

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service

January 28, 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 x116

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: When life gets you down or you start to feel depressed or despair—turn to our God in prayer. Let Him know everything that is bothering you and invite Him into your life.

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.

	Stewardship	Envelope
Collected at Mass	\$6,318.....	155
Mailed Envelopes	\$4,917.....	63

Christmas Giving:
\$26,739 332

Parish Office

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 29th

Tuesday –January 30th

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

Wednesday - January 31st

Thursday,-February 1st

Friday - February 2nd

Saturday - February 3rd
5^{pm}

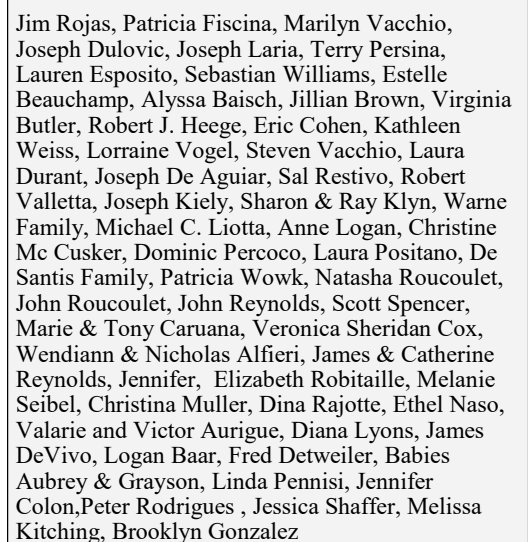
Sunday February 4th
8^{am}

The Croteau Family
10^{am}

Irena Malinowska
12^{pm}

Anthony Marrocco

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.

On the last Sunday of this first month of a new year, I want to mention a few matters briefly and then spend more space and time on one matter.

This weekend, we introduce **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** on Saturday afternoons starting at 4:00 PM. I encourage parishioners to join us while the Eucharistic Lord is present on the altar, in the monstrance, to pray in His Presence.

Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated Christmas, and now that the Christmas season is completed, we have begun listening to texts at Mass (daily and Sunday) concerning the public ministry of Jesus. I recall here that the early earthly life of Jesus included several incidents recorded in Saint Luke's Gospel – among them the **Presentation**. In accord with the dictates of the law, the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph brought the Christ Child to the Temple for the purpose of dedicating the Infant to the Lord. We mark this moment liturgically on February 2nd, this year a Friday. The Feast of the Lord's Presentation is also known as **Candlemas Day**.

The next day, February 3rd, the church remembers Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr. We associate Saint Blaise with a **Blessing of the Throats**. Since it is a Saturday this year, we will offer a Blessing of the Throats **after** the 5:00 PM Mass to any parishioners who would like to receive it.

A little more than two weeks from now, we begin our yearly Lenten observance on **Ash Wednesday**. Please see the bulletin boards in church for the Ash Wednesday **schedule** when ashes will be imposed. It begins in the morning when Mass is offered at 9:00 AM and closes with a Mass celebrated in the evening at 7:30 PM. In between, ashes are distributed at services – the first at 12 noon and the second at 4:00 PM.

And now to the topic which I will treat at greater length.

From time to time, I have used this space in the weekly bulletin to weigh in on matters financial. And here I am referring to our parish finances. I have remarked periodically on the collections fluctuating pretty significantly for a parish of this size. We seem to do pretty well on the first weekend of the month with a combination of offerings given in person at weekend Masses **and** electronic giving. Although I point out this pattern first, I want to make clear that we have only a **pattern** – for the first weekend of this month, the collection totaled **less than \$9,000.00**. You may recall that on occasion I have asked for our collections to be **\$12,000.000 and higher every weekend**. This has not occurred.

We have to do much better with weekend collections. And, thus, I renew **my appeal to all parishioners that they give generously and sacrificially to Saint Margaret**. To use one image, we need all oars in the water at the same time, all rowing in the same direction. This has to start now; otherwise, we will fall behind in our payment of bills and we will quickly start accruing debt. This is never good for any parish - to take on debt, no matter what its size, too. Debt holds parishes back from carrying out their mission and Saint Margaret is no exception.

Currently, our parish includes many, many parishioners who do not contribute anything to weekend collections. And we have many other parishioners who contribute so little to Saint Margaret as to be negligible in the overall financial picture. We all need to exercise all three parts of stewardship: time, talent and **treasure**. We neglect the last **t** to our own peril.

As a pastor, I take seriously my responsibility of caring for the temporal goods of the parish. We do this here by having a budget which is lean to the bone. There is no fat in it. And I will not put at risk parish assets which may very well be needed in the future for considerations beyond our planning and beyond our control.

