

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
or by appointment.



*First Sunday
of Advent*

Holy Hour

Exposition and Benediction

Monday, November 28

7:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm



Pastoral Staff

Msgr. Robert Batule - *Pastor* x111

Rev. Patrick Abu-Bonsra - Parochial Vicar
x116 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

November 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

81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813

On this last Sunday of November, the Church begins her Advent observance. So, I begin this column with some remarks about this holy season of preparation for Christmas.

“The holidays” are making it more difficult to acknowledge any period of preparation for Christmas. Before “the holidays” overwhelmed Advent, we saw calendars and wreaths galore which helped us to count down the days to Our Savior’s birth. Try looking for those calendars and wreaths now and you are likely to come up empty handed.

I ask you to join the effort to hold onto Advent. Find a good religious goods store and get your hands on an Advent calendar and an Advent wreath. And, of course, display them where you can. To be sure, it’s a modest effort, but one that is in sync with *Keep Christ in Christmas*. That’s the expression we use now to keep our attention focused on the real meaning of Christmas. Advent calendars and wreaths are reminders that the Incarnation begins the central drama of history. Without a birth, why would we ever mark a death and Resurrection?

The central drama of history is that God loves us so much that He would give us His Son. What we have is a mystery so unlike any other. God becomes like us and we become like Him. We need time to appreciate the Christmas mystery and that is why is so important. Advent is time. It is the *time* we have to recognize that God has redeemed *all of time* by sending us His Son *in time*.

We place ourselves, paradoxically, under the dominion of a timeless God. For God Who is outside of time, there is only the eternal now. To dwell with God for all eternity, we must learn the holiness of time. And that’s what we do when we take the time to mark Advent – we learn the holiness of time. May this holy season of Advent bring us in time to the stable in Bethlehem to adore the God Who is over all and through all and in all. (cf. Eph 4:6)

On **Monday night, the 28th**, we will have a **Holy Hour** in church from **7:00 to 8:00 PM**. We ask all parishioners to consider joining us for this spiritual exercise. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and there will be Benediction at the close of the hour. To enter into the Advent spirit, there isn’t a better way than by coming into the Lord’s Presence and knowing His peace. The Holy Hour is also a way for us to witness to the **Eucharistic Revival** which we hope and pray is taking place in our midst.

On **Thursday, December 8th**, the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.** There is Mass in the morning at 9:00 AM and in the evening at 7:00 PM.

Later in Advent, we will have our second edition of **Lessons and Carols**. It is being offered this year on **Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 PM** in the church. Our choir will lead us in the carols portion of the service. The rite also includes readings from Sacred Scripture. There is a reception in the church basement immediately following the spiritual exercise. Mark your calendar and make a point of joining us.

While it is still a few months off, mention should be made that our Lenten observance will reflect our participation in the **Eucharistic Revival**. During Lent, we will have evenings of enrichment (Mondays) in the church beginning at 7:30 PM and going until 9:00 PM on the topic of the Holy Eucharist. Continue to watch the bulletin for details.

As we make our way through Advent, I call attention to the Sacrament of Penance. Please remember that we have confessions every Saturday afternoon at 4:00 PM. Advent is a very good time to examine your conscience, confess your sins and do penance. There will be additional hours set aside for the Sacrament of Penance in the days leading up to Christmas. But you needn’t wait till right before we celebrate the Lord’s birth. The Lord’s pardon and peace await you on Saturday afternoons. Come and be reconciled with the Lord Who wants to grant you His grace and mercy.

Have a good Advent. Follow the Lord to His birth in Bethlehem by following first the prophet Isaiah, Saint John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Msgr. Batule
Pastor



Baptisms

Anthony Jack Gomes,
Mikayla Grace Leavey,
Scarlet Myla Garcia Espiritu,
Cole Michael Devere

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8th

Mass ~ 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM



Parish Social Ministry

WASH UP KITS NEEDS

HAVE YOU TRAVELED LATELY? Outreach is in need of small shampoo, soap, & lotions to put in our wash up kits for the homeless. Please drop off these items at the parish center. Thank you!

BABY DIAPERS

Has your child changed diaper size? We will gladly accept **all children's sizes**. Please package them tightly in a strong bag and drop them off at the Parish Center. Thank you!



