

ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH

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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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 1 2019



Schedule of Masses

Saturday Evening Vigil: 5:15 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 10:00 and 11:30 AM
Daily Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM,
followed by Morning Prayer
Saturday: 8:00 AM

Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil Mass - 7:00 PM
7:00 AM, 12:05 PM and 7:00 PM
(schedule subject to change on certain Holydays.
Check website for final schedule)

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

There is something forlorn about Halloween decorations still hanging around in December. We look at such a place and can only wonder if the owner left town hurriedly. Or that he or she turned seriously ill, and may be lying in a hospital somewhere. Or perhaps the owner is just lazy and out of touch. For sure, their once proud décor is not in the spirit of the season.

That last instance is precisely what the Church looks like every Advent, when she directs the priest to wear purple, and use the same color for the sanctuary adornment. Then there is the recommended absence of flowers. "What is going on?" we might ask, as we see the rest of the world is festooned with red and green, and is "jingle belling" itself into a shopping spree and a partying marathon? The simple answer is that the Church believes in a period of penance and fasting before the feast. Those are two ancient and time-tested ways to get ready for a major religious celebration.

Obviously, as a Church founded by a Person who was from childhood a "Sign of Contradiction," she will reflect the Founder in her liturgy and customs. We Catholics are more and more conscious of the conflict we have with our present society when we see so many former aberrations that have been adopted and labelled "the new normal."

During these early weeks of Advent, the Church asks us to think forward and consider the Second Coming of Christ. That is when this world as we know it will come to an end and then each of us will be judged. Judged on how much we loved God and neighbor. This is a serious matter because it involves our eternal future. Eternity, they have told me, is a very long time!

Let's face it. We would rather not think about such things. We'd rather turn our attention instead to cozy thoughts of the Babe in the manger. Those many artists employed by the Christmas card makers have given us the bluish moonlight shining on a Nativity scene. Or, that inviting den with a fire glowing and stockings hung on the mantle. Sometimes a cute kitten playing with ribbon gets added. "So nice!" we think.

But Advent doesn't leave us alone with our sweet reveries. It shakes our shoulders and says: "Wake up Christian! Don't you realize that this place isn't your real home and that someday you'll have to leave here to go there? So you better watch out and you better not pout because He's coming to town. I mean Jesus of course. There's a Second Coming of Christ and you'd better live rightly and justly. As you celebrate the anniversary of the First Coming, which is a fine thing to do because it reminds us of God's great love for us, just keep in mind that Second One!

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 2

7:00 AM Simpson & Darmopray Families

TUESDAY, December 3

7:00 AM Jack & Mary Mullarkey

WEDNESDAY, December 4

7:00 AM Marion & Michael Morley

THURSDAY, December 5

7:00 AM Mark Vita

FRIDAY, December 6

7:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, December 7

8:00 AM Mike & Rita Marconi

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

Weekend Mass Schedule December 7-8

(Priest scheduled is subject to change)

Saturday, December 7

Confessions 4:00 - 4:45 PM - Msgr. Dougherty

5:15 PM - Msgr. Dougherty

Sunday, December 8

7:30 AM - Fr. DePrinzio

10:00 AM - Fr. Guckin

11:30 AM - Fr. Pesarchick

DUE TO THE EARLY TRANSMISSION OF THE BULLETIN THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT WILL BE IN THE NEXT BULLETIN.



ONLINE GIVING - Saint Margaret Parish has arranged a secure method of online giving. You can set up 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>.

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY

Week of December 1, 2019

Robert Ritzco 610-649-3973

Please call as early in the week as possible.

From the Pastor

First Sunday of Advent and the Beginning of a New Church Year – Today begins a new Church Year. Beginnings inspire new life. God wants to pour forth his blessings upon you in this new Church Year, especially through the Eucharist, Confession, the Word of God and good works. Resolve to make this Advent filled with God's Spirit as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Savior. The Lord is always coming to us to unite us more deeply with him. Welcome the Lord and let him fill your heart with his charity, peace and joy. The little blue books are available at the doors of Church to help you make this a prayerful Advent. The books contain brief, daily reflections that open our hearts, minds and souls to the Lord.

Family Consecration and Blessing of a Cherished Family item – Next Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, and the beginning of a new Church Year, the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring for our families a Consecration to the Holy Family. The Knights will hand out consecration prayer cards before the Mass and we will pray them together at Mass. By consecrating our families to the Holy Family, we are inspired to make the daily effort to reflect the goodness of the Holy Family in our own families. We ask that you bring a cherished family memento to Mass that day. We will bless the items as a way of asking God's continued blessing on your families.

