

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

*Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service*



## ***Pastoral Staff***

Msgr. Robert Batule - *Pastor* x111

Rev. Patrick Abu-Bonsra - *Parochial Vicar*  
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## **Deacons**

- **Retired:** Dcn Ed Hayes  
Dcn William Kogler,  
Dcn Biagio Muratore

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**Parish Outreach**  
outreach@saintmargaret.com x119

**Holy Angels Regional Catholic School**  
Patchogue, NY 631-475-0422

**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.



**July 2, 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)

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**July 2, 2023**



In just a few days, we mark Independence Day (July 4<sup>th</sup>). It is a national holiday and virtually everyone is off from work, with school having already closed for summer in the month of June. On this date in 1776, the thirteen colonies announced their intention to separate from the mother-land in Europe (Great Britain), calling their founding document drawn up mostly by Thomas Jefferson, the *Declaration of Independence*.

The *Declaration of Independence* is a marvelous document studied and analyzed not just in our nation but in nations all over the world. For the highest human aspiration is to live freely, not to be in subjugation to someone else. And once we are free, we will do just about anything to remain that way.

The *Declaration* is admired in many quarters because it takes seriously concepts like nature, truth, equality, and rights. There are laws of nature, the *Declaration* instructs us, and there is a God Who is over and above nature. Today, there are many people who dispute that there is such a thing as nature, and many more people who doubt that there is a God. As far as truth is concerned, the founders assert that some truths are self-evident. Well, there are many today who contest that there is even such a thing as truth. All we have, they say, are opinions which are favorable or unfavorable depending on social status. With regard to equality, the *Declaration* says it comes there from the beginning. Some, though, claim today it's only a fiction with inequity being dominant across all sectors of society. And with respect to rights, the *Declaration* stipulates that they are inalienable and given by our Creator. There are many today who oppose the understanding that rights are inherent in us, and argue instead that government is the source of rights.

We have an opportunity this year and every year on the Fourth of July to reflect on the real meaning of freedom, and to commit ourselves once again to a freedom informed by faith. That freedom informed by faith begins and ends with Christ, the freest Person Who ever walked the face of the earth. Sons and daughters of God that we are, we walk the path Jesus walked – all the way to the Cross. He Who is without sin stretched out His arms on that Cross to embrace us sinners. The victory won for us by Jesus over the Cross means that false conceptions of freedom cannot reign over us unless we *choose* a slavery to sin all over again. Saint Paul makes precisely this point in his Letter to the Galatians (5:1): “Do not submit again to the yoke of slavery,” the apostle writes there.

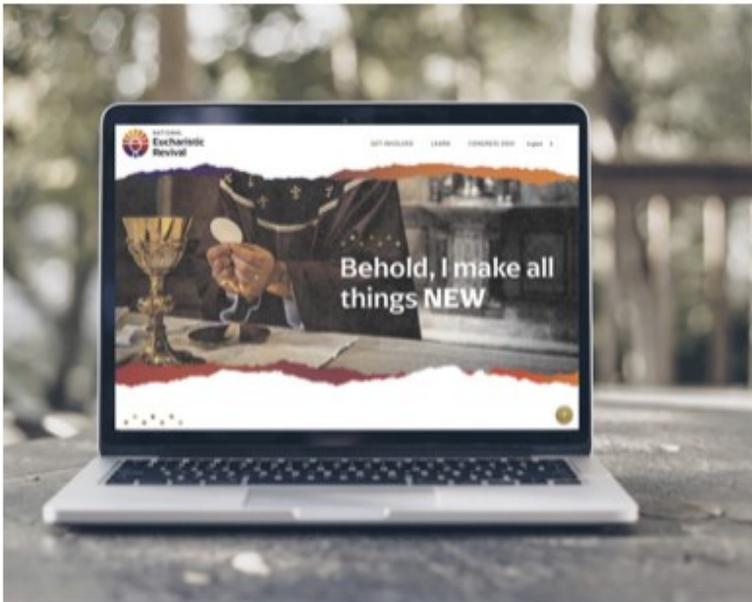
Speaking of not submitting to the yoke of slavery again, we have much to gain in this respect if we consider the lives of the saints, especially those saints whom we honor this month in the liturgical calendar. Take, for example, Saint Ignatius of Loyola. A former soldier, Ignatius wrote his *Spiritual Exercises* as a way of teaching us to discern spirits. By the discernment of spirits, Saint Ignatius means we develop the interior capacities necessary for following Christ in all kinds of situations, especially those situations in which mature judgment is the very texture of discipleship.

