

**ST. MARGARET  
OF ANTIOCH PARISH**

*208 N. Narberth Avenue  
Narberth, PA 19072  
610-664-3770, Fax 610-664-5001  
Web site: [www.saintmarg.org](http://www.saintmarg.org)*

***THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 17, 2017***



**Msgr. Paul V. Dougherty,**  
Pastor, Ext. 12  
[pastor@saintmarg.org](mailto:pastor@saintmarg.org)

**Rev. Robert J. Chapman,**  
Pastor Emeritus

**In Residence: Rev. Dominic Nguyen**

**Weekend Assistance:**  
**Rev. Robert Pesarchick**  
**Rev. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A.**

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**Parish Business Manager, Ext.17**  
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**Administrative Assistants, Ext. 10**  
**Mrs. Teresa Myers (Mon, Tues, Thurs)**  
**Mrs. Rose Marie Dalton (Wed, Fri)**  
[office@saintmarg.org](mailto:office@saintmarg.org)

**Director of Music - Mr. Michael Worth**  
[saintmargmusic@gmail.com](mailto:saintmargmusic@gmail.com)  
267-304-6490

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**Scrip Sales**

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

**FROM 9AM TO 4:30 PM IN THE RECTORY**

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**Rectory Office Business Hours**

**Monday - Friday 9:00AM to 4:30PM**  
**CLOSED WEEKENDS**

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

**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.**



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

**Spiritual Thought** - I will respond to any failing with an act of greater humility; then I will begin again with a joyful and cheerful attitude as if Jesus had caressed me, encouraged me and personally comforted me. (Saint John XXIII)

## Mass Intentions

### MONDAY, December 18

7:00 AM Deceased Members of the Simpson Family

### TUESDAY, December 19

7:00 AM Philomenia & George Armenio

### WEDNESDAY, December 20

7:00 AM Robert Giuliani

### THURSDAY, December 21

7:00 AM Dorothy Kelly

### FRIDAY, December 22

7:00 AM Vincent Quinn, Jr.

### SATURDAY, December 23

8:00 AM Mary Bizzarri



**THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2017**  
**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE WILL BURN IN**  
**MEMORY OF JOHN LE.**

**THE ALTAR CANDLES WILL BURN IN MEMORY**  
**OF JOSEPH AUGUSTINE.**

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

### THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT

**Weekend of December 10, 2017: \$12,930**

**Including Electronic Funds Transfer: \$ 910**

**Mail In: \$ 1,275**

**Parish on Line: \$ 1,580**

**Envelopes: 201**

**Immaculate Conception: \$1,515**

**The Fall Collection: \$47,745**

**Last Year Total was: \$45,600**

**The Weekend of December 11, 2016: \$10,500**

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

**Msgr. Dougherty**



### New Online Giving

Saint Margaret Parish has arranged a new, secure method of online giving. You can now setup all your second collections in advance. Create or login to your Parish Giving account by going to the Parish website and clicking on the logo at the lower right or <https://tinyurl.com/StMargGiving>.

## From The Pastor

**Gaudete Sunday** - "Gaudete" is the Latin word for "Rejoice." It is in the imperative mood, a command. St. Paul tells us, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again 'Rejoice'." As disciples of Christ, we are called to heed the command to rejoice. Jesus Christ came among us to share his joy and peace with us. There is no denying the difficulties of life, but we can carry a spirit of joy deep within us because of our faith in God's love for us. This third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday and is always focused on the theme of Christian joy. May the joy of our faith in Christ abide within us and radiate from us to all the world.

**Annual Census and Collection** - Thank you to all those who returned the census forms and made a contribution to our Annual Fall Collection. This year's collection amounted to \$47,745, which was about \$2,000 higher than last year's. I am grateful for your generosity.

