

ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH

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Pastor Emeritus

Weekend Assistants:
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Rev. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A.

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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.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 7, 2021



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

Poor little February! Even in its better leap years, it still has fewer days than its calendar mates. Besides that, at least in the Northern hemisphere, it comes at that time of year when the weather offers a tiresome repeat of its neighbor January. Gone is the charm of that first snowfall when others arrive.

There is no significant holiday to prepare for as the previous three months offered. That is, unless one gives an extraordinary rating to Valentine's Day right in February's middle. Consequently, nobody rushes around the mall for gifts to liven its days. Speaking of gifts, it's now the bills for same arrive. No special decorating for most houses. There is no list of favorite songs for February. And, unless you or a loved one celebrates a birthday or an anniversary this month, there are no large gatherings for a special meal. Add to all this the somewhat unwelcome news that Lent soon arrives, with all its purple weeks of fasting and other penances.

But wait! Isn't a convinced Christian an automatic optimist, no matter the season? Theologically, yes. Psychologically, I am not so sure. Whatever problem Life doles out, it just seems that we're less likely to handle it well in February. This Sunday's First Reading from the Book of Job makes explicit what we might be thinking about in February. We get little comfort.

Along comes the timeless "Good News" in today's Gospel passage. It can lift us up from any "downer" we may experience this month. The Holy Word offers not just a palliative but a pain killer. That's because it highlights how a certain Jesus, the same we met as a mere babe two short months ago comes to us with the very reason for our optimism. We re-learn that He is the cure for all our ills.

The demons at this point have a temporary advantage over the good people around Jesus who are seeking cures from various maladies. But Jesus orders their silence. He prefers a gradual realization among His newfound followers.

As a result, "little February" is not as forlorn as it may have seemed at first. For here, only seven days in, she presents a Gospel passage that gives us the whole reason for our main Christian claim. Bishop Robert Barron explains it this way: Christianity is, first and foremost, a religion of the concrete and not the abstract. It takes its power not from a general religious consciousness, not from an ethical conviction, not from a comfortable abstraction, but from the person Jesus Christ. It is Christ...that moves the believer to change of life and gift of self."

Of course, pessimists are always to be found. Usually they have a hard time believing in anything, much less Jesus. When someone is convinced that things can't be done, he will cling to that conviction in the face of the most obvious contradiction. The story is told of the time when Robert Fulton gave the first public demonstration of his steamboat. One of those "can't be done" fellows stood in the crowd along the shore repeating, "He can't start it."

Suddenly, there was a belch of steam and the big boat began to move. Startled, the man stared for a moment and then began to chant, "He can't stop it!"

God love you and give you His peace!

MONDAY, February 8
7:00 AM Antoinette Marchese

TUESDAY, February 9
7:00 AM Kathleen Valentine

WEDNESDAY, February 10
7:00 AM Bernard Bradley

THURSDAY, February 11
7:00 AM Fred Matarazzo

FRIDAY, February 12
7:00 AM Frank & Betty Mischler

SATURDAY, February 13
8:00 AM John Le



THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2021
THE SANCTUARY CANDLE WILL BURN
IN MEMORY OF THE HOA LE FAMILY.

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

Weekend Mass Schedule February 13-14
(Priest scheduled is subject to change)

Saturday, February 13
Confessions 4:00 - 4:45 PM - Fr. Cossavella
5:15 PM - Msgr. Dougherty

Sunday, February 14
7:30 AM - Fr. Pesarchick
8:45 AM - Fr. DePrinzio
10:00 AM - Fr. Cossavella
11:30 AM - Msgr. Dougherty

THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekend of January 31, 2021: \$ 9,383
Collection in Church: \$ 2,882
Electronic Funds Transfer: \$ 631
Mail In: \$ 3,950
Parish On Line: \$ 1,920
Envelopes: 143

The Weekend of February 2, 2020: \$9,916

Christmas 2020: \$80,522
Christmas 2019: \$61,726

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

Parish Theme for 2020-2021

Rejoice in Hope; Endure in Affliction; Persevere in Prayer

From the Pastor

Catholic Charities Appeal 2021 – Archbishop Pérez launched the 2021 Catholic Charities Appeal on January 25. The theme is “Giving Hope to All.” This important Archdiocesan collection supports many good works in the outreach of the Archdiocese to those in need. Through Catholic Social Services, Schools for special education, and parish programs the hungry are fed, disabled people are lifted up, and the elderly are cared for. Please support this Appeal by utilizing the envelope mailed to you at home, or donate online at catholiccharitiesappeal.org. Envelopes are also available in the vestibule.

