

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



Pastoral Staff

Rev. James Wood - *Pastor* x111

Rev. Paul Butler - *Pastoral Vicar* x118

Deacons - Ed Hayes x0

Retired: William Kogler, Biagio Muratore,

Parish Center Office – Receptionist x0

Julie Burtoff, Admin Assistant x133

Faith Formation Office

FF@saintmargaret.com

Jackie Mirenda, Coordinator x131

Business Manager

Lisa Boyd x113

Facilities Manager

Michael Lorio x115

Music Ministry

Dr. Daniel Crews, Director x117

Parish Outreach

Outreach@saintmargaret.com

Julie Burtoff, x119

St. Margaret's Preschool

Jenny Tranfaglia, Coordinator x124

Holy Angels Regional Catholic School

Patchogue, NY 631-475-0422

Michael Connell, Principal

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday: 8:00am, 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am

& 12:00pm (Noon)

Weekdays: Monday to Friday 9:00am

Confessions

Saturdays: 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm (or appointment)

Lent Begins **Ash Wednesday ~ March 6th**



Lenten Gathering

Pancakes for Dinner

Friday, March 8th

See Inside for Details



March 3, 2019

Phone: (631) 732-3131

Parish Center Office Hours

<i>Open for Walk-In Business</i>	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Mon thru Thurs	9 ^{am} - 1 ^{pm}	2 - 4 ^{pm}	7 - 8 ^{pm}
Friday	9 ^{am} - 1 ^{pm}		
Saturday	9 ^{am} - 12 ^{pm}		
Sunday	Closed		

Fax (631) 732 - 8827

www.saintmargaret.com

81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813

Time, Talent & Treasure



Stewardship Thought for the Week

We are grateful for all Christian stewards who do not judge our brothers and sisters but lead them to Jesus, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. To be stewards of the Faith, we must show the world Our Risen Lord.

Sacrificial Giving

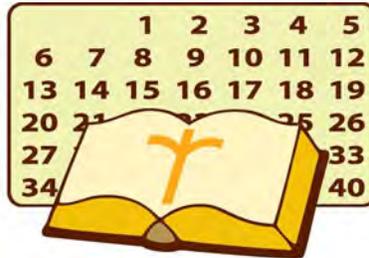
Thank you to all who so generously give to the support of our parish. You are returning to God what God has so generously given to you.

	#	2019	2018	#	
Collected at Mass	292	8,725	9,701 ^{.82}	346	
Mailed Envelopes	13	444	754	17	
Electronic Donations	31	1,615	1,202	23	
Total Collection	335	\$10,784	\$11,657^{.82}	386	
Mass Attendance	5^{pm}	8^{am}	10^{am}	12^{pm}	Total
This Week	260	122	168	248	798
Last Yr's Avg	269	178	252	280	982

Readings for Next Sunday

First Sunday of Lent

First Reading Dt 26: 4-10
 Second Reading.....Rom 10: 8-13
 Gospel.....Lk 4: 1-13



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: Prospective parents should telephone the Parish Center about three months before the expected birth to discuss the arrangements for your child's baptism and enroll you in the required baptismal class. Baptism classes are held monthly on the 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month. The baptism date will be set at the time of the class. The child's birth certificate as well as the godparent's "sponsor certificate" (godparents must be Confirmed practicing Catholics) must be presented before a date is finalized.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE ~ Parish Center: Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.; Closed on Fridays.

PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY ~ Parish Center: Tuesday and Thursday 10 am -1 pm. and 2 - 4 pm.; Call for appointment.

Masses for the Week

Family members and/or those who requested the Mass are always welcome to present the gifts of bread & wine at the offertory procession. On week-ends, please introduce yourselves to our ushers or call the office during the previous week.

Monday - March 4th
 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday - March 5th
 9:00 A.M.

Ash Wednesday - March 6th
 9:00 A.M.

Susan Quinn
 7:30 P.M.

