

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



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

Pastoral Staff

Msgr. Robert Batule - *Pastor* x111

Rev. Patrick Abu-Bonsra - Parochial Vicar
x 116 pabubonsra@saintmargaret.com

Deacons - Dcn Ed Hayes x0

Retired: Dcn William Kogler,
Dcn Biagio Muratore

Parish Center Office – Receptionist x0
Julie Burtoff, Admin Assistant x133
jburtoff@saintmargaret.com

Faith Formation Office

Jackie Mirenda, Coordinator x131
jmirenda@saintmargaret.com

Music Ministry

Dr. Daniel Crews, Director x117
dcrews@saintmargaret.com

Parish Outreach

Outreach@saintmargaret.com x119

Holy Angels Regional Catholic School

Patchogue, NY 631-475-0422
Jeannine Stewart, Principal



January 16, 2022

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

81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813

As the new year begins, I want to use this space in the weekly bulletin to cover the issue of parish finances. By waiting six months or so, it has allowed me to see trends and patterns in matters like weekly collections and the payment of invoices (most on a monthly or quarterly basis).

Because six months or so have already passed, it has also allowed me to see what attendance is like at our four weekend Masses. I would like to treat the topic of Mass attendance first as it has a big influence on the financial health of a parish.

As you know, there are four weekend Masses at Saint Margaret. Unlike some other parishes across the Island and across the nation where the Vigil Mass on Saturday is the best attended Mass, that is not the case at Saint Margaret. The 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday ranks fourth in Mass attendance here. Typically, attendance is in the 90 – 100 range. The first Mass on Sunday, at 8:00 AM, gets an attendance somewhere about 100 to 110. The 10:00 AM Mass and the 12 noon Mass draw, on average, anywhere from 130 to 160 persons each. As you can well imagine, weather is a factor and so is the time of year, with winter and summer having the greater effect on attendance over autumn and the spring. When all is said and done then, the average Mass attendance for a weekend is about 450 – 550 at Saint Margaret.

As you are keenly aware, there has been a very big drop-off in Mass attendance over the decades. What this means practically is that fewer and fewer parishioners are supporting their parish than ever before – at least since the advent of the baby boom generation (going back some sixty or seventy years). Over the decades, some church-going Catholics have adjusted their giving habits to reflect the times but many others have not done so. Building our parishes sixty and seventy years ago was a gargantuan task but we had many more wallets and pocketbooks back then. Maintaining our parishes now is a gargantuan task but with far fewer wallets and pocketbooks to underwrite our ever-escalating expenses.

The size of a parish matters greatly. And by that, I mean the number of registered families in a parish. But whether in big parishes or in small ones, it is hard to overstate the importance of the percentage of Catholics who attend Mass regularly. According to every reliable indicator, that percentage is under 20 percent and it is, more precisely, about 14 or 15 percent now. It's a percentage which has dropped quite noticeably in just the last few years due to the COVID-19 phenomenon.

So, let me use this first column on the financial health of the parish to urge all of our church-going parishioners to a **generous sacrificial giving**. To use but one image – we need all of the available oars at our disposal in order to gain financial buoyancy in fiscally troubled waters. Rowing is a painful act at first but it builds muscle tone the more we do it, and is not painful but exhilarating the more we do it. In the new year, let's make a concerted effort to support Saint Margaret financially as well as we can – with every available oar in the water!

In my next column, I intend to make some remarks with an eye toward an analysis of the actual giving by parishioners according to monetary value. First though it is necessary to establish the context for that actual giving. The number of persons in the pews is enormously important, and we need to keep that statistic in mind for any good understanding of how to support a parish today.

To be continued

Msgr. Batule
Pastor

Inquiries have been made concerning calendars for 2022. As many of you know, calendars for the new year are distributed at the church at the end of the year usually. For at least some period of time, a local funeral home has offered the calendars as a service to our parishioners.

