





We begin our **Advent** observance today. As I indicated already, it's a shorter Advent this year than other years. With December 24<sup>th</sup> being the Fourth Sunday of Advent **and** Christmas Eve, why not resolve at the beginning of this holy season to make it your best Advent. Even with all the distractions around us, we can and should make time for prayer, Mass, sacramental confession (more on that later in this column) and acts of charity in preparation for our commemoration of the mystery of the Incarnation.

It's not "the holidays," but *Adventus* the "coming" of the Lord Who will renew all of creation by his birth, life, death and Resurrection, bringing with Him the gift of immortality that we might live in the fulness of the Kingdom. Join us for daily Mass this Advent season and live the patience of waiting for Christ Who gladdens our hearts by dispelling the darkness of sin and death.

An excellent way to live the patience of Advent is by praying before the Blessed Sacrament. We have a **Holy Hour** on Monday night the 4<sup>th</sup>, when the Holy Eucharist is exposed in the monstrance on the altar. During the time of Exposition, there is time for personal prayer, common prayer, the proclamation of Sacred Scripture, preaching and adoration in silence. Come and join us until there is Benediction just before 8:00 PM that night.

We celebrate **Lessons and Carols** on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM in the church. This is the third time we are having this service as a way of preparing for Christmas. Please make time in your schedule to attend this event. The turnout the previous two years was, let's say, not very good. But we continue to keep Lessons and Carols in our schedule because it's a proven way to focus on the Word of God Who is the central Person in all of history. Try it, I say, and you will like it. It lasts but one hour. There is also a reception in the church basement immediately following Lessons and Carols.

The Pastor will **meet with the ushers** on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the pastoral center building. We ask the ushers from all four weekend Masses to attend. The meeting will not last more than 45 minutes. We will take up a consideration of proper coverage and finding replacements when there are expected absences. Thank you for your cooperation, as always.

In the event you missed it or didn't hear anything about it, the luncheon to close out the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of Saint Margaret Parish was superb. The meal and the activities surrounding it were well-received and many favorable comments were offered in response to the careful planning undertaken by the **Committee**. You can see a display of the photos taken at the Mass which preceded the luncheon. That display is in the vestibule right now. Hurry and see it soon; it won't be up for long, unfortunately.

We had a **Day of Recollection** on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The leader/preacher for the day was Fr. Roger Landry. The attendance was pretty good, I thought. I will make additional comments at some other time, probably in early 2024. Suffice it to say now that more work needs to be done on how to use a Day of Recollection for the greatest spiritual profit. For instance, we finish days of recollection by having Mass offered. Very few of those who showed for the start of the day (1:00 PM) were present for the Mass at 5:00 PM. But, as I said above, we will try to work on this and other matters related to the **Eucharistic Revival** in the next calendar year.

And now some remarks concerning the Sacrament of Penance. I started on this important topic last weekend and I will continue in this vein through the remainder of Advent. Last Sunday, I mentioned the word **contrition** in reference to Penance. Let me say a few words here about this critical state of our hearts. I begin by calling attention to the parable of the Prodigal Son in Saint Luke's Gospel. After demanding his share of his father's estate, the younger of the two sons squandered what he was given in a distant land. He didn't see the error of his ways right away. Quite the contrary. What he did was dig in his heels and his heart became intransigent before he "came to his senses." That expression in the text – *coming to his senses* – indicates the dramatic turn which propelled the younger son's return home. The younger son had undergone a conversion. He finally saw what his sins had done and he wanted to be reconciled with his father.

There is true sorrow in his heart. That true sorrow is what we call contrition. Contrition is at work in our hearts too when we examine our consciences, detect there our sins, and then ask the Lord for His forgiveness. We don't seek divine forgiveness unless we are contrite. Contrition is a *sine qua non* in the repentance we undergo; otherwise, we never make it back to Our Father's house. We remain mired in our sins and we make use of any rationalization at hand – just as the Prodigal Son did. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, we find these words: "Among the penitent's acts contrition occupies first place." (1451)

Until the next time.

Msgr. Batule  
Pastor



### ***Lessons and Carols***

***Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 2:30 PM in the church.***

*We invite all parishioners to join us. The service consists of biblical readings and hymns as we await the birth of Our Savior.*

*The Music Ministry will lead us in the singing portion of the prayer service.*

***Hospitality will be held immediately following in the auditorium. All are welcome !***



### **Christmas Pageant Saturday December 9th at 1pm**

The children of Saint Margaret's parish prepare a gift for the Christ Child. They honor His birth by retelling the Christmas story for their family, friends and all of our parishioners.

Cast party will follow the Pageant.

### **Advent Holy Hour Adoration & Benediction**



**Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**7pm ~ 8pm**

### **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**



**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Masses at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm**

## Sacrificial Giving

Following is the sacrificial giving amounts for the month of

November

November 4/5

	Stewardship	Envelope
Collected at Mass	\$7,032	173
Mailed Envelopes	\$5,987	103
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$13,019</b>	<b>276</b>

November 11/12

	Stewardship	Envelope
Collected at Mass	\$6,681	167
Mailed Envelopes	\$4,718	68
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$11,399</b>	<b>235</b>

November 18/19

	Stewardship	Envelope
Collected at Mass	\$5,744	147
Mailed Envelopes	\$4,167	71
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$9,911</b>	<b>218</b>

November 25/26

	Stewardship	Envelope
Collected at Mass	\$6,298	171
Mailed Envelopes	\$3,171	66
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$9,469</b>	<b>237</b>

St. Margaret of  
Scotland Church

81 College Rd.  
Selden, NY 11784



"Making Disciples Through Prayer,  
Faith Formation & Service"

## FILIPINO MASS

Sunday, December 10th

ROSARY AT 2:00 PM

MASS AT 2:30 PM

*"The Filipino Catholic Community in our ministry  
to strengthen our Catholic Faith  
and keep our Culture and Tradition alive."*



## 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

## Bible Study Group

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

Please bring your Bible.



