

**ST. MARGARET
OF ANTIOCH PARISH**

*208 N. Narberth Avenue
Narberth, PA 19072
610-664-3770, Fax 610-664-5001
Web site: www.saintmarg.org*

***FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2017***



**Msgr. Paul V. Dougherty,
Pastor, Ext. 12
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.**

**Principal, St. Margaret School,
Mrs. Mary Anne Johnston
mjohnston@smsnarberth.org
610-664-2640**

**Director of Religious Education, Ext.16
Mrs. Mary Anne J. Monroe, M.A.
prep@smsnarberth.com**

**Coordinator of Parish Services, Ext. 20
Mr. Robert Cermignano, M.S.W.
faith@saintmarg.org**

**Parish Business Manager, Ext.17
Mr. Cliff Coombs
busmgr@saintmarg.org**

**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

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

FROM 9AM TO 4:30 PM IN THE RECTORY

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.**



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

Liturgy Note: An Eight Day Celebration - Christmas is such a glorious feast, that the Church designates an octave, eight days, as a time to exult in the birth of Our Lord with special devotion and fervor. December 25 through January 1 is called the Octave of Christmas. Each of those days is a particularly joyous liturgical day in which we contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation of Christ and allow the beauty and strength of his love for us to sink into the depths of our beings and fill us with holy peace and joy.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 25 Christmas Day
7:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM

TUESDAY, December 26
7:00 AM Bernard J. Gillespie & Family

WEDNESDAY, December 27
7:00 AM Donald L. Ford, 7th Anniv.

THURSDAY, December 28
7:00 AM Joseph Kelly, 1st Anniv.

FRIDAY, December 29
7:00 AM Evelyn & Stan Kazeniak

SATURDAY, December 30
8:00 AM Deceased Members of the
Kelly Family



THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2017

**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE WILL BURN IN
MEMORY OF URBANI & D'ALONZO FAMILIES.**

**ALTAR CANDLES WILL BURN
IN MEMORY OF VINCENT D. QUINN, JR.**

**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 17: \$ 11,224
Including Electronic Funds Transfer: \$ 910
Mail In: \$1,840
Parish on Line: \$ 420
Envelopes: 224

The Weekend of December 18, 2016: \$11,006

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

RECTORY OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS WEEK

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

**MSGR. DOUGHERTY AND THE OFFICE STAFF
WISH YOU A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND SAFE AND
HEALTHY NEW YEAR.**

From The Pastor

Christmas Mass Schedule - Our Christmas Mass Schedule is: Christmas Eve - 4:00 pm (in Church and Annex), 6:00 pm (Church), and 8:00 pm (Church); Christmas Day - 7:30, 10:00, and 11:30 am.

Christmas - The celebration of the Birth of Our Savior turns our hearts to the tremendous love that God has for us. He sent his Only Begotten Son to come among us as a man, to assume our humanity and lead us to salvation. The simplicity of Bethlehem is astounding. The Lord of all the universe is born in a stable. It illustrates the depth of God's love for us and reveals what is most important to us. Life can seem very complex and overwhelming at times, but Christmas reminds us that at its essence, simple love is its foundation and the way to true life. God's love for us is our peace and strength, and our love for him and others is our way to fulfillment and joy. May the simplicity of Christmas touch your spirit to appreciate God's love for you and to share that love with others. Amid life's many aspects we are called to keep our hearts set on one goal: to love one another as Jesus loves us.

Helping Other People in Emergency

Week of December 24

Pam Owsik - 610-659-7021

Please call as early in the week as possible.

Spiritual Thought - This, Lord, is your Word to us, this is your all-powerful message: while all things were in midnight silence, he came from his royal throne, the gentle apostle of love. (Blessed William of St. Thierry)

A Little Humor - You could tell it was an Olympics Year. A child described the three wise men as bringing to the baby Jesus gifts of gold, silver and bronze.

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).

 Please remember in your prayers the soul of **Peter Read, Thomas Woods** who have recently passed away. May they rest in peace and his family be comforted.

Anyway

This poem was hung by Mother Teresa on a wall of the orphanage she founded in Calcutta.