Maria Merlo

Thursday, - March 7th
 9:00 A.M.

Yvrose Negritt

Friday - March 8th
 9:00 A.M.

Saturday - March 9th
 8:00 A.M.

5:00 P.M.

Joan Kuhnle

Chester Esposito

Sunday - March 10th
 8:00 A.M.

Maureen Aguirri

10:00 A.M.

For All Parishioners

12:00 P.M.

Lola Gallardo de Tapia & Jose Tapia

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



MaryJane Kogler, Patricia Lunetta, Valerie J. Aurigue, Terri Persina, Jon Lasher, Jillian Brown, Paul Tomko, Patricia Wowk, Eric Chan, John Augusta Jr., June Tamillow, Sue Callari, Sarah Behie, Eppie Larke, Alyssa Baisch, Marilyn & Steven Vacchio, Natasha Roucoulet, Wendiann & Nicholas Alfieri, Michael C. Liotta, Anne Logan, Virginia Nunlist, Laura Durant, Warne Family. Sue Finnigan, James Finnigan, Lorraine Vogel, Sharon Klyn, Vincent Rutherford, Marie Positano, Christina & Baby Muller, Laura Positano, Joseph Kiely, Dominic & Mary Percoco, Frank Guttilla, Jennifer Roucoulet, Robert Finger, Cathy Reynolds, Patricia Ferrere, John Fiscina, Eric Cohen, Baby Emma, Cindy Byrne, Dylan Joseph Sergio & Virginia Butler.

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.



Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday ~ March 6th

Blessed Ashes will be distributed *during* the following liturgies;

Morning

7:30 AM Prayer Service and 9:00 AM Mass

Afternoon

3:30 & 5:00 PM - Prayer Service

Evening

7:30 PM - Mass

Receiving Ashes at the beginning of Lent connects every generation with an important biblical message. Even though God loves us unconditionally, we have turned our backs on that Love in different ways. We need to repent and return to Him. The ritual of Ashes expresses our personal response to hearing the Word of God, and symbolizes our humility to seek the Lord's wisdom and strength to act on it. Doing this as a community reminds us that we need each other's prayers and help. Being able to unite ourselves with the Lord in Holy Communion makes it even more fitting.

Therefore, ashes will be distributed as part of the Masses and Services only.

If you need to bring Ashes to someone who is homebound, they will be available at the end of each Mass or Service. Please bring a container with you.

Four On-Line Resources to enrich your Lenten journey:

DynamicCatholic.com/40days

Loyola Press Lent

4pi.com/LentReflections

Creighton University/Lent

PARISH EVENTS This Week

Monday March 4

9:30 am Women's Bible Sharing.....Rm 207

Tuesday, March 5

7 pm Chosen IAuditorium

7 pm K of C.....Rm 207

Ash Wednesday, March 6

See Schedule

No Faith Formation Classes

Thursday, March 7

7 pm Chosen IIAuditorium

Friday, March 8

6:30pm Lenten Pancake ~ Parish & C of FAuditorium

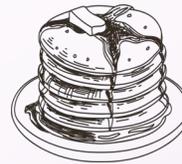
Saturday March 9

9:30-2:00 pm Confirmation Retreat.....Auditorium

9:30 am Children's Chorus.....Rm 207

Sunday March 10

No Activities Scheduled



St. Margaret Parish Lenten Gathering

Pancakes for Dinner

Friday, March 8th ~ \$10 per family

6:30 - 8 PM ~ Auditorium

(Doors open at 6 PM)

Tickets Available at the Parish Center

Guidelines for Fasting & Abstinence

In keeping with the spirit of penance, Catholics are asked to observe the following practices:

Good Friday is a day of fast* and abstinence**

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence**

***Fasting:** All between the ages of 18 and 59 may eat only one full meal & two small meals on these days (no snacks).

****Abstinence:** All from the age of seven onwards abstain from meat on these days.

Illness always exempts people from these requirements.



