

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service

January 21, 2024

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Weekday—Monday through Friday 9:00 AM

Saturday 5:00PM

Sunday—8:00 AM, 10:00AM and 12 Noon

Confessions

Saturday—4:00—4:45 PM in the church or by appointment



Pastoral Staff

Msgr. Robert Batule -

Pastor x111

Rev. Patrick Abu-Bonsra -

Parochial Vicar x 116

pabubonsra@saintmargaret.com

Deacons

- *Retired:* Dcn Ed Hayes

Dcn William Kogler,

Dcn Biagio Muratore

Parish Center Office –

Receptionist x0

Karen Norris,

Admin Assistant x118

knorris@saintmargaret.com

Faith Formation Office

Jackie Mirenda,

Coordinator x131

jmirenda@saintmargaret.com

Music Ministry

Dr. Daniel Crews,

Director x117

dcrews@saintmargaret.com

Parish Outreach

outreach@saintmargaret.com x119

Holy Angels Regional Catholic School

Patchogue, NY 631-475-0422

Jeannine Stewart, Principal





Living Stewardship ~ Pillar of Formation: As Catholics, we are called to bring others to the Church. Brush up on Church teachings and ask God to help you evangelize.

Thank you to all who so generously give to the support of our parish.
You are returning to God what God has so generously given to you.

January 13/14

	Stewardship	Envelope
Collected at Mass	\$6,978.....	178
Mailed Envelopes	\$6,280.....	66
Total Collection	\$13,258	244

Reading for Next Sunday
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading.....Jon 3:1-5,10
Second Reading.....1 Cor 7:29-31
Gospel.....Mk 1:14-20

Monday Through Thursday ~ 9:00^{am} – 5:00^{pm} Friday 9^{am}-1^{pm}

(631)732-3131

81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: We welcome all new parishioners! We ask them to register at the Parish Center and encourage the use of weekly envelopes. If you are moving, please notify the office.

MARRIAGES: Couples should make arrangements in person at least one year in advance for required interview. At least one of the parties must live within the parish boundaries or be a registered member of the parish. Please call the Parish Center for an appointment. No dates will be set over the telephone.

BAPTISMS: Ideally, prospective parents should call the Parish Center before the expected birth to discuss the arrangements for your baptism. The ceremony is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE ~ Parish Center:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Call for appointment - x131.

PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY ~ Parish Center:

Tues., Thurs. ~ 10 am –1 pm. Or call for appointment - x119.

Monday January 22nd

Tuesday –January 23rd

The Living & Deceased Members of the
Bishop McDonnell Class of January 1952

Wednesday - January 24th

Thursday - January 25th

Friday - January 26th

Marianne Fontana-Hennessey

Saturday - January 27th

Veronica McMail

Sunday January 28th

Stanislaw Malinowski

Anthony & Joan Quattrock

All St. Margaret's Parishioners

For all our parishioners suffering from chronic illness, as well as



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. Thank you.

Were not the 21st of January a Sunday this year, we would be honoring Saint Agnes, our diocesan patron. She was a virgin-martyr whose heroic witness to Christ was lived out in the late third century and early fourth century in Rome. Originally from the noble class of that city, Agnes became an intercessor for young girls upon her death. She wound up suffering a gruesome death, but not before resisting men who were seeking to rape her. Agnes' refusal to succumb to the advances made against her showed that chastity is a virtue not easily won in the Christian life. The good news is that it is won – through a combination of divine grace and human effort. Times are different, yes, but the virtue is never out of season.

The next day on the calendar, the 22nd, is a date we have come to associate with an infamous Supreme Court decision – this being *Roe v. Wade*. When the ruling was made by the Justices (7 – 2, by the way) in 1973, a constitutional right to abortion became the law of the land. Sanctioning abortion in this way precipitated enormous attitudinal shifts across the culture. The same was true when, in 2022, the Supreme Court (with different Justices on the bench) overturned *Roe*, we had not euphoria but a vitriolic fall-out that a “right” was taken away.

