

Saint Margaret Parish

374 Stevens Street ~ Lowell, MA 01851

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

Paul St.Cyr
Facilities Manager

Karen Miller
Business Manager

Barry Lloyd
Permanent Deacon

Debra McAndrews
Administrative Coordinator

Joanna Bazzinotti
Coordinator of Faith Formation & Evangelization

Pamela Quinn
Coordinator of Religious Education, Grades 1-8

Kelly Paradise-Brothers
Coordinator of Confirmation Program, Grades 9-11

Ernest Houle
Director of Music

MASS SCHEDULE

~ Main Church ~

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 PM
Sunday Masses - 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM

~ Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel ~
Daily Mass: Monday - Saturday, 8:30 AM

PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS

~ Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel ~

The Rosary: Monday - Saturday, 8:00 AM
Eucharistic Adoration: September - April,
Thursdays, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation
Saturdays, 3:15 to 3:45 PM, or by appointment.

Baptism

Second Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM.

Marriage

Please call at least six months in advance.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades 1-8 begins with the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass.
Confirmation students meet Sunday evenings.

St. Margaret School

"It is good for us to be here."

486 Stevens Street ~ Lowell, MA 01851

Tel (978) 453-8491 Fax (978) 453-1358

Extended Day Program (978) 458-7870

www.stmargaretschoollowell.org

Sr. Lori Fleming, SND
Principal

St. Vincent de Paul Society

"Helping Those in Need."

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Margaret 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.

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 28, 2015

<u>+ Mass Intentions +</u>					
<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Intention</u>		<u>Celebrant</u>
Jun 27	Saturday	4:00pm	Adelard (Ed) Trudel	1st Anniversary	Fr. Ray
Jun 28	Sunday	7:30am	People of St. Margaret Parish	Special Intention	Fr. Ray
		9:00am	Gail Morse	9th Anniversary	Fr. Ray
		11:00am	Mary Theodoros	1st Anniversary	Fr. Raju
Jun 29	Monday	8:30am	Helen A. Scanlon	23rd Anniversary	Fr. Raju
Jun 30	Tuesday	8:30am	Doris Notini	Memorial	Fr. Raju
Jul 01	Wednesday	8:30am	Norman Sayer, Sr.	Memorial	Fr. Raju
Jul 02	Thursday	8:30am	Doris Spinney	Memorial	Fr. Ray
Jul 03	Friday	8:30am	Pearl Peladeau	12th Anniversary	Fr. Ray
Jul 04	Saturday	8:30am	Anna E. Daley	15th Anniversary	Fr. Ray
		4:00pm	Doris Spinney	Memorial	Fr. Ray
Jul 05	Sunday	7:30am	People of St. Margaret Parish	Special Intention	Fr. Ray
		9:00am	Joseph Franciose	Memorial	Fr. Ray
		11:00am	Ellen Spear	1st Anniversary	Fr. Ray

+ Steeple Bells +

Our Steeple Bells will ring this week in loving memory of Alice M. McGuane.

+ Sanctuary / Altar Lamps +

Our Sanctuary & Altar Lamps will burn this week:

- . Sanctuary Lamp (Church): In loving memory of Bernard P. Brouillette.
- . Sanctuary Lamp (Chapel): In loving memory of Michael T. Prescott.
- . Sacred Heart Lamp (Church): In loving memory of Ralph C. Carnevale.
- . Blessed Mother Lamp (Church): In loving memory of Constance R. Dempsey.

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

+ In Memoriam +

During the week of June 14, 2015
 The Rite of Christian Burial was celebrated for Dorothy P. Barrows and Edward S. Byrne
 Let us remember them and their loved ones in our prayers.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The children named below received the Sacrament of Baptism and were joyfully welcomed into the Catholic faith during the month of May. Let us pray for them and their families.

