



Parish Update



A Weekly Newsletter of St. Margaret Mary Parish

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

January 2, 2017

A man and woman become one in marriage. We all become one body as the Body of Christ. Does that mean we all become uniform beings? Of course not. Inanimate objects maintain strength through uniformity, but the very strength of living things as God has designed is to gain strength through our diversity.

St. Paul in letters to the Romans and to the Corinthians affirms that we all are different as created by God, yet we all serve a purpose in the unity of our being together. Our parish's diversity is as varied as the Nativity displays you can see on display this coming weekend. Yet we come together to share and to serve.

Look in this week's email for opportunities to apply your unique gifts and perspectives to the building up of the Body of Christ unified with the community of St. Margaret Mary Parish.

NEW ITEMS:

- **Prayer: Our Deepest Longing**
- **New Altar Server Training**
- **Vocations Essay Contest**
- **First Wednesday with the Homeless**
- **First Friday Adoration**
- **Just Girls**
- **Beloved**
- **New Divorce Support Group**
- **Farmworkers Pantry**
- **M.O.M.S. Database**
- **Vacation Bible Camp**
- **New Year's Resolution**
- **First Holy Communion Preparation**
- **Parish Mission**
- **Mass for the Consecrated**
- **Young Adult Retreat**
- **Pray With All Your Heart**

PREVIOUS ITEMS:

- **Playgroup**
- **Baby Basics**
- **Faith Formation for Children**
- **Nativity Display**
- **Women's Bible Study**
- **Inquiry into the Catholic Faith**

- Retrouvaille
- SMM Catholic School Open House
- Adult Confirmation
- Hearts for Hope Luncheon
- “Lord Teach Me to Pray”
- Parish Census

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

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

[Daily Readings - Click Here](#)

Monday, January 2

Novena, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 3

Purls and Prayers, 10:00 am

Wednesday, January 4

Cooking for the Homeless, 8:30 am

Make Sandwiches for the Homeless, 2:30 pm

Serve Meals to the Homeless, 5:30 pm

Thursday, January 5

Centering Prayer, 10:00 am

Adoration, 7:30 pm

Friday, January 6

New Hope, 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 7

Nativity Display &

Bake Sale, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Mass, 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 8

Epiphany of the Lord

Faith Formation Classes, 9:45 am

Nativity Display &

Bake Sale, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

& 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Monday, January 9

Novena, 7:00 pm

Quote of the Week

“As a finite being, man becomes aware of himself as a person only so far as he finds himself standing in relation to others.”

- R. G. Collingwood , The Principles of Art

Question of the Week

“In what ways is God challenging me to become more a part of a holy family?”

In his *A Meditation of Givenness* Pope St. John Paul II looks into Adam’s thoughts when he first beheld Eve, and hears him saying, “God gave you to me.”

John Paul goes on to say, “God does indeed give people to us; he gives us brothers and sisters in our humanity, beginning with our parents. Then as we grow up, he places more and more people in our life’s path. Each person, in some way, is a gift for us.”

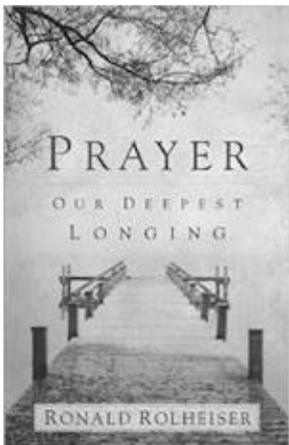
Adam and Eve and each of us who come after them are different from anything else God made in the garden. Yet, we share some things in common.

We were all made in his image.

We were all made to be holy.

We were all made to be a family.

New Items:



Prayer: Our Deepest Longing

By Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I.

Chapter Four - Practicing Affective Prayer

“Private and devotional prayer can be defined in this way: it is prayer that tries, in myriad ways, to open us up in such a way that we can hear God say to us, ‘I love you!’”