Sunday, March 10th

Set your clocks!

Faith Formation

All Catechesis of the Family ~ Grades 4, 5, 6 are invited to come



Lentzen Gathering
Pancakes for Dinner

Friday, March 8th ~ \$10 per family
6:30 – 8 PM ~ Auditorium
(Doors open at 6 PM)

Tickets Available at the Parish Center

Vacation Bible School

Due to the construction on the parish property, VBS will be cancelled for the summer of 2019.

See you in 2020!



BECOMING A CATECHIST

OR ASSISTANT

St. Margaret's is in need of catechists & assistants on all levels. **Faith Formation needs parents, grandparents and parishioners to share their faith.** Everyone has a faith story to share and our families want to hear yours. Please pray over this invitation & call

Jackie Mirenda. 631-732-3131 X 131

JMIRENDA@SAINTMARGARET.COM



Parish Social Ministry

OUR PANTRY SHELVES ARE OUT OF OR LOW ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

BEEF STEW, JUICE & JUICE BOXES, & COOKIES Thank You!



OUR THRIFT SHOP ~ IS OPEN!

Come visit, shop, and say hello! Our hours are Tuesday & Thursday - 10 - 2 and Saturday 10 - 1. Thank you to all for your patience during this time.

Please do NOT leave bags for Thrift Shop out in inclement weather or over the weekend. Use bin to the right of the shop. We are unable to accept any furniture. Thank you!

HAVE YOU TRAVELED LATELY?

Our parish prepares wash-up kits for the homeless and could use donations of **small travel toiletry items ~ shampoo, conditioner, body wash & lotion.** Many Thanks!



MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Cards are available in our *Outreach* office, if you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one. For more info, visit or call the Parish Center at 732-3131 x119.



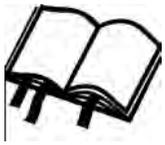
Helpful Phone Numbers

- Domestic Violence 1-800-799-SAFE & 631-666-8833
- Post Abortion Counseling - days 722-4355
- Project Rachel - evenings 242-0907 or 1800-456-HOPE
- Crisis Pregnancy/Counseling 243-2373
- 24 hr State Child Abuse 1-800-342-3720
- Baby Safe Haven Hot Line 1-877-796-HOPE
- Depression after Delivery 1-800-944-4PPD
- The Life Center 243-2373
- Drug Hotline 1-800-522-5353
- Suicide Prevention 1-800-639-5433

Liturgical Ministry Training

One of the most important fruits of the Vatican Council (1962-1965) was the desire of the Bishops from around the world for more active participation on the part of the congregation at Mass. This began by having the Mass translated into local languages. Building on that, various ministries were revived or created to allow men and women to use their gifts to strengthen the local parish. Readers of the Scriptures (Lectors) and Ministers to assist with Holy Communion have enriched our worship here at St. Margaret over the years.

Longtime or new parishioners are invited to prayerfully consider this opportunity to become part of these wonderful ministries. It would be a wonderful way to thank the Lord for his blessings!



Training sessions will be offered in March, April and May for

**Lectors and
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**
at Parish Masses

Training for both Ministries:

Saturday 9am – 12:30pm [March 9 in Hampton Bays]

Wednesday 7pm – 10pm [April 3 in Baldwin]

Thursday 7pm – 10pm [May 23 in Melville]

Additional training for Ministers of Holy Communion to hospital/homebound only:

A new program has been established.
Please call Fr. Jim for more information.



If you are interested, please write to Fr. Jim
**at least two weeks before the date of the session
that you are interested in attending**

describing why you feel called to one of these ministries.

Emails to jwood@saintmargaret.com are welcome, too.

