



Parish Update



A Weekly Newsletter of St. Margaret Mary Parish

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2016

In the song, *Open the Eyes to My Heart Lord*, there is a subtle admission of blindness, perhaps the kind of blindness that Christ came to cure more than any other – the blindness of the heart. It may certainly be the most prevalent blindness in our society today. As we joyfully anticipate the coming of our Lord again, contemplate the blindness which might be in your own heart.

Look in today's email for opportunities that might restore sight to your heart and help you to see things you may have been missing which your Lord would like you to see.

NEW ITEMS:

- **Prayer: Our Deepest Longing**
- **Christmas Liturgical Schedule**
- **Christmas Store**
- **MOMS Changes to Grace Within**
- **Playgroup**
- **Food Pantry**
- **Baby Basics**
- **Living Nativity**
- **Justice for Farmworkers**
- **Nativity Display**
- **New Altar Server Training**
- **Retrouvaille**
- **SMM Catholic School Open House**
- **Interview with Martin Scorsese**
- **Vocations Essay Contest**

PREVIOUS ITEMS:

- **Haiti Christmas Livestock Program**
- **Annual Seniors' Advent Dinner**
- **Caroling for Haiti**
- **Wedding Ceremony in Haiti**
- **Great Generation Outing**
- **Women's Bible Study**
- **Adult Confirmation**
- **"Lord Teach Me to Pray"**
- **Use of Incense**

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

[Mass & Devotion Times - Click Here](#)

[Daily Readings - Click Here](#)

Monday, December 12

Advent Penance Service, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 13

Men's Bible Study, 7:00 am

Elizabeth Ministry Rosary, 9:00 am

Purls and Prayers, 10:00 am

Senior's Advent Dinner, 5:30 pm

Ignatian Prayer – Women, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 14

Playgroup, 10:00 am

Ignatian Prayer – Women, Noon

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 15

Centering Prayer 10:00 am

SMM School Advent Concert, 7:00 pm

Adoration, 7:30 pm

Friday, December 16

New Hope, 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Family Faith, 10:45 am

Faith Formation, 10:45 am

Quote of the Week

“The problem is not that we hope for too much, but that we have learned to settle for so little.”

- Paul J. Wadell, “Not Settling for Less” America, November 21, 2016

Question of the Week

“What are you seeing and hearing that makes you believe that Jesus Christ is the Holy One of God?”

The Prophet Isaiah had two very different ways of seeing and hearing things.

He could be very hopeful: “The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom” (35:1).

He could be very pessimistic: “See! The Lord is about to empty the earth and lay it waste.” (4:1).

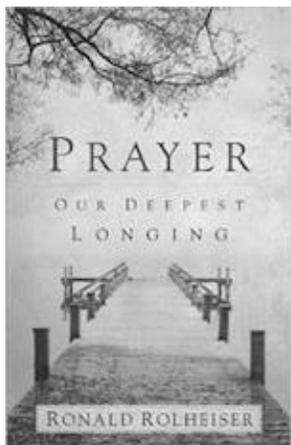
Every day we are confronted with things that can cause anxiety and despair. We cannot wish them away.

We can, however, choose to have genuine hope.

We can choose to believe that Jesus Christ is the Holy One of God when he said, “I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be” (John 14:3)

Perhaps we can choose to be as hopeful as Isaiah was when he said, “Here is your God. . . . he comes to save you” (35:4).

New Items:



Prayer: Our Deepest Longing

By Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I.

Chapter One - Struggling in Prayer

"Most days, we don't pray simply because we don't quite get around to it."

God is available at any moment of the day or night. He is always ready to talk. In chapter one of his book, Father Ronald Rolheiser explains why a whole day can pass by without our ever saying "hello" to God. The chapter does not offer us a list of ways to bring God into the conversation. It only asks that we think about the things that distract us or make us hesitant about praying. It also talks about some of the uncertainty over what prayer is really for. The first chapter does, however, suggest that after a little reflection, saying "hello" might come a little easier.



Christmas Liturgical Schedule

[Click Here](#) for a complete listing of Christmas Masses and other Masses during the Christmas Season. In addition, you will find the times for our Communal Penance Services and the Living Nativity. Since there is frequently higher attendance at the Christmas Vigil Masses, you may wish to consider attending one of the three Masses on Christmas day. Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 11:00 pm Christmas Day Masses: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am.



Christmas Store

Thank you to all of our St. Margaret Mary families for your overwhelming support of the Parish Thanksgiving and Christmas Stores. Through the generosity of your time, talent, and treasure we were able to help 350 local families, including 500 children meet their holiday needs. Your gifts truly reflect the spirit of the season of Advent.