Or what about Saint Benedict? He is considered the Father of Western Monasticism and founded some twelve monasteries, the most famous being the one at Monte Cassino in Italy. Similar to Saint Ignatius in some ways, Saint Benedict wrote his own *Rule*, focusing not on discernment but on the wise and trusted use of work and prayer to establish union with Christ.

Holiness is not univocal. It is attainable by any number of ways which come under the aegis of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of the Church. Holiness, in every case, follows upon a non-transferrable decision to make the priorities of Christ my own. Until I do that, I may only be dabbling in spiritual enthusiasms which have no long-term effects in my life. And wouldn't that be a deception of epic proportions. Indeed, it would. A self-deception. The best way to avoid self-deception in matters spiritual is to lean on others more advanced in the interior life than myself and learn from them how to grow to full stature in Christ.

Till the next time.

Msgr. Batule  
Pastor



# 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](http://www.eucharisticrevival.org)**



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# Pray for the Homebound

## 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.**

The Parish Center will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. We will reopen Wednesday July 5th at 9am.

### 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

## St. Margaret's Blood Drive

### Save the Date!

### July 18<sup>th</sup>





## 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 Karen Norris in the parish center during regular business hours.

Mark your calendar ~ 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 of Scotland.

**QUO VADIS**

**WHERE ARE YOU GOING?**

**July 29, 2023**  
St. Anthony's High School

For Students currently enrolled in 8th-12th grade (this school year)

**Spiritual Talks**  
**Mass**  
**Adoration**  
**Lunch**  
**Sports**

For more info/register:  
<https://www.campquovadis.com>



## 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.

**Catholic Gifts** ~Looking for Catholic gifts and items? You can visit Our Lady of the Island Shrine , 258 Eastport Manor Rd. in Manorville. They carry a large variety of religious articles. [OURLADYOFTHEISLAND.ORG](http://OURLADYOFTHEISLAND.ORG)



### Baptisms

Raelynn Avery Frittz

### New Parishioner?

### Moving out of the parish?

Kindly fill out the form below—drop it in collection basket or mail to Parish Center. It will help us keep our files up-to-date and welcome newcomers.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

New Parishioner \_\_\_\_\_ Moving \_\_\_\_\_



## St. Margaret's Spousal Bereavement

Both individual and group bereavement counseling services are available for those who are mourning the loss of their husband or wife. All confidential sessions are held on a weekly basis and participants need not be St. Margaret's parishioners.

For more information please contact  
Barbara Gottfried at (631) 698-6053



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.

## Sunday, Jul 02, 2023

### Say what you see

Upon winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, Elie Wiesel was named a "messenger to mankind." The *Los Angeles Times* called him the "most important Jew in America." A Holocaust survivor, Wiesel didn't speak of his experiences for 10 years after his liberation from the camps. Eventually he understood the world needed his witness: "We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.... Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe." Tell the truth from where you stand.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a; Romans 6:3-4, 8-11; Matthew 10:37-42 (97). "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

## Monday, Jul 03, 2023

### A twin to us all

Three times in the Gospel of John, the apostle Thomas is also called Didymus. Both names mean "twin"—in Aramaic and Greek respectively. He is referred to in some non-biblical historical texts as "Judas Thomas"—a.k.a. "Judas the Twin." It's likely "the twin" was his nickname and he was known by it among Jews and Greeks. But there's no explanation of whose twin he was. Today, Christians mostly know him as "Doubting Thomas" because he didn't believe Jesus had risen until he saw for himself. While we don't know the identity of Thomas' biological twin, do we resemble him in our disbelief from time to time? Ask Jesus for the grace of faith and the same graciousness he showed to Thomas.

FEAST OF THOMAS, APOSTLE

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29 (593). "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

## Tuesday, Jul 04, 2023

### Born on the Fourth of July

*Born on the Fourth of July* is the best-selling memoir of Ron Kovic, Catholic Vietnam vet turned peace activist. On the fourth of July, in 1936, Saint Elizabeth of Portugal was born into eternal life. Like Kovic, Elizabeth threw herself into peacemaking—twice intervening to avert war. Like Kovic, the queen bucked authority: When her husband forbade her from giving royal wealth away to the poor, Elizabeth smuggled contributions out of the castle in her robes. As Americans celebrate our good fortune this day, may the rights enshrined in the Declaration of Independence—"life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"—be tempered by Elizabeth's example: "God made me queen so that I may serve others."

