

ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH

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Pastor Emeritus

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Rev. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A.

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Director of Music - Mr. Michael Worth
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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.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT *DECEMBER 13, 2020*



Schedule of Masses

Saturday Evening Vigil: 5:15 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 8:45, 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.

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The worst thief of the year never robbed a bank or a convenience store, but he continues on his crime wave because nobody has yet been able to stop him completely. Actually, this outlaw is neither a him nor a her, but rather an "it," and has a name. Call it "Covid 19."

Among other thefts it has for the most part robbed us all of much of our customary way of life and made us near prisoners in our own homes. Were it not for all the electronic gizmos and gadgets, we might have all gone a lot more stir crazy than we have.

On the most serious level, it has taken a world wide death toll in the millions, and thereby affected tens of millions more who loved their departed ones. It has ushered in a wave of fear on an unprecedented scale, and even turned the education of our young into a process involving screens on machines. It has made the fun of birthday and anniversary parties partial; graduations virtual; weddings less joyful and funerals more hurtful. Last but not least it has made our public prayer constricted with rules and regulations and even closed many of our churches. When the story of 2020 is documented, it will likely include that now familiar image of a spiked ball that will loom large in the memories of a generation.

Despite all this, it is the hope of our Church that with trust in Jesus we will maintain our hope and experience true joy. "Joy?" you ask in the midst of this and more. "Have you lost your mind, Church?" "But wait!" the Church replies, "you may be confusing joy with happiness. They are quite different. 'Happiness' is rooted in the ancient word 'hap' which means 'luck' or 'good fortune.' It is transitory while joy is abiding. Happiness is a passing thing, quite contingent on present circumstances, able to vanish with a phone call you receive." The Church continues: "Joy is completely different from happiness. It is a deeper reality, reaching down inside our souls to that place at our spiritual core where decisions are made. Where God's holy Spirit dwells, independent of externals." To this I add that our Scriptures tell us we are made by God for God. That we are loved by Him and destined for heaven.

In the context of the Advent season now upon us, when we are supposed to be preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, it is time to stoke the flames of joy within us that may be lying dormant. Recall the love that is behind God's decision to take on our nature and demonstrate how to live in response to that love.

This third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as "Gaudete" or "Rejoice" Sunday. The Mass celebrant's vestment take on that rare rose color, as the purple of penance gets mixed in with the white of joy because Christmas is near. One way to feel that joy is to imitate the moving humility of John the Baptist while surrounded by his adoring followers. He forthrightly tells them he is definitely not the expected Messiah. Instead he points to his cousin Jesus and says "There He is! The Lamb of God!"

The thief of the year we hope will soon be a memory. But may your joy remain, because, according to Teilhard deChardin, the priest archaeologist: "joy is the infallible sign of God's presence."

MONDAY, December 14

7:00 AM Angelina Scorzetti

TUESDAY, December 15

7:00 AM Mary & Jack Mullarkey

WEDNESDAY, December 16

7:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, December 17

7:00 AM Mike & Marion Morley

FRIDAY, December 18

7:00 AM Vernon Brightman

SATURDAY, December 19

8:00 AM Frances Anne Gambescia



THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2019
FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR THIS SUNDAY
ARE IN MEMORY OF
THE CASEY AND ROVNER FAMILIES.

THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020
THE SANCTUARY CANDLE WILL BURN
IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH BINSTEAD.



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 6, 2020: \$ 12,843
Collection in Church: \$ 6,383
Electronic Funds Transfer: \$ 665
Mail In: \$ 2,788
Parish On Line: \$ 3,007
Envelopes: 156

The Weekend of December 8, 2019: \$10,859

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



St. Margaret Church is open from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 6:30 PM on Saturday, and 7:15 AM to 1:30 PM on Sunday.

Parish Theme for 2020-2021

Rejoice in Hope; Endure in Affliction; Persevere in Prayer

From the Pastor

Gaudete Sunday – This Third Sunday of Advent is always dedicated to the theme of Christian joy. It is referred to as Gaudete Sunday. “Gaudete” is the Latin word for “rejoice.” Advent is a season of hope. It is a time in which we are to nourish the virtue of joyful expectation. We believe in a God who loves us and wants to be with us. We can trust that he is always there to come into our lives with his saving grace. Because of our faith and hope in God’s love, we cannot help but be people of joy. The pink candle in the Advent wreath symbolizes our joy. Even in the midst of difficulties we have deep within us a great joy because we trust that God is with us and always there to lift us up.

