ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



Pastoral Staff

Msgr. Robert Batule - Pastor xIII

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

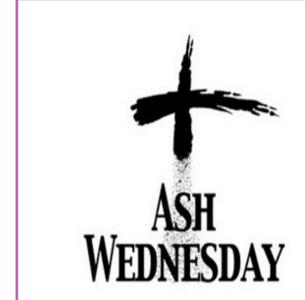
Jeannine Stewart, Principal

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 $\sim 9:00$ am -5:00 pm Friday $\sim 9:00$ am to 1:00 pm

Fax (631) 732 - 8827

www.saintmargaret.com 81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813



Time, Talent & Treasure

Stewardship Thought for the Week.

Pillar of Service: Living Stewardship:

This week do something nice for someone in your family. Offer that good deed to God as thanksgiving for all He has done for you.

Sacrificial Giving

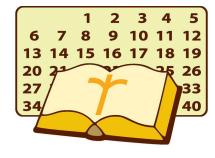
Thank you to all who so generously give to the support of our parish. You are returning to God what God has so generously given to you.

February 19/20

	Stewardship	Envelopes
Collected at Mass	6,774	166
Mailed Envelopes	4,420	71
Total Collection	^{\$} 11,194	237

Readings for Next Sunday First Sunday of Lent

First Reading......Dt 26: 4-10
Second ReadingRom 10: 8-13
Gospel.....Lk 4: 1-13



PARISH MEMBERSHIP: We welcome all new parishioners! We ask them to register at the Parish Center and encourage the use of weekly envelopes. If you are moving, please notify the office.

MARRIAGES: Couples should make arrangements in person at least one year in advance for required interview. At least one of the parties must live within the parish boundaries or be a registered member of the parish. Please call the Parish Center for an appointment. No dates will be set over the telephone.

BAPTISMS: Ideally, prospective parents should call the Parish Center before the expected birth to discuss the arrangements for your baptism. The ceremony is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE ~ Parish Center:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Or call for appointment - x131.

PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY ~ Parish Center:

Tues., Thurs. ~ 10 am -1 pm. Or call for appointment - $\times 119$.

Masses for the Week

Monday - February 28th
Norman Gottfried

Tuesday - March 1st Dr. Justo J. Andalis

Ash Wednesday - March 2nd

Special Intentions Jessica Beljour $7:30^{\text{ pm}}$

John Schlageter

Thursday - March 3rd

Charles Glasgow

Friday - March 4th

Special Intentions Annette Lyons

Saturday - March 5th 5^{pm}

Lorraine Schweers Branzel Bonner

Sunday - March 6th

8 am

Anna Santini John Fiscina

10 am

Dolores A. Ernst John Schlageter

12 pm

All St. Margaret's Parishioners

For all our parishioners suffering from chronic illness, as well as

Patricia Fiscina Kathy Micheli Logan Baar Joseph Laria Estelle Beauchamp Eppie Larke Virginia Butler Eric Cohen Lorraine Vogel Laura Durant Frank Guttilla Joseph Kiely Warne Family Anne Logan Dominic Percoco Laura Positano Patricia Wowk James Reynolds Jr.

Marilyn Vacchio John Roucoulet Joseph Dulovic Terri Persina Alyssa Baisch Jillian Brown Robert J. Heege Kathleen Weiss Steven Vacchio Joseph De Aguiar Robert Valletta Sharon Klyn Michael C. Liotta Christine Mc Cusker Gina Rosenberg De Santis Family Natasha Roucoulet John Reynolds

Babies Aubrey & Greyson Marie & Tony Caruana Veronica Sheridan-Cox Wendiann & Nicholas Alfieri James & Catherine Reynolds Jennifer, John & Olivia Rose Altieri

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 notedue to privacy issues, we can include names given by the individual or a health care proxy only.

Thank you.

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.



BaptismsDanica Brielle Jackowski

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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter announces an in-person experience in New England. This non-residential weekend takes place at St. Gabriel The Archangel Church 151 Mendon St., Upton, MA from Friday, March 18- Sunday, March 20, 2022. Couples can drive to the experience from their homes or stay at one of several hotels in the area. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is designed to deepen and enrich the joys a couple shares together whether they've been married only a short time or many years. This in-person experience will be conducted in accordance with CDC safety protocols including social distancing. To apply contact Joe & Ginny Vatalle at 800-710-9963 or visit wwmema.org.

For those wishing to participate in a virtual experience, there is one beginning on March 9, 2022. It will be on seven Wednesday evenings (concluding on April 20) from 7:00 PM to about 9:00 PM. To apply, contact Jimmy & Bernice Acevedo at 877-697-9963 or visit <u>bq-wwme.org.</u>



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.

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: Shampoo , toothpaste & bar soap. A very special THANK YOU to all!

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.



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.

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.'"



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EUCHARISTIC 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

I-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).

