

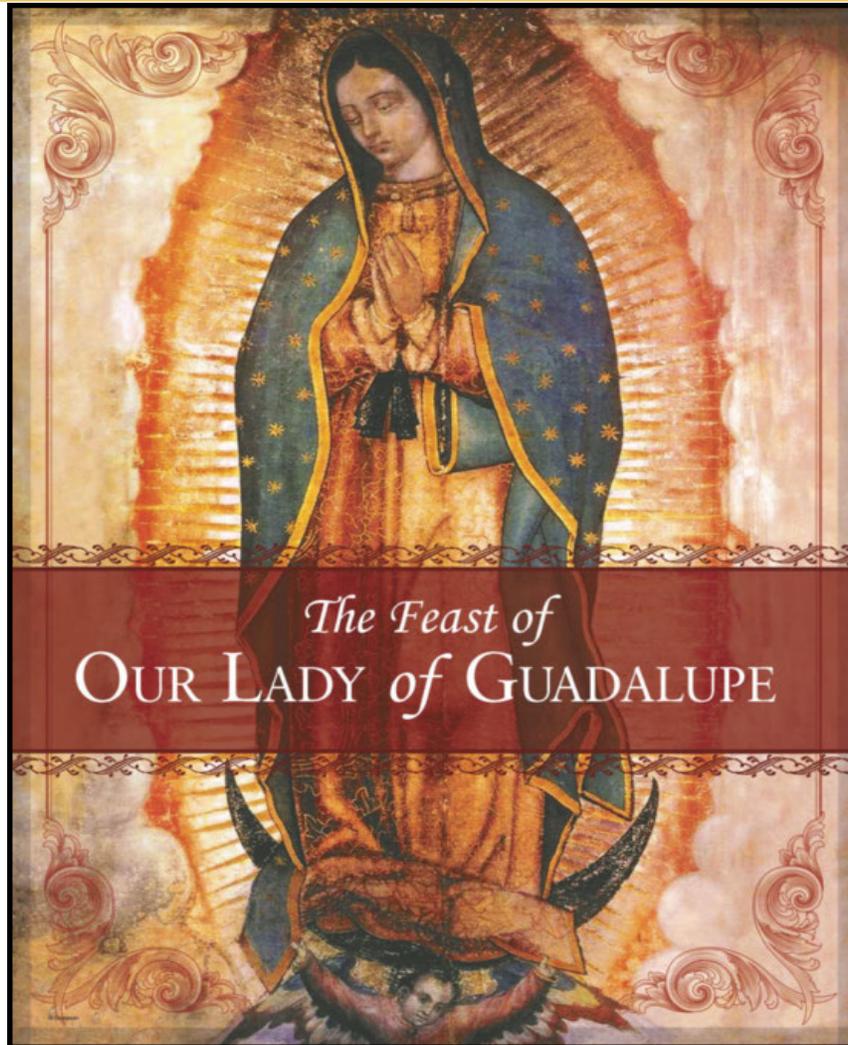


SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

DECEMBER 12, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

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314-776-0363 ext. 1006
frjrvien@stmargaretstl.org

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www.stmargaretstl.org/Staff

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

For emergency assistance call: 314-772-2219

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Saint Louis, MO 63110
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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

MONTHLY GIVING REPORT

November 2021

Total General Fund Contributions:	\$51,629.00
General Fund Budget Goal:	\$49,141.00
Amount Over/(Under) Budget:	\$2,488.00
Number of Sundays:	4

FY22 YTD (July '21 - November '21)

Total General Fund Contributions:	\$244,767.00
General Fund Budget Goal:	\$270,283.00
Amount Over (Under) Budget:	\$(25,517.00)

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.



END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

At the close of the year many parishioners like to make special donations to the church as part of their tax strategy. Your "little something extra" at Christmas can help us keep pace with our parish budget that is trying to meet St. Margaret's expanding needs. When making your additional holiday contributions, note carefully that all checks dated up to "December 31" will be counted toward your 2021 contribution statement; whereas those marked "January 1" and thereafter will go toward your 2022 statement. Consider the WeShare electronic giving option found on our parish web site. It's the most convenient way to make your donations, and you can set up a regular giving plan. Thanks for your generosity!

Pop Quiz: During which month of the year do Catholics traditionally honor the Blessed Virgin Mary?

Most of us would probably answer May, and that is certainly correct, for May has been a traditional month to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary since the Middle Ages. (I remember Sr. Lorraine telling us in 4th Grade that if you take the “r” out of “Mary”, then you get “May.”) The confluence of the joy of the Easter Season and the beauty of Spring, the prevalence of flowers and budding plants, and the modern celebration of Mother’s Day make May a fitting month to honor Mary.



