

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 23, 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

In my column of last week, I called attention to the significance of Mass attendance for the financial health of a parish. You will recall that the huge drop-off in Mass attendance has caused a parish like Saint Margaret to rely on fewer and fewer parishioners to bear its financial burden. In light of this fact, it becomes all the more urgent for church-going Catholics to practice a **generous sacrificial giving** when it comes to supporting their parish.

I also promised this week to comment on actual giving at Saint Margaret. What I have to say here is based on collections at Masses at Saint Margaret over three consecutive weeks in December (2021). I share with you how contributions can be assessed by categories. The first category is under \$10.00. The second is between \$10.00 and \$25.00. The third is over \$25.00 and up to \$49.00. The fourth is \$50.00 and higher.

The three weeks in December show a remarkable consistency with respect to parishioner habits of financial contributions. In the first category, under \$10.00, 84 envelopes were returned in the collections for an average of 28 per week. In the second category, between \$10.00 and \$25.00, 198 envelopes were returned for an average of 66 per week. In the third category, from over \$25.00 and up to \$49.00, 175 envelopes were returned for an average of 58 per week. In the fourth category, \$50.00 and higher, 160 envelopes were returned for an average of 53 per week.

What I am wondering is if we could see, over the next few weeks and months, an increase *within* a category or an increase *from* one category to the next higher one on the part of envelope users. Perhaps not all envelope users can do that – either taking a step *within* a category or taking a step *from* one category to the next higher one. But some of you are probably able to do one or the other. I ask you to take that next step and help your parish improve fiscally. Pray about this decision. And let the grace of charity, which comes to you from the Holy Spirit, be your guide.

Along with donations in the collection baskets in church, Saint Margaret also receives donations electronically and through the regular mail. We welcome donations this way, especially when you are ill or on vacation. The benefit of course is that we do not miss your donations when you are prevented from worshipping in person with us. Clearly, there is no substitute for participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Still, if you cannot be with us in person, your gift to Saint Margaret allows us to keep pace with massive bills, especially during the winter. Since some of you are able to get away during the winter to a warmer climate, please keep us in mind until you return and can exercise the treasure portion of your stewardship in person.

I will continue to cover the matter of parish finances in my next bulletin column. Then, I will address the matter of best practices in financial support of Saint Margaret. We have a lot of work to do in this area, and I ask that you assist us in this matter going forward. Having a solid financial foundation allows us to carry out our parish mission properly and effectively.

Thank you for reading and being interested in our financial health. With trust in the Lord and resolve to do our own part personally in stewardship, we can make 2022 the year of the cheerful giver – for Saint Paul says “whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (2 Cor. 9:6)

Msgr. Batule
Pastor

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).



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.



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, Small jars of Jelly & 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 23, 2022 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / WORD OF GOD SUNDAY **Those aren't fighting words**

Most fights don't start with a punch, but with a word. That's because words are among the most powerful forces on the planet. Ideas divide or unite a society. Insults scar, just as kind words can heal. Our sacred story contained in scripture is a word meant to make the world whole. Pope Francis asks us to honor the word of God this Sunday. We begin by symbolically enthroning the Bible in our homes today: putting it in a place of honor. This reminds us of the deeper enthronement of God's word in our hearts. Make room for one Bible verse every day. TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 (69)*. "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Monday, Jan 24 MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH **God, our shield & our strength**

We live in tumultuous times for sure. But the world has been topsy-turvy before. Saint Francis de Sales lived during the religious, political, and social upheaval of the Protestant Reformation. And he became known for his gentleness and patience in the face of it. Leave it to him, the patron saint of writers, to pen a prayer that is timeless balm for troubled souls: "Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering, or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations . . ." A balm for these troubled times. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Mark 3:22-30 (317)*. "If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand."

