

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

*Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service*



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## ***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



# Merry Christmas



## Holy Family Sunday



## December 26, 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)

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## *Christmas Reflection ~ 2021*



With the exception of Midnight Mass in Bethlehem, there is no better place to celebrate the Lord's Nativity than in Saint Peter's Basilica with the Pope. As you approach Saint Peter's in darkness, you find this magnificent house of the Lord beautifully illuminated. This has caused some to remark that the Eternal City is even more spectacular at night. If this is so externally and visually, is there any way that it could be true internally?

At Midnight Mass all over the world, the words of the prophet Isaiah are proclaimed: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Is 9:1) Ever since the summer solstice on or about June 21<sup>st</sup>, we have been losing a little bit of light each day. The sun rises later in the morning and sets earlier in the evening. When we changed our clocks weeks ago, this only became more accelerated. Some of us walk out the door in the morning into darkness and then return home in the same darkness. Our days are framed by darkness and there is always more of it in the winter.

Our lives are darkened due to sin. With every lie, with every slander, with every false accusation, our lives are darkened a little bit more. When we have rationalized enough, we can no longer distinguish the light of grace from the darkness of our sins. So why is it then that a great many of the sins we commit are sins of the tongue?

Speech is God's way of drawing us into the folds of His love. In former times, the sacred author of the Letter to the Hebrews tells us, God spoke to us in partial and fragmentary ways. (cf. Heb 1:1) Now, in the Incarnation, the Lord has spoken to us through His Son. (cf. Heb 1:2)

The Word became flesh and we saw His glory, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (cf. Jn 1:14) This is the way Saint John describes the birth of Christ in his gospel. No stable, no manger, no shepherds in the field. How do we know we are in the presence of something glorious? Well, in the city of Rome, you are alerted to the glorious by fountains, obelisks and the like. It's glorious that antiquity has been preserved and we can revel in its achievements thousands of years later.

The glory of the Incarnation is revealed to us in the One Who speaks truthfully. Jesus speaks truthfully in His birth.

Near the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus stands accused before Pontius Pilate. He is accused of being a king. In His own defense, Jesus says, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth." (Jn 18:37)

Jesus was born and came into the world to teach us how to speak. He teaches us not how to talk our way out of trouble; He teaches us not how to spin things; He teaches us not how to dodge and equivocate.

Jesus teaches us that when we speak, we should let our Yes mean Yes and our No mean No (cf. Matt 5:37). This does not rule out speaking prudently or speaking tactfully or speaking diplomatically. It does mean however that we call things by their right names.

The power to name was given to Adam before the Fall. After the Fall, Jesus, the New Adam, restores our capacity to name things properly. Those who revel in the Messiah's birth cannot fall a second time, deluded into accepting the myth that all language does is veil things and never reveals things as they are.

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*CHRISTMAS REFLECTION, 2021 - continued*

It is commonly thought that adults teach babies how to talk. On Christmas, we permit a Baby to teach adults how to talk. He is the Babe of Bethlehem and upon his shoulder dominion rests. (cf. Is 9:5)

Atlas in Greek mythology is a Titan who is depicted supporting the sky on his shoulders. Super-human strength is needed to bear such a weight.

There is a weighty responsibility which comes when we open our mouths and speak. We decide if our words are going to reflect the dominion of truth or not. To speak is to exercise power.

How can we be so sure?

We are convinced not because of military might. We are persuaded not because of economic strength. We are won over not because of technological prowess. We are certain because of apostolic discovery.

After proclaiming that He is the Bread come down from heaven and seeing some of the disciples return to their former way of life and no longer accompany Him, Jesus asks the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave (Jn 6:67)?” Out of his mouth, came these words of Simon Peter, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (Jn 6:68).”

Jesus possesses the words of eternal life because He is the Word, the Word made flesh. (cf. Jn 1:14) The Holy Eucharist is for each one of us where darkness is changed into light, where falsehood gives way to truth and where our words go silent before the only Word that matters: The Word through Whom the universe was made, the Savior sent to redeem us.

On this solemn occasion of the Lord’s Nativity, we re-dedicate ourselves to the Holy Eucharist from which the refulgence of God’s glory (cf. Heb 1:3) emanates radiantly. May we who listen so attentively today to the Lord’s word be ever more mindful of that word’s transformative power, especially its power to make us children of God (cf. Jn 1:12) unto eternity.

Praised be Christ Whose birth we herald today!

Merry Christmas!

***Msgr. Batule***  
***Pastor***

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.



