

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

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February 20, 2022

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With Ash Wednesday on March 2nd this year and less than two weeks away now, I want to offer some suggestions for how to have a spiritually fruitful Lenten season. Every year we have the forty days of this holy season to help us deepen our union with Christ, so let us see how we can use this time of grace as well as we can.

Eucharist: This sacrament is indispensable to every Catholic life and we cannot live a holy life without the word of God and the Body and Blood of Our Savior at least weekly. Why not attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass during the week, that is, on Monday through Friday? And even use the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00 PM as the sixth day for Mass. Attending Mass each day of Lent is a time-honored practice in the Church and has been a source for enriching the interior life of countless Catholics through the ages. Make time for the Lord in the Holy Eucharist every day; it will never be a decision you regret.

Confession: In recent decades, there has been a severe decline in the use of this sacrament. If you have been away from the Sacrament of Penance, make this Lent the time you return to the Lord's pardon and peace. The standard time for going to confession is on Saturday before the Vigil Mass which is not always easy for some people. But make the time in your schedule. The Lord is waiting to grant His mercy and forgiveness to you. If you are prevented from coming then, consider coming on a Wednesday afternoon between 3 and 4 PM. A priest will be in the church at that time to celebrate the sacrament with you.

Mortification: We begin Lent every year with Ash Wednesday, a solemn day to fast and abstain from meat. Fasting (depriving oneself of food and drink wholly or partially) is a penitential practice and so is abstaining from meat for most people. Like the Sacrament of Penance, acts of mortification are not widely used any longer. Voluntary penitential practices though permit us to make room for the Lord Who wants to dwell with us – in our hearts, our minds, and our souls. Removing impediments might be the single most salutary effort we make in our friendship with Christ. It's amazing what great things the Lord is able to do with us after we have taken action to dispose ourselves to the sweetness of divine grace.

Corporal Works of Mercy: We can bind up the wounds in the Body of Christ by attending to the corporal works of mercy. As the Lord is merciful with us, we ought to show that same graciousness to others. Recall that Jesus instructed that we would be judged according to our concern for and the assistance we give to the "least ones." (cf. Matt 25:45) Lent is an excellent opportunity for us to serve those who do not have what we, materially speaking. For not all of our brothers and sisters are well-fed and well-clothed. Not all of them have homes; some of them are ill or in prison. Let us hurry to assist the needy so that we may be counted among the righteous and go to eternal life. (cf. Matt 25:46)

Spiritual Reading: When we attend Mass, we listen to the word of God and usually hear reflections on that word from the priest who preaches in the pulpit. But that ought not to be the only time we open ourselves to read or listen to Sacred Scripture. We should maintain practices to read and listen to the word of God on our own. Personal prayer is vital to the Catholic spiritual life and we will shrivel up and die, spiritually speaking, without reading and listening to God's word. Lent is a good time to choose a portion of the Scriptures and know it better than we once did.

It's also a time to pick up books and treatises by good authors who know the Catholic spiritual life. Their written works can nourish us and bring us closer to the God Who saves us through the Son's crucifixion and Resurrection. Ask a wise and discerning Catholic for a recommendation of a trusted spiritual author to aid you this Lent.

There you have it - some ways to have a spiritually fruitful Lent. Make that journey from death to new life which is Lent and Easter, knowing that Christ is at your side the whole way by the practices indicated above.

Msgr. Batule
Pastor

From the Pastor's Desk



We wish to announce that adult Catholics who have not celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation and wish to do so are going to be able to do just that on Sunday, June 5th at the 12 noon Mass. In advance of that day, there will be catechesis offered on Wednesday nights beginning April 27th at 7:30 PM in the parish center building. The sessions will last five (5) weeks and conclude on May 25th. If you have not yet contacted us, please do so that you may be included in the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation on the Solemnity of Pentecost.

We invite any interested adult parishioners who are already confirmed to join us for these sessions. We will consider the following topics over the five weeks: Faith, Christ, Church, Sacraments and Morals. We anticipate each session going about 75 – 90 minutes.

Msgr. Batule and Fr. Patrick will lead the sessions.

Parishioners who use envelopes to support Saint Margaret should be aware that we have switched envelope companies. You will notice a new style and a new packaging for your envelopes when they arrive in your mailbox. Kindly use the envelopes as you always have, and always support our parish **generously** and **sacrificially**. The new company is named F.J. Remey and it is located in Mineola, New York.

