't miss it. The exhibit is yet another way to enhance the profile of the **Eucharistic Revival** which began last year and will conclude next year. The Lord is with us always through the Holy Eucharist; we should be with Him some of the time.

Adoration

At the midway point in Lent, we begin to call attention to the liturgies of the Sacred Triduum. On Holy Thursday night, the Church celebrates the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8:00 PM in the church**. Following the Mass, there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

Kindly see the sign-up book in the vestibule for Adoration and write your name in for one of the time slots. ~ Msgr. Batule



St. Margaret's Bible Study

The Parish Bible Study is held on **Wednesdays at 10 AM** in the Parish Center.

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



Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent



12:00 noon & 7:30 pm

March 10, 17, 24, 31

April 7 – 7:30 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

For your personal adoration
and prayers.

FIRST THURSDAYS
APRIL 6TH & MAY 4TH

3:00 - 6:00 PM in the Church



Guidelines for Fasting & Abstinence

All Catholics who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on all the Fridays of Lent.

All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Good Friday.

This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from Good Friday fast and abstinence.

Sunday, Mar 12, 2023**Truth be told**

Pontius Pilate famously asked Jesus, "What is truth?" Pilate didn't stick around for the answer (which in itself says a lot), but if he had, he might have heard something like the definition the Catechism of the Catholic Church provides: "Truth as uprightness in human action and speech is called truthfulness, sincerity, or candor. Truth or truthfulness is the virtue which consists in showing oneself true in deeds and truthful in words, and in guarding against duplicity, dissimulation, and hypocrisy." Now we have a sense of what it means to imitate Christ in all things.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42 (28). *"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth."*

Monday, Mar 13, 2023**On the frontiers of servanthood**

When you think of the legendary figures of the Wild West, Billy the Kid, Buffalo Bill, Annie Oakley, Geronimo, and Sitting Bull come to mind. But how about Sister Blandina Segale? Add her to list—because she had encounters with many of those men and women, and her life was also the stuff of lore. Born in 1850, this Italian-American Sister of Charity of Cincinnati traveled alone through the American frontier to serve the poor and sick (including saving the life of a seriously wounded Billy the Kid), to advocate for Native American civil rights, and to fight against lynching (including protecting a contrite murderer from a mob). This Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14) count Segale, honored by the church with the title servant of God, among the heroic sisters who have your gratitude for spreading the faith.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30 (237). *"Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place."*

Tuesday, Mar 14, 2023**No room for hate**

Fannie Lou Hamer died this day in 1977. But she nearly died in 1963, in a Mississippi jail cell—so badly beaten, as a civil rights advocate, that her cell mate didn't think she'd survive the night. But Hamer asked her to join in singing the hymn "Walk With Me, Lord" and lived to see another day. In fact Hamer lived to testify, on television, before the 1964 Democratic National Convention. A tireless campaigner for women's voting rights, she was also inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Follow Hamer's lead in fostering forgiveness: "I feel sorry for anybody that could let hate wrap them up. Ain't no such thing as I can hate anybody and hope to see God's face."

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35 (238). *"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him?"*

Wednesday, Mar 15, 2023**Printing the truth is worth the struggle**

On this week in 1827, *Freedom's Journal* began publication as the first African-American newspaper in history. Founded by Protestant minister John Wilk and leading free black men in New York City, the paper would set off a revolution in U.S. media, resulting in similar papers being established nationwide, forming the black press. Daniel Rudd founded the first black Catholic

newspaper in 1885, and the explosion in African-American conversions to Catholicism in the 20th century can be attributed in large part to these newspapers advertising better conditions in the northern United States (where Catholic parishes and schools happened to be plentiful). The black press continues today in many American cities and represents one of the nation's original justice-focused professional institutions. Consider supporting a local—or national—black news outlet today.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19 (239). *"Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life."*

Thursday, Mar 16, 2023**Let God carry it**

The comedy-drama *The Banshees of Inisherin* features a man gloomy about his eventual death going to Confession over a period of weeks. Each time, the priest asks, "And how is the despair?" implying despair itself might be seen as a sin—rather tough but also tender in the way the priest wants to understand the whole man. The church upholds hope as a virtue and warns against despair because it can leave no room for God's grace. That said, our faith leaders have long shown compassion for the complexities of depression in its many forms. Whatever your emotional state, consider turning today's burdens over to God.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23 (240). *"But if it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you."*

Friday, Mar 17, 2023**As luck would have it**

The Lord expects great things from us: namely, to love God with our whole heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Are humans really capable of such love? Irish writer Oscar Wilde had his doubts: "I sometimes think that God in creating man somewhat overestimated his ability." We human beings do tend to make a mess of things when left to our own devices, but luckily for us, we have a loving God who sent Jesus to show us the way to love, and the Holy Spirit to keep us on the path of love. In honor of Saint Patrick, remember to draw on the Trinity as you continually recalibrate your trajectory toward love.

MEMORIAL OF PATRICK, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34 (241). *"Straight are the paths of the LORD, in them the just walk."*

Saturday, Mar 18, 2023**The fragrance of forgiveness**

Cyril, a fourth-century bishop of Jerusalem and a doctor of the church, was instrumental in forming the church's doctrinal understanding of the Holy Spirit. He wrote, "The Spirit comes gently and makes himself known by his fragrance. He is not felt as a burden for God is light . . . The Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen and to console." The formula for absolution in the sacrament of Reconciliation identifies the Holy Spirit as sent "for the forgiveness of sins." Celebrate the sacrament at your church this afternoon.

MEMORIAL OF CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14 (242). *"O God, be merciful to me a sinner."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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Faith Formation

Save the Date! Vacation Bible School



Theme ~ Stellar Jesus Light shines!
July 10-14 ~ 9:15 am-12:30 pm

Ages 4 yrs old to 6th grade ~ Fee \$35 per child
Volunteers Needed! Adults & Students grade 6 and up.
High Schoolers welcome.



Registration opens 2/27 limited to first 100 children.
Any question ~ Jackie Mirenda at 631-732-3131 x131 or jmirenda@saintmargaret.com

Parish Social Ministry

Food Pantry Needs



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: **Applesauce, Egg Noodles, Hearty Soups & Juice**
A very special THANK YOU to all!

FACE CLOTHS AND TRAVEL ITEMS NEEDED FOR WASH UP KITS

We are in need of NEW face cloths for our wash up kits projects. If you have traveled lately and have small shampoo and hotel items please drop off these and the facecloths at the parish center. Thank you!



The Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls will be available during Lent. You may pick one up in the Parish Center or the church lobby.

Catholic Charities TALBOT HOUSE

Are you or someone you know having family or interpersonal problems due to drinking ALCOHOL and/or using DRUGS?

CATHOLIC CHARITIES /Talbot House, a Chemical Dependence Crisis Center, located in Bohemia, provides withdrawal & stabilization services on a voluntary basis to males & females over the age of 18, who are seeking to stop and/or withdraw from alcohol and/or drug use. The medical & clinical staff at Talbot House will assess the kind of care the person needs to begin their journey in recovery. For more info, call confidentially 631-589-4144. Talbot House staff is available 24/7.

Talbot House is a "NO fee for service" program.

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. .

Catholic Gifts ~Looking for Catholic gifts and items? You can visit Our Lady of the Island Shrine , 258 Eastport Manor Rd. in Manorville. They carry a large variety of religious articles. OURLADYOFTHEISLAND.ORG

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.