



SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

TWENTY THRID SUNDANY IN ORDINARY TIME



“BE OPENED!”
- MK 7:34

23RD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 4:30 p.m. & Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Monday thru Friday at 6:30 a.m.

Holy Days and holidays as published in Sunday Bulletin

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR: Rev. John Rogers Vien
314-776-0363 ext. 1006
frjrvien@stmargaretstl.org

RECTORY: 3854 Flad Avenue,
Saint Louis, MO 63110
Office: 314-776-0363
Summer Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
8am - 3pm

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:
Ruth Pera: ffc@stmargaretstl.org

Staff Directory Available At:
www.stmargaretstl.org/Staff

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:
For emergency assistance call: 314-772-2219

PARISH/SCHOOL WEBSITE:
www.stmargaretstl.org

PARISH EMAIL: parishoffice@stmargaretstl.org

FACEBOOK PAGE:
www.facebook.com/SMOSstl

BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE:
Monday, 2:00 p.m.
E-mail submissions to:
communications@stmargaretstl.org



SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

There is a promise of marriage between:

Anna Knaup and Matthew Quinn

III



TOGETHER IN BAPTISM

We welcome to the church the newly baptized **Katerina Grace Dayton** daughter of Sarah and Charles Dayton. Please join us in congratulating these parents upon the baptism of their child. We pledge to them our continued prayerful support throughout the journey of Christian parenting.

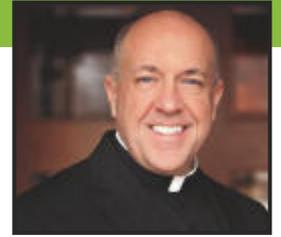
Did you know prayer request are available through our parish website?

If you have a prayer intention for yourself, family member or someone you know and would like for the parish to keep you in their prayers. Go to St. Margaret of Scotland parish website www.stmargaretstl.org under **Pray** you may enter your request. If you are unable to do this please contact the Parish Office at 314-776-0363 and we will be happy to assist you with your request.



A NEW WEEK

For many folks, Labor Day means two things: a day off work and the end of summer. But we cannot fail to remember that Labor Day is a day set aside to honor all working men and women. Back in the 1880's a man by the name of Peter McGuire, who helped found the carpenters' union, suggested at a union meeting that a day be set aside to recognize the contributions of laborers and to acknowledge the role that unions had played in helping workers achieve better pay and better working conditions. During the Industrial Revolution of the 1800's, the United States of America, and many other world economies, moved from being based on the farm to based on the factory. But it took a while for humane working conditions to catch up with the economy. At that time, workers often labored 16 hours a day in unsafe conditions for wages that were so low that many children had to work to help their families survive. Peter McGuire envisioned a day when workers could call attention to their grievances, and the first Labor Day was celebrated in New York City in 1882.



BY FR. JOHN VIEN

This Labor Day weekend gives us all the opportunity once again to reflect on the dignity of labor; that's certainly part of the Catholic Tradition, too. Over 100 years ago, Pope Leo XIII became the first pope to address the dignity of human work and human workers in his famous encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (which is Latin for "Of New Things"). You see, at that time, in the 19th century, it was a new thing to pay a just wage for a fair day's work. It was a new thinking that all people deserve safe working environments. It was a new thinking that the economy must serve people, and not the other way around. And it was a new thinking that work was more than just a way to make a living; it is a form in our continuing participation in God's creation that can lead us to salvation.

That is why, to this day, our Catholic Church always stands up in support of workers, unions, the unemployed, and all who seek to enhance human dignity. So, this weekend, we Catholics join all Americans in remembering and celebrating the contributions that workers have made to our nation and to our Church. During this Year of St. Joseph, we especially call on St. Joseph the Worker to intercede for all who labor. On Labor Day, Monday, September 6, there will be one Mass at 9:00am. The Parish Offices and School will be closed. Enjoy the day with your family and friends!