Chapter four of Father Rolheiser’s book declares that God passionately wants us to have hope. Hope that we have a real friend in God, not just a pious concept. Hope and faith that God is a real person who really cares.

Prayer takes us beyond the simple idea of a distant God who is somewhere “out there.” Prayer goes farther by helping us experience a real relationship with God, a relationship that intimately engages our whole being. In prayer we can experience God as someone who is as close as the air. We can experience God as someone with whom we share true love.



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.



Vocations Essay Contest

“Imagine You”

Essay Topic: Imagine you are a priest or sister. Look inside yourself. What qualities do you have for your vocation? How will you use them in your work as a priest or sister?

Open to St. Margaret Mary Parish youth in four grade categories: 5-6, 7-8, 9-12 and College Three cash prizes awarded in each category: 1st, \$100; 2nd, \$50; and 3rd, \$25. Deadline: March 1

Essays must be written by one individual and be 200-225 words typed. Essays will be judged by the vocations committee based on clear, original, specific and thoughtful answers.

Entries must have Name, Address, Parent’s Email Address, Phone Number and School Grade on the back of the essay or on the second page if emailed. Paper copies may be mailed or dropped off at the Family Life Center, 526 North Park Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789. Email entries to Kristie@stmargaretmary.org.

Winners will be notified by phone calls. First place winners will be asked to read their essays at a weekend Mass in the spring. Questions? Please call Kristie Altman at 407-647-5171.



First Wednesday Ministry with the Homeless

Wednesday, January 4

Cooking beginning at 8:30 am
Sandwich making at 2:30 pm
Delivery & serve dinner at 5:30 pm

This week more than ever cooks, sandwich makers, drivers and servers are needed to provide dinner for people staying at the Coalition for the Homeless. Come this Wednesday to lend a hand, to give hope and sustenance to the Lazarus at our gate. Contact Ted Steilen, tsteilen@earthlink.net, 407-234-0215; or, Colleen Nuñez at colleen@stmargaretmary.org, 407-647-3392.



First Friday Adoration

Friday after 8:00 am Mass through Saturday Noon

This Friday, January 6 is First Friday, a time for Adoration. Come spend some precious alone time with our Lord or bring your children, friend, or spouse and spend a few minutes in quiet prayer.



Just Girls

Sunday, January 8, 7-9pm

Teen Leadership Meeting in the Youth Room. All teens on the leadership team need to RSVP by Friday, January 6.



Beloved: "Love Revealed"

Friday, January 13, 7-9pm, Sacred Heart Hall.

All couples engaged and married are invited to this new session from the Augustine Institute. In this video segment, we're going to look at how your wedding vows connect you to Christ and give a divine purpose to your marriage.

Happy Hour at 7pm followed by program at 7:30.

\$5 per couple.

Babysitting available for children ages 10 and under with reservation by Wednesday, January 11.

RSVP online at www.stmargaretmary.org/beloved



New Divorce Support Group

with Fr. Jarek starting Tuesday nights, January 31.

Stop by the parish hall after all masses on January 15, to hear about REBUILDNG:

The most widely-used approach to divorce recovery, the "rebuilding" model makes the process healthier and less traumatic for those who are divorcing or divorced--and their children. Check the parish website for more info and registration forms.

[Click here for the session outline.](#) [Click here for the registration form.](#)

Call the Family Life with any other questions at 407-645-0284.



Farmworkers Pantry

This week please shop vegetable oil, tortillas, salsa, chopped canned tomatoes, and dry pasta (spaghetti, shells, elbows, etc.), as well as any of the buy one-get one specials at your local store. 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. Gracias!



