

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

*Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service*



## **Pastoral Staff**

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Jeannine Stewart, Principal

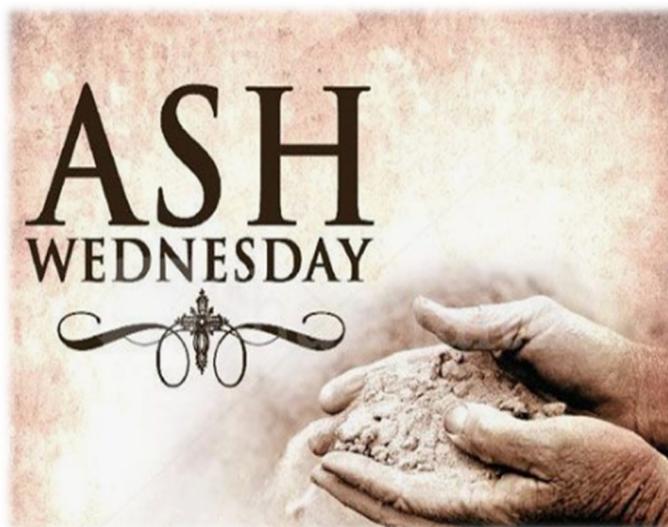
## **Celebration of the Eucharist**

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.



## *February 17<sup>th</sup>*

*See inside for information*

## **February 14, 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](http://www.saintmargaret.com)

81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813



## Dear Parishioners and Visitors, .”

There are several stories in the Gospels about Jesus dealing with lepers. They did not necessarily have Hansen’s disease (the modern name for leprosy); they could have suffered from extreme eczema, characterized by lesions or scaly patches. Because health was a blessing from God, it followed that sickness was a pronouncement of disfavor. The fate of lepers in Israel at the time of Jesus was thus the most visual example of what sin did to a person: making him or her unfit for the presence of God and unworthy to participate in a community called by God as his own. Unlike spiritual failures that might be kept under wraps for a time, the uncleanness of leprosy was worn right on the skin. Until that mark disappeared from your body, the whole community drew the curtain and expected you to go away.

We would like to think we are more civilized now, that we do not insist that our modern lepers just cover themselves up and go away. But other “lepers” (the homeless, the mentally ill, the addicts and shell-shocked soldiers on our streets, the undocumented and unemployed and others that fall through the holes in our social fabric) can tempt us to see them as unfit for our society and possibly for God’s. We can easily mix sin and suffering together in our minds and presume that they have somehow called down all this misery on himself. Jesus never approached an outcast with any kind of moral assessment. He saw the mark of suffering, and he willed it—not the person—to disappear. In the New Testament, forgiveness gets a whole new spin.

~Fr. Jim

On a personal note, I want to thank all who sent cards during my bout with Covid-19. They and the prayers that were offered by many of you were a great source of comfort and strength. Let us continue to pray for one another as the ravages of this pandemic continue to affect people.

## 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.*

**The Parish Office will be closed on Monday,  
February 15<sup>th</sup> for President’s Day.**

## Ash Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup>

Blessed Ashes will be distributed *during* the following liturgies;

### Morning

7:30 AM Prayer Service and 9:00 AM Mass

### Afternoon

3:30 & 5:00 PM - Prayer Service

### Evening

7:30 PM - Mass



*See Ash Wednesday information further into bulletin.*

**2021  
CATHOLIC  
MINISTRIES  
APPEAL**  
DIOCESE OF  
ROCKVILLE CENTRE



*One Family in Mission*  
Creating Pathways to Faith

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your sustained support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) and our parish communities here on Long Island. Every year when we support the CMA, we create pathways to faith for our diocesan family. The Appeal invigorates our journey of dramatic missionary growth in our Diocese and unites us as One Family in Mission as we fulfill our baptismal call to evangelize and show mercy to our brothers and sisters in need. As Pope Francis has said, “Go and show love to everyone, because your life is a precious mission.” As you prayerfully consider a gift to this year’s CMA, please take a moment to reflect on the many ways our families and neighbors find their path to Christ because of your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal. With my prayers and best wishes to you and your family. Sincerely in Christ, *Most Reverend John O. Barres Bishop of Rockville Centre*



