



# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

*Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service*

**December 21, 2025**

**Celebration of the Holy Eucharist**

**Weekday: Monday through Friday 9:00AM**

**Saturday: 8:30AM, 5:00PM**

**Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:00AM and 12:00NOON**

**Confessions**

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

***St. Margaret of Scotland Parish Center***

*81 College Road  
Selden, NY 11784  
(631) 732-3131*

*Msgr. Robert Batule, Pastor  
x111*

*Rev. Patrick Abu-Bonsra, Parochial Vicar  
x116 pabubonsra@saintmargaret.com*

**Deacons**

*Deacon Ed Hayes – Retired  
Deacon William Kogler – Retired  
Deacon Biagio Muratore – Retired*

**Parish Center Office**

*Receptionist x0*

*Adriana Burtoff, Administrative Assistant  
x118 aburtoff@saintmargaret.com*

**Faith Formation Office**

*Jackie Mirenda, Coordinator  
x131 jmirenda@saintmargaret.com*

**Music Ministry**

*Dr. Daniel Crews, Director  
x117 dcrews@saintmargaret.com*

**Parish Outreach**

*x119 outreach@saintmargaret.com*

**Holy Angels Regional Catholic School**

*Jeannine Stewart, Principal  
Patchogue, NY (631) 475-0422*



## Time, Talent & Treasure



**Living Stewardship ~ Pillar of Prayer:** Remember to keep Christ in Christmas. Be sure to go to Mass and take your family with you. May God bless you and yours this Christmas season!

**General Intercession:** For all the children of our parish, that they may grow in faith and learn to trust completely in God. We pray to the Lord...

## Sacrificial Giving

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.

### December 13/14

	Stewardship	Envelopes
Collected at Mass	\$4,650.00.....	106
Mailed Contributions	\$3,726.00.....	51
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$8,376.00</b>	

Readings for Next Sunday  
The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

First Reading.....Is 7:10-14  
Second Reading.....Rom 1:1-7  
Gospel.....Mt 1:18-24

For the week of  
December 21, 2025



Altar  
Bread & Wine  
in Memory of

Helen & Anthony Litka

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday—Thursday 9:00AM—1:00PM, 2:00—5:00PM**

**Friday 9:00AM—1:00PM**

(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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

### FAITH FORMATION OFFICE ~ PARISH CENTER:

Monday—Thursday: 9:00AM – 4:00PM. Call for an appointment - x131

### PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY ~ PARISH CENTER:

Tuesday—Thursday: 10:00AM – 1:00PM. Call for an appointment - x119

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

Joseph Dulovic

### Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Rose Barraco

### Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

John Salerno

4:00PM

Zabbara Family

10:00PM

Lou Burtoff

### Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

8:00AM

Aretakis Family

10:00AM

Barbara Jones Bridges

12:00PM

John Schlageter

### Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

Jose Manuel Fernandes

### Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

8:30AM

Jose Manuel Fernandes

5:00PM

Francesca Carbone

### Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00AM

All St. Margaret's Parishioners

10:00AM

Joan Kuba

12:00PM

Laura Leonard & Ersilia Tumminello

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

Jim Rojas, Marilyn Vacchio, Wendiann & Nicholas Alfieri, Laura Durant, Laura Positano, Lorraine Vogel, Patricia Wowk, Sharon & Ray Klyn, Veronica Sheridan-Cox, Joseph Laria, Scott Spencer, Christina Muller, James & Catherine Reynolds, Valarie & Victor Aurigue, Elizabeth Robitaille, Diana Lyons, James DeVivo, Lauren Esposito, Steven Vacchio, Brooklyn Gonzalez, Melissa Kitching, Angela Discepola, Christine Rosado, Joseph Benevento, Rosemarie Rizzo-Cohen, James Bennett, Katherine & Kenneth Kermain, John Sullivan, Melissa Rodgers, Richard Martin, Suriah Bridglall, Estelle Beauchamp, Charles Lloyd, Nicholas DiMonda, Christopher D'Costa, Crotieau Family, Brahaspatti Lewing, Jaime Ottenwalder [U.S. Navy], Carol Etro, Malachai Roucoulet, John Roucoulet, Raymond Grunthaner



*Family members: please resubmit names for those who are ill. We will list them for four 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.*

Today we mark the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the last candle on the Advent wreath is lit. In just a few days, we will celebrate Christmas But we are not there yet. Let us make the best then of what the calendar offers us and savor these last few days of this holy season.

Our focus this late in Advent is on the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is the one whom God called to be the Mother of Our Savior and our Mother too. We find the account of Our Lady's maternity in Saint Luke's Gospel and it is referred to as the *Fiat* (the great happening or great event). We also refer to this occurrence as the Annunciation. God gave His Son to us and that never could have happened without the cooperation of the young Jewish woman from Nazareth.

