

ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH

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

Msgr. Paul V. Dougherty,
Pastor, Ext. 12
pastor@saintmarg.org

Rev. Robert J. Chapman,
Pastor Emeritus

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@saintmarg.org

Coordinator of Parish Services, Ext. 20
Miss Nicole Bazis, MATS
faith@saintmarg.org

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

Safe Environment Coordinator, Ext. 21
Mrs. Beth Mirzai
safe@saintmarg.org

Administrative Assistant, Ext. 10
Maryann Cassidy (Mon, Tues, Wed)
Mrs. Teresa Myers (Thurs, Fri)
office@saintmarg.org

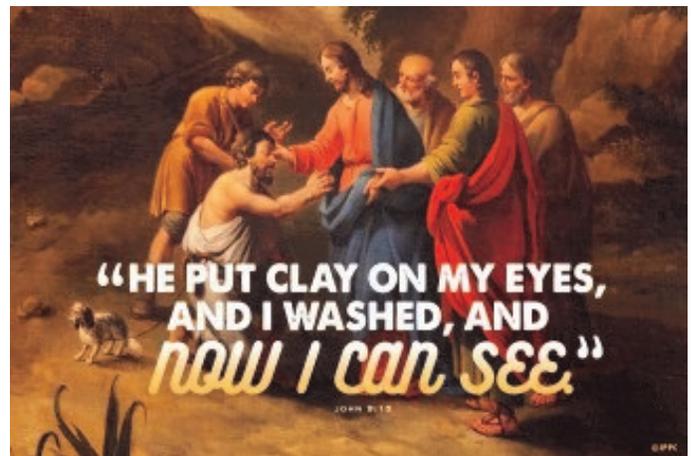
Director of Music - Mr. Michael Worth
saintmargmusic@gmail.com
267-304-6490

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.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 22, 2020



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The poet Ogden Nash definitely displayed his sense of humor when he interpreted a major truth of the Bible when he composed these pithy lines:

*How odd
of God
to choose
the Jews.*

Lest my purpose of quoting Nash be misconstrued, the word "odd" here simply means "differing in nature from what is ordinary, usual or expected." Among the other nations existing at the time, God could have made other choices from among the more dominant and sophisticated ones like Egypt, Assyria or Babylon. Instead he chose the Jews, with their relatively insignificant numbers; their odd monotheism, and their demanding ethics. They became, and remain God's chosen people. We must remember that among their number are Joseph and Mary and Jesus; the Twelve Apostles; and Jesus' cousin John the Baptist among others.

The story of the unnamed blind man is one of John's "signs" or miracle stories, all featuring proofs of Jesus' powers and identity. It also offers us good evidence that God's choices usually differ from our own. We might never have picked a blind beggar as an example of an evangelist, which he became.

This whole matter of God's choices at variance with ours is sprinkled so liberally all through both Testaments that we can safely call it a biblical theme. This weekend's First Reading story of God's choosing "ruddy and handsome young David, the baby of Jesse's family" as Saul's successor is an example. We might well have picked one of the older more experienced sons. The Gospel story is complimentary to this one, as happens by design.

As we listen again to all the trials the stubborn Pharisees put the poor former blind man through without any joy expressed over his healing it becomes obvious who the really blind people are. We get a significant clue as to what we can expect when we choose to respond to our baptism and witness to Jesus in our very secular culture. Just try explaining to a non-practicing Catholic why you do. Or even the reaction to the same from your own family.

Honest introspection inevitably leads us to conclude how odd of God it is that He chooses us to be His spokespersons. But that's exactly what He has done. The question arises: what are we going to do about it?

How will we express our belief to various people? At times, will we speak or be silent, especially when silence is enough? Will you act or not? Will you be careful to think before speaking?

Here is a practical thought from the motivational speaker Tony Robbins. "If you talk about it, it's a dream; if you envision it, it's possible; but if you schedule it, then it is real."

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY

Week of March 22, 2020

Robert Ritzco 610-649-3973

Please call as early in the week as possible.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, March 23

7:00 AM Rosemary Healy

TUESDAY, March 24

7:00 AM Bernard McCabe, Jr.

WEDNESDAY, March 25

7:00 AM Bernard McCabe, Jr.

THURSDAY, March 26

7:00 AM John R. O'Rourke, Sr.

FRIDAY, March 27

7:00 AM Ronald Clark

SATURDAY, March 28

8:00 AM Sean Kelly

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



THE WEEK OF MARCH 22, 2020
FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR THIS SUNDAY
ARE IN MEMORY OF
THE CASEY AND ROVNER FAMILIES.

THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekend of March 15, 2020:	\$ 4,832
Including Electronic Funds Transfer	\$ 665
Mail In:	\$ 545
Parish On Line:	\$ 720
Envelopes:	104

The Weekend of March 17, 2019: \$11,749

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

Msgr. Dougherty



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>.



