

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



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Jeannine Stewart, Principal

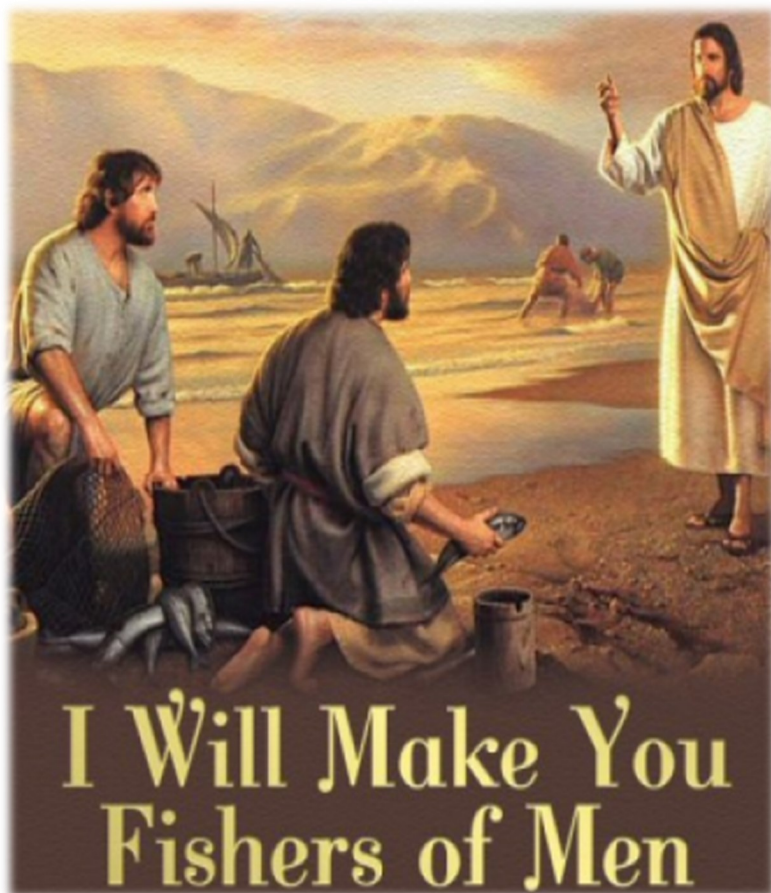
Celebration of the Eucharist

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.



January 24, 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

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Just about a week ago, I received my test results for Covid-19: positive. Since then, I have been quarantining with some very nasty symptoms, and little by little, some improvement is happening. Fortunately, Fr. Paul tested negative, but he still had to isolate himself. That meant there were no Masses last weekend. I am sorry that impacted on all of you.

Statements from the incoming Administration indicate that there will be a very strong effort to get more vaccine out to more people. I hope that happens. Having had this bout with Covid, I certainly will try to get a shot as soon as possible. If you are not sure about taking the vaccine, here are some thoughts from Pope Francis.

The Holy Father announced that he planned to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as early as the week of Jan. 10th, and urged everyone to get a shot, to protect not only their own lives but those of others. "I believe that ethically everyone should take the vaccine. It is an ethical choice because you are gambling with your health, with your life, but you are also gambling with the lives of others." [Pope Francis, 84, had part of one lung removed during an illness when he was a young man in his native Argentina, making him potentially vulnerable to the disease.] He also said there was "a moral imperative" to ensure that poorer countries received access to effective vaccines.

The U.S. Bishops Conference also urges us to see that getting vaccinated against the coronavirus "ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community." ~ *Fr. Jim*

Live the Gospel of Life ~ Respect Life Reflection

Twenty-five years ago, Pope St. John Paul II wrote that the Gospel of life is at the *heart* of Jesus' saving message to the world (*Evangelium vitae* 1). In taking on human flesh, dwelling among us, and sacrificing his very life for our redemption, Christ reveals the profound dignity of *every* human person. This God-given dignity does not change with our stage of life, abilities, level of independence, or any other varying circumstance.

