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

Ke<mark>lly Pa</mark>radise-Brothers

Coordinator of Confirmation Program, Grades 9-11

Ernest Houle

Director of Music

St. Margaret School "It is good for us to be here."

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Sr. Lori Fleming, SND *Principal*

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. 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 <u>978-459-0175</u>. All calls and visits are strictly confidential.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 5, 2015

<u>+ Mass Intentions +</u>						
Date	<u>Day</u>	Time	<u>Intention</u> .		. Celebrant	
Jul 04	Saturday	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	
Jul 06	Monday	8:30am	Walter Deputat	Memorial	Fr. Raju	
Jul 07	Tuesday	8:30am	James McGuire	Memorial	Fr. Raju	
Jul 08	Wednesday	8:30am	Florence Picanso	2nd Memorial	Fr. Raju	
Jul 09	Thursday	8:30am	Rev. John Walsh	70th Birthday Memorial	Fr. Ray	
Jul 10	Friday	8:30am	Marian McKeever	1st Anniversary	Fr. Ray	
Jul 11	Saturday	8:30am	Month's Mind Mass	Memorial	Fr. Ray	
		4:00pm	Catherine Hatch	9th Anniversary	Fr. Ray	
Jul 12	Sunday	7:30am	People of St. Margaret Parish	Special Intention	Fr. Ray	
	•	9:00am	Wayne Peters	4th Anniversary	Fr. Ray	
		11:00am	Joseph Sweeney	6th Anniversary	Fr. Raju	

MONTH'S MIND MASS

Saturday, July 11, 2015 @ 8:30am - Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel (lower church)

For the people buried from St. Margaret Church from May 24th to June 27th.

Dorothy P. Barrows Edward S. Byrne Bartholomew F. Ryan

+ Steeple Bells +

Our Steeple Bells will ring this week in loving memory of Thomas P. O'Rourke.

+ Sanctuary / Altar Lamps +

Our Sanctuary & Altar Lamps will burn this week:

. Sanctuary Lamp (Church): In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William F. Leary, Sr.

. Sanctuary Lamp (Chapel): In loving memory of Karl J. Quirbach.

. Sacred Heart Lamp (Church): In loving memory of John "Jack" Hickey, Sr.

. Blessed Mother Lamp (Church): In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William M. Prescott, Sr.,

and William Jr. and John.

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

VIRTUS: PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

All volunteers of St. Margaret Parish and School are required to complete VIRTUS Training - the Child Abuse Prevention Program: *Protecting God's Children*. If you are currently a volunteer who has not yet taken this workshop, it is critically important to attend as soon as possible. Please, call Debbie McAndrews at the rectory to register for the next session to be offered here at St. Margaret Parish:

Monday, July 13th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm

in

Sacred Heart Hall (lower church)

Today's Scripture Readings - Catholic Community Hymnal # 618

•	Entrance	384	Take Up Your Cross
_	Offortowy	202	Maka Ma a Channal

• Offertory 392 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Communion 342 Amazing Grace

• Pre-Recessional 473 Star Spangled Banner

• Recessional 391 Let There Be Peace on Earth

PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

June 27-28, 2015

. <u>1st Collection: Weekly Offertory</u> . <u>2nd Collection: Utilities Assistance</u>

of Envelopes: 143 # of Envelopes: 122

Envelopes: \$2,846.00 Envelopes: \$1,421.00 Non-Envelope: \$ 708.00 Non-Envelope: \$ 534.00 Total: Total: \$1,955.00

2nd Collection this weekend: **Peter's Pence**

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

PRAYERS RECENTLY COMPOSED BY POPE FRANCIS

In his recent encyclical letter - *Laudato Si* (On Care for Our Common Home) - Pope Francis has this to say about the prayers below that he personally composed and that end his encyclical letter:

"I propose that we offer two prayers. The first we can share with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator, while in the other we Christians ask for inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus."

A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.

A CHRISTIAN PRAYER IN UNION WITH CREATION

Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you! Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you! Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ezekiel 2:2-5 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Mark 6:1-6

"No Prophet Is Without Honor Except in His Native Place"

There must have been a sense of profound sadness in Jesus, as we hear him say in today's Gospel: No prophet is without honor except in his native place. Jesus must have understood himself to be a prophet - one who would speak for God, one whose message is the very word of God. But Jesus also knew that the fate of prophets was often one of rejection and disbelief. Still, it must have been quite disappointing for Jesus to see awe and wonder in the eyes of the people as he taught them, and then to watch them turn away in disbelief. Their lack of faith would not allow Jesus to minister to them.

