

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



Immaculate Conception

December 8th

Mass 9 AM & 7:30 PM



Pastoral Staff

Rev. James Wood - Pastor x111
jwood@saintmargaret.com

Rev. Paul Butler - Pastoral Vicar x118
pbutler@saintmargaret.com

Deacons - Ed Hayes x0
Retired: William Kogler, Biagio Muratore

Parish Center Office – Receptionist x0
Julie Burtoff, Admin Assistant x133
jburtoff@saintmargaret.com

Faith Formation Office
Jackie Mirenda, Coordinator x131
jmirenda@saintmargaret.com

Music Ministry
Dr. Daniel Crews, Director x117
dcrews@saintmargaret.com

Parish Outreach
Outreach@saintmargaret.com
Julie Burtoff, x119

Holy Angels Regional Catholic School
Patchogue, NY 631-475-0422
Jeannine Stewart, Principal



Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

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

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.

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Advent is a time of preparing for the coming of the Lord. Unfortunately, in addition to our regular preparations, we need to heed the Covid-19 restrictions and the need for safe social distancing.

Therefore, I ask you to read the information below that deals with Christmas Masses carefully.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. ~Fr. Jim

Procedures for Christmas Masses during the Pandemic

Due to NYS Covid-19 restrictions that are in effect for our area, a maximum of 50% of the church capacity (in order to maintain “social distancing”) is allowed. Therefore, to maximize the seating space permitted and to make it as safe as possible for those attending, we need to institute the following procedures.

Please remember that the Bishops have suspended the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, which include Christmas. Watching Mass online is still an option

Sign Up for Masses. [Christmas Eve: 2pm, 4pm, 8pm // Christmas Day: 8am, 10am, 12 Noon]

Anyone interested in coming to one of our Christmas Eve/Day Masses will need to provide the following information to the Parish:

Family Name

Phone number and email address (if you have one)

Number of family members attending (with any special considerations needed)

Submit **two Mass times that we can choose from.** (First preference first.)

We will also decide where your party will be seated in the church.

We will confirm your request



Contacting Us.

Please do NOT call the Parish Center Office to register. With limited personnel and limited times when the office is open, we are unable to handle the expected activity. Staff will answer questions but will not be able take reservation requests.

To make your request please:

email the parish at bgoode@saintmargaret.com

or

call 631-732-3131 x133

Arriving at Church.

Only those with confirmed seating will be admitted to the church. The doors will be opened 30 minutes before the Mass time due to the extra time needed to prepare the church and seat everyone.

Only one front door will be open.

In the lobby, there will be greeters with a list of all the people who have confirmed seats. You will check in with them.

At the inside glass doors, ushers will be present to escort you to your **assigned seat(s)**.

Deadline: no requests can be honored after Friday, December 18th.

Faith Formation

LEVEL 1

Your next gathering will be Mon., Dec. 7th ~ 6-7pm

LEVEL 7

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

LEVEL 3 ~Reconciliation

Friday, Dec. 11 @ 5pm and Saturday, Dec. 12 @ 3pm

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

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.



St. Margaret's Website

Keep up to date with all Faith Formation, info & bulletins.
Go check it out & make it a favorite!

SAINTMARGARET.COM

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.

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

Due to the need for privacy without using an enclosed room, parishes have had to be creative in finding a suitable space for hearing confessions. We will be using the Parish Center foyer. The red front door will be propped open and a screen will be inside, between the priest and the penitent. There will be no chair or kneeler since we could not disinfect them. You simply come in, stay standing, confess, receive your penance and depart.



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.

COPING WITH the HOLIDAYS - VIRTUAL WORKSHOP - For Those Who Have Lost a Loved One Due to COVID-19

Good Shepherd Hospice is offering a free virtual workshop for those who are grieving a loss due to COVID-19. This workshop, which is facilitated by Bereavement Specialists, will offer support, education and strategies to cope with loss of a loved one during the holiday season.

The workshop will be Thursday, 12/3/2020, from 7:00PM-8:30PM. To register, please call 631-465-6262 / 516-465-6262.

**Zoom and email information required to participate



The Case for Christmas Online Bible Study



starting November 30, 2020 and ending January 1, 2021

The Case for Christmas is a 4-week video Bible study you can do on your own or with friends, family, and neighbors!

