

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

*Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service*



## **Celebration of the Eucharist**

Weekday: (Mon through Fri) 9:00 AM

Saturday: 5:00 PM,

Sunday - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 noon

## **Confessions:**

Saturday - 4:00-4:45 PM in the Church  
or by appointment.

## CONFESSIONS



Diocesan Day of Reconciliation

Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

2:00 ~ 4:00 PM and 6:00~9:00 PM

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**March 19, 2023**

**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](http://www.saintmargaret.com)

81 COLLEGE ROAD • SELDEN • NY 11784-2813

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Dcn Biagio Muratore

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**Holy Angels Regional Catholic School**

Patchogue, NY 631-475-0422

Jeannine Stewart, Principal

**Pillar of Service: Living Stewardship :** Like the blind man in today's Gospel, there are many in our lives, our parish and our community who need assistance. This week, pray a decade of the Rosary for someone you know who is in need of prayer (perhaps someone struggling with mental or physical health issues).



*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. Thank you.*

As you remember, we have been following the themes of *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* for months through my column in the bulletin. The last topics we considered were conversion and the right disposition for receiving the Holy Eucharist at Mass. Let me pick up then with some comments found in the document concerning the relationship between the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Penance.

It starts with what Jesus said after His Resurrection. In Saint John's Gospel, the evangelist records how the Risen Lord was with the apostles and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (Jn 20:22-23) We understand in these words of Jesus His intention to give us the Sacrament of Penance. The Bishops write: *Whenever we sin, we have this beautiful opportunity to be renewed and strengthened by God's grace. If we have sinned gravely, the sacrament provides us with the opportunity to recover the gift of sanctifying grace and to be restored to full communion with God and the Church.* When we go to confession, the sacrament is always the same regarding what is needed in the encounter between the priest-confessor and the penitent. First, it requires of the penitent that he/she be contrite. By that, it is meant the penitent must be sorry for sins committed. Second, there must be what is called a firm purpose of amendment. That is, we resolve not to sin again. Third, we confess our sins. We declare honestly what sins we have committed to the priest-confessor. Fourth, we receive from the priest-confessor the Lord's absolution. Through the words of the Church, we receive divine forgiveness. And, lastly, we carry out the penance assigned by the priest-confessor. We make what is called satisfaction for our offenses.

The Bishops then call upon Catholics to have a "renewed appreciation" for this wonderful sacrament of the Lord's "pardon and peace." A renewed appreciation for the Sacrament of Penance helps us to have a deep esteem and reverence for the Blessed Sacrament. Use of the Sacrament of Penance on a regular basis makes it more likely that we never take the Holy Eucharist for granted. Sacramental reconciliation is a check that we don't presume upon eucharistic communion, seeing ourselves as entitled to the Holy Eucharist merely because we are geographically near the Presence of the Lord. Recall that God instructed Moses to take off his sandals for he was on holy ground. (Ex 3:5) We too are on holy ground in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We approach Him with a holy wonder and awe.

In a section of the document called *Food for the Journey*, the Bishops advert to Catholic men and women throughout history who have had a great devotion to the Holy Eucharist. They refer, for instance, to Carlo Acutis, a young Italian teenager who died at the age of fifteen. As a teenager, he went to Mass daily and adored the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle and when it was exposed during Holy Hours. And there was Jose Sanchez del Rio, a Mexican teenager who was canonized a saint in 2016. While imprisoned, he was able to receive Holy Communion when it was smuggled into his cell by way of a basket. Even when he was tortured for his faith, he still would not give up a deep and abiding faith that the Lord is with us under the appearance of bread and wine.

Others too, like St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a wife and mother who converted to Catholicism precisely because of our belief in the Real Presence, inspire us to deepen our faith in the Eucharistic Lord. Or what about Cardinal Thuan? He was the Vietnamese bishop who was arrested by the Communists in 1975 and held in solitary confinement for nine years. Bread and wine were clandestinely given him so that he could offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Were he to be caught offering the Church's liturgy, he would likely have been killed. And who can forget the Saint of the Slums, Mother Teresa, not only did she pick up the sick and dying with her own hands in Calcutta, but she received Holy Communion every day for the strength to continue practicing the corporal works of mercy.

We are blessed to have these saintly figures in the Church whose examples teach us that our discipleship will always have a flaw in it if we do not behold the Eucharistic Lord in all its mystery. In our **Eucharistic Revival**, we are bid to follow these holy men and women and deepen our love for Immanuel, God with us, in our tabernacles and altars all over the world.

Till the next time.

Msgr. Batule  
Pastor



## Divine Mercy Novena

The Novena will begin on Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> after the  
8:30 AM Morning Prayer and after the 3:00 PM Passion.