Rather, it is rooted in the permanent fact that each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, created to share in the very life of God himself. The human person is a "manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory" (EV 34). And we must reflect this truth in how we act and how we treat one another.

*"to imitate Christ
and follow in his footsteps"*
The Gospel of Life 51

The truth of the Gospel of life is at the foundation of who we are as followers of Christ. In his earthly life, Jesus provided the perfect model for how we are to love our neighbor and live out the Gospel call: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt. 25:40).

Jesus calls each of us to "care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible" (EV 87). The Gospel of life is intrinsic to the whole Christian life and foundational to the decisions we make on a daily basis. For, "the Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a *single and indivisible* Gospel" (EV 2, emphasis added).

In his encyclical on the Gospel of life, Pope St. John Paul II recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. He places particular emphasis, however, on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the "least of these" in our world's estimation. Practices such as abortion and assisted suicide tragically reject the truth that human life is always to be cherished and defended with loving concern.

As the Church celebrates the 25th anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's prophetic encyclical, let us reflect on how we personally live out the Gospel: *Do I talk about and act towards others as I would talk about and treat Jesus himself? Do I inform myself of the Church's teachings and engage in the civic arena as first a follower of Christ? Do I support and advocate for laws and policies that protect and defend human life? Do I help pregnant and parenting mothers in need? Am I ready to support a loved one nearing death?*

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, may Our Lord grant us the grace to truly and courageously live his Gospel of life.

Excerpts from *Evangelium vitae*, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Scriptural excerpts from *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States*, second typical edition, Copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Psalm refrain © 1968, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2020, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

"Informed: Life is Worth Living" Film Presentation ~ Long Island Coalition for Life will show the film "Informed: Life is Worth Living" at its meeting on Monday January 25, 7:30pm at St. Regis Council K of C Hall (Rosevale Ave. & Pond Rd., Ronkonkoma). This video, produced by Human Life Alliance, interviews people who have dealt with life and death health situations involving themselves, their family, & medical practitioners. The film (~ 1 hour) discusses end-of life decisions and experiences with assisted suicide, adverse prenatal diagnosis, organ donation, hospice and withholding of medical care. Please join us and become informed. Information: info@prolifeLI.org; 631-243-1435.



VIRTUAL MARCH ACTIVITY ~ 2021 St. Louis de Montfort and Infant Jesus Churches invite you on Friday, January 29th from 12:30– 2:00 PM. LOCATION—St. Louis de Montfort ~ 75 New York Ave., Sound Beach, 11789. The celebrant is Fr. Patrick Riegger. Mass followed by Adoration, Rosary & Respect Life Meditations & Benediction.



Faith Formation

LEVEL 2

Your next gathering will be Mon., Jan. 25th ~ 6-7pm

LEVEL 7

Your next gathering will be Tues., Jan. 26th ~ 6:30-8pm



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.

Parish Social Ministry

**Thank You
to all who have donated to the Pantry. We
are able to keep our Selden families
supplied with your generosity!**

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.**

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 _____

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.

Please do not leave clothing at our Thrift Shop entrance or our Parish Center doors. We do not have a Thrift Shop open to accommodate. You may take items to St. Gerard Majella on Terryville Rd. PJS or Resurrection Parish on Granny Road in Farmingville. Thank you.

January 6, 2021

A Statement from Bishop John O. Barres

In prayer, we ask God to bring peace to our nation and healing to the wounds that divide us. As Catholics, we foster that peace through respect for the sanctity of every human life and the witness of our charitable love. In his homily for the Feast of the Epiphany, Pope Francis said, “We need to take a different route, to follow a different path, his path, the path of humble love. And we have to persevere.” Let us pray that all Americans may follow God’s laws and act as instruments of His peace and love.



