

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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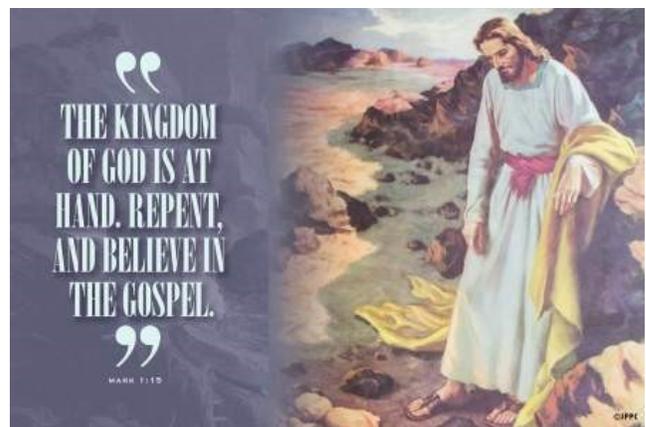
Scrip Sales

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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 21, 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

You may remember the most challenging part of an essay exam from your school days. It began with the words "Compare and Contrast." You had better know your material to answer smartly. If for any reason you were weak on the subject at hand, you would likely spin a web of conjecture with the vain hope that your teacher could be fooled by your lengthy burst of meaningless verbiage. I leave to your imagination another more coarse definition of what that's called!

Readers of Sacred Scripture have no such problem with the Holy Spirit, who is its real Author. He compares and contrasts with a masterful touch as expressed by the human writers. This first weekend of Lent we read the enchanting recap of the flood story in Genesis, wherein the newly dry land becomes the setting for a new covenant God makes with mankind. Combined with His pledge of never sending a flood comes His choice of the rainbow as a perpetual reminder of the Covenant.

Retaining the watery theme is today's excerpt of Peter's First Letter, telling us that the waters of baptism have the innate power under the Final Covenant to save us all from destruction.

Then comes today's Gospel. In his trademark almost texting style Mark tells us how Jesus was tested in the harshness of a water-less desert. We have to depend on the other more detailed gospel versions of the story to learn the exact nature of the devil's tactics. But what Mark does add is the comfort Jesus derived afterward from ministering angels.

It is relatively easy to compare and contrast flood waters and an arid desert as different backgrounds for the birth of covenants. But what might be more difficult for you and me right here at the beginning of Lent 2021 is the comparison and contrast we can make of keeping our baptismal covenant promises since Lent 2020 until now. Back then the arrival of a certain pandemic came upon the scene. We have presumably since learned a lot about ourselves and how we have handled all the shutdowns and restrictions. Through it all, have we been true Christians with all around us? I believe that with our answer to that one, we could "have our hands full."

There is lots of room in the process to list those nasty little sins we have committed against others, like impatience, rash judgment and mean words. This not to omit the bad choices we may have made in seeking comfort from our pain with unchaste thoughts and actions along with over indulgence in food and drink. Above all, and more important, is our Lenten resolve this year and what changes we will implement going forward.

God's covenant of loving mercy and salvation still stands as strong as it ever was. Our spiritual posture is the only variable. This kind of comparison and contrast is a demanding but pertinent Lenten exercise, hopefully targeted at something called "conversion."

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY
Suspended until further notice.

MONDAY, February 22
7:00 AM Dan McGarry

TUESDAY, February 23
7:00 AM Stanley & Evelyn Kazeniac

WEDNESDAY, February 24
7:00 AM Charlotte Croce

THURSDAY, February 25
7:00 AM Mali Castro

FRIDAY, February 26
7:00 AM Larry McCaffery

SATURDAY, February 27
8:00 AM Joan Gail



THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2021
THE SANCTUARY CANDLE WILL BURN
IN MEMORY OF SUZANNE WARD.