Tax Information for 2019

To properly claim your donations to the Church, the IRS may require a donation receipt. To request your information go here <http://tinyurl.com/stmargtax> or contact the rectory during normal business hours, 610-664-3770.

From the Pastor

Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez Announces The Suspension Of All Public Masses In The Archdiocese Of Philadelphia Effective At Noon March 18, 2020

Today, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia announced that Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez has suspended all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia effective at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18th and until further notice.

Last week, the Archbishop dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Both decisions were made in response to the growing concern over the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the directives provided by government and health department officials at the local, state, and national levels. These measures will be re-evaluated pending future developments.

Archbishop Pérez said, “As the Archbishop of Philadelphia, my first priority is to ensure the health and welfare of those entrusted to the pastoral and temporal care of our Church. So, in light of the developing Coronavirus pandemic, a decision has been made to suspend the public celebration of all Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the time being.

All of us need to do our part to slow the spread of this illness. Like you, we are monitoring coronavirus developments and look forward to continuing our lives on a more normal basis.

While things may look and feel different during these uncertain times, I want to be very clear that the Catholic Church in Philadelphia is not closing down. It is not disappearing and it will not abandon you. Time and again as our history has proven the Church has risen to meet great challenges and provide a beacon of hope and light.

As your Shepherd, I promise that the Church remains steadfast and is prepared to walk with you and serve you. Neither the Church nor its charitable works will stop. God is always by our side. He never abandons us. I invite you to join me in prayerful solidarity for the intentions of the sick, suffering, and their caregivers as well as government and health officials. With God’s grace and blessing, we will navigate the difficult waters of this challenge as a united human family, for after all is said and done, we are people of Hope!”

Though public Masses are suspended in all churches in the Archdiocese, the right and need of the faithful to hear the Word of God and celebrate the Sacraments is not put aside. Pastors, along with all those who work with them, will be as attentive as possible to all the spiritual, pastoral, and charitable needs of the people they serve.

Priests will continue to offer the sacrifice of the Holy Mass during this period and to honor all requested Mass intentions.

Churches can remain open as a location for private prayer at the discretion of the pastor. Baptisms, Confessions, Marriages, and Funerals will take place as usual but with due regard for the limitation of participants and reasonable social distancing.

In conjunction with directives already in force in hospitals and institutions, all visits to the sick with Holy Communion, including in private homes, by priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are suspended. In such instances, only priests will be available to celebrate the Sacraments for those in immediate danger of death. In all circumstances, government and health agency directives for group size and social distancing are to be observed as the Archdiocese of Philadelphia strives to meet the pastoral and temporal needs of all those in need.

On Sunday, March 15th, the Archdiocese featured a live streaming broadcast of the 11:00 a.m. Mass on its website and Archbishop Pérez’s Facebook page for the benefit of those wishing to participate in the liturgy remotely. This broadcast will continue each Sunday on an ongoing basis.

Additional information regarding opportunities for prayer and devotions are available on the Archdiocesan website.

Plans for St. Margaret

Monsignor Dougherty will celebrate privately the weekday and Saturday morning Masses at our regularly scheduled times. For Sunday, Monsignor will celebrate a Mass privately. Although you cannot attend these private Masses, we are currently working to arrange for these Masses to be livestreamed through the internet and to be accessed when you wish. Information regarding that possibility will be forthcoming. Confessions will be offered at the scheduled times. As stated by Archbishop Pérez, Baptism, Marriages and Funerals will take place as usual but with due regard for the limitation of participants and reasonable social distancing.

From the Pastor, continued

Act of Spiritual Communion

When we are unable to attend Mass in person, the Church encourages us to make an act of spiritual communion. I have included one here for your benefit:

My Jesus, I believe that Thou art present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love Thee above all things, and I desire Thee in my soul. Since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart with the healing power of your saving presence. I welcome you with great joy and ask that you fill me with your life and peace. Filled with your grace, may my whole being radiate the light of your goodness.

Coronavirus – The experience of dealing with the coronavirus has caused me to reflect more on the fragility of our lives. There are difficult realities, such as sickness, suffering and death, which are beyond our ability to completely control. This experience of our human weakness and limits evokes in us a certain fear. But the Lord invites us not to be anchored in fear, but to move to trust in him. Our weakness and fragility can be a gift that make us look beyond ourselves and to put our trust and hope in God. “Be not afraid,” was a constant refrain in the Lord’s preaching. In the face of our human fears, the Lord calls us to make a decision, an act of the will, to trust in his abiding love and providence in our lives. No matter how dire the circumstances, we trust that the Lord is there working for our salvation and giving us his compassionate love, guidance and help.

Suspension of Activities – You are reminded all parish meetings, adult formation session, CYO and extracurricular activities are suspended until further notice.

Catholic Charities Appeal – The 2020 Appeal is underway. You can make your donation using the envelope sent to your home or give online at catholiccharitiesappeal.org. Your contributions help the Archdiocese to spread the gospel and provide many services to the poor and needy.