In the post-*Roe* culture, that is, after 1973 and before the Dobbs decision in 2022, the pro-life movement was born and grew. As with other social movements, there are always differing opinions about what was done. Was it enough? Could we have done more? I recall a conversation I had with a long-time pro-lifer who told me that he was disappointed that Church leaders were not as visible as they once were, nor were their voices heard as much as abortion became more accepted in the culture. In response, I said that the Church had done more than any other institution to assist the pro-life movement. In terms of teaching, in terms of the use of personnel (and their training), the expenditure of resources (financial especially), the formation of the laity (conferences, etc.) and so much more. The Church's record is therefore quite impressive.

At the same time, there is less “visibility” on the part of clerics (bishops and priests) in the pro-life movement. And it is true that there is less “speaking out” today than, say, twenty or thirty years ago. I don't think you can equivocate on these points.

But does that mean that we are “less” pro-life than we used to be? No, not necessarily so. It does however come down to individual commitment. Catholics now are considerably less inclined to put it “all on the line” than they were in the past. What I have in mind is something like the following: Getting on a bus at 6:00 AM or earlier, riding for hours, sometimes when it is very cold outside, standing in the cold listening to speakers, then marching down Pennsylvania Avenue in our nation's capital to the Supreme Court Building, stopping at a McDonald's or a Burger King on the way home for dinner, getting back at 10 PM or later – only to learn that your car in the church parking lot won't turn over. What a day! All this happening the day you travelled to and from the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

We once did such things, but we're a lot less inclined to do that now.

Just recently, a fellow Knight of Columbus told me about sponsoring an essay contest for local Catholic elementary school students in another part of our diocese. This Knight related how two parents took it upon themselves to submit their own essays but did not write about the beauty of human life. No, they wrote castigating those who dare to think that the pro-life position is the only position to have as a Catholic. Amazing but true as we are wont to say. It makes you think that indeed we haven't done enough. We could have done more.

But, somehow, we didn't. We did less and this is the result.

And that is why it is important to renew our commitment to the sanctity of human life, especially the sanctity of pre-born life. Because if there isn't respect for human life in the womb, there won't be respect for human life at any other point. This happened to be the position of Mother Teresa, also known as Saint Teresa. The woman who dedicated herself to caring for the destitute and dying in Calcutta and other places in the world said the worst destroyer of peace is abortion.

Until the next time.

Msgr. Batule



Our Students are Thriving!

**School Tours & Open Houses Happening During
Catholic Schools Week in January 2024!**



www.lischools.org

35 schools • Early Childhood • K-8

2023 Tax Statements

Please call the Parish Center if you would like a copy of your 2023 tax statement. Dial 631-732-3131 ext. 133. Leave a message with your name, address, phone number, and your envelope number (if available). The statement will be mailed to you.



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



St. Margaret's Spousal Bereavement

Both individual and group bereavement counseling services are available for those who are mourning the loss of their husband or wife. All confidential sessions are held on a weekly basis and participants need not be St

. Margaret's parishioners. For more information please contact

Barbara Gottfried at (631) 698-6053

Family Winter Wingo

Friday Night ~ January 26th @ 7 PM

Auditorium! Bring the Family! Refreshments!
Sign up in the Parish Center.

Proceeds will benefit the St. Margaret Outreach.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to help
restock our food pantry.

**\$10 Per Family
\$5 Single
Door Prizes!**

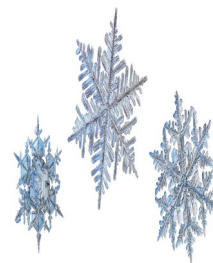


Raffle Baskets!
\$1 a ticket or
20 for \$10.

FAMILY NAME _____

of People _____

Tele # _____



Save the Date

St. Margaret's Blood Drive

February 20, 2024

1:00pm—7:00pm



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

We ask parishioners and church-goers at Saint Margaret to check the bulletin boards in church if they are unsure when Second Collections are taken up in the parishes of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. We do not make announcements during the Church's liturgies about second collections.