In this free 4-week Online video Bible Study, you'll explore the scenes surrounding the birth of Jesus—and see the Christmas story in a new light! You'll learn to separate the holiday from the holy day, the facts from the fantasy, and the truth from the tradition to know with confidence that the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth are accurate and true!

You can do on your own or with friends, family, and neighbors!

When you register, you'll get the **FREE download of the Advent Toolkit** with beautiful art prints and a Scripture reading plan as you countdown to Christmas. With these online lessons, you'll appreciate the meaning of Christmas in a new light!

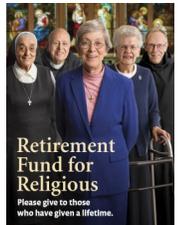
For more information and/or to register for *The Case for Christmas* Online Bible Study, [starting November 30, 2020 and ending January 1, 2021,](http://biblegateway.com/landing/case-for-christmas-sign-up/)

either (1) type the address below into your browser, or
(2) open our online bulletin and copy the address & paste it to the browser.

biblegateway.com/landing/case-for-christmas-sign-up/

Retired Religious

Thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies—often for little or no pay. Now, their religious communities do not have enough savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need by giving in the collection of Dec. 12-13. Please be generous.



Parish Social Ministry

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST~ By Dec. 8th

*St. Margaret's Outreach is asking for donations of
STORE GIFT CARDS & FAST FOOD GIFT CARDS (TEENS) IN LIEU OF TOYS AND GAMES*

Please keep in mind we can
always use
**NEW Socks, Underwear, Hats,
Gloves & Scarves!**

Christmas Door Collection
This weekend of Dec 4 / 5

Basket will be in the lobby after all the Masses.
Thank you for your generosity!



*Drop off at the Parish Center ~ Mon., Tues., Weds. 9-1 or
Thursday at the back door of the Parish Center from 9-11 am. Thank you!*



**Thank You
to all who donated to the Pantry
this past week**

**St. Vincent de Paul Society
has opened the Clothing Bins**
**next to the ballfield on the north side of our
property for your donations.**
Thank you for your patience and donations.

A SPECIAL INVITATION

We would like to make this special time an opportunity for parish members to help make our church especially beautiful for our Christmas celebrations and celebrate the memory of those who made past Christmases special. All are invited to make a memorial donation which will be used for our decorations. All the names of those memorialized (both living and deceased) will be printed in our **bulletin of Dec. 19th & 20th**. (Please note: donations are NOT for any particular or individual plant, but toward the overall expenses of the decorations.) Please fill out the form below and place it and your donation in an envelope marked "Memorial Donation." **You can put it in the basket with your regular collection, mail it, or drop it off at the office. Thank you.**



[cut here] -----

Memorial Donation – Christmas 2020 (deadline: December 14th)

Donor(s) _____

Address _____

Name of Person or Couple Memorialized _____

Living _____ Deceased _____

MASS BOOK ~ 2021

The Parish Mass Book is open for intentions. Please be mindful of our office hours on the cover.



Holiday Gift Buying

The Thrift Shop and Barn at St. Gerard Majella Church is offering you a **Shop Smart stress free holiday gift buying** experience. Many boxed sets to choose from. Open Monday thru Thursday from 10am - 4pm. Located at 316 Terryville Rd. , Pt Jefferson Station.

New Parishioner?

Moving out of the parish?

Kindly fill out the form below—drop it in collection basket or mail to Parish Center. It will help us keep our files up-to-date and welcome newcomers.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Telephone _____

New Parishioner _____ Moving _____



Pray for the Homebound

Emergency Care: Maximum Safety for Urgent and Emergent Needs

Catholic Health Heightened Safety Measures
Protects Emergency Department Patients

Catholic Health Services (CHS) maintains the highest level of safety across its integrated health care system. We've elevated that stellar care as we battle COVID-19. This is critical, because even during a pandemic, people will have accidents or health issues requiring emergency care. CHS wants you to know our emergency departments (ED) are safe centers of care. In fact, CHS has been successfully treating patients across the system and performing emergency surgeries throughout this pandemic. Similarly, CHS has been delivering babies, protecting the well-being of both mother and child.

CHS has put extensive measures in place to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus—from intensive sanitization to safe social distancing to isolation of COVID-19 patients.

If you or a family member are experiencing any symptoms that may require emergency care, call 911 or drive directly to a CHS hospital. We're ready, safe and able to help you. You may also contact our ambulance partner, Hunter Ambulance by calling (516/631) 719-HELP.