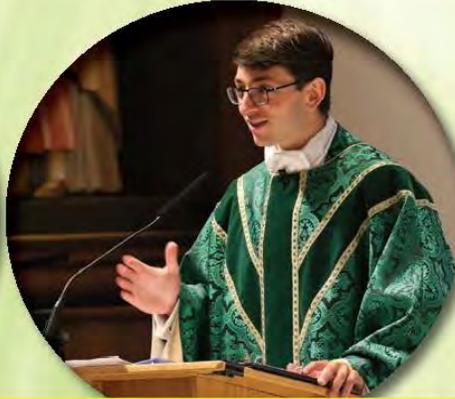
If you would like more information, please call Fr. Jim (732-3131 x 111)
or email to the address above.



The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) - is at the service of the Word, the Church, the Bishops and the Encounter of Faith and Culture. Our mission is to proclaim the teachings of our Lord to the Catholic Community and beyond using media in all forms. (CFN) is available on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296, and Charter Spectrum channel 162/471 throughout the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut area. The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is also available on selected cable and satellite systems nationwide, along with a vast on-demand library of original programming and a high quality 24/7 live stream

2019 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

DIocese OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE



Witnessing Forgiving Loving Helping Teaching Igniting Evangelizing
 Teaching Igniting Evangelizing Forgiving Loving Helping Witnessing

Supporting *Dramatic Missionary Growth* in Our Community

HIGHLIGHTS OF PEOPLE SERVED IN 2017

Living and Sharing our Faith

Baptisms: 11,823 Confirmations: 11,668 First Eucharist: 11,445 Marriages: 2,177
 Children and Youth in Faith Formation: 88,573 Volunteer Catechists: 10,000

Vocations

Seminarians: 23 Diaconate Candidates: 26

Education

Diocesan Elementary and High Schools: 14,591
 School of Missionary Disciples: 200

Caring for God's People

Parish Outreach Program: 100,000
 Hospital Ministry: 200,000
 Respect Life: 132,607 in 32 initiatives

Catholic Charities

Housing: senior, physical disability and pastoral care: 4,042
 Mental Health Outpatient Services: 1,895
 Senior Services: 3,995
 Food and Nutrition Services: 17,087
 Disaster Response: 153
 Parish Social Ministry 1,617

Building God's Kingdom

Campus Ministry: 3,500 a month
 Youth Ministry: 5,800
 Young Adult Ministry: 3,500 a month
 Hispanic Ministry: 250,000
 Catholics of African Ancestry: 25,000



WAYS TO GIVE

Gifts of Cash – Checks should be made payable to the "Catholic Ministries Appeal."

Pledge Your Gift Over Ten Months – A gift may be fulfilled over a ten-month period. If possible, please include your first month's payment when you mail your pledge card/envelope.

Credit Card – We accept American Express, Discover, Mastercard and Visa. Simply provide your credit card information on your pledge card/envelope or give online at www.drvc.org/CMA.

Matching Gifts – Go to www.matchinggifts.com/drvc to see if your employer will match the charitable contributions of employees.

IRA Charitable Rollover – If you are at least 70½ years old on the date you make your gift and your IRA is a traditional or Roth, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA to charity – without incurring income taxes today or estate tax in the future.

Gift of Securities – Appreciated securities is one way to make a significant contribution at a reduced cost to you. Federal tax laws allow a charitable deduction for the full market value of securities on the date of your gift.

For more information on any of the **Ways to Give**, please call the CMA office at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

100% of All Funds Raised are Restricted to Support the Ministries of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.*

*The Catholic Ministries Appeal is conducted on a calendar-year basis. Amounts received under the Appeal are time-restricted for the next fiscal year. Please see page 9 for a highlight of all the ministries served by the Appeal.

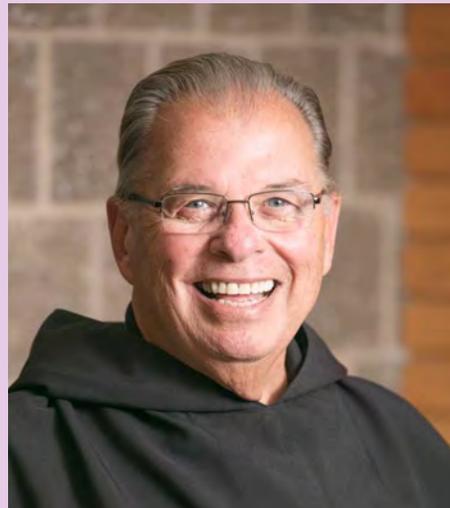
St. Margaret of Scotland Parish Retreat

A Time of Grace

Presented by Michael Sullivan, O.S.A.