Some of you have already met Axel, who came to live with me at St. Margaret last month, and I'd like to introduce him to all of you! Axel is a 10-month old Staffador (Staffordshire bull terrier & Labrador Retriever mix) that I adopted last month from Stray Rescue of St. Louis. I've not had a dog as an adult, so I'm grateful that the St. Margaret Rectory staff is most accommodating to allow me to have a pet. Axel is a very good boy! He's well-trained and well-behaved. He is full of energy and makes me laugh all the time! But he is still a puppy, of course, so he gets into some mischief every now and then. Our school children and folks who have come to the Rectory have already met Axel

and you may see us out and about in the neighborhood, so please say hi! We are already looking forward to the Blessing of Pets on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi!



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 6

9:00 a.m. Alitz Tucholko +

Tuesday, September 7

6:30 a.m. Ray & Marie Austermann +

8:15 a.m. The Casey Family +

Wednesday, September 8

6:30 a.m. Jack Stirnemann +

Thursday, September 9

6:30 a.m. Curran-Stirnemann Family

Friday, September 10

6:30 a.m. Celia Schoeberle +

8:15 a.m. Mary Casey Wille +

Saturday, September 11

4:30 p.m. George Thornburgh +

Sunday, September 12

8:00 a.m. Buttice Family

10:00 a.m. People of the Parish

To mark a special occasion or to remember a beloved family member or friend, living or deceased, with a Mass intention please call the Parish Office at 314-776-0363. The bishops of Missouri ask the faithful to make a \$10 offering for each Mass if they are able.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Wednesday, September 8

Centering Prayer, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - St. Vincent de Paul Chapel

Thursday, September 9

Eucharistic Adoration, 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Church

Sunday, September 12

Pray the Rosary, 7:30 a.m. - Church

RESPECT LIFE INFORMATION



"The Church has consistently taught that every human life is precious and worthy of protection."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life

Activities "Another Look at Abortion"

<https://www.respectlife.org/another-look-at-abortion>

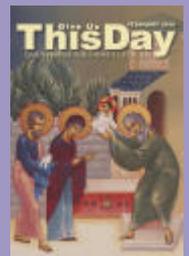
NEWS FROM ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND SCHOOL

Full Time Spanish Teacher Position (K-8 grades)

St. Margaret of Scotland is in need of a full time Spanish teacher position. Ideal candidates will have a knowledge base in Spanish and a clear understanding of student expectations at each grade level. Position requires collaboration with a teacher partner in a professional learning environment. Protecting God's Children required. Please email cover letter and resume to Christine cburke@stmargaretstl.org

Give Us This Day A retreat in daily life

It's time to **renew** your yearly subscription or sign up as a new subscriber to *Give Us This Day*, a book published monthly with scripture and prayers for each day along with reflections, articles and artwork.



For more information about this simple tool to help you deepen your spirituality, or to subscribe for just \$35.96 a year, visit **WeShare** or contact the Ruth Pera at 314-776-7837.

Deadline for your 2021-2022 subscription Friday, September 10, 2021

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?"

JAMES 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

GROWING IN FAITH

Have you ever heard of praying in the Scriptures with *Lectio Divina*? If so, feel free to skip down a paragraph. If not, I wanted to take a minute to give a brief peek into how many Catholics pray with Scripture:

Lectio Divina is an ancient practice of listening to God through the Scriptures. Translating as “divine reading,” it’s a practice of reading the Scriptures - not for historical content or dogmatic teaching - but with the intention of hearing God’s message for us, a unique individual, on this exact day. The steps of *lectio divina* can help guide us in quieting our mind so that we can better listen with our heart. At the same time, we always remember that God speaks to us in His own way and His own time, so never be afraid to scrap the steps and listen in your own way!

What stands out to me today?

“My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ... [for if you do]...have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs?”

“[Jesus] said to him, “Ephphatha!” - that is, “Be opened!”

