

ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH

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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. 112
pastor@saintmarg.org

Rev. Robert J. Chapman,
Pastor Emeritus

Weekend Assistants:
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.116
Mrs. Mary Anne J. Monroe, M.A.
prep@saintmarg.org

Coordinator of Parish Services, Ext. 120
Miss Nicole Bazis, MATS
faith@saintmarg.org

Parish Business Manager, Ext.117
Mr. Cliff Coombs
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Safe Environment Coordinator, Ext. 121
Mrs. Stephanie Seal
safe@saintmarg.org

Administrative Assistant, Ext. 110
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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT *NOVEMBER 29, 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

One day, while filing away papers, the secretary of President John F. Kennedy found this note, written in the president's own hand. It read: "I know there is a God—and I see a storm coming. If He has a place for me, I believe that I am ready." Our Lord's warning this weekend to be ready, and President Kennedy's readiness to serve, invite me to ask: "How ready am I to put myself at God's service for whatever God may ask me to do?"

Today begins Advent: a new season and a new Liturgical Year. It is a short season, often cut off from a full four weeks by the secular calendar. It is as if there's such a thing as "Lent Lite," since it asks us to do penance and fast in preparation for the great Feast of Christmas.

Of course, one nod to the world around us and the media that frame it, and you would believe that this is the season for shopping, decorating, and even baking. None of those is bad in itself. But if any of it robs us of some quiet time for reflection and prayer, then we have wasted Advent time.

In fact, this First Sunday of the season traditionally pulls us away from thoughts about the annual celebration of Christ's first coming to make us reflect on His second one. That is very much an unknown entity, even though it is inevitable.

The whole point of Advent is not to exclude our pre-Christmas fun, but to remind us of life's serious side.

Nor does Advent ask us to pretend that Christ has not already come to us. It is rather telling us that Christ wants to come closer to us. One day in the unknown future, framed in the Book of Revelation as one of fire raging and trumpets blaring, Jesus will come back as He promised He would, to judge us all and decide our eternal fate.

In the meantime, we are asked to remember the fact of His wanting to come closer to us. In fact, we should desire to be one of His points of entry into the world, always being attentive to what's coming, rather than just to opt for a settled and comfortable life. This means that we actually facilitate the coming of God's world into our own that began some 2,000 years ago with Christ. Now each of us has a part to play. In other words, each of us must so live that it doesn't matter when the end comes because our whole life is a preparation for it.

In this context, it is remarkable what insight comes to us by way of that twenty-something Little Flower who is Saint Therese of Lisieux. Once she wrote this: "Let us go forward in peace, our eyes upon heaven, the only one goal of our labors."

God love you and give you His Advent peace!

MONDAY, November 30

7:00 AM Denis D'Souza

TUESDAY, December 1

7:00 AM Christine Rodia

WEDNESDAY, December 2

7:00 AM Special Intention

THURSDAY, December 3

7:00 AM Fred Matarazzo

FRIDAY, December 4

7:00 AM Marina & Gregorio Velasquez

SATURDAY, December 5

8:00 AM Jack Binstead - 2nd anniversary

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

Weekend Mass Schedule December 5-6

(Priest scheduled is subject to change)

Saturday, December 5

Confessions 4:00 - 4:45 PM - Msgr. Dougherty
5:15 PM - Msgr. Dougherty

Sunday, December 6

7:30 AM - Fr. Pesarchick
8:45 AM - Msgr. Dougherty
10:00 AM - Fr. DePrinzio
11:30 AM - Msgr. Dougherty

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 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!

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY

Suspended until further notice.



Lankenau Ministry continues to be suspended due to COVID 19 until further notice.

