



# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

*Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service*

**February 15, 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:** What is one thing you could do this week to be at service to God and neighbor? Whatever you do, offer it up to give glory to God.

**General Intercession:** For young married couples trying to conceive, that they may be comforted by 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.

### February 7/8

	Stewardship	Envelopes
Collected at Mass	\$6,332.00.....	119
Mailed Contributions	\$5,085.00.....	78
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$11,417.00</b>	

### Readings for Next Sunday First Sunday of Lent

First Reading.....Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7  
 Second Reading.....Rom 5:12-19  
 Gospel.....Mt 4:1-11

### For the week of February 15



Altar  
Bread & Wine  
in Memory of

Tom & Mary O'Donnell

### 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, February 16

Joel Zabbara

### Tuesday, February 17

Nancy Ann Cicillini

### Ash Wednesday, February 18

Tony Spina

### Thursday, February 19

John Ryan

### Friday, February 20

Robert M. Aretakis

### Saturday, February 21

8:30AM

Anthony Savarese

5:00PM

Daniel O'Reilly

### Sunday, February 22

8:00AM

All St. Margaret's Parishioners

10:00AM

Jean Morena

12:00PM

Philip Lonzello

**For all our parishioners suffering from chronic illness, as well as:** Jim Rojas, Marilyn Vacchio, Wendiann



& Nicholas Alfieri, Laura Durant, Laura Positano, Lorraine Vogel, 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 Kernain, John Sullivan, Melissa Rodgers, Richard Martin, Suriah Bridglall, Estelle Beauchamp, Nicholas DiMonda, Christopher D'Costa, Crotieau Family, Brahaspatti Lewing, Jaime Ottenwalder [U.S. Navy], Carol Etro, Malachai Roucoulet, John Roucoulet, Raymond Grunthner

*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.*

We are but a few days away from the beginning of our Lenten observance this year. So, a brief reference at the beginning of this column to Ash Wednesday, and then a recommendation on how to have “a good Lent.”

Please see the bulletin boards in church for the times when ashes will be distributed on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Let me say additionally that Ash Wednesday is a universal day of fast and abstinence. That is, Catholics (of certain ages) are urged to limit their intake of food to a single full meal and to refrain from eating in between meals. Catholics are also called upon to abstain from meat on the first day of Lent.

We use fasting and abstinence as modes of penance. We undertake penitential acts because we are sinners. We deny ourselves things which gives us pleasure (usually) for the purpose of calling to mind the sacrifice made on our behalf by Jesus. The Lord gave up His life voluntarily that we might have life and have it abundantly. (cf. Jn 10:10) This means living in Christ now so that we can be with Him eternally.

Jesus is the merciful Son whose mission is to redeem us sinners. Let’s be clear: Jesus’ whole life is redemptive. The redemptive character of that life reaches its apex in the Cross. Jesus spoke of this in His public ministry in what are called the predictions of the Passion. These predictions (found in all four canonical Gospels) came to be realized in the Good Friday mystery.

Every year, we follow the Son of God to Golgotha for a period of forty days. These great Forty Days which comprise the season of Lent is the period of time Jesus spent in the desert following His Baptism by John. (cf. Mk 1:12) There He was tempted by Satan. (cf. Mk 1:13)

Lent is a time for us to consider the temptations to which we are subject and the ones to which we capitulate. How do we avoid these temptations? How do we rise above them? Why do we give in to them in the first place?

These are all good questions above. For when we arrive at good answers, we can then start to make progress in the spiritual life. It is not that we set out to be sleuths, that is, on the lookout all the time for finding clues in the larger quest for self-knowledge. No, it is a matter of getting to know the Lord better and better, and thereby coming to know God’s profound love for us. It is in our relationship with Christ that we get to know ourselves better. Knowledge yields knowledge but only because I have been loved unconditionally by Someone outside of myself.