Our human brains are designed to differentiate, analyze, and classify. It is a part of our human evolution that helps keep us safe. It’s a gift. One that we have all been using in total overdrive the past 18 months - because we have to assess every situation - school, Mass, birthday parties, sports - in new ways for its risks and safety.

Like most gifts, this comes with the task of tending to that ability, making sure we use it in proper ways. Classifying people’s hearts based on singular actions, statements, or appearances is not why God gave us this gift. Today, I hear Christ telling my mind, “Ephphatha! - Be opened!”

One last anecdote: I am a horrible gardener. Just absolutely the worst. Below is a picture of my garden - a space I work on and plant and try new things with every spring...and by mid-summer the urban wild has taken over and it’s this whole mess, leaving me at a loss for what to try next. But yesterday morning one of our kids taking out the trash dropped the trash on the outside steps and ran back inside calling us to come quick to see something awesome. I see...this mess. They see, “Look! There’s blue flowers everywhere! They’re even blooming on the roses! They’re so beautiful!”

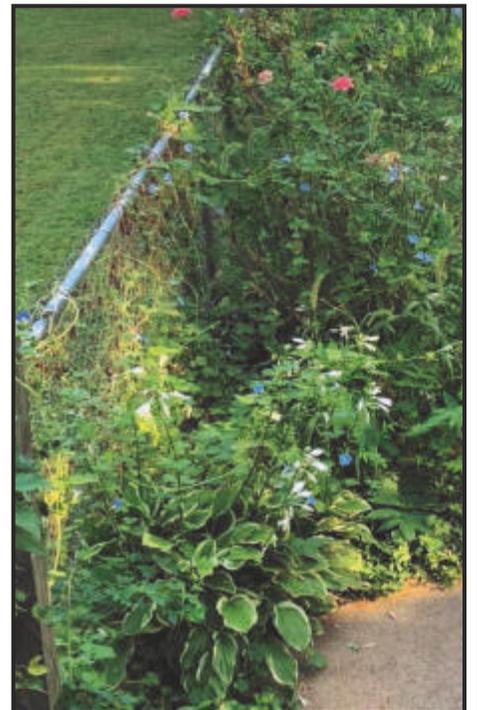
The faith of a child. Be opened, my mind.

Steps of *Lectio Divina* on next page or go to

<https://www.conceptionabbey.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/lectio-divina-card.pdf>. to obtain a card with the steps of this teaching.



BY RUTH PERA
COORDINATOR OF
FAITH FORMATION



The Steps of Lectio Divina

- Choose a text of the Scriptures that you wish to pray.
- Place yourself in a quiet environment. Calm your anxieties and thoughts, and acknowledge God's presence.
- Offer a prayer to the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance: *Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten my heart and mind to listen to your Word.*

1. **Lectio:** Read the text slowly and prayerfully, constantly listening for that word that God has prepared for you. You may want to re-read the same text multiple times to help quiet yourself interiorly and focus on God's voice. Listen and receive the Word that God speaks to you.

2. **Meditatio:** When a word or phrase strikes you, stop and rest with it. Repeat the word or phrase to yourself. Allow it to speak to you in a personal way by pondering the word in your heart, reflecting on what it means to you. Memorize it and repeat it to yourself, allowing it to interact with your thoughts, hopes, memories, and desires.

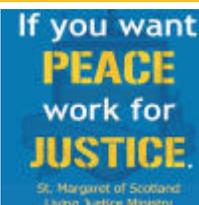
3. **Oratio:** Prayer is your response to God's word. It begins your dialogue with God that comes from your heart. Formulate a prayer, as a response to God. *What do you want to say to the Lord in response to the Word spoken to you?* Enter into this loving conversation with God.

