

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 Mirinda, 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

Holy Angels Regional Catholic School
Patchogue, NY 631-475-0422
Michael Connell, Principal

Celebration of the Eucharist

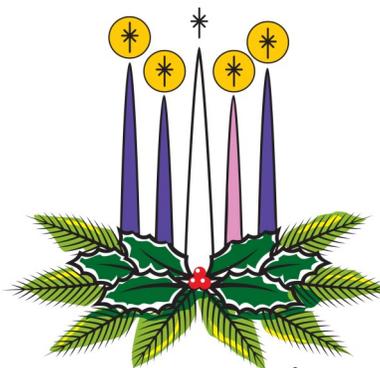
Saturday: 8:00am, 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am
& 12:00pm (Noon)

Weekdays: Monday to Friday 9:00am

Confessions

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



4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Merry Christmas



December 22, 2019

Phone: (631) 732-3131

Parish Center Office Hours

Open for Walk-In Business Morning Afternoon Eve

Mon, Tues, Thurs 9^{am} - 1^{pm} 2 - 4^{pm} 7-8^{pm}

Wednesday 9^{am} - 1^{pm} 2 - 4^{pm} ... No EVE

Friday Closed

Saturday 9^{am} - 12^{pm}

Sunday Closed

Fax (631) 732 - 8827

www.saintmargaret.com

81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Dec. 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Joseph is described as a “righteous man” in today’s Gospel. The Hebrew word for righteousness implied a true weight, as the one used to balance an honest scale; thus, a righteous person is one who is true to God’s Law. But there’s one word in this story that tips us off to the idea that Joseph is more than a strictly righteous man. The word is “quietly.” He takes one step beyond righteousness when he resolves to divorce Mary without revealing that she is pregnant, which according to the Law is a serious sin. He will not accept her as his wife, but neither will he follow the letter of the Law that condemns her to death. It’s this personal decision to step outside the rule of the Law that God exploits with the usual extravagance. Quickly, the angel is dispatched, the dream reveals, and Joseph is offered the chance to make the leap of faith. Can we trust God in the same way?

Dec. 25: Christmas

The bible readings on Christmas tell us the story of God’s greatest response to human hopes. God sent a savior who was neither an exalted king nor victorious warrior, as the people expected. One of the clearest signs that a message or happening is from God is that something extraordinarily good is happening and it’s not at all how we anticipated it would be. No matter how much we learn from the Scriptures, God surprises us by working from another script.

Just think for a moment about the Shepherds in the Christmas story. Shepherds were among the least respected people of their day. By reputation they were not overly committed to honesty; and because of the dirtiness of their job, they were not welcome in many places. They would not be the first people anyone would think of to reveal the birth of a Savior, but they were the ones that God chose!

The message of Christmas invites us to reexamine our expectations. Where do we seek God? For thousands of years God has been in the habit of appearing among us in the most unobtrusive ways. As we celebrate with family and friends, let us be prepared for the unexpected ways to appreciate life and those closest to us. ~ *Fr. Jim*



Merry Christmas from Fr. Jim,
Fr. Paul & all the staff.

PARISH EVENTS This Week

Monday December 23

9:30 am Women’s Bible Sharing.....Rm 207
7-8 pm Confessions.....Church

Tuesday December 24

Christmas Eve—See Schedule

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day—See Schedule

December 26—29

No Activities Scheduled

NO FAITH FORMATION 12/23/19 THRU 1/1/20
Classes resume on 1/2/20.

Change in Parish Center Hours

Beginning in December,
the office will be closed on Fridays.

Christmas 2019



Confessions

Monday, December 23rd
7:00-8:00 PM

Masses

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Church & Auditorium
6:00 PM Church
11:00 PM Church

Please Note—There is NO Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8:00 AM Church
10:00 AM Church
12:00 PM Church

PLEASE NOTE: NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

January 1st - Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, December 31st, 5:00 PM
Wednesday, January 1st, 10:00 AM

Save Those Calendars!

Sr. Tesa Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph, whose ministry is with women in jail would LOVE to receive any calendars that you may receive in the mail. Apparently, calendars are something that incarcerated people have little access to and they make a big difference for them. Please drop off in the Parish Center **through the month of December**. She hopes to get about 600 – she has distributed 200 already! Thank you.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2019

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

In his December 1, 2019 Apostolic Letter *Admirabile Signum: On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*, Our Holy Father Pope Francis writes:

“The nativity scene is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture...I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares.

