

ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH

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Narberth, PA 19072
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Web site: www.saintmarg.org
Email: office@saintmarg.org

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Msgr. Paul V. Dougherty, Pastor
pastor@saintmarg.org

Rev. Robert J. Chapman,
Pastor Emeritus

Weekend Assistance:
Rev. Robert Pesarchick
Rev. Joseph Mostardi, O.S.A.

In Residence: Rev. Dominic Nguyen

Principal, St. Margaret School,
Mrs. Mary Anne Johnston
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610-664-2640

Director of Religious Education, Ext.16
Mrs. Mary Anne J. Monroe, M.A.
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Parish Business Manager, Ext.17
Mr. Cliff Coombs
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Administrative Assistants, Ext. 10
Mrs. Teresa Myers (Mon, Tues, Thurs)
Mrs. Rose Marie Dalton (Wed, Fri)
office@saintmarg.org

Director of Music - Mr. Michael Worth
saintmargmusic@gmail.com
267-304-6490

Scrip Sales
EVERY FRIDAY
FROM 9AM TO 12:00 NOON
IN THE RECTORY

Rectory Office Business Hours
Monday - Friday 9:00AM to 4:30PM
CLOSED WEEKENDS



Schedule of Masses

Saturday Evening Vigil: 5:15PM
Sunday: 7:30, 10:00 and 11:30AM
Daily Monday - Friday: 7:00AM,
followed by Morning Prayer

Saturday: 8:00AM

Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil Mass - 7:00 PM

7:00 AM, 12:05 Noon and 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Exposition

7:30-8:30 AM Tuesday

7:30-8:00 AM - First Fridays

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 PM

Sunday before 7:30 AM Mass

Tuesday thru Saturday: 7:45-7:55 AM
or by appointment.

*Any requests for the weekly Bulletin should be
submitted by Monday, 12:00 Noon.*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Twice in one week, I encountered people wanting my assessment of their work through online surveys. One came from a busy supermarket checkout person and the other from a staff member at the auto repair service. Both people tried to impress upon me the importance of my answers, to the point where I started to think their jobs depended on how I rated their work. On that last point, I felt obligated to take the surveys. I guess I'll never know the effect on them of my ratings.

We humans are naturally curious about how we're doing in the ratings game of our lives, particularly in the matter of our relationships, both with people and with God. We yearn to learn how we come across in that all-important court of public opinion. Naturally, such a "court" would have its judge and jury. Whole books have been devoted to the study of what we do to sway their opinions. Sometimes our own instincts tell us that we have either been working too hard on our score, or not hard enough. If we ever doubted that surveys matter in the business world, all we have to do is ask a company like Samsung about their exploding cell phones.

As we listen today to Our Lord Jesus' Advent assessment of John the Baptist, we could well envy John. Think of the statement "Among those born of women (a huge number to be sure) there has been none greater than John the Baptist." That must have given the Baptist pause. But then comes the Lord's follow up: "yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." So John does not get much time to gloat. But a man such as he would never think of doing that anyway.

But the primary Author of the gospels, the Holy Spirit, has a deeper purpose. Implied in this instance is that pesky matter of Our Lord's assessment of us. What would Jesus say of you and me in this matter of being disciples? Whatever the case may be, we ought to remember that our "rating" will largely be based more on the small everyday interactions with our brothers and sisters than with anything huge and dramatic. Case in point: the following story of a lady in an airport.

She had bought a book to read and a package of cookies to eat while she waited for her plane. After she had taken her seat in the terminal and gotten engrossed in her book, she noticed that the man one seat away from her was fumbling to open the package of cookies on the seat between them.

She was so shocked that a stranger would eat her cookies that she really didn't know what to do, so she just reached over and took one of the cookies and ate it. The man didn't say anything but soon reached over and took another. Well, the woman wasn't going to let him eat them all, so she took another too. When they were down to one cookie, the man reached over, broke the cookie in half, and got up and left. The lady couldn't believe the man's nerve, but soon the announcement came to board her plane.

Once the woman was aboard, still angry at the man's audacity and puzzling over the incident, she reached into her purse for a tissue. It suddenly dawned on her that she really shouldn't judge people too harshly—for there in her purse lay her still-unopened package of cookies.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 12

7:00 AM Paul Simpson

TUESDAY, December 13

7:00 AM Lorraine Bizzarri

WEDNESDAY, December 14

7:00 AM Jack & Mary Mullarkey

THURSDAY, December 15

7:00AM Vernon Brightman, 19th Anniv.

