# Saint Margaret of Scotland Parish

374 Stevens Street ~ Lowell, MA 01851-3607
Tel (978) 454-5143 Fax (978) 458-8472 www.stmargaretlowell.org

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

. The Roman Catholic Parish of St. Margaret of Scotland, founded in 1910, is an urban, archdiocesan parish located in the Highlands section of Lowell, Massachusetts. The parish is a multi-ethnic, socially, culturally, and educationally diverse faith community.

. Deeply committed to Jesus Christ, we endeavor to become a unified community of faith, worship, and service. We strive to be a warm, welcoming and caring parish in which the gifts and talents of all, young and old, are recognized and graciously used to nourish others.

### Parish Office Hours

**Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

Rev. Raymond P. Benoit
*Administrator*

Sr. Lori Fleming, SND
*Coordinator of Pastoral Care Ministry*

Rev. Wilfred K. Harvey, OMI
Rev. Raju D. Muringayil, O Praem
*Assisting Clergy*

Rev. Mr. Barry V. Lloyd
*Permanent Deacon*

Debra McAndrews
*Administrative Coordinator*

Karen Miller
*Business Manager*

Joan LaRochelle
*Faith Formation Liaison*

Matthew Descoteaux
*Director of Music*

Lorraine Freitas
Andrea Grande
*Cantors*

Pamela Quinn
*Coordinator of Altar Server Ministry*

### Mass Schedule

~ Main Church ~
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00pm
Sunday Masses - 7:30am and 10:00am

~ Main Church ~
Daily Mass: Monday - Friday, 8:30am

### Sacraments

**Reconciliation**
Due to COVID-19 Restrictions . . .
By Appointment only
Please, call the rectory & speak with Fr. Ray

**Baptism**
Second Sunday of the month at 1:00pm

**Baptism Preparation**
Third Sunday of the month at 1:00pm

**Anointing of the Sick**
To arrange date & time . . .
Please, call the rectory & speak with Fr. Ray

**Marriage**
Please, call at least six months in advance

### Religious Education

Begins with the 10:00am Sunday Mass

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish witnesses to God's love through works of charity and justice, making no distinction in those served. If you are in need of help, please call (978) 459-0175. All calls and visits are strictly confidential.

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**February 28, 2021**

## + Mass Intentions +

| Date | Day | Time | Intention | | Celebrant |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb 27 | Saturday | 4:00pm | Jacqueline Charette | Memorial | Fr. Ray |
| Feb 28 | Sunday | 7:30am | Albert Quattrochi | 25th Anniversary | Fr. Ray |
| | | 10:00am | Elizabeth A. St. Peter | 2nd Anniversary | Fr. Wil |
| Mar 01 | Monday | 8:30am | Eleanor K. Quinn | 11th Anniversary | Fr. Raju |
| Mar 02 | Tuesday | 8:30am | Helen E. Prescott | 13th Anniversary | Fr. Ray |
| Mar 03 | Wednesday | 8:30am | George T. McCue | 6th Anniversary | Fr. Ray |
| Mar 04 | Thursday | 8:30am | James D. Scanlon | 2nd Anniversary | Fr. Ray |
| Mar 05 | Friday | 8:30am | Sophie Serptowski | 7th Anniversary | Fr. Raju |
| Mar 06 | Saturday | 4:00pm | James D. Scanlon | 2nd Anniversary | Fr. Wil |
| Mar 07 | Sunday | 7:30am | John, Margaret, John Jr., Patricia & Daniel Donovan | Memorial | Fr. Ray |
| | | 10:00am | Robert Zaim | 6th Anniversary | Fr. Ray |

## *Prayer of Spiritual Communion*

***"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen."***

## + Steeple Bells +

**Our Steeple Bells will ring this week in memory of RoseMarie L'Heureux.**

## + Sanctuary/Altar Lamps +

**Our Sanctuary & Altar Lamps will burn this week:**

**. Sanctuary Lamp (Church): In memory of Ruth Nunnery.**
**. Sacred Heart Lamp (Church): In memory of Benedict F. Gursky.**
**. Blessed Mother Lamp (Church): In memory of Mary P. Kloppenburg.**

**For information about Steeple Bells or Sanctuary/Altar Lamps, please, call the rectory office.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- **First Reading (Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18): God's request of Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac seems cruel from our modern perspective. Yet Abraham's obedience rendered divine blessings. Do you think you have such depth of faith?**
- **Second Reading (Romans 8:31b-34): Paul tries to reassure the Christians in Rome of God's divine providence in our lives. As we continue the Lenten journey, can you recall when have you felt God's protection and comfort?**
- **Gospel (Mark 9:2-10): We hear Mark's account of the Transfiguration of Jesus, as witnessed by the Apostles. How difficult do you think it must have been for them not to share this event with anyone until after Jesus rose from the dead.**