Diocese of Rockville Centre

A Prayer for America's Future

Heavenly Father, make us a great nation, yes. But more than that, make us good, Lord, with a heartbeat that wants every person of every creed and color to know Your love, Your goodness, and Your worth.

Make us wise as serpents, but gentle as doves. Turn our fears to [faith](#), as we look to You and You alone for the future of our country. Give us God-confidence that no matter what happens, we will believe You are not only in control, but that You know exactly what is needed to accomplish Your purpose. Help us not to second-guess Your moves, but to move at Your command, always without hesitation.

Forgive us for wanting our own way and making our own paths—often the ones paved with least resistance. Forgive us for fence-walking, or for ignoring completely the truths that can so easily set us free. Deliver us from mindless quarrels and destinations that lead us nowhere, but away from You. Free us from divisiveness, and melt our hardened hearts to love, not hate, and to heal, not debate. Amen.

Prayer for Our Government

Almighty and eternal God, who watches over all nations, you chose to manifest your Kingdom through the words and actions of the day-to-day life of Jesus, our Savior. His humility taught us to respect all. His use of power focused on the care of all who came to him. His truthfulness challenged people to look beyond the walls that separate people to the truth of being one family. His loving trust in you was his compass.

In this time after Inauguration Day, we ask you to bless our President, Joseph Biden, who has been entrusted with the responsibilities of governing our nation, with those qualities. Assist him with your spirit of counsel and fortitude, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to your people over whom he presides. May he encourage due respect for virtue and religion. May he execute the laws with justice and mercy. May he seek to restrain crime, vice, and immorality.

May he, along with the Vice President and the members of Congress and the Courts seek to preserve peace, promote national happiness, and continue to bring us the blessings of liberty and equality.

We pray to you, who are Lord and God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Tune into "Religion and Rock," a nationally syndicated, 60 minute, classic rock program. Each week, Msgr. Jim Vlaun, a priest of our Diocese, takes a theme and explores it through various songs.

Broadcast on Sundays from 7:00 AM- 8:00 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM; on Saturdays at 11:00 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11:00 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117.

The upcoming themes are: Jan 17: Unity // 24: Searching for Meaning // 31: Spirituality

For more info, go to: www.religionandrock.com

Tax Statements

Call the Parish Center if you would like your 2020 tax statement at 732-3131 x133. Please leave a clear message with your name, address and if you know your envelope number which is located under the DATE. Statements will be mailed near the end of the January. Thank you.

All Capital Campaign Contributions over \$250.00 will be mailed automatically and separately. If below this amount please call and leave a message on x 128 to receive a copy.

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.

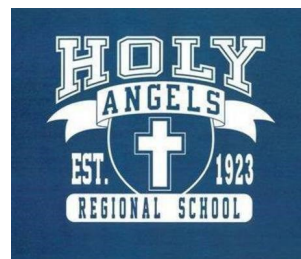


St. Margaret's Website

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

SAINTMARGARET.COM

Holy Angels Regional School 1 Division St., Patchogue NY **Virtual Open House and Registration** **Beginning January 31st.**



**For more information, please visit
www.holyangelsregional.org
or contact the Main Office
631-475-0422.**

Through Faith We Grow!

Do you need to fulfill your Marriage Prep Requirement?

Engaged Encounter is an effective PreCana program designed to provide you with the tools for a successful marriage. Couples are provided with social-distancing during this time. Our next 2-day weekend will be held at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington on March 6-7, 2021. For information please call Lenny & Pat Walker at 631-563-1032 or to register visit



www.longisland.engagedencounter.com

Sunday, Jan 24, 2021 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD **Celebrate, study, share**

The timing seemed right. In September 2019, on the 1,600th anniversary of scripture scholar Saint Jerome's death, Pope Francis launched a new observance on the church calendar. Today's "Sunday of the Word of God" is deliberately placed within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All who follow Jesus are invited to unite around the happy gift of our sacred story contained in the Bible's pages. On this occasion, we celebrate, study, and spread these good words we never possess merely for ourselves. Enthroned the Bible in your home—and heart. TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20 (68).* "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel."

