

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 22, 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The pressure is on to deliver. No, I'm not thinking of the Post Office, or Fed-Ex or Amazon. In these waning days of Advent 2019, what I refer to is the pressure you or I just might be feeling about any personal promises we made this pre-Christmas season to God, or family and friends with an eye to making this Christmas even more special.

Concerning God, your Advent resolution hopefully included some extra time spent in prayer. Or maybe a long-delayed confession. As to family, a renewed effort to "make it work" with some challenging member, a project that began at Thanksgiving dinner. Your kinder thoughts of him/her now translated into a Christmas card or a phone call, or gladly joining them around the family Christmas tree. As for friends, especially those geographically distant, you made some time together via Skype or texting if not a visit.

As we read St. Matthew's Christmas account today, we might note some differences in it from St. Luke's version. They are often combined in the popular versions. Chief among them is the prominent role St. Matthew gives to St. Joseph, which Luke does not. This Matthew did for the comfort of his primarily Jewish audience. Joseph is the link with the House of David, a long-held qualification of their expected Messiah.

This happenstance gives us the perfect time to focus on St. Joseph. He is almost a forgotten saint, despite the fact that he is the foster father of Christ; the Patron of the Universal Church, and a perfect model of true masculinity. What we note also is his outstanding integrity; constant patience; and inspirational obedience. All three characteristics, far from a complete list, will be a working document for all of us to live our Catholic faith in a better way from December 25 into the fast approaching 2020. In vision rating that number is perfection at the eye doctor's office.

I admit that notion puts some inherent pressure on us all. But like cardio exercise that is good for the heart, so truly living our faith every day is good for the soul. And I'd like to add that St. Joseph models skills that fit in with a modern context. What is "time management" other than priority adherence and obedience to a command for prayer? What is "goal setting" other than healthy obedience to a higher power? Carefully read between the lines of St. Joseph's story. Note that it has no memorable speech but action aplenty. When St. Joseph's virtues become part of our own biographies, they bring us the elusive joy of peace.

I close with the thought of the late Menachem Begin, former Prime Minister of Israel: "Peace is the beauty of life. It is sunshine. It is the smile of a child, the love of a mother, the joy of a father, the togetherness of a family. It is the advancement of man, the victory of a just cause, the triumph of truth." A blessed Christmas to you and yours.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 23

7:00 AM Robert Giuliani

TUESDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve

7:00 AM Mary Bizzarri

4:00, 6:00 & 8:00 PM (church)

4:00 (Antioch Annex)

8:00 PM Helen & Joseph Kelso, Sr.

WEDNESDAY, December 25 Christmas Day

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

THURSDAY, December 26

7:00 AM Bernard J. Gillespie & Family

FRIDAY, December 27

7:00 AM Gretchen & Donald L. Ford

SATURDAY, December 28

8:00 AM John Le

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



**THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22, 2019
THE SANCTUARY CNADE WILL BURN IN
MEMORY OF VINCENT QUINN, JR.**

**DUE TO THE EARLY TRANSMISSION OF THE BULLETIN THE
STEWARDSHIP REPORT WILL BE IN THE NEXT BULLETIN.**

Mass Schedule For Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 PM Church - Fr. Guckin

4:00 PM Annex - Msgr. Dougherty

6:00 PM - Msgr. Dougherty

8:00 PM - Fr. Pesarchick

Wednesday, December 25

7:30 AM - Fr. Guckin

10:00 AM Msgr. Dougherty

11:30 AM Fr. De Prinzie

Weekend Mass Schedule December 28-29

(Priest scheduled is subject to change)

Saturday, December 28

Confessions 4:00 - 4:45 PM - Fr. Guckin

5:15 PM - Fr. Guckin

Sunday, December 29

7:30 AM - Msgr. Dougherty

10:00 AM - Fr. DePrinzie

11:30 AM - Fr. Pesarchick

From the Pastor

O Come, Let Us Adore Him – Our celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is near. The external circumstances of the birth were very humble, a stable in the little city of Bethlehem. The simplicity of the material surroundings at the birth of Christ remind us that the deepest meaning of this event is beyond the material; it is spiritual. All of the externals involved in our celebration of Christmas are meant to bless our spirits with a renewed love in the depths of our hearts for Jesus Christ. As we approach the celebration of this great Feast, we prepare our hearts. We contemplate the central role that Jesus has in our lives. He is our Redeemer and our Lord. O come, let us adore him. May our hearts bow humbly before him as we place our trust and hope in him and renew our commitment to walking in his ways.