Day of Sanctification for Priests – The priests of the Archdiocese gather every year on Monday of the first week of Advent for a Day of prayer and recollection. As we begin a new Church Year the priests renew their commitment to Christ and the service of his people. Please pray for your priests on Dec. 2 and during this Advent. Here is a prayer you could use: *O God, who made your only Begotten Son eternal High Priest, grant that those he has chosen as ministers and stewards of your mysteries may be found faithful in carrying out the ministry they have received. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Advent Morning of Recollection – Our Adult Faith Formation Committee has arranged for a morning of recollection on Saturday, December 7. We invite you to Mass at 8:00 am, followed by some refreshments. At 9:00 am Kelly Anderson, a Scripture professor at St. Charles Seminary, will give a presentation on the Blessed Mother in the Scriptures. From 10:00 to 11:00 am we will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church and I will be available for confessions. The Blessed Mother is a prominent figure in our Advent celebrations. She is the best example of welcoming the Lord into our lives. Come, reflect and pray. Settle your spirit so that you can recognize and receive the Lord with joy.

Presentation of First Communion Candidates – The Mass for the Presentation of this year's candidates for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, Dec. 8 at the 10:00 am Mass. We look forward to assuring our candidates of our prayers for them as they prepare to receive these sacraments.

Seminary Appeal – You should have received a mailing at home for this important Archdiocesan Collection for the support of our Seminary. Please support this Annual Appeal. You can use the return envelope you received in the mail. Additional envelopes are available in the vestibule.

Reboot Revisited: Love Yourself – This was Chris Stefanick's first principle in living a good Christian life. Each one of us is of infinite value because we are made in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, who died and rose that he might share his life with us. Listen to these words: "From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name." These are the words of the Blessed Mother. She loved and valued herself and considered herself blessed because she appreciated the love God had shown her. Each of us should consider ourselves blessed. God's life is within us. Each one of us is a unique expression of God's love. No one else can bring God's love into the world in the way that you do. Love yourself by loving the Lord within you and look for the ways the Lord wants you to bring him to the world in ways both small and large. Rejoice in the Lord's light within you and let it shine in our world.

Schola Concert – Join us for the St. Margaret Schola Christmas Concert on Friday, December 13 at 7:00 pm in the Church. Let their inspiring music lift up your heart to the Lord during this Advent Season.

School Advisory Board – The Board will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 5 in the Antioch Annex.

Seminary Appeal - You should have received a mailing at home for this important Archdiocesan Collection for the support of our Seminary. Please support this Annual Appeal. You can use the return envelope you received in the mail. Additional envelopes are available in the vestibule.

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection - The second collection next weekend will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please support this important appeal that helps senior religious sisters received proper care.

Church Teaching: Advent – John the Baptist bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom. When the Church celebrates the Liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (from the Catechism of the Catholic Church)



St Margaret School

LIBRARY - THANK YOU to the following SMS students who donated a book to the library for their birthdays: Maxx Byrne, Emily Caprari, and Maya Walker. Happy birthday to you, and thank you for your generous donation!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR - Our students enjoyed shopping at the Book Fair last week. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped the students throughout the week: Shannon Fitzgerald, Lauren Habich, Monica Lawrence, Danielle Moritz, Linda O’Keefe, Sue Ryan, and Colleen Rygiel. An extra special thanks to Beth Mirzai and Stephanie Seal for all their hard work in organizing, planning, setting up and working the Book Fair all week. Thank you for your support of our school library!

WALK IN WEDNESDAY AT SMS - Come in for a tour anytime between 9-11 AM, December 4, 11, or 18 (Walk in any Wednesday). **Learn More About St. Margaret school (www.smsnarberth.org).**

THANKSGIVING KIDSCARE PROJECT

Wow! What a fantastic job the entire school did to donate 1,500 canned goods and 5 turkeys to **Mercy Neighborhood Ministries** for the Thanksgiving Food Drive! A BIG Thank You and great job to the 2nd grade class for creating the wonderful posters to announce our food drive! The 8th grade took first place with 441 donations. **Sharing with others who are in need is a way of giving thanks for what we have.**

“You are blessed to be a blessing to someone else.”

2019 CHRISTMAS SCRIP – BUY YOUR GIFT CARDS AT SMS

On our website - www.smsnarberth.org - you will see an order form for Christmas Scrip. Orders will be collected between **now and Friday, December 13**. It takes approximately 1 week between the order and shipment, so please plan accordingly. Please note that the percentage of rebate noted next to the retailer is allocated as a 50/50 split between SMS and the family purchasing.

You may also order online: www.shopwithscrip.com. Register and join the existing St. Margaret account by using the code **6EL64A3F6L55**. Physical cards will be mailed to the rectory, available for pick up. Questions on ordering? Email Pooja Garg - Pooja.m.garg@gmail.com.

If would like to donate your scrip credits to a SMS family, or have any questions, please call the school office - Mrs. D at 610-664-2640 - or email office@smsnarberth.org. Thank you for all your support!



Silence of the Season Open House & Christmas Concert St. Charles Borromeo Seminary December 8, 2019

Seminary tours begin from 1 PM to 3 PM.

The concert, which is free and open to the public, begins at 4 PM. There will be a free-will offering to benefit a charity selected by the seminarians. No need to RSVP, just come and celebrate this joyous season with us!