The questions I posed about temptations are not academic; they are personal. And to find personal answers, I need a guide. I need someone who knows the contours of the Catholic spiritual life and can direct me. For this reason, I will want to rely on an author, a proven author at that. The practice of spiritual reading has many benefits for those who take it up. The saints know this well. It is one of the reasons why they are far advanced in the spiritual life. In a future column, I will make some suggestions on spiritual reading. Before finishing up this column though, I want to mention one item which has pertinence to our life together. It is the matter of Mass Intentions.

We have a daily Mass every day of the week (Monday through Saturday). We accept intentions for these six days and for all four Masses on the weekend. I ask you to consider relatives (parents, other relations and friends) as Mass intentions. This could be a date of death, a birthday, an anniversary, etc. During the winter, especially with the harsh weather we have had, some of our Mass Intentions remain open. I invite you to choose any open day in the Mass Book for 2026 and have the Holy Eucharist offered for that person (family member or not). That we have an Intention each time Mass is offered is a sign that the members of our community value very much those to whom they are related, and this is the key point: those valued in life here and now are loved unto eternity. Mass Intentions are a way of testifying to the supernatural character of the love which goes beyond this world.

Till the next time.

Msgr. Batule  
Pastor



# Ash Wednesday Schedule

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

*“Repent, and believe  
in the gospel.”*

9:00AM Mass | 12:00PM Service  
4:00PM Service | 7:30PM Service

*Mark 1:15*

## Monday Night Holy Hours

Mondays During Lent  
7:30—8:30PM

- ◇ Personal Prayer
- ◇ Preaching on Themes  
Related to the Holy Eucharist
- ◇ Benediction

## Stations of the Cross

Fridays During Lent  
12:00NOON



The Parish Center will be closed Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Presidents' Day. It will reopen on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00AM.



CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in every diocese throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Videos, resources, reflections, stories of hope, recipes, and more can be found on their website: [www.csricebowl.org](http://www.csricebowl.org).

The Rice Bowls will be distributed on Ash Wednesday. Thank you for your support.

## Hospitality Sunday

Our next Hospitality Sunday will be next Sunday, **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, 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, March 5<sup>th</sup> 3:00-6:00PM

## 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.



## 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.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Lent 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In this Lenten season 2026, we offer our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for the Light of Christ's peace and justice to heal the many troubled parts of our nation and world.

Amid so many global and national crises, it is essential that we be guided and inspired by the Word of God. This Lent, let us rededicate ourselves to being deeply biblical Catholics on fire with the Word of God.<sup>1</sup>

In Saint Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (2:8-10), the Apostle writes: "The Word of God is not bound," or as another translation renders it, "The Word of God cannot be chained."

The Church of Santa Maria in Via Lata in Rome, near to both the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, is traditionally taken as the site of Saint Paul's imprisonment in the Eternal City. Beneath this holy church stands an ancient, freestanding granite column that I visited and prayed at on May 17, 2024.

Etched into that ancient column is the Latin phrase for "The Word of God is not bound." The column also has rust marks indicating that a chain – possibly the one discovered archaeologically in an adjacent well – was wrapped around it.

How powerful it was to place my hands on that granite column and to touch with my fingers the words of Saint Paul! In my ecclesial mission as the Successor of the Apostles on Long Island, that memorable day I asked Saint Paul for his intercession that each one of us in the Diocese of Rockville Centre could be as bold and as audacious in proclaiming that the Word of God cannot be chained!

The Word of God cannot be chained in our own lives and in the lives of our families!

The Word of God bursts through our sin, paralyzes, and resistances to change, and ignites our own Road to Damascus conversions!

The Word of God breaks down the self-imposed prison doors of addiction, ego, pride, selfishness, and narcissism, and refocuses our lives on Christ and his call to rejoice!

The Word of God cannot be chained by sin, war, terrorism, racism, injustice, poverty,<sup>2</sup> or disrespect for the sanctity and dignity of human life!

<sup>1</sup> See Bishop Barres' Pastoral Letter *God's Word is Living and Effective* available at [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org).

