

# ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH

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Narberth, PA 19072  
610-664-3770, Fax 610-664-5001  
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## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 28, 2021



**Msgr. Paul V. Dougherty,**  
Pastor, Ext. 112  
[pastor@saintmarg.org](mailto:pastor@saintmarg.org)

**Rev. Robert J. Chapman,**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Weekend Assistants:**  
Rev. Robert Pesarchick  
Rev. Kevin DePrinzio, O.S.A.

**Summer Resident:**  
Rev. Christopher Moriconi

**Principal, St. Margaret School,**  
Miss Theresa Power  
[tpower@smsnarberth.org](mailto:tpower@smsnarberth.org)  
610-664-2640

**Director of Religious Education, Ext.116**  
Mrs. Mary Anne J. Monroe, M.A.  
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**Coordinator of Parish Services, Ext. 120**  
Miss Nicole Bazis, MATS  
[faith@saintmarg.org](mailto:faith@saintmarg.org)

**Parish Business Manager, Ext.117**  
Mr. Cliff Coombs  
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**Safe Environment Coordinator, Ext. 121**  
Mrs. Stephanie Seal  
[safe@saintmarg.org](mailto:safe@saintmarg.org)

**Administrative Assistant, Ext. 110**  
Maryann Cassidy (Mon, Tues, Wed)  
Mrs. Teresa Myers (Thurs, Fri)  
[office@saintmarg.org](mailto:office@saintmarg.org)

**Director of Music - Mr. Michael Worth**  
[saintmargmusic@gmail.com](mailto:saintmargmusic@gmail.com)  
267-304-6490

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### Scrip Sales

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY  
FROM 9AM TO 4:30 PM IN THE RECTORY**

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**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, 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.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.



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.

Table with Mass Intentions for Monday through Saturday, including times and names of those offering Mass.

Weekend Mass Schedule December 4-5, including Saturday and Sunday Mass times and officiating priests.

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

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.

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY Suspended until further notice.

A Little Humor - I know I'm ugly. When I open the door on Halloween, the kids give me candy. (Rodney Dangerfield, comedian)

**Parish Theme for 2021-2022**  
*Caritas Christi Ducit (The Love of Christ Leads)*

**From the Pastor**

**Caritas Christi Ducit (The Love of Christ Leads)** – We have adopted this as our Parish motto and it will also serve as our Parish theme for this new liturgical year, which begins today with the First Sunday of Advent. Our faith is centered in the love that Christ has for us. His love leads. He takes the initiative in pouring out his love upon us. He invites us to believe in his love and to receive it with great joy. We are then asked to let that love of Christ penetrate and inform everything we are and do. The love of Christ leads us to be people of love who share the good news of his love in our everyday lives.

**Creche** – The Knights of Columbus approached me recently and requested that we purchase a crèche, which depicts the setting of the Nativity of Our Lord, for display outside of our Church at Christmas time. The Knights suggested a beautiful display they had seen advertised by a religious goods store. After seeing figures from the display and discussing it with the Pastoral and Finance Councils, we are moving forward with the purchase. The cost for the 12-piece set is \$7,000. I am looking forward to having it displayed outside of our Church as a witness to all who pass by of the coming of Christ as our Savior.

**Day of Sanctification** – On Monday, November 29, the priests of the Archdiocese will gather at St. Charles Seminary for our annual celebration of the Day of Sanctification for Priests. I will not be able to attend because of the need to care for my parents on Monday, but I ask that you please remember me and all priests in a special way in your prayers that day and throughout this Advent Season. Pray that we will be good and holy shepherds of the flock entrusted to our care. Here is a brief prayer you can offer: *O God, who made your Only Begotten Son eternal High Priest, grant that those he has chosen as ministers and stewards of your mysteries may be found faithful in carrying out the ministry they have received. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Consecration of Families** – Through the courtesy of the Knights of Columbus we will be offering a prayer at all the Masses this weekend to consecrate our families to the Holy Family. This is a great way to begin a new liturgical year. It is in our families that sanctity is best fostered. May our families be sanctuaries of faith, hope and love, where the love of Christ shines.