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

Weekend Mass Schedule February 27-28

(Priest scheduled is subject to change)

Saturday, February 27
Confessions 4:00 - 4:45 PM - Msgr. Dougherty
5:15 PM - Msgr. Dougherty

Sunday, February 28
7:30 AM - Fr. Pesarchick
8:45 AM - Msgr. Dougherty
10:00 AM - Fr. DePrinzio
11:30 AM - Fr. Cossavella

THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekend of February 14, 2021: \$ 8,883
Collection in Church: \$ 2,547
Electronic Funds Transfer: \$ 631
Mail In: \$ 3,485
Parish On Line: \$ 2,220
Envelopes: 141

The Weekend of February 16, 2020: \$8,286

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



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

Parish Theme for 2020-2021

Rejoice in Hope; Endure in Affliction; Persevere in Prayer

From the Pastor

Emergency Church Volunteers – We are looking for volunteers to receive some training to assist with any emergency medical or safety situations that might arise at Church. The Chief of Police for Narberth, John Gallagher, and some medical personnel will be here on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7:00 pm in the Annex to give some guidance. If you wish to join us, please contact Mike Worth at saintmargmusic@gmail.com.

Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion – Today, February 21, the First Sunday of Lent, participants in our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program will take an important step on their journey to enter the Catholic Church through the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion. At the 11:30 am Mass, we will offer some words and prayers by which our catechumen, Emily Shultz, will be officially recognized and elected by the Church as a candidate for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Eric and Diana Bazis, and Craig Stretch, who have already been baptized in the Christian faith and are candidates for entrance into the Church, will be called to continuing conversion as they prepare to enter the Church during the Easter Season. Please keep our catechumen and candidates in prayer as they enter the final phase of their formation for entrance into the Catholic Church.

Stations of the Cross – During Lent Stations will be prayed on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm. Please join us for this Lenten Devotion that concentrates on the great love Christ showed for us by suffering and dying for our salvation. The Stations of the Cross are a particularly powerful way of deepening our love for Christ, calling us to repentance for our sins, and uniting our sufferings to those of our Lord for the salvation of all the world.

Sanctuary Restoration – The work on repairing and restoring the sanctuary floor has been completed. The floor looks beautiful and adds to the solemnity of the sanctuary, a sacred place in Church from which the grace of God flows out to us in a very powerful way, especially through the Eucharist. I am grateful for your generosity to the Parish which enabled us to undertake and complete this project.

Catholic Charities Appeal – The 2021 Appeal has begun. Lent’s call for almsgiving makes it a good time to contribute to this Appeal, which provides the Archdiocese with the resources necessary to fund many of its programs for the needy in the Philadelphia area. Your donation will help us meet our goal of \$85,000. Your generosity supports many programs, including food pantries, and resources for the elderly and for needy families.

Blood Drive – St. Margaret Parish is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive in the school cafeteria on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please see the information later in this Bulletin on how to register to give. Blood donors are much needed. Your act of charity in giving blood is much appreciated.

Parish Theme for This Year (Rejoice in hope; endure in affliction; persevere in prayer.) - Lent is a time when we particularly focus on the suffering and death of Christ. He endured these travails out of love for us, to save us from sin and fill us with his life and light. During Lent, we are asked to renew our commitment to bear our sacrifices and difficulties out of love for Christ and his people. The sufferings we endure in love are united with those of the Lord and help to bring the saving grace of Christ to ourselves and all the world. We pray this Lent that we will be people who heed the call to endure in affliction, with the confidence that our afflictions are not in vain.

Church Teaching: From Mass to Mission – Receiving the bread of life, the disciples of Christ ready themselves to undertake with the strength of the Risen Lord and his Spirit the tasks which await them in their ordinary life. For the faithful who have understood the meaning of what they have done, the Eucharistic celebration does not stop at the church door. Like the first witnesses of the resurrection, Christians who gather each Sunday to experience and proclaim the presence of the Risen Lord are called to evangelize and bear witness in their daily lives. (from “On Keeping the Lord’s Day Holy,” an Apostolic Letter of Saint John Paul II)

A Little Humor – A thesaurus is great. There is no other word for it.