The redemptive act of the Lord goes right through Bethlehem of Judea. In David's city, the Son of God is born in a stable with the angels singing and the shepherds looking on in wonder and awe. The Lord comes at last to us as an Infant. We rejoice at seeing the Madonna who holds her Infant Son. That closeness of Mother and Son, depicted in art and architecture the world over, serves as an invitation to all of us to be on intimate terms with the One Who loves us unto the Cross.

This being the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we have our annual edition of *Lessons and Carols*. It starts at 2:30 PM. All are cordially invited to attend. It runs about one hour in length. Our adult choir will be singing and a children's chorus will be there too. Immediately following *Lessons and Carols* there is a reception in the auditorium. Again, all are invited to join us at the reception.

At the reception, we will draw the two prizes in our CHRISTMAS RAFFLE. Come and join us over cake and coffee in the church basement.

On Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we have our first RECONCILIATION MONDAY before Christmas. A priest is available in the church during the afternoon (2:00 – 5:00 PM) to hear confessions. The same holds for the evening (6:00 – 9:00 PM). I encourage you to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. Last weekend, the bulletin insert was an Examination of Conscience (which comes from the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).

Consult the schedule of Masses for Christmas (mailed to you or available on the bulletin boards of the church). There are 5 masses for Christmas (one more than a typical weekend).

Speaking of weekend Masses, because of the snowfall last Sunday, Mass attendance was off at three of the Liturgies (the exception was the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday). We missed a couple of thousand dollars as a result of the inclement weather. I ask you to make up the difference this weekend (presuming the weather is favorable). I have said and written on other occasions that our collections are inadequate for our needs at Saint Margaret. As plainly as I can put it, when we get snow on the weekend, we fall behind further on the payment of regular invoices. Bad weather is therefore a definite budget-buster. And to have three or four weekends of inclement weather in the winter is enough in most parishes to preclude running in the black for the year.

On the last day of the Christmas Octave, we have another Holy Day of Obligation. That is the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We have just one Mass on the first day of the new year and it is at 10:00 AM.

Those parishioners who receive envelopes in the mail to support Saint Margaret have also received an envelope for Christmas flowers which decorate the church and the sanctuary. If you do not receive envelopes, you can find envelopes for flowers in the vestibule. Please contribute to the beauty of our church for the celebration of the Lord's Nativity.

A week from today (December 28<sup>th</sup>), we resume the period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament between the 10:00 AM Mass and the 12 noon Mass. I encourage parishioners to join us from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM in the church.

On the last Sunday of this month, there is no hospitality in the church basement following the 10:00 AM Mass. It will next be held on the last Sunday of January.

A week from today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. Come to the Sunday Eucharist and pray for family unity which binds us together around the Lord's Body and Blood and makes us impervious to disunity.

Until the next time.

Msgr. Batule  
Pastor







DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2025

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas!

Throughout this year, we have marked many significant milestones in the life of the Church leading us to the Lord's Nativity and this holy season of Christmas, most especially the passing of Pope Francis at Easter and the election of Pope Leo XIV in May.

What a gift it has been to walk these months with our new Holy Father, to learn from his teaching, and witness his example.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo released his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexit Te - I Have Loved You*. It is a profound meditation on love for the poor and speaks powerfully to the mystery of the Lord's Birth and the grace of this season.

The Holy Father reminds us: "The Gospel shows us that poverty marked every aspect of Jesus' life. From the moment he entered the world, Jesus knew the bitter experience of rejection. The Evangelist Luke tells how Joseph and Mary, who was about to give birth, arrived in Bethlehem, and then adds, poignantly, that 'there was no place for them in the inn' (*Lk* 2:7). Jesus was born in humble surroundings and laid in a manger; then, to save him from being killed, they fled to Egypt (cf. *Mt* 2:13-15). At the dawn of his public ministry, after announcing in the synagogue of Nazareth that the year of grace which would bring joy to the poor was fulfilled in him, he was driven out of town (cf. *Lk* 4:14-30). He died as an outcast, led out of Jerusalem to be crucified (cf. *Mk* 15:22). Indeed, that is how Jesus' poverty is best described: he experienced the same exclusion that is the lot of the poor, the outcast of society. Jesus is a manifestation of this *privilegium pauperum*. He presented himself to the world not only as a poor Messiah, but also as the Messiah of and for the poor." (n. 19)

Before these words of Pope Leo, we recall the wonderful truth: Christ became poor so that we who are poor might become rich (cf. 2 Cor. 8:9). This is the good news of Christmas. We are not alone. We are not left to ourselves. A Savior has come - Christ the Lord.