Advent Confessions – Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a very fitting way to prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. John the Baptist called the people to repentance and forgiveness of their sins to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. We turn away from our sins and toward the Lord to welcome him with great joy. He comes with his mercy and new life to help set us free from sin and fill us with his goodness and peace. In addition to the regular times, Confessions will be heard on Wednesday evenings, December 16 and 23 from 7 – 8 pm and on Saturday, December 19 from 11 am to 12 noon.

Blood Drive – We will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, December 21 from 2:00 – 7:00 pm in the School Cafeteria. There is a great need for blood over the holidays. Donors must make an appointment. Please call 1-800-RED Cross (1-800-733-276) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: SMRCCNarberth to schedule an appointment. For eligibility to donate questions, call 866-236-3276.

Christmas Schedule – The need for social distancing requires some special arrangements for this year’s Christmas Masses. Mass will be celebrated at 2:00, 4:00, 6:00 and 8:00 pm in Church on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24. On Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, Mass will be celebrated at 7:30, 8:45, 10:00 and 11:30 am. All of these Masses will be livestreamed to the Annex and to the gym where seating will be provided with adequate distancing, and Holy Communion will be distributed at those places too. These arrangements allow for us to accommodate many people and still observe the necessary distancing.

Ushers and Safety Personnel – We are trying to organize a group of people to supplement our present ushers in their service at Church. We would like to train this group and our ushers on some protocols of hospitality, safety and medical emergencies so as to have some people who are ready to assist the congregation if some need arises. We will be organizing a training session near the beginning of the New Year. If you would like to participate, please contact Mike Worth at saintmargmusic@gmail.com.

Need for Books for Little Libraries – Jack Lynch, one of our parishioners, is undertaking a project for advancement to Eagle Scout. He is organizing some little libraries for our community. He is in need of books to stock the libraries. If you have some books you would like to donate, please place them in the basket in the vestibule.

Church Teaching: Keep Holy the Lord’s Day – The fundamental importance of Sunday has been recognized through two thousand years of history and was emphatically restated by the Second Vatican Council: Every seven days, the Church celebrates the Easter mystery. This is a tradition going back to the Apostles, taking its origin from the actual day of Christ’s Resurrection – a day thus appropriately designated “the Lord’s Day.” It seems more necessary than ever to recover the deep doctrinal foundations underlying the church’s precept, so that the abiding value of Sunday in the Christian life will be clear to all the faithful. On Sunday, Christian believers should come together, in order to commemorate the suffering, resurrection and glory of the Lord Jesus, by hearing God’s word and sharing the Eucharist, and to give thanks to God who has given them new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (from the Apostolic Letter “On Keeping the Lord’s Day Holy” by Saint John Paul II)

Parish Theme for This Year (“Rejoice in hope; endure in affliction; persevere in prayer.”) – One of the qualities of a great athlete is endurance. Athletic talent, strength and flexibility are important, but endurance completes the skill set. Endurance allows the athlete to perform at a high level over a long expanse of time and effort. Endurance is also a key element in spiritual health. Life always presents challenges and difficulties. Perseverance and endurance help us to bear the crosses while maintaining a spirit of faith, patience and kindness.



**PREPARE the WAY with
FORMED**

Daily Advent reflections by Dr. Tim Gray
 Brother Francis Advent reflections for kids
 Weekly videos, audio talks, and book excerpts related to the theme for the week
 A weekly action item to help you put the Advent message into practice
 All Formed content is free for our parishioners
 Visit Formed.org. Our Parish Code is WRVZND.

Spiritual Thought – Whatever did not fit in with my plan did lie within the plan of God. I have an ever deeper and firmer belief that nothing is merely an accident when seen in the light of God, that my whole life down to the smallest details has been marked out for me in the plan of Divine Providence and has a completely coherent meaning in God’s all-seeing eyes. And so I am beginning to rejoice in the light of glory wherein this meaning will be unveiled to me. (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross)

Weekend Mass Schedule December 19-20
(Priest scheduled is subject to change)

Saturday, December 19
 Confessions 4:00 - 4:45 PM - Msgr. Dougherty
 5:15 PM - Msgr. Dougherty
Sunday, December 20
 7:30 AM - Fr. DePrinzio
 8:45 AM - Msgr. Dougherty
 10:00 AM - Fr. Pesarchick
 11:30 AM - Msgr. Dougherty

***Supporting Small Business
 Supporting Our Bulletin Sponsors***

The financial struggles facing parishes are mirrored by the struggles of the many small businesses who sponsor our parish bulletins. Many of these small businesses continue to support the parish bulletin and other communication efforts despite COVID restrictions leading to less exposure.