Give from the heart

February is American Heart Month.

**DONATIONS
SAVE LIVES**



BLOOD DRIVE

In Memory of Richard Beauchamp

St. Margaret of Scotland

Wednesday, February 23



3:00pm – 7:30pm

81 College Rd., Selden – Auditorium



All donors will receive a McDonald's voucher!

Appointments are strongly preferred- Scan the QR code above or call **1-800-933-2566/** visit **www.nybc.org**

Any further questions contact Kristen at KReutter@nybc.org

Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits. Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your ID with your name and photo. Masks are required for all donors regardless of vaccination status. Visit nybc.org/coronavirus for complete COVID-19 safety protocols.



800.933.BLOOD • nybc.org     [#nybloodcenter](https://www.instagram.com/nybloodcenter)

Ash Wednesday ~ March 2nd

In less than a month, we start the Lenten Season. We begin with Ash Wednesday of course. Please see the schedule below for when ashes will be distributed.

7:30 AM	Prayer Service
9:00 AM	Mass
4:00 PM	Prayer Service
7:30 PM	Mass



As part of our observance of Lent this year, there will be Stations of the Cross on Friday nights at 7:00 PM in the church.

There will also be an addition of more time during the week to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. On the Wednesdays of Lent, there will be a priest available in the church from 3:00 – 4:00 PM for parishioners to go to confession.

As we have done before, there will be time in the Lenten season for Exposition and Adoration and Benediction on a weekday evening. Watch the bulletin for the date and time.

Further down the road, in the Easter Season, we will have a May Crowning of the Blessed Mother on Sunday, May 8th following the 12 noon Mass.

And in June, on the 19th, when the Church marks the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, there will be a Procession with the Blessed Sacrament following the 12 noon Mass.

Next week, I will offer some recommendations for making Lent this year a spiritually fruitful observance.

Msgr. Batule ~ Pastor

Guidelines for Fasting & Abstinence

All Catholics who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday fast and abstinence.



Baptisms
Mason Jax Adham



Sunday, Feb 20, 2022 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME It's a long road to freedom

Justice feels good—if we're on the side of the angels when it's meted out. Which means in most cases, the struggle for justice will cost us. This was certainly true for Frederick Douglass (1818-95), born enslaved yet becoming the first black American to gain a vote for president of the United States. As he wrote in his 1852 July Fourth speech: "The . . . conscience of the nation must be roused . . . the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be denounced." On this World Day of Social Justice, consider the price you're willing to pay for justice. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38 (81).* *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."*

Monday, Feb 21 MEMORIAL OF PETER DAMIAN, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Turn toward the good

Saint Peter Damian had two brothers—one bad, one good. The first treated him like a servant, the second had him educated, which led to Peter becoming a Benedictine monk. Humble and pious, he only reluctantly accepted when his community chose him to be their leader—and he was so good at it that some of those he directed became saints themselves. It was said of him that "his genius was to exhort and impel to the heroic, to praise striking achievements and to record edifying examples—an extraordinary force burns in all that he wrote." Like Peter, we've all encountered people who hold us down and others who lift us up. Which influence do you allow to shape you? TODAY'S READINGS: *James 3:13-18; Mark 9:14-29 (341).* *"Everything is possible to one who has faith."*

Tuesday, Feb 22 FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER THE APOSTLE Please be seated

The topic of papal infallibility relates to today's feast. A pope only makes infallible statements of faith when he speaks *ex cathedra*—Latin for "from the chair." Cathedra, from which we also get the word "cathedral," refers to a bishop's throne, a visual symbol of authority and governance harkening back to monarchical times. It's symbolic of a bishop being the seat of government for a particular locality. In this case, the pope is actually bishop of Rome, as Saint Peter was . . . and the Roman Catholic Church recognizes Rome's bishop as having authority over all the rest. Pray for Peter's successor today. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535).* *"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."*

Wednesday, Feb 2 MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR Make our mark

