

ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH

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Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23, 2018



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Pastor Emeritus

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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.**

Schedule of Masses

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

Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil Mass - 7:00 PM
7:00 AM, 12:05 Noon and 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Exposition

7:30-8:30 AM Tuesday
7:30-8:00 AM - First Fridays

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:45 PM
Sunday before 7:30 AM Mass
Tuesday thru Saturday: 7:45-7:55 AM
or by appointment.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

In 1930, Arnold Munk sat down to write the children's story entitled "The Little Engine That Could" under the whimsical pen name "Watty Piper." It was an instant success and has largely remained so. As recently as 2013, it was named by teachers as one of the top 100 books for children. As the title indicates, it is a story used to teach children the values of optimism, hard work, and the fact that small size is not an obstacle to the doing of great things.

On this "Eve of the Eve" Sunday, if you will, we are treated to hearing the prophet Micah's plea to the little town of Bethlehem. Like the little engine that was able to climb that hill with its load of cars because of its trust and acquired self-esteem, so by the plan and grace of God tiny Bethlehem learns of its eternal greatness from a certain holy birth that took place there. Immediately, the little town went from "the least among the clans of Judah" to the greatest. The rulers of Israel "will come forth from her."

The insignificance of Bethlehem as His birthplace was a strong indication that the world was about to roll a different way. The children's story of the determined little engine contains a similar child-size dose of hope and optimism.

The significance of little Bethlehem, paired with the humility of the two mothers-to-be, is also an invitation to ponder a question or two. For example, have you ever felt small, perhaps hopelessly so? That feeling can come quickly when we pause to look up at the December sky with its canopy of stars. When the people of science tell us that those lights we see have come from unimaginable distances, it is all we can do but wonder about our place in all this vastness. We seem so small.

So then, do we ever have the right to be puffed up with self-importance? Not if we admit we are small and have the need of a Redeemer! In that case, we can believe in our importance, because no star can offer God's love and tell Him about it. Our humble submission presents the opportunity for God to do great things for us, not dissimilar to what He did for Elizabeth and Mary.

Returning to our opening image, what explains the appeal of the story of a small steam engine that agrees to pull a long train up a hill after larger engines refuse to help? One answer is provided by three different children's authors. They wrote: "Each of us has reserves of strength, imagination, and intelligence. If we concentrate and focus our attention, we can tap those reservoirs and meet challenges that might otherwise have seemed overwhelming."

I would only add that those reserves come from a loving Creator who never thinks of us as small. Therein lies the root of the optimism Christmas brings. May your Christmas be blest because of it.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve

7:00 AM Mary Bizzarri, 33rd Anniv
4:00, 6:00 & 8:00 PM (church)
4:00 (Antioch Annex)

TUESDAY, December 25 Christmas Day

7:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM

WEDNESDAY, December 26

7:00 AM Robert Giuliani

THURSDAY, December 27

7:00 AM Evelyn & Stanley Kazeniac

FRIDAY, December 28

7:00 AM Elaine Mc Cabe

SATURDAY, December 29

8:00 AM Vincent D. Quinn, Jr.



THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2018
THE SANCTUARY CANDLE WILL BURN IN
MEMORY OF VINCENT D. QUINN, JR.

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

THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Stewardship Report will be in the bulletin for
December 30.



NEW ONLINE GIVING - Saint
Margaret Parish has arranged a
new, secure method of online

giving. You can now setup 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](https://tinyurl.com/StMargGiving).

Spiritual Thought - Do not look forward to what may
happen tomorrow. The same Everlasting Father, who
takes care of you today, will take care of you tomorrow.
He will either shield you from suffering, or give you
unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, and put
aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations. (St.
Francis de Sales)

FROM THE PASTOR

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - On Saturday, January 26, 2019, we are hosting a dinner for all of our Parish volunteers. The Dinner will be after the 5:15 pm Mass that evening. Father Dennis Gill, the Director of the Archdiocesan Office for Worship and the Rector of the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, will offer a reflection at the Meal on the value of the Mass as the driving force for all our charitable acts. This will be good occasion to thank our volunteers, come together as a Parish Family, and learn more about the Eucharist. See the information on the next page on how to RSVP for the dinner.

Christmas: A Visit from God - One important way of showing our love for others is by visiting them. Our desire to be with another and making the effort required to visit the person is a true sign of love. A sure sign of God's love for us is that he desired to be with us, to visit us, and to take on our humanity so that he could be present to us. This is why we rejoice so wholeheartedly at Christmas. We celebrate that God loves and values us so much that he wants to be with us. But a visit only reaches its full beauty when the visitor is warmly welcomed and received with respect and love. May this Christmas be a time of increased faith in the love of the Lord who comes to visit, and be marked by a strong desire to welcome him into our hearts and homes so that we can fully enjoy the salvation, light and goodness he brings.