I have requested permission to sell parish property, and I was given the “green light” to pursue this matter unto a favorable outcome. I have been interviewed by the Diocesan Real Estate Board once, I have discussed this matter with our parish's business officer, I have discussed the endeavor with our parish finance committee and with the two parish trustees. Their approval (finance committee and trustees), most importantly, has also been given.

I will continue to follow the directives for pastors wishing to sell parish property. By the way, I have done this before in a previous assignment as Pastor. In that parish, when all the dust settled, a windfall profit well into the millions of dollars was realized. The future of that parish is now financially secure.

Undertaking a sale of parish property is a lengthy, involved process. I promise to keep you informed about all the developments along the way.

Until the next time.

Msgr. Batule

CHURCH IN NEED COLLECTION

The following is a bulletin announcement in both English and Spanish for the "Church in Need" collection to be taken on January 28th.

The Church in Need

On January 28, 2024 a collection will be taken for "The Church in Need." The monies collected at this time will be shared among three areas of the world where there is particular need for help:

Church in Central and Eastern Europe - this collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that struggle to recover from former communist rule. It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region.

The Church in Latin America For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ.

The Church in Africa – The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa supports pastoral projects to build the capacity of the Church and foster lasting peace and reconciliation across a continent often marked by division and tension. Although the Church in Africa is growing, many still lack access to basic resources and pastoral care.

Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

*For your personal adoration
and prayers.*

**FIRST THURSDAY
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1**

3:00 - 6:00 PM in the Church



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



February 14-March 24 40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

***Sign up to save lives in the Patchogue area.
Spring Campaign begins soon!***

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over **20,000 babies** saved
- Over **200 abortion** workers converted
- Over **100 abortion** centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: sidewalk near Planned Parenthood (450 Waverly Ave., Patchogue).

Vigil hours: Mon/Wed/Sat, 10am - noon, and/or Wed, 3 -5pm.

Local contact: Bob at 631-615-1735 or WaverlyAvenueRespectLife@gmail.com.

Learn more... get involved...sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at

40daysforlife.com/Patchogue.

**Show your support for life by praying with us
at the Opening Mass for our Spring Campaign:**

**Tuesday, Feb. 13th
9am Mass
Good Shepherd Church
(1370 Grundy Ave., Holbrook)**

**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



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

28 January 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Benedictus \be-nə-'dik-təs\

From Latin meaning "blessed," the hymn sung by Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, an elder priest, who became mute on learning that he and Elizabeth would become parents late in life. After John's birth, Zechariah's tongue is loosed and he praises God with this canticle beginning: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come to his people and set them free" (Luke 1:68).

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

CONTEXT

Since the early centuries, the **Benedictus** has been sung in the morning prayer of the church's liturgy because of its praise for the coming of the Redeemer and its allusion to Christ coming as the dawn to give light to those in darkness. —Stephen J. Binz

May I have the courage today/ To live the life that I would love./ To postpone my dream no longer./ But do at last what I came here for/ And waste my heart on fear no more. —John O'Donohue, **Benedictus**: A Book of Blessings

WHY IT MATTERS

The **Benedictus** is one of four canticles sung at the start of Luke's gospel, including Mary's Magnificat, (*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord*), the song of the angels to the shepherds (*Glory to God in the highest!*), and Simeon's prayer at the presentation of Jesus in the temple (*Lord, now you let your servant go in peace*). Together these songs remind us that, in the face of good news, the most reasonable response is to sing. Joyful people know this.

From The General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours: The Gospel canticles, the *Benedictus*, the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc dimittis*, should be accorded the same solemnity and dignity as is usual for the hearing of the Gospel (138).

RELATED WORDS

Magnificat | Nunc dimittis | Beatitudes

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Why do we sing at Mass?

Saint Augustine, who said many things well, insisted: "Singing is for one who loves." This is the same Bishop Augustine who considered banning music from his church altogether. In the end he adhered to an older proverb: "Whoever sings well prays twice over." So pass out the song sheets.

Saint Paul was an earlier proponent of church music, back when church still gathered in somebody's house. He advocated that believers sing "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16). While Augustine got it right that singing is for lovers, happy people in general whistle while they work, and grateful people know they have something to sing about. This may explain why some folks in church are reluctant to sing. Without a significant increase in the spirit of joy and gratitude, don't expect an increase in responsive singers. Yet to those who love, feel joy, and are grateful, a little frivolity in public is in order.

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

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (FEBRUARY 2)

Listen to your elders

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and desired their son to be raised in the faith that had sustained them. They took Jesus to the Temple to be consecrated and presented to God, where they met Simeon and Anna, elders of the community. The elders immediately recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (524 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/020224.cfm>). "My eyes have seen your salvation."

FAITH IN ACTION

Follow the wisdom of our biblical elders and call forth the gifts of a child to give light to the world.

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.

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, 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 _____