BY FR. JOHN VIEN

But some may also have thought of October, and that would also be correct. October is the month of the Rosary, and the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 11, so during that month Catholics are especially encouraged to reflect on the lives of Jesus and Mary as we pray the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.

So, yes, May and October are both months when Catholics traditionally honor the Blessed Mother, but I’d like to propose another: December. Sure, at this time of year our thoughts are turned toward Christmastime, and we’re busy preparing, decorating, shopping, baking, traveling, and the like. We’re thinking about the baby Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. We are praying “Come, Lord Jesus!” Still, I’d like to propose that December – maybe even more than May or October! – is the premiere month to honor our Blessed Mother Mary.

First of all, December is the month of arguably the most important feast day of our Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Conception. On December 8, this past Wednesday, we celebrated our Lady, who was kept free from sin from the moment of her conception in her mother’s womb to be a perfect dwelling place for her Son Jesus, who was also her Lord and God. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States of America, and her feast day is always a holy day of obligation in our nation.

December also brings us another great Marian Feast, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, traditionally celebrated today, on December 12. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas, and her feast is one of great rejoicing in this hemisphere, especially for our Hispanic and Latino brothers and sisters. Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego at Guadalupe in Mexico in 1531 to encourage the native people who were suffering. Her feast reminds us that our God – and our Lady – are always on the side of the poor, the downtrodden, the oppressed, and the suffering.

Besides these great feasts of Mary, the Scripture readings in late Advent often speak of the Blessed Mother, as we hear once again the stories of the Annunciation, the Visitation to Elizabeth, and the birth of Mary’s Son in the stable at Bethlehem. More than anyone, Mary is the personification of Advent itself. Her patient waiting, her anticipation, and her fidelity are qualities that we try to emulate as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Finally, almost every one of us will put up a Nativity scene in our home this month, and the figure of Mary will be front and center. After the Christ child, she is the most important figure in the Christmas story! Because of her “YES” to God’s will and her fidelity to God’s promise, she was the first to rejoice at the birth of the Savior, and she is the first redeemed by his coming. In your prayer this December, I encourage you to draw near to the Blessed Mother, and to pray that we may be more like her and more like her Son, whose coming we anticipate and celebrate during these holy days.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 13

6:30 a.m. Rosalie Buckley +

Tuesday, December 14

6:30 a.m. Celia Schoeberle +

8:15 a.m. John "Jack" Stirnemann +

Wednesday, December 15

6:30 a.m. Eugene Buckley +

Thursday, December 16

6:30 a.m. Walter & Peggy Kramer +

Friday, December 17

6:30 a.m. Charles Willett +

8:15 a.m. Alice Benga

Saturday, December 18

4:30 p.m. John Koehler +

Sunday, December 19

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. Joe Severtsen +

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

Monday, December 13

Parish Penance Service, 7:00 p.m. - Church

Tuesday, December 14

PTA Mtg., 7:00 p.m. - School

Wednesday, December 15

Centering Prayer, 8:30 a.m. - Chapel

School Board Mtg., 7:00 p.m. - School

Thursday, December 16

Eucharistic Adoration, 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Church

Young Professionals & Adults, 6:00 p.m. - Rectory

Sunday, December 12

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

Respect Life Mtg., 9:00 a.m. - Church Hall

Youth Group Caroling, 6:30 p.m. - Ibendahl's Home



MINISTRY SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 18 & 19

	Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:00 a.m.
ALTAR SERVERS	Estelle Andrews Oscar Clyne Molly Wilmes	Fiona Flynn Daniel Chilenski Torsten Roither	Glory Defenbaugh Gyatana Defenbaugh Keira Kennedy
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Thomas Kempker	Bob Herleth	Barbara Jennings, CSJ
LECTORS	Tom Wethington Patrick Tyburski	Elaine Pudlowski Patrick Bittick	Bob Waeltermann Alice Benga



Due to the Christmas holidays bulletin article schedule as follows:

Weekend of **December 25-26** articles are due on Wednesday, December 15 by 9:00 am.

Weekend of **January 1-2, 2022** articles are due on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 by 9:00 am.

If you have questions please contact Carmela Garza at cgarza@stmargaretstl.org or call 314-776-0363 Monday through Thursday from 8am to 4pm.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION



BY PETER FISHER HESED

Be joyful. And that's an order.