4. **Contemplatio:** Rest in God's presence and receive His transforming embrace. Sit still with God, realizing that in this deep and profound relationship, words are not necessary. Be content and at peace with a wordless, quiet rest in God, which brings joy to the heart. Remember that contemplation is not *your* action or doing, rather it is allowing God to act in you.

LIVING JUSTICE NEWS

Free Virtual Event

Living the Gospel by Welcoming the Stranger on Monday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m.



Join the St. Margaret of Scotland Living Justice Immigration Team for a virtual presentation on the crises in Afghanistan and at our southern border. Q&A/handouts to follow.

Speakers

- Anita Barker, International Institute of STL
- Jessica Mayo, MICA Project
- Teresita Costadoat, St. Francis Community
- Gerry Rauch, Catholic Charities volunteer Services

Register at <https://www.evenbrite.com/e/168309529333> and receive a Zoom link shortly before the event.

For more information contact Pat Dougherty at patdougherty48@gmail.com

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Are you planning your weekly menus? Chances are some of your pantry supplies like brownie/cake mixes and fruit snacks have the Box Tops for education coupon on their packaging. Don't forget to check your Hefty, Ziplock and Kleenex brand items as well. Each coupon you clip and submit to our school is worth 10 cents for our educational programs. Just gather them up and put them in the Sunday collection at Mass or drop them off at the Rectory. To learn more about Box Tops or for more information go to www.BoxTops4Education.com



PTA NEWS



Dragon's Blend Coffee-SMOS's favorite morning roast is back in stock! Support the PTA's Teacher Grants fund with your purchase of locally roasted coffee! \$12

per bag in your choice of Whole Bean or Ground. Fans of Keurig and pod brewers will love our reusable, BPA-free stainless mesh filters, \$5 each. Place your order on WeShare <https://stmargaretstl.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/PTACoffee> or contact Julie Mudd at 314-960-1864 or juliemudd2001@yahoo.com

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WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing. (Is 35:5-6)



PSALM

Praise the Lord, my soul (Ps 146)
Or Alleluia.



SECOND READING

Did not God choose those who are poor in the world
to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom
that he promised to those who love him? (Jas 2:5)



GOSPEL

"He has done all things well.
He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."
(Mk 7:37)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm
Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,
1997, International Commission on English in the
Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

From the time we are born into this world until we die, our human radar picks up signals about how to respond to life. What we picked up on when we were very young carries an even greater power. The messages we receive and process tell us what we are "supposed" to do with our feelings, how to understand and cope with disappointment, anxiety, failure, death, illness, and what to expect out of life. As life unfolds for us, these radar messages kick in and resonate in us at very deep levels. Sometimes what we have learned is helpful and sometimes it is not. The stories we have been told, especially when we are young, about how life is best lived and how to negotiate its pain carry a heavy weight.

Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. It also can be quite unpredictable and, at times, unfair. We face our vulnerability and brokenness of all kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. It doesn't take much for life to quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar and true is gone and something we relied upon, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, can be taken away. It is hard to confront our limitations and sit with our incompleteness. Often, life hurts us so much that we find ourselves sitting in a pool of sadness, not sure what we are supposed to do. It is particularly hard when the signals we have inherited tell us that we need to be successful in what we do, and we have to avoid life's unfairness. We can feel like a failure, wondering what precisely we did to deserve this fate, or ruminate about what we did not do correctly. But it's really not about us. We are part of a bigger picture and a much more fascinating story!

If we cease doing battle with life's incompleteness and see ourselves, as God does, on a journey toward wholeness and completeness we can better accept our disappointments and stand firm. The prophets told us, and Jesus reassured us: Be strong! Fear not! Sometimes we have to update our stories and replace them with newer, more accurate ones. When we make God's story our own and tune our radar into His voice, what we hear is all about restoration, healing, and rejuvenation! This is true even when we think we have hit rock bottom and can go no further. There is always hope. Remember the words of Julian of Norwich: God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us. Now, listen to God when He says, "be opened!" Be healed and allow your stories to change.

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