



St. Margaret Mary Church

560 Lincoln Avenue

Staten Island, New York 10306

Rectory: (718) 351-2612 Fax: (718) 987-0446

Web: www.stmmsi.org Facebook: St. Margaret Mary Staten Island NY

March 15th 2015
4th Sunday of Lent

Reverend Joseph M. McLafferty, Temporary Administrator
Deacon Patrick Graham

SUNDAY OBLIGATION

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am and 12:00pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday—Saturday 9:00am

HOLY DAY MASSES

9:00am and 7:30pm

CONFESSION

Saturday: 4:00pm - 4:30pm

RECTORY HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9:30am - 2:30pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 2nd Sundays, by appointment only. Interviews of parents seeking baptism for their children are arranged by calling the Rectory during business hours.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements for the Sacrament of Marriage must be made six months in advance. Please contact the Rectory for further information.

NEW PARISHIONERS

All new parishioners are invited to register at the Rectory and to participate in our parish life.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Committee meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Dongan Hall Meeting Room.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, Stations of the Cross and Benediction are held every Friday at 7:30pm.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Altar Society— Mrs. Margaret Pisciotano (718) 351-2612
Saturday after the 9:00am Mass in the Church.

Join in keeping our Church and Sanctuary neat and clean. All are encouraged to help.

Choir / Music Ministry - Mrs. Patricia Beniquez (718) 954-0247
Sunday after the 10:00am Mass in the Choir Loft;
New members are welcomed.

Food Pantry — Mr. Jim Regan & Mr. Bob Puccio
(718) 351-2612

1st and 3rd Fridays of the month; 8:00am – 11:00am
Under the Rectory. Enter via rear Parking Lot.

Golden Age Club—Ms. Terry Brennan (718) 351-2612
Tuesday at 1:00pm in the Dongan Hall Meeting Room.
New members welcomed.

Island Shores

Monday 10:30am Residents Mass.

Legion of Mary — Mrs. Barbara Regan (718) 351-2119
Pray the Rosary Monday thru Saturday at 8:30am and

Sunday at 11:30am in the Church.

Weekly meeting Sunday at 12:00pm in the Rectory.
New members welcomed.

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday after the 9:00am Mass.

RCIA/Bible Study — Mrs. Barbara Regan (718) 351-2119
Monday at 7:00pm in the Dongan Hall Classrooms.

Religious Education — Mrs. Barbara Regan (718) 351-2119
Levels 1-4: Sunday, 8:30-10:00 and Levels 5-8:
Wednesday, 4:00-5:30 in the Dongan Hall Classrooms.

Scripture Study — Monday, pm: Mr. Jerry LePre
Tuesday, am: Sr. Barbara Hecló (718) 351-2612
Monday at 7:00pm in the Dongan Hall Meeting Room.
Tuesday after the 9:00am Mass in the Rectory.

REFLECTION



"But whoever lives the truth comes to the light." Think about the sun for a moment. The light from this gigantic celestial orb provides so many things for us. Most obviously, it provides brightness by which we see, by which we work, play, and navigate the world around us. It also provides the warmth necessary for our comfort and our survival. The sun sustains plant life, which in turn sustains our lives as well. It helps us mark the passing of time, the change of seasons, and the rhythm of every day. The sun is a tremendous gift from God, and our lives--just like our planet--quite literally revolve around it.

When Jesus uses the image of light in today's Gospel, it may help us to understand him if we think of the sun. Just as this magnificent star nourishes our physical existence, so too Jesus, "the light [who] came into the world," nourishes our spiritual existence. He gives us the "brightness" to see the right choices in front of us through his teaching and his example. He warms our hearts through his mercy and forgiveness, changing our coldhearted sinfulness into burning charity. He sustains our spiritual lives by offering us the gift of salvation: eternal life in heaven that never sees death. And he helps us mark the passing of time as we grow ever closer to him, entering more and more deeply into the knowledge and love of our Lord.