You have put on Christ, in him you have been baptized. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Andrew Joseph Lawrenson, II Willow Imogen Mapes Norah Lillian Pacheco

CIRCLE HOME, INC
 (Formerly VNA of Greater Lowell)

Will conduct a Senior Health Clinic in the St. Vincent de Paul Room (lower rectory)
 Blood Pressure Reading - Weight Check - Medications Review
 Thursday, July 2nd, from 8:30 to 10:00am
No appointments are needed and no fees are charged for this drop-in clinic.

Today's Scripture Readings - Catholic Community Hymnal #615

♪ Hymns ♪

- Entrance 318 Let All Things Now Living
- Offertory 355 Eye Has Not Seen
- Communion 449 I Am the Bread of Life
- Recessional 348 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

June 20-21, 2015

. 1st Collection: Weekly Offertory

of Envelopes: 206
 Envelopes: \$3,601.00
 Non-Envelope: \$ 834.00
 Total: \$4,435.00

. 2nd Collection: Monthly Church Maintenance

of Envelopes: 170
 Envelopes: \$1,686.00
 Non-Envelope: \$ 494.00
 Total: \$2,180.00

2nd Collection this weekend: Utilities Assistance

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

UPDATE ON THE SMS SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY RAFFLE

Dear Parishioners of St. Margaret's:

We are pleased to update you on the success of the Science/Technology Raffle. Your generosity after all the Masses several weeks ago was overwhelming! In total, you contributed \$451.00 in raffle tickets and \$40.00 in donations toward STEM programs at St. Margaret School. Combined with tickets sold at school and miscellaneous donations, a grand total of \$749.00 was raised to invest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math!

And the winner of the four water park passes to Great Wolf Lodge is... Ann Machado! We can't thank all of you enough for your support! We look forward to updating you in September on how you can utilize the weather station to stay updated on the weather in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,
 The SMS STEM Committee

ST. MARGARET PARISH - ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY COOKOUT

We hope that you will plan to celebrate with many St. Margaret Parish families and friends at our Annual Fourth of July Cookout on Sunday, July 12th, at 12:00 noon. Our festivities will again take place on the south lawn of the church grounds. This eagerly anticipated, event is fun for all ages!

NEW THIS YEAR! We will have an Early Bird Drawing for the Annual \$10,000 Cash Bonanza. You can even purchase your ticket at the cookout, just ahead of the drawing. You could be the lucky winner of \$100.00,. Your ticket will also be eligible to win the \$10,000 Cash Bonanza Grand Prize to be drawn on September 11th! Hope to see you there!

IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The success of our Religious Education programs depends on individuals willing to share their time, talent and faith with our parish youth. We need Catechists, Teacher Aides, and Confirmation Program Team Members. Are you be able to donate your time and giftedness on most Sunday mornings from September through May in our Religious Education Program (Grades 1-8), or one Sunday evening a month from September through May in our Confirmation program?

All training and materials will be provided! Volunteer Registration forms are available in all the wall racks at the back of the Church. Please, contact Joanna Bazzinotti or Pam Quinn at the rectory office if you have any questions or suggestions you wish to offer about these programs.

CARE ENOUGH TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

For the safety and security of our young children, please do not allow any child under your care to use the rest room facilities unless escorted by an adult. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 2 Corinthians 8:7,9 13-15 Mark 5:21-43

Jesus Calls Us to Trust in The Loving, Healing Hand of God

We all have problems, some of us more than others. And we'd all like to be rid of our problems, no matter what or who caused them to be. We wish they would go away and never come back. And when we are faced with problems, it can feel as if our life is falling apart. Invariably, when we find ourselves mired in such difficulties, someone will say to us: "God doesn't give people more than they can handle." That's one saying that I really dislike. It's not very helpful when you're hurting.

And, besides that, it's not true because it implies that God is the cause of our problems. In faith, we know that is definitely not the case. God wants only the best for us. Whatever is broken with the world or within our lives is not God's fault. To suggest that God piles problems on us is simply depicting God in a way that is inconsistent with what we believe. But then we hear the words of Jesus in today's Gospel passage, words that sound too simplistic. To the synagogue official, Jairus, who asks Jesus to help his dying daughter, Jesus says: "Do not be afraid; just have faith."