Homiletics Help Needed - St. Charles Seminary is looking for a few volunteers to help the seminarians learn how to preach a homily before a “live” congregation. That’s where you can help...and all you really have to do is listen and afterward share your thoughts on how well they did. These homilies will happen from 7-9 pm on December 3, 4 and 5. If you are willing and able to help on one or more of those nights, please contact Fr. Tom Dailey, OSFS by email (tdailey@scs.edu) or by voicemail (610-7856267), and he will provide you with more details. Thank you.



Catholic Relief Services

A few year ago, Dolma’s community of just over 300 people shared one water tap, but that was destroyed after a devastating earthquake in 2015. Dolma remembers how, at that time, people fought over any water they could find. She confesses to stealing water from her neighbor. Since then, CRS and Caritas Nepal have been working with the government of Nepal to assist earthquake - affected families in Northern Gorkha and neighboring districts to achieve a safe and dignified life while increasing their ability to mitigate the impact of future disasters. At present, this work has benefited more than 433 families in Northern Gorkha. With 61 taps installed within community reach and four tanks reserving more than 8,000 gallons, people now have access to clean drinking water. “CRS water taps have made things very easy for the community,” says Dolma. “We no longer have to steal water for drinking.”

Thank you for your support!!!

A Little Humor – During a lesson, a driving instructor commented that he was seeing spots before his eyes. Deeply concerned, the student driver told him that his father had suffered a detached retina a few years earlier and had complained of similar symptoms prior to diagnosis. “This could be very serious,” he said. “You must see a doctor immediately.” “Or you could just turn the windshield wipers on,” replied the instructor.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

*Mercy Neighborhood Ministries,
Narberth Food Bank and
Housing for Haiti*

You will be able to drop off your wrapped gift (s) to the Antioch Annex Sunday, December 15 between 7:30 AM and 7:00 PM.

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

Scrip Cards for Mercy Ministries and Narberth Food Bank may be dropped off at the rectory.

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



HOLIDAY ETHICAL TRADE SALE

**DECEMBER 7 and 8
CRAFTS - COFFEE
CHOCOLATE - TEA !!!**

The holidays are fast approaching! Our parish Peace and Justice Committee will once again host a Catholic Relief Services Holiday Ethical Trade Sale of lovely crafts, coffee, tea, chocolate and hot chocolate in the school cafeteria after all Masses on the weekend of Dec. 7 and 8. These products make great Christmas gifts! Proceeds benefit the poor of the world.

Benefits of Buying Ethical Trade

- Guarantees fair wages to disadvantaged artisans, farmers and workers.
- Provides the technical and financial assistance that poor people so desperately need but so rarely get in the conventional trading system.
- Makes a strong connection with hardworking but impoverished workers around the world.
- Returns human dignity to people just like us.

We hope to see you at the sale!

Food Collection Weekend - Next Weekend is our monthly food collection weekend (**December 7 & 8**). This program collects non-



perishable foods each month for the Archdiocesan Community Food Distribution Centers Program. They provide food for 40 Food Cupboards throughout the Philadelphia area. All items should be brought to the Cafeteria of the school next weekend. Thank you for your generous support of this program.

Spiritual Thought – Live in faith and hope, though it be in darkness, for in this darkness God protects the soul. Cast your cares upon God for you are His and He will not forget you. Do not think that He is leaving you alone, for that would be to wrong Him. (St. John of the Cross)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Soon our parishes will be conducting the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This annual appeal benefits 31,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests - women and men who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church. We are blessed to have 74 religious congregations represent approximately 2400 men and women religious. Of this number, over 800 are retired.

With this in mind, many religious communities struggle to provide for their aging members. During the early and mid-twentieth centuries, the Catholic Church in the United States experienced a surge in vocations to religious life, with numbers peaking in the mid-1960s. Care for elderly members was provided largely by younger ones. Over time, however, the number of vocations decreased while lifespans increased. The result is far fewer younger members available to support the retirement and eldercare needs of senior members. In 2018, 68 percent of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) had a median age of 70 or older.

I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of assistance; I ask simply that you give what you can. In thanksgiving for their faithful service, please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God's blessing on our nations' elderly religious.

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held December 7-8, 2019, in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The appeal is coordinated by the NRRO.

In addition to sponsoring the annual appeal, the NRRO offers assessment tools, educational programming, services and resources that promote quality eldercare and help religious communities plan for long-term retirement need.

I ask prayers for our consecrated religious and encourage support for this national collection scheduled for December 7-8, 2019, in our local parishes. Thank you.

In the peace of Christ,
Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their Marriages through **Retrouvaille** (retro-VIE). Couples learn to build communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. **The next program in this area will be held on the weekend of February 21-23, 2020, at the Family Life Center in Malvern.**

For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org, or call 1-800-470-2230.

All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Visiting Angels, Havertown, PA is currently looking to employ experienced caregivers - full and part time - to provide in-home care for our seniors. For more information, see www.visitingangels.com/havertown. To apply, visit: <https://ahavertown.clearcareonline.com/apply>

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 Thursday, December 19, 2019 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. 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>

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 Maryann 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.



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