But of course, just as we are free to hide in a dark room with the shades drawn, so too we are free to "shade" ourselves from the light of Christ: "for everyone who does wicked things hates the light." To choose wickedness is to cut ourselves off not just from light, but from life. May we choose instead to stay always in the light of the Son. [Source: Liturgical Publications Inc.]

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 14th
 5:00pm Lt. Philip Petti, FDNY & Tony Petti

Sunday, March 15th
 8:00am For the Parishioners
 10:00am Sabrina & Peter Pulgiano
 12:00pm John Calabrese

Monday, March 16th
 9:00am Salvatore Bruno

Tuesday, March 17th
 9:00am MacKenzie Angelone - Birthday

Wednesday, March 18th
 9:00am Betty Motola - 1st Anniversary

Thursday, March 19th
 9:00am Thomas Joseph DiLella -
 Birthday in Heaven

Friday, March 20th
 9:00am Matthew Rybarczyk

Saturday, March 21st
 9:00am For the Parishioners
 5:00pm Ann Stivaletti

Sunday, March 22nd
 8:00am Paul Mazzochi
 10:00am Marie Sforza
 12:00pm Carmela Perinelli

OFFERTORY GIFTS

If a Mass is being said for a member of your family, we invite you to present the Offertory gifts to the altar. Please notify one of the Ushers before Mass that you would like to present the gifts.

YOUR ENVELOPE COUNTS!

The collection on March 8th, 2015 was \$2,840.00.
 Maintenance and Repairs \$360.00.

The collection on March 9th, 2014 was \$2,280.00.
 Maintenance and Repairs \$345.00.

Today's 2nd collection is for the Catholic Relief Services.

WEEKLY READINGS

The daily Readings & Saints for the week of March 15th:
Sunday; March 15th..... 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23
St. Louise de Marillac Ephesians 2: 4-10
 John 3: 14-21

Monday, March 16th..... Isaiah 65: 17-21
St. Abban John 4: 43-54

Tuesday; March 17th..... Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12
St. Patrick John 5: 1-16

Wednesday; March 18th.. Isaiah 49: 8-15
St. Cyril of Jerusalem John 5: 17-30

Thursday; March 19th..... 2 Samuel 7: 4-5, 12-14, 16
St. Joseph Matthew 1: 16, 18-21, 24

Friday; March 20th..... Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22
Bl. John of Parma John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday; March 21st..... Jeremiah 11: 18-20
St. Enda John 7: 40-53

Sunday; March 22nd..... Jeremiah 31: 31-34
St. Lea Hebrews 5: 7-9
 John 12: 20-33

[Source for Readings: www.usccb.org/bible/readings
 Saints: www.catholic.org/saints]

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

We Pray for the Lord's Healing for:

Dominick Berardi	Margaret Harris
Martha Bifalco	Richard Ingardia
Francis Burns	Debbie Mosley
Maryalice Dachille	August Muniz
Michael D'agostino	Joseph O'Keefe
Mary Graham Delmar	Jim Regan
Anita Ferrari	Barbara Remuzzi
Concetta Fisher	Robert Sabantino, Sr.
Marie Flannery	Janet Viso
Kathleen Gaynor	Helen Volpe
	James Woods

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle for the week of March 15th has been donated for Joseph O'Keefe.



FEAST OF ST. PATRICK

March 17th

St. Patrick, is credited for the conversion of Ireland from paganism and is the patron saint of Ireland, along with St. Brigit .

St. Patrick's Day originated as a Catholic holiday but in some places around the world it has gradually become a secular celebration of Irish culture.

Much of what the world knows about St. Patrick has been learned from his two writings, the *Declaration* (*Confessio*, in Latin) and the *Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus* (*Epistola*, in Latin). The first letter, called the *Declaration*, was an autobiography of St. Patrick's life and mission.

