

# ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH

*Making Disciples through Prayer, Faith Formation and Service*

December 31, 2023

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Weekday—(Monday through Friday 9:00 AM

Sunday—8:00 AM, 10:00AM and 12 Noon

Confessions

Saturday—4:00—4:45 PM in the church or by appointment



## ***Pastoral Staff***

Msgr. Robert Batule -

*Pastor* x111

Rev. Patrick Abu-Bonsra -

Parochial Vicar x116

pabubonsra@saintmargaret.com

## ***Deacons***

- **Retired:** Dcn Ed Hayes

Dcn William Kogler,  
Dcn Biagio Muratore

## ***Parish Center Office –***

Receptionist x0

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Admin Assistant x118

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## ***Faith Formation Office***

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Coordinator x131

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Director x117

dcrews@saintmargaret.com

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## ***Holy Angels Regional Catholic School***

Patchogue, NY 631-475-0422

Jeannine Stewart, Principal





On this last day of 2023, I would like to offer two excerpts from documents for your consideration. The first pertains to the Feast the Church celebrates today which is called the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is observed every year in the liturgical calendar – depending on the day of the week when the Solemnity of the Lord’s Nativity is marked, and also depending on the Sunday we mark the Solemnity of the Lord’s Epiphany. The second is an excerpt pertaining to the first day of January, tomorrow, which is always the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. But before I offer these excerpts, let me make a few comments which are pertinent at this time of year.

Tomorrow, January 1<sup>st</sup>, is **not** a Holy Day of Obligation this year since it falls on a Monday. We do however encourage all parishioners to attend Mass. There are two Masses in our schedule – the first is later today at 5:00 PM and that would be the Vigil Mass. The second is on Monday morning at 10:00 AM. Please note well that there is **no Mass at 8:00 AM and no Mass at 12 noon.**

There will be a report in a few weeks in the weekly bulletin on the Christmas collection amount and related issues. But for now, let us try to concentrate on reflections on the Holy Family and the Blessed Mother.

Today we recall that one year ago, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI died in Rome. He was elected to the papacy in April of 2005 and served until his resignation as the Successor of Peter in February of 2013. We continue to pray for him and to him. May we continue to benefit from his remarkable words embodying the wisdom of a truly Catholic vision and outlook.

The first excerpt is from a document called *Familiaris Consortio*. It is a post-synodal exhortation written by Pope Saint John Paul II. The Synod in question is the one on the family held in 1980. The following is taken from the beginning of that document, a text published in 1981.

Illuminated by the faith that gives her an understanding of all the truth concerning the great value of marriage and the family and their deepest meaning, the Church once again feels the pressing need to proclaim the Gospel, that is, ‘good news,’ to all people without exception, in particular to all those who are called to marriage and are preparing for it, to all married couples and parents in the world.

The Church is deeply convinced that only by the acceptance of the Gospel are the hopes that man legitimately places in marriage and in the family capable of being fulfilled.

Willed by God in the very act of creation, marriage and the family are interiorly ordained to fulfillment in Christ and have need of his graces in order to be healed from the wounds of sin and restored to their ‘beginning,’ that is, to full understanding and the full realization of God’s plan.

At a moment in history in which the family is the object of numerous forces that seek to destroy it or in some way to deform it, and aware that the well-being of society and her own good are intimately tied to the good of the family, the Church perceives in a more urgent and compelling way her mission of proclaiming to all people the plan of God for marriage and the family, ensuring their full vitality and human and Christian development, and thus contributing to the renewal of society and of the People of God. (3)

The second excerpt is taken from an encyclical of Pope Saint John II entitled *Redemptoris Mater* which was published in 1987. I am using here below passages which come toward the end of the text.