Food Pantry Needs

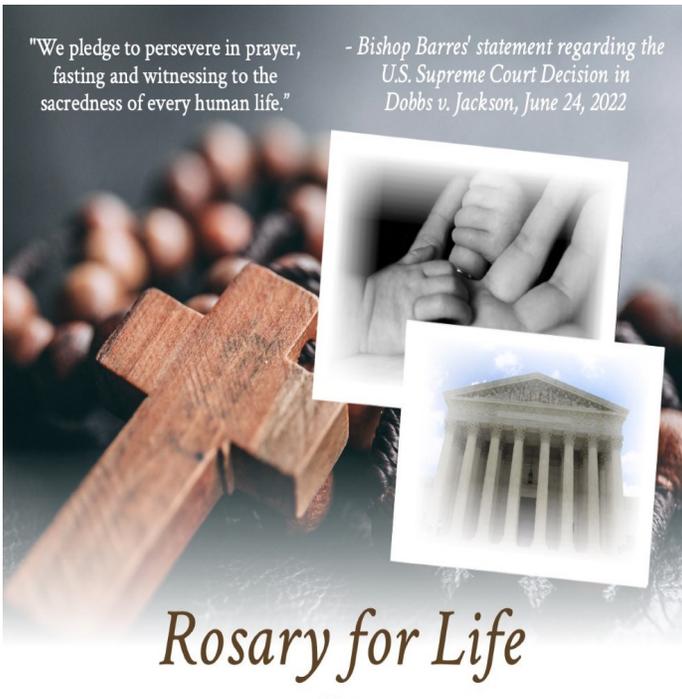
PLEASE bring all donations to the front door of the Parish Center during office hours or bring to the box in the rear of the Church.

We are in need of: White Bread, Juice Boxes, Shelf Stable Milk, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, Bar Soap, Toilet Paper, Toothpaste
A very special THANK YOU to all!



"We pledge to persevere in prayer, fasting and witnessing to the sacredness of every human life."

- Bishop Barres' statement regarding the U.S. Supreme Court Decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, June 24, 2022



Rosary for Life

JOIN the OFFICE of HUMAN LIFE, FAMILY and BIOETHICS in PRAYER

Every Friday - 3:00 PM

Via Zoom
Click here for link
Meeting ID: 856 4708 7922
Passcode: 677757
Call In #: 1 (646) 876-9923

Email dcrean@drvc.org
if you would like the link sent to you each month.



www.drvcilife.org

Living Waters Wholistic Healing

Therapeutic Catholic Counseling dedicated to healing the whole individual with a an integrated approach to the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual. For more information go to livingwaterstherapy.org.

Catholic Gifts

Looking for Catholic gifts and items? You can visit Our Lady of the Island Shrine, 258 Eastport Manor Rd. in Manorville. Hours 10-4 weekdays & 10-5 Sat./ Sun. They carry a large variety of religious articles. OURLADYOFTHEISLAND.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.

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.

From the Pastor's Desk

We are in the process of updating our donation records. If you are contributing to the parish using electronic giving and are **not using donation envelopes sent through the regular mail, please contact the parish office. If you are not using envelopes at all to support the parish, please let us know too. If you are not supporting the parish at all but you do receive envelopes through the regular mail, please let us know as well.**

Each month, the envelope company sends envelopes to as many as **three times the parishioners who use them. The envelope company in turn charges the parish for all envelopes sent regardless of use or not. We hope to have a much more accurate number of regular envelope users by Christmas time. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

For your personal adoration and prayers.

FIRST THURSDAYS ~ DEC. 1ST, JAN. 5TH, FEB. 2ND

3:00 - 6:00 PM in the Church



Faith Formation

You are Invited to our Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 10th ~ 2:00 PM

The children of Saint Margaret's parish prepare a gift for the Christ Child. They honor His birth by retelling the Christmas story for their family, friends and all of our parishioners.

Cast Party to follow immediately after Pageant.



Sunday, December 18th ~ 4:00 PM

We invite all parishioners to join us. The service consists of biblical readings and hymns as we await the birth of Our Savior.

The Music Ministry will lead us in the singing portion of the prayer service. Hospitality will be held immediately following in the auditorium. All are welcome !