It seems strange that we should receive an exhortation to joy. Surely, we understand joy as a mood, an elation that accompanies success, good news, good times. This reminds me of the dissonance we might experience with the Beatitudes from the Gospel according to Matthew. Here Christ promises beatitude (happiness) not to the movers and shakers, not to those who got a perfect score on the SATs, not to celebrities or trend setters. Rather, to the poor in spirit, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for justice. Even more are blessed who mourn, who are insulted and persecuted.

surprisingly, they

Joy and beatitude are clearly meant to be part of our normal lived experience, not the spiritual equivalent of winning the Lottery.

This is what we hear in today's Gospel (a word that means "Good News"):

"His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor
and to gather the wheat into his barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."
Exhorting them in many other ways,
he preached good news to the people.

We might have expected our good news to be a little more ... festive?

But our liturgy is doing something far more radical than cajoling us to "cheer up." Rather, we are being urged to repentance, with the reassurance that it isn't too late. We are instructed with concrete acts of justice, an antidote to the poison of selfish despair. We are called to awaken to the good news of Emmanuel – the incarnation of our God. This is demanding, not superficial. And this is the ultimate consolation for every woe and sorrow of our human condition. So, let hope take root within you, and Rejoice!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICE TIMES

Christmas Masses

Friday, December 24 - 4:00 p.m. & Vigil 10:00 p.m. (Choir begins at 9:30 p.m.)
Saturday, December 25 - 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day (No confessions or 4:30 p.m. Mass)

Holy Family Masses

Sunday, December 26 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses

Friday, December 31 - 2021 - 6:30 a.m. (No evening Mass)
Saturday, January 1 - 2022 - 9:00 a.m. (No confessions or 4:30 p.m. Mass)

Epiphany of the Lord Masses

Sunday, January 2 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

All are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in anticipation of Christmas. Our Advent Penance Service will be held on Monday, December 13, at 7:00pm in Church. There will be a simple prayer service, and several priests will be available that evening for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

On Sunday, December 19 immediately following the 10 am Mass, please join our parish family in decorating our beautiful church for Christmas. All hands are needed—big or small. We have garland to hang, trees to assemble, and bows to fluff. We look forward to getting together to welcome Our Lord at Christmas. Thank you!



Overwhelmed by the images from the border? Unsure what a "dreamer" is or the difference between a refugee and an asylum seeker? Saddened at separation of families? Interested in learning more about immigration policies and our faith and how you can respond as a follower of Christ?

JUSTFAITH'S EXPLORING MIGRATION: A Faith Journey is an eight-week small faith group session which will start Monday, January 3, 2022 by zoom from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. This eight-session, faith-filled program provides you with a chance to learn, pray, discuss, and to discover more about our Catholic teachings, our values, our God, and the millions of people who are on the move in every part of the world.

The suggested price of the program is \$20, but do not let cost stand in your way of joining us. Sign up on We Share located on the parish website. Details will be sent upon registration. For more information, please contact Julie Hesel at momhesed@gmail.com (314-349-7788) or Astrid Homan at astrid@frontier.net (636 - 467-8036)

We Share Online
Event Registrations and Giving
StMargaretStL.WeShareOnline.org

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NEWS

WINTER OUTREACH 2021

We've had a wonderful response for our Winter Outreach fundraiser so far. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Check out the progress on our "tree" in back of church, this parish should be very proud of itself. If you haven't helped yet, there's still plenty of time. Pick up an envelope found in the pews, enclose your check or cash, and give it to one of the Elves in back of church after all Masses, or use WeShare. Either way, your generous gift will help us help bring some peace and comfort to our Neighbors in Need this winter.



Young Professionals and Adults will meet this Thursday, December 16, from 6:00pm till 8:00pm at the Rectory. All our young adults are welcome to come by for a cup of Christmas cheer. Don't forget to wear your Christmas sweaters!

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

The Ladies Auxiliary is pleased to announce the winners for the **December** raffle:

David Schmidt - \$25

Ron Frerker - \$50

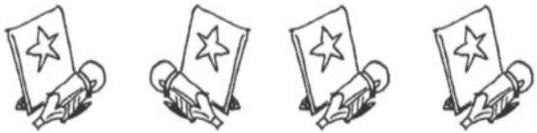
Mary McKenzie - \$100

Thank you for supporting our monthly Raffle fundraiser!

Children's Corner

PUZZLE

Circle the pictures that are **facing** the **same** way.
Then color in all the pictures.



MISSION

This week I will give money, canned food,
and/or clothing to the poor.

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE C

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



3rd Sunday of Advent • Luke 3:10-18

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Are you planning your hoilday menus? Chances are some of your pantry supplies like brownie/cake mixes, cereal 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



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