**Confessions** - Because Advent is a particularly appropriate time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, some additional times for confessions are being provided. This week Confessions will be heard on Thursday, December 14 from 7 - 8pm and on Saturday, December 16 from 3:30 - 4:45 pm.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Schedule** - We have a busy Mass schedule next weekend. Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will be celebrated on Saturday, December 23 at 5:15pm and on Sunday, December 24, at 7:30, 10:00 and 11:30 am. Masses for Christmas will be celebrated on Sunday evening, December 24, at 4:00 pm (in the Church and Annex), and at 6:00 and 8:00 pm in Church. Masses on Christmas Day, December 25, will be at 7:30, 10:00 and 11:30 am.

### Helping Other People in Emergency

Week of December 17

Robert Ritzco 610-649-3973

Please call as early in the week as possible.

**Liturgy Note: Little Easter** - Every Sunday we gather at Mass to celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord. Each Sunday is a little Easter, a time to remember and celebrate the new life the Lord has won for us. Through his death and resurrection the Lord triumphed over the power of sin and death, and rose to new life. He shares his life and love with us, especially through the Eucharist, so that we can walk in his light and life and one day rise to the fullness of glory with him. Let every Sunday be a day of joy, a time to rejoice in the newness of life we receive in Christ.

### We Welcome into our Parish Community



**Logan and Cameron Charity**, children of Bruce Speller and Shanise Charity. Congratulations to the family.

**A Little Humor** - A woman told her friend: "At Christmas, I was visited by a jolly, bearded fellow with a big bag over his shoulder." "You mean Santa Claus came to see you in person," her friend asked. "No," she replied. "My son came home from college with his dirty laundry."

### **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

*Mercy Neighborhood Ministries,  
Narberth Food Bank and Homes for Christmas*

You will be able to drop off your wrapped gift(s) to the Antioch Annex **Monday, December 18 and Tuesday, December 19 from 7:00am to 8:00pm.** The Gifts are being picked up on **Wednesday morning, December 20.**

**Please be sure to attach the tag to the gift after you wrap it.**

**Scrip Cards and donations for Haitian Families may be dropped off at the rectory.**

**If you have any questions, call Teresa or Rose Marie at the rectory, 610-664-3770, Ext 10.**



**American  
Red Cross**

### **St. Margaret Winter Blood Drive**

In light of our country's recent tragedies including hurricanes and the Las Vegas disasters, our blood supply is low. Donors like you save lives everyday. Give a priceless gift this Christmas Season. Please consider donating blood on **Wednesday December 20th from 2:30-7:30 PM at the American Legion Post next to the Narberth Library.** Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome. Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment. Our goal is 57 units this month and we need your help to achieve this. Thank you.

**Grief to Grace** - Healing the Wounds of Abuse - Our upcoming Philadelphia area program retreat will be held February 18th to 23rd, 2018. This is a fully integrated spiritual and psychological program for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual, or spiritual abuse. Offered in the privacy of a Christian retreat setting, the 5 day program offers a very unique process for helping survivors of abuse to grieve the past and discover healing and transformation. This retreat is helpful to people of every religious background and practice, as well as those who have lost their faith in God because of the betrayal of abuse. For more information for yourself or a loved one, contact Jeanne at [info@griefftoGrace.org](mailto:info@griefftoGrace.org) or by phone 610-203-2002. You can also visit our website at [www.griefftoGrace.org](http://www.griefftoGrace.org).

### **Archdiocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage**

Walk where Jesus walked. Pray at the site of Jesus's conception at Nazareth's Basilica of the Annunciation and His birth in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. Sail on the Sea of Galilee. Walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Share the trip of a lifetime with Christians from the Holy Land and fellow pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from February 1-11, 2018. For more information about the itinerary, pricing, and registration, contact Susan at 1-800-842-4842 or [susan@select-intl.com](mailto:susan@select-intl.com) or visit [www.selectinternationaltours.com](http://www.selectinternationaltours.com).