Participating in Mass is the best way of enjoying God's visit and allowing him to share with us his strength and peace. Our Mass schedule on Christmas is: Christmas Eve - 4:00, 6:00 and 8:00 pm in the Church, and 4:00 pm in the Annex; Christmas Day - 7:30, 10:00 and 11:30 am in the Church.

New Year - New Year's Day, January 1, has several aspects. It is the Octave (Eighth Day) of the Nativity of Our Lord, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, the World Day of Prayer for Peace, and the beginning of a new calendar year. January 1 is a Holyday of Obligation. We will use the Sunday schedule. Masses will be offered at 5:15 pm on Monday, December 31 and at 7:30, 10:00 and 11:30 am on Tuesday, January 1. January 1 completes the special eight day period of solemn and joyful celebration of the Birth of Our Savior, honors Mary who accepted the important role of bringing Christ into the world as his mother, and as the beginning of a new year, is a special time to pray for peace and to turn to the Lord in prayer to give him thanks for the gift of last year and to ask for his blessing on the year ahead. Join us at Holy Mass to begin the New Year prayerfully before God.

Holy Hour for Vocations - On Sunday, January 6 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm, St. Margaret Church will host the Deanery 6 holy hour for vocations to the priesthood. This Deanery is comprised of the Catholic Churches in our area. Every Deanery in the Archdiocese will be celebrating a Holy Hour to pray that the Lord will raise up men to accept the call to the priesthood and serve the needs of the people of God in our Archdiocese. Your presence and prayers at the Holy Hour will be a source of inspiration and a powerful way of helping to provide priests for the Catholic Church in our Archdiocese.

Knights of Columbus - The Knights of Columbus, an organization for Catholic men and their families, are seeking to begin a Chapter here at St. Margaret Parish. A representative from the Knights will be speaking at all the Masses on the weekend of January 5-6. He will be asking our men to prayerfully consider becoming a Knight. This organization performs charitable works and is a source of mutual support in learning and living the faith for Catholic men. There will an information night regarding the Knights of Columbus at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 8 in the Antioch Annex.

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY

**Week of Dec. 23, 2018,
Pam Owsik 610-659-7021
Please call as early in the week as possible.**

A Little Humor - "It doesn't make sense," says comedian Elayne Boosler. "You're flying at 500 m.p.h., 30,000 feet in the air, and the pilot tells you to feel free to roam around the plane. But when you're on the ground taxiing to the gate at one m.p.h., he tells you to remain seated for your own safety."

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: This past Friday our parish Schola Choir held its annual Christmas Concert in the church. A huge thank you to Mike Worth, Sarah Worth, Beth Mirzai and to their incredible choir for an incredible performance after 6 months of practice!!

Thank You **St. Veronica Parish and Saint John Hospice** thanks all the parishioners in St. Margaret Parish who contribute to the poor box. The \$800 they received from the parish will help them continue their work for the poor and the homeless.

THANK YOU!
HOLIDAY ETHICAL TRADE SALE

The Peace and Justice Committee wishes to thank all who participated in our recent Catholic Relief Services Holiday Ethical Trade Sale. We sold more than \$1300.00 of crafts, coffee, chocolate, tea, and hot chocolate! Every item purchased, no matter how small, assists the disadvantaged farmers and artisans overseas to obtain a fair price for their products. Additionally, as a percentage of our sale, CRS will receive \$148.80 from the vendors from which we purchase the crafts plus \$100.00 from donations from parishioners, etc. We also wish to thank our special helpers: Joanne Kratz, CRS Ethical Trade Ambassador, Brian McCormick and American Family Market for their donation of plastic bags. Our best wishes for a holy and happy holiday with many blessings in the new year! We look forward to seeing you at our Welcome Spring Sale!



American Red Cross

Red Cross Blood Drive - Give the gift of life this Holiday Season. Donate blood at the St. Margaret Parish Blood Drive on

Thursday, December 27th from 2:30-7:30 pm in the Saint Margaret School Cafeteria. Appointments are highly recommended but walk-ins are welcome. Blood supplies are generally low during the Holiday Season and 80% of our local hospitals' blood supply comes from community blood drives like this. Call 1-800 GIVE-LIFE or contact Tina Braun at christinabraun2002@yahoo.com or (610)952-5766 to schedule an appointment. You may also schedule your appointment online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter the sponsor keyword: st margaretsrchurch. If you are unable to donate blood but want to donate towards this drive, please contact Tina Braun to volunteer.

Catholic Teaching: The Incarnation of the Son of God - Belief in the true Incarnation of the Son of God is the distinctive sign of Christian faith: By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God.” Such is the joyous conviction of the Church from the beginning whenever she sings the “mystery of our religion”: He was manifested in the flesh. The unique and altogether singular event of the Incarnation of the Son of God does not mean that Jesus Christ is part man and part God, nor does it imply that he is the result of a confused mixture of the divine and the human. He became truly man while remaining truly God. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. During the first centuries, the Church had to defend and clarify this truth of faith against the heresies that falsified it.

