

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 15, 2019



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

Rev. Robert J. Chapman,
Pastor Emeritus

In Residence
Rev. Matthew W. Guckin

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.



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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

I've seen the following request both in print and in person. A doctor's receptionist or nurse asks me: "May I have your insurance card and your personal ID?" This always strikes me as unnecessary "red tape" because I would have been there before and done this. Obviously I would only be there in the first place by order of the doctor. But such is the security precaution needed these days in a world of rampant fraud.

That kind of technological security was unknown in John the Baptist's world. Yet authenticating a stranger's identity was just as important then as it is now, albeit for different reasons. In those bygone days, there were so many false claimants to the august title of "Messiah" that one had to be sure. In this case, we know St. John was sure of Jesus. Had he not called Him "the Lamb of God" at the riverbank? So he must have wanted his own disciples to have the same surety. He was gently striving to get them to shift their allegiance from himself to Jesus. That alone implies a beautiful humility in Our Lord's illustrious cousin.

St. Matthew then gives us a full "job description," if you will, of the authentic Messiah. He does it through Jesus' answer to John's delegation. See the healing and preaching of the Good News that I'm doing. Note how that captures in brief the mission of our Catholic Church

In our current milieu, the anti-Christ powers seem to have the upper hand. They have their powerful weapons aimed at us who believe. Their leader and champion is no less than a fallen angel Christ Himself called "Satan." He comes at us with his superior intellect and his many clever wiles. Call them "temptations." He has such hatred of God that he never tires of working at deception and lies in all different forms. He wants us bored with Christianity. Have you ever felt that? Instead he wants us to favor whatever attractive disguise he can design for evil. And we fall for it.

The good news is that we have our own Champion, who is Christ. And He told us that the victory is won by His cross and resurrection. It is just the battles that remain. Besides, we know Christ will return. So we can take our cue from James' Letter read this weekend. The whole section is caught by just using its first two words: "Be patient!"

Patience is not always our usual American way. But during this Advent season, we can try again to practice it. Our younger generation needs our example. From that they will take the hint that following Christ has its ups and downs, as life itself has, but that heroes are not made overnight or easily. Allow me to return to my opening reference to the habits of the medical profession. Somebody came up with a little homespun wisdom that plays with our language and opined that "It just may be that our hospitals would have fewer pedestrian patients if there were more patient pedestrians."

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 16
7:00 AM Marybelle Williams

TUESDAY, December 17
7:00 AM Dr. Vernon Brightman

WEDNESDAY, December 18
7:00 AM Angeline Scorzetti

THURSDAY, December 19
7:00 AM Fred Matarazzo

FRIDAY, December 20
7:00 AM George & Philomena Armenio

SATURDAY, December 21
8:00 AM Joseph Kelso, Sr.

Msgr. Dougherty offers a Mass each Sunday for all



THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15, 2019
.FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR THIS SUNDAY
ARE IN MEMORY OF
THE CASEY AND ROVNER FAMILIES.

the parishioners and for those enrolled in the church memorial fund.

Weekend Mass Schedule December 21-22

(Priest scheduled is subject to change)

Saturday, December 21

Confessions 4:00 - 4:45 PM - Msgr. Dougherty and Fr. DePrinzio

5:15 PM - Fr. DePrinzio

Sunday, December 22

7:30 AM - Fr. Pesarchick

10:00 AM - Msgr. Dougherty

11:30 AM - Fr. Guckin

THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Weekend of December 8, 2019: | \$ 10,859 |
| Including Electronic Funds Transfer | \$ 671 |
| Mail In: | \$ 1,765 |
| Parish On Line: | \$ 2,240 |
| Envelopes: | 237 |

The Weekend of December 9, 2018:
\$9,888

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

From the Pastor

Gaudete Sunday – “Gaudete” is the Latin word for “Rejoice.” It is in the imperative mood and gives a command. Catholic people must rejoice. We can’t help it. It is our faith that God is love and he has chosen to intervene in our lives and be with us to guide us through this life to an everlasting life of joy and peace. Joy is the proper response to such good news. As St. Paul said, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: Rejoice.” We especially highlight this virtue of joy as we approach the Feast of Christmas, the celebration of Christ’s birth. His coming among us demonstrates the depth of his love for us and his closeness to us. Christmas reminds us that the Lord is always near; he is with us. In the midst of all the sinfulness, challenges and trials of life, we rejoice because the love of the Lord is with us and his love is stronger than anything else we might face. Firmly believing in such good news, we rejoice.

