

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service



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Jeannine Stewart, Principal

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.



March 26, 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

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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. Thank you.

On this last Sunday in March, we are coming closer to the end of our Lenten observance this year. For today is the Fifth Sunday of this penitential season and the next Sunday, April 2nd, is Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week. So, I would like to use my column this week as a kind of wrap-up and following Easter Sunday, I will resume my consideration here of the themes in *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church*.

I call attention to **Reconciliation Monday on April 3rd**. There is a priest available to hear confessions in the church from **2:00 until 4:00 PM** and **6:00 until 9:00 PM**. I urge you to set aside some time on that day to use the Sacrament of Penance. It's the best way to prepare for the Lord's Resurrection bar none.

In Holy Week, the Church marks the **Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday)**, with a liturgy on each of the three days focusing on the saving work of Christ near the end of his earthly ministry. You should have received a copy of our schedule for these days in the regular mail. All are welcome to join us.

I mention here that attendance at the liturgies of the **Sacred Triduum** has gotten woefully small over the years. So, please make an effort to be with us on Holy Thursday night at 8:00 PM for the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**, the **Liturgy of the Passion** on Good Friday at 3:00 PM and the **Easter Vigil** at 8:00 PM on Holy Saturday.

On each of the days of the **Triduum**, we come together in the church for **Morning Prayer at 8:30 AM**. **There is no morning Mass (no Mass at all on Good Friday)**. If your schedule permits, I encourage you to join us for Morning Prayer on those days.

In the spirit of "wrapping up" by looking back, mostly, allow me to comment briefly on the series we had at Saint Margaret on Monday nights. We began all the way back in late February, on the 27th, the first Monday of Lent this year. For four consecutive Monday nights, we gathered together in the church for **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction**. There is one more Monday night remaining in our series on the **Holy Eucharist** – the last Monday of March (the 27th too). So, please come and join us for prayer before the Eucharistic Lord and preaching on various aspects of the Blessed Sacrament.

I commend all of those who were with us for the first four nights of the series. Thank you for your commitment! Tomorrow night, we finish the series with a consideration of the Holy Eucharist at the Second Vatican Council and in the post-conciliar period. As always, I encourage you to join us at 7:30 PM in the church.

In the spirit of "wrapping up" by looking ahead, I mention that the Second Sunday of Easter this year, the 16th of April, is **Divine Mercy Sunday**. Once again, we will have the Divine Mercy Sunday devotion at Saint Margaret at 3:00 PM. Make time in your personal schedule to be with us.

Keeping with the theme of the **Eucharistic Revival**, I hasten to mention that there is an **Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles** which is coming to Saint Margaret in late April (the fourth weekend of the month). The exhibit will be in the church basement (the auditorium) and it may be viewed following all weekend Masses on the 22nd and 23rd of the month. It will be with us for only a few days and it will be a way for some church-going Catholics to participate in the **Eucharistic Revival** apart from prayer and the sacramental life of the Church.

Please be on the lookout for members of the **75th Anniversary Committee** who will be in the vestibule of the church on the weekend of April 15th/16th and for successive weekends after that. They will be there to accept your reservations for our celebration of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi on June 11th. As you have already seen by way of signs around the church, the principal Mass on that day is **11:00 AM**. Following the Mass, there is a **Procession with the Blessed Sacrament outdoors, followed by a reception on the grounds of the church**.

To plan properly for the event, you must let the members of the Committee know that you intend to participate. And the only way to do that is to sign up for the event in person – those who are in ministries and apostolates **and** those who are not.

Till the next time.

Msgr. Batule
Pastor



Divine Mercy Novena

The Novena will begin on Good Friday, April 7th 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 16th ~ 3 PM in the Church

Guidelines for Fasting & Abstinence

All Catholics who have reached their 14th 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.

Easter Food Blessing

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



Children's Stations of the Cross



Friday, April 7th

11:00 am in the Church

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

For your personal adoration and prayers.

FIRST THURSDAYS
MAY 4TH & JUNE 1ST

3:00 - 6:00 PM in the Church



Lectors

All lectors are asked to attend a meeting on **Wednesday, April 19th 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.



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. .



St. Margaret of Scotland's 75th Anniversary

With our celebration of the parish's **75th 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 11th, 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 11th 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 19th between 1 and 5 PM

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

CONFESSIONS



Diocesan Day of Reconciliation

Monday, April 3rd

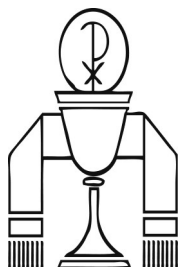
2:00 ~ 4:00 PM and 6:00-9:00 PM

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 28th 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 17th 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 22nd/23rd, 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



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

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent



12:00 noon & 7:30 pm

March 24 & 31 April 7 – 7:30 pm

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.