St. Patrick was not a native of Ireland. He was born in Roman Britain (presumably Scotland or Wales) during the latter half of the 4th century to a wealthy Romano-British family. His father was a deacon in the Catholic Church. Patrick's given name was Maewyn Succat but he was later baptized as Patricus. At age 16, Irish marauders kidnapped him and took him to Ireland. There he was sold to a cruel master as a slave to work tending and herding sheep and swine on the Slemish mountainside in Northern Ireland.

According to the *Confessio*, during his six years of captivity he prayed continually and became very close to God. One night, God came to him in a dream and told him to flee captivity and go to the coast where he would find a ship that would take him back to his homeland. He was then directed by God as he traveled 200 miles on foot to eventually find and receive passage on the ship.

Upon returning to Britain, Patrick dedicated his life to God's service. He eventually settled in France and studied in a monastery under St. Germaine, for a period of twelve years. He spent 20 years as a monk in Marmoutier Abbey, which is where he again received a vision telling him that he should return to Ireland as a missionary to bring Christianity to the pagan people there.

St. Patrick was not the first to bring Christianity to Ireland but he was the most successful. The story holds that he converted the warrior chiefs and princes, baptizing them and thousands of their subjects in the "Holy Wells" that still bear this name. His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. He is thought to have died on March 17 between the years 463 and 493 AD.

Stories are told that St. Patrick used the Shamrock to teach the concept of the Holy Trinity to the pagan people. Although this story is quite widespread there is no official record of it or mention of it in the *Confessio*. Another story is told that St. Patrick stood on a hill with a wooden staff and banished all the serpents into the sea. The truth is that no snakes ever resided in Ireland. It is also said that St. Patrick was the one who designated February 29th, which occurs every four years on Leap Year, as the day when women can propose marriage to a man, known as "The Privilege of Ladies" Day. [Source: Wikipedia]

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

March 19th

St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus, is venerated as a saint in the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran and Methodist faiths. In the Catholic Church and other traditions, Joseph is the patron saint of workers and has several feast days. He was also declared to be the patron saint and protector of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870, and is the patron of several countries and regions.

The first appearance of Joseph is in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Each contains a genealogy of Jesus showing ancestry from king David. Christian tradition represents Mary as a widow during the adult ministry of Jesus. Joseph is not mentioned as being present at the Wedding at Cana at the beginning of Jesus' mission, nor at the Passion at the end. If he had been present at the Crucifixion, he would under Jewish custom have been expected to take charge of Jesus' body, but this role is instead performed by Joseph of Arimathea. Nor would Jesus have entrusted his mother to the care of John the Apostle if her husband was alive. The last time Joseph appears in person in any Gospel is the story of the Passover visit to the Temple in Jerusalem when Jesus is 12 years old.

In some writings (apocryphal writings), it is written that St. Joseph had been married prior to Mary, was a widower and had six children, with two daughters and four sons, the youngest of whom was James (the Lesser) from his first marriage. Joseph was quite old when he and Mary married.

The gospels describe Joseph as a "*tekton*". Tekton has been traditionally translated into English as "carpenter", but is a rather general word (from the same root that gives us "technical" and "technology") that could cover makers of objects in various materials.

Joseph was "a just man". This praise bestowed by the Holy Spirit, and the privilege of having been chosen by God to be the foster-father of Jesus and the spouse of the Virgin Mother, are the foundations of the honor paid to St. Joseph by the Church. [Source: Wikipedia]

Prayer to St. Joseph

O Blessed Saint Joseph, faithful guardian and protector of virgins, to whom God entrusted Jesus and Mary, I implore you by the love which you did bear them, to preserve me from every defilement of soul and body, that I may always serve them in holiness and purity of love. Amen.

SPRING IS HERE

Friday, March 20th is the beginning of Spring. At the spring equinox, days are approximately 12 hours long with day length increasing as the season progresses. Spring and "springtime" refer to the season, and also to ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth. When it is spring in the Northern Hemisphere, it will be autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Congratulations to our Level 2 students who received their First Penance last Saturday. They are:

Mariah Camacho	Jasmine Garcia	Jason Vadola
Quelina Colon	Guilia Gonzalez	Kevin Villafan
Jaylyn Colon	Joseph Paterno	Kyleigh Weisser
Andrey Darcy		

Please keep them in your prayers that they continue asking forgiveness of their sins as they live out the future God has planned for them.