New Sound System – Over the past couple of years several people have commented that they thought our sound system could be better. After discussing this at Pastoral and Finance Council Meetings in recent years and considering various proposals, I opted to go forward with the purchase of a new sound system. The system has now been installed. It is a noticeable improvement. The Scriptures tell us that “faith comes by hearing,” so it is important that we have a system that allows everyone to easily hear and understand the Scriptures proclaimed at Mass, as well as all the prayers and music. I am grateful to Mike Worth, our Director of Music, for all his assistance in overseeing the process of having the new system installed. The new system should serve us well for many years to come. The cost was \$35,000. Your generosity over the years has enabled the Parish to put some money away in a capital fund which was utilized for this purchase.

Spiritual Thought – (a journal entry of Angelo Roncalli, the future Pope John XXIII, written on Christmas Eve in 1902 when he was seminarian) Jesus, I am here waiting for your coming.... Come into my heart, I am a poor man but I will warm you as well as I can. At least be pleased that I wish to welcome you warmly, to love you dearly and sacrifice myself for you.

But in your own way you are rich and you see my needs. You are a flame of charity and you will purge my heart of all that is not your own most holy Heart. You are uncreated holiness and you will fill me with those graces which give new life to my soul. O Jesus, come, I have so much to tell you, so many sorrows to confide, so many desires, so many promises, so many hopes.

I want to adore you, to kiss you on the brow, O tiny Jesus, to give myself to you once more, for ever. Come, my Jesus, delay no longer, come, be my guest.

A Little Humor – Paddy O’Casey was on his deathbed when his wife, Colleen, tiptoed into the room and asked him if he had any last requests. “Actually, my dear, there is one thing I really would like before I go off to that great shamrock patch in the sky,” Paddy whispered. “A piece of that wonderful chocolate cake of yours.” “Oh, but you can’t have that,” his wife exclaimed. “I’m saving it for the wake.”

Church Teaching: The Christmas Mystery – Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven’s glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night:

The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal
And the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible
The angels and shepherds praise him
And the magi advance with the star,
For you are born for us,
Little Child, God eternal!

To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become children of God we must be born from above or born of God. Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us. Christmas is the mystery of this marvelous exchange: O marvelous exchange! Man’s Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbles himself to share our humanity. (from the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY

Week of December 22, 2019

Pam Owsik 610-659-7021

Please call as early in the week as possible.

St Margaret School



Christmas

+

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. En-

courage 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



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.



Choirs at the Cathedral

The Cathedral and Archdiocesan Choirs will be holding open auditions starting in January 2020. Please contact cangelini@archphila.org to set up an appointment time. Choirs include: the Archdiocesan Children's Choir (ages 7-18), the Archdiocesan Adult Choir, and the Cathedral Choir. For more information on these choirs, please visit: <http://cathedralphila.org/music/choirs-at-the-cathedral-basilica/>.



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

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their Marriages through Retrouvaille (retro-VIE). Couples learn to build communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program in this area will be held on the weekend of February 21-23, 2020, at the Family Life Center in Malvern.



For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org, or call 1-800-470-2230.

All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.



The Archdiocese of Philadelphia invites you on a pilgrimage to the Eucharistic Congress and Highlights of Central Europe with His Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali, September 17-27, 2020.

For more information, contact: 800-842-4842 or jane@select-intl.com or visit www.selectinternationaltours.com.



We welcome into the Church Ronan Elmer Chestnut, son of Kevin Chestnut and Valerie Peper

BAPTISM Congratulations to the family on the Baptism of their son.

Hosts for Hospitals - Hosts for Hospitals provides in-home hospitality for out-of-town patients and families. If you are interested in becoming a host family, contact Sally Young, sutsme2@aol.com or Margo Bennett, margobennett#comcast.net. For information about the program, visit www.hostsforhospitals.org.



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.



Chosen: Daughters, Sisters, Warriors. You Are Made New Ministry invites women of all ages

to gather together for this invigorating 1-day event: February 1, 2020 at Pope John Paul II High School in Royersford, PA. We can get caught up in the noise of our hurried, unfulfilling and hyper-sexualized culture, becoming disconnected from the truth of who God says we are: beloved and chosen, of infinite value and undeniable dignity. Come spend the day with us as we remember our feminine genius, understand common spiritual obstacles we encounter as women and how to overcome them, gain tools to stand and stay in the Father's blessing (for ourselves and our families), and talk about our Blessed Mother's role in protecting and strengthening us. Conference team: Father Stephen DeLacy, De Yarrison of You Are Made New Ministry, Jenn Lozano of Unbound, and Megan Murphy of Megan Murphy Ministries. Learn more and register: www.YouAreMadeNew.com/chosen-conference or contact De Yarrison at 610-287-2989.



Inspirational Prayer

Jesus Healer of Wounds and Source of Mercy, your hands embraced 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.

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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newsletter of CatholicPhilly.com, official news website of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Sign up at CatholicPhilly.com/newsletter.