MOMS Changing to Grace Within

Monday, December 12th from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

The Ministry of Mothers Sharing invites all who want to consider helping with adopting the Grace Within program in the Spring to a meeting on December 12th in the Upper Room. RSVP to JoAnn at joannpita@gmail.com.



Elizabeth Ministry

Tuesday, December 13th at 9:00 am

All ladies are invited to pray the rosary. Elizabeth Ministry is an international ministry dedicated to following the example of Elizabeth and Mary to respect life, cherish children, encourage families, enrich marriages and build community. Meeting in the Upper Room. If you have a special intention for a mother in need, please let us know at lori@stmargaretmary.org.



Playgroup

Wednesday, December 14th from 10:00 to 11:30 am

For more information contact Claudia at cvZeliadt@gmail.com. Playgroup is a great way for moms, dads and caretakers with babies or toddlers to meet other parishioners in a safe and playful environment. Meeting in the nursery.



Food Pantry

This week please shop for jelly, soup, pancake mix and syrup and bottle water. Please bring your donations to the parish hall when you come to Mass or directly to the Pantry during the week. For directions call (407) 628-1692.



Baby Basics

Saturday, December 17th from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

We can use your help on the first and third Saturdays of the month to unpack shipping cases, count diapers, assist families to their cars, move diapers to storage, and break down cartons for recycling. To volunteer please contact Peggy Canary at Macanary@aol.com.



Living Nativity

Thursday and Friday, December 22nd and 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

We are looking for:

Angels (5th-6th grade - 4 per night)

Shepherds (4 per night)

Kings (6 per night)

Help with setup (12/21 starting at noon) and breakdown (12/23 at 9:00 pm)

This is a great opportunity for students needing community service hours. If you are interested, please contact Paul and Stacy Stewart at (407) 366-1675 or stew4292@gmail.com by Monday, December 12th.



Justice for Farmworkers

Take action for Human Rights Day and write to Wendy's CEO Todd Penegor asking him to bring the final fast food holdout into the Fair Food Program, called by the *Washington Post*, "one of the greatest human rights success stories of our day." The Coalition for Immokalee Workers and the Alliance for Fair Food have launched a boycott of Wendy's until they join McDonald's, Burger King, Yum! Brands and Subway in participating in the Fair Food Program. Learn more at: www.allianceforfairfood.org.



Nativity Display

January 7th and 8th

Do you have a special or unique crèche (nativity scene), perhaps even a simple one that has been in your family for many years? Would you like to share your crèche and its story with others who are interested in seeing it? Then please participate in our parish display of Christmas crèches on the feast of the Epiphany. Admission will be free, with donations being accepted to benefit our mission parish in Haiti. For more information call Sandra Dooley at (407) 902-3255.



New Altar Server Training

Starting Monday, January 16th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Are you interested in becoming an altar server? If you are baptized, have celebrated your first communion, and are in fifth grade or higher, you are invited to consider this important liturgical ministry. Training will continue for five weeks on Monday evenings. Every new server must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at the first session. Additional training dates are: January 30th, February 6th, 13th and 20th.

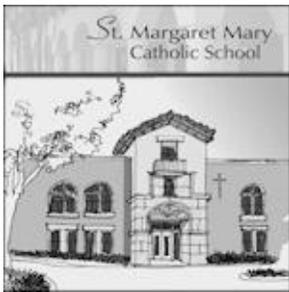
To register go to <http://stmargaretmary.org/altar-server-training-registration/>. For additional information contact Lisa Weis, Director of Liturgy at Lisa@stmargaretmary.org or (407) 647-0726.



Retrouvaille

Beginning Friday, January 20th

Sometimes things can go very wrong in a marriage. Retrouvaille is a program to help heal and support married couples experiencing difficulties. It is also for couples who have separated or divorced and want to try again. For more information and registration call (352) 274-4614. All calls and names are held in strictest confidence. We invite you to visit our website at: www.retrouvaille.org.



SMM Catholic School Open House

Open House/Information Sessions:

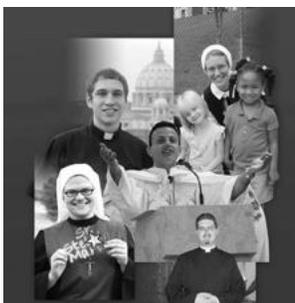
Grades K-8 (January 30th at 7:00 pm)
Pre-K (January 31st at 7:00 pm)
Open House/Student-led Tours (February 2nd at 9:00 am)

Tours are available upon request by calling (407) 644-7537.



