

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



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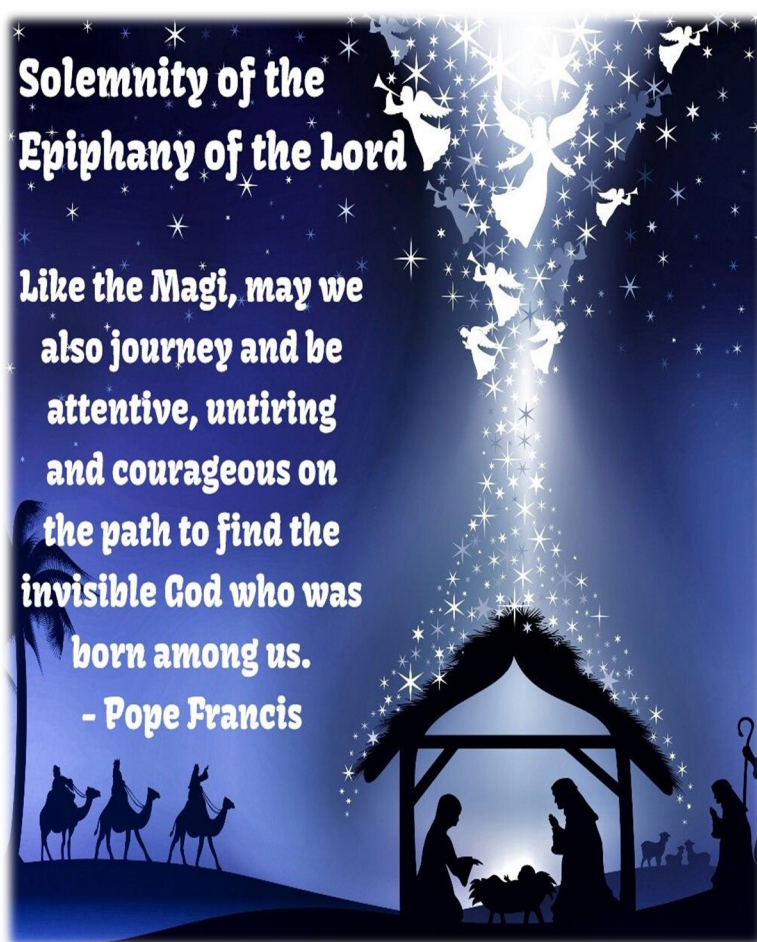
Celebration of the Eucharist

Weekday: (Mon, through Fri) 9am

Sunday: Sat - 5pm,

Sun - 8am, 10am & 12 noon

Confessions: Saturday—1-2 PM in the
Parish Center or by appointment.



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

**Like the Magi, may we
also journey and be
attentive, untiring
and courageous on
the path to find the
invisible God who was
born among us.
- Pope Francis**

January 3, 2021

Phone: (631) 732-3131

the Parish Office
will be open limited hours during the week

Mon, Tue & Wed 9am to 1pm

Any meeting will be by appointment Only.

Fax (631) 732 - 8827

www.saintmargaret.com

81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813

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.

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

As we celebrate Epiphany, I would like to share a reflection I read years ago. Hope you enjoy it. ~Fr. Jim

The Station

Tucked away in our subconscious is an idyllic vision. We cannot see it, we have not experienced it, but we know we are meant to be there. To help us understand this idea, think for a moment of traveling on a train across our vast country. We see many different scenes unfolding – city skylines and small-town life, cared for farms and wild nature, flatlands, valleys, mountains and rolling hills -- many experiences. But uppermost in our minds is the final destination. Restlessly we pace the aisles, impatient – waiting, waiting for the station. On a certain day, we will pull into the station, and we will be satisfied.

Just so with life. We have this personal vision of what life should be, when the pieces of our lives will fit together like a completed jigsaw puzzle. We think to ourselves, “When I reach my dream, that will be it!”

--“When I am 18,...

--“When I buy a new Mercedes Benz SLS Roadster,...

--“When I put the last kid through college,...

--“When I pay off the mortgage,...

--“When I get that promotion,....

--“When I reach retirement, ...

...I shall live happily ever after.”

Sooner or later, we realize that the station of our dreams is beyond our grasp. It constantly outdistances us. In life, there is no one place to arrive. **The true joy of life is the journey.** On this feast of the Epiphany, let us join the Wise Men in putting aside concentrating on the difficulties of the journey. Let us make the journey more rewarding by appreciating those who are travelling with us. Let us not take for granted those who cross our path to help us at various times. Let us trust that the idyllic vision in our hearts is not a dream, but something planted by God, who is with us as we live life each day. Let us believe, like St. Paul says in I Corinthians (2:9) that “eye has not seen and ear has not heard what God has prepared for those who love Him.”

RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION ~ Saturdays ~ 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Due to the need for privacy without using an enclosed room, we are using the Parish Center foyer. A screen divides the foyer between the priest and the penitent. There is no chair or kneeler since we could not disinfect them. You simply come in, stay standing, confess, receive your penance and depart.



In warm weather, the red front door is propped open. ***If you see someone in the foyer, do not come up the walkway! Remain on the sidewalk (or in your car) to keep a safe distance.***

In cold weather, the door needs to stay closed.
Please knock and wait to be invited in.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

SUNDAY MASS ON ST. MARGARET'S WEBSITE

In addition to our weekend Masses, available at 5^{pm} Saturday and 8^{am}, 10^{am} and Noon, the Sunday Mass continues to be streamed each weekend. There are two ways to watch it:

First, on our website WWW.SAINTMARGARET.COM. Click the “Learn More” link on the “Online Masses and Latest Bulletin” page. It will take you to an info page; click link for “Online Mass.” All the Masses since March are available. (In addition to our Mass, there is a link for the masses celebrated each day from St Agnes Cathedral.)

Second, there is a St. Margaret of Scotland channel on YouTube. Go to the YouTube app, search for St. Margaret of Scotland and [look for our logo](#). (There are other parishes with the same name.) Only the video for the current weekend is available.



Full Time Business Manager

The Parish of St. Gerard Majella in Port Jefferson Station is seeking a full time Business Manager to oversee the physical and financial resources of the parish. This position requires flexibility in schedule to attend meetings, coordinate projects and attend to emergencies. This position reports directly to the Pastor. College degree required, preferably in Accounting or related fields. Send cover letter and resume to Fr. Gregory Rannazzisi, Pastor, by email only: frgreg@stgmajella.org.

Faith Formation

LEVEL 1

Your next gathering will be Monday, Jan. 4 ~ 6-7pm

LEVEL 6

Your next gathering will be Tues., Jan. 5th ~ 6:30-8pm

LEVEL 3

Your next gathering will be Weds., Jan. 6th ~ 6:30-8pm

LEVEL 8

Your next gathering will be Thurs., Jan. 7th ~ 6:30-8pm

**Catechists
& Volunteers
are needed one
day a month**

Epiphany Coloring Page



Sunday, Jan 03, 2021 SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Bless this new year of grace

Some things are worth taking the time to do. After enduring the manifold burdens of this past year, few of us will need persuading that the annual Epiphany Blessing of the Home is a ritual worth investing in. Gather your housemates if living with others. Download a home blessing ritual or create one yourself, using symbols especially meaningful to your participants. Which household items became especially significant during the pandemic and call for a special blessing? A cloth mask, a bar of soap, and Netflix may be featured as items of peculiar yet holy purpose in this year's rites everywhere. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20). "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come."*

Monday, Jan 04 MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS Preserve the legacy

Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first U.S.-born saint, started the country's first Catholic girls' school in Maryland, where she also founded the first American women's religious community, the Sisters of Charity. All those "firsts" multiplied into an incredible legacy of parochial education and religious life benefiting women that ripples to today. At Seton's beatification, Pope John XXIII said, "she sowed a seed in America which by Divine Grace grew into a tree." Perhaps you yourself are a beneficiary of her legacy. In the words of Pope Paul VI at her canonization, "Rejoice for your glorious daughter. Be proud of her. And know how to preserve her fruitful heritage." TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 3:22—4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 (212). "He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom."*

Tuesday, Jan 05 MEMORIAL OF JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP Parishes for the people

What would U.S. parishes look like without John Neumann, the first naturalized U.S. citizen and bishop who was canonized? As a seminarian in his native Bohemia, John cherished Saint Paul's missionary epistles from the Bible and longed to serve the United States as a missionary. His wish was granted. After John's 1835 ordination he began to set up parishes and a network of parochial schools in New York. He served Germans and Native Americans and also learned Gaelic and Italian to better serve parishioners in Baltimore and Philadelphia. He introduced the Forty Hours devotion and set up parish missions for Lent. Ask John to pray for your parish today. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44 (213). "They were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things."*

Wednesday, Jan 06 MEMORIAL OF ANDRÉ BESSETTE, RELIGIOUS Open the door to new life

So many have said that 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, marked by a pandemic that has taken lives and so much more, and a national election that challenged the U.S. belief in a united nation with liberty and justice for all. Though a new year is only the turn of a calendar page, it allows and encourages new life, new perspective, new hope, and new energy. Let the life of the gentle and humble Saint André Bessette—who spent many years as a doorman for his monastic community—be our inspiration. May compassion and love of neighbor guide us into this new year. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52 (214). "If God so loved us, we also must love one another."*

Thursday, Jan 07 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY And now for an announcement . . .