FRIDAY, December 16

7:00 AM Clara Morrison

SATURDAY, December 17

8:00 AM Deceased Members of
Simpson Family

THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 2016

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE &
THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

ARE IN MEMORY OF THE
ROVNER & CASEY FAMILIES.



Msgr. Dougherty offers a Mass each Sunday for all the parishioners and for those enrolled in the church memorial fund.

THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Weekend of December 4, 2016: \$12,783

Including Electronic Funds Transfer: \$1,542

Including Mail In: \$ 975

Envelopes: 244

Retired Fund for the Religious: \$2,565

The Weekend of December 13, 2015: \$9,810

I sincerely thank you for continuing to live faithful stewardship. God bless you and your families. Msgr. Dougherty

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

Universal Intention: That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Intention for Evangelization: That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

Parish Email List - Stay informed: If you are not getting our emails about what is happening at St. Margaret Parish and School, please consider signing up for our email list. Go here: <http://tinyurl.com/j5h7bxx> or Scan here:



From The Pastor

Gaudete Sunday - The Third Sunday of Advent is always dedicated to the theme of Christian joy and traditionally has been called Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is the Latin word for "Rejoice." It is a verb in the imperative mood, giving a command to rejoice. Joy should be the hallmark of a Christian spirituality. We are people of joy because we believe that the Lord loves us and comes into our lives to help and save us. Life does indeed have its many difficulties, but even in the midst of the challenges and sufferings, we can have a deep-down-joy because of our faith that God loves us and is with us. Joy is born of faith, hope and love. As we approach our celebration of the birth of our Savior, may we foster in our hearts these virtues. Faith that God loves us and is with us always. Hope in his care for us as we move toward the future. Love for him and for others that frees us from selfish concern and allows our spirits to live in freedom, not weighed down by fear and anxiety. As St. Paul said, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: Rejoice."

Simplicity of Life - The figure of John the Baptist looms large in Advent. He is a man of simplicity, living in the desert wearing simple clothes and existing on simple food, with his heart set on welcoming the Savior. Simplicity can help us to live a less distracted, hectic, and undisciplined life. Enjoying the simple gifts of life, trying always to cherish the present moment, and not getting caught up in a restless quest to have and do more than God intends keeps our hearts at peace. Keep it simple by focusing on the will of God for you. Seek to do what God wants, no more and no less, and rejoice in his presence in your life. Keeping your heart set on the one thing that really matters, the will of God, keeps our hearts from being filled with unnecessary distractions and longings that pull us off center and give us hearts that are not at peace. Simplicity fosters peace and joy within us.

Additional Advent Confessions, December 14 and 22 - To help you spiritually prepare for the celebration of Christmas, we will have a couple of evenings of additional confessions during the Advent Season. In addition to the usual times, confessions will be heard on Wednesday evening, December 14, and Thursday evening, December 22, from 7:00 - 8:00pm. **Please note that the confessions originally scheduled for Dec. 21 will now be on Dec. 22.**

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY

Week of December 11, 2016,
Pam Owsik, 610-659-7021

HOPE

Please call the weekly captain, as early in the week as possible.

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers the sick of the parish:

Tom Rymal & Conal Harvey.



ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE

CASSEROLES for St. John's Hospice, Recipe # 2, will be collected Wednesday morning of

this week, December 14 between 9 and 9:30am at St. Margaret School Parking Lot. Pans are available in the vestibule if you would like to participate.

A Little Humor - Concerned visitor to a very ill patient: "Are you ready to die?" Patient: "It's the last thing I want to do."

Bulletin Deadlines for the Holiday Season

Sunday, Dec. 25th - Due Friday, Dec. 16th - 12 Noon.
Sunday, Jan 1st - Due Thursday, Dec. 22nd - 12 Noon.