Church Teaching: Childlike Trust – Jesus asks for childlike abandonment to the providence of our heavenly Father who takes care of his children’s smallest needs: “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’... Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.” (from the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

FORMED – With our out of home activities being curtailed, there are many opportunities online for spiritual growth and faith formation. The Parish has a subscription to **FORMED**, an online service that carries many excellent resources on our Catholic faith. Because of our subscription, you are able to access the resources for free. Our parish code is WRVZND. Go to <https://formed.org>. When you click on “Sign Up,” you should see the registration box for parishioners. Type in the parish code. Now set up a username and a password. Then you are all set to use all the great programs on FORMED.org anytime by simply logging in.



Please remember in your prayers the soul of Helen O’Rourke who recently passed away. May she rest in peace and her loved ones be comforted.



Meet Maria Ana - Maria Ana and her brothers receive one meal a day at school, so that they can focus on achieving their dreams. How was education important for your future? How can we ensure that all young people have a chance to be educated? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.



We welcome into the Church

*Thomas Francis Owston, IV
son of Thomas and Christen Owston*
Congratulations to the family on the
Baptism of their child.

Thank you from Cross Catholic Outreach

Cross Catholic Outreach wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Monsignor Benz on our recent visit to your parish. On behalf of the poorest of the poor, we thank you for having shared in their lives. May our Lord continue to bless all of you for your love and support.



“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and the Lord will reward him for what he has done.”

A Little Humor – At mealtime during an airline trip, a flight attendant asked passenger John: “Would you like dinner?” What are my choices?” John asked. She replied, “Yes or no.”



JOIN
ARCHBISHOP NELSON PEREZ
 For an Archdiocesan -Wide Virtual
Rosary Rally for Vocations
Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 7:00 PM



In response to the recent developments and potential spread of the COVID-19 virus which is affecting many communities and individuals in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the decision was made to make the March 25 *Celebrating Mary's Yes* event an **ONLINE VIRUTAL ROSARY RALLY**. On Wednesday, March 25, the *Solemnity of the Annunciation of The Lord*, all are invited and encouraged to gather online at HeedTheCall.org or on the Philly Vocations [@PhillyPriest](https://www.facebook.com/PhillyPriest) Facebook Page to hear about a new vocation initiative and join **Archbishop Nelson Perez** as he leads us in praying the rosary.

Think of the power of the entire Archdiocese praying the Rosary together for an increase in vocations!



Stay Connected....
Follow Archbishop Perez
@ArchbishopPerez



Saint John's Hospice (SJH), a ministry of Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (CSS), is holding its annual

Saint John Neumann Boot Drive to benefit men experiencing homelessness.

Inspired by Saint John Neumann's compassion for the poor, demonstrated by the real life example of St. John Neumann offering those in need the shoes from his feet, this annual boot drive enables SJH to purchase basic necessities for men in need. A donation of just \$25 can provide a new pair of boots, socks, and undergarments to a homeless man in need.

Those interested in supporting SJH can make a one-time gift or recurring financial contribution through a dedicated link by visiting:

<http://saintjohnshospice.org/donate-3/>.

Spiritual Thought: Living in Faith and Hope – Live in faith and hope, though it be in darkness, for in this darkness God protects the soul. Cast your care 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)

**FAST AND ABSTINENCE
 AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT**

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world.

Why a Catholic School for your family? At St. Margaret School we focus on - Learn, Serve, Lead, and Succeed through the tenets of our faith. Current openings will fill quickly for St. Margaret, Narberth PREKINDERGARTEN – 4 Year Old Program. We have it all. Weekly specials include Library, Music, Spanish, PE, Technology/Computers, and Art. Our curriculum prepares your child for kindergarten and beyond with a focus on virtues for life and leading to succeed. Reserve your child / family the opportunity of a lifetime in our Catholic parish elementary school serving Lower Merion and the local parishes. **We have openings for our Pre K 4 Years Old Program; children must be 4 before Sept 1. For more information, email info@smsnarberth.org.**

We are your parish school and engage faith in education every day.



On behalf of the board of directors of **Interfaith Hospitality Network**, and especially on behalf of the families we serve, thank you for your support and generous Thanksgiving Day donation amount of \$802.

Your contribution and support will allow IHN-ML to continue helping homeless families from our community.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of assisting one of the IHN-MainLine families move into their new apartment. This single mom of three children worked hard during her time with us in the shelter. She was able to secure employment, increase her income, connect to benefits, and she developed long term goals of economic self-sufficiency. All while caring for her children.

Thank you again for partnering with us through this wonderful donation.

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, April 29, 2020 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/ArchbishopPerez>

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.



Catholic Answers Live - #1 Catholic Radio Show. Monday - Friday, 6-8 PM.

One great program. Many ways to listen! catholic.com/radio



Looking for local Catholic news?

It's as easy as email - sign up for the free, twice-weekly email newsletter of CatholicPhilly.com, official news website of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Sign up at CatholicPhilly.com/newsletter.