March 25 - 27, 2019

7:30-9:00, pm



Join us as Father Sullivan offers dynamic and engaging reflections that will renew your heart this Lent. Confessions will be available on Monday evening of the retreat. Wednesday evening includes Benediction. A free will offering will be taken on the final night. All are invited.

Bring a friend.

Congratulations Honor Roll Students

St. Margaret's Parish family would like to congratulate the Honor Roll for students from



*St. Anthony's High School,
Huntington*

Samantha Bosch & Emma Breuer

We commend their efforts to excel!

Free Counseling at Hope House

In the age of high cost health insurance, Hope House Ministries in Port Jefferson offers free individual, couple, family and group counseling services by licensed professionals & interns. We also offer psychiatric evaluations for medication. In addition, Sr. Mary Ann Bazata, S.S. N. D. offers free spiritual direction. If interested, please call 928-2377.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ~ DRVC

REGINA MATERNITY SERVICES
& PREGNANCY SUPPORT

Our Community Program provides case management services and assistance to pregnant & parenting young women. Help is available in accessing medical & mental health services, educational training, and needed supplies, when available. Group counseling is offered on topics such as parenting skills, child development, nutrition, independent living skills, anger management, and more. **Call 516-233-7888** for info. Serving Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Catholic Charities ~ TALBOT HOUSE

Are you or someone you know having family or interpersonal problems due to drinking ALCOHOL and/or using DRUGS?

CATHOLIC CHARITIES /Talbot House, a Chemical Dependence Crisis Center, located in Bohemia, provides withdrawal & stabilization services on a voluntary basis to males & females over the age of 18, who are seeking to stop and/or withdraw from alcohol and/or drug use. The medical & clinical staff at Talbot House will assess the kind of care the person needs to begin their journey in recovery. For more info, call confidentially 631-589-4144. Talbot House staff is available 24/7.

Talbot House is a "NO fee for service" program.

Parenting Tips & Videos

Go to DRVC.ORG/FAITH FORMATION/PARENTING AND FAMILY LIFE for up-to-date ideas, activities, reflections and advice.



Eucharistic Adoration

Take my life, my moments and my days
Let them flow in endless praise.
Open my eyes, open my heart and let it be
That Your will be done through my Lenten journey



"Spend as much time as possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament and He will fill you with His strength and His power"

— Mother Teresa

Monday, March 18th @ 7:30 P.M.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

presents:

Celebrate Marriage



An Full Day Enrichment for married couples



All **married couples** are welcome to join us on
Saturday March 16, 2019
9:30am -4:30pm
Corpus Christi Parish
155 Garfield Ave, Mineola, NY 11501

We will gather for 9:30am in the parish hall
Continental Breakfast and Lunch Provided
\$40 per couple RSVP March 8th
Diane & Jim Popp 516-794-0069
dmuckster@aol.com



Diocese Young Adult Ministry 2019 Catholic Speaker Series

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Patchogue will be hosting a Singles, Dating and Married series from 7-9:30PM in the lower church.

*Singles ~ March 7th with Trista Harnisch
Dating ~ March 14th with Heather Kidd
Married ~ March 21st with Mike Clauberg*

For more info go to www.drvcya.org

FREE Benefits & Resources Event for Veterans

Save the date ~ Saturday, **April 27** from 9-1.
The LI State Veterans Home is holding a free info and
screening event along with answers on
numerous topics. Go to www.listateveteranshome.org
or call 631-444-8606.