Removal of Some Trees – Recently a large tree fell down in the playground area behind the School. Fortunately, it happened on a weekend when no children were in the vicinity. As a result of that, we had a tree company look at the other large trees near the schoolyard to ensure that they were was no danger of their falling. In consultation with the company we decided to remove several large trees near the schoolyard whose trunks were leaning in one direction and were thus showing a possibility of falling down. The cost was \$14,000, but it was a necessary expenditure to ensure the safety of our children. We know that trees play an important role in providing a healthy environment so we hope to plant in the Spring some new trees that will be of a smaller variety and not pose any danger of falling and hurting the children.

Reboot Revisited: Praying the Psalms – At our Reboot Event in the Fall, Chris Stefanick communicated to us five principles of living as Catholic people. One of those principles was prayer. A great resource for assisting us in prayer is the biblical book of the Psalms. Much of the Bible is God speaking to us, but the Psalms reveal to us man speaking to God. They guide us in how to converse with God. The psalms offer God praise and thanks; they plead for divine assistance; they speak of the wisdom of God; they convey sorrow for sins. Every Mass includes a psalm response to the first reading from the Scriptures. Be attentive to these psalms. Unite your spirit with the words of the psalms so that your heart can be lifted up to God. In your own personal prayer, you might also want to make use of the psalms. In my first year in the Seminary I prayed a different psalm every night before bed. The psalms were very helpful in helping me to come before God and express myself to him.

Catholic Charities Appeal 2019 – This is my last call for donations to the Catholic Charities Appeal 2019. As of Nov. 21, 2019, 167 of our parish families have donated a total of \$65,586 toward our goal of \$84,835. We have achieved 77% of our goal. Please consider making a donation to this Appeal as we approach the end of 2019. Your contribution assists the Archdiocese in proclaiming the gospel and in the charitable works it extends to many of the poor and needy in our area.

Confessions on Dec. 19 and Dec. 21 – We will have a brief Parish Penance Service on Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 pm, followed by individual confessions. Msgr. Dougherty, Father Kevin DePrinzio and Father Joseph Gleason will be present as confessors that evening. Msgr. Dougherty will be available for confession on Saturday morning, December 21, from 11:00 am – 12 noon, as well as from 3:30 – 4:45 pm that afternoon. Fr. DePrinzio will be available too that afternoon. Confession is a worthy way to turn away from sin to receive the grace and goodness of God as we prepare to celebrate the great feast of Christmas.

Blood Drive on Dec. 23 – Our parish will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, December 23 from 2:00 – 7:00 pm. Blood donors are especially needed at this time of year. To register go to RedCrossBlood.org and enter the sponsor keyword **SMRCCNarberth**, or call 1-800-Red-Cross. Also, we need some help from volunteers to sign people in and assist with various tasks that day. If you can help, email Tina Braun at christinabraun2002@yahoo.com.

Church Teaching: Sunday as a Day of Joy – Sunday, the “Lord’s Day,” is the principal day of the celebration of the Eucharist because it is the day of the Resurrection. It is the pre-eminent day of the liturgical assembly, the day of the Christian family, and the day of joy and rest from work. Sunday is the foundation and kernel of the whole liturgical year. (from the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Spiritual Thought – Melancholy is the poison of devotion. When one is in tribulation, it is necessary to be more happy and more joyful because one is nearer to God. (St. Clare of Assisi)



Please remember in your prayers the soul of Joan Diamond who recently passed away. May she rest in peace and her loved ones be comforted.



St Margaret School

MERCY NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS

One of SMS's most beloved traditions returns: In a Mercy tradition started by Sister Corinne Ritchie, RSM, SMS supports one of her favorite causes, Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. Each year, we asked our SMS students from PK-8 to send in \$2.00. With this collection, we 'adopt' a Mercy Neighborhood family; our Student Council takes an afternoon to shop with the funds and fulfill their Christmas gift wishes. We celebrated TAG day by allowing students to wear a festive holiday sweater or shirt in place of their uniform shirts. All of the SMS students show great support of this great cause!

SMS "WALK IN WEDNESDAY" TOUR

December 18 (Walk in any Wednesday) [Learn More About St. Margaret school at www.smsnarberth.org](http://www.smsnarberth.org).

Clothing the Homeless

Students in Grade 6 Bradan Fisher and Emily D'Alonzo are collecting used coats and jackets, nice condition socks, blankets, and scarves. Collection boxes will be displayed in the SMS hallway on the first floor. Please send your donations in by December 19.

SMS Christmas Concert & Play

Join us on **Wednesday evening, Dec 18 at 7 pm** for our annual **Christmas Concert & Play** featuring the **SMS Band, Choir and 8th graders**. We welcome all Alumni back to SMS!

1st and 3rd Grade Christmas Performance

On December 19 at 1:30 pm, students in grades 1 and 3 will be singing Christmas songs in the gym for our students to get us in the Spirit of the Season. (Parents are welcome.)