Sunday, Nov 27, 2022**The most wonderful time, indeed**

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" as some popular lyrics go, and a lot of us agree. Andy Williams made the tune famous, but composers Eddie Pola and George Wyle wrote it. Ironically, Pola and Wyle were Jewish. Yet they assisted Williams in earning the title "Mr. Christmas" with their composition. The song celebrates holiday parties, caroling, mistletoe, good cheer, and loved ones near. But for believers, the season beginning today is really about anticipation and Incarnation, light illuminating the darkness, and God coming near. We know what time it is. Make this Advent a genuine celebration of hope.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44 (1). *"You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep."*

Monday, Nov 28, 2022**Time to get ready!**

With the Thanksgiving holiday weekend wrapped up, Catholics yesterday began the Advent journey to Christmas. The word *advent* comes from Latin for "to come." All the days from now until the celebration of the birth of Jesus are preparation for his coming. Preparation in this case means remembering to be ready with a spirit of both penance and joy. Did you set out an Advent wreath on your dinner table yesterday? For many, it's the first of many Christmas decorations to come out—with festooned trees not far behind. The wreath is more than just a pretty adornment but also a daily reminder to pray as you count down each week with a new candle. Start the season out right by blessing your wreath with a prayer.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). *"Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith."*

Tuesday, Nov 29, 2022**Listen with the ear of a child**

"Advent is not a time to declare, but to listen, to listen to whatever God may want to tell us through the singing of the stars, the quickening of a baby, the gallantry of a dying man," wrote Christian writer Madeleine L'Engle, born this day in 1918. L'Engle is especially known for her children's books, including *A Wrinkle in Time*, which won the 1963 Newberry Medal. This Advent, consider what it might be like to imitate the Christ Child instead of the adult Jesus. As *A Wrinkle in Time* tells us: "To love is to be vulnerable; and it is only in vulnerability and risk—not safety and security—that we overcome darkness."

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). *"Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike."*

Wednesday, Nov 30, 2022**Be first to follow the Lord**

It's no coincidence that Saint Andrew the Apostle is linked to Advent (which traditionally begins on the Sunday closest to his feast day). In Eastern Christianity he is known as *protokletos*, "first called," because it was Andrew, who had been a disciple of John the Baptist, who persuaded his brother Simon (whom we know as Peter) to follow Jesus with his words, "We have found the

Messiah!" Andrew also has a devotion linked to Advent, known as the Saint Andrew Novena. Try it out and see if it supports and deepens your living out your own call.

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). *"At once they left their nets and followed him."*

Thursday, Dec 01, 2022**Build on higher ground**

Anyone who has followed the news over the past year has seen more images than ever of people coping with floods. Families waiting on rooftops, people stuffed in boats, neighbors wading through murky water. Jesus constantly used images to make his point, including the image of discipleship as a solid house that stands firm during storms and floods. "Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies," Saint Teresa of Calcutta once said. Are you building a strong, flood-proof house in the small things you do each day?

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178).

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."

Friday, Dec 02, 2022**Walk with each other**

Today, the church remembers martyrs Jean Donovan, Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel, and Ita Ford, brutally murdered for standing with the poor in war-torn El Salvador in 1980. Their witness still speaks profoundly to us today as we encounter our own wars, violence, and suffering, especially among the most vulnerable. And still, we struggle to know what to do. Let us take courage as we ponder the questions posed by Ita Ford in 1977: "Am I willing to suffer with the people here, the suffering of the powerless? Can I say to my neighbors, 'I have no solution to this situation. I don't know the answers, but I will walk with you, search with you, be with you?'"

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179). *"Let it be done for you according to your faith."*

Saturday, Dec 03, 2022**Missionizing begins at home**

Many of the practices of the great "missionizing projects" of centuries past are seen as problematic in our age, with its greater sensibility of the rights of indigenous peoples to worship freely as they wish. So, while the legacy of one of the patrons of foreign missions, Saint Francis Xavier, is a mixed one, it is significant to note that he always provided for ongoing pastoral care of the communities he missionized and also advocated for an educated native clergy (rather than foreign-born leadership). None of us acts with perfect justice, but each of us finds oneself living in a unique historical moment, called upon to help church and society live up to the best and most noble qualities of our tradition.