And then what? All our problems will go away? Well, I've prayed to God long enough to know that not every request for physical healing or mended relationships is granted. How many people have prayed to God to have one of their loved ones healed ..only to have their hearts crushed? How many people facing divorce have asked God to heal their marriage ..only to grow more distant from their spouse? I certainly am in no position to speak for God. That would be ridiculous. And I'd be lying if I said that I understood why God acts as God does.

But I can tell you that when our problems are severe enough then the weight of that burden can be overwhelming. Physical problems don't simply affect our bodies. Financial problems don't simply affect our wallets. And relationship problems don't simply affect our day to day activities and responsibilities. All of them destroy much more than that. For as troubling as our problems can be, nothing can be worse than what they do to our spirits. They bring us down. They make us lose hope. They can turn us into bitter, angry, vengeful people. In many ways, they kill the best of us ..or at least it feels that way. "I say to you arise!" I believe that Jesus could have said those same words to Jairus had his daughter not been healed because a part of Jairus would have died if his daughter had. And the same thing can be said for each of us.

As you've heard me say many times before, our problems, our challenges, our crosses - whatever you want to call them - may or may not go away. Most of the time, they are not even in our control and sometimes they depend upon the free will actions of other people. But for you and me, as Christians and followers of Jesus, "fixing" our problems is not the most vital nor the most important thing in life. Life in God, life with God, and life for God is!

This is the new life that has been won for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. One thing this means is that our problems need not ever get the best of us. They will never "win" as long as we live as people of faith. "Do not be afraid; just have faith" is not a cop-out expression on the part of Jesus. It is the doorway to new life. It is an opportunity to respond to the invitation of Jesus - "I say to you, arise" - every time life knocks us down, saps our strength, or breaks our heart.

What is going on in your life right now that is crushing your spirit? What is wearing you down? What is giving you sorrow that seems unbearable? From what do you need to arise? My friends, there are no easy answers to life and don't believe anyone who offers you such easy answers. At times life can be overwhelming. But it is in those very moments that Jesus is inviting us to experience things differently, to see things through a different lens, to walk in a brighter light.

"I say to you, arise!" are not just words for a young girl two thousand years ago. They are an invitation to you and to me us every day of our lives. Will we accept that invitation? Do we believe it? Can we move beyond our fears and our pain? Do we have faith enough to hope and trust? And will we allow that faith to raise us up so we can stand on mountains and see new possibilities and new life?

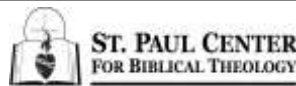
Shalom! ..Peace be with you! ..Father Ray



A young girl walked with her mother to her neighbor's home to drop off a few bags of groceries. On the way home, the little girl asked her mother why she did that. The mother explained that the father of the family had lost his job and they were having a hard time making ends meet and buying enough food to feed their family. The girl asked, "So why did you deliver groceries?" The mom answered, "Because someday I may be the hungry one."

Have you ever noticed how the miracles of Jesus are so practical? He does not put on a display of power. He gives sight to the blind, feeds the hungry, restores health and raises the dead. In most cases, He simply asks that people see and believe in the Kingdom of God. The response to a miracle is faith in God, trusting His love and mercy in our lives. God satisfies the hungers of our bodies and souls.

We need to help rescue each other. By practicing the Works of Mercy, we become instruments and channels of God's grace and mercy. It is a very practical thing. In my need, I depend on others for help. In my plenty, others depend on me for my help. It's an economy of spirituality that guarantees all members a share in the rich blessings the Lord bestows on us all. It's a stimulus plan that will renew faith, strengthen hope and deepen love.



By Dr. Scott Hahn
Arise!

God, who formed us in His imperishable image, did not intend for us to die, we hear in today's First Reading. Death entered the world through the devil's envy and Adam and Eve's sin; as a result, we are all bound to die.