**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 631-682-8711.



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

21 January 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Metanoia \me-tə-'noi-ə\

Greek word in the New Testament translated as "change of mind" or "change of heart." It corresponds with the Old Testament word for repentance and the Latin *conversio*, turning or returning, from which derives the idea of *conversion*. Turning is key, assuming we have lost our way or gone off course.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-metanoia>

CONTEXT

Community takes transformation. Being people of communion requires **metanoia** that results from encounter and dialogue.
—Sister Nicole Trahan, F.M.I.

Far from being a demand to feel lousy about our screw-ups, **metanoia** invites us to radically transform the way we perceive others, ourselves, and the world.
—David Anderson

Metanoia invites us to meet all situations, however unfair, with understanding and an empathetic heart.
—Father Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I.

WHY IT MATTERS

The willingness to change is a crucial ingredient in a life of integrity. On the journey through the years, we will all be confused or misdirected and swerve off the path of truth. **Metanoia** is the much-needed spiritual course correction. Consider **metanoia** the vital summons to recalculate where we're headed and what needs to change for us to get there.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Jesus' call to conversion and repentance, does not aim first at outward works, but at the *conversion of the heart, interior conversion*. [H]owever, interior conversion urges expression in visible signs, gestures, and works of penance (1430).

RELATED WORDS

Conversion | Penance | Contrition | Transformation

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What does it mean to repent?

Repentance doesn't necessarily require falling on our knees and beating our breasts, though

sometimes that may be the appropriate response—as it was for skeptical Thomas, when the resurrected Lord whom he'd doubted stood before him. Basically, to repent means to change course. That can mean movement if we've been standing still, or stopping if we've been in frantic motion. It can mean changing our minds or our hearts, our direction or our behavior.

The word has several important root meanings. The earliest is the Hebrew word *t'shuvah*: return. It's a crucial concept to prophets like Amos, Hosea, and Jeremiah. Their fellow citizens have wandered far from God's ways, and it's time for them to return home. **Metanoia** is the New Testament Greek term that carries a similar meaning. John the Baptist first issues the call to change direction, signaled by Baptism. Jesus uses this term when he invites his listeners to change their dispositions—to turn their hearts and lives around—in response to his teaching. Repentance carries the additional meaning of expressing regret for past actions and attitudes—along with the expectation that real change is forthcoming. In addition, the word *conversion* means turning around, implying a reorientation of intentions and actions. In the sacrament of Reconciliation, we include the stipulation of "making reparation" for what we've done or failed to do that has caused harm.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <https://tinyurl.com/QCA-repent>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE (JANUARY 25)

Take the next turn toward truth

The amazing thing about Saint Paul's conversion was that he went from persecutor of Christians to a devout Christian himself. The change in him was so incredible not everyone believed it at first. His turnaround was a complete about-face toward Jesus.

Readings: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18 (519 <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/012518.cfm>). "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

FAITH IN ACTION

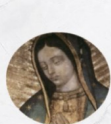
With God's help, you can bring about conversion in your own life. Start with a simple act of forgiveness.

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"If people spent an hour a week in Eucharistic adoration, abortion would be ended."

- St. Teresa of Calcutta



DIOCESE of ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Human Life,
Family and Bioethics



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 **Shelf Stable Milk, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Canned Fruit, Hearty Soups, Boxed Macaroni and Cheese.***

*A very special **THANK YOU** to all!*

Faith Formation

2024 –Twenty Minutes with the Pastor/Director

January

1/ 7 -Level 3,4&5
1/14-Level 6&7
1/21-Level 1&2
1/28Level 6&7

March

3/10-Level 1&2
3-17-Level 6&7

May

5/ 5– Level 1&2
5/12-Level 6&7
5/19 Level 3,4,&5

February

2/ 4-Level 3,4&5
2/11-Level 1&2
2//25-Level 6&7

April

4/ 7-Level 2,3,&4
4/14-Level 1&2
4/21-Level 6&7



New Parishioner?

Moving out of the parish?

Kindly fill out the form below—drop it in collection basket or mail to Parish Center. It will help us keep our files up-to-date and welcome newcomers

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Telephone _____

New Parishioner _____ Moving _____

