



Parish Update



A Weekly Newsletter of St. Margaret Mary Parish

Christmas

December 26, 2016

Did you get presents on Christmas worth sharing? Hmm? Do I really want to share my latest electronic gadget, or my new clothes? Maybe not so much. Well, did you get a “presence” on Christmas worth sharing?

Christmas is a time we acknowledge the very presence of God who became flesh and dwelt among us. As Christians we recognize Christ’s continuing presence in our daily lives and especially in the Eucharist. Look in this week’s email for opportunities to share Christ’s presence with those around you, especially those in need.

NEW ITEMS:

- **Prayer: Our Deepest Longing**
- **Christmas Message from Fr. Walsh**
- **Christmas Thank You**
- **Food Pantry**
- **Family Promise**
- **Playgroup**
- **Baby Basics**
- **Nativity Display**
- **12 Days of Christmas**

PREVIOUS ITEMS:

- **Faith Formation for Children**
- **Women’s Bible Study**
- **Inquiry into the Catholic Faith**
- **New Altar Server Training**
- **Retrouvaille**
- **SMM Catholic School Open House**
- **Adoption**
- **Adult Confirmation**
- **Hearts for Hope Luncheon**
- **“Lord Teach Me to Pray”**
- **Vocations Essay Contest**
- **Parish Census**

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

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

[Daily Readings - Click Here](#)

Monday, December 26

Novena, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 27

Purls and Prayers, 10:00 am

Wednesday, December 28

Thursday, December 29

Centering Prayer, 10:00 am

Adoration, 7:30 pm

Friday, December 30

New Hope, 6:00 pm

Saturday, December 31

Vigil of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Mass, 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 1

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

New Year's Day

Monday, January 2

Novena, 7:00 pm

Quote of the Week

"I see the church as a field hospital after battle."

- Pope Francis, from an interview with Antonio Sparado, S.J.

Question of the Week

"As we celebrate the birth of Christ among us, how do I share his presence with others, especially those in need?"

Regardless of the number of our possessions, we are all in need. We all carry the wounds of battle.

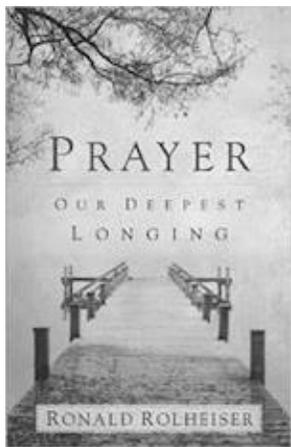
God did not create just one, totally self-sufficient human being. The world he envisioned contains many interdependent people.

We are part of a mutually dependent family because we have God as our Father.

Helping our brothers and sisters is not an act of heroism. It is what one family member does for another.

Recognizing our mutual dependence is an important way to celebrate Jesus' birth as our Brother - at Christmas and throughout the year.

New Items:



Prayer: Our Deepest Longing

By Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I.

Chapter Three - Understanding Priestly Prayer

"Part of our Christian faith. . . is the belief that our unity and community with each other in Christ is so real, so deep, so physical, and so mutually interdependent that we constitute not an aggregate or a corporation but an organism, a living body."

Through our Baptism we all share in a priesthood of people who have a mutual responsibility for each other. That responsibility underlies our prayer - whether the devotional prayer we say in private or the liturgical prayer we say as members of a universal church. In chapter three Father Rolheiser calls our prayers a "symphony of prayer." Each prayer and every person who pray make an important contribution to the world.



Christmas Message from Father Walsh

While driving past one of the local churches the other day I caught a fleeting glance of a billboard which read, "Wise men still adore him." We all know that the world in which we live today is full of distractions. It is so easy to get side-tracked and to live out of a false sense of priorities.

For the full text of Father Walsh's Christmas message [Click Here](#)



Christmas Thank You

"Behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord...And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:10-11, 13-14

Special thanks to all liturgical ministers for proclaiming good news and glad tidings, giving glory through your ministry to our God and to the parish community of St. Margaret Mary. Your proclamation is shown through the beautiful environment, liturgies and welcoming atmosphere and wouldn't be possible without the generous service of Greeters, Ushers, Music Ministers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Projection Ministers, Altar Servers, and the Art/Environment Team. May God bless you during this Christmas season and throughout the coming year.