Stony Brook University Grounds
100 Patriots Road, Stony Brook, NY

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

St. Mary's Parish on Main St. in East Islip will offer a 8 week
support for adults who are coping with the death of a loved one.
Registration required ~ group begins on **Tuesday, March 12th**
from 7-9 PM. Refreshments will be served. For info/register, call
631-581-4266 x100. *Please note that in order to participate, the
loss must have occurred prior to 12/12/18.*

Molloy College Open House

Spring Open House will be held on Sunday, April 7th at 1 PM.
Located at 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Center. For info
call 516-323-4000.

Family Center ~ Town of Brookhaven

Family Support free of charge ~ Middle Country Library
Referrals to Community Agencies, Health & Social, Child Care,
Immigration & Residency, English Second Language, Food,
Clothing & Utility Assistance, programs for Parents & Children
& more. To schedule an appointment or confi-
dential message ~ 631-585-9393 x290 or email
FAMILYCENTER@MCPL.LIB.NY.US.



\$ Tax Statements

Call the Parish Center if you would like your 2018 tax
statement at 732-3131 x133. Please leave a clear message
with your name, address and if you know your envelope number
which is located under the DATE. Thank you.

Calling All Alumni!

Did you attend: All Saints High School (Brooklyn, NY) Bishop McDonnell High School (Brooklyn, NY)
Dominican Commercial High School (Jamaica, NY) Maria Regina Diocesan High School (Uniondale, NY)
Queen of the Rosary Academy (Amityville, NY) St. Agnes Academic High School (College Point, NY) St. Agnes High School (Rockville
Centre, NY) St. Albert's High School (Brooklyn, NY) St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School (West Islip, NY) St. Joseph's Mountain
School (Monticello, NY) St. Michael's High School (Brooklyn, NY) St. Nicholas High School (Brooklyn, NY) ?

If so, then we're looking for you! The Sisters of St. Dominic would like to invite you to an alumni gathering on Sunday, April 7th from
2 -5PM at the Motherhouse in Amityville. Join classmates for a meet & greet with some of the Sisters who taught at your alma mater, tour
the Motherhouse grounds, and gather for prayer at St. Albert's Chapel. Tickets are \$25 PP in advance (\$30 day of event). Proceeds will
support the mission of the Sisters. For more info, call: 631.842.6000 ext.246 or advancement@amityop.org. We hope you will join us!

SCPD Police Exam is scheduled
for **June 15th, 2019**. Be sure to note that the
registration deadline for this exam is
April 3rd, 2019. This exam is given only once every **4** years.



English and Spanish recruitment flyers and registration forms
for the exam can be found at www.JoinSCPD.com

Minimum Requirements

Age-Minimum age: 19 years on the date of the written exam to be
eligible for appointment. • Maximum age: 34 years on the date of
the written exam. **Education**-Graduation from a standard senior
high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma
recognized by the New York State Department of Education, by
the date of appointment. **(No college required for appointment).**

License Requirement - Possession of a valid New York State
operator's or chauffeur's license at the time of appointment. **Writ-**
ten Examination - Candidates who attain a reachable passing
grade will have to pass the following qualifying tests and evalua-
tions: Medical, Personality Assessment (Psychological), Poly-
graph, Extensive Background Check & Physical Fitness
Screening. **Citizenship & Residency**-Candidate must be a
NY State resident and a US citizen at time of appointment.



PAINT & WINE* FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 10th ~ 2 - 4 pm
Registration required by March 6th ~ limited seats.

Artist/Instructor: April Keough

As a Cenacle calligrapher, April will share
her enjoyment of painting while inspiring
others to express their creative artistic talent.
Offering: \$40. Includes the \$20 non-refundable/non-
transferable deposit and materials to paint two wine glasses!

