

By now, we have felt the cooler air, we've seen the color of the leaves change and we have noticed that there is less and less daylight in a 24-hour period. Autumn is here. As we welcome this season of the year, we continue our liturgical observance of Ordinary Time for at least six more weeks. Let us vow then to make the best of the time given to us.

I can report that Saint Margaret parishioners returned 240 bottles and contributed nearly \$4,000.00 to the **Life Center** in Massapequa. You will recall that in the beginning of July (1st and 2nd), representatives of the Life Center were here at our parish asking you to assist in the work of the Life Center in helping mothers and their unborn children. Three weeks after that in July (22nd and 23rd), you returned your baby bottles. As your pastor, I want to say I am grateful for the financial support you gave to this pro-life apostolate. Thank you!

As you know, we begin offering tickets this weekend for the event which closes out our observance of the **75th Anniversary** of Saint Margaret Parish. Members of the Committee are in the vestibule before and after all weekend Masses this weekend, the next weekend and the weekend after that for the purpose of accepting your reservation to attend the luncheon on Sunday, November 19th at the Majestic Gardens in Rocky Point. Tickets are also available for sale in the pastoral center during the week. Come one and all and join in the festivities!

As this column has noted before, the **Mass Book for 2024** opens for announced Mass Intentions beginning at 9:00 AM in the pastoral center. Our administrative staff will be there to assist you in having Masses offered for family members and friends – deceased and living. Please be aware that there is no cap on the number of Masses you can reserve in person.

From time to time, we get inquiries concerning the celebration of the **Sacrament of Confirmation** in adulthood. Parishioners who did **not** celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in adolescence may do so following Easter every year. The Sacrament is conferred at Mass on Pentecost Sunday. Before then, there are catechetical sessions which are **obligatory** starting right after Easter. Watch the bulletin for further announcements on this topic.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is being celebrated here at Saint Margaret on Thursday, October 19th with students in the 9th grade. We ask those young people to take their Catholic faith seriously and practice that faith by going to Mass every week as we all should do.

A week from now, the Church in the United States celebrates **Mission Sunday**. There is a second collection and we ask you to be generous in supporting financially the missionary work of the Church. Of course, we pray too that the missionary work of the Church be undertaken by committed Catholics who desire to share the gift of faith with those who have never heard of Christ or have never had the Gospel preached to them. Increasingly, missionaries must be able to go to places and peoples where the faith had once been planted, where the Gospel had once been proclaimed but there are no longer signs of belief anymore. Evangelization must yield to re-evangelization because secularization and indifference have such a firm hold on our age. Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that minds and hearts be changed and renewed.

The work of the **Eucharistic Revival** continues. Continue to attend the Holy Hours we have at Saint Margaret that you might deepen your love for the Eucharist or you might acquire a love for the Eucharist for the very first time. One way of deepening a love for the Eucharist or acquiring one is to hear preaching on the subject. There will be an opportunity for this on Saturday, November 18th here at Saint Margaret. The preacher is Fr. Roger Landry, the Catholic Chaplain at Columbia University in New York City. The **Day of Recollection** we are having starts at 1:00 PM in the church. There will be an opportunity to go to sacramental confession at 4:00 PM and we finish the day with Mass at 5:00 PM.

To date, we have **not** reached a commitment from 50 people. So, please talk to family members and neighbors and ask them to attend with you. I don't want to cancel the event – it is much too important to our Eucharistic devotion. Please find more Catholics like yourselves and bring them with you for the couple of hours we have set aside to focus on the Bread of Life.

Until the next time.

Msgr. Batule
Pastor

October 15, 2023

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October is
Respect Life Month:
The Gianna Center for
Women's Health & Fertility
offers specialized care
to meet women's health needs

"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord..."
- Psalm 127:3



"The transmission of human life is a most serious role in which married people collaborate freely and responsibly with God the Creator."
- Pope St. Paul VI (*Humanae Vitae*)