But in the moving story in today's Gospel, we see Jesus liberate a little girl from the possession of death. On one level, Mark is recounting an event that led the disciples to understand Jesus' authority and power over even the final enemy, death. On another level, however, this episode is written to strengthen our hope that we too will be raised from the dead, along with all our loved ones who sleep in Christ.

Jesus commands the girl to "Arise!" - using the same Greek word used to describe His own resurrection. And the consoling message of today's Gospel is that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. If we believe in Him, even though we die, we will live.

We are called to have the same faith as the parents in the Gospel today - praying for our loved ones, trusting in Jesus' promise that even death cannot keep us apart. Notice the parents follow Him even though those in their own house tell them there is no hope, and even though others ridicule Jesus' claim that the dead have only fallen asleep.

Already in baptism, we've been raised to new life in Christ. And the Eucharist, like the food given to the little girl today, is the pledge that He will raise us on the last day. We should rejoice, as we sing in today's Psalm, that He has brought us up from the netherworld, the pit of death. And, as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle, we should offer our lives in thanksgiving for this gracious act, imitating Christ in our love and generosity for others.

KEEPING GOD'S HOME & OUR CHURCH CLEAN

Should you find the pew area where you sit littered with soiled or used items, please, let me know before or after Mass. It would be helpful if each of us would 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 grateful for your support in this effort. ..Father Ray



Monday - Friday, July 20th - 24th, 2015
Daily from 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon
St. Margaret School in John J. Nangle Hall
Open to All Children Entering Grades K through 5!

Completed enrollment forms and payment will be accepted right up to the day before: July 19th!

Dear Parents:

This July, allow your child to experience a splendid recreation of the biblical town of Nazareth! Let your child's imagination soar as each day he or she becomes part of history - seeing, hearing, touching, and even tasting what it was like to live in Jesus' hometown! Led by an enthusiastic group of trained teen and adult volunteers, your child will explore authentic marketplace shops, visit Jesus' mother Mary, take part in games, dance to lively songs... making memories they'll cherish forever!

The cost for Vacation Bible School is only \$30.00 per child for all five days! Enrollment forms can be found in the wall racks at all entrances of the church, or you may view and print the form from St. Margaret's website at www.stmargaretlowell.org. (Look under "Parish News and Announcements.")

Got questions? Please, call Joanna Bazzinotti at (978) 454-5143 x-18, or send Joanna an email at jbazzinotti@stmargaretlowell.org. Your child will thank you for this unique, fun-filled summertime adventure! But hurry... enrollment is limited, and town folks are already gathering!

See you in Hometown Nazareth!!

\$10,000 CASH BONANZA

Sponsored by the Friends of St. Margaret Parish and School

Grand Prize: \$10,000 Cash

2nd Prize: \$500 * 3rd Prize: \$300 * 4th Prize: \$200

Ticket price: \$100 per ticket.

No more than 300 tickets to be sold!

Buy a ticket for yourself, or as a gift, or split a ticket with friends and family!

Early Bird Tickets!

Buy your ticket on or before July 12th for a chance to win \$100.00!

Early Bird winners will be announced at our annual cookout on July 12th.

The \$10,000 Cash Bonanza drawing will take place on Friday, September 11th, in Sacred Heart Hall (lower church).

Doors open at 6:00pm - Raffle begins at 6:30pm.

To purchase a ticket...

- ♦ Take home a Ticket Order Form located in the wall racks at all entrances of the church; complete the form, and mail it with your check for \$100.
- ♦ Buy a ticket in the rectory office, Monday thru Friday, from 8:30am to 2:30pm.
- ♦ Go to our parish website at www.stmargaretlowell.org then click on "\$10,000 Cash Bonanza" under Parish News and Announcements. From there you may print out as many Ticket Order Forms as you like!

Thank you for your support of St. Margaret Parish & St. Margaret School!