Monday, Jan 25 FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE **Turn things around**

It is arguably the biggest about-face in history: Paul goes from passionately persecuting Christians to converting to Christianity and becoming one of its most important champions. And it's a hard-to-beat conversion story: falling off a horse and encountering the risen Lord. But it's a story that happens in the hearts of Christians all the time: Life knocks you down while going the wrong way, and you're not ready, willing, or able to see the truth—and then somehow Jesus changes everything. By the grace of God, it happens to you again and again. Paul is proof that it's never too late, that you've never made too many mistakes, that you're never too far gone to keep turning yourself around. TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18 (519).* "Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Tuesday, Jan 26 MEMORIAL OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS **Seek good companions for the journey**

We honor Timothy and Titus one day after the conversion of Saint Paul. For Paul, once converted, wasted no time in spreading the gospel and relied on many to help with his missionary work. Few of his companions were as key—or as beloved—as Timothy and Titus. Paul gave them the toughest assignments, and his letters to them are the only ones addressed to fellow missionaries that are included in the Bible. In those epistles, Paul refers to them as "my dear child" and "my true child in our common faith"—reminders that all become brothers and sisters through Christ. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Timothy 1:1-8 OR Titus 1:1-5; Mark 3:31-35 (520; Gospel 318).* "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Wednesday, Jan 27 **Never forget**

On this day in 2005, the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp, the United Nations established International Holocaust Remembrance Day. With firm resolve to educate future generations about the horrors of the Holocaust, this annual event is a clarion call never to forget the Nazi atrocities that claimed the lives of 6 million Jews and millions more others. U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres warns that it would be a "dangerous error to think of the Holocaust as simply the result of the insanity of a group of criminal Nazis." It happened because of the "millennia of hatred, scapegoating, and discrimination targeting the Jews." Pray today for grace to choose love rather than hate, to choose inclusion rather than discrimination. TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 10:11-18; Psalm 110; Mark 4:1-20 (319).* "Sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool."

Thursday, Jan 28 MEMORIAL OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH **Let your light shine**

How apt that the gospel on today's memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas encourages us to let our light shine. This saint's light was his powerful intellect, and it still shines brightly today. His theological writings, particularly *Summa Theologiae*, continue to have tremendous impact on the church. One of his lasting insights is that faith and reason both come from God, and Christian doctrine is not at odds with rational thought. In honor of this doctor of the church with his relentlessly probing mind, take time to sharpen your own understanding of a faith-related issue. TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 10:19-25; Mark 4:21-25 (320).* "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket . . . and not to be placed on a lampstand?"

Friday, Jan 29 **Make an offer**

"Offer it up" is a phrase that seems baked into our Catholic tradition. Often it comes out at times when we are at a loss from the complexities and pain of suffering, which can leave us hopeless, scared, and lonely. After months of social distancing, mourning deaths, job and school closures, and holidays spent alone, we are all in a kind of personal and corporate space of suffering. We are invited to truly *offer*, that is, to give ourselves into the care of others and into the loving embrace of Jesus the Christ who also has known suffering intimately. What do you need to offer up and how can you lovingly embrace others' offerings of themselves? TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 10:32-39; Mark 4:26-34 (321).* "We are not among those who draw back and perish, but among those who have faith and will possess life."

Saturday, Jan 30 **All that I have is yours**

Inheritance is a big deal in the Bible. Not so much legal inheritance, though that is mentioned, but theological inheritance, the gifts God bestows on the community of faith—the people of Israel—and later, in the New Testament, to the followers of Christ. We all share in that inheritance, that "holy ground" promised so long ago to Abraham and his descendants. How will you put your inheritance to use? Will you pass it on to others, or will it end with you? How you invest your time, talent, and treasure will determine the answer to that question. TODAY'S READINGS: *Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Mark 4:35-41 (322).* "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance."



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