Interview with Martin Scorsese

Father James Martin, S.J. interviews director Martin Scorsese to discuss his faith, his films and his new movie "Silence." To view the interview on YouTube [Click Here](#)



Vocations Essay Contest

Coming Soon! The 5th Annual Vocations Essay Contest sponsored by the Parish Vocations and Discernment Ministry. The contest will run from January 6-March 1, 2017. Students in grades 5 through college may submit entries. Cash prizes will be awarded. Please look for the topic and rules for the essay contest in future issues of the bulletin and in the parish email.

Previous Items:



Haiti Christmas Livestock Program

Gift cards supporting the livestock program will be available for purchase this Advent to support our sisters and brothers in Haiti in the wake of the devastating hurricane. Please consider an alternate Christmas gift to support our Haiti Ministries. Cards will be available at the church office, and online at:

www.stmargaretmary.org/HaitiGiftProgram



Annual Seniors' Advent Dinner

Tuesday, December 13th

Doors Open at 5:30 pm; Dinner served at 6:00 pm in our Family Life Center Parish Hall. Come enjoy an evening of good food, great music, entertainment & much more. This annual event is a gift from the St. Margaret Mary Catholic School and is free of charge.

NO RSVP NEEDED—JUST COME AND BRING A FRIEND!



Caroling for Haiti

Saturday, December 17th

Having a Christmas party? Invite the 6pm Mass Choir and friends to stop by and lead your guests in singing Christmas carols for about 20 minutes - all we ask is for a donation for Haiti. Call today, best times get booked quickly. Contact Andrea Cavaliere at: (407) 739-3698 or andrea@stmargaretmary.org. And if you would like to join us caroling, we would love to have you.



Wedding Ceremony in Haiti

On December 17th ten couples will receive the sacrament of marriage in a group ceremony at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Haiti. The Haiti Faith Sharing Committee helped to make this happen with financial support for the training of the couples and the cost of the rings and simple celebration.

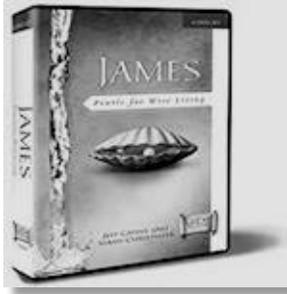
We invite you to be in solidarity with these couples by praying for them and sending them congratulations as they make this commitment. Look for the table in the courtyard on the weekend of December 17th and 18th where you can sign congratulation cards for the couples. The cards will be carried to the couples on our trip to our sister parish in January.



Great Generation Outing

Sunday, December 18th from 10:30 am to 6:00 pm

Miracle of 34th Street, the Musical. Our bus departs from the former K-Mart Plaza on 17-92. The first stop is lunch at Shiloh's. Then we visit the Titusville Play House located in historic Parish Theater. For further information contact Rose Walleze at (407) 645-4521 or Miriam Timmes at (407) 644-6208.



Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, January 12th to March 30, 2017 at 9:30 am

We shall explore *James: Pearls for Wise Living*. We know it is difficult to live a Christian life in a secular society. James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances. Join us for this valuable study of one of the most practical books of the Bible.

You must be registered before beginning this study. To register or to obtain more information, please contact Kristie Altman at: (407) 647-5171 or Kristie@stmargaretmary.org. You will receive instructions for registering online. Thank you.



Adult Confirmation

Are you a practicing Catholic who's never been confirmed? If so, preparation classes begin in January. Bishop Noonan will be here February 8th to celebrate Confirmation. Please contact Sr. Rosemary for more information and to register at (407) 644-6812 or srosemary@stmargaretmary.org.



"Lord Teach Me To Pray"

"My prayer life was routine and now I feel new life in Christ."

"Hearing the reflections of other members touched my soul."

These are of some of the many comments heard from those who have participated in the prayer form that was offered this

Fall for 12 weeks. If you are interested in becoming a member and praying this way, a new group will begin in February. More information about registration will be coming.



Use of Incense

"Let my prayer arise before you like incense..."

Please be aware that incense will be used during the Advent Season. For those of you who have allergies or a sensitivity to incense, you may want to consider participating at the 8:00 Sunday Mass, when incense will NOT be used.

In coming weeks, incense will also be used at the following Christmas Masses:
9:00pm and 11:00pm Christmas Eve, 9:30am and 12:00pm Christmas Day.

Incense is never used at the 8:00am Mass.

Parish Vision Statement

Called into relationship by the Holy Spirit and
Centered in the Eucharist

St. Margaret Mary Parish is a welcoming community,

Sent by Christ to serve.