Saint Polycarp was born around the year 69, and it is said he was a direct student of Saint John, the evangelist, and may have compiled, edited, and published many of the texts now found in the New Testament. He helped advance recognition of Paul as an apostle and the now common practice of biblical interpretation. He suffered a martyr's death by proclaiming a higher authority than the Roman emperor. His dying prayer included the words: "Lord God Almighty, I bless you, for having made me worthy of this day and hour." Let the breadth and strength of Polycarp's faith be an inspiration as you strive to trust in the Lord during challenging times. TODAY'S READINGS: *James 4:13-17; Mark 9:38-40 (343).* *"There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me."*

Thursday, Feb 24 Take a step toward wholeness

Today's gospel refers three times to Gehenna. Typically, Gehenna is interpreted as another term for hell. Who is in hell? Can we go to hell after we die? These questions have puzzled believers and scripture scholars for centuries, and the living cannot answer them from direct experience. The church teaches in the catechism that "this state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called 'hell.'" We know what separates us from God, and we know what unites us with God. Take a step today, no matter how small, to unite yourself with God. TODAY'S READINGS: *James 5:1-6; Mark 9:41-50 (344).* *"Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavor? Keep salt in yourselves."*

Friday, Feb 25 When together forever is causing real harm

Sometimes relationships don't work out. In the case of marriage, the Catholic Church urges reconciliation and offers pastoral help. But sometimes even reconciliation is impossible, especially when harm is present. That is why the church encourages people not to enter into marriage lightly, or any life commitment for that matter. The tools of discernment, prayer, spiritual reading, and seeking wise counsel can help you as you determine your best path. If you or a loved one need more information about beginning or ending a marriage or other life vocation, seek out the church's help. TODAY'S READINGS: *James 5:9-12; Mark 10:1-12 (345).* *"The Lord is compassionate and merciful."*

Saturday, Feb 26 Learn some childish ways

The question of how children were viewed and treated in biblical times is a complicated one, but it seems safe to say they were often not extended the full rights and protections we assume for them today. The fact that Jesus treats them as fully formed persons, in fact as possessing qualities of innocence and trust that are essential for a full embrace of his saving message, would have struck his followers as remarkable. But Jesus has a way of turning our expectations upside down. What can you learn from the little persons in your own life? TODAY'S READINGS: *James 5:13-20; Mark 10:13-16 (346).* *"Whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."*



Opening Night of Prayer

Saturday, March 5, 2022

7:00pm to 8:30pm

St. Francis de Sales

7 Amity St, Patchogue, NY

Pro-life Rosary. Speakers. Hymns. Benediction.
For more info + sign up for vigil hours:

40daysforlife.com/patchogue

40DFL: March 2 -April 10, Mon.-Sat. 7am-7pm

450 Waverly Ave, Patchogue

Mid-point Gathering: March 19, 10am-12pm

450 Waverly Avenue, Patchogue

Closing Ceremony: April 9, 10am-12pm

450 Waverly Avenue, Patchogue



every life is worth saving



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

O Come Let Us Adore Him!

MONDAY, MARCH 14TH

7:00 - 8:00 PM in the Church

Adoration is the highest act of worship. By sitting quietly before His presence in the Blessed Sacrament, we offer to God what is most personal and pleasing – our time and our hearts. This allows our gracious God to draw us lovingly to Himself.

By joining our adoration to prayer and praise, we celebrate that we are the Body of Christ. Come experience the beauty of this holy exchange heart to heart.

Catholic Faith Network Telethon 2022

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) will continue our immense **Telethon** tradition this year! This exciting event will commence on **Saturday, February 26th from 2 – 10 p.m.** and continue through **Sunday, February 27th from 12 – 10 p.m.** Guaranteed to be the most engaging telethon to date, the entertainment will continue with many surprise guests along with our on-air family that you have come to know. Please join the excitement, and consider pledging! There is no help too small or none too large, every bit does count tremendously. The process is easy, you can pledge securely online by visiting www.CFNtv.org or by scanning the QR Code below, using a smartphone or any smart device. We know we can continue to count on you, as we always have!



CFN is available throughout the Tri-State Area on Optimum, channel 29/137; Verizon FiOS TV channel 296; Spectrum, channel 162/471. Additionally, you can tune in nationwide on the following streaming services – Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Roku, Android TV, and Apple TV.

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.



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: Beef Stew, Egg Noodles *A very special THANK YOU to all!*

Diocesan COVID Update:

The Governor of New York has announced effective Thursday, February 10, 2022, masks are no longer required indoors. Masks are optional and there are no social distancing requirements.