Even in an age when people are bombarded with messages, announcements can have particular cachet. They appear over and over in the gospels, from angels announcing Christ's birth to Jesus' announcement in today's gospel that he came to fulfill the words of Isaiah. The church continues to make plenty of announcements, from the calendar items announced at Mass to "announcements" in the form of pastoral letters and encyclicals about how to live contemporary Christian life. You probably announced your faith in a formal way at your Confirmation. How can you "announce" Christ today through your words and actions? TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 4:19—5:4; Luke 4:14-22a (215). "He said to them, 'Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.'"*

Friday, Jan 08 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY Out of stillness, creation

As the Christmas season draws to a close, some treasure its highlights, others dread the January "blahs," and all of us could do well to follow Jesus' model in the gospel. After he cures a leper, the crowds and the demands on him increase. Many of us would plough into the need, then the adulation. Instead, he withdraws and retreats. This wintry season offers a time to withdraw and reflect. Think, for example, of the solitude necessary to create the kind of sacred art that Giotto was known for. He died on this day in 1337, so perhaps you can bring him to mind as you channel your own inner artist in the winter stillness. Create something new today! TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16 (216). "But he would withdraw to deserted places to pray."*

Saturday, Jan 09 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY Make space for Christ

This is the final day of the Christmas season. But it's always Christmas, every day of the year. Christ comes in our humanity, born into our human flesh. We are always united with Christ in a communion of divinity and humanity, realized in Jesus, shared with us. We celebrate that communion in the central act of our worship: We eat and drink the Real Presence of Christ in us. But like John the Baptist proclaims in today's gospel, that presence of Christ must increase in us as our own egos decrease. This is the way to fulfillment. Let Christ lead you today. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30 (217). "He must increase; I must decrease."*



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DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2020

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

When he was elected as a Successor of St. Peter on March 13, 2013, our Holy Father chose the name *Francis*. It was a weighty decision with a prophetic message. Especially now, seven years later and with the publication of his latest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* from the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi on October 3, 2020, the significance of the choice is clear: Pope Francis connects his papacy to St. Francis.

Through the ministry of our Holy Father, St. Francis of Assisi is close to the Church in these times. Therefore, as we draw near to Bethlehem at the end of this difficult year, I wish to recall two points Pope Francis highlights from the life of St. Francis. One will help us celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord; the other indicates a grace for which to pray during the holy season.

First, in his 2019 Apostolic Letter *Admirabile Signum: On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*, Pope Francis emphasizes St. Francis of Assisi's foundational role in our celebration of Christmas. The Holy Father recalls the origins of the crèche and the first nativity scene inspired by the holy friar in 1223, by which the saint sought "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem." Importantly, the remembrance of Christ's birth that St. Francis desired to convey was brought alive in Greccio, a small village in Italy, not by statues but by people from the surrounding towns and countryside. Together with St. Francis, his friars, an ox and a donkey, they gathered at a cave to behold a manger full of hay over which the Eucharist was celebrated. That Christmas night, almost 800 years ago, Pope Francis reminds us, "the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present." That night, there was "no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery." (2) Encountering Christ, there was simply joy and hope.

This Christmas, in our world laden with the Crosses of COVID-19, political and economic turmoil, racism, financial hardship, and so many other societal ills and challenges – challenges that impact us on Long Island – let us remember this lesson from Greccio: Christmas is an event to be lived. It demands our participation. Like the women and men who embodied that first crèche, we must be present to Christ who is born for us. We must behold and receive Him.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Second, in *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis shows St. Francis as an icon of Christocentric- listening. With great humility and charity, the saint reverently listened to others. He was present to the various voices in his life – the voice of God, the voice of his neighbor, the voice of the poor, the voice of the sick, the voice of nature – and by truly hearing them, he was an instrument of peace, healing, and understanding. How different it can be for us! The Holy Father says well what we know: “Today’s world is largely a deaf world...At times, the frantic pace of the modern world prevents us from listening attentively to what another person is saying.” Aware of this fact, the Pope encourages us, in the midst of our hectic and polarized world, to be like St. Francis and “not lose our ability to listen.” (48)

This Christmas, when we approach the crib, let us ask for the grace to be attentive listeners. Let us ask for the grace to be like St. Francis, so that we may hear the voice of God and the voice of our neighbor and respond with the radical charity he exhibited.¹

Like Pope Francis, may we be moved by the example of St. Francis, and may St. Francis of Assisi’s love for the Mystery of the Nativity, his ecstatic mysticism, his love for the poor, and his spirit of universal fraternity animate our celebration of Christmas this year.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *John O. Barres*

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Christmas Thank You!

St. Margaret’s Outreach would like to thank ALL who donated to our families. It is a wonderful time of year for giving and was felt by many. Throughout the year many items were contributed to our Outreach.

Everything was offered including gift cards to our many clients!

All families were so thankful for your generosity!

God Bless, *Julie Burtoff* ~ Outreach Coordinator