Holy Saturday will be after the 8:30 AM Morning Prayer. Easter Sunday you may do private.  
Daily Novena will be after morning Mass

## Divine Mercy Sunday

**April 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 3 PM in the Church**



## Holy Week Services

### Reconciliation, Monday ~ April 3

2:00-4:00 PM & 6:00-9:00 PM

### Holy Thursday ~ April 6

8:30 AM—Morning Prayer

8:00 PM — Mass of the Lord's Supper

*Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight*

### Good Friday ~ April 7

8:30 AM—Morning Prayer

3:00 PM — Passion of the Lord

4:30 –5:30 PM –Confession

7:30 PM Stations of the Cross

### Holy Saturday ~ April 8

8:30 AM—Morning Prayer

11:00 AM—Confessions

8:00 PM — Easter Vigil

### Easter Sunday ~ April 9

Church ~ 8:00 & 10:00 AM & 12:00 Noon

### Easter Food Blessing

*Blessing of the Easter food and baskets will be on Holy Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in the Church. Please be on time.*



### Children's Stations of the Cross



Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

11:00 am in the Church

### Lectors

All lectors are asked to attend a meeting on **Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** in the church. There will be a practice of reading liturgical texts at that time with an audio-visual taping of all lectors. Kindly mark your calendars now.



## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

*For your personal adoration and prayers.*

**FIRST THURSDAYS  
MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> & JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**3:00 - 6:00 PM in the Church**



## St. Margaret of Scotland's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

With our celebration of the parish's **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, we are publishing a journal. If you have any material (e.g. newspaper articles) in your possession related to the founding of St. Margaret and you would like to loan it to the parish, please see Julie Burtoff in the parish center during regular business hours.

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi on June 11<sup>th</sup>, the principal Mass that day will be offered at 11:00 AM. It will be followed by an outdoor procession with the Blessed Sacrament off our property. It will conclude with Benediction back in the church. To continue our **celebration on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June**, there will be a reception on the grounds of the parish. Again, please follow the bulletin for more details over the coming months. Mark your calendar.

We ask you to hold the date of

**Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> between 1 and 5 PM**

for the principal celebration of the parish's **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. In the meantime, please continue to follow the bulletin on all things related to the anniversary of Saint Margaret.

### 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.



### 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.



The church is open at 8:30 AM Monday through Friday. We encourage parishioners and other church-goers to come early for Mass.

The recitation of the rosary is encouraged among those so inclined.

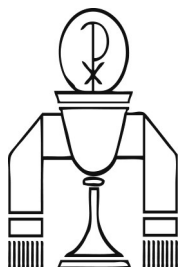


## Adult Confirmation Preparation

We invite adult Catholics who have never celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation to contact us should they want to be confirmed. Adult Catholics will be confirmed at Pentecost on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at the 12 noon Mass in the church. Those wishing to be confirmed **must** contact us now. Catechesis for Confirmation begins after Easter on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the parish center.



## Eucharistic Miracles



An exhibit on **Eucharistic Miracles** will be coming to Saint Margaret in late April. Over the weekend of April 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>, parishioners will have the opportunity to view the exhibit in the auditorium/church basement following parish Masses.

Don't miss it. The exhibit is yet another way to enhance the profile of the **Eucharistic Revival** which began last year and will conclude next year. The Lord is with us always through the Holy Eucharist; we should be with Him some of the time.

## Adoration

At the midway point in Lent, we begin to call attention to the liturgies of the Sacred Triduum. On Holy Thursday night, the Church celebrates the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8:00 PM in the church**. Following the Mass, there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

Kindly see the sign-up book in the vestibule for Adoration and write your name in for one of the time slots. ~ Msgr. Batule



## St. Margaret's Bible Study

The Parish Bible Study is held on **Wednesdays at 10 AM** in the Parish Center.

Deacon Ed Hayes will be the facilitator.  
Please bring your Bible.



## Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent



12:00 noon & 7:30 pm

March 10, 17, 24, 31

April 7 – 7:30 pm



The Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls will be available during Lent. You may pick one up in the Parish Center or the church lobby.

## Guidelines for Fasting & Abstinence

All Catholics who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on 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 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 Good Friday fast and abstinence.