**Sanctuary Renovations and Thanks** – As we celebrate at the 10:00 am Mass today the renovations completed in our sanctuary over the last year and a half, I would like to extend some special thanks to people who were instrumental in assisting with the process: Father Gill, the Director of the Archdiocesan office for Divine Worship, for his guidance and recommendations; Lyle Nehls, for the many hours he spent in procuring proposals and overseeing all the work which was done, and for the many times he pitched in himself and did some of the needed work; Sandy Brown, for advising on the aesthetics of the work, for the color and fabric selections on the painting of the rear wall and the reupholstery of the sanctuary furniture and new side door drapery, for the procurement of marble replacement tile and the selection of the marble for the step into the sanctuary, and for the selection and donation of the brass railings to facilitate access into the sanctuary and up to the tabernacle; Bill Gordon, for donating his services in the painting of the rear wall, and for his touch-up work on some of the floor tiles; Denise Richards and Jim Wentling, for the advice and time they gave on the structural engineering and architectural aspects of the floor repair and floor stability issues; and Bill Petty and John Doyle, who assisted in installing the new hymnal holders in the pews.

I offer special thanks to you the parishioners of St. Margaret Parish whose continued generosity over the years allowed us to have the resources to complete our recent renovations. People who visit our Church frequently comment on its reverent and inspiring beauty. We are indeed blessed with a beautiful Church that helps us to experience the presence of God. I am deeply grateful for all who have helped over the years and all those who assisted with our recent work to keep our Church a place of beauty for the glory of God and the sanctification of his people.

**Nothing Compares to Being There** – The Archdiocese is launching today a program entitled “Nothing Compares to Being There.” Our attendance at Church has been gradually increasing. It is a joy to see more and more people back at Church. The coronavirus has been rather persistent, but I am hopeful that we can feel more and more comfortable in gathering together at Church to celebrate the Eucharist, our highest form of prayer and the greatest source of all our strength, joy, goodness, and peace.

## **FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED**

**School Advisory Board** – The Board will meet on Thursday, December 2 at 7:00 pm in the Annex.

**Winter Wonderland** – The Home and School Association is hosting a Winter Wonderland in the School parking Lot on Saturday, December 4 from 10:00 am to 12 noon. All are welcome to join us for some arts and crafts for the children and some other fun activities. We may even have a visitor from the North Pole.

**Summary of Parish Pastoral Council Meeting on November 11** – 1) The Calendar for November, December and January was reviewed 2) Antioch Annex – A Committee has resumed its meeting on some changes for the Annex. The more substantial changes we are considering are the following: adding two sets of accordion partitions to section off a meeting room for smaller groups and to establish the sanctuary area as chapel for prayer and small spiritual gatherings, providing an additional bathroom, creating a kitchenette in the area in front of the stage and utilizing the stage area as a closed in storage room. 3) An Online Parish Directory is in the works. Information will go out to parishioners on how to sign on. 4) A report was given on the Parish Religious Education Program. 130 students are enrolled and the classes are meeting virtually thus far this year. 5) The Council gave final approval of a three-year plan for 2022-2025 with goals in the areas of Worship and Spirituality, Education, Evangelization, Service, and Community Life. We will distribute the plan to parishioners in January. 6) Discussion began on strategies to implement the goals in the plan.

**Church Teaching: Offering Ourselves with Christ in the Eucharist** – In giving his sacrifice to the Church, Christ has also made his own the spiritual sacrifice of the Church, which is called to offer herself in union with the sacrifice of Christ. This is the teaching of the Second Vatican Council concerning all the faithful: “Taking part in the Eucharistic Sacrifice which is the source and summit of the whole Christian life, they offer the divine victim to God, and offer themselves along with it.” (from an encyclical letter of Saint John Paul II entitled “On the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church”)

**Spiritual Thought** – We have received Baptism, entrance into the Church, and the honor of being called Christians. Yet what good will this do us if we are Christians in name only and not in fact? (St. Andrew Kim)



# SCRIP

*Giving gift cards this year?*

*Please consider buying your gift cards through the Saint Margaret Home and School Scrip program. Order forms are available in the vestibule.*