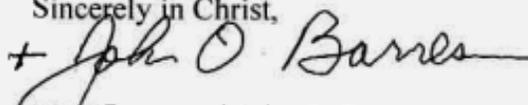
<sup>2</sup> See Pope Leo XIV's 2025 Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexit Te (On Love of the Poor)* available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

The Word of God cannot be chained by unethical deployments of Artificial Intelligence!<sup>3</sup>

The Word of God cannot be chained in the global mission of the Catholic Church, regardless of the 21st century persecutions and martyrdoms she experiences!<sup>4</sup>

As the Successor of the Apostles on Long Island, and in communion and mission with our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, I thank each of you for the way you “cast fire on the earth” (Luke 12:49) through your daily reading, meditating, praying, contemplating, and living the inspired Sacred Scriptures.

Be assured of my prayers for a blessed Lent.

Sincerely in Christ,  
  
 Most Reverend John O. Barres  
 Bishop of Rockville Centre

<sup>3</sup> See *Antiqua et Nova*, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education’s January 14, 2025, *Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence* available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

<sup>4</sup> See Robert Royal, *The Martyrs of the New Millenium: The Global Persecution of Christians in the Twenty-First Century*, (New York: Sophia Institute Press, 2025).



# Blood Drive

**St. Margaret of Scotland**  
 Sponsored by Legislator Nick Caracappa  
**Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**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](http://nybc.org/eligibility)



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




## FRIDAYS OF LENT

### Retreat Days

11 AM ROSARY | 11:30 AM MASS |  
 1:30 PM CONFERENCE |  
 3 PM CONCLUDING PRAYER

<b>FEB 20</b>	THE WORKS OF LENT Growth Toward a Generous Spirit
<b>FEB 27</b>	FROM THE ROADSIDE TO THE ROADWAY True Freedom of Life and Spirit
<b>MAR 06</b>	THE RELUCTANT PROPHET The Frightening Greatness of Mercy
<b>MAR 13</b>	CONVERSION AT THE WELL Change of Heart, Change of Life
<b>MAR 20</b>	WHEN I AM LIFTED UP The Saving Innocence of Christ
<b>MAR 27</b>	FATHER, FORGIVE THEM Preparing for and Making a Good Confession (ALL Day Program)

Join us every Friday of Lent for a peaceful time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal.

**SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE ISLAND**

258 Eastport Manor Rd,  
 Manorville, NY  
 631-325-0661

# 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:

- ◇ Paper and Plastic Bags
- ◇ Pasta
- ◇ Pasta Sauce
- ◇ Jelly
- ◇ Beef Stew
- ◇ Shampoo
- ◇ Kids Snacks



## Bloomin' For Good

Stop & Shop has selected Saint Margaret's Food Pantry as a nonprofit partner in the Stop & Shop *Bloomin' 4 Good* Program!

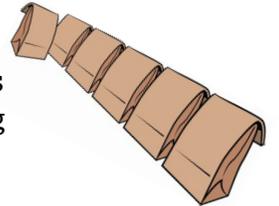
What does this mean? Our food pantry receives \$1 for each specially marked \$11.99 "Bloomin' 4 Good" bouquet sold during the month of February at the Farmingville Stop & Shop. Their address is 350 North Ocean Ave., Farmingville. It's a win-win! Supporting Stop & Shop means supporting our food pantry!



*Thank you for your consideration.*

## We Need Bags!

The food pantry is in critical need of paper, plastic, and reusable bags for our outreach clients. Please be as generous as you can in donating whatever bags you may have that you no longer need. We would greatly appreciate any donation. Thank you!



# Faith Formation

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

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



# HOLY ANGELS REGIONAL SCHOOL

*Illuminating and Educating our Children through Jesus Christ*

**ENROLL NOW**

- Nursery & Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten Program
- Elementary School
- Middle School (Grades 6-8)



Tuition assistance is available through Tomorrow's Hope Foundation.

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1 DIVISION STREET, PATCHOGUE, NY 11772 • 631-475-0422

## Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars!  
July 6-10, 2026