Parish Theme for 2020-2021

Rejoice in Hope; Endure in Affliction; Persevere in Prayer

From the Pastor

Advent – We begin another Church Year. Beginnings are always exciting and important. As we prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Our Savior, our minds turn toward how Jesus Christ is always coming to us. He takes the initiative. He is always starting something new in our lives and in our spirits. During Advent we remember how Christ took on our humanity and came to earth through his birth in Bethlehem. We recall too how Christ will come again at the end of time to bring to completion the fullness of his kingdom of everlasting peace. And we remember how Christ comes to us in the present to be with us and guide us to a share in eternal life. Be alert and look for the Lord. He comes to you to renew your life in a special way as we begin another Church Year.

Consecration to the Holy Family – As we begin a new Church Year, it is especially important that we recommit ourselves to making our families strong and good places of love, patience, and kindness. The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Consecration to the Holy Family this weekend. You will be given prayer cards as you enter Church and we will consecrate our families to the Holy Family by praying together after the intercessions the prayer of consecration that is on the cards.

School Advisory Board – The School Advisory Board will meet by Zoom this Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 pm.

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection – The Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be next weekend. There is an envelope in your packet for this Collection. Please place it, or any donation for this purpose, in the special collection basket in the vestibule of Church for this Fund. This important Collection helps to support the many elderly religious who served the Church so well for so many years.

Seminary Appeal – The Seminary Appeal for this year is now underway. You received a special mailing at home for this purpose. Please utilize the return envelope that came with that mailing. Also, there are return envelopes available at the doors of Church, or you can give online at stcharlesseminaryappeal.org. Thank you for assisting with the important work of the formation of priests.

The Giving Tree - Tags designating Christmas gifts for families through Mercy Ministries in North Philadelphia, as well as other charitable organization, are now available in church on our giving tree. Please take a tag and provide the gift suggested on it. Please return your gifts to the Annex by Wednesday, December 16. Gift Cards can be bought at the rectory. We ask that you do not wrap your gifts this year. Place in a clear bag. Sign on the sheet by the tree to indicate what child you are buying for. No need to sign if your tag is a monetary donation or gift card.

Parish Theme for This Year (“Rejoice in hope; endure in affliction; persevere in prayer.”) – Advent is a Season of the Church Year in which we especially emphasize the virtue of hope. Hope is the virtue by which we desire and expect the gift of eternal life from God and the grace we need to attain it. Hope trusts that God is always there to give us the grace we need to grow in holiness and goodness whether in good times or bad. Hope is an act of the will. It is a decision to trust in God’s love for us and his constantly coming to us to give us the help we need. No matter what the circumstances of your life you can have a firm hope that God is always stepping in to lovingly assist you and share his life with you.

Spiritual Thought – The Master is never so far away that the disciple needs to raise their voice: The Master is always right at their side.” (St. Teresa of Avila)

A Little Humor – I have a friend who is totally bald, but he still carries an old comb around with him. He just can’t part with it.

Springs in the Desert is a new ministry that responds to struggles with infertility through accompaniment and discernment of new paths of fruitfulness. This ministry seeks to help couples process the pain of infertility and to discover the fruitfulness God has planned for their marriages. For more information, please visit <https://springsinthedesert.org/>

A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic

Most Merciful and Triune God,
We come to You in our weakness.
We come to You in our fear.
We come to You with trust.
For You alone are our hope.
We place before You the disease present in our world.
We turn to You in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into Your Eternal Home.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in Your care.

Jesus, I trust in You.
Jesus, I trust in You.
Jesus, I trust in You.

Church Teaching: The Lord's Day: The Lord's Day – as Sunday was called from apostolic times – has always been accorded special attention in the history of the church because of its close connection with the very core of the Christian mystery. In fact, in the weekly reckoning of time Sunday recalls the day of Christ's resurrection. It is Easter which returns week by week, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death, the fulfillment in him of the first creation and the dawn of "the new creation." It is the day which recalls in grateful adoration the world's first day and looks forward in active hope to "the last day," when Christ will come in glory and all things will be made new. (from On Keeping the Lord's Day Holy by Saint John Paul II)



If you or someone you know is curious about religious life, visit www.sistersofmercy.org.