*St. Margaret Parishioners have an opportunity to enjoy some great resources on FORMED.org!*



*Presence—The Mystery of the Eucharist  
Forgiven—The Transforming Power of Confession  
Reborn—You, Your Child, and the Heart of Baptism  
Beloved—Finding Happiness in Marriage*

As a member of St. Margaret Parish, you have **FREE ACCESS** to the many resources on **FORMED**. Sign up today at **FORMED.org** using the parish code **WRVZND**. *Not every parish offers a subscription to FORMED so take advantage of this opportunity!*



*Nightly Rosary to End Coronavirus*  
**WILL CONTINUE UNTIL  
DECEMBER 8, 2021!**

With the added intention of praying for renewal in our Church, the Archdiocesan rosary will continue in English at 8PM, Monday through Thursday, until the end of the *Year of St. Joseph*, December 8, 2021. Join with the link found at **phillyevang.org/rosary/**.



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

Dear Friends in Christ,

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held in our parishes the weekend of December 4-5, 2021.

This appeal benefits approximately 26,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—women and men who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church. Pope Francis often highlights the role older adults play in conveying faith from one generation to the next. Recently, he noted that “there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel.” (Pope Francis, *Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*. July 25, 2021)

The prayer and ministry of older religious are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world.

Many religious communities struggle to provide for their aging members. In 2018, 70 percent of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) had a median age of 70 or higher and it continues to grow.

I recognize you may be experiencing your own financial difficulties. I ask only that you give what you can. Most importantly, please join me in praying for God’s continued blessing on our nation’s elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

I ask prayers for our consecrated religious and encourage support for this national collection scheduled for December 4-5, 2021, in our local parishes.

Thank you.

In the peace of Christ,

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



### **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.



project rachel  
Peace starts here

### **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](mailto:ProjectRachel@chs-adphila.org).



### ***Spiritual Adoption Program***

#### **What is the Spiritual Adoption Program?**

It is very simple. Participants in the Spiritual Adoption Program promise to pray for nine months for a baby in danger of abortion. While this child will remain unknown to his or her “spiritual parent,” God knows who the child is. Many people have found that naming “their child” helps to keep them focused on the reality that their prayers are helping to save a particular baby from the harm of abortion. This can be done in a parish or school setting, with age appropriate materials. To learn more, visit [www.spiritualadoption.org](http://www.spiritualadoption.org).

***“Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [baby’s name] the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.”***

Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

### **Young Adult New Years Retreat**

#### **The Word made Flesh: God’s Yes, Mary’s Yes, My Yes!**

Young Adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to Malvern Retreat House **December 31—January 2** for a weekend retreat to usher in the New Year! Led by Fr. Emmanuel Mansford and Br. Samuel Thomas of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, this retreat will reflect on the continual ‘Yes’ present in God and His plan of salvation- from the Incarnation as God’s yes to our fallen humanity to Mary’s “fiat” to the Father’s will and our call to imitate Mary, that the Word of God may become incarnate in our own lives. The weekend will include Adoration, the celebration of Holy Mass, Confession and Spiritual Direction, meals and lodging, free time to connect and enjoy the peace and beauty of the retreat grounds, a night bonfire, New Years social, and more! Cost: \$165. Scholarship is available! For more information or to register, visit [www.malvernretreat.com/calendar](http://www.malvernretreat.com/calendar) or call 610-644-0400.

### **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 12:30 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, December 9, 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](http://PhilaMarriagePrep.com). For email inquiries, [Amy@PhilaMarriagePrep.com](mailto: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](http://www.twitter.com/ArchPhilly)

[www.youtube.com/user/CatholicPhilly](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@saintmarg.org) or 610-664-3770, Ext 12.



### **Catholic Answers Live - #1 Catholic Radio Show. Monday - Friday, 6-8 PM.**

One great program. Many ways to listen! [catholic.com/radio](http://catholic.com/radio)



Looking for local Catholic news? It's as easy as email - sign up for the free, twice-weekly email newsletter of CatholicPhilly.com, official news website of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Sign up at [CatholicPhilly.com/newsletter](http://CatholicPhilly.com/newsletter).