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life – February 2 was the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. Every year this feast day and the weekend near it (Feb. 6-7 this year) are designated as special days of prayer for consecrated life. Jesus was presented to the Lord by Mary and Joseph in the Temple. This presentation was a sign that the life of Jesus was consecrated to the service of God the Father. Those who have entered consecrated religious life have dedicated their lives to God in a special way. We offer our gratitude to them this weekend and pray for them as they continue to give their lives to the service of the Lord and his people. May those called to consecrated life rejoice in their vocation and be signs of hope and light to all the world. We especially ask God’s blessing on the Sisters of Mercy who have been such an important part of St. Margaret’s Parish since its beginnings.

Finance Council Meeting – The Parish Finance Council will meet on Thursday, Feb. 11 by Zoom.

Speakers for Operation Rice Bowl – Operation Rice Bowl is a long standing effort by Catholic Relief Services to make us more conscious of the needs of the poor overseas and to raise funds to help meet those needs. Speakers will briefly explain this year’s program at all the Masses next weekend and the Rice Bowls will be available for you to take home and utilize. Through a weekly simple meal, information from Catholic Relief Services on those who are served overseas, and your kind contributions, we all are made more aware of the poor in our world and provide means to assist them. Help us make Operation Rice Bowl a great success in our Parish this year.

Blessing for Marriages Next Weekend – Next Sunday is St. Valentine’s Day. Saint Valentine is said to have been executed in the time of the early Church by decree of the Roman emperor. Against the wishes of the Roman government, Valentine was celebrating Christian marriages secretly and supporting these married couples in living their sacred vocation to love one another and through this love to bring the light of Christ to our world. Valentine was executed and died for his belief in the importance and sanctity of Christian marriage. At all the Masses next weekend, we ask a special blessing upon all our married couples that they may faithfully live their vocation and rejoice in their call to sanctify themselves and bless the world through their love for one another.

Scout Sunday – The Boy and Girl Scouts of America recognize this Sunday as Scout Sunday. We ask God to bless all the young people in our Parish who participate in Scouting programs. May these programs help our youth to appreciate the beauty and power of God’s creation and to develop and utilize their God given talents for the good of all.

Parish Theme for This Year - (“Rejoice in hope; endure in affliction; persevere in prayer.”) – This weekend in which we especially pray for those in consecrated life, we can be particularly grateful how those in religious life are a sign of hope for all of us. Their very lives point to God and help us to appreciate and trust in God’s love for each of us. May God bless all those in consecrated life who have been signs of hope for us and have helped us to trust in God.

Church Teaching: Sunday as a Weekly Easter and Pentecost – Sunday, the day of light, could also be called the day of “fire” in reference to the Holy Spirit. The light of Christ is intimately linked to the “fire” of the Holy Spirit, and the two images together reveal the meaning of the Christian Sunday. When he appeared to the apostles on the evening of Easter, Jesus breathed upon them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” It was again Sunday when fifty days after the resurrection, the Spirit descended in power as mighty wind and fire, upon the apostles gathered with Mary. Pentecost is not only the founding event of the church, but is also the mystery which forever gives life to the church. The “weekly Easter” thus becomes, in a sense, the “weekly Pentecost,” when Christians relive the apostles’ joyful encounter with the Risen Lord and receive the life-giving breath of his Spirit.

Spiritual Thought – God speaks in the silence of the heart, and we listen. And then we speak to God from the fullness of our heart, and God listens. And this listening and this speaking is what prayer is meant to be.

A Little Humor – I told my suitcases we are not traveling anywhere this year. Now I’m dealing with emotional baggage.

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY
Suspended until further notice.



CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021
January 31-February 6
#CSW21

St Margaret School

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week, January 31-February 6, 2021, is “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.” Events during the week focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

St. Margaret School planned to celebrate with the following activities!

The week before, classes completed *I am thankful for SMS* and a Religion Bee was held to select a student representative from each class to be a finalist for the Bee on Wednesday.

Sunday, January 31-Celebrating Our Parish

8th Graders read about SMS at the Masses.

Monday, February 1-Celebrating Our Community

Adopt-a-Person-Grades celebrated special people who work behind the scenes : Gerry, Ralph , Margie, Donna D., Maria, Mr. Banks, and Mrs. Becker.

Tuesday, February 2-Faculty and Staff Appreciation/Celebrating our Nation

Students participated in the “Color A Smile Service Project.” These will be sent to the “Color A Smile” organization who will send them to the Homebound, Nursing Homes, Troops, Sick...anyone in need of a Smile :) Art Classes created works with a Heart Theme.

Wednesday, February 3-Parent Appreciation

A **Thank You** to our SMS Parents. At 1 PM, the Finalist Round for the Religion Bee was held.

Thursday, February 4-Student Appreciation

The students enjoyed Chick-Fil-A and bagged Chocolate Chip Cookies (Thanks to Famous 4th Street Cookie Co). K-3 played Bingo over Zoom, while Grades 4-8 played remote games.

Friday, February 5-Celebrating Families

Friday was a Virtual Day with a Noon Dismissal, ending with a Zoom Prayer Service for grades K-3 and 4-8.