Great imagination and creativity is always shown in employing the most diverse materials to create small masterpieces of beauty. As children, we learn from our parents and grandparents to carry on this joyful tradition, which encapsulates a wealth of popular piety. *It is my hope that this custom will never be lost and that, wherever it has fallen i to disuse, it can be discovered and revived.*”

The Holy Father captures so poignantly how we creatively share our Catholic faith generation to generation through the Nativity sets and crèches that bring Christ’s light and love into our homes, our parishes and our public squares.

He also captures how the poor, the outcast, the ignored, the forgotten and the vulnerable have a privileged place in every Nativity scene: “The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, ‘gentle and humble in heart’ (Mt 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod’s palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy. By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.”

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas and the power and presence of the Prince of Peace in our families, in the Church and in the World, we realize at the same time that the Christmas Crib can never be separated from the agony of Calvary’s Cross.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Even as we rejoice this Christmas of 2019, we remember and stand with the poor, the hungry, the addicted, the mentally ill, the global refugees and non-documented immigrants, and survivors of sexual abuse.

As we pray before the Christmas manger and see the beauty, the hope, the possibility in the birth of Jesus, we are compelled to remember that far too many children do not receive the welcome and joy they deserve for the miracle of their existence.

We cannot forget this Christmas season the great sadness that New York State, through the passage of the horrific Reproductive Health Act¹, has enshrined into law the killing of innocent human beings through abortion up until the moment of actual birth and beyond, as this radical law permits the killing of those children who survive abortion.

Together, we invoke the power of the Prince of Peace and His compassionate Word found in the Beatitudes and in His call to serve the poor and the most vulnerable among us in Matthew 25. Our Lord gives us the courage and the voice as the Catholic Church in New York State and around the world to speak of the beauty, the sanctity and the dignity of every human life.

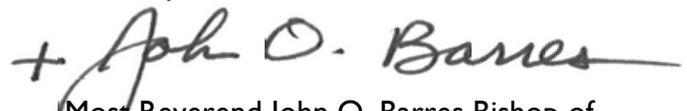
We will continue to be “a sign of contradiction” by witnessing relentlessly and courageously to the Gospel of Human Life. As is said in the first words of the *Didache*, the earliest known non-Scriptural Christian writing: “There are two Ways, one of Life and one of Death...” We will always stand with our earliest ancestors in the Christian faith in favor of the Way of Life and opposed to the Way of Death.

We will continue to seek the intercession of St. Thomas More, patron of statesmen, politicians and lawyers for the conversion of the public servants who have supported this tragic legislation.

The Cistercian biblical scholar Father Simeon writes: “The Child, while present only in Bethlehem by his poverty and weakness, is already present in the pattern of the constellations by his splendor and his glory.”²

May our praise and glory of the Prince of Peace fill our hearts and homes and give us the courage and prayerful determination to bring the Joy of the Gospel and the Splendor of Truth to every public square in New York State and throughout the world

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres Bishop of
Rockville Centre

¹ <https://www.drvc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/ReproductiveHealthCareAct.pdf>

² Erasmio Leiva-Merikakis (Fr. Simeon), *Fire of Mercy Heart of the World: Meditations on the Gospel according to St. Matthew Volume I* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1996), 76.



Christmas Flowers

Special Intentions



LuAnn Valentine

Paul Boghosian Jr.