OPTIONAL MASS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 19:15-29; Matthew 8:23-27 (378). "He said to them, 'Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?'"

## Wednesday, Jul 05, 2023

### Be an island of justice

On this day in 1868, Rafael Cordero was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, one of three children in a free black family. Throughout his life he was a passionate advocate for equitable education on the island, opening a free school for children in his home—the pupils of which would later include some of the most influential figures in Puerto Rican history. A devout Catholic, Cordero was also known

for his charity to the poor. He also fought for the abolition of slavery in Puerto Rico, which was achieved in 1873. Following his death, his schoolhouse became a historic site, and the archbishop of San Juan opened his cause for canonization. He was declared venerable by Pope Francis in 2013. May his legacy of justice live on in our own works of mercy.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 21:5, 8-20a; Matthew 8:28-34 (379). "God was with the boy as he grew up."

## Thursday, Jul 06, 2023

### Girl power

Today's saint, Maria Goretti, died a difficult death at age 12 after being stabbed for resisting a rape. She is one of several patron saints of rape survivors. Traditional hagiography about Goretti focuses on her concern for chastity during her resistance, but women who have survived similar ordeals might see saintliness in Goretti's resistance itself. They might reclaim Goretti's story as one of female empowerment, a refusal to be degraded, and a rising above violence when Goretti—on her deathbed—forgave her tormentor. Her act of mercy lives on as a triumph over evil. Saint Maria Goretti, pray for all who have been hurt by sexual violence.

MEMORIAL OF MARIA GORETTI, YOUTH MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 22:1b-19; Matthew 9:1-8 (380). "He then said to the paralytic, 'Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home.'"

## Friday, Jul 07, 2023

### Make a wish come true

When asked what he wished for his birthday on July 7, 2008, the Beatle's drummer Ringo Starr replied, "Peace and love." That simple wish grew into International Peace and Love Day celebrated around the world and even in outer space when a message of peace and love was sent from the International Space Station in 2020. Of course, wishing doesn't make it so. Start small. A little show of mercy and forgiveness will go a long way toward creating a world of peace and love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Matthew 9:9-13 (381). "Go and learn the meaning of the words, I desire mercy, not sacrifice."

## Saturday, Jul 08, 2023

### New wine for modern minds

Do you know anybody who sews patches on an old coat or drinks wine out of a wineskin? And that's exactly the point of the Lord's teaching. It is the work of preachers, teachers, and translators to rearticulate the ancient truths of Christianity in terms that 21st-century learners can understand. Otherwise, much of the language and images of the ancient texts just keeps getting recycled. Pray for the preachers and teachers who have positively influenced you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29; Matthew 9:14-17 (382). "People do not put new wine into old wineskins."

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



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# Faith Formation

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**JULY 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>**

**9:15 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Registration Open**



4 yr. old & up — entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade.  
Potty trained & have been  
separated from parent in the past.



**FIRST 100 CHILDREN !**  
**\$35 per child**  
**Register in the Parish Center**

We are in need of adult volunteers. Please call to let us know if you're able to assist us.  
Must be VIRTUS certified (not sure, ask us). Teen Helpers ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Grade & Up  
Call Jackie Mirenda ~ 732-3131 x131—[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: **Egg Noodles, Pork & Beans, Cereal**

*A very special **THANK YOU** to all!*

## Life Center of Long Island Fundraiser

This weekend, **July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**, St. Margaret of Scotland Parish will be hosting a Baby Bottle Fundraiser to benefit the Life Center of Long Island. The Life Center is a pregnancy care center that consults with women and men who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Did you know that they provide free pregnancy test kits, free sonograms, material aid, maternity housing with eligibility requirements? We are asking that you pick up a baby bottle and fill it with your donation.



**(Please make checks payable to the Life Center of L.I.)**

**PLEASE RETURN THE BOTTLES ON JULY 22<sup>ND</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup>**

Most importantly, we are asking you to recite the prayer attached to the baby bottle. Prayers bring about something very powerful at the Life Center... a change of a mother's heart! We believe these prayers lead abortion-minded women to reach out to the Life Center in the beginning of their pregnancy.

*Make every drop of a coin remind you to pray to save a preborn baby from abortion and give a mother the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ!*