CRS Spotlight

Like many people worldwide, Marie Josée Longo, a 62-year-old widow and mother of six, experienced the hardship of COVID-19 confinement at her home in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Kinshasa is one of Africa’s most populous cities, where millions of residents work ‘cash-in-hand’ jobs to support their families from one day to the next. With COVID-19 confinement measures in the city, many residents were unable to earn their regular living and provide for their families.

With support from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and CRS private funds, CRS undertook multiple COVID-19 response activities in Kinshasa to meet the needs of families like Marie’s. CRS provided 3,560 vulnerable households with direct food or cash assistance. Mobile money cash transfers targeted households with pronounced vulnerabilities to the virus, including those with immunocompromised members, or individuals living with pre-existing conditions. Visit www.crs.org for more information and to see how you can help! Thank you for your support!



St. Margaret Parish Blood Drive Saturday, February 27, 2021, 9AM - 2 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, appointments are needed, 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. All donors will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies and will be able to receive the results. A \$5 Amazon gift card will be sent to those who donate February 1-28.



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.

Montgomery County Medical Reserve Corps

To improve the health and safety of their residents, Montgomery County has established a group of medical and non-medical volunteers to support their existing emergency medical personnel resources in the County. To register, visit <https://www.serv.pa.gov>. For more information, email Zhunter@montcopa.org or call 610-996-0343.



Please remember in your prayers the soul of Richard O’Brien who recently passed away. May he rest in peace and his loved ones be comforted.

Upcoming Events

Year of St. Joseph: Every third Sunday at MRH, there will be Eucharistic Adoration and Procession followed by a presentation and discussion about St. Joseph.

Valentine Twilight Retreat: February 14, 2021: Evening of Reflection for couples in the Family Life Center. Theme: "Marriage ~ Life Without Masks."

Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection: February 17, 2021: Start your Lent off well with this day of reflection with Father Jim McGuinn, in-person and virtual. Theme: "Marked for Christ."

Information and registration details are available on our website calendar. visit www.malvernretreat.com or call the main office at 610-644-0400.



St. John's Hospice Casserole Program **PAUSED**

The casserole program is currently on hold due to an accident on the afternoon of January 13, affecting the truck that they use for pickups. They will let us know when they are able to resume picking up casseroles.

FOOD COLLECTION WEEKEND!

Next Weekend is our monthly food collection weekend (February 13 & 14). This program collects non-perishable foods each month for the Archdiocesan Community Food Distribution Centers Program. They provide food for 40 Food Cupboards throughout the Philadelphia area. All items should be brought to the school Cafeteria next weekend. Thank you for your generous support of this program.



Learn more about St. Margaret School!

Our 4 year old prekindergarten through 8th grade continues to grow strong faith, develop outstanding character and offer exceptional academics in our unparalleled community. Learn more through an online inquiry and virtual tour today. Request more information: bit.ly/382vTAU or visit our website: smsnarberth.org.

We welcome Prekindergarten 4 year olds and Full Day Kindergarten applications after a virtual tour | meeting. Contact our Admissions/Advancement Director at 610-664-2640 ext 2 or at info@smsnarberth.org. We look forward to hearing from you, to engage our parish community in Catholic education at its best!



Tax Information for 2020: To properly claim your donations to the Church, the IRS may require a donation receipt. To request your information go here <http://tinyurl.com/stmargtax> or contact the rectory during normal business hours, 610-664-3770.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Saint John Vianney, Patron Saint of Priests

We are humbled when we recall the men who offered their lives in service as priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Through lives of pastoral service and sacramental ministry, our priests have mediated God's presence, and His kindness to us and our world. In parish communities, schools, and institutions, our priests have served so that we might experience the enduring kindness of our loving God.

Today, one third of our priests are retired. Many priests continue to assist parishes with their pastoral ministry. Others, due to advanced age and declining health have been compelled to withdraw from active ministry. These priests continue to minister through many hours of prayer, interceding for you the people of God that they have faithfully served over many years. Many of our retired priests reside at Villa Saint Joseph, Darby, and Regina Coeli, Warminster, where they continue to exemplify a message of hope to all by their dedicated lives of prayer and sacrifice offered for the people of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These priests now require care themselves. Your prayerful and financial support is needed at this time of their life.

The annual **Collection for the Care of Aging and Infirm Priests** of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be taken in all parishes on the weekend of February 13-14, 2021. This collection is an opportunity for the faithful to express their gratitude for the many blessings received through the ministry of priests.

Your kindness will be remembered daily in their prayers. I ask that you continue to remember our retired priests in yours. May you and your loved ones know the blessing of God's presence and the abundance of His grace today and always. Thank you for your generous response to this annual appeal.

Sincerely in Christ,

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



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!

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, February 24, 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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