The Marian dimension of the life of the disciple of Christ is expressed in a special way precisely through this filial entrusting to the Mother of Christ, which began with the testament of the Redeemer on Golgotha. Entrusting himself to Mary in a filial manner, the Christian, like the Apostle John, welcomes the Mother of Christ ‘into his own home’ and brings her into everything that makes up his inner life, that is to say, into his human and Christian ‘I’: he ‘took her to his own home.’ (45)

In the light of Mary, the Church sees in the face of women the reflection of a beauty which mirrors the loftiest sentiments of which the human heart is capable: the self-offering totality of love; the strength that is capable of bearing the greatest sorrows; limitless fidelity and tireless devotion to work; the ability to combine penetrating intuition with words of support and encouragement. (46)

In her new motherhood in the Spirit, Mary embraces each and every one in the Church, and embraces each and every one through the Church. In this sense, Mary, Mother of the Church, is also the Church’s model. Indeed, as Pope Paul VI hopes and asks, the Church must draw ‘from the Virgin Mother of God the most authentic form of perfect imitation of Christ.’ (47)

Whether 2023 was a good year, a bad year, or somewhere in between, let us endeavor in 2024 to value deeply the natural family where we can work out the holiness of life to which we are called, and let us continue to hold dear the Blessed Mother from whom we received Our Savior and whose intercession is vital to an imitation to her Son.

Happy New Year!

Msgr. Batule

# March for Life 2024

## What You Can Do Locally

*Although Roe v. Wade has been overturned, the battle to protect all human life continues, especially at the state level. Even if you are not heading to Washington, D.C. this year for the annual March for Life, there are many ways you can help to build a culture of life where it matters most—in our own communities.*

- Organize or attend a **Holy Hour**, a group **Rosary**, or a special **Mass** for Life
- Be a **public Witness** (e.g. pray at an abortion facility, host a baby shower)
- Visit your **elected Representatives** (e.g. to urge support for making the Hyde Amendment permanent, rescinding FDA approval of RU-486, and protecting consciences of faithful citizens)
- Participate in **“Marching 101”** on January 18th (a Pro-life advocacy workshop with virtual and in-person registration)

**Contact us for more ideas or to let us know what you’re doing!**



DIOCESE of ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
**Office of Human Life,  
Family and Bioethics**

516-678-5800 Ext 381  
respectlife@drvc.org  
[www.drvc.org/march-for-life](http://www.drvc.org/march-for-life)

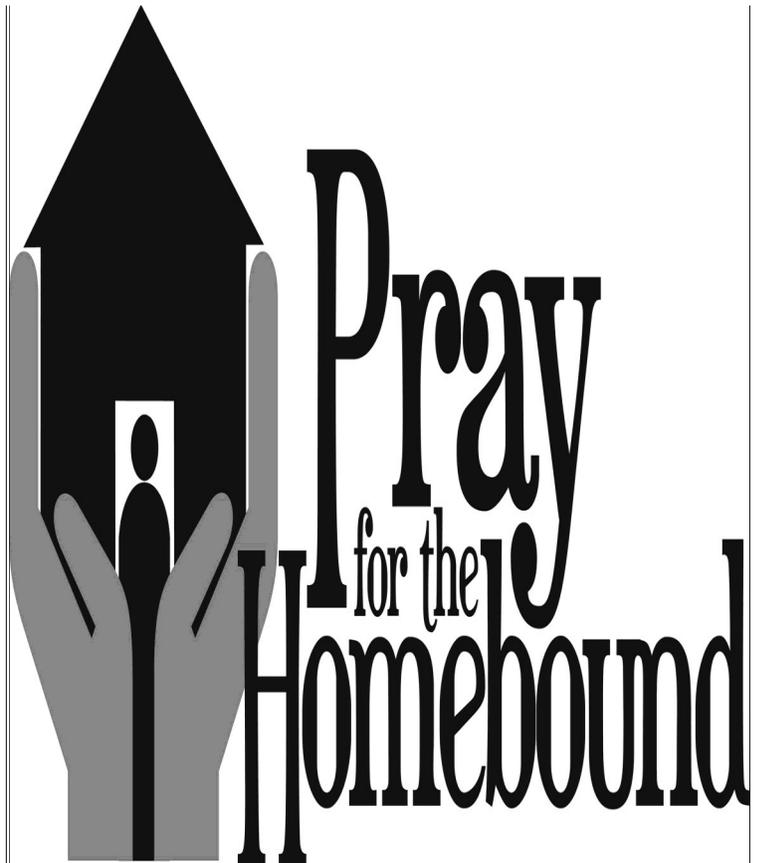
## **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