Congratulations to Saint Basil Academy sophomore **Amelie Sorbello**, who achieved High Honors during the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

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.



Roman Catholic High School
301 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107



RCHS Scholarship Entrance Exam:
Saturday, December 5, 2020

Testing begins at 9:00 AM and you can register at <https://romancatholicshscom.finalsite.com/admissions/important-dates>.

For more information, please call

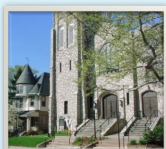
Thomas Bottoms '10
Director of Admissions and Communications Office
215-627-1270 ext. 110
Cell: 215-251-7186



Advent Reflections from Society of the Holy Child Jesus

In lieu of our annual Advent Open House event, the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus and Holy Child Associates invite you to join us for our virtual Advent Reflections. This four-part series of 90-second video meditations features images of the Sisters' Nativity collection. The videos provide an opportunity to take a peaceful pause during the Advent Season to reflect on the true gift of Christmas. Sign up for free at our website: www.shcj.org/american/175th-anniversary/2020-advent-season/

For more information, contact Joanna Pelizzoni at 610-626-1400 x315 or jpelizzoni@shcj.org.



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.

*Online Ministries
for Separated & Divorced Catholics*
Office for Life and Family
Phone: 215-587-0500
Email: sbozza@archphila.org
www.phillycatholiclife.org

Separated Faithful: Divorced or separated Catholics who remain faithful to their marriage. Catholics who were reluctantly divorced or separated can continue to fulfill your marriage mission - to sanctify yourself and your spouse. Discuss the ongoing seven stages from the book, "The Gift of Self, A Spiritual Companion for Separated and Divorced Faithful to the Sacrament of Marriage." Conference phone call, second Mondays monthly 9 PM. Contact MaryOfCana@chaosmt.net with your name, parish, city.

Families/Individuals affected by Divorce and Separation: Online meeting sponsored by St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation held every month the **FIRST TUESDAY** of the month at 8 PM. Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/668359061>. You can also dial in using your phone: 1-312-757-3121, access code: 668-359-061.



Malvern Retreat House is pleased to share that we have re-opened and are offering retreats, programs, and events. Our capacity is limited due to COVID restrictions and we adhere to guidelines created by our COVID Task Force. **We offer many virtual opportunities in addition to the on-site activities.** We have developed a series of modified special retreats for the remainder of 2020.

Upcoming Retreats

Father Jim McGuinn will lead two retreats with the theme ***In Challenging Times - Take Heart and Have Courage.***

Two Evening Virtual Retreat Option

December 8/9

One Day Retreat (on-site and virtual)

December 3

Both retreats are open to anyone. To register, please visit malvernretreat.com/register or call 610-644-0400.



**Stay Connected....
Follow Archbishop Perez
@ArchbishopPerez**



Dear Friends in Christ,

Soon our parishes will be conducting the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This annual appeal benefits 30,000 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 70 religious congregations present and serving within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These 70 religious congregations represent approximately 2500 men and women religious. Of this number, over 900 are retired.

Many religious communities struggle to provide for their aging members. Vocations to religious life have diminished but lifespans have increased. The result is that far fewer younger members are available to support the retirement and eldercare needs of senior members. In 2018, 70 percent of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) had a median age of 70 or higher.

Recognizing that this is but one of many worthy causes in need of assistance, I ask simply that you give what you can. Your monetary support and prayers are a means of thanking the many women and men religious for their faithful service to Catholic education, healthcare, and many other services offered by religious women and men.

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held December 5-6, 2020, in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO). In addition to sponsoring the annual appeal, the NRRO offers assessment tools, educational programming, services, and resources that enable religious communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs.

Please pray for our consecrated religious and please also encourage support for this national collection scheduled for December 5-6, 2020, in our local parishes.

Thank you.

In the peace of Christ,

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia



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

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.

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



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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.