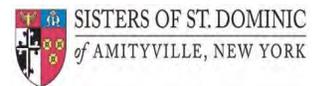


***Bring your own beverage!**

To Register please call 631-588-8366 x116
or go www.cenaclesisters.org/ronkonkoma
Cenacle Rd., Ronkonkoma, NY

Job Opportunities at Catholic Charities

For a full list of jobs f/t and p/t- CATHOLICCHARITIES.CC/JOBS.
Respond by mail, email, or fax. The website will assist you.



Sunday, Mar 03, 2019

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Make peace with making mistakes

The single biggest obstacle to reforming our lives is the difficulty of admitting we're wrong. About anything. Finding ourselves on the wrong side of truth is so intimidating, we grow angry, defensive, and increasingly absurd rather than capitulate our position. Studies indicate the best eyewitnesses get 25 percent of the facts wrong. The worst eyewitnesses are 80 percent wrong! These statistics indicate what the gospel plainly says: that humility and repentance are key to finding our way to the right side of truth. The goal is not to be always right, but to be ever ready to turn around.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45 (84). *"Remove the beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye."*

Monday, Mar 04, 2019

Turn to page one

Today is Read Across America Day, sponsored by the National Education Association to coincide with the birthday of the beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. Its goal is to encourage reading excitement in children of all ages. Many of us fell in love with reading as kids because of Dr. Seuss, and that early reading opened up our minds to discover and appreciate God's marvelous world. Help a child start down the path of lifelong learning: Open a book and read to them.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 17:20-24; Mark 10:17-27 (347). *"Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven."*

Tuesday, Mar 05, 2019

Open your hands

Jesus taught that we have a fundamental choice to make: to hold tight to whatever we find of value or to let go of all for the sake of Christ and the gospel. Most of us find ourselves somewhere in the middle—probably more on the side of grasping than letting go, if we're honest about it. Perhaps the story of the closed fist vs. the open palm can help loosen our grip. Both can hold a precious jewel, but a closed fist can receive nothing more than what it already holds, while an upward-facing open palm can hold the jewel and also be filled with much more. Keep your hands open and leave room for the gifts of the Spirit.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31 (348). *"There is no one who has given up [anything] for my sake . . . who will not receive a hundred times more."*

Wednesday, Mar 06, 2019

ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Now is the proper time

Remember you are dust and to dust you will return. You're going to die someday. That's the stark message when ashes are placed on our foreheads today. Recently this longstanding Catholic practice of giving out ashes has become popular in Protestant churches, some of them even passing out ashes in shopping areas and downtowns to eager recipients. For centuries Catholics have received ashes—and begun the season of Lent—in the context of Mass. But the message is the same for all: This Lent turn to God and live your days righteously.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (219). *"Even now says the Lord return to me with your whole heart."*

Thursday, Mar 07, 2019

THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY; MEMORIAL OF PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS

Women of great faith

One of the four Eucharistic prayers that can be used for Sunday Mass includes a long list of names of saints and martyrs of the church. It is easy to get distracted by the length of that prayer, but those who are named in the prayer are important ancestors in our faith. Today, we remember two of those saints, Perpetua and Felicity, a noble woman and a slave, who gave birth to babies shortly before being put to death for their Christian faith. It is hard to believe that two new mothers were willing to give up all that they had and to suffer death for their faith. But their stories are documented in a diary that Perpetua kept while in prison. On this second day of Lent, let us ask for the grace to accept with joy any suffering or challenge of the day.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25 (220). *"Whoever loses [their] life for my sake will save it."*

Friday, Mar 08, 2019

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Pass the meat? Not today

You are what you eat. Or in this case, what you don't eat. Religious identity is often determined by the nature of your nurture. Observant Jews eat only kosher. Muslims eat nothing until after sunset during Ramadan. Catholics fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and abstain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent. It's a sign of who we are, people who are hungry for the presence of Christ, the Bread of Life. We practice self-denial for the sake of the Kingdom. So today go meatless. It's what Catholics do.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15 (221). *"The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."*