**100% of every dollar raised is restricted to serve the objectives, programs, and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal.**

# Faith Formation

Faith Formation classes resume the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## Parish Social Ministry

We will be available to accept donations at the Parish Center Back Door on **Thursday from 9am until 11am or during office hours listed on the front cover.**

### **Food / Toiletry Items**

Canned fruit, small jars of jelly, egg noodles, toothpaste

*A very special THANK YOU to all!*

## **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.*

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.

### **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<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.

## **St. Margaret's Website**

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

**SAINTMARGARET.COM**

February is **American Heart Month**



# BLOOD DRIVE

## St. Margaret of Scotland

Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

2:00pm to 8:00pm

81 College Road, Selden

Located in the Church auditorium

**All donors will receive a free antibody test! This does not include presenting donors and a McDonald's voucher!**

**APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED – in order to socially distance**

To make an appointment visit [www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org)

Or call 1-800-933-2566/ 1-646-739-1827

Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo.

**DONORS PRESENTING:**

- Must wear a mask or face covering
- Will have their temperature taken
- Must be 14 days symptom free if recovered from COVID-19
- May **NOT** donate if they have a positive diagnostic test or experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- May **NOT** donate if they are currently on self-quarantine restrictions

*Please be aware that we do **NOT** test for COVID-19. You should contact your health care provider if you want to be tested.*

    
#nybloodcenter  
[nybc.org](http://nybc.org)

1.800.933.BLOOD

 **New York** Blood Center

# Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

This year, during this time of pandemic, Pope Francis sent guidelines that the parishes in the United State should distribute ashes in the manner they are distributed in Rome and most of the world. Rather than marking each person with the ashes in the shape of a cross, they should be sprinkled on the head of the person asking to be marked.

**CDC guidelines do not allow for the past custom of American Catholics receiving the imposition of ashes on their foreheads. This year, in response to concerns of personal contact, we will be sprinkling ashes on the heads of those wishing to receive them.**

As you can see from the Bible stories mentioned below, the sprinkling of ashes is an ancient tradition and is the format used by the Church in most other parts of the world. As has happened for millennia, the people of God, as they enter into a period of intense prayer and preparation are sprinkled with ashes.



In Genesis 3:19, God tells Adam “You are dust and unto dust you shall return.” Here, ashes are a sign of our mortality, we will all return to dust and ashes.

In Job 42:6, as Job stands before God, he says, “therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes”. We see dust and ashes not only as a sign of mortality, but also of repentance for sins.

Recently we heard in one of our Sunday readings (3rd Sunday in Ordinary time - Jonah 3: 1-10) how the king, people and animals of Nineveh fasted, put on sackcloth and sat in ashes in response to Jonah’s proclamation that if they did not repent, God would destroy Nineveh.

1 Maccabees chapter 3, tells us that the people of Israel, when entering into a period of intense prayer, “fasted that day, and they put on sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on their heads, and rent their clothes.”

CDC guidelines do not allow for the past custom of American Catholics receiving the imposition of ashes on their foreheads. This year, in response to concerns of personal contact, we will be sprinkling ashes on the heads of those wishing to receive them. As you can see, the sprinkling of ashes is an ancient tradition and is the format used by the Church in most other parts of the world. As has happened for millennia, the people of God, as they enter into a period of intense prayer and preparation are sprinkled with ashes.

It should be remembered, that Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation and there is no requirement for the faithful to receive ashes. We honor the beginning of our Lenten journey not because someone has told us we must, but because we personally feel the need to voluntarily enter into the prayer, fasting, and alms giving that prepare us to celebrate the life, passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We feel this need maybe more deeply this year as we pass the one year mark of the global pandemic.

## **NOTE ON ASH WEDNESDAY**

### **Distribution of Ashes in Time of Pandemic**

The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel”, or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”.

The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. **The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.**

From the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 12 January 2021.