Learn more

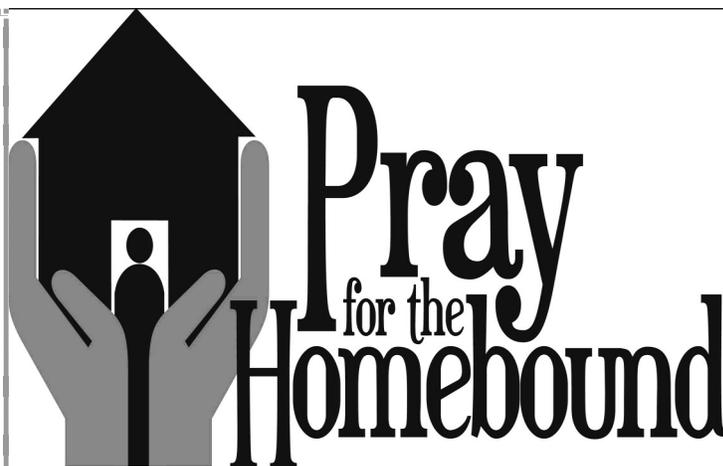


Next Sunday, will celebrate **World Mission Sunday**. Pope Francis invites the entire church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, where priests and lay leaders serve the world's most vulnerable communities. Please keep the Pope's missions in your prayers and be generous in next week's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.



St. Margaret of Scotland's 75th Anniversary

Tickets are currently on sale for the principle celebration of the parish's 75th Anniversary. There will be a luncheon held at Majestic Gardens in Rocky Point on Sunday November 19th between the hours of 1pm and 5pm. Tickets are \$70 and will be sold before and after all masses this weekend, as well as the next two weekends. Tickets are also available in the parish center during regular business hours.



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 Bible Study

Bible Study every Wednesday from 10am to 11am in the parish center. Deacon Ed Hayes will be the facilitator. Please bring your Bible.



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 631-672-8711.



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

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 _____



Wedding Banns

Banns III: Alexa Grace DeMaria, St. Margaret of Scotland

&

Vito Anthony Demola II, Good Shephard

Sunday, Oct 15, 2023

Stretch your spirituality

Your doctor says that even a little exercise is important to keep the body flexible. Joints that move regularly are body parts that can function well a while longer. Walking 20 minutes a day or taking a water aerobics class are easy ways to lubricate the joints we need to perform our daily tasks. Saint Paul reminds us that flexibility is also a significant aspect of the spiritual life. Can we accept good times and bad, seasons of plenty or want, with the same light grip? Moving through circumstances fluidly makes for a freer life, and a gentler death.

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14 (142). *"I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need."*

Monday, Oct 16, 2023

A heart as wide as the world

Depicted as a flaming, shining, bleeding heart, pierced by a lance, encircled by a crown of thorns, and topped with a cross, the Sacred Heart of Jesus symbolizes Christ's boundless, suffering love for humanity. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the best known and most practiced of all Catholic devotions, but the 17th-century French Visitation nun who received the revelation of this devotion, Margaret Mary Alacoque, was doubted in her lifetime, and the practice wasn't officially recognized until 75 years after her death. Incorporate an aspiration, or short prayer, to the Sacred Heart each day to remind you that you are unconditionally loved. Examples are "Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours," "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in your love for me," or "Sacred Heart of Jesus, may you be known, loved, and imitated!"

MEMORIAL OF MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, RELIGIOUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32 (467). *"At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."*

Tuesday, Oct 17, 2023

Bread of Life, bread for the poor

Saint Ignatius Theophorus wrote seven epistles while trudging from Antioch to Rome. As Roman soldiers pushed him toward martyrdom in a coliseum, Ignatius decried a different enemy of Christian faith: docetism, whose Christian adherents claimed Jesus never existed physically on Earth—that he only appeared to. In denying the Incarnation, Ignatius says, such heretics also fail to see the Lord's presence in the Eucharist and in the poor. "They have no concern for love, none for the widow, none for the orphan, none for the oppressed, none for the prisoner or the one released, none for the hungry or thirsty." And "they abstain from Eucharist" because "they refuse to acknowledge the Eucharist." Ignatius, help us to see Jesus—in all the places he said he'd be.

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41 (468). *"As to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you."*

Wednesday, Oct 18, 2023

Pack lightly for the journey of faith

Today we celebrate the feast of the evangelist Luke. Best known for his gospel, Luke was a dedicated disciple of Paul who goes so far as to join Paul in prison—twice. You can read Luke's account

of the early Christians in the Acts of the Apostles. But first, read what Luke says in today's gospel, which gives Jesus' directives to the disciples who are serving as his advance team. These directives are simple but not easy: "Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals"—and they remain amazingly relevant to living a simple life of faith. How can you enact them in your own life?