Project Rachel: Healing after Abortion Peace Starts Here

Prayer - Jesus, Healer of Wounds and Source of Mercy, your hands embrace and welcome little children. As we look on your hands painfully nailed to the cross, extend your Divine Mercy to the tens of millions of women and men in our nation who are wounded from their participation in abortions. Help us as a Church to recognize the unique pain that abortion brings to individuals, families and our society. May the wounds of your hands on the Cross remind us each day of your steadfast love for us as we seek to build a culture of life and be faithful instruments of your hope and healing.



Project Rachel is a collaboration of The Office for Life and Family and Catholic Social Services. For more information, call 1-844-772-2435 or email ProjectRachel@chs-adphila.org.

Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Help-Line

Do you need help accessing services and supports for someone with an intellectual disability or Autism? A collaboration of Catholic Social Services - Developmental Programs, The Office for Persons with Disabilities and the Schools of Special Education of the Archdiocese is offering this convenient help-line to assist families connect to disabilities services provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. **To reach the Help-Line, call: 484-472-5041 or email: IDDhelp@chs-adphila.org.**

Hope Blooms

A Healing Retreat for Catholic Women

JANUARY 10-12, READING, PA

This retreat is for any woman seeking healing from betrayal trauma, abuse, emotional wounding and freedom from habitual patterns such as anxiety and feelings of unworthiness. Our time together includes: opportunities for individual healing work, teachings on the 5 Keys of Unbound, personal reflection time, Mass, adoration, Confession and more. **Spots are limited, register by December 15 for Early Bird Pricing of \$299**, which includes all retreat materials, lodging, and meals. Visit <https://integrityrestored.com/hope-blooms-retreat-2020> for more information or email De Yarrison: de@youaremadenew.com.

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY

Week of December 15, 2019

Robert Ritzco 610-649-3973

Please call as early in the week as possible.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

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

Please drop off your wrapped gift(s) to the Antioch Annex **TODAY, 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 or checks (made payable to St. Margaret Church) 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.



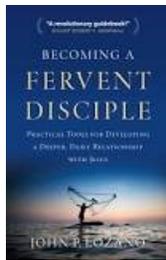
St. Margaret School Walk in Wednesdays 9am-11am

Serving this parish and area Catholics, we welcome 4 year olds to our PK through 8th Grade parish school. All other grades for 2nd to 7th will be considered on an individual, as available basis. Please call for more information.

Our mission to engage our Catholic faith throughout learning remains instrumental in forming our student's lives through virtues and giving to others. Each Wednesday from December through February, we welcome prospective parents to visit while school is in session. Tours begin at 9 am and 10 am. Please join us early for a wonderful opportunity awaits your family.. Visit www.smsnarberth.org or call 610-349-7747.

Becoming a Fervent Disciple By Deacon John Lozano

Deacon John Lozano presented our Forty Hours Devotions this year. His book provides practical tools for developing a deeper relationship with Jesus. Bishop Robert F. Morneau of Green Bay, Wisconsin said of the book: "Theory is one thing, practice another. While sketching out Pope Francis' hope and dream that we all become missionary disciples, Deacon John Lozano describes the ways and means of doing this in a practical, pastoral, and challenging fashion. A revolutionary guidebook!"



Deacon Lozano's book is available through Amazon.com or Twenty-Third Publications.



**ARCHDIOCESE
of PHILADELPHIA
SCHOOLS**
AMERICA'S FIRST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Teaching

Opportunities

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is hiring teachers for the 2019-2020 school year.

Mathematics, Science, and Special Education teacher candidates are invited to apply for substitute and permanent positions to teach our high school students. Please visit www.AOPcatholicschools.org to review information about our schools, the Office of Catholic Education, and Academic Criteria for Teaching Competencies. For questions, concerns, or to forward application documents please contact Barbara Guiliano, HR Assistant for secondary schools, at bguiliano@archphila.org.



American Red Cross

Red Cross Blood Drive - There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by St. Margaret Church on Monday,

December 23, 2019, from 2:00 to 7:00 pm in the Saint Margaret School Cafeteria. This is a critical time of year for blood supplies. Please consider being a donor. To register, visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor keyword **SMRCCNarberth**, or call 1-800-Red-Cross. Save time and pre-register at www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass. Also, if you would like to volunteer to assist at the Blood Drive, you can contact Tina Braun at christinabraun2002@yahoo.com.

A Little Humor – Discussing the story of Elijah and the false prophets of Baal, a Sunday school teacher related that Elijah built an altar, put wood on it, cut a steer in pieces, and laid it on the altar. Elijah then commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. "Why," the teacher asked the children, "would Elijah have water poured over the steer on the altar?" "To make the gravy," a little girl responded excitedly.

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/>

Parish Giving **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>.

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 16, 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/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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