Robert Cardinal. Sarah ~ Prefect

## Sunday, Feb 14, 2021 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME **Staying the course**

Quarantine is hard on relationships: both with the people you can't yet risk seeing in person, as well as those with whom you happen to be locked down. Families that have survived a long year of "acute togetherness" might congratulate each other on their success. Spouses, too, might reward each other for going the distance, without much distance, since last spring. On this World Marriage Day, take some time to reflect together on ways your vital relationships have been tested in a long period of crisis. Ask for forgiveness where necessary. Offer yours freely. TODAY'S READINGS: *Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45 (77)*. "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

## Monday, Feb 15 **Lead by example**

Presidents' Day—celebrated every February between Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays—is an occasion to remember all the presidents of the United States. Certainly some of them have been better than others. Our job is not to sit on the sidelines and criticize and complain. The church wisely instructs us on our duty as citizens "to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom." That goes for participation in any community—get involved and raise it up! TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13 (335)*. "Amen, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation."

## Tuesday, Feb 16 **Enjoy the feast before the fast**

Today is Fat Tuesday. Whether you call it Mardi Gras, Carnival, or Shrove Tuesday, the popular practice of one last big, sumptuous feast—right before the asceticism of Lent—actually had a very practical motivation. In the days before refrigeration, people couldn't preserve certain foods (like eggs, cream, and butter) during the time of prolonged fasting. They had to use them up. Nowadays, that's not the case for most of us. So it's worth considering: What does the feasting of this day signify, in contrast to the great fast that's approaching? Perhaps it's gratitude—for God's generous abundance. TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21 (336)*. "Do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand?"

## Wednesday, Feb 17 **ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE Invitation to love**

We enter the Lenten journey with the intention to draw closer to God by means of prayer, generosity, and fasting. Talk to God and share what is on your mind, read the daily scripture, practice the prayer of meditation. Find ways to be generous with time or treasure: write a card, heal a broken relationship, bake bread to share, donate to a group that cares for the underserved. And admit that some fasting—whether from gaming, social media, or worrying—could improve your connection to God. This Lent is an opportunity, not a burden. Embrace it with hope. Live it with love. TODAY'S READINGS: *Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (219)*. "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart."

## Thursday, Feb 18 **THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY Choose life**

Today's readings focus on the urgency of choosing life. Moses tells his people to choose life over death; Jesus says we save our life by losing it in him. Meanwhile, events nationwide and worldwide keep reminding us that black lives matter and, as Catholic bishops put it, "everyone belongs." The disproportionate death of people of color from poor healthcare, poverty, abortion, crime and violence, judicial bias, and more cries out for major reform. Support life in all its diversity by more about racial injustice as a prolife issue. TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25 (220)*. "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

## Friday, Feb 19 **FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE Make abstinence a healthy habit**

The wisdom of making Lenten Fridays meatless has endured for centuries. We now understand that meat consumption at current levels is not only unhealthy, but unsustainable. Ever more Amazonian rain forests are cleared for grazing. Hundreds of activists have been gunned down trying to protect this biodiverse land and its poor settlers against the interests of powerful ranchers and loggers. Among the martyrs is Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, whose death 15 years ago brought new attention to the plight of the farmers and the devastation of the Amazon for the sake of beef. Why not extend your meat abstinence beyond Lenten Fridays? TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15 (221)*. "Would that today you might fast so as to make your voice heard on high!"

## Saturday, Feb 20 **SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY Off to a good start?**

This is only the fourth day of Lent, and already we had a day of fasting and abstinence on Wednesday and another day of abstinence yesterday. During Lent back in the Middle Ages, Catholics weren't supposed to eat anything before 3 p.m. In the monasteries, that was the hour the "Nones" prayers were recited. So no eating until after Nones. But the monks would move the Nones hour up to 12 o'clock so they could eat earlier. That's how the 12 o'clock hour got the name "noon." While we can eat at any hour today, every day is a good day to control our appetites. What hunger stands between you and a peaceful heart? Can you put it on pause at least for a day? TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32 (222)*. "I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."



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