As we celebrate the Christmas season, we remember with Pope Leo that "Christian holiness often flourishes in the most forgotten and wounded places of humanity." (n. 76)

How beautifully the followers of Christ have responded to the cry of the poor and looked with love upon the most vulnerable among us. As we rejoice in Christ's Birth, we renew our commitment to love others as he has loved us.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

On Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we will conclude our Jubilee Year of Hope.

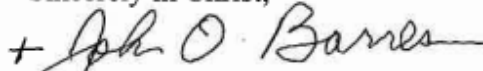
We thank both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV for igniting hope within our families, the global mission of the Church, and the human family, and we contemplate the light and grace that radiates from the refugee Holy Family (73) and that radiates to every family.

Our Catholic biblical and sacramental worship, especially at the Catholic Mass, focuses and ignites both our global mission to the poor (n. 42) and our humble openness to being evangelized by the poor (n. 102), the treasures of our Church (n. 38).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic missionary spirit this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

(Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

# Christmas Schedule

## Confessions

Saturday, December 20  
3:45PM – 4:45PM

Monday, December 22  
2:00PM – 5:00PM  
6:00PM – 9:00PM

## Masses

Wednesday, December 24  
4:00PM – Vigil Mass  
10:00PM – Mass at Night

Thursday, December 25  
8:00AM  
10:00AM  
12:00NOON

## New Year's Schedule

### Masses

Thursday, January 1  
10:00AM

# Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21 — 2:30PM

*We invite all parishioners to join us. The service consists of biblical readings and hymns as we await the birth of Our Savior. The Music Ministry will lead us in the singing portion of the prayer service.*

**Hospitality and the long-anticipated raffle drawing will be held immediately following in the auditorium.**

***All are welcome!***



The Parish Center will be closed Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, through Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, for the Christmas holiday. We will reopen on Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

**A Blessed and Merry Christmas to all from the Saint Margaret's staff!**



**RETRouvaille**  
A LIFE LINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES



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? No marriage is beyond hope.

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties.

**Their Next Weekend is January 23-25**

*Please register by January 9*

The Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington  
1 (800) 470-2230 | [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org)



## Bible Study

Bible Study will not meet over the Christmas break. It will resume Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00AM in the Parish Center. Merry Christmas!

There will *not* be monthly hospitality next weekend. Our next Hospitality Sunday will take place Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturdays 4:00-4:45PM

Sundays 11:15-11:45AM

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 3:00-6:00PM





## Faith Formation

A special thank you to all the children who made our annual Christmas Pageant a success! The children did a great job! Thank you also to all the parents and volunteers who assisted in different ways. **\*\*If you still have a costume, please return it to the Parish Center. Thank you!\*\***



### Twenty Minutes with the Pastor/Director Sundays at 9:30AM

- ◇ December 21 — 3, 4, & 5    ◇ January 18 — 3, 4, & 5  
 ◇ January 4 — 1 & 2            ◇ January 25 — 1 & 2  
 ◇ January 11 — 6 & 7          ◇ February 1 — 6 & 7



### HOLY ANGELS REGIONAL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026  
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

#### WHY HOLY ANGELS?

- 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 integrating the Gospel message with the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development of students, enabling them to become the leaders of tomorrow, all while providing a safe and supportive community.
- Holy Angels cultivates a robustly Catholic culture centered on the spiritual, intellectual, sacramental, and liturgical life of the Church and challenges its students to learn, lead, and serve as Jesus taught.



631-475-0422    holyangelsregional.org    jstewart5573@holyangelsregional.org

## Parish Social Ministry

### Food Pantry Needs

The parish food pantry assists the needy in the community. We ask that parishioners who would like to make donations to please bring them to the front door of the Parish Center during office hours or to place items in the box in the back of the church. *Please do not leave items by the locked front doors of either building. Thank you!*



This week's requests:

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| ◇ Laundry Detergent | ◇ Bar Soap    |
| ◇ Toilet Tissue     | ◇ Beef Stew   |
| ◇ Toothpaste        | ◇ Egg Noodles |
| ◇ Shampoo           |               |

### Wash Up Kits

Please continue to donate travel size soaps, shampoos, and wash cloths for wash up kits. These kits are assembled by volunteers and donated to *Lighthouse Missions*. This organization provides individuals with essential items such as food, personal care products, household supplies, and more. You may drop items off at the parish center.



### Do You Sew?

The Stony Brook Children's Hospital needs help making pediatric patient surgical caps, memory pouches, or demise wraps. Patterns and materials are available to be picked up in the parish center.

*You sew —  
we deliver!*  
Call Jackie at x131  
if you can assist.



### Peanut Butter & Jelly Ministry

The Peanut Butter & Jelly Ministry takes place on Tuesdays at 10:00AM in the Parish Center. The sandwiches feed the hungry in surrounding areas.

Parishioners are invited to attend as their schedule allows. **Volunteers must be Virtus compliant.** Call the Outreach office at x119 if you would like to assist or volunteer somehow.