The townspeople defended their reaction to Jesus by saying that they knew all about him. They knew his mother and other members of his family. They knew his occupation to be that of a carpenter. And that as far as they knew, he had never studied in the rabbinical school. It was incomprehensive to them that he could teach with such confidence and authority. There must be some mistake! And so they found that he was just too much for them.

Because prophets speak words the people do not expect, because they invite their audience to look at their world from a new perspective - the perspective of God - there is always a great danger that the prophet's words will be rejected. It is difficult for us to adjust to something new, to something unexpected. In fact, we often do not see something we do not expect to see.

If we speak to the spouses of those who have abused alcohol persistently over a long time and suddenly have become sober, they will often tell us how difficult it is to adjust to the change. They may have prayed ardently for the change. They may have done everything in their power to facilitate the change, but it is still a drastic change from the pattern they were used to. At least, then, they knew what to expect.

Not only was Jesus exercising a new and unexpected role in his hometown, but he was also asking the people to look at their world in a new way. Most likely, Jesus was telling them that God loved each one of them personally and unconditionally, that no one was excluded from that love. Health and wealth were not necessarily signs of God's favor, and poverty and sickness were not signs of God's displeasure. God's desire is that all will be welcomed into a community of love, that all are called to be children of God and to treat one another as dear brothers and sisters. This would be a very different message from what they would hear from their synagogue leaders.

Where do we hear the voice of the prophet today? The prophet interprets God's word to us in the context of our times and culture. When we listen to them, how do we receive their message? Usually, the message of a prophet makes us feel uncomfortable. Change is difficult and we do not like to think about it. However, if we can listen non-defensively, we will be inspired by the prophet's confidence and trust in God. The true prophet always points to God and to God's desire for our world - and *not* to the prophet! True prophets tend to draw people together rather than create division.

This week let us ask God to make us aware of the prophetic voices of our own day and age and to give us the courage and the willingness of heart to pay attention to them.

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

<u>SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM UPDATE - MONTH THREE</u>

Your spiritually adopted baby weighs one ounce and is quite active in the womb, although this won't be felt by the mother for another couple of months. If the mother's womb had a window, you would be able to watch the baby squint, swallow, move its tongue, and even make a fist. Your baby obtains oxygen breathing fluid through its mother's umbilical cord and will continue to do so until birth!

God our Father, you are the Author of life and we pray for your blessing and protection over this little life that is developing in its mother's womb. We pray that you would grant an uncomplicated pregnancy and a healthy birth. And we thank you for the beauty of new life. $\sim \sim$ Amen.



Jesus travels to His hometown and He is greeted with skepticism and doubt. He preaches to them and, despite what they have heard and the things they have witnessed, they do not accept Him. Their lack of faith so distressed Him that He could not work a miracle there, except for a few cures. Their closed minds and hearts blocked the flow of grace and nothing happened.

All too often in the church today, priests, deacons and religious are greeted with skepticism and doubt. In their own towns and parishes, their ministry and preaching is greeted with gossip and indifference. The lack of appreciation is a heavy burden that is added to the overwhelming work of ministering to others, especially in times of great need. As a community of faith, we need to honor the work of those who serve, for their task is neither easy nor light. First, pray for them that they may have the strength and courage to serve and lead. They too are clay vessels of God's grace. Second, tell them you appreciate them and their work. Offer positive support for a homily well done, a special visit to the sick, or ministry at times of funerals, weddings and sacraments. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure go a long way to boost the morale and confidence of those who serve us. It lets them know concretely that they too are part of the community and not just a functionary in times of need. Be supportive, be helpful, and be generous. It helps God's grace to flow!



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 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 <u>jbazzinotti@stmargaretlowell.org</u>. 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!!

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

ST. MARGARET PARISH ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY COOKOUT

Come celebrate with St. Margaret Parish friends and families at our Annual Fourth of July Cookout next <u>Sunday</u>, <u>July 12th</u>, at <u>12:00 noon</u>. Our festivities will once again take place on the south lawn of the church. This eagerly anticipated, yearly event is fun for all ages!

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

\$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 NEXTWEEK 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 <u>Ticket Order Form</u> 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 <u>www.stmargaretlowell.org</u> 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!

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.

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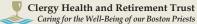
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Rachel mourns her children; She refuses to be consoled, because her children are no more. Thus says the Lord: "Cease from your cries of mourning. Wipe the tears from your eyes...There is hope for your future." Jeremiah 31:15-17





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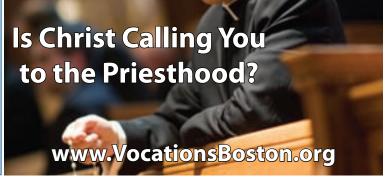
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