Sunday, Mar 26, 2023**Hints of resurrection**

While the Hebrew scripture written before Jesus lived doesn't explicitly speak of resurrection in the same way it is spoken of after Jesus is raised from the dead, there are certainly rumors and whispers. Perhaps the most explicit references are in chapter 37 of Ezekiel, where God, working through the prophet, raises a valley of dry bones to new life and promises to restore them to the promised land after their captivity in Babylon centuries before Christ. Saint Jerome called the vision of the valley of bones a "simile" of the Resurrection to come. There's hope for these old bones yet!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 (34). *"Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people!"*

Monday, Mar 27, 2023**A profile in courage**

In the last week of Women's History Month, here's another Catholic woman who made history: Servant of God Catherine de Hueck Doherty (1896-1985). Born wealthy in Russia, she escaped the Russian Revolution and fled to Canada. During the Great Depression, she founded Friendship House, a Catholic outreach movement to serve the poor and promote interracial friendship—a movement that started in Toronto and spread to Harlem, Chicago, Washington D.C., and Portland, Oregon. As a nation and a world community, we face trials comparable to the ones Doherty faced. She responded with courage, generosity, love, and gospel witness. Let us do the same!

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:1-11 (251). *"Go, and from now on do not sin any more."*

Tuesday, Mar 28, 2023**'Tis a gift to be simple**

Happy birthday to Saint John Neumann today—nicknamed the "little bishop" not only for his stature but for the humility that came from his Redemptorist vow of poverty, which he honored even after becoming bishop of Philadelphia. Neumann's simplicity invites rich reflection for Lent. "Our great mistake is that we allow ourselves to be deceived by the spirit of worldly shrewdness, the desire for fame, and the love of comfort," he wrote to a fellow priest. "The principles of faith fade out of our hearts in proportion as we allow the principles of the world to come in." Simplify your life to make more room for what feeds your faith.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30 (252). *"You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world."*

Wednesday, Mar 29, 2023**Redemption is at hand**

Though they, along with other ancient societies, engaged in some forms of household slavery, Jews as a general rule frowned upon the institution. Slaves who were not Jewish were to be offered conversion to Judaism and if they became Jews, immediately freed. Jews were also required to redeem Jewish slaves from non-Jewish owners. Memory of their own captivity in Egypt and Babylonia loomed large, and they resented Jesus promising to free them. But when Jesus spoke of the truth setting Jews free, he was talking about another kind of enslavement, the kind we all fall

into through unskillful actions, behaviors, habits, compulsions. Look honestly at what might be restricting your inner freedom and ask Jesus to redeem you.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42 (253). *"We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?"*

Thursday, Mar 30, 2023**Help your unbelief**

Can a believer doubt? It can be a relief to learn that a whole school of thought among Catholic theologians asserts that doubt, while seemingly corrosive, can actually bolster faith in the end. Doubt can lead to exploration, which often leads to better understanding, greater clarity, or sometimes simply a willingness to not know, to live without all questions fully answered, leaning into religious practice with an open heart. Most would call that an adult faith. What questions nag at you? Doubt, dig, and remain open to God.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59 (254). *"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death."*

Friday, Mar 31, 2023**Miles to go**

Women's History Month concludes today, but the work of ensuring the rights of women continues. In a November 2022 press conference, Pope Francis acknowledged that more work needs to be done. "We have to tell the truth," the pope said. "The fight for women's rights is an ongoing fight." This includes equality in public life and also "equality of opportunities." How might we each open a door of opportunity for women in our own families, parishes, neighborhoods, schools, or offices?

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42 (255). *"If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works."*

Saturday, Apr 01, 2023**A well-traveled pilgrim helped shape Holy Week**

Holy Week begins tomorrow. It's in the description of Jesus' last week—immediately ahead of his death and Resurrection—that all four gospels resemble each other the most. The church's liturgical celebration of Holy Week, however, was a late development. Originally, Christians had only a single *Pascha* liturgy to observe Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection. Specific Holy Week liturgies for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday grew from individual shrines in Jerusalem where each event occurred. Thanks to a detailed travel journal, written in 383 by a remarkable woman pilgrim to the Holy Land named Egeria, these liturgies began to take shape. As Holy Week begins, let's not only honor the women at the empty tomb but the woman who helped define Holy Week.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56 (256). *"He prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only for the nation."*

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 6th grade ~ Fee \$35 per child

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



Registration open! Limited to first 100 children.
Any question ~ Jackie Mirenda at 631-732-3131 x131 or 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, Kid's Snacks, Juice, Toothpaste & Shampoo**

A very special THANK YOU to all!



A SPECIAL INVITATION

On Easter, we celebrate the New Life of the Risen Lord. Once again, we want to offer an opportunity for parish members to assist in making our altar and church a sign of New Life this Easter and celebrate the memory of those who made past Easters special. All are invited to make a memorial donation which will be used for our decorations. All the names of those memorialized (both living and deceased) will be printed in our bulletin of **April 15 / 16**. (Please note: donations are NOT for any particular or individual plant, but toward the overall expenses of the decorations.) Please fill out the form below and place it and your donation in an envelope marked "**Memorial Donation**." You can put it in the basket with your regular collection, mail it or drop it off at the office. Thank you



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Memorial Donation – Easter 2023 (deadline: April 6th) ~ Please Print

Donor(s) _____

Address _____

Name of Person(s) or Couple Memorialized

Living _____ Deceased _____