# Christmas Flowers

## Special Intentions & Memorials



Margaret & Vincent Accardi	Mr. & Mrs. A. D'Arcangelo	Anthony Harper	Earl Miller	John Sr. & Anthony Ruiz
Beatrice & David Adams	Theresa Davenport	Catherine & John Hartnett	Daniel Mones	Barbara Ruiz
Dr. & Mrs. Justo J. Andalis	Frank & Clara Davino	Ronald Hirschhorn	Marc Monico	Vincent Rutherford
Hansel Araujo	The DeAngelo Family	Marion & Walter Huether	Loretta & Nick Monte	The Sansimino Family
Harry & Robert M. Aretakis	Nieve & Anicero DeLeon	William Huether	Millie Montesano	Carmine Santorelli
Jerry & Dave Armendinger	Nora & Davin Delmasto	Eugeniusz Jankowski	The Moretti Family	Alfred Saracino
Rosalina & Victorino Sr. Auriguo	Charles, Jean, & George DeLuca	Veronica Johnson	Irene Morrow	Doris & Victor Sartori
Richard Beauchamp Sr.	Nelida DeNunzio	Meekuel Jung	Mr. & Mrs. Flecha	Gloria & Walter Sawicki
Paul & Danielle Beauchamp	Concetta DeNunzio	Margaret Jung	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Rhodes	Janis Schook
Charles & Marion Becker	Peter V. DeNunzio	Matthew James Koehler	Dennis Naso	Walter J. Sr. and family
Annette Bertolino	James H. DeNunzio	Marilyn Kroizynski	The Edward Norton Family	Mr. & Mrs. James Silverman
Catherine Beyer	Joseph & Kevin DePeter	Dan & Marge Lannon	Dorothy & Sam Oakley	The Sivestro Family
Mr. & Mrs. Biasotti	Andrew DeRatier	Lucy & Michael LaPenna	Thomas O'Donnell	John Slabowski
Karl Edward Birmelin	Rose DeSaro	Marguerite & Walter Largue	Joseph & Josephine Paddock	Evelyn & Donald Snyder
Rose Bollas	Stanley & Anna Dola	Vincent Laurentino	Mr. & Mrs. D. Palermo	Marlene Starr
Lorraine Booras	Lawrence & Florence Donlon	Katherine Lehmann	Fred Peabody	Jeanine & John Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Boot	Stephen Doriand	Rosemarie Leto	Elizabeth & Edward Pickford	Sue Sweedock
The Boyle Family	Mr. & Mrs. Dulovic	Helen & Anthony Litka	Albert & Marion A. Pietrozziello	Antonio & Geraldine Temperini
Carmella & Peter C. Brill	Mary & John Ehling	Philip & Madeline LoBosco	Anthony Pillittier	Christine Terrusa
Mary Buckley	Piquette Emile	Frank & Maria LoGrande	Frank Piraneo	Anita & Angelina Tortorelli
Albert & Agnes Candela	Lauren Fennell	Michele LoGrande Bongiorno	The Porcaro Family	James Toth Sr.
Anthony & Grace Cannizzaro	Anthony, Michael, Rose Flaccomio	Patricia Lunetta	Joseph & Anne Prementine	James Toth Jr.
Lena & Joe Cantanno	Joseph & Lucia Gandolfo	John Maggi	Hester & Leonard Pukki	The Tranfaglia Family
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Capobianco	Vincent Gangitano	The Manginelli Family	Susan Quinn	Elizabeth, Mary, & George Valousky
Dominick Caputo Jr.	Stephen Gassick	Vincent Manna Sr.	The Rankin Family	Steve Verducci
Bob Carlsen	Edith & Pat Gaudiello	Virginia Manning	Robert & Elizabeth Recs	Lorraine Vogel
Louise Ciardiello	The Rose Giambalvo Family	Jose Antonio Marquirar	Michael Reynolds	John Zangri
Willbert Phillip Clark	Charles & Lealer Glasgow	Tom & Dorothy Marchese	Joseph & Donna Riccobono	Giuseppe Francesa Zangri
Wilbert Paul Clard	Norman Gottfried	Nancy & Joseph Maresca	Peter Rice	Neil & Paul Zarcone
Joseph Colombo	Grace Gross	Anthony Marrocco	Alfred Rivera	Mr. & Mrs. Zasakas
Genevieve & Joseph Convery	Elvira & Michael Guadagno	The Mateja Family	The Robinson Family	Gus & Norma Zeis
The Convery Family	Mary & John Guercio	Dean Mauri	Inocencio & Aquillina Rodriguez	Kenneth & Marjorie Zeman
Williams Cummings	Jack Gunning	Francis, Mary & Mary Louise McGovern	Rose Rose	
Louise A. Dalba	Mary Guttilla	John & Audrey Meehan	Eugene & Mary Roucoulet	



# Merry Christmas

*From Msgr. Batule, Fr. Patrick and St. Margaret's Staff*

A Blessed Christmas to all of the parishioners of Saint Margaret!