M.O.M.S. Database

Attention all participants of M.O.M.S.!!! Whether you participated in the very first M.O.M.S. group over twenty years ago or completed the program this past fall, we want to touch base and include you in the M.O.M.S. database! Kindly send your current contact information to JoAnn at Joannpita@gmail.com



Vacation Bible Camp

Save the Date for Maker Fun Factory, offered June 19-23, 9 am to noon. All aides 15 years and older must be fingerprinted. Please go to the church website for fingerprinting instructions. Click on Ministries, Fingerprinting and Safe Environment Training. Questions? Please contact Kristie Altman, 407-647-5171, or Kristie@stmargaretmary.org



A Faith-Filled New Year's Resolution

Make Mass attendance a top priority

Sign up (and bring) your children for religious education and youth ministry activities

Complete your Sacraments if you have never done so (Confirmation)

Call about having your civil marriage blessed in the Church (convalidation)
Call Sr. Virginia West at 407-647-3392.

Learn more about your Catholic faith by:

Attending the Parish Mission January 23, 24 & 25

Registering for Life in the Eucharist Seminar: March 31-April 1

Attending the Men's or Women's Bible studies

Perhaps you've heard others talk about their Ignatian Prayer small group experience, also called "Lord, Teach Me To Pray". Another 12 session of this prayer will begin the week of Feb. 5. Now is the time to register by emailing: phayesltmtp@gmail.com

Invite your friends and family who are away from the Church back during this Year.



First Holy Communion Preparation

for Registered Children

Tuesday, January 17, 6:45 -8 pm, Church

Children and at least one parent will meet in the church for prayer. Following the prayer service, adults will go to the Parish Hall for a presentation by Lynda Monckton, Director of Family Ministry for the Diocese of Orlando. Children will meet with their classes after the prayer service and be collected by parents when the presentation to parents is complete. If you need babysitting for siblings 10 years and under, you must contact Kristie Altman at 407-647-5171 or

Kristie@stmargaretmary.org

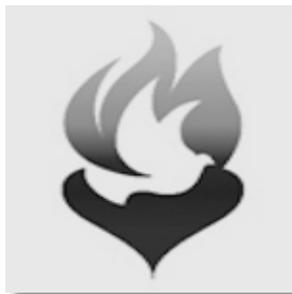


St. Margaret Mary Parish Mission

January 23rd, 24th and 25th

This year our parish mission will be conducted by Father Anthony Aarons, T.O.R. Father Aarons is the pastor of St. Patrick's in Mount Dora and is well known for conducting retreats and providing spiritual direction for lay people and clergy. He was appointed by Bishop Noonan to be the "Missionary of Mercy" for our Diocese during the Year of Mercy.

Fr. Aarons' presentations will occur after the 8:00 am Mass and at 7:00 pm each day. For Fr. Aaron's biography: [Click Here](#)



Mass to Honor our Sisters and Those in Consecrated Life

January 28, at 11 am at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. All are welcome. A sister may have first taught you your catechism of the faith or unlocked the mysteries of algebra and geometry for you. Maybe you've gotten a little closer to Our Lord as a result of a discussion with Sister. These dedicated women serve in parishes, in schools, in hospitals, in the missions, in the workplace—and we all benefit personally from their service.

A reception follows the Mass. All parishioners are invited. Please RSVP to Robert Diaz, rdiaz@orlandodiocese.org Please join the prayer and celebration for these special people who give so much to us.

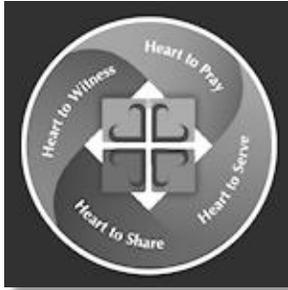


Young Adult Retreat

Saturday, February 4th from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm

“Perfect in Weakness”
Held at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, Boynton Beach.