DID YOU KNOW?

The sacrament of Reconciliation washes away the guilt of the sins committed in Baptism. It “reconciles” us with God and The Church. It celebrates God’s loving mercy and forgiveness towards us. If you have been away from the sacrament for some time you can watch a short video on the Sacrament of Penance at: <http://www.usccb.org/video/sacraments.shtml>. Remember to confess sins at least once a year. This is a Precept of The Church.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

St. Christopher's Annual Chinese Auction

St. Christopher's will be hosting their annual Chinese Auction on **Friday, March 20th at 6:00pm**. The Grand Prize raffle is a HP 21.5" touch screen all-in-one computer, plus many more great prizes. Admission is \$5.00. Children ages 10-16 must be accompanied by an adult. No children under 10 admitted.

God So Loved The World

St. Mary’s Church choir will be hosting their annual Lenten Choral Concert, a journey through the passion and death of Jesus Christ, on **Tuesday, March 24th at 7:30pm**. The program will feature traditional, as well as contemporary music commemorating the holiness of the season. Admission is free. St. Mary’s Church is at 1101 Bay Street,

Blood Drive

There will be Blood Drive on **Sunday, March 29th, 9:30am – 1:30pm** at the Olympia Activity Center (OAC). Please support this vital effort.

2015 CARDINAL'S STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL

As you know, the *Cardinal's Appeal* offers vital support to Catholic programs and ministries throughout the Archdiocese as well as in our own parish. Please show your support for the *Appeal* by making your pledge today. Your commitment will help us reach our parish goal of \$11,000. Special thanks to all of you who have already made their gifts. Thank you to everyone for your prayerful consideration of your commitment.

Life is too short to spend at war with yourself.

Practice acceptance and forgiveness.

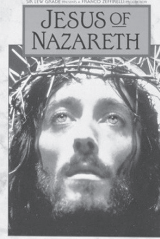
*Letting go of the past
is your first step to Happiness.*

[Source: www.livelifehappy.com; by Robert Tew]

LENTEN RETREAT

Jesus of Nazareth

This coming **Saturday, March 21st** your Faith Formation Committee will be hosting a Lenten Retreat. It will be held here at St. Margaret Mary. There will be separate programs for adults and children.



The Adults Program will include:

- 9:00am Mass
- 9:30am Breakfast; coffee, tea, juice and pastries
- 10:00am Reading of the *Passion* by our candidates for Confirmation
- 10:20am Viewing of the film *Jesus of Nazareth*, Part 2
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:00pm Round-table discussion of the Passion and the events depicted in *Jesus of Nazareth*.

The Children's Program will include special activities to be held in Dongan Hall, from 9:30am-1:30pm.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. **There is no charge to attend, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

To register, just:

- (1) complete the form below, detach and deposit it into the Collection Basket, Suggestion Box or drop it off at the Rectory or
- (2) log into our website (www.stmmsi.org) and submit the Registration Form or
- (3) call or text (917) 841-8971, leaving your name and the number of attendees.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY TOMORROW MONDAY, MARCH 16th.

All are welcome.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF ADULTS ATTENDING: _____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING: _____

CONTACT TELEPHONE #: _____

Jesus of Nazareth is a 2-Part, 4 hour, 1977 British-Italian television miniseries.

For our Lenten Retreat, we will be showing Part 2 which depicts the raising of Lazarus, the entry into Jerusalem, Jesus and the money changers in the temple, the Last Supper, the betrayal of Jesus by Judas, the agony in the Garden, Peter denying Christ and repenting of it, the judgment of Jesus by Pilate, the carrying of the cross, the crucifixion and death of Christ, the discovery of the empty tomb and the appearance of the Risen Christ to his Disciples.