### **Malvern Retreat House**

#### **Upcoming Events at Malvern Retreat House**

Malvern Retreat House is hosting a special retreat for **women affected by addiction entitled Serenity, January 5-7** in the Family Life Center. The retreat will be directed by Sr. Anita M. Constance, a well-known speaker and advocate for those affected by addiction.

Malvern Retreat House will be hosting its **quarterly Women's Tea on Sunday, February 4** with Meghan Cokeley, Director, Office for the New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Topic: What's All This Talk about the Feminine Genius? To register, please call 610-644-0400 or online at [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com).

### **The Main Line Singles Dinner Club (Ages 52-66)**

Catholic men & women are cordially invited to join The Main Line Singles Dinner Club to dine together & share common interests twice a month. Our next scheduled events are (Sat.) Jan 6th, at 5:30 P.M. our "Post Christmas/New Year's House Party" at a member's home in Havertown, PA. (Sun.) Feb. 4th at 5:00 P.M Super Bowl Sunday House Party at a member's home in Havertown. For more info, please call Barb (610) 896-6542.

### **ARCHDIOCESAN GIRL AND BOY CHOIR AUDITIONS**

will be held on  
January 13, 2018 from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

**All auditions are by appointment only.**

Please contact  
[archdiocesangirlandboychoir@gmail.com](mailto:archdiocesangirlandboychoir@gmail.com)  
to schedule your appointment.

### **ARCHDIOCESAN ADULT CHOIR**

This group of Archdiocesan Liturgical Musicians comes together each year to sing for all Major Archdiocesan Masses, including Chrism Mass, Priesthood and Diaconate Ordination, and our Annual Christmas Concert.

Please contact [cangelini@archphila.org](mailto:cangelini@archphila.org) for an audition time after January 1, 2018.

### **The Shelby and Benjamin Chestnut Foundation a Non Profit Foundation**

**[www.thechestnutfoundation.org](http://www.thechestnutfoundation.org)**

Donna Hart CEO, 134 Kenilworth Rd, Merion, Pa. 19072. 610-348-5725.

Follow us at [Facebook.com/ shelbyandbenchestnut](https://www.facebook.com/shelbyandbenchestnut).

Dear Family, Friends, Alum and our concerned community near and far. Every year you have helped us help make a very special Christmas for Shelby and Benjamin and their siblings. Every year their Christmas has been a true gift from God for us. For Shelby and Benjamin, they still believe in the magic of a jolly kind man in red who rides his sleigh to their house every year! Donna is busy shopping and we have volunteer elves on stand by for wrapping. We need La la loopsies, Barbies, her clothes and accessories, game stop cards by the truck load for gamer Ben and brother Patrick, Shelby has at least 15 baby dolls on her Amazon wish list, Jordy- Baby Alive Luke doll, Lots of Lego sets, Ben- a stuffed bear family, an ironman suit- of course the latest ebox new game station, the red car on his list that he can drive might be a problem! Otherwise we are trying to make this year as magical as every other one. The past 8 Christmases you have been there to help make it happen. So if you can contribute to our campaign at [www.thechestnutfoundation.org](http://www.thechestnutfoundation.org) please help be their Santa. In addition we are taking the children and some family and friends on a Santa train, a tradition of their grandparents. The children will join us as ambassadors of the Foundation to visit disabled children living in very impoverished areas of Philadelphia, along with Santa and gifts. Your donations will help make that happen. You can also mail a donation or a toy to The Chestnut Foundation c/o Donna Hart 134 Kenilworth Rd Merion Pa. 19066. If you prefer donate to our account at The Beneficial Bank 931 Montgomery Ave Narberth, Pa. 19072 c/o Mary Ann or Regina Thank you.

## NEWS FROM ST. MARGARET SCHOOL

**THANK YOU** - Students returned to SMS this past week to find the school halls decked and ready to celebrate the Christmas season. As always, the centerpiece is Sister Corinne's unique collection of Nativity scenes from around the world. Thank you to PE Teacher, Mrs. Maria Dagit, who was kind enough to put up the nativity display and decorations in our school. Stop by the school to see the long table outside the office to see how artists across the globe envision the Nativity. Special thanks to The Brazunas Family, (Parishioners and Grace, graduate of 2016), who were very kind and returned again this year and brought their energy, enthusiasm and willing hands in decorating our school with Christmas trees and lights. We are very grateful!