We requested 2022 calendars months ago. The calendars never arrived at the end of December. And, as of the 11th of January, they still have not arrived. If and when they get here, we will let you know. We are sorry for the delay.

The 2022 Mass Book is open for you to have family members and friends remembered at the divine liturgy Monday through Friday at 9:00 AM and at all the weekend Masses. Please consider reserving a Mass intention for a deceased relative or friend at some point this year. Anniversaries of birth and death are common dates to choose. It is a most salutary gesture for it expresses a desire that we live with the Lord for all eternity. The parish center office is where you can arrange for Mass intentions during the week (Monday to Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and on Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM).



More than an education. An investment for life.

Holy Angels Regional Catholic School
1 Division Street, Patchogue



Open house is January 30th from 10am-2pm TOURS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

What: Sign up for your private tour of Holy Angels Regional School. Meet our principal and get to know about our academics, teachers and community.

Who: Parents of children from Pre K-through 8th grade.

How: Visit our website www.holyangelsregional.org (Go to- Visit Holy Angels) or call the school at 631-475-0422 to make an appointment.

Please call 631-475-0422 with any questions.

"The Historical Jesus"

Lecture with Msgr. John Meier, celebrated Scriptural theologian

St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers ~ Thursday, February 3

6:30pm - Reception/7:30pm - Lecture

Suggested Donation: \$20.00 ~ Purchase tickets at:

www.dunwoodie.edu/125thanniversary,
or call (914) 968-6200, x8201



Tax Statements

Call the Parish Center if you would like your 2021 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.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Come and sing! Rehearsals for our Children's Chorus in the Parish Center on Saturdays. All boys and girls (from 2nd grade and above) are invited to come and sing. Contact Ms. Joanne at 631-698-1597 / comatwins@optonline.net for information



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: Juice Boxes, Jars of Juice & Jelly, Sliced Bread, Saltines

A very special THANK YOU to all!



(631) 496-3073
289 Middle Country Road
Selden, NY 11784

RIB RALLY FUNDRAISER



**Project for
St. Margaret's
Parish!**

Let's Rally Together!
Help us support Glenn Miller for
hisEagle Scout Project-Troop 362

Scan the QR Code for MORE Information and to schedule
yourTo-Go Meal pre-order pick-up today!

The \$15 RIB RALLY Meal includes: FaH-Off-The-Bone Ribs (4 Bones), Seasoned Steak Fries, Fresh-Baked Bread and Homemade Honey Cinnamon Butter! PLUS, you receive a Free Appetizer voucher for your next visit!

Glenn will receive \$5 for every meal sold!



Sunday, Jan 16, 2022 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME You are gifted, any way you slice it

We're all good at something. But not all of us consider our talents and skills as assets given to the Body of Christ. Say you can sew, make people laugh, fix an engine, bake a great pie, or balance a mean checkbook. Of what use are these things to the church, you might ask. Discernment of gifts is something Saint Paul took very seriously in the early community. In our faith sharing, we might ask each other how "mighty deeds" or knowledge or healing might be translated into modern needs the church has. Don't underestimate the healing value of a great pie! TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11 (66)*. "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."

Monday, Jan 17 Help the dream awaken

One of the many things Martin Luther King, Jr. taught Americans was that faith could—and should!—be a driving force for positive social change. He also showed that people of all faiths could put aside differences and do this work together. A Baptist minister, King met with Pope John XXIII and many other faith leaders who later together publicly lamented his death. Keep King's spirit of faith-based social action and interfaith cooperation alive—gather with Catholics and other people of God to discuss, learn, pray, plan, and act on a peaceful journey toward healing all forms of inequality. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22 (311)*. "But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day."

