



ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service

January 25, 2026

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 Service: Jesus begins His mission by calling others to repentance. Jesus says that to us right now as well. What areas in your life need improvement? What sins in your life do you need to be forgiven and freed from? How can you be at service to others?

General Intercession: This past week was the March for Life. For respect for life in our country, 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.

January 17/18

	Stewardship	Envelopes
Collected at Mass	\$5,301.00.....	104
Mailed Contributions	\$3,771.00.....	63
Total Collection	\$9,072.00	
Christmas 2025	\$22,774.00	

Readings for Next Sunday Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading.....Zep 2:3, 3:12-13
 Second Reading.....1 Cor 1:26-31
 Gospel.....Mt 5:1-12a



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 1st and 3rd 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, January 26

Tuesday, January 27

Frank Gallestro

Wednesday, January 28

Jasmine Pumillo

Thursday, January 29

Walter Wilson

Friday, January 30

Norman Gottfried

Saturday, January 31

8:30AM

Special Intention Bozena Malinowska

5:00PM

Warren Tackenberg

Sunday, February 1

8:00AM

Susan Quinn

10:00AM

All St. Margaret's Parishioners

12:00PM

Anthony Marrocco

**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 Bridgall, Estelle Beauchamp, 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.

The cold of the winter season makes us yearn for the warmth of places like Florida. You're lucky if you can get to a warmer climate if just for a few days. As I write this column, the weather forecast is showing a major snowstorm for Sunday the 25th. What will happen? I don't know at this early juncture. It's always best, though, to prepare intelligently for the worst-case scenario. We'll see soon enough.

With the likelihood of more bad weather on the horizon then, I want to treat an issue with very real consequences for parish life, and that would be the financial support that comes from parishioners. You will recall that I like to use two words in reference to the giving habits of Catholics to their parishes. The two words are: **generous** and **sacrificial**. Your giving must have these two attributes in order to be good stewards. Yes, that's what we should all strive after: being good stewards not just of my time and talent but of my **treasure**. Being generous and sacrificial though are conceptual in nature.

What we need to do is make our generosity and sacrifice operational. And that would involve mathematics and numbers. What do I write on my envelope alongside \$? And what do I write in my checkbook alongside Saint Margaret RC Church?

Thus far, we have had snowfalls three times before this weekend. There were two in December and one earlier in this month. Every time it snows, we have to spend money to remove the white stuff on the ground and make sure the pathways are salted and sanded. And then there are the parking spaces that have to be cleared. All of these acts cost hundreds and even thousands of \$\$\$ (labor, equipment, and products) per snowfall.

I ask all parishioners to consider thoughtfully and carefully what you are contributing to Saint Margaret Parish currently. Is that contribution really **generous** and **sacrificial**? Have I increased my offering to my parish to take into account the rise in the cost of living in the last few years?

We have some parishioners who are exceptionally generous and sacrificial in their giving. But not enough of them, unfortunately. I call upon those who have not yet shown generosity and sacrifice in their giving to step up and help your parish. Without your generosity and sacrifice, we fail as a whole to practice a satisfactory stewardship.

As for my next subject in this column, I want to address another sensitive topic for church-goers and that would be the eclipse of reverence inside the church. By now, you have heard me comment from time to time on how we should conduct ourselves in the Presence of our God. And that's why, for example, we ought to use genuflections because they reflect the truth that Christ is really with us under the appearance of bread and wine. We can't see that truth with our own eyes. But we profess it, or we ought to profess it, in our conduct.

A part of the reverence which should prevail in Catholic churches is the elimination of unnecessary noise. Pardon me for saying so, but there is far too much noise in our church.

Reverence has a lot to do with place. And, by that, I mean that our conduct is right and appropriate for what takes place there. It is undeniable that worship takes place in church. Our worship is directed to God Who dwells there. Without silence, we are less inclined to be mindful of the very purpose of being in church. It's what Moses forgot and had to be reminded of when he was at Horeb, the mountain of God. (Ex 3:!) Although the burning bush, the sign of God's Presence, was not consumed (Ex 3:2), Moses still had to be reminded: "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." (Ex 3:5)

We do not make the church holy, God does. Let us therefore make better efforts to reduce the noise level in our church. There is plenty of time for socializing *elsewhere*. But when it comes to where God dwells, let us endeavor to be quiet there. Quiet are our hearts that we may hear the softest whispers of God there.

In a future column, I want to address some other aspects about our worship.

Until the next time.

Msgr. Batule
Pastor



Wedding Banns

Banns I

Youssef Akl and
Mariet Yamile Dagda Garcia,
both St. Margaret of Scotland

Bible Study

Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 10:00AM in the Parish Center, led by Deacon Ed Hayes.

All are welcome. Please bring your Bible.



Hospitality Sunday

Our next Hospitality Sunday will take place this Sunday, **January 25th**, at 11:00AM, in the church auditorium. Sponsored by

The Heart of the Island

Knights of Columbus. All are invited! Stop by for fellowship and a bagel.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sundays 11:15-11:45AM

Saturdays 4:00-4:45PM

Thursday, February 5th 3:00-6:00PM

Adoration is the highest act of worship. By sitting quietly before His presence in the Blessed Sacrament, we offer to God what is most personal and pleasing – our time and our hearts. This allows our gracious God to draw us lovingly to Himself. By joining our adoration to prayer and praise, we celebrate that we are the Body of Christ. Come experience the beauty of this holy exchange heart to heart.

Altar Bread and Wine

The altar bread and wine offering funds the cost of the Blessed Sacrament for the week.

It may be as a remembrance for one who has passed, or a special intention of someone who is still with us. The requested offering is \$25.