Memorials

<i>Dennis Naso</i>	<i>Mary J. Dann</i>	<i>Vincent Laurentino</i>	<i>Deacon Phil Paolicelli</i>
<i>Philip Ash</i>	<i>Anthony Pillittier</i>	<i>Walter Hoehne</i>	<i>Mary Guttilla</i>
<i>Jerry Keough</i>	<i>Mary Ann Bozzanca</i>	<i>Stephen Doriand</i>	<i>Mary Bounaiuto</i>
<i>Roy & Leona Waterbury</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. A. D'Arcangelo</i>	<i>Harry & Robert M. Aretakis</i>	<i>John & Audrey Meehan</i>
<i>Raymond Farrell</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. D. Biasotti</i>	<i>Peter Rice</i>	<i>Rose Rose</i>
<i>Mr. & Mrs. D. Palermo</i>	<i>John & Mary Conway</i>	<i>Amy Grace Quaranta</i>	<i>Grace Gross</i>
<i>Jack Gunning</i>	<i>Jerry & David Armendinger</i>	<i>Emil Zambardi</i>	<i>Michele Bongiorno</i>
<i>Lauren K. Fennell</i>	<i>Edward Connors</i>	<i>Lawrence & Florence Donlon</i>	<i>Patricia Lunetta</i>
<i>Joseph De Peter</i>	<i>Max & Monika Gehard</i>	<i>Joseph & Ann Schubeck</i>	<i>Michael Lo Grande</i>
<i>Ellen Murphy</i>	<i>Christine Terrusa</i>	<i>Helen & Anthony Litka</i>	<i>D'Elia & Muratore Families</i>
<i>Dodie Stith</i>	<i>Frank Gehard</i>	<i>Frank & Maria Lo Grande</i>	<i>Liam Edward Fitzgerald</i>
<i>Anthony Marrocco</i>	<i>Msgr. Joseph Mattius</i>	<i>Brian Mc Laughlin</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hendry</i>
<i>Kitty & Thomas Baffa</i>	<i>Sr. Marie Mc Namee, OP</i>	<i>Walter & Marguerite Largue</i>	<i>Marie Castellano</i>
<i>Louise A. Dalba</i>	<i>Sr. Miriam Genevive, OP</i>	<i>Sr. Catherine Alphonse, OP</i>	<i>Carmine Santorelli</i>
<i>Frank & Clara Davino</i>	<i>Sr. Anne Barbara, OP</i>	<i>Laurie Addeo</i>	<i>Madeline & Philip Lo Bosco</i>
<i>Elaine Merz</i>	<i>Stephen Gassick</i>	<i>The Gleason Family</i>	<i>Antonio & Geraldine Temperini</i>
<i>Rose De Saro</i>	<i>Joseph & Dorothy Kirchner</i>	<i>John & Catherine Hartnett</i>	<i>Vera & John Gleason</i>
<i>Jeanine Stewart</i>	<i>Mary & John Farrell</i>	<i>Ronald Hirschhorn</i>	<i>Susan E. Quinn</i>
<i>Cannizzaro & Roucoulet Families</i>	<i>Jeanne Dawson & George Heege</i>	<i>Babies Paul & Danielle Beauchamp</i>	<i>Rose & John Fitzpatrick</i>



Campaign Catch Up

Dec 22, 2019

Vol II Edition 41



In One Long Year

Total Pledged
\$869,706



Schedule of Work

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Funded | <p>PHASE I 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Replace the Church Entrance Bridge and Side Stairways ● Mandated Removal of the oil tank in the Parish Center and replace the Boiler <p>PHASE II 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update Auditorium Bathrooms and Kitchen ● Replace the Sidewalks ● Add Handicapped Parking spaces and Re-coat & re-stripe the Parking lot <p>PHASE III 2021</p> |
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Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Give your spouse a special gift this Christmas by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan 31-Feb 2, 2020 in Huntington, NY and May 1-3, 2020 in Huntington, NY. For more information, call John & Toni Torio at 877-697-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmenyli.org/>



Save the Date!

Thursday, 26 March 2020
Sight and Sound Bus to see Esther



Catholic Gifts Looking for Catholic gifts and items? You can visit Our Lady of the Island Shrine, 258 Eastport Manor Rd. in Manorville. Hours 10-4 weekdays & 10-5 Sat./ Sun. A large variety of religious articles. OURLADYOFTHEISLAND.ORG

Come, Sing!

St. Margaret's choir needs your voice. "Where He leads me, I will follow..." The choir is growing. If you can hold a tune, and want to enjoy singing and learning songs with others, send a note to the Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Daniel Crews, at dcrews@saintmargaret.com or call him at 631-732-3131 Ext. 117 (or stop by the Music Ministry area, after mass) and we will invite you to Come, Sing!



Bishop Barres

recently addressed the Child Victims Act in this video produced by Catholic Faith Network. It is airing on CFN and diocesan media platforms. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/aU8Ps8fRFIU>.

Post Office Box 9023, Rockville Centre, New York 11571-9023.
Phone 516-678-5800. Fax 516-678-3138. bishopsoffice@drvc.org



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