

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

*Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service*



## ***Pastoral Staff***

Msgr. Robert Batule - *Pastor* x111

Rev. Patrick Abu-Bonsra - *Parochial Vicar*  
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**Deacons** - *Dcn Ed Hayes* x0

*Retired:* Dcn William Kogler,  
Dcn Biagio Muratore

**Parish Center Office** – *Receptionist* x0  
Julie Burtoff, *Admin Assistant* x133  
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**Faith Formation Office**  
Jackie Mirenda, *Coordinator* x131  
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**Music Ministry**  
Dr. Daniel Crews, *Director* x117  
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**Parish Outreach**  
Outreach@saintmargaret.com x119

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

## ***Celebration of the Eucharist***

Weekday: (Mon through Fri) 9:00am

Saturday: 5:00pm,

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am & 12 noon

## ***Confessions:***

Saturday - 4:00-4:45 PM in the Church  
or by appointment.



## ***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

# December 19, 2021

**Phone: (631) 732-3131**

**Parish Office**

***Monday through Thursday ~ 9:00 am – 5:00 pm***

***Friday ~ 9:00 am to 1:00 pm***

Fax (631) 732 - 8827

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

81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813

*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.*

Fr. Richard Neuhaus, the well-known author, wrote in his book *Death on a Friday Afternoon* (2000) that “it is not too much to say that Mary’s consent to the announcement of the angel that she be the mother of the Messiah made our salvation possible. To be sure, the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross made our salvation possible, but without Mary’s consent that would not have happened. Mary’s fiat . . . inaugurated the central act of salvation history.”

Mary is the model of discipleship in her total availability to the will of God. Part of that availability means giving up being in charge of things. By saying “Yes” in the Annunciation, the Virgin Mary delivers herself over to a plan not of her making but one to which she entrusted herself without reservation. This is no small thing considering that most of us want to maintain a proprietorship in the crucial acts of our lives – even at the hour of our death.

In the Church, our mother in the order of grace, is the Blessed Mother who gives us a picture or icon of what following the will of God looks like. True contentment, she teaches us, is not in charting our own course but in hearing God’s call and answering it without hedging our bets. As Saint Luke tells us in his gospel, Mary was a virgin (cf. Lk 1:27) and remained one perpetually. She already had a vocation then. Yet, God is giving her another one – to be a mother. (cf. Lk 1:31-33)

Living one vocation is difficult enough, how can the Virgin-Mother manage two then? The Lord had marked her out from all other women in history and thus He would give to her all that she needed to exercise her double vocation. The Lord provided her with the fullness of His grace. (cf. Lk 1: 28) While we do not have the fullness of grace, the Lord comes to us unfailingly and gives us what we need. And so we cannot think that the demands of our vocations will break us; they surely won’t. At the same time, we will be tested and there will be hardship and pain. We will endure though because God’s grace is enough as the *Suscipe* of Saint Ignatius of Loyola attests (Your love and your grace are enough for me).

Not only is the Blessed Mother an assurance to us in living up to the demands of our vocations, she also instructs us humbly about the use of our freedom. Freedom is a gift and it must be engaged; otherwise, we won’t have a chance at living responsibly as the sons and daughters of God. Upon hearing the angel’s invitation, Mary did not run and hide. She assented: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Lk 1:38)

We can always misuse our freedom. And when we do, we sin. But we ought to aspire to a proper use of our freedom, a self-mastery is what we should intend. Yet self-mastery is never achieved without making decisions in the short term or the long term. Vocational satisfaction is never arrived at by putting decisions off to a future that never comes.

Christmas, though, is coming. Let us resolve to meet the Lord with expectant hearts – ones made ready under the reign of God’s mystery and our able response to it.

***Msgr. Batule***

***Pastor***

With Christmas not far off, I take this opportunity to remind the parishioners of Saint Margaret that in addition to Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, confessions will be heard on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 PM until 5:00 PM and again from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM. I urge all to take advantage of the Sacrament of Penance before we celebrate the birth of Christ on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The Lord Whom we adore on Christmas is the One Who gave us this sacrament of mercy; it continues the very work He carried out the first time He came among us. The sacrament lacks nothing of the power the Lord used in His earthly ministry. It is always pardon and peace for the disciples of the Master.

We ask that you consult the schedule of Masses for Christmas. Join us at one of the six which will be celebrated on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. Please note that there is **NO** 5:00 PM Mass on Christmas Day.

On the first of the new year (January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022), the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God is not a Holy Day of precept; in other words, the Obligation does not apply. Nevertheless, we encourage all of our parishioners to come to Mass. There are two scheduled Masses: Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM and Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM. There is **NO** 5:00 PM Mass on New Year's Day.

There are three Masses on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> in our schedule. On the day after Christmas, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family.

There are three Masses on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> in our schedule. On the day after New Year's, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

## ***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. 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<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**



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### **Memorial Donation – Christmas 2021 (deadline: December 20)**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person or Couple Memorialized \_\_\_\_\_

## **Becoming a Catholic Christian~ RCIA**

Do you know a friend or family member who has expressed a desire to learn more about the Catholic faith? Is there someone who has mentioned to you that they are thinking about becoming a Catholic and does not know how to proceed? Are **you** someone who is reading this yourself and would like to learn more about the Catholic faith? If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes," then you are invited to continue your exploration with the members of our RCIA team. RCIA stands for **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**.

