

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



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Holy Angels Regional Catholic School

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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



March 2nd

See inside for schedule

February 27, 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

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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.

In Saint Matthew's Gospel, the evangelist relates how the apostle Peter asks Jesus, "[H]ow often must I forgive [my brother]?" (Matt 18:21) Should he forgive "[a]s many as seven times?" (Matt 18:21) Jesus answers, "[N]ot seven times but seventy-seven times." (Matt 18:22)

The matter of how many times we ought to forgive is not unimportant. It suggests how willing we should extend forgiveness to those who trespass against us. But in truth are we *that willing* to forgive? Judging by the parable Jesus tells next in Saint Matthew's Gospel, we are actually not *all that willing* to forgive. For in this parable, a king forgives his servant the payment of a debt. (cf. Matt 18:27) Grateful the servant is not that his debt is cancelled. As soon as he can, the servant finds a fellow servant who owed him a much smaller amount. (cf. Matt 18:28) The fellow servant is accosted by the forgiven servant and is thrown in prison until he pays back the debt. (cf. Matt 18:30)

The parable is not over before the servant gets his comeuppance. After mistreating the fellow servant, the forgiven servant is summoned before the master who inquires "[s]hould you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" (Matt 18:33) Jesus then comments to the disciples "each of you [must] forgive his brother from his heart." (Matt 18:35)

In a great many situations in life, we act reciprocally. That is, if we are treated one way, we are inclined to treat others in the same way – all things being equal. But forgiveness presents problems of its own. Let me try to point out what these problems are.

One problem is the desire to exact revenge. When we have been hurt, we instinctively want to settle the score against the ones who offended us. And thus we wait for the opportune moment to strike back. Often, we manifest a far greater patience for "hitting back" than we show patience for just about anything else; retribution is that primordial. When we forgive the offender though, we give up that desire to inflict equal or greater damage on him or her. We retire that "right" and choose consciously to live according to a different ethic.

Another problem is the perplexing preference we exhibit to live in the past. Withholding forgiveness is the best way to insure that we value the past over the present and future. But in valuing the past over the present and the future, we wind up rejecting the gift of freedom. Indeed, another name for forgiveness is freedom. Forgiveness is an act of liberation. We are emancipated from the clutches of bitterness and resentment when we forgive.

Maybe the biggest obstacle to forgiving the offender willingly is the reluctance we have to surrendering the "victim card." Trading on grievances gives us an advantage in relationships with others. We can "get our way" more easily if we can invoke our status as victims and we are also less likely to be held accountable for our actions.

In the parable above, the king is quick to forgive the servant whereas the servant makes no such concession to the fellow servant. Is this an instance of forgiveness being exclusively a divine quality? Something out of reach for mere mortals? I don't think so. The forgiveness that Jesus teaches is meant to be practiced by us all.

When we receive forgiveness from the King of Kings, we ought not to turn a blind eye to *how that* gift was imparted to us – willingly, that is. Let us endeavor to do the same!

O Lord, let my forgiveness be offered willingly in imitation of yours!

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.



Baptisms
Danica Brielle Jackowski

Ash Wednesday ~ March 2nd Lenten Observances

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



With the start of Lent a few days away now, please see the bulletin for the schedule of the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. The same schedule is on the bulletin boards of the church.

Beginning on Friday, March 4th, we will have Stations of the Cross in the church on all the Fridays of Lent at 7:00 PM, including Good Friday.

On Holy Thursday night, we ask our parishioners to keep vigil before the Blessed Sacrament in the church following the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. In Lent, we will have a sign-up poster in the vestibule for parishioners to indicate when they are able to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Remember that a priest will be in the church every Wednesday afternoon in Lent from 3:00 until 4:00 PM to hear confessions, with the exceptions being Ash Wednesday (March 2nd) and Wednesday of Holy Week (April 13th). If you cannot come on Saturday afternoons to use the sacrament, Wednesdays in the afternoon may be convenient for you.

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.

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.

Sunday, Feb 27, 2022 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Lord, that we may see

People of goodwill generally assume they're not complicit in racism or racist practices. That's because we describe racism as attitudes, words, and acts intended to harm or subordinate people whose origins are different from ours. However, racism involves omissions as well as actions: in what we fail to do or say to make equality tangible for everyone. Racism can also be institutionalized in laws, education, hiring practices, economic opportunities, zoning regulations, and voting restrictions. Racism operates best under the surface. As Pope Francis reminds us: Let none of us imagine that the conversion of hearts isn't meant for us. TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45 (84)*. "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?"