## Sunday, Dec 03, 2023

### A season of welcome

The color violet reminds us that a new season has begun: a time to prepare to welcome Christ in our midst for all days and in all persons. Coincidentally this year, Advent starts on the World Day for Persons with Disabilities. How welcoming is our church to the people with physical and mental challenges? Not just improving accessibility with an entrance ramp or elevator but providing accommodations for those with hearing, visual, and intellectual impairments, including for liturgies and sacramental preparation? Take a look around your own parish. Is it true that "all are welcome"?

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37 (2). *"We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands."*

## Monday, Dec 04, 2023

### Iconic inspiration

Think of how much sacred images of Jesus, Mary, angels, and the saints—in painting, stained glass, and sculpture—have filled your life and stimulated your spirit. You might have many sacred images throughout your home. Perhaps you can find them in different public places in your city. Our Catholic churches are certainly full of them. Think of how much they inspire and prompt you to momentary prayer, a fleeting lifting of your heart and mind to God as you pass by them, or to long stretches on your knees, deep in conversation. You can partly thank John Damascene, who defended holy images against iconoclasm, a movement in the eighth century that was opposed to the veneration of icons. Treasure the rich imagery of our tradition.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). *"Many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven."*

## Tuesday, Dec 05, 2023

### Be a light in the darkness

As Advent days grow ever darker, Isaiah offers hope: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isa. 9:1). We Christians seek the Son's light, but we also take the Savior at his word when he describes us as the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:14). 'Tis the season, to celebrate those who shared their light, such as Rosa Parks, who co-led the Montgomery bus boycott beginning this day in 1955. Or Mary McLeod Bethune, who formed the National Council of Negro Women 20 years earlier. To quote Saint Isidore of Seville (who opened the Fourth Council of Toledo on this day in 633): "Just as we must love God in contemplation, so we must love our neighbor with action."

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). *"He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth."*

## Wednesday, Dec 06, 2023

### Peace on Earth requires living on the edge

This year we celebrate the centennial of the birth of Phil Berrigan, the famed peace activist and one-time Josephite priest. His dedication to serve the African-American community quickly blossomed into an all-out crusade for justice, resulting in his many

arrests, sentences, and continuing activities to emphasize the Catholic opposition to bloodshed. He was hardly rewarded for his efforts in this life, and in this time of war in our day, we owe him a great debt. We can pay it by walking as he walked, in the path toward peace.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). *"On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever."*

## Thursday, Dec 07, 2023

### Unite to fight for good

Today is Pearl Harbor Day, when the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor officially thrust the United States into World War II. Americans sacrificed in multiple ways to serve the war effort, from military service to rationing. What if we were to unite in the same way to fight poverty? An emphasis on charity and justice for the poor exists within all the Abrahamic traditions, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Who is fighting poverty in your community? Take a step today to unite with them.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven."*

## Friday, Dec 08, 2023

### A day of grace

Today is all about grace. It was God's grace that provided Mary with the privilege of being born without original sin; it was Mary's grace that said yes to God's plan; and it is our grace to honor Mary's witness and protection. As Pope John Paul II explains, "Grace means love and the gift of God himself, the completely free gift in which God entrusts to [us] his Mystery." In honor of this day, pray the mysteries of the Rosary.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE U.S.A.)

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."*

## Saturday, Dec 09, 2023

### Mary mirrors her people

Can you imagine what today's saint, Juan Diego, was going through when he encountered Our Lady of Guadalupe? First of all, she looked nothing like the pictures of the Blessed Virgin he was used to. She wasn't a blue-eyed, white European. She was brown-skinned with dark hair and dark eyes. She wasn't wearing a blue veil either. And she didn't even speak to him in Spanish, but in Nahuatl, the ancient language of his ancestral Aztec. Was she for real? When the image of the Virgin appeared on his cloak, he knew she was. Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, who acts as a reflection for all the faithful.

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN, VISIONARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). *"As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"*

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



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### Lunch With Santa

Adults \$13 per person/children 5-12 years old \$6 4 yrs and younger free. Call the parish center to register 631-732-3131 or 682-8711.

Sponsored by Heart of the Island Knights of Columbus

Saturday Dec. 16th 12-3

In the Church Auditorium



### Faith Formation

#### 2023/2024 Minutes with the Pastor/Director

<u>Date</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Level</u>
12/3	6&7	1/21	1&2	3/10	1&2	5/5	1&2
12/ 10	3,4&5	1/28	6&7	3/17	6&7	5/12	6&7
12/17	1&2	2/4	3,4&5	4/ 7	2,3&4	5/19	3,4&5
1/7	3,4&5	2/11	1&2	4/14	1&2		
1/14	6&7	2/25	6&7	4/21	6&		



### Parish Social Ministry

*Thank You*

St. Margaret’s Outreach would like to thank every one who donated to our Thanksgiving Distribution.

The gift cards, turkeys and groceries helped feed over 50 families! They were assisted with a meal, turkey and a smile from our wonderful Volunteers! Thank you to:

Legislature Nick Caracappa  
Heart of the Island Knights of Columbus  
Newfield High School



### Christmas Wish List

St. Margaret’s Outreach is asking for donations of new items for children & teens in need this Christmas Season.

We can always use socks, hats, gloves, scarves, coats, pajamas and gift cards. Please bring unwrapped to our parish center before December 13th.