Tuesday, Jan 18 Shop with a conscience

Today we note Mary Kenney O'Sullivan, who died on this day in 1943. A Catholic mother of three, she poured her considerable talents into organizing working-class women to demand the right to vote and expect justice in their workplaces. She fought for social justice even as the concept of Catholic social teaching was still being refined and formed into what it is today. O'Sullivan understood and lived out social teaching concepts of solidarity, the dignity of the human person, and the dignity of work. Can your shopping choices, voting patterns, and prayers help uplift workers who are currently mistreated? TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28 (312)*. "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

Wednesday, Jan 19 God loves an underdog

We all tend to cheer for the underdog. We find it inspiring when the person or team least expected to win triumphs. David's victory over Goliath appeals to us for this reason. But there's more to the story. When we have an unsurmountable task before us, it is wise to let God take control. After all, God is all powerful. History is full of saints who did the unexpected because they trusted that God would supplement their weaknesses. As Saint Catherine of Siena advises: "Start being brave about everything . . . Don't look at your weakness, but realize that in Christ crucified you can do everything." Today pray for God's will to be revealed to you and trust that he will give you the strength you need. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6 (313)*. "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"

Thursday, Jan 20 MEMORIAL OF SEBASTIAN, MARTYR Listen to the peoples' laments

The anguish of physical pain can be a fact of life. In medieval times many artists were fascinated by the martyrdom of Saint Sebastian and created gruesome images of it. For practicing Christianity in the third century, Sebastian was ordered to be executed by arrows. He survived this ordeal, only to later be beaten to death for his faith. Father Robin Ryan, C.P., a Passionist priest, says when he encounters people suffering in any form, he avoids explanations as so much about God and suffering is a mystery. He tries to allow those in pain to lament and share their emotion with God, often using the psalms as a starting point as they "help us to recognize that we belong to a tradition and a community of faith; we are not alone in this experience." Draw solace from the lament tradition the next time you find yourself or others in pain. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mark 3:7-12 (314)*. "He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases were pressing upon him to touch him."

Friday, Jan 21 MEMORIAL OF AGNES, MARTYR I stand with Agnes

The stories of martyrs can make us feel a bit uneasy. They edify us, but they also can—and should—horrify us. Why? Because in every story, we encounter human violence, perhaps even a reflection of the violence we ourselves have suffered, committed, or ignored. While we laud fourth-century martyr Agnes of Rome for her sacred commitment to chastity, we must not overlook the fact that she was martyred for resisting a forced, unwanted relationship and inhumane treatment as mere property. Agnes' story is particularly relevant today because women continue to face the very real threat of personal as well as systemic violence. Will you stand with Agnes against gender violence in all its forms? TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19 (315)*. "You have treated me generously, while I have done you harm."

Saturday, Jan 22 DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN Cradle-to-grave Catholics

To embrace a consistent ethic of life is to not only oppose abortion but also to support and defend the dignity and right to life in all conditions and under all circumstances. The term "the Seamless Garment" was coined by the Catholic activist Eileen Egan to characterize this position, later popularized by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. He said: "Those who defend the right to life of the weakest among us must be equally visible in support of the quality of life of the powerless among us: the old and the young, the hungry and the homeless, the undocumented immigrant and the unemployed worker." Learn more about the Seamless Garment ethic and take a stand today for life in all its forms. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mark 3:20-21 (316)*. "Let us see your face, Lord, and we shall be saved."





January 21-22, 2022

1-800-470-2230

You Can Help Heal Your Marriage!

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other?

Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other?

Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend **please call 1-800-470-2230** and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

Please call or go on the web to make a reservation!

Weekends get filled up very quickly

1-800-470-2230 website www.helpourmarriage.org

Hands Needed!

Our Music Ministry is in need of someone to assist in placing the words on our screen during Mass. All that is required is clicking the next screen with one button. Please see Dan, our Music Minister, after Mass or call at 631-732-3131 x117. Prayerfully consider.



Heart of the Island Council- Knights of Columbus

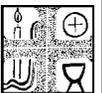
The Knights of Columbus is a membership organization founded by Fr. McGivney in 1882 on the principles of Charity, Unity & Fraternity. The members of our local council serve in many ministries of the Church. Prospective members call Tom Piderit at 917-365-7546. .



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).



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 February 1, 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."