Monday, Feb 28 Build it up

Ever wonder what the kingdom of God will be like? Well, look around, because you're already living in it. Not seeing all the love, peace, and justice you were promised? The kingdom of God began with Christ's death and Resurrection and will be brought into perfection by Christ at the end of time. Until then, it's our job as Christians to build the Kingdom up. Pray, discern what God is calling you to do, and act to make this world more harmonious and respectful of the dignity of others. And then of course, wait with hope. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Peter 1:3-9; Mark 10:17-27 (347)*. "For men it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."

Tuesday, Mar 01 Your Rx for Lent

While many Christians focus on feasting today—ahead of tomorrow's fasting—it's also a good time to survey a smorgasbord of penitential spiritual practices, perfect for the upcoming Lenten season. Saint John Chrysostom identifies five in one of his homilies: "I have shown you five paths of repentance: acknowledgement of your own sins, forgiveness of our neighbor's sins against us, prayer, almsgiving, and humility." Sounding more like a doctor than one of the doctors of the church, he concludes: "Now that we have learned how to heal our wounds, let us apply the cures." How will you fill your prescription? TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Peter 1:10-16; Mark 10:28-31 (348)*. "Do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance."

Wednesday, Mar 02 ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE Add another step to your Lenten journey

Ash Wednesday is full of rituals and traditions of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. But it includes an extra step. As Pope Francis puts it, it is a time "to find concrete ways to overcome our indifference." So in addition to your regular Lenten practices, try to care more deeply about the suffering and disaffected in your community. Volunteer at your parish, a local charity, or for a social cause. Or simply go for a walk and reflect on how Jesus is present in those you encounter along the way. TODAY'S READINGS: *Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (219)*. "And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

Thursday, Mar 03 THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY; MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

Exceed expectations

Katharine Drexel was a wealthy heiress in late 19th-century Philadelphia. She rocked that world one day: "Miss Drexel Enters a Catholic Convent—Gives Up Seven Million," the Philadelphia Public Ledger announced when she decided not to simply become a nun but to found her own religious order. Head of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, she used her family fortune to found the nation's only Catholic university for African Americans (Xavier University in New Orleans), schools for Native Americans, and more. Are you, too, being called by God to do something unexpected? TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25 (220)*. "What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?"

Friday, Mar 04 FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE A cleansing fast

A couple years ago, two young white women decided that they needed to more closely align their spiritual practices of Lent with their commitment to being anti-racist. They chose, as they wrote in Sojourners magazine, to try fasting from media that lacked a diversity of voices and to spend Lent engaged with books, films, and podcasts written or directed by women of color. Their goal was to take a step toward repentance, which is one of the hallmarks of Lent. To repent is to turn away from sin, including the sin of racism. What Lenten practice of prayer, fasting, or almsgiving might you contribute toward being more intercultural and helping end racism? TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15 (221)*. "This, rather, is the fasting that I wish."

Saturday, Mar 05 SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY Tax forgiveness

Tax collectors in Jesus' time were particularly despised. The Roman occupiers auctioned off the right to collect taxes to the highest bidders, who then aggressively collected taxes from their neighbors in order to turn a profit on their "investment." When Jesus calls Levi the tax collector to follow him and attends a celebration with Levi's tax-collecting cohorts, the shock among the Jewish leaders is evident. But Levi became Matthew, the evangelist, and wrote a vivid account of the Good News. Jesus sees beyond the worst in us and brings out the best. Follow his lead. TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32 (222)*. "Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post. He said to him, 'Follow me.'"





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.



May 13-15, 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?

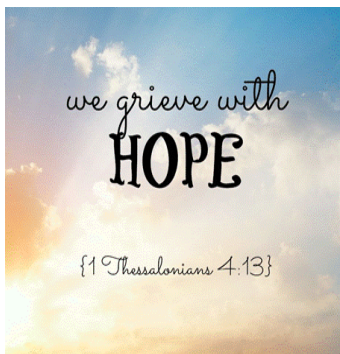
Does talking about it only make it worse?

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



Upcoming Bereavement Support Program

Offered at St. Mary, East Islip

Eight Week Group beginning Tuesday, March 15, at 7pm

Support Groups are opened to anyone who has suffered a loss at **least three months prior** to the start of the group. Loss must have occurred prior to Dec 15, 2021. There is no cost but a commitment to attend each meeting throughout the program is required. Groups are offered in a closed and confidential setting with highly trained facilitators and limited to 13 people. All Covid CDC guidelines will be properly adhered.

Pre-registration is required Call 631-581-4266 ext. 125 to register

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).