Food Pantry

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



Family Promise

The annual Family Promise Holiday Party showered current and past Family Promise guests with gifts, dinner, cookie decorating and even a special visit from Santa Claus.

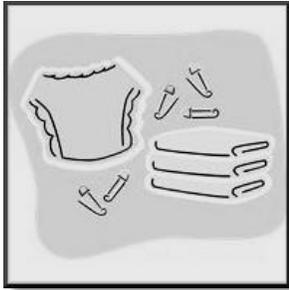
St. Margaret Mary Parish will host families the week of February 5th through 12th. Please be thinking of how you can help.



Playgroup

Thursday, January 4th from 10:00 to 11:30

For more information contact Claudia at cvZeliadt@gmail.com. The meeting is in the nursery. This is not a drop off program but a great way for moms, dads or caretakers with babies or toddlers to meet other parishioners and play in a safe environment.



Baby Basics

Saturday, January 7th from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

On the first and third Saturdays of the month we can use your help to unpack shipping cases, count diapers, assist families to their cars, and move diapers to storage. It is the perfect ministry for families. To volunteer, please contact Peggy Canary at macanary@aol.com.



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.

Epiphany Bake Sale

There will be a bake sale during the display of nativity scenes in the parish hall on January 7 and 8. Please consider helping us raise funds for our brothers and sisters in Haiti by contributing to the bake sale. Baked goods of all kinds are appreciated. Best sellers are sweet breads, coffee cakes, cookies, brownies, bar cookies, and fudge. Also, a few cupcakes, whole cakes and pies are always nice.

Wrapped, labeled, and ready to sell is very helpful. Small things like cookies should be grouped into \$1-\$2 packages. We can also wrap the items for sale, if you prefer. Please label unusual ingredients, especially if they have nuts. Drop off is from 2-5 on Saturday, January 7 at the Parish Hall. If you need to make other drop-off arrangements,, please contact Sandra Dooley at 407-902-3255 or sidooley@live.com



12 Days of Christmas

The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. The "True Love" in the song is not not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ.

The partridge in the pear tree represents Jesus Christ because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

The three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark Luke and John.

The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament which describe humanity's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

The seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Knowledge, Piety, Fortitude, Reverence and Awe of the Lord.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

The nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience (Forbearance), Goodness (Kindness), Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, and Continency (Chastity).

The ten lords a-leading were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

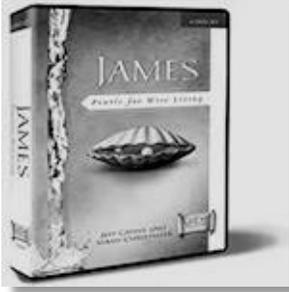
Original Source: Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP, Nebraska. Printed with permission from Catholic Tradition.

Previous Items:

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 January 1. Classes resume on January 8.

We shall not offer Children's Liturgy of the Word on January 1. Children's Liturgy will resume on the weekend of January 7-8.



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.



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.

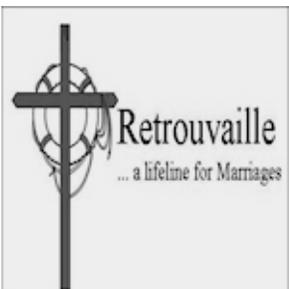


New Altar Server Training

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.

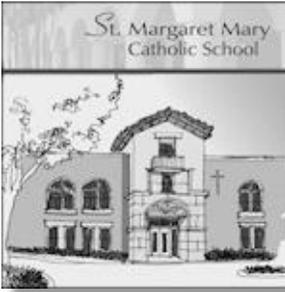
To register go to <http://stmargaretmary.org/altar-server-training-registration/>. For additional information contact Lisa Weis, Director of Liturgy at Lisa@stmargaretmary.org or (407) 647-0726.



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

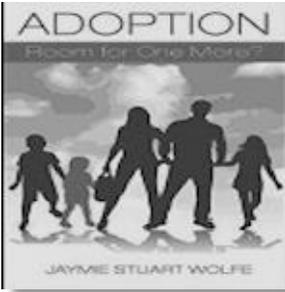
Open House/Information Sessions:

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.



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.



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.



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 meghancollinscm@gmail.com



“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.



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 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.

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.