**Sunday, Mar 19, 2023****Step out of the spotlight**

They called her the "Pearl of the Antilles" for her uncompromising care of the sick. In Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and her original home in Puerto Rico, Mother Maria Soledad Sanjurjo Santos and the Servants of Mary she led were there to help. Mother Maria made it her signature to be hidden so Christ could be made visible. Her humility in service illuminates what Saint Paul means by living as children of light. If we insist on the spotlight, all that people see is us. If we wear a cloak of invisibility in practicing our good works, Christ alone lights up the darkness.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31). *"Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness."*

**Monday, Mar 20, 2023****Pull a chair up to the table**

On the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, it is the custom in some places, especially Italy, to bless bread, pastries, and other food and give it to the poor. Legend has it that the tradition started in the Middle Ages after Sicilians prayed to Saint Joseph to end a terrible drought. After rain finally came and produced a bountiful harvest, the food was shared with everyone in need. Saint Joseph's Table is now an annual celebration, where some wealthy Italian families invite the public to huge buffets and no one is turned away. What a festive tradition to start in your parish or home! Show your gratitude for the blessings you've received by renewing your devotion to this special saint—a foster father to Jesus and us all. Here is the Blessing of Saint Joseph's Table Prayer.

SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a (543). *"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him."*

**Tuesday, Mar 21, 2023****Nothing so beautiful as a tree**

The U.N. declares today the International Day of Forests. Trees happen to be the most frequently mentioned living things in the Bible, aside from people and God of course. From the Garden of Eden to the cedars of Lebanon, trees represent God's provision. They provide food to eat and medicine to heal. Olive trees growing in the Garden of Gethsemane are estimated to be 900 years old. Little surprise, then, that trees—and the modern-day scourge of deforestation—appear in Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. The global loss of trees contributes to climate change. It leads to soil erosion and flooding, particularly for vulnerable indigenous populations. Visit the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative to find a "Catholic toolkit" that features *Laudato Si'* and beautiful prayers.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245). *"Trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail."*

**Wednesday, Mar 22, 2023****Sabbath prayer**

Biblically speaking, there are many reasons to celebrate the sabbath. First, a sabbath rest brings to mind God's rest after the great act of creation. Second, we recall God's liberating action in

our own lives, freeing us from the bonds of sin just as Jews were freed from bondage in Egypt. Finally, the great victory of Jesus over sin and death is cause for a sabbath celebration. Sabbath shouldn't be reduced to outward observances, but rather as a perspective that places God's accomplishing activity front and center. We rest and rise again to carry on that liberating work to help bring about the reign of God.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 (246). *"My Father is at work until now, so I am at work."*

**Thursday, Mar 23, 2023****Defend against injustice**

Turibius of Mogrovejo was a highborn Spanish bishop in Peru during the late 1500s, a period of intense violence as the Spanish forcibly colonized the native people. Although many of the colonizers considered indigenous to be less than fully human, Turibius learned their languages and fought for their rights. Who is vulnerable in your community? Is God calling you to take steps on their behalf?

MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247). *"How can you believe, when you accept praise from one another and do not seek the praise that comes from the only God?"*

**Friday, Mar 24, 2023****Let's not turn our gaze away**

We join with the international community today in remembering Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of El Salvador, assassinated on this day in 1980 by a paramilitary member because he was an advocate for the poor and condemned military and landowner violations of basic human rights. Honoring Romero, the United Nations proclaimed this day the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. Let us pray Romero's own words: "Let us be today's Christians. Let us not take fright at the boldness of today's church. With Christ's light let us illuminate even the most hideous caverns of the human person: torture, jail, plunder, want, chronic illness." Saint Oscar, pray with us.

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248). *"So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching."*

**Saturday, Mar 25, 2023****Hear ye! Hear ye!**

There is a tendency to put Mary on a spiritual pedestal and thereby distance her from the lives the rest of us live. But the point of Mary's exaltation is to point toward what all of us are called to, and capable of—a complete and radical response to our divine calling. Mary was fully human, and her response to God's call sets the standard to which we can all aspire. God has some work to announce to each of us, our own annunciation. Claim your spot on the pedestal with your response!

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (545). *"May it be done to me according to your word."*

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



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## Faith Formation

### Save the Date! Vacation Bible School



Theme ~ Stellar Jesus Light shines!

July 10-14 ~ 9:15 am-12:30 pm

Ages 4 yrs old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade ~ Fee \$35 per child

Volunteers Needed! Adults & Students grade 6 and up.  
High Schoolers welcome.



Registration opens 2/27 limited to first 100 children.

Any question ~ Jackie Mirenda at 631-732-3131 x131 or [jmirenda@saintmargaret.com](mailto:jmirenda@saintmargaret.com)

## Parish Social Ministry



### 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: **Applesauce, Package Gravy, Juice, Toothpaste & Shampoo**

*A very special THANK YOU to all!*

*"I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*  
- Lk 15:10

# Reconciliation Monday

**Experience the liberating grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance).**

**Monday, April 3**  
**2-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.**

**Confessions will be heard at all parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Archdiocese of New York.**

To find a parish near you, visit: [drvc.org](http://drvc.org).