Sunday, Dec 06, 2020 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Begin at the end

Beginnings are really the Act II of endings. That's why we hear so much Apocalypse in the early Advent readings. Something has to give way for the new thing to arrive. In order to move into the new house, you have to leave the old one. That goes for the life of the world to come, as well. So when John the Baptist summons us to prepare the Lord's way, he simultaneously obliges us to repent our former way. Consider what obstacles need to "pass away" to "make straight" the path of the Christ child's arrival into your heart. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 (5)*. "The heavens will pass away with a mighty roar, and the Earth and everything done on it will be found out."

Monday, Dec 07 MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH To the moon and beyond

You think you're busy? Ambrose, one of the four first doctors of the church, challenged emperors and combated heresies. He converted Saint Augustine and championed celibacy. He was a prolific theologian and contributed to the music of the church. He was so admired he was made a bishop by popular acclaim. Ambrose did a lot of different things—who of us could keep up?—but he had one vision that we can all get behind: that the church rise "like a growing moon" above fleeting worldliness. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181)*. "We have seen incredible things today."

Tuesday, Dec 08 SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE USA) Original grace

The Immaculate Conception is so key to Catholic consciousness, it's hard to believe it hasn't been around forever. The teaching—that Mary was born without original sin—was in fact opposed by scholarly saints like Anselm, Aquinas, Bernard, and Bonaventure. They insisted that, because sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, Mary would need salvation as much as the rest of us. But the Council of Trent concluded that Mary had been spared, and popular piety began to revere her Immaculate Conception. The significance? Perhaps, as theologian Elizabeth Johnson eloquently points out, it's that "grace is more original than sin." TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689)*. "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."

Wednesday, Dec 09 MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN Celebrate the messenger of love

Born in 1474 near modern-day Mexico City, Saint Juan Diego was named Cuauhtlatoatzin (Talking Eagle) and according to tradition lived among his Chichimeca people until the conquest of Mexico in 1521. At the age of 50, Juan Diego was baptized by Franciscan missionaries and began attending daily Mass. While he walked to Mass on December 9, 1531, the Blessed Mother appeared to him with a special request. So begins the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast we celebrate in three days. Today, we honor Juan Diego, the first indigenous saint of the Americas, canonized in 2002, who spent the rest of his life as a prayerful hermit tending the first shrine built to Guadalupe. On this Advent day, we pray for the grace to imitate his humility, trust, and faithfulness. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183)*. "They that hope in the LORD will . . . soar as with eagles' wings."

Thursday, Dec 10 ADVENT WEEKDAY Walk the simple but elusive path to peace

As Christians await the Prince of Peace, today the world celebrates this year's Nobel Peace Prize awardee—the U.N. World Food Program—for their heroic efforts in war-torn lands in the midst of the pandemic. Human beings are prone to conflict, but the craving for peace and reconciliation runs deep across cultures and faiths. The perennial question is how to achieve it. Here's a simple but profound answer that has been put forth by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development for decades: "If you want peace, work for justice." Ask yourself what step toward justice you can take today. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184)*. "Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist."

Friday, Dec 11 MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE Stormy weather

If we think we've got it tough—juggling the gift list, social schedule, family feuds, and ailing bank account—consider Damasus. He embodied the truism that faith is more a compass than an insurance policy. When he was elected pope, another faction chose someone else. What followed were violent battles, scandals, accusations, heresies, and troubled relations with the Eastern Church. While we might sing carols about the Prince of Peace, the hard reality of human life has, since the Incarnation, also involved moments of hurricane-force wind. Today, let's welcome whatever problem we're reluctant to engage, knowing it might be our teacher. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185)*. "If you would hearken to my commandments, your prosperity would be like a river."

Saturday, Dec 12 FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Celebrate the feast!

The apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Mexico City's Tepeyac Hill in 1531 was a game changer. Images of the Virgin had typically carried a distinctly European flavor. The Virgin of Guadalupe, however, had indigenous features. She would become the first *Mestiza* image, for a people who comprise the racially and culturally diverse population of modern-day Mexico. Under her spiritual care and influence, a variety of peoples could unite at least in spirituality. For Mexican Americans, and Latinos everywhere, *la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* is among the biggest religious celebrations of the year. Join the *fiesta*. TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47 (690A)*. "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."



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