## LOW GLUTEN HOST

**The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Missouri, have developed a true low gluten host. This product is approved for use at Mass in the United States. The low gluten breads are made of wheat, starch and water. The gluten content of these breads is .01%.**

**The low gluten hosts are individually made and packaged in a wheat-free environment. They are shipped separately and must be stored securely away from other wheat products. If you wish to receive the low gluten host at Mass, please, call the parish office to speak with Fr. Ray.**

## ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

### Contributions Received from February 13, 2021 thru February 19, 2021

. **Offertory Envelopes + E-Giving:** **Total: $3,646.00**
..Includes Masses on February 13-14, 2021
..Includes all non-envelope $$ received

. **2nd Collection Envelopes + E-Giving:** **Total: $1,526.00**
..Includes Masses on February 13-14, 2021

. **Church in Latin America Collection:** **Total: $1,186.00**
..Weekend of January 30-31, 2021

. **Ash Wednesday Collection:** **Total: $1,151.00**
..Annual Collection for Catholic Charities

***Contributions received on the Weekend of February 20-21 will be in next week's bulletin.***

***With heartfelt gratitude for the very generous sharing of your treasure!!***
***Thank you for accepting financial responsibility for St. Margaret of Scotland Parish.***

## THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

**It is possible to make weekly, monthly and special contributions to St. Margaret of Scotland Parish via Electronic Giving.**

**The use of Electronic Giving is convenient and it assures that the parish receives your offering in the consistent manner that you intend.**

**Direct Deposit Giving automatically transfers funds from your checking or savings account directly into the parish bank account.**

**Credit & Debit Card Giving advance funds from your credit or debit card directly into the parish bank account. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover.**

**To enjoy the convenience of on-line giving, you can very easily set up your own automatic donation plan by visiting our parish website at www.stmargaretlowell.org and then CLICK on the St. Margaret Parish Intentional Giving icon. You can always change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your donation history.**

***~ ~ ~ Father Ray***

## ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND RENEWAL AND RENOVATION FUND MEMORIAL DONATIONS

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|---|---|---|---|
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| Thomas Hogan | Leo J. Sheridan | Tucker, Terry & Pam Quinn | Phylis Ann Moncsko |
| Karen LeClair & Family | David M. Quinn | Tucker, Terry & Pam Quinn | David M. Quinn |
| Mickey & Debbie McAndrews | Benita (Bonnie) Bragan | Tucker, Terry & Pam Quinn | Linda "McAndrews" Licata |
| Mickey & Debbie McAndrews | David M. Quinn | Sandra Quinn | David M. Quinn |
| Louise Osborn | David M. Quinn | Mary Ryan | David M. Quinn |
| Louise Osborn | Linda "McAndrews" Licata | Mary Scanlon | David M. Quinn |

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

**Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Romans 8:31b-34 Mark 9:2-10**

### *We Are Given a Glimpse of Jesus in His Resurrected Glory*

**In the very old city of Jerusalem, the golden Dome of the Rock dominates the very ancient skyline. That gold-encrusted dome covers a Muslim mosque and a site that is sacred, not only to believers of Islam, but to Jewish people and Christian people as well. Beneath the floor of the sanctuary is a large rock. Biblical scholars and archaeologists believe this rock is the Mount of Moriah, where Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac, which we heard about in today's first reading. Not far from there is the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher, built over the rock of Calvary, where God sacrificed His only Son for our sins. Moriah and Calvary are joined together as unique examples of sacrificial love.**

**In today's second reading, St. Paul posed the question to the Romans: *If God is for us, who can be against us*? Abraham must have wondered whether God was *for him* or *against him* when God instructed Abraham to take his son Isaac to the land of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice. Becoming a father was the answer to prayers that Abraham had offered for more than eighty years. God heard him and gave him a son when he was almost one hundred years old. Now that same God was asking that the gift be returned.**

**Abraham is rightly called *our father in faith* because he does not doubt, nor does he even question what he is being asked to do. He faithfully sets out to do the Father's will, no matter how much it will cost him. Pleased with Abraham's display of faith, God sends an angel to stop the sacrifice, and Abraham is forever blessed for his faithfulness. Stories such as this in the Old Testament are key to better understanding the events that would later unfold in the New Testament. Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac on the Mount of Moriah is without any doubt unmistakably connected to God the Father's willingness to sacrifice His only Son for our salvation at Calvary.**

**That sacrifice at Calvary was predicted by Jesus three times before it actually came about. The first time he does this in Mark's Gospel occurs shortly before this passage about the Transfiguration. Though Jesus spoke of death, he also promised that he would rise on the third day, but the Resurrection meant nothing to his disciples at the time. They knew only that their master and their dear friend was going to die and they could not do anything to stop it. In effect, the Transfiguration is a means of reassuring Peter, James, John and all the Apostles about the deeper meaning of the life and death of Jesus. It was to bring about new life.**