**CONGRATULATIONS** - We wanted to share some good news from our 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

- Nora Paller received a Vocal/Voice scholarship to Nazareth Academy; Violet Lorei and Olivia Null each received Academic Scholarships to Sacred Heart Country Day School. We are very proud of these students!
- The Archdiocesan Honor Choir recently held auditions for 7th and 8th graders within the Archdiocese. Congratulations to SMS 7th graders Maggie Iannone and Amelie Sorbello who have been accepted into the choir. Amelie and Maggie worked very hard to prepare themselves; we are very proud of these students.

**SAVE THE DATE** - SMS Christmas Concert, which will include our SMS Band, Children Choir, grade 1- 8 Christmas Play, will take place on Wednesday evening, Dec 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. **We welcome all Alumae and Alumni back to SMS!**

### **CLASSROOM NEWS**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade** - After a few months of entrance exams and visits, 8th graders are finalizing their choices for high schools. We are also practicing diligently for our Christmas play, *The Mystery of Simon Shepherd*, and can't wait for their big performance on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade** - During this season of Advent, the students will be learning about the many symbols and stories surrounding the anticipation of Jesus' birth. To celebrate Advent, all 7th graders will pick a classmate's name from a box to be his or her "**Advent Angel**." The role of the Advent Angel is to 1) pray for their classmate daily and 2) deliver messages of kindness, support, and Christmas cheer to their classmate- anonymously! Each student will have a small mailbox. Their Advent Angel will write little notes or give small tokens, without revealing his or her identity. The students will reveal their Advent Angel identities at their Christmas party before break! The students are very excited to bring some joy and delights into their classroom.

**EXCEL BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CLINIC** - Dec 27-Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 to 12:00 pm OPEN TO ALL GIRLS AND BOYS Grades 1 to 8 grade @ St. Margaret School. If interested, Contact Erick Woods, ewoods@excelbball.org.



**CHRISTMAS SCRIP – BUY YOUR GIFT CARDS AT SMS** ([www.smsnarberth.org](http://www.smsnarberth.org))

If you would like to donate your **credit scripts** to a sms family, please contact the school office (Mrs. D- 610-664-2640 or email [office@smsnarberth.org](mailto:office@smsnarberth.org)). Thank you for all your support.

**THE PARISH CYO ATHLETIC ADVISORY BOARD** is seeking new applicants for membership on the Board. The CYO Board is a volunteer board consisting of parish members who work with the Pastor to coordinate the parish CYO Athletic and Ministry programs as outlined by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office of Youth and Athletic Ministry. The board is responsible for the oversight of activities for parish children from elementary to high school. If you are interested in serving on this board or have questions please contact Jim McNulty ([jmcnulty@hq.novacare.com](mailto:jmcnulty@hq.novacare.com)).

**FORMED** - Don't forget to take advantage of our Parish subscription to Formed, an online service that provides free educational materials on the Catholic faith. There are video based study programs, audio presentations, movies, ebooks. It is a tremendous resource for growing in our understanding and living of our faith. Go to [formed.org](http://formed.org). Our Parish code is WRVZND.

### 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 Wednesday, January 11, 2018 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](http://PhilaMarriagePrep.com). For email inquiries, [Amy@PhilaMarriagePrep.com](mailto: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](http://www.twitter.com/ArchPhilly)  
[www.youtube.com/user/CatholicPhilly](http://www.youtube.com/user/CatholicPhilly)  
<http://livestream.com/archphila>

### PRAYER GROUP

The Living Vineyard Prayer Group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM in the 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@saintmarg.org) or 610-664-3770, Ext \*812.



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