Saturday, Mar 09, 2019

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS

Listen to your calling

Like many women saints, Frances of Rome wanted to be a nun, but her family forced her to marry. She wanted to serve the poor, but this noblewoman was expected to go to parties. She wanted to give away her wealth, but instead she had to wear finery. Frances did her duty, but in the end, got her way. Over her in-laws' objections, she turned her house into a hospital and founded the Oblates of St. Mary, which she joined upon her husband's death. Whatever your circumstances, don't give up—trust that God will help you find a way to live your calling.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32 (222). *"I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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Campaign Catch Up



March 3, 2019

Vol II Edition 4

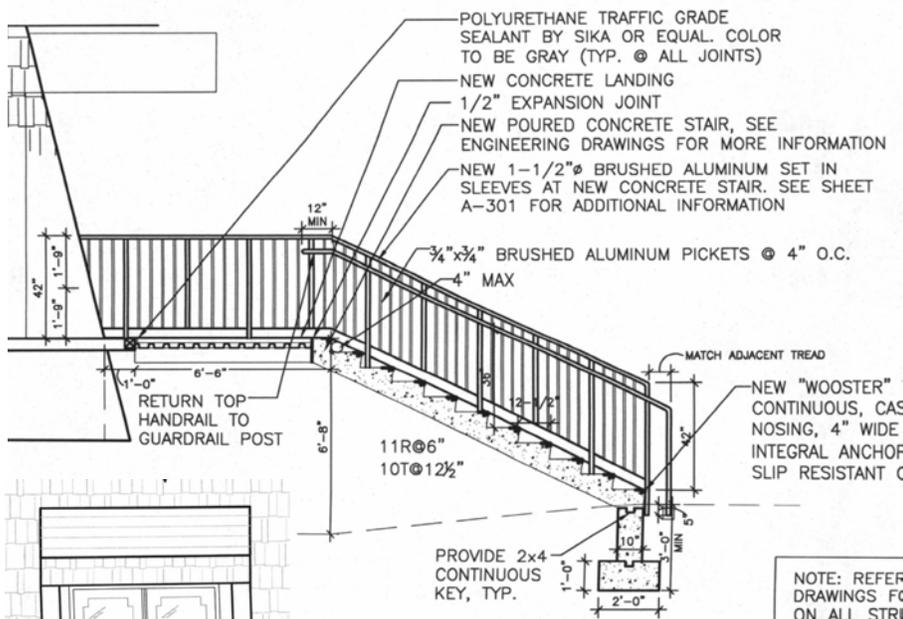
Total Pledged: \$855,908



Handrails Schedule: by end of March

Architect approved shop plans. Fabricator says work to be finished by end of month.

entrance bridge so that the full job can begin after Communion, Confirmation and weddings this



Projects in our pipeline:
 ① Work on the church side entrances, only awaiting the railings to allow us to reopen the side entrances.

spring (a defrosting system has been built into all three to minimize any icing).

③ Architect has made first visit to take specs for blueprints for the auditorium restrooms and design an ADA compliant restroom and bring the kitchen up to code. We hope to see this work done this summer.

④ Contract signed for the conversion of the Parish Center heating system to gas. To be done after PSE&G installs a gas line.

Proposed Schedule of Work

PHASE I **Fall 2018**

Approximate Cost: \$450,000

- Replace the Church Entrance Bridge and Side Stairways
- Mandated Removal of the oil tank in the Parish Center and replace the Boiler
- Update the Kitchen in the Auditorium

PHASE II **Fall 2019**

Approximate Cost: \$290,000

- Update Auditorium Bathrooms and Replace Parish Center's Handicapped lift
- Add Handicapped Parking spaces and Re-coat & re-stripe the Parking lot
- Install new padding on the kneelers

PHASE III **Fall 2020**

Approximate Cost: \$210,000

- Update Fire and Security Alarm systems in the Church and Parish Center
- Replace the Sidewalks
- Replace the Windows in the Parish Center

Funded

Pledged

Unfunded