People are often unreasonable,
illogical and self centered;
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind,
people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful,
you will win some false friends
and some true enemies;
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank,
people may cheat you,
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building,
someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,
they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today,
people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have,
and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis,
it is between you and your God;
It was never between you and them anyway.

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 or by phone 610-203-2002. You can also visit our website at 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 or visit 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.

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.

Advisory Board Summary for Parish School 11/28/2017 Antioch Annex

Principal Reported: Intent to Return forms will be sent to all school families to enable projection of enrollment, budget review & planning, then planning for Tuition 2018-19 School Year.

Monsignor shared an update from Parish Finance projections: A \$107K deficit for the 2017-18 school year projection has been re-evaluated and updated to \$206K secondary to some of the Pastor approved teacher additions which were not in the original projections.

Possible buildings and grounds updates and / or new budget capital needs and expenses were discussed: Classroom rug replacement; Gym lighting; Gym window curtain replacement due to challenges with opening & closing & wear and tear; Interior school hallway painting of tiles; Technology needs and possible use of smart panels; Technology and gym lighting are potential priorities for Capital needs and plans.

Marketing reported mailing to area Catholics and parish members with children age 4 to 6 will occur this week to 400 Catholics in the area we serve.

Advancement reports the Legacy Annual Fund is underway with our first mailing November 10. Reports will be posted monthly in the parish bulletin. Twelve donors contributed \$2035 in the first two weeks of the campaign. Business support will be requested in December personally. ***If you own a business and would like to support our school with annual sponsorship for advertising, please contact our Advancement Director at: info@smsnarberth.org***

A revision to the Advisory School Board was agreed upon and will be posted on School website for your review.

Board Membership 2017-18: Monsignor, Mary Anne Johnston (Principal), Anne Becker (Advancement), Brenden Coyne, Chris Maguire, David Walker, Heather Emery (H&S President), Jill Karn, Kathleen Hartnett Hocker, Mark Rooney, John Shea, Megan Byrne, Mimi Null, Monica Lawrence (H&S VP), Nicole Veith, Peg Garofolo (Faculty), Peg Iannone, Rebecca Klick, Sean Marzolf, Sean Stevens (President Advisory Board), and Thomas Douaihy.

NEWS FROM ST. MARGARET SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS - to **Kathryn Gallagher**, who received a Mercy Scholarship to Merion Mercy Academy. We are very proud of you!

SMS LOVES MERCY NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES - Thank you to all who participated in last week's **Christmas Tag Day!** The great participation by students, faculty and staff raised over \$ 1200.00 for Mercy Neighborhood Ministries' Christmas Giving Tree, which benefits several families from the Tioga area of Philadelphia. Each year, our school sponsors the largest family from the St. Margaret Church tree, which held over 100 tags this season. Student Council members from the 8th grade put our Tag Day money to excellent use this past Wednesday for our sponsored family. A special thank you is extended to **Mrs. Anne Marie Zanoni** for driving the students and helping them shop. More 8th grade students jumped in on Wednesday to help wrap and organize the gifts, happily giving up their free time at lunch, recess and after school. Many thanks to all!

SMS SANTA SECRET WORKSHOP - All of the children had a wonderful time shopping for the perfect gift for family and friends! Thank you to all the parents who helped with wrapping and assisting the little ones with their shopping. A special thanks to **Kristin Beck, Heather Emery and Eileen Coyle** for coordinating this great event!



To All of our friends and family of St. Margaret,

Wishing you the gift of Peace

To soothe your soul and smooth your way...

Wishing you the gift of Joy

To brighten up your life each day...

Wishing you the gift of Faith

To see His Promise shining clear

Wishing you the love of Christ

To guard and guide you through the coming year

Wishing you all the wonderful gift of Christmas

*Mrs. Mary Anne Johnston and the Faculty at St. Margaret School
Enjoy the holidays – may they be filled with much joy and happiness!*

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. Our Parish code is WRVZND.

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
to schedule your appointment.

St. Katherine Day School

Part-time teaching Assistants needed to work with students with disabilities. St. Katherine Day School - Radnor Campus and Wynnewood Campus. If interested, please contact Kathleen Gould, Principal, at kgould@stkds.org.

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 for an audition time after January 1, 2018.

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. 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 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**.

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 *812.



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