Tuesday, Jan 25 FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE **Harden not your heart**

Paul has always been a controversial figure. Before becoming a Christian, he was a persecutor of Jesus' followers. Paul's biblical words advising women to be submissive to their husbands have been alternately obeyed, rejected, and reinterpreted. But the word "conversion" on this feast reminds us what Christian life is about. The Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes Saint Ambrose on the "two conversions" in Christian life—one of them a one-time event and the other ongoing. "There are water and tears, the water of Baptism and the tears of repentance." What parts of your life still require repentance? TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18 (519)*. "Jesus . . . appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Wednesday, Jan 26 MEMORIAL OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS **Stay the course**

Evangelizing and living the gospel demands much of us. Saints Timothy and Titus serve as examples to us of holding fast to the faith among difficult circumstances. Friends and companions of Saint Paul, they ended up becoming bishops and leaders of the early church. They helped Paul to spread the gospel during those difficult early years. Timothy paid the ultimate price for encouraging others to embrace the emerging Christian faith. Reflect on the ways you choose to follow Jesus Christ and embrace his mission despite the challenges and difficulties it presents. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5; Mark 4:1-20 (520; Gospel 319)*. "[T]hose sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

Thursday, Jan 27 MEMORIAL OF ANGELA MERICI, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER **Wise counsel for the overwhelmed**

On this memorial of Saint Angela Merici, 16th-century founder of the Ursuline Sisters, it makes sense to recall one of her many insights into faith-filled living. She advised the overwhelmed thus: "Do not lose heart, even if you should discover that you lack qualities necessary for the work to which you are called. He who called you will not desert you, but the moment you are in need he will stretch out his saving hand." May you find that saving hand when you reach the end of your rope. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Mark 4:21-25 (320)*. "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket or under a bed, and not to be placed on a lampstand?"

Friday, Jan 28 MEMORIAL OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH **Root yourself in honesty**

G.K. Chesterton once said of philosopher and theologian Thomas Aquinas, "Being himself resolved to argue, to argue honestly, to answer everybody, to deal with everything, he produced books enough to sink a ship or stock a library." We could use a little more Thomas in our media, especially social media, because today we're not always sure if things are actually true or merely "internet true." For Thomas, honesty was key to communication. He considered it beautiful, honorable, and a reflection of moral goodness itself. May we take to heart his commitment to honesty in all of our communication. TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mark 4:26-34 (321)*. "Once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."

Saturday, Jan 29 **Sea of hope**

Alonzo Ketcham Parker, a 19th-century travel writer, called the Sea of Galilee "a fifth gospel" due to the amount of biblical history that occurred on its shores. It is the site where Jesus performed many of his most renowned miracles, such as walking on water, calming the storm, and feeding the multitude. Villages and settlements dotted the shore in Jesus' day, and most of Jesus' followers probably gained their livelihood and nourished their families from its bounty. The nourishment continues every time we read the vivid accounts of biblical drama that occur on the holiest of seas. Dive in! TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41 (322)*. "He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Quiet! Be still!' The wind ceased and there was great calm."



Offertory Support through ONLINE BILL PAY

is the form of Electronic Giving we have been using in the parish. Your bank offers this service, sending money out of your bank account to whomever you wish. ONLINE BILL PAY services will print an actual check and mail it to St. Margaret of Scotland. Sending your regular Offertory support electronically will save you time and money. It is an easy way to continue your support of St Margaret of Scotland Parish during this difficult time. Your Bank **does not charge** a fee for this service. You have complete control of your funds, starting, stopping and changing at your will. We have no access to your accounts, receiving only what you wish. If you pay your bills this way currently, you know how easy it is.

To set up sending your Offertory Support all you need is:

Your St. Margaret Account Number: (**Located on your stewardship envelope directly under the date**) (or call the Parish Center 631 -732-3131 x0 for your number). Please make sure this number is listed under notations or in address.

St. Margaret's Mailing Address:

St. Margaret of Scotland Church
81 College Road
Selden, NY 11784

1. Visit your bank's website or call your bank for more information.
2. On your bank's website: Click on BILL PAY or Pay Bills: each bank may have a different name for bill pay service.
3. Click on "Set up NEW PAYEE": Complete all required fields.
4. Enter amount you will be remitting. Schedule payments for desired frequency (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly: 52x, 26x, 12x).

VETERANS BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

A representative from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will once again be on hand to assist veterans with submitting disability claims as well as benefits for widows/widowers of deceased veterans. Veterans should bring their **DD214** and any service documents they may have.

Where: Middle Country Library-Selden and Centereach Library.

When: First Wednesday of every month in Selden & the third Weds. of every month in Centereach from 9:30am to 1:30pm.

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 & Completing your Confirmation ~ 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."