American Red Cross

**BE A SECRET SANTA
THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON GIVE THE
GIFT OF LIFE!**

St. Margaret's holds a Red Cross blood drive twice a year, usually during a holiday season when many regular donors are away. **Our Winter whole blood drive will take place on Wednesday, December 21st, at the American Legion Post 356 Hall, 80 Windsor Avenue in Narberth** (next to the library), with appointments at 15 minute intervals from 2:00 to 7:00 PM. Two special machines will be available to accommodate "Power Red" (formerly called "Double" Red Cell donors with special qualifications.) Volunteers are telephoning from lists of previous donors now. But we always need new blood from new donors. You can visit: www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code: st margarets rc church or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Thousands of people will need blood during the Holiday Season. Give the Gift of Life!!



News From St. Margaret School

Pre-k tried a fun STEM activity this past week. We used gumdrops and toothpicks to create things. We worked with differing amounts of gumdrops to create a variety of structures. Future engineers in the making!!!

Fifth grade did a Social Studies project on the Layers of Earth, Plate Tectonics, or Earth Landforms. Students presented them to the class. Each student made a 3D model of the chosen topic. They were asked to be creative, and to have fun. They made their 3D models with food and the students enjoyed eating the different topics as cakes, cookies, jello, and rice krispies.

Fourth grade were also in Social Studies learning the 5 Regions of Pennsylvania. They were given a project of their choice: a map of Pennsylvania, a PowerPoint, scrapbook, or an idea they come up with, to show the special features of each region such as: popular tourist spots, colleges, cities & towns, bodies of water, landforms, industrial products. They worked very hard on this project and learned very much.

Technology

We (Pre-K through 8) have discussed and completed an exercise on the importance of good Digital Citizenship and the Power of the Internet/Social Media. We are in the process of introducing the software “Pixton” to our Middle School. This is animated/comic creation software. We will begin to create a small original comic. I am looking forward to seeing how each student uses their imagination and creative abilities to produce their original comic.

We are also, as a school, preparing for the World Wide “Hour of Code”. The excitement level among our students is over the top!!! I can’t lie, so is mine!! Our “Technology Group” is still open. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday before school (7:30 to 8:00 AM) for all students who need help, have questions/problems/issues or just need some extra “Technology” time.

Spread the News: OPEN HOUSE
Walk in Wednesdays 9:00 – 11:00 am
Faith Character Academics

For questions or to schedule a tour info@smsnarberth.org
Contact: Anne Becker, Advancement 610-664-2640 ext. 105
Visit to see for yourself, what makes us shine!

Prekindergarten through 8th Grade, Before & After School Cares, Full Day Kindergarten

BOX TOPS AND USED INK CARTRIDGES benefit our school in so many ways! By collecting these, we are able to earn money that will benefit our school! We could not do it without the support of our parents, the parish community, faculty and staff. Do not forget to cut out your box tops, and send them and any recycled ink cartridges.

THANK YOU! - HOLIDAY FAIR TRADE SALE

The Peace and Justice Committee wishes to thank all who participated in our recent Catholic Relief Services Holiday Fair Trade Sale. We sold approximately \$1000.00 of crafts, coffee, chocolate, tea, and hot chocolate. Every item purchased, no matter how small, assists the disadvantaged farmers and artisans around the world to obtain a fair price for their products. We also wish to thank our special helpers: Joanne Kratz, Brian McCormick, Bill Meagher, Eva Willette, Ursula Yau (Holy Redeemer Parish), and the sixth grade volunteers from our school who directed people to our sale and the recycling event (the extra publicity really helped). We also appreciate the donation of plastic bags from American Family Market. Our best wishes for a holy and happy holiday with many blessings in the new year! We look forward to seeing you in the spring!

CHRISTMAS 2016 / NEW YEAR 2017

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday, December 14 7:00 – 8:00PM
Thursday, December 22 7:00 – 8:00 PM
Saturday, December 24 11:00am – 12:00 Noon

CHRISTMAS

The Nativity of the Lord
Saturday, December 24th
4:00, 6:00 & 8:00 PM (Church) & 4:00PM (Annex)
Sunday, December 25th - 7:30, 10:00 & 11:30 AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
Holy Day of Obligation
Saturday, December 31, Vigil Mass 5:15 PM
Sunday, January 1, 2016 - 7:30, 10:00 & 11:30 AM.



PREP

The 6th Grade PREP Class is sponsoring a Diaper Drive to benefit St. Christopher's Hospital and the Maternity Care Coalition.

FACT: Philadelphia is considered one of the poorest cities in America.