John Patrick Publishing has created a new app called **FindingFaber**. The app is named after one of the founders of the Jesuits, St. Peter Faber, who saw the value of the entrepreneurial spirit and how small businesses help communities thrive. The app will allow parishioners to search the bulletin supporters, by category or zip code, directly from their devices. Parishioners can opt to “Like” a business so every time a promotion is posted, a push notification is sent to their device. Promotions can be shared by the app user via text, DM or email.

Use your cell phone camera to hover over the QR code below for the link to download the app. For more information, please visit findingfaber.com.



FREE
 DOWNLOAD NOW



OR



SCRIP Holiday Sales

Support our school by buying your holiday gift cards through our SCRIP program. Holiday order forms are in the vestibule or can be downloaded from the church website.



Order deadline is December 15 before noon!



Online Giving - Saint Margaret Parish has arranged a convenient and 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>.

This is an easy way to continue to support your parish both during the COVID-19 pandemic and going forward. Thank you!

A Little Humor – I’ll call it a smartphone the day I yell, “Where’s my phone?” and it yells, “Down here! In the couch cushions!”

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY
 Suspended until further notice.



St. Margaret Parish Blood Drive
Monday, December 21, 2020,
2PM - 7 PM

St. Margaret School Cafeteria

Sign up at redcrossblood.org/give.html using sponsor code **SMRCCNarberth** or call **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**. Due to social distancing, there will be no walk-ins, so please sign up for an appointment today. Save time and pre-register the morning of at www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass. If you have any questions, or need assistance in scheduling an appointment, email Christina Braun at christinabraun2002@yahoo.com or call her at 610-952-5766. For eligibility questions, please call 866-236-3276. Long-sleeved Red Cross t-shirt, while supplies last. All donors will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies.

Donors are needed!



2020-2021
Come and See
Weekends

Come and See Events begin in January 2021 and are designed for young men (high school age and above) who are discerning the priesthood.

Come and See Events are available for high school men (single day program) and post-high school men (overnight). These events are held monthly between January and March 2021. Specific dates are listed below - to register for one of these events, please visit Heedthecall.org/comeandsee or contact Fr. DeLacy at fr.sdelacy@archphila.org.

High School Days of Discernment

- Sunday, January 17, 2021
- Saturday, February 20, 2021
- Saturday, March 13, 2021

Post-High School Overnights

- January 22-23, 2021
- February 26-27, 2021
- March 19-20, 2021



Congratulations to **Elijah Karn** (Class of 2023), who achieved First Honors during the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year at Roman Catholic High School.



Nightly Rosary to End Coronavirus CONTINUES!

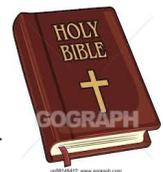
Until further notice, the rosary will continue Monday

through Thursday at 8:00 PM in English using the link found at phillyevang.org/rosary/. **Join your prayers to the hundreds of households in the Archdiocese and across the country who have been praying this rosary since March.**

For details about joining the rosary in Spanish on Thursdays, please email pherrera@olguadalupe.org.

Bible Novena

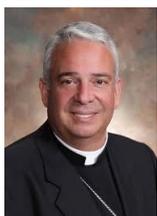
The Word of God is living and speaks to each of us daily. Each day, we turn to God and ask for His guidance and strength. This is accomplished no better than by turning to the Bible - the inspired word of God.



Between September 2020 and May 2021, the Vocation Office will be praying an extended Novena, reading the entire Bible over the course of these 9 months, and we invite you to join us as we proclaim and hear the word of God and listen for His voice in our lives.

On the first and third Sundays of each month, we will issue videos of the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia reading the Bible - including priests, deacons, seminarians, and lay faithful. As we read, we invite you to enter into this amazing relationship with Our Lord, by reading along with us and sharing your thoughts, prayers, and how God is speaking to you through His inspired word.

For more information on this 9-Month Bible Novena, please visit Heedthecall.org/BibleNovena or contact Fr. DeLacy or Sue Matour in the Vocation Office at 610-667-5778.



Stay Connected....
Follow Archbishop Perez
@ArchbishopPerez



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 17, 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.

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