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS XAVIER, JESUIT PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). *"At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



©2022 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. **Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.**

Lunch With Santa



Take your family picture with Santa & enjoy lunch with friends and family.

Adults \$13 per person, / children 5-12 yrs. old \$6 4 yrs. & younger - free. Call the Parish Center 732-3131 or 917-365-7546 to register.

Sponsored by Heart of the Island K of C



Sat. ~ Dec. 3rd 12 ~ 3 PM
AUDITORIUM

Annual Christmas Craft Fair



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Ronkonkoma is holding their Fair on Sunday, Dec. 4th 9-4 in the Parish Hall. Christmas shopping crafts baked goods, raffles refreshments.

Mass Book for 2023

The Mass Book for 2023 is open in the parish center. We encourage you to remember deceased relatives and friends at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Through the Communion of Saints, we are never removed from those whom we love. We hope for a reunion with them in God's providence, and praying for them now helps to bring that reunion a nearer prospect.

Oplatek – A Polish Christmas Tradition



One of the highlights of Christmas festivities in Poland is the Oplatek (pronounced "o-PWAA-tek"). The Oplatek is a decorated Christmas wafer, similar to a large white host. Each person receives one, and then invites the others gathered to break a piece off and eat it. While they are breaking one another's oplatek, people exchange wishes for a blessed Christmas and good health and prosperity. After all those present have broken and shared the Oplatek, good food and Christmas car-ols (in Polish and English) are enjoyed.

This year, members of our Polish community will gather for a traditional Oplatek celebration, and they invite all parishioners to join them in this beautiful tradition.

We will meet in the auditorium on Saturday, **December 10th at 6:30 PM**. If you would like to come, we ask you to do few things: (1) number of people coming & (2) plan on bringing a traditional Christmas dish that can be shared at the potluck meal, (3) consider a monetary donation (\$25 per family) to cover the costs and church offering. Since arrangements take time, we ask that you call or email before December 4th. Call the Parish Center at 631-732-3131 x133 or Henryk Chelminski at 631-693-9310. Email: HENRYKCHEL@GMAIL.COM.

"Holiday Visit to Calverton National Cemetery

Branch Funeral Home in Smithtown is offering a **free bus trip to the cemetery on Friday, December 2nd**.

8:15 AM - Depart from Branch FH, 190 E. Main St., Smithtown

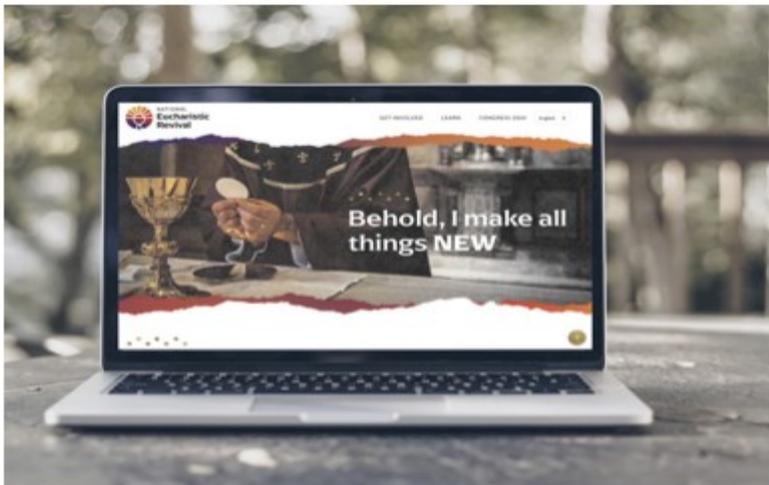
8:30 AM- Depart from Smithtown Senior Center, 420 Middle Country, Smithtown

The Bus will make stops at both locations on return. Please arrive 15 minutes before bus departure.

9:30 AM - Arrive at Calverton ~ 1:30 PM Leave Calverton *Must reserve a seat.*

Call Branch FH at 631-724-9500 by Friday, November 25th.

Coffee, donuts, pizza & cold drinks will be served on the return trip. The bus does have a lavatory.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

A three-year initiative to inspire and prepare the People of God through a renewed encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Learn more by visiting:

www.eucharisticrevival.org

