

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



Pastoral Staff

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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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 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

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Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

The story of the Annunciation by the Angel Gabriel to Mary could make a great scene on film. Picture it in your mind's eye. Imagine moving through the vastness of space with all its varied celestial objects until our Earth comes into view. Slowly we move down observing the continents and focusing on the land called the Middle East. As we draw nearer, we see the Sea of Galilee connected to the Dead Sea by the Jordan River. Descending closer on the west side of the river, a dusty little town appears and finally one young woman, presumably going about her everyday business.



St. Luke uses words to try to get that effect. He begins in heaven, the angels' abode with God. Then, reminding us of the history and the land of Israel, Luke focuses not on Jerusalem, the great city of the Temple, but on the backwater town of Nazareth in Galilee. Passing by any and everybody considered to be important, Luke then highlights one young woman.

A 19th century American poet, Emily Dickinson, begins one of her poems: *I'm Nobody! Who are you? / Are you - Nobody - too?* How appropriate that is for Mary at this point in her life! Barely more than a child, she's nobody's wife and nobody's mother. But God's angel lands in front of her. There, in the middle of nowhere, the angel addresses the young woman, a societal nobody. The angel asks her to agree to God's plan to change everything. This is the mystery we are invited to contemplate as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas: out of what appears ordinary and unimportant, God fulfills his promise he made to rescue us from the darkness of sin and hopelessness. ~ *Fr. Jim*

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION / CONFESSION

**Monday, December 21st
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.

Christmas 2020

Masses

Restricted seating due to COVID 19

Christmas Eve

2:00 PM Church ~ **Filled**

4:00 PM Church ~ **Filled**

8:00 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

Visit Jesus in the Manger at St. Margaret of Scotland Church This Sunday, December 20, 2020 ~ 2pm to 4pm

Due to Covid, people will not have the chance to visit the Christmas Manger with the statues of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wise Men after Christmas Eve and Day Masses. And so, you are invited to visit our Parish Manger on this Sunday. It is a wonderful chance to be in touch with the great miracle of Jesus's Birth. Perhaps take a family picture.



To keep everyone safe, social distancing will be observed. Only one family at a time will be at the manger. There are no reservations, but of course depending on numbers, we might have to have people wait before going into the church. There is no charge, but contributions will be welcome. Hope you can make it.

Faith Formation



*A Blessed Christmas Season to all from
St. Margaret of Scotland Faith Formation.
Jackie Mirenda*

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.



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.

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**

Tiffany Bosch, Valerie Bosch, Sarah Breuer,
Cassandra Hussey, Vincent Indelicato,
Aelish Symonds, & Ajani Valerio

We commend their efforts to excel!

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

Deirdre Mahon Vartiainen

John & Patricia Friscina Terri Persina

Estelle Beauchamp Alyssa Baisch

Lucy & Sarah Behie Jillian Brown

Virginia Butler Robert J. Heege

Eric Cohen Kathleen Weiss

Lorraine Vogel De Santis Family

Laura Durant June Tamillow

Frank Guttilla Robert Valletta

Joseph Kiely Sharon Klyn

Warne Family Michael C. Liotta

Anne Logan Christine Mc Cusker

Dominic Percoco Gina Rosenberg

Laura Positano Cathy Reynolds

Patricia Wowk Natasha Roucoulet

Veronica Sheridan-Cox

Wendiann & Nicholas Alfieri

Christina & Baby Muller

Marilyn & Steven Vacchio

Babies Greyson & Aubrey

Jennifer, John & Olivia Rose Altieri

*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 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

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*





Christmas Flowers



Memorials

<i>Dennis Naso</i>	<i>Norman Gottfried</i>	<i>Vincent Laurentino</i>	<i>Deacon Phil Paolicelli</i>
<i>Veronica Johnson</i>	<i>Anthony Pillittier</i>	<i>Walter Hoehne</i>	<i>Frank & Mary Guttilla</i>
<i>Jerry Kolomick</i>	<i>Mary Ann Bozzanca</i>	<i>Stephen Doriand</i>	<i>Stephen Gassick</i>
<i>Nancy & Joseph Maresca</i>	<i>Thomas Bozzanca</i>	<i>Harry & Robert M. Aretakis</i>	<i>John & Audrey Meehan</i>
<i>Eileen Farrell</i>	<i>Florence & Philip Holz</i>	<i>Peter Rice</i>	<i>Ronald Hirschhorn</i>
<i>Palermo & Biasotti Families</i>	<i>Joseph Tardunio</i>	<i>Amy Grace Quaranta</i>	<i>Mary & John Farrell</i>
<i>Jack Gunning</i>	<i>Jerry & David Armendinger</i>	<i>Bob Carlsen</i>	<i>Michele Bongiorno</i>
<i>Lauren K. Fennell</i>	<i>Edward J. Connors</i>	<i>Lawrence & Florence Donlon</i>	<i>Patricia Lunetta</i>
<i>Joseph De Peter</i>	<i>Anthony Accardi</i>	<i>Dominick Caputo</i>	<i>Michael Lo Grande</i>
<i>Judson & Josephine Paddock</i>	<i>Christine Terrusa</i>	<i>Helen & Anthony Litka</i>	<i>D'Elia & Muratore Families</i>
<i>Rose & John Provenzano</i>	<i>Ann Dola</i>	<i>Frank & Maria Lo Grande</i>	<i>Susan E. Quinn</i>
<i>Anthony Marrocco</i>	<i>Rosemarie A. Leto</i>	<i>John & Catherine Hartnett</i>	<i>Sheila & Joseph Walsh</i>
<i>Kitty & Thomas Baffa</i>	<i>Louis & Helen Schmitt</i>	<i>Walter & Marguerite Largue</i>	<i>Joseph & Lillian Broderick</i>
<i>Rose De Saro</i>	<i>Cathleen Piazza</i>	<i>Helen Volpe</i>	<i>Carmine Santorelli</i>
<i>Jeanine Stewart</i>	<i>John Stewart</i>	<i>Babies Paul & Danielle</i>	<i>Antonio & Geraldine</i>