Spiritual Thought – Do not be men and women of sadness. Never give way to discouragement. Ours is a joy born not of having many possessions but from having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst. It is born from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life’s journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them! (Pope Francis)



Please remember in your prayers the soul of Matthew Gutt who recently passed away. May he rest in peace and his loved ones be comforted.

**FAST AND ABSTINENCE
AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT**

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday (with the exception of Friday, March 19th, The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary). Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world.



**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.

**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



Mount Saint Joseph Academy

Prospective students are invited to join us for events this spring!

7th Grade Practice Test - Saturday, March 27,
and Sunday, March 28

6th Grade Practice - Saturday, April 17

Registration is open at www.msjacad.org/practicetest.

Personal tours are scheduled by appointment – call (215) 233-9133 to reserve your tour.

For more information or to learn more about the event, email the Admissions Team at admiss@msjacad.org.



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!



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.

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.

St. Margaret School



.St. Margaret School is welcoming applicants for the fall of 2021-22. Apply early for our 4 year old prekindergarten, and Full Day Kindergarten to secure a seat. Our goals include in person learning, while keeping your children safe with high academic standards. Applications for grades 1 to 7 are considered on an individual basis. For more information email info@smsnarberth.org.



Are you suffering from the wound of abortion? A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is a non-judgmental, safe, loving, and confidential environment. Come experience the mercy and compassion of God by attending the upcoming retreat. The experience will give you hope for your future and freedom from the pain within your heart and soul.

Post-Abortion Healing Retreat

March 5th – 7th, 2021

IHM Spirituality Center, Malvern, Pennsylvania

For information call:

Georgeann 484-955-4278 or Susan 610-716-4795

All inquiries are strictly confidential. Financial aid is offered if needed.



Nightly Rosary to End Coronavirus CONTINUES!

Until March 25, the rosary will continue Monday through

Thursday at 8:00 PM in English using the link found at phillyevang.org/rosary/. After March 25, the rosary will continue two nights a week: Mondays (World Mission Rosary) and Tuesdays. Please join the many households as we complete a year of prayer for the end of the pandemic, and continue forward.



Thank you to all the parishioners who donated 17 boxes of cereal, pasta, toilet paper, baby food and other non-perishable items to this month's Food Collection. There is always a special need to stock the food cupboards during the winter months. Please remember our neighbors in need and bring a can or a box of food or non-perishable toiletries to the next food collection in March. It will be very much appreciated.



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.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** was founded on the basic principles of Saint John Paul II's call to action in *Ecclesia in Africa* and the adoption of the statement *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* from the Bishops of the United States.

Africa faces the economic and social hurdles of enormous debt, epidemics, severe poverty, and political unrest. In spite of these challenges, Catholicism is flourishing amid these harsh circumstances.

Your support of the **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** assists in the delivery of basic pastoral care which includes religious education, seminary formation and youth ministry. It also supports important projects such as pastoral care for the sick.

The collection for the **Church in Africa** will be conducted in your parish on a weekend during Lent as determined by your Pastor. On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Africa, I am grateful for your continued generosity.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,

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



Man Up Philly 2021 Virtual Conference Saturday, March 6, 2021

The Man Up Philly Conference will be virtual this year, streamed via Zoom to all registrants. This year's lineup of speakers will be an inspiration to all participants:

Fr. Mike Schmitz whose Bible in a Year podcast is #1 in the nation. He appeals to all Catholics, but has a special gift in reaching young adults.

Bishop Joseph Coffey, originally a priest in the archdiocese, and now auxiliary bishop to the Military.

Col. Tom Manion, chairman of the Travis Manion Foundation which supports military families in honor of his son, **Travis**, who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan.

Deacon Steve Javie, former NBA ref, will provide our reconciliation talk.

Registration is \$10 online at manupphilly.com.



Hunger in our World

Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger—it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

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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One great program. Many ways to listen! catholic.com/radio



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