The first stage is called "Inquiry," a time to ask questions and receive answers without any pressure to make a decision. The goal is to help adults move toward a commitment to the Lord and full participation in the Catholic community at their pace. It is meant specifically for adults who are seeking Baptism, or those who have been baptized but have not received Confirmation or Eucharist. For more information, please call the Parish Center (631-732-3131 x 133).





# CFN

## CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK

Catholic Faith Network (CFN) is a 24/7 national network that provides comprehensive Catholic, informative and spiritual programming. CFN is at the service of the Word, the Church, the Bishops and the Encounter of Faith and Culture.

Available on your local cable providers, all of your favorite digital platforms, the free CFN app.



**optimum.**  
Channel 29/137

**Verizon FiOS**  
Channel 296

**Spectrum**  
Channel 162/471



**amazon fireTV**

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**Roku**

**www.CFNtv.org**

Also available in Spanish  
at [www.CFNespañol.org](http://www.CFNespañol.org)



## Parish Outreach

PLEASE bring all donations to the front door of the Parish Center during office hours or bring to the box in the rear of the Church.

***We are in need of:***

***Jelly & Juice***

***A very special  
THANK YOU to all!***

## Catholic Charities TALBOT HOUSE

**Are you or someone you know having family or interpersonal problems due to drinking**

**ALCOHOL and/or using DRUGS?**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES /Talbot House, a Chemical Dependence Crisis Center, located in Bohemia, provides withdrawal & stabilization services on a voluntary basis to males & females over the age of 18, who are seeking to stop and/or withdraw from alcohol and/or drug use. The medical & clinical staff at Talbot House will assess the kind of care the person needs to begin their journey in recovery. For more info, call confidentially 631-589-4144. Talbot House staff is available 24/7.

**Talbot House is a "NO fee for service" program.**



### Diocesan COVID Update:

"The Governor of New York State has included houses of worship in her recent directives. Therefore, since the Church does not require parishioners to present proof of vaccination in order to worship God, we ask that all parishioners (two years of age and older) comply with the requirement to wear masks when participating in any activities on parish grounds. This State requirement is currently in effect through January 15, 2022. We will continue to adapt accordingly as new information becomes available. Your patience and Christian charity towards one another during this difficult time is appreciated."

***JOIN US FOR***

***Lessons  
And  
Carols***



***Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>***

***4:00 PM in the church.***

***We invite all parishioners to join us. The service consists of biblical readings and hymns as we await the birth of Our Savior.***

***The St. Margaret Music Ministry will lead us in the singing portion of the prayer service.***



***Hospitality will be held immediately following in the auditorium. All are welcome !***

## *Pope Francis has declared December 2020 ~ December 2021 as The Year of St. Joseph*

Born in 1845, St. Andre Bessette was known as the “Miracle Worker of Montreal” He was instrumental in the construction of the Basilica of St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal, Canada and promoted an efficacious love for and devotion to St. Joseph in his practical deeds of daily charity as a doorkeeper. As a doorkeeper at a Holy Cross Catholic school in Montreal, Brother André opened the door to Jesus Christ every time he opened the door physically for the students, families, and Cross-carriers he encountered.

We have a number of Doorkeeper Saints in the history of our Catholic Church that meditated, prayed, contemplated and lived these biblical passages on doors. They include the Jesuit brother St. Alphonsus Rodriguez (1532-1617), the Dominican brother St. Martin de Porres (1579-1639), and the simplex Capuchin priest Blessed Solanus Casey (1870-1957) These Doorkeeper Saints who opened the door to Christ and greeted Christ as they listened to and served suffering humanity, encourage us to reflect on the doors in our own lives and how we open them to others. As these Doorkeeper Saints opened physical doors to Catholic schools, monasteries, and residences, they did so with exquisite reverence for the people which the opened door revealed, though the crowds and long lines often led to exhaustion.

Reflect for a moment on the door of the home you grew up in and all the traffic that went in and out of it. Reflect on the door of where you live now. Reflect on your room door or your office door. Reflect, in these Covid-19 times, on the door or portal of the computer you use every day. How do we answer the doors of life? As we open these doors, do we greet Christ and the person representing Christ with warmth, openness, steadfast charity, humility, and magnanimity?

As we answer the doors of life, are we accompanied by St. Joseph and the Holy Family, striving to greet Jesus Christ in every providential dimension of humanity that the Holy Spirit sends to us?

In every door-opening moment, St. André Bessette opened the door to Jesus Christ with the help, assistance, and intercession of his friend St. Joseph.

He sought the intercession of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Guardian of the Holy Family, and model for all husbands, fathers, and family members. St. André sought the intercession of St. Joseph, the Dreamer and Contemplative, and asked St. Joseph to intercede for his prayer life and the prayer lives of those he served.

He sought the intercession of St. Joseph the Worker, who teaches us to give Glory to God in the sanctification of every detail of daily work.



**YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH**  
December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021

St. André sought the intercession of St. Joseph, the Just Man – faith-filled, rock-solid, mature, reliable, constant, hardworking, contemplative, and prayerful, always trusting in God as he faced the most difficult and perplexing situations and curve balls of life.

As we remember and celebrate the stories and vast panorama of spiritual, physical, and emotional healings of which St. André Bessette and St. Joseph together were God’s humble instruments, we “go to Joseph” in the Year of St. Joseph. We ask their intercession to help us pray, deepen our daily charity, and open every door in life to Jesus Christ and the neighbors he sends to us.

*Bishop John Barres ~ Condensed from the LI Catholic 2/2021*