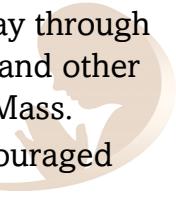
William John Giaimo

Church Hours

The church is open at 8:30AM Monday through Friday. We encourage parishioners and other churchgoers to come early for Mass.

The recitation of the rosary is encouraged among those so inclined.

The church closes at 12:00NOON daily.



Saint Margaret's Ministry of Hope

If you feel you are being called to minister to those who have recently lost a loved one, consider calling the Parish Center for more information on the Ministry of Hope. Its members reach out to those who have recently lost a loved one, conduct a prayer service at the funeral home if necessary, and assist the priest with the funeral.



2025 Tax Statements

Please call the Parish Center if you would like a copy of your 2025 tax statement. Dial 732-3131 x133. Leave a message with your name, address, phone number, and envelope number (if available). The statement will be mailed to you.



Email aburtoff@saintmargaret.com if you would prefer to have the statement emailed to you as a PDF attachment.

Blessing of the Throats

The feast of Saint Blaise is Tuesday, February 3rd. Following Mass, a special blessing of the throats will take place. All are invited to attend Mass at 9:00AM and stay for a blessing following the Mass.

"Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 25–31, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, I give thanks for the extraordinary gift of Catholic education and for the students, families, educators, clergy, and benefactors who make our schools thrive across Long Island.

This year's observance begins on *Word of God Sunday*, reminding us that Sacred Scripture is not merely studied, but proclaimed, prayed, and lived. In our Catholic schools, the Word of God forms minds and hearts and draws students into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Our Catholic schools remain steadfast in four essential commitments. First, to be *robustly Catholic*, rooted in daily prayer, the sacraments, and fidelity to the teachings of the Church. Under the patronage of St. Thomas Aquinas and St. John Henry Newman, co-patrons of Catholic education, we affirm that faith and reason are not rivals but companions, leading the mind to truth and the heart to God.

Second, to be *academically excellent*, forming the whole person. Guided by St. Thomas Aquinas's love for truth and inspired by St. John Henry Newman's vision of education, our schools cultivate intellectual rigor, disciplined inquiry, and thoughtful engagement with the world.

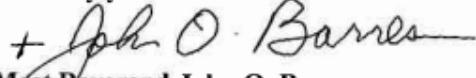
Third, to be *safe and supportive*, honoring the dignity of every child and fostering communities where students are known, protected, and encouraged. Finally, to be *here to stay*, strengthened through responsible stewardship and shared mission across parishes, families, and benefactors.

As Pope Leo XIV has reminded the Church, "*education is not an ancillary activity, but forms the very fabric of evangelization: it is the concrete way in which the Gospel becomes an educational gesture, a relationship, a culture.*"¹ Our schools exist so that students may discover their God-given dignity, discern their vocation, and learn to live lives of joyful witness to Jesus Christ.

As we conclude Catholic Schools Week with the witness of St. John Bosco, I ask you to pray for our Catholic schools, support them generously, and encourage families to consider the profound gift of a Catholic education.

May the Word of God continue to be a light for our homes, parishes, and schools.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹ ¹ Pope Leo XIV, *Drawing New Maps of Hope* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2025), §1.1.

Mass Book



The 2026 Mass Book is open. 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.

Saint Margaret's Spousal Bereavement



Both individual and group bereavement counseling services are available for those who are mourning the loss of their spouse. All confidential sessions are held on a weekly basis. Participants need not be Saint Margaret's parishioners. For more information please contact Barbara Gottfried at (631) 698-6053.

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, and Fraternity. The members of our local council serve in many ministries of the Church. They assist with parish events such as the parish food drive, hospitality Sundays, and blood drive. Prospective members may call Tom Piderit at (631) 682-8711.



Faith Formation

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



- ◊ January 25 — Levels 1 & 2
- ◊ February 15 — Levels 1 & 2
- ◊ February 1 — Levels 6 & 7
- ◊ February 22 — Levels 6 & 7
- ◊ February 8 — Levels 3, 4, & 5
- ◊ March 1 — Levels 3, 4, & 5

Vacation Bible School



Mark your calendars!
July 6-10, 2026

Family Winter Wingo

Friday Night ~ February 13th ~ 7pm
Doors Open at 6:30



In the Auditorium! Bring the Family!

Refreshments! Sign up in the Parish Center.

Proceeds will benefit parish activities.

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

See you there!

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

Family Name _____

of People _____

Phone # _____



Door Prizes!

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 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:

- ◊ Jelly
- ◊ Egg Noodles
- ◊ Cookies
- ◊ Beef Stew
- ◊ Sauce
- ◊ Paper Towels

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.



PBJ 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 (631) 732-3131 x119 if you would like to assist or volunteer in some capacity.

Thank you!



Hands Needed

Our Music Ministry is in need of volunteers 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 Dr. Daniel Crews, our Music Minister, after Mass, or call the Parish Center at 732-3131 x117.



New York Blood Center

Blood Drive

St. Margaret of Scotland

Sponsored by Legislator Nick Caracappa

Tuesday, February 17th

1:00-7:00

81 College Rd, Selden
Auditorium



Prepare to donate

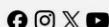
- Eat well and hydrate
- Bring a photo ID
- Feel good and symptom free
- Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form
- Meet minimum weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit nybc.org/eligibility.

Appointments strongly preferred: Scan the QR code above or call 1-800-933-2566, or visit www.nybc.org

Medical questions please call 1-800-688-0900
Any further questions contact Jennifer at 516.310.2382

800.933.BLOOD • nybc.org



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE • DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2026 OPEN HOUSES

The Catholic School Difference • Beacons of Light!



Scan the QR Code to Learn More!

www.drvcschools.org/visit