FACT: Diapers are one of the biggest expenses for new parents.

Newborn sizes are especially needed. Please consider donating to this worthy cause. Diapers may be dropped off at the SMS or the rectory until December 18th.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, Dec. 18th from 8:30-9:15

AM – PREP Christmas Pageant (Church)

Montgomery Early Learning Centers (MELC)

Do you have a hobby or talent that you would like to share with a child? Do you enjoy being around children? Montgomery Early Learning Centers (MELC) operates the Before/After School program located in the Lower Merion School District and we are looking for special individuals who would like to share their time, interests and talents with school age children to supplement their income. The program operates from 7:00 to 9:00 am and 3:00 to 6:00 pm. If you have experience working with children and this position sounds appealing, please contact Tricia McDevitt Ortiz at 610-617-4550 ext. 3012 or tortiz@melc.org.

JOB OPENING FOR AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT - Healthcare

Data Analytics firm based in Bala Cynwyd is looking for a competent Executive Assistant to help fuel the exciting growth of the firm. The ideal candidate should be proficient in Microsoft Office and have experience supporting a busy executive, while working with limited supervision. More information regarding the position is available at the rectory. Those interested should apply via e-mail to info@hmetrix.com.

MAIN LINE SINGLES DINNER CLUB (Ages 52-64)

CATHOLIC men & women are cordially invited to join and to share common interests & dine together twice a month. Our next scheduled events: (Sun) Dec. 11th at 5:15 P.M. our "Christmas Restaurant Event" at the entirely revamped "Yang Ming Restaurant" located at 1051 Conestoga Rd., Bryn Mawr, PA. More info call BARB (610) 896-6542. Catholic men are encouraged to participate.

Spiritual Thought - Jesus likes to intervene in the smallest details of our life, and he often fulfills secret wishes of mine that I sometimes hide from him, although I know that from him nothing can be hidden.
Saint Faustina Kowalska

Liturgy Note : Mary, Our Example for

Participation at Mass - During Advent we especially contemplate the person of Mary as she awaits the birth of our Savior. Mary is an example for us of how we should eagerly long for and prepare for the coming of Christ to us at Mass. Mary listened to and accepted God's will in her life. We come to Mass to listen to the Lord speak to us through the Scriptures. We should listen with a heart like Mary's, eager to hear and accept the Lord's message to us. Mary lovingly offered her life to the will of God. At Mass we offer ourselves to the Father by uniting ourselves with Christ who gave his life in obedience to the will of the Father and out of love for us. Mary received the life of Christ within her with great devotion and joy. We come to Mass ready to receive Christ in Holy Communion with a similar love and joy. Mary sang the praises of the Lord in her great prayer of the Magnificat. We come to Mass to praise and honor the Lord and to receive his grace so that we might be holy people.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE
**Mercy Neighborhood Ministries and
The Narberth Food Bank**
**You will be able to drop off your wrapped gift(s)
in the Antioch Annex Sunday, December 11
(8:30 to 12:30) and Monday, Tuesday, December
12 & 13, (8:30 to 7:00pm). The Gifts are being
picked up on Wednesday, December 14.**
**Please be sure to attach the tag to the gift after
you wrap it. If you have any questions, call
Teresa or Rose Marie at the rectory, 610-664-
3770, Ext 10.**

TRIP TO FATIMA AND LOURDES

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is sponsoring an eight day pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Mother at Fatima. The journey, will feature several towns and shrines throughout Portugal, Spain, and France. The pilgrimage will include adoration in Saint Stephen's Church in Santarem, Portugal, the site of the miracle of the Bleeding Host; Mass at the Capelinha, built over the oak tree where Our Lady appeared five times to the three shepherd children: Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco; a visit to Aljustrel where the Angel of Fatima appeared; and Valinhos where Our Lady appeared in August 1917; a tour of the Atlantic coast, beaches and markets of Nazare; a visit to the Gothic Cathedral of Santa Maria de Burgos in Burgos, Spain; a tour through Loyola as well as various other locations connected with Saint Ignatius; and a guided tour of Saint Bernadette's home; and a visit to the healing waters in Lourdes, France. Pilgrims will leave Philadelphia Monday, June 5, 2017 and return Monday, June 12, 2017. Registration for this pilgrimage is due by March 22, 2017. Interested parties may call Canterbury Pilgrimages and Tours, Inc. at 1-800-653-0017.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In case of serious illness, please contact the Rectory to make arrangements. If someone is already in the hospital, be sure to register as a Catholic so that the priest will visit.