FEAST OF LUKE, EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9 (661). *"Luke is the only one with me."*

Thursday, Oct 19, 2023

Reconciling our past

Today is the memorial of several men who were killed for evangelizing native people in Quebec. The documentation of these encounters is almost entirely from the perspective of European American Christians, with missionaries as heroic martyrs and natives as murderous heathens. The truth is much more complicated. Pope Francis' 2022 apology to indigenous people in Canada and the U.S. Catholic Indigenous Boarding School Accountability and Healing Project are two efforts to look at the bigger picture of Christian-Indigenous relationships with accountability and reconciliation as goals. Join these efforts by exploring Native American culture and history.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54 (470). *"Woe to you, scholars of the law! You have taken away the key of knowledge."*

Friday, Oct 20, 2023

GPS for the soul

Spiritual direction is a great tool for navigating with God the ups and downs of everyday life. The practice involves a one-on-one relationship with a spiritual director who helps us to see how God is moving in our lives. A director listens and offers wisdom such as that of Paul of the Cross: "Let everything in creation draw you to God. Refresh your mind with some innocent recreation and needful rest, if it were only to saunter through the garden or the fields, listening to the sermon preached by the flowers, the trees, the meadows, the sun, the sky, and the whole universe." In honor of Saint Paul cultivate the art of listening wisely.

MEMORIAL OF PAUL OF THE CROSS, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7 (471). *"Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God."*

Saturday, Oct 21, 2023

A higher law

All of us run afoul of the law at some point or another, even if it's as minor as a parking ticket. Laws, religious or secular, are there to set standards and impose order. They have their purpose, but if we hope to be released from all that afflicts us in this life, we'll need a different kind of law—the law of love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. As 20th-century monk and mystic Thomas Merton explains, "The first obligation of the Christian is to maintain their freedom from all empty forms of legalism" and "live by a higher law—the law of grace and love." Let faith lead you there.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 4:13, 16-18; Luke 12:8-12 (472).

"Brothers and sisters: It was not through the law that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants . . . it depends on faith."

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



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Faith Formation

2023/2024 Schedule

20 Minutes with the Pastor/Director

October 1st – Levels 1 & 2
 October 8th – Level 8
 October 15th – Levels 6 & 7
 October 22nd – Levels 3, 4, & 5
 October 29th – Levels 1 & 2

November 5th – Levels 6 & 7
 November 12th – Levels 3, 4 & 5
 November 26th – Levels 1 & 2

December 3rd – Levels 6 & 7
 December 10th – Levels 3, 4 & 5
 December 17th – Levels 1 & 2

January 7 – Levels 6 & 7
 January 14th – Levels 3, 4, & 5
 January 21st – Levels 1 & 2
 January 28th – Levels 6 & 7

February 4th - Levels 3, 4 & 5
 February 11th – Levels 1 & 2
 February 25th – Levels 6 & 7

March 3rd – Levels 3, 4 & 5
 March 10th – Levels 1 & 2
 March 17th - Levels 6 & 7

April 7th – Levels 3, 4 & 5
 April 14th – Levels 1 & 2
 April 21 – Levels 6 & 7
 April 28th - Levels 3, 4 & 5

May 5th - Levels 1 & 2
 May 12th - Levels 6 & 7
 May 19th - Levels 3, 4 & 5



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 Cookies, Toothpaste, Shelf Stable Milk, Hearty Soups (not condensed), Cereal, Shampoo and Spaghetti Sauce.

A very special THANK YOU to all!



Knights of Columbus GROCERY BAG DISTRIBUTION & COLLECTION

The *Knights of Columbus* are partnering with our Outreach to assist in replenishing our Pantry and preparing for our annual Thanksgiving meal distribution.

Bags will be distributed this weekend **at all Masses**, and on **October 21st and 22nd** they will be in front of the church and Pastorial Center to receive your donations.

Please assist them and us as you can.
 If anyone is able to help Outreach on **October 21st or 22nd** please leave a message at 631-732-3131 x119.

Thank you!

