



Parish Update



A Weekly Newsletter of St. Margaret Mary Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2016

Children's tales are aplenty in which evil-doers are attempting to keep Santa from his annual trek around the globe. But whom is it that keeps the real meaning of Christmas from us? At Christmas we remember when God came to the world as a babe child, as his self-communication, as our Saviour. Will you notice him this Christmas season? In the people you visit? In the lonesome individual you visit? In the person you help out? In the songs you hear and sing?

Christ came into this world because he wants to be closer to you. Look in this week's email for opportunities to draw closer to Jesus and his community of believers.

NEW ITEMS:

- **Prayer: Our Deepest Longing**
- **Cancer Support Ministry**
- **Christmas Liturgical Schedule**
- **Living Nativity**
- **Faith Formation for Children & Children's Liturgy of the Word**
- **Adoption**
- **Farmworker Food Pantry**
- **Inquiry into the Catholic Faith**
- **Hearts for Hope Luncheon**

PREVIOUS ITEMS:

- **Haiti Christmas Livestock Program**
- **Nativity Display**
- **Women's Bible Study**
- **New Altar Server Training**
- **Retrouvaille**
- **SMM Catholic School Open House**
- **Adult Confirmation**
- **"Lord Teach Me to Pray"**
- **Use of Incense**
- **Vocations Essay Contest**

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

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

[Daily Readings - Click Here](#)

Monday, December 19

Cancer Support Group, 10:00 am

Novena, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20

Men's Bible Study, 7:00 am

Purls and Prayers, 10:00 am

Ignatian Prayer – Women, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 21

Playgroup, 10:00 am

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 22

Centering Prayer, 10:00 am

Living Nativity, 7:00 pm

Adoration, 7:30 pm

Friday, December 23

New Hope, 6:00 pm

Living Nativity, 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Masses, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 11:00 pm

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

Masses, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am

Monday, December 26

Novena, 7:00 pm

Quote of the Week

“Do you hear the knocking? Pull yourself together and open the door.”

- Hans Urs von Balthasar, Eucharistie - Gabe der Liebe (Eucharist: Gift of love)

Question of the Week

“What reservations do you have about letting Jesus into your home, your heart, this Christmas?”

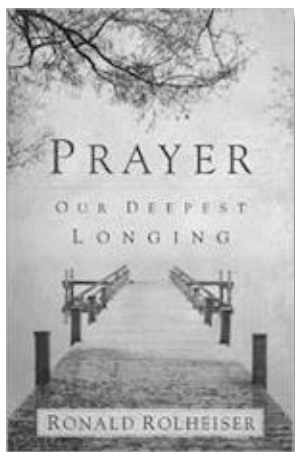
Jesus is a person who invites. He does not force. But he is persistent.

“Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

“On the evening of the first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst” (John 20:19).

At Christmas, or at any time of the year, there is more love than anyone can imagine standing right at the door - whether it is locked or not.

New Items:



Prayer: Our Deepest Longing

By Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I.

Chapter Two - Hearing God's Voice in Prayer

“Among all the voices that surround us and beckon us, we need to discern the unique cadence of God's voice.”

How do we know we are talking to God if we can't see him? How do we know God is really talking to us? Perhaps we are just hoping he is. Perhaps we don't hear anything at all. How do we know God hasn't become as disappointed with us as we are with ourselves? In chapter two Father Rolheiser recognizes the forms of anxiety that can make talking and listening to God difficult. He also shares a personal dream that helped him find an answer.



Cancer Support Ministry

Monday, December 19th from 10:00 to 11:30 am

This month we shall meet at Panera Bread across from the church. We welcome all cancer patients and survivors. Come join us in our faith, love, laughter and tears as we share our stories of healing and hope. For information call Deacon Bill at: (407) 647-3992 or email bill@stmargaretmary.org.



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.



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.

Faith Formation for Children Children's Liturgy of the Word

We shall not have Sunday Faith Formation classes, Family Faith, or Sunday Mornings with Jesus on December 25 or January 1. Classes resume on January 8.

We shall not offer Children's Liturgy of the Word on December 24, 25, 31 or January 1. Children's Liturgy will resume on the weekend of January 7-8.



Adoption

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on December 30th, let us pray for all kinds of families, especially families open to adoption and foster children. If you have experience as an adoptive or foster family, let us know. We are planning an information and faith sharing night in the spring. For information, contact Brandy at greyhndgal2@yahoo.com.



Farmworker Food Pantry

This week please shop for vegetable oil, tortillas, salsa, chopped canned tomatoes, dry pasta, and any of the buy-one-get-one specials. Please bring your donations to the parish hall when you come to Mass. Parishioners deliver the collected food to the Farmworker Association and the Hope Community Center in Apopka.



Inquiry into the Catholic Faith Begins Monday, January 9th at 7:00 pm

If you are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith, or know someone who is, the Inquiry phase of RCIA begins. Please contact Sr. Rosemary at: srrosemary@stmargaretmary.org or (407) 644-6812 for more information and to register.



Parish Census

In the coming months, St. Margaret Mary Church will begin a parish-wide census. Whether you attend Mass every Sunday or less frequently, you are a member of our family, and you do not stand alone. The Parish Census provides an opportunity to be counted and to help our community better know you and your family.

We are a diverse community made of many parts, and all these varied parts are important for building a welcoming community centered in the Eucharist. Please look for the Parish Census and be ready to be counted.



Hearts for Hope Luncheon Monday, February 13th at 11:30 am

Are you interested in knowing more about where our parish food and other donations go? Come and learn about the wide variety of excellent programs and services offered by the Hope Community Center in Apopka. For more information or if interested in attending contact Meghan Collins meghancollinscnm@gmail.com

Previous Items:



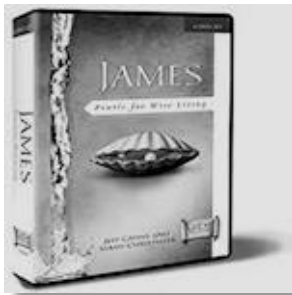
Haiti Christmas Livestock Program

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



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.



Women's Bible Study Begins January 12th from 9:30 to 11:30 am

How does the Word of God apply to my life today? Come and see with the study of James. You will learn about and discuss practical ways to live out God's message to us. The eleven-week study program is from Ascension Press with Jeff Cavins.

We meet in the Antioch/Damascus Rooms in the Family Life Center. You must be registered online and charge your book. For instructions please contact:

Kristie@stmargaretmary.org. If you have questions, please call (407) 647-5171.

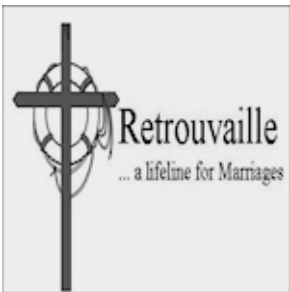


New Altar Server Training

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.

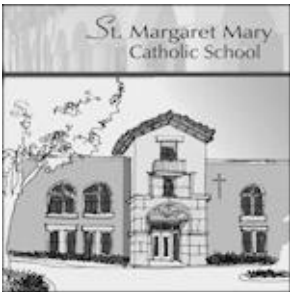
To register go to <http://stmargaretmary.org/altar-server-training-registration/>. For additional information contact Lisa Weis, Director of Liturgy at Lisa@stmargaretmary.org or (407) 647-0726.



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.



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 srrosemary@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 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.



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.

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.