*For your personal adoration and prayers.*

**FIRST THURSDAY**  
**THURSDAY JANUARY 4TH**  
**3:00 - 6:00 PM in the Church**



*Adoration is the highest act of worship. By sitting quietly before His presence in the Blessed Sacrament, we offer to God what is most personal and pleasing – our time and our hearts. This allows our gracious God to draw us lovingly to Himself. By joining our adoration to prayer and praise, we celebrate that we are the Body of Christ. Come experience the beauty of this holy exchange heart to heart.*



Some photos from our Annual Oplatek Celebration which took place here at St. Margaret of Scotland on December 16th.



### 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



### 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 631-682-8711.

#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_



### 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



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

31 December 2023

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Vocation ˌvō-ˈkā-shən

A summons or strong drive to a particular course of action, career, or occupation; a divine call to consecrated life or diocesan holy orders.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-vocation>

### CONTEXT

Many people mistake our work for our **vocation**. Our vocation is the love of Jesus. —*Mother Teresa*

No **vocation** is born of itself or lives for itself. A **vocation** flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people. —*Pope Francis*

Everybody, no matter what **vocation** they're looking at, should add music as an essential to their curriculum. Music can be a very important part of your soul and your growth as a human being. —*Quincy Jones*

### WHY IT MATTERS

Each of us, through our Baptism, is called by God to follow the path of love. Our unique and particular response is our **vocation**. The church generally refers to four types of **vocations**: marriage, single life, holy orders, and religious life. It is up to each of us to discern the **vocation** that will give us the greatest sense of fulfillment and joy and lead us to holiness.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Beatitudes express the **vocation** of the faithful and shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life (1717).

### RELATED WORDS

Discipleship | Charism | Consecrated Life

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### Vocation: does everyone have one?

*Vocation* is one of those words that tends to elicit a host of questions. What does it mean that God “calls” us? Does God plan our lives? Is free will a polite fiction, when God has our destiny worked out in advance? The short answers are: Our freedom is real, human history has no blueprint, and God is prepared to greet any choice we might make with a constellation of grace and possibility. So feel—really and seriously—free.

Yet we say God calls us. To what, if not to particular things? God calls us to fullness of life. God wants you to be everything you can be, to the height and breadth and depth of your being. God wants you to be fully alive, which means loving, giving, expressing, and radiant—just as God is. So answer that call, and you have stepped into your vocation for sure.

—Alice Camille

From *Questions Catholics Ask*:  
[tinyurl.com/QCA-vocation](https://tinyurl.com/QCA-vocation)

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (JANUARY 1)

### Bring Christ to bear

We begin the new year in the glow of the Christmas. Our focus today, however, is not so much on the child Jesus in the manger but on his mother, Mary. We bring to mind and heart the woman who said yes: Yes to being the Mother of God. Yes to becoming a vehicle for God to become incarnate. It is fitting to honor Mary and walk with her as we enter resolutely into the new year.

READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010124.cfm>): “*The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!*”

### FAITH IN ACTION

How does God call us, as he called Mary, to be bearers of Christ? We can start with offering Christ and all others the fullness of our love.

## Holiday Hours

We will close at 1:00pm on Friday, December 29th and will reopen at 9:00am on Tuesday, January 2nd.

**Happy New Year to all from the staff of Saint Margaret of Scotland.**

## Faith Formation

### 2024 –Twenty Minutes with the Pastor/Director

#### January

1/ 7 -Level 3,4&5  
1/14-Level 6&7  
1/21-Level 1&2  
1/28Level 6&7

#### March

3/10-Level 1&2  
3-17-Level 6&7

#### May

5/ 5– Level 1&2  
5/12-Level 6&7  
5/19 Level 3,4,&5

#### February

2/ 4-Level 3,4&5  
2/11-Level 1&2  
2//25-Level 6&7

#### April

4/ 7-Level 2,3,&4  
4/14-Level 1&2  
4/21-Level 6&7



## 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 *Pasta, Pasta Sauce , Peanut Butter, Cereal,, Toilet Paper and Jelly*

*A very special THANK YOU to all!*