**At the Transfiguration, the Apostles are privileged to receive a glimpse of how Jesus will appear in resurrected glory. They are amazed and terrified at the same time. But the presence of Moses, the patriarch, and Elijah, the great prophet, assures them that Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. God speaks from the heavens, just he did during the baptism of Jesus. He tells them: *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!* The Apostles may still not fully understand who Jesus is or what he is about, but there is no doubt that he is God's Son. Their faith is strengthened and the long way of the Cross - the journey to Jerusalem - continues.**

**As we continue our journey through Lent, we seek to share in the Transfiguration of Jesus. He was the same person - fully divine and fully human - and yet completely changed by the grace and power of God. Through acts of prayer, penance, fasting and self-denial, we remain the same person, with the potential for great change, thanks to the mercy and compassion and goodness of God. The perspective of the Apostles concerning their life and mission was changed completely during their time atop Mount Tabor. My friends, let us pray that our own lives and our sense of mission may be strengthened by our Lenten observance.**

*..Shalom! ..Peace be with you! ..Father Ray*

# Teamwork

## ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND PARISH: 2021 ASSESSMENT & FINANCIAL GOALS

**Parishes must meet their 8% Assessment, which is the 3-year Average of their Base Revenue (that is, Weekly Offertory, Monthly 2nd Collections and Grand Annual). For parishes exceeding their 8% Assessment, the 2021 Financial Goal is based on the 3-year average of their Catholic Appeal Donations:**

**2018 Donations: $63,250 2019 Donations: $50,658 2020 Donations: $41,671**

**3-year Avg.: $51,860 8% Assessment: $32,568 2021 Financial Goal: $51,860**

**For these past 16 years, most of you know me as the Administrator of the parish. However, most importantly, I am also a parishioner of this vibrant St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in The Highlands section of Lowell, MA, together with many of the kindest, most caring and generous people I have ever known. This is my home! And I am so grateful for the privilege of living here among you.**

**I share with you some information about the 2021 Archdiocesan Catholic Appeal because it directly supports our parish, our archdiocesan Catholic Schools, and our local communities. The work funded by the Catholic Appeal helps to support 51 Central Ministries. It is work that plays out day to day, month to month, year to year - and work that has been absolutely critical to our parish during the pandemic. The Catholic Appeal provides funding for:**

- **A team of experts at the Archdiocese who have provided critical information and support during the pandemic to help guide and reopen our parish. From financial expertise and webinars during the pandemic to guidance on decisions about the products to sanitize our pews between Masses, our parish and other parishes have a team of experts to call upon.**
- **This same team has provided guidance to our archdiocesan Catholic schools enabling them to reopen this past fall.**
- **This team includes the work of the Social Justice Ministry that hosts a yearly convocation to help us better understand our baptismal call to love one another and respect all people as children of God.**
- **Family Life Ministry provides expert information to help our churches provide access to the sacraments for children or persons with disabilities, and on-line marriage prep classes so that newly engaged couples can learn how to build their marriage on a foundation of faith.**
- **The list goes on and on!**

**On February 11, 2021, I responded to the letter I received from Cardinal Seán with a donation of $1,800 to help our parish achieve its Financial Goal. May I ask that you prayerfully consider joining with me in supporting the Catholic Appeal by making a commitment of your own. If you have already responded to Cardinal Seán's letter, please, know that I sincerely thank you!**

**We live in a very challenging time, but the mission of our Church continues. We have been entrusted by Christ to carry on the work that supports the mission to further our faith and care for those who turn to us for assistance. If you are someone who has given in the past, please know that your support is more critical than ever given the unique challenges our parish and our Church are facing. Your participation will have an immediate and lasting impact.**

*..Shalom! ..Peace be with you! ..Father Ray*

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - *RECOGNIZING GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS*

### When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane

It just seems to happen every year, like clockwork: as we enter into the second week of Lent, we seem to drag a bit. On Ash Wednesday, we were feeling a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. Our hearts cried out: "We are ready, God! Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done, not mine!"

But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties. They have joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the most difficult to bear. Because in real life, transformation happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It is not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It is the perseverance in prayer despite weariness> it is the continual denial of some pleasure even though there is that nagging voice in our minds saying: G*o ahead! God doesn't really mind!*

It's a week when we all need a shock to the system. And wouldn't you just know it! On this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried "Ready!" when God called. But he never imagined what God would be asking: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Jesus Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

My friends, we must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to God. If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, "Ready!" when we hear the call of God?

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? *Catholic Life Explained*

**Question:** Why do we use incense at Mass?

**Answer:** The use of incense in religious worship ceremonies is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today. Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours, is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 says, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it is because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. We can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

## KEEPING GOD'S HOME & OUR CHURCH CLEAN

It would be helpful if each of us would take the time and make the effort to assure that we have not left behind any used tissues, candy wrappers, plastic bags, or other soiled items on the pew, in the pew racks or on the floor. We are very grateful for your support in this effort.

~ ~ ~ Father Ray

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