Volunteer Thank You Dinner

In gratitude for all service to St. Margaret Parish, it is our honor to cordially invite all parish volunteers and a guest to our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at St. Margaret Parish. We thank them for their devoted time and effort in making St. Margaret Parish a wonderful place to experience the love of Christ and our community.

**Saturday, January 26, 2019, Mass at 5:15 PM in church, including a blessing for all volunteers
Dinner at 6:15 PM-8:30 PM, St. Margaret School Gym, including keynote speaker**

RSVP - Volunteers have received an email regarding the dinner and are asked to please email Robert Cermignano at faith@saintmarg.org no later than Friday, December 14 with your name and the name of your guest. If you are a volunteer who has not received an invite please email faith@saintmarg.org.

Merion Mercy Academy, a Catholic independent all girls high school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy has 2 openings.

- Short-term substitute Spanish teacher. The position will begin on January 3, 2019 and conclude by April 8, 2019. Degree required. Experience and certification preferred. Qualified applicants are asked to email a cover letter and resume by Monday, December 3rd or until position has been filled to Mary Ann Danovich, at madanovich@merion-mercy.com or call 610-664-6655 for more information.
- Varsity Track & Field Coach. Interested and qualified applicants are asked to submit a cover letter and resume by January 8th to Athletic Director, Barbara Clarke, at bclarke@merion-mercy.com.



Faith in Action

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting an open house on Tuesday, January 8th in the Antioch Annex at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be served. All members of the parish are invited to attend this event. Come out, greet old friends and make new ones. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, Family, Fraternity, and Service organization of 1.9 million members built on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Its main purpose is to strengthen parish life, support its members and the church and provide an organization where families can come together to share their beliefs and socialize. Msgr. Dougherty asks that all eligible men consider becoming a member of the Knights, an organization described by the Vatican as “the strong right arm of the Church.” In the interim feel free visit the Knights of Columbus website at www.kofc.org

St Margaret School

We wanted to share some good news from our 8th grade regarding students who were recently awarded scholarships to area high schools. We are very proud of their accomplishments.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to **Brodie Shea**, awarded the *Xavier Scholarship*, St Joseph Prep.

Congratulations to **Evie Paller**, awarded the *Sister Ethel Sweeney Fine Arts Scholarship*, Merion Mercy Academy.

Congratulations to **Maggie Iannone**, awarded The Mercy Scholarship to Merion Mercy Academy.

Congratulations to **Elijah Karn**, awarded the *Principal Scholarship*, Roman Catholic High School.

Congratulations to **Andrew Coyne**, awarded the *Piarist School Scholarship*, Devon Prep.

Congratulations to **Amelie Sorbello**, awarded the *Music Scholarship and Alumni Scholarship* to Saint Basil Academy.

Congratulations to **Isa Alemayehu**, awarded the *Academic Scholarship* to Merion Mercy Academy, *Merit Scholarship* to John W. Hallahan, and the *Merit Scholarship* to Sacred Heart Academy.



Christmas

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This

Christmas

end a quarrel.

Seek out a forgotten

friend. Dismiss suspicion,
and replace it with trust...

Write a love letter. Share some
treasure. Gift a soft answer.

Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in
word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the
time. Forget a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen.

Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand.
Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think
first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind; be gentle.

Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve confidence .

Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express
your gratitude. Go to Church. Welcome a stranger.

Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and
wonder of the earth. Speak

your love. Speak

it again. Speak

it still once

again.

We wish you a blessed Christmas

Mrs. Johnston, Faculty and Staff of St Margaret School

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, January 10, 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 Rose Marie at the rectory, 610-664-3770, Ext 10.

EUCHARIST FOR CELIAC COMMUNICANTS

St. Margaret Church is aware of the need to have the low gluten hosts available at all Masses. If you or a member of your family is interested in receiving Low-Gluten Holy Eucharist at any Mass, please contact Maria at mecarinato@gmail.com.



JOURNEY WITH US TO EXPLORE THE CATHOLIC FAITH

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a journey to a deeper experience of God's love manifested through the teaching and treasures of the Catholic Faith. St. Margaret Church offers instructions for people seeking more information about the Catholic Faith, the Sacraments and living the Christian Life. These instructions are for adults who would like to inquire about following Jesus and becoming a member of the Catholic Church, or, if you are already a baptized Catholic would like to receive Confirmation and Holy Communion. **RCIA classes meet on Tuesday, at 7pm.** Please contact Msgr. Dougherty at pastor@saintmarg.org or 610-664-3770, Ext *812.



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