COMMUNION CALLS

Parishioners unable to attend Mass regularly because of age or illness should call the Rectory to make arrangements to receive Communion at home. If any member of your family is hospitalized, please be sure to register as a Catholic and inform the Rectory so that a visit can be arranged.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on Sundays at 1:00 PM. Arrangements must be made in advance at the Rectory by calling Msgr. Dougherty, ext. 12. If parents have not attended a Baptism class, they must attend our Baptism Preparation Seminar. Call the rectory to register for the class. Godparents guidelines state that one godparent must be Catholic. They must be at least 16 years of age, registered in the parish where they live, fully initiated, and practicing their faith; they must obtain a letter of eligibility from their own parish. One practicing non-Catholic Christian may also be admitted as a Christian Witness. **The next Baptism Preparation Seminar is January 19, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Rectory.**

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Registered parishioners who wish to marry at St. Margaret should contact Msgr. Dougherty. The Sacrament of Marriage is celebrated after a period of preparation of not less than six months. Engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage can register, explore possible dates or find out more information for pre-marriage classes by visiting **PhilaMarriagePrep.com**. For email inquiries, **Amy@PhilaMarriagePrep.com**.

REGISTRATION

A warm welcome is extended to new parishioners. If you live within the parish boundaries, you may register by calling the parish office during office hours to set up an appointment. Parish registration is required for reception of the Sacraments and letters of eligibility to serve as godparent or sponsor.

REQUESTS FOR ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES

The role of a sponsor is primarily a spiritual role to model a Christian life for the child. Therefore, anyone requesting a certificate must be a registered, participating member of St. Margaret Parish, a practicing Catholic in good standing (not living in violation of the church laws), at least 16 years of age and have received the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). Please call the rectory for an appointment if you need a certificate.

SOCIAL NETWORKING WITH THE ARCHDIOCESE

<http://www.facebook.com/ArchbishopChaput>
www.twitter.com/ArchPhilly
www.youtube.com/user/CatholicPhilly
<http://livestream.com/archphila>

PRAYER GROUP

The Living Vineyard Prayer Group meets every Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM in the Antioch Annex. The 2nd Wednesday of the month they meet in church to celebrate Mass.

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study meets every Tuesday from September to June in the Antioch Annex (9:00 to 10:30am).

THE ROSARY

Every Saturday the Rosary is recited beginning after the 7am Angelus. Come and pray with us.

PRAYER CIRCLE

Do you have an immediate prayer need or can you offer the Gift of Prayer? Tap into our electronic Prayer Circle and receive an outpouring of heartfelt prayer by members of St. Margaret Parish and others. E-mail your prayer requests or if you want to join the **Prayer Circle at cbuhn@yahoo.com**.

REMEMBER THOSE YOU LOVE

For a donation of \$10.00, the **sanctuary candle or altar candles** will burn for a week for your intention or in memory of a loved one. Another memorial opportunity is to have **flowers** placed on the altar for a donation of \$100. Each week the intention or memorial will be published in the bulletin. If you would like to take advantage of these opportunities, please call Teresa or Rose Marie at the rectory, 610-664-3770, Ext 10.

EUCHARIST FOR CELIAC COMMUNICANTS

St. Margaret Church is aware of the need to have the low gluten hosts available at all Masses. If you or a member of your family is interested in receiving Low Gluten Holy Eucharist at any Mass, please contact Maria at mecarinato@gmail.com.



JOURNEY WITH US TO EXPLORE THE CATHOLIC FAITH

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a journey to a deeper experience of God's love manifested through the teaching and treasures of the Catholic Faith. St. Margaret Church offers instructions for people seeking more information about the Catholic Faith, the Sacraments and living the Christian Life. These instructions are for adults who would like to inquire about following Jesus and becoming a member of the Catholic Church, or, if you are already a baptized Catholic would like to receive Confirmation and Holy Communion. **RCIA classes meet on Tuesday, at 7pm.** Please contact Msgr. Dougherty at pastor@saintmarg.org or 610-664-3770, Ext 12.