

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

*Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service*



## ***Pastoral Staff***

Rev. James Wood - *Pastor* x111  
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Rev. Paul Butler - *Pastoral Vicar* x118  
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**Deacons** - Ed Hayes x0  
*Retired:* William Kogler, Biagio Muratore

**Parish Center Office** – Receptionist x0  
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**Faith Formation Office**  
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**Music Ministry**  
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**Parish Outreach**  
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Julie Burtoff, x119

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

## ***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.



## Third Sunday of Advent

# December 13, 2020

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**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](http://www.saintmargaret.com)

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## 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 (while maintaining “social distancing”) is allowed. Therefore, to maximize the seating space allowed 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. The option of watching Mass online is still permitted.*

### 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:

- a) Family Name
- b) Phone number and email address (if you have one)
- c) Number of family members attending (with any special considerations needed)  
Families **MUST** be seated at the same time; **NO SEAT SAVING**
- d) Submit **two Mass times that we can choose from.** (First preference first.)
- e) **We will need to decide where your party will be seated** in the church.
- f) **NOTE: we reserve the right to limit the number of people from each family**
- g) 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 to take reservation requests.

### To make your request please:

email the parish at [bgoode@saintmargaret.com](mailto:bgoode@saintmargaret.com)

or

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.

- a) Only one front door will be open.
- b) **The entire party must be present** before entering, any late comers cannot be seated.
- c) In the lobby, greeters will have the list of all the people who have confirmed seats. You will check in with them for your seat assignment.
- d) 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 18<sup>th</sup>.**

# Faith Formation

## **LEVEL 2**

Your next gathering will be Monday, Dec. 14 ~ 6-7pm

## **LEVEL 6**

Your next gathering will be Tues., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:30-8pm

## **LEVEL 8**

Your next gathering will be Thurs., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:30-8pm

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

## **SUNDAY MASS ON ST. MARGARET'S WEBSITE**

In addition to our weekend Masses, available at 5<sup>pm</sup> Saturday and 8<sup>am</sup>, 10<sup>am</sup> 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](http://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.



## **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.

## **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION**

**Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>  
1:00pm to 2:00pm & 7:00pm to 8:00pm**

This special opportunity will be **in the Church building, but not in the Confessional**. Both priests will be available, using the two side lobbies. Please line up in the side aisles, respecting social distancing. In the lobby, there is a screen 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.



## **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.***

## ***Sacraments are Celebrations!***



**Baptisms**  
Luca Joseph Leone

*Dear Parishioners and Visitors,*

As we journey through Advent, here is a prayer that we can pray right now.

## **A Coronavirus Prayer for this Weary Winter**

-Kerry Weber, *America Magazine*

Christ Jesus, Light of the World,  
You understand what it is like to feel alone in the midst of great suffering.  
Remain with us as we continue to endure the coronavirus pandemic.  
Awaken our hearts as we bear witness to the sickness, the sacrifice, even death.  
In these dark months, help us to watch and pray for signs of your hope.

When we long for a world returned to normal, inspire us to work toward a world transformed.  
When we feel forgotten and lonely, help us to find solidarity through your love.  
When we cannot see your face, help us to see you in others, especially the essential workers,  
first responders and medical professionals who labor tirelessly.  
When we feel only sorrow in our souls, help us to know that the joy of the Gospel remains as true now as ever.  
When we feel only grief in our hearts, help us to find consolation in knowing that those who are sick  
or have died are held in your loving embrace.

As we walk through this time of darkness, give us faith that we are headed toward brighter days.  
Give light to our eyes. Let us show that light to one another.  
Even in winter, when the ground appears barren, it is warmed by the light of your creation;  
seeds are nourished and green shoots are pushing up toward the sun.  
Christ Jesus be our light

*-Fr. Jim*

## ***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. 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**. (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 14<sup>th</sup>)**

Donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person or Couple Memorialized

\_\_\_\_\_

Living \_\_\_\_\_ Deceased \_\_\_\_\_



Catholic Mom  
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# Sunday Gospel Activities

Third Sunday of Advent

John 1:6-8, 19-28



ANSWER

JOHN

PROPHECY

BAPTIZE

JORDAN

STRAIGHT

CHRIST

LIGHT

VOICE

CRYING

LORD

WATER

DESERT

PATH

ELIJAH

PHARISEES

Brought to you by CatholicMom.com and Holy Cross Family Ministries.

**THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.**

## **Sunday, Dec 13, 2020** THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **Discern the spirit**

Often we get an intuition, a burning in the heart that feels motivating. It may tell us to speak up or shut up; to reach out or keep our hands off a situation; to admit we need help or to stop leaning on others. Do we obey the prompt, or ignore it? The problem with following what may be a divine nudge is that we can't always discern the Holy Spirit from a lesser kind. Discernment involves prayer, familiarity with scripture, consultation with faithful others, and sometimes spiritual direction. Above all, it needs to be practiced. Befriend the Spirit! TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28 (8)*. "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances."

## **Monday, Dec 14** MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH **Be a light in the darkness**

We have so many options in our modern world that it's easy to walk away from any organization or community that we struggle with and simply join ones that are more agreeable to us. But what if we stayed and worked to make them better instead? Saint John of the Cross did exactly that and reformed his Carmelite order, despite imprisonment for his efforts. When you feel disillusioned with institutions you love, be guided by John's writing—considered among the greatest in all of Spanish literature—about darkness leading to the light. TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187)*. "By what authority are you doing these things?"

## **Tuesday, Dec 15,** ADVENT WEEKDAY **The darkness before dawn**

Two days ago we celebrated Gaudete Sunday with refrains of rejoicing. Two days from now, we'll begin to pray the O Antiphons—seven days to laud the fast-approaching Messiah. What to make of this in-between time, when scripture shows Jesus chiding religious leaders and Old Testament prophets preach fire and brimstone? "The day in which we now find ourselves is still night," wrote Saint Augustine. But the promise of salvation is sure. "Keep your attention closely fixed on it, as you would on a lamp shining in a dark place until the first streaks of dawn appear." TODAY'S READINGS: *Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188)*. "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God."

## **Wednesday, Dec 16** ADVENT WEEKDAY **Usher in a renewed Advent**

This Advent season is so different from any other in our lifetimes, and the holidays may not allow for worship in person with our faith communities or celebrations with beloved families. For many of us, this brings sadness to these Advent days as we mourn the loss of familiar rituals. The poetic words of theologian, educator, and civil rights leader Howard Thurman remind us that the work of Christmas is to "find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry . . . rebuild the nations and bring peace among others." Let us pray for the grace to overcome any disappointment we feel and focus on feeding the hungry, having compassion for the broken, and rebuilding the relationships around us. In such practices, we will find Advent hope and peace. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189)*. "The poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

## **Thursday, Dec 17** ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM) **Heavenly sounds**

Today is the first of the O Antiphons, an Advent tradition from the seventh century whereby for a week the church's evening prayer salutes the coming Messiah by different names each evening. Tonight monasteries, parishes, and ordinary Christians will sing or recite "O Sapientia" (Wisdom). Reading about the loveliness of this prayer is no substitute for hearing it. Let the ethereal sound of this ancient tradition uplift your prayer today. is "O Sapientia" sung by Dominican friars in Oxford, England. TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193)*. "Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations."

## **Friday, Dec 18** ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD) **A call to rescue and restore**

The calamities that piled up in 2020 point surely to the longing of today's O Antiphon. A wave of global pandemic, quarantine, massive unemployment, fires, floods, and protest for racial justice crests, resonating with the yearning for freedom. More than ever, we yearn for the Leader who will restore justice and rescue us with mighty power. And at a time when more people are exiled from their homes than ever before in human history, we commemorate Migrants Day with a plaintive call: *Come, Lord Jesus to our human mess. We need you as we have throughout the centuries*. TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194)*. "O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free."

## **Saturday, Dec 19** ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM) **Creation is full of surprises**

The image of "Jesse's Stem" in today's O Antiphon comes from the Book of Isaiah. Using the image of a tree much like we use a family tree to trace our lineage, Isaiah traces the lineage of the kings of Judah forward from Jesse, the father of King David, to the hoped-for Christ, the new king who might restore the monarchy to its former greatness. But like the birth of John the Baptist, the actual coming of the Christ would be a surprise, a new revelation of a heavenly Kingdom. Reflect on the various ways God has surprised you in your life. TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195)*. "O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples."



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