CATHOLIC FAITH
— NETWORK —



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.

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.

Sunday, Dec 20, 2020 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O KEY OF DAVID)** Unlocking every door

Those who have been incarcerated know exactly what it means to face a locked door. So do folks who have been institutionalized with mental illness. But even those of us who have not been behind a literal door may find ourselves living under a sentence of fear, bitterness, depression, or unforgiveness. We may be locked out of relationships that are important to us because of resentment or past actions. Poverty is often a prison that keeps opportunity and hope out, while also fostering despair within. O Jesus, Key of David, unlock every door that keeps us from experiencing your freedom! TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11).* *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

Monday, Dec 21 **ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIANT DAWN)** Just before dawn

They say it's darkest just before the dawn, and today we've reached that moment on the darkest day of what has been a very dark year. Our hope in the worst of circumstances reaches a crescendo in today's O Antiphon: "O Radiant Dawn,/splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:/come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the/shadow of death." We've reached the edge of a dramatic precipice in our waiting. Have faith and get ready—daybreak is coming. TODAY'S READINGS: *Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197).* *"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*

Tuesday, Dec 22 **ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)** The unexpected king is arriving

Today's O Antiphon heralds the Messiah's long-expected arrival as king. But clearly Jesus is not a typical king—because God's kingdom is not a typical earthly kingdom. Jesus will later proclaim, through the Beatitudes, that the kingdom of God is the inverse of what we humans expect. "Blessed are the meek," he insists—and the poor, the persecuted, and those who mourn. In fact, according to Saint Matthew's version of the Final Judgment, Jesus will be the king wielding harsh judgment against all who've neglected the "least of these." How will you serve our expected-but-unexpected king today? TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198).* *"He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly."*

Wednesday, Dec 23 **ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)** Do not doubt—God is with us

As we the church celebrate Evening Prayer—whether in monasteries or in our own homes, the domestic church—tonight we pray or sing the seventh and final O Antiphon of Advent with these words: "O Emmanuel, our king and giver of law, come to save us, Lord our God." The name *Emmanuel* means God-with-us. As the season of Advent longing comes to a close, in a world that is in need of God's compassionate and saving presence, let us pray tonight for eyes to see and hearts to embrace the presence of God-with-us in the events and conversations of these holy holidays. Indeed, O come, O come Emmanuel. TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199).* *"What, then, will this child be?"*

Thursday, Dec 24 **ADVENT WEEKDAY** More than a song and dance

For many Catholics of Mexican heritage, today is the final celebration of Las Posadas, nine days of reenacting Mary and Joseph's search for *posada*, shelter. Each day the ritual is the same: Participants knock on doors, sing songs begging for shelter, while hosts respond with songs denying shelter, and finally end with the glorious moment when the door is opened wide and the Holy Family is given shelter for the night. The repetition drives home the desperation of the most famous migrant family and migrants of all times and places, including our own. Can you take some action in support of migrants and refugees this Christmas season? TODAY'S READINGS: *Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200).* *"Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!"*

Friday, Dec 25 **SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)** The Light shines upon us!

Today as we gaze upon a tiny infant born in difficult circumstances, we are also gazing upon a powerful love that has transformed the world—and us. Fragility and strength, new life and enduring love—these are not mutually exclusive. In the Incarnation, we encounter a God who has loved us since before the creation of the world and who longs to draw close and bring us life. This life is not to be "spiritualized" but to be incarnate in our whole life, including our places of pain and challenge. Saint Athanasius writes, "For the Lord touched all parts of creation, and freed and undeceived them all from every deceit." What is the freedom that God has begun to unfold within you? TODAY'S READINGS: *Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16).* *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."*

Saturday, Dec 26 **FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR** Don't cloak your compassion

Even the greatest among us have their darkest moment. The great Saint Paul had such a moment before his conversion, when he looked on approvingly and guarded the cloaks of those who stoned the church's first martyr, the young and courageous deacon Stephen. Saul of Tarsus, as Paul was known before his conversion, no doubt was convinced that righteousness called for such a cruel and harsh death sentence. Be on guard for misguided righteousness wherever it rears its head, especially when that head is on your own shoulders. It rarely leads to compassion or mercy, God's signposts. Saint Stephen, pray for us. TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696).* *"Stephen, filled with grace and power, was working great wonders and signs among the people. . . . They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him."*



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