May the Christ Child be the cause of our joy now. The Infant King has brought us in His own birth the gift of eternal life. May we cherish this gift more than anything else we receive at Christmas this year.

Continue to bear in your own lives the saving mystery of Christ by joining us every weekend for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Make every weekend a re-birth of Christ in your heart, mind and soul by coming to the divine liturgy.

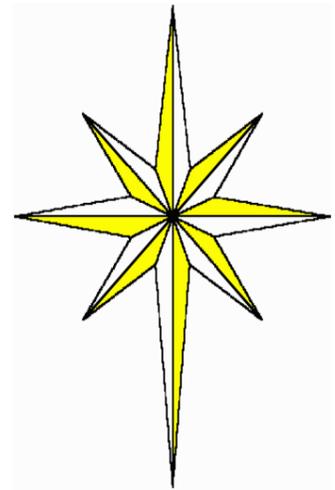
Msgr. Batule  
Pastor



## Upon Christ's Nativity, or Christmas

Now in a manger lies the eternal Word:  
The Word He is, yet can no speech afford;  
He is the Bread of Life, yet hungry lies;  
The Living Fountain, yet for drink He cries;  
He cannot help or clothe Himself at need  
Who did the lilies clothe and ravens feed;  
He is the Light of Lights, yet now doth shroud  
His glory with our nature as a cloud.  
He came to us a Little One, that we  
Like little children might in malice be;  
Little He is, and wrapped in clouts, lest He  
Might strike us dead if clothed with majesty.

Christ had four beds and those not soft nor brave:  
The Virgin's womb, the manger, cross, and grave.  
The angels sing this day, and so will I  
That have more reason to be glad than they.



*Rowland Watkyns (fl. 1662)*

### 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.”**



## Sunday ~ December 26<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Holy Family

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family, celebrated as we revel in the joy of the birth of the Christ Child. Today's feast suggests for us the familiarity and comfort of being at home.

The enjoyment of being at home is not a universal phenomenon. Not even the scriptures say this is so. All we but do is consider the parable told by Jesus in the Gospel of Saint Luke called the Prodigal Son. (cf. Lk 15:11-32) We know that the younger son in the parable is not satisfied being at home. Why else, then, would he request prematurely his share of the estate, collect his belongings and set off for a distant country? (cf. Lk 15:12-13) Home is not a place where he wants to be.

We must be careful not to interpret "house" in an exclusively physical sense, however. Being in the Father's house carries with it the connotation that we abide in the Lord's work, that we share the concerns He has.

On the liturgical feast dedicated to family life, we must admit candidly that the place where the family dwells, the house, is often filled with discord. Perhaps some of the discord is the result of family members who choose against dwelling in the presence of the Lord above everything else.

Rather than being a dwelling place of peace and security, the house is where family members fight – sometimes to the point of violence. Peacemakers are needed at kitchen tables more than they are needed at international conferences if ever we look at the statistics for domestic abuse.

In the Christmas season, we look upon Jesus as the Prince of Peace. The peace He brings to us is the fruit of reconciliation. The Son in taking on human flesh, being born in the likeness of men, reconciles the Father with His wayward adopted children.

The Incarnate Son did not just say peaceful things; He did them. The supreme peaceful act, of course, was laying down His life. The death of Jesus on the Cross forgives us our sins. We must be ready to testify to this truth with our lives, a point Saint Paul makes abundantly clear in today's second reading. (cf. Col 3:13) We must be ready to forgive one another (cf. Col 3:13) he says, and this we all know starts in our own families. This is how we change the tenor of society. Familial reconciliation is the stepping stone to international reconciliation.

Jesus' work of reconciling sinful humanity with the Father is preeminently a work of restoring us to God's house. Reconciliation makes us fit as it were to dwell with the Lord. In Saint John's Gospel, Jesus declares to the apostles that there are many dwelling places in the Father's house. (cf. Jn 14:2) Inside the Father's house, with all its dwelling places, we still sit down together and dine as one at the messianic banquet. But before sitting down there, we must be reconciled. The hard work of reconciliation culminates in the Holy Eucharist.

The prodigal son, when he returns to his father's house, is received with joy. (cf. Lk 15:32) The joy of family life is not, then, in the value of the house but in the values which are lived there. Families which practice a Christ-like love in their houses are rich beyond description. The word of Christ dwells in them. (cf. Col 3:16) Who could be wealthier than that?

Msgr. Batule  
Pastor