To register: [Click Here](#)
For an informational flyer: [Click Here](#)



Bible Verses to Ponder As We Begin A New Year

God's Plans for our future are good
For I know the plans that I have for you,' says the LORD, 'plans for your welfare, and not for calamity, to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11, (NHEB)

God's compassion is new every morning
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." Lamentations 3:22-24 (NIV)

Seek God for the future:-

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6, (NLT)

Let go of what has gone before and press on to what is ahead

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14, (NIV)

Do not be afraid about the future-instead, give everything over to God in prayer:

Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart Philippians 4:6, (GNT)

Read more: http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/new_year_prayer.html#ixzz4SkdOeiCJ

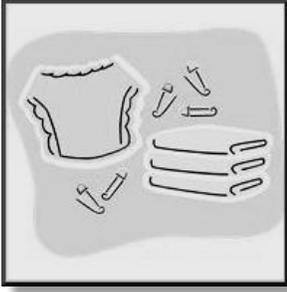
Previous Items:



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.



Faith Formation for Children Children's Liturgy of the Word

Faith Formation classes resume on January 8.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will resume on the weekend of January 7-8.



Nativity Display

January 7th and 8th

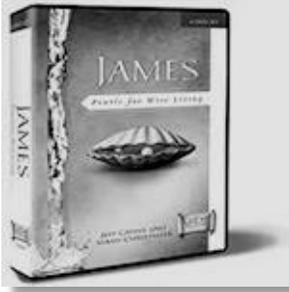
Next weekend, as part of our celebration of the feast of the Epiphany, there will be a display in the parish hall of Christmas Creches from Around the World. The beautiful variety of nativity scenes will be accompanied by music and a bake sale to benefit our sister parish in Haiti.

Times for the display and bake sale are:

Saturday, January 7	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Sunday, January 8	9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sunday, January 8	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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 sdooley@live.com



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.

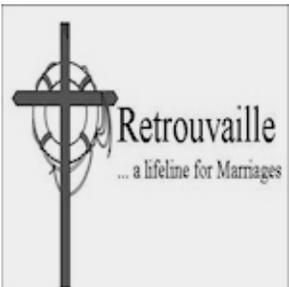
You must be registered before beginning this study. To register or to obtain more information, please contact Kristie Altman at: (407) 647-5171 or Kristie@stmargaretmary.org. You will receive instructions for registering online. Thank you.



Inquiry into the Catholic Faith

Begins Monday, January 9th at 7:00 pm

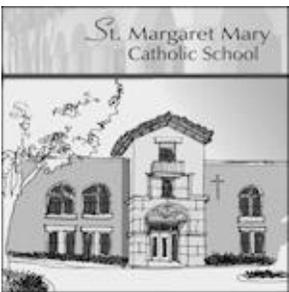
If you are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith, or know someone who is, the Inquiry phase of RCIA begins. Please contact Sr. Rosemary at: srrosemary@stmargaretmary.org or (407) 644-6812 for more information and to register.



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

When planning for the next school year, please note that the revised date for the annual St. Margaret Mary Catholic School Open House is Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All are invited to attend to learn more about the school's mission, Catholic Identity, and educational program for students in grades PreK4-8th grade. Student-led tours will be provided. Additionally, a Pre-K information meeting will be held the evening of January 31st at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Babysitting is available for both events; to RSVP, please call the school office at 407-644-7537. We look forward to sharing information about St. Margaret Mary Catholic School—our parish school.



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.



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



“Lord Teach Me To Pray”

Is Your New Year's Resolution to Deepen Your Prayer Life?

Perhaps you've heard others talk about their Ignatian Prayer small group experience, also called “Lord, Teach Me To Pray”. Another 12 sessions of this prayer will begin the week

of Feb. 5. Now is the time to register by emailing: phayestmtp@gmail.com .



Parish Census

In this Sunday's Second Reading, Paul affirms that we have all been made adopted sons and daughters of God. As proof of our adoption Paul tells us that we have received "the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"

On January 15, we will begin a Parish Census, through which you are invited to accept your adoption into this family and to

be incorporated into the body of Christ through the community of St. Margaret Mary Parish. Our Parish is established to serve all people who wish to belong to the community. All of our diverse members are important toward the building a welcoming community centered in the Eucharist. The Parish Census gives you the opportunity to claim your adoption into our local family and to be counted in the One Body – where you do not stand alone.

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.