

ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH

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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.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT *DECEMBER 20, 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

Christmas and Connectedness. They go together like salt and pepper, or any other pleasant duo you might conjure. The First and Third Readings, as usual, are a connected pair and they draw the picture. In 2 Samuel we read that King David is told by the prophet Nathan that God will establish a dynasty from him that will last forever. The Gospel recounts the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary, in which he announces God's plan for her, and adds that her Son will inherit David's throne and reign forever.

St. Luke goes on to draw a parallel with the annunciation of Jesus' cousin John the Baptist. Pieces long apart in the Old Testament are joined to the New. Connections are established and made clear.

All of this leads to a dimension of our celebration of Christmas that we might not think of right away. It makes for a delightful consequence of these prime facts. There are connections galore. Chief among them is God's connection with us. From that we see all kinds of connections between ourselves and others.

Obvious from the start is the evidence that God wants to be part of our lives, even though He has no need to be. He took on our very nature, humbling Himself and becoming "like us in all things but sin," as one of our Eucharistic prayers asserts. We're so used to hearing that and accepting it that the full impact of God's decision gets diminished. By itself, it is astounding. No wonder the choirs of angels sang out their "Glorias!"

As for our connectedness with one another is concerned, just look at the magnetic power of family at this time of year. The late Perry Como sang all about it when he proclaimed that "there's no place like home for the holidays." That's why the radio stations dust off this familiar "oldie" to play it at this time. Home is truly where the heart is, and those who have the same surname are drawn to it from faraway places as the lyrics of the song witness. So, we join our siblings, however different in type and temperament they may be from us, because of those non-perishable parental bonds.

Another powerful impetus engineers our connections with friends. They are one of life's treasures, as Ecclesiastes tells us. We dare not forget it. So we connect with them, either by way of a call or a card or "Face time" or "Skype."

Finally we remember at Holy Christmas Mass that connectedness to God, which is, as we say it these days, "hard wired" in us. That is why we missed the Eucharist at the height of the current pandemic. It is so humbling to think that God took the initiative here, is it not? That is the authentic joy of Christmas. May it be yours this Christmas and always!

Spiritual Thought – When the soul is troubled, lonely and darkened, then it turns easily to the outer comfort and to the empty enjoyments of the world. (St. Francis of Assisi)

MONDAY, December 21

7:00 AM Nafeh Aziz Almemar

TUESDAY, December 22

7:00 AM John Le

WEDNESDAY, December 23

7:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of the Mischler Family

THURSDAY, December 24 Christmas Eve

7:00 AM Mary Bizzarri
2:00, 4:00, 6:00 & 8:00 PM (church)

FRIDAY, December 25 Christmas Day

7:30, 8:45, 10:00, 11:30 AM

SATURDAY, December 26

8:00 AM Deceased Members of The Kienlen Family

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



THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020
THE SANCTUARY CANDLE WILL BURN
IN MEMORY OF VINCENT QUINN, JR.

Mass Schedule For Christmas

Thursday, December 24

2:00 PM - Fr. DePrinzio
4:00 PM - Msgr. Dougherty
6:00 PM - Fr. Pesarchick
8:00 PM - Msgr. Dougherty

Friday, December 25

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

Weekend Mass Schedule December 26-27

(Priest scheduled is subject to change)

Saturday, December 26

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

Sunday, December 27

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

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

Parish Theme for 2020-2021

Rejoice in Hope; Endure in Affliction; Persevere in Prayer

From the Pastor

Christmas – Our celebration of Christmas occurs during the time of year when the days are the shortest and the darkness of the nights is long. We are celebrating that the light of Christ comes into our world when the darkness is deepest. Jesus Christ comes to us to bring his light into the many challenges and difficulties of sin, sickness, suffering and death, all the darkness of our lives. He does not abandon us or leave us in the dark. He shines the light of his love and life upon us. He gives us hope, peace and joy. The darkness does not triumph; the light of Christ dispels the darkness and brightens and warms our hearts and lives. May we celebrate with great joy the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He came among us in the darkness of the night in a simple and humble place. In faith look for the light of Christ shining in your life, especially in the simple and humble places. He is with us and guiding us by the power of his love.

Christmas Masses – On Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, Mass will be celebrated at 2:00, 4:00, 6:00 and 8:00 pm. 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 celebrated in Church and livestreamed to the Annex and the gym, and Communion will be distributed in both of those places. The use of the three sites, the Church, the Annex, and the Gym, will allow for sufficient social distancing. Masks are to be worn, covering both the nose and the mouth. We are looking forward to gathering safely for the celebration of the Solemn Feast of Christmas.

Confessions – Msgr. Dougherty and another priest will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, December 23 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

Coats for Kids – Several of the Knights of Columbus and I recently visited Mercy Ministries in North Philadelphia to drop off 262 new winter coats for children. The coats were purchased through the Knights of Columbus with the monetary donations you made at the collection in the Fall. Thank you again for your generosity and many thanks to the Knights of Columbus for undertaking this charitable endeavor. Your kindness brought much good cheer to many children and their families.

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.

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.

Parish Theme for This Year (“Rejoice in hope; endure in affliction; persevere in prayer.”) – The Lord tells us in the Scriptures that our hope in him will not be disappointed. Many things in life do disappoint us, but not the Lord. He fulfilled the hopes of the people when he came as our Messiah. The Lord gives himself to us completely in love, even to the point of taking on our humanity and suffering, dying and rising for us. God’s love will never waver; he will never disappoint us. Persevere in prayer and place your hope in our Lord.

Church Teaching – The duty to keep Sunday holy, especially by sharing in the Eucharist and by relaxing in a spirit of Christian joy and fraternity, is easily understood if we consider the many different aspects of this day. Sunday is a day that is at the very heart of the Christian life. From the beginning of my pontificate, I have not ceased to repeat: “Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ!” In the same way, today I would strongly encourage everyone to rediscover Sunday: Do not be afraid to give your time to Christ! Yes, let us open our time to Christ, that he may cast light upon it and give it direction. He is the One who knows the secret of time and the secret of eternity, and he gives us “his day” as an ever new gift of his love. The rediscovery of this day is a grace which we must implore, not only so that we may live the demands of faith to the full, but also so that we may respond concretely to the deepest human yearnings. Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human. (from an Apostolic Letter of Saint John Paul II entitled “Keeping the Lord’s Day Holy”)

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

Mrs. Johnston, Faculty and Staff of St. Margaret School



**PREPARE the WAY *and*
WALK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR *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, all year long, is free for our parishioners.

Visit Formed.org. Our Parish Code is WRVZND.



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!



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.

The Institute for Christian Formation Launching in January 2021 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

For Adults, 18 and above (HS diploma required)

Deepen your relationship with Jesus and live out committed discipleship in Him in a 2-year non-degree, non-credit Experiential Faith Formation program. For more information about this exciting new spiritual formation opportunity which will renew hearts and minds in Christ, please call 610-785-6287, email sts@scs.edu or visit <https://www.scs.edu/ICF>.

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



Prayer for Priestly Vocations

Father, in your plan for our salvation you provide shepherds for your people. Fill your Church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with the Spirit of courage and love. Raise up from our families future priests: worthy ministers for your altars, generous and ardent servants of the Gospel. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



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 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 –Some quarantine humor: It’s been a great blessing to be at home with the wife these past few months. We’ve caught up on everything I’ve done wrong in the last twenty years.

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 Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 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.



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