

# Saint Margaret Parish

374 Stevens Street ~ Lowell, MA 01851

Tel (978) 454-5143

Fax (978) 458-8472

[www.stmargaretlowell.org](http://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](http://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](tel:978-459-0175). All calls and visits are strictly confidential.

**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**July 26, 2015**

**+ Mass Intentions +**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Celebrant</u>	
Jul 25	Saturday	4:00pm	John J. Zupkosky	1st Anniversary	Fr. Ray
Jul 26	Sunday	7:30am	Eileen & Brad Smith	35th Wedding Anniversary	Fr. Ray
		9:00am	Robert H. Quirbach	11th Anniversary	
			Karl J. Quirbach	4th Anniversary	Fr. Ray
		11:00am	George Cormier	Birthday Memorial	Fr. Raju
Jul 27	Monday	8:30am	Paul Hickey	Memorial	Fr. Raju
Jul 28	Tuesday	8:30am	Paul Hickey	Memorial	Fr. Raju
Jul 29	Wednesday	8:30am	Mary Vitiello	Memorial	Fr. Ray
Jul 30	Thursday	8:30am	Dorothy Barrows	Memorial	Fr. Ray
Jul 31	Friday	8:30am	Bill Bergeron	Memorial	Fr. Ray
Aug 01	Saturday	8:30am	Month's Mind Mass	Memorial	Fr. Ray
		4:00pm	Leda Gaillardier	47th Anniversary	Fr. Ray
Aug 02	Sunday	7:30am	Dianne Maille	1st Anniversary	Fr. Raju
		9:00am	The Benoit, Parent, and Driscoll Families	Memorial	Fr. Ray
		11:00am	Joseph McNamara	5th Anniversary	Fr. Ray

**MONTH'S MIND MASS**

**Saturday, August 1, 2015 @ 8:30am - Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel (lower church)**

**For the people buried from St. Margaret Church from June 28th to July 18th.**

**Joan M. Butler      Robert W. Chateaufneuf      Peter F. Martin**

**+ Steeple Bells +**

**Our Steeple Bells will ring this week in loving memory of Walter D. Fawcett.**

**+ Sanctuary / Altar Lamps +**

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

- . Sanctuary Lamp (Church):      In loving memory of Lucille A. Denomme.
- . Sanctuary Lamp (Chapel):      In loving memory of Mary M. Murphy.
- . Sacred Heart Lamp (Church):      In loving memory of Catherine & George McDonough.
- . Blessed Mother Lamp (Church):      In loving memory of Gilbert Deschene.

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

**+ In Memoriam +**

**During the week of July 12, 2015**

**The Rite of Christian Burial was celebrated for Peter F. Martin.**

**Let us remember him and his loved ones in our prayers.**

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

- I. Carla A. Bettencourt & Diogo R. Maia
- II. Caitlin Hanley & William Caswell
- III. Lauren Wakeman & Michael Molloy

**Today's Scripture Readings - Catholic Community Hymnal # 627**

**♪ Hymns ♪**

- Entrance      403      Gather Us In
- Offertory      447      Shepherd of Souls
- Communion      445      We Come to Your Feast
- Recessional      321      Now Thank We All Our God

**PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

**July 18-19, 2015**

**1<sup>st</sup> Collection: Weekly Offertory**

# of Envelopes: 189  
 Envelopes: \$3,046.00  
 Non-Envelope: \$ 751.00  
 Total: \$3,797.00

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Monthly Church Maintenance**

# of Envelopes: 164  
 Envelopes: \$1,624.00  
 Non-Envelope: \$ 596.00  
 Total: \$2,005.00

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

**ACTUAL VS. BUDGET PARISH INCOME REPORT**  
**Fiscal Year-to-Date: July 2014 Through June 2015**

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>% OF BUDGET</u>
• <b><u>OFFERTORY (First) COLLECTION</u></b>			
. In-Church Stewardship Collection	235,729.11	250,000.00	94.3%
. E-Giving Stewardship Collection	16,451.80	18,000.00	91.4%
. Holy Day Offertory Collection	11,342.00	10,000.00	113.4%
>>> <b><u>Total Offertory (First) Collection</u></b>	<b>263,522.91</b>	<b>278,000.00</b>	<b>94.8%</b>
• <b><u>MONTHLY (Second) COLLECTIONS</u></b>			
. In-Church Renewal & Renovation *	22,044.50	30,000.00	73.5%
. E-Giving Renewal & Renovation	1,246.00	1,400.00	89.0%
. In-Church Monthly Church Maintenance	32,795.00	31,000.00	105.8%
. E-Giving Monthly Church Maintenance	2,156.00	1,500.00	143.7%
. In-Church Utilities & Fuel Assistance	14,584.50	12,000.00	121.5%
. E-Giving Utilities & Fuel Assistance	189.00	200.00	94.5%
>>> <b><u>Total Monthly (Second) Collections</u></b>	<b>73,015.00</b>	<b>76,100.00</b>	<b>95.9%</b>
• <b><u>OFFERTORY + MONTHLY TOTALS:</u></b>	<b>336,537.91</b>	<b>354,100.00</b>	<b>95.0%</b>
• <b><u>GRAND ANNUAL</u></b>	<b>84,565.00</b>	<b>80,000.00</b>	<b>105.7%</b>

- \* - Renewal & Renovation Collection on July 12-13 in the amount of \$3,100 donated to:  
 “The Branch Street Fire Victims Relief Fund.”
- Renewal & Renovation Collection on September 20-21 in the amount of \$3,097 donated to:  
 “Middle East Collection 2014” (Special Collection authorized by Cardinal Seán O’Malley)
- Renewal & Renovation Collection on May 9-10 in the amount of \$4,235 donated to:  
 “Nepal Earthquake Relief” (Special Collection authorized by Cardinal Seán O’Malley)

**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 July. Let us pray for them and their families.

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

Noah Raymond McLaughlin

Braedyn Nicholas Ross

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

2 Kings 4:42-44

Ephesians 4:1-6

John 6:1-15

***Miracles Do Happen!***

Is the miracle in today's Gospel about food enough to feed the crowd, or is the miracle in today's Gospel about sharing? Miracles are performed for the benefit of the recipient. Jesus wanted nothing from this miracle for himself. This miracle is about sharing. It is about giving of yourself and your resources. This is the lesson that Jesus is trying to teach!

Today's Gospel is not about hoarding one's resources or one's time or one's talent. It is about giving and sometimes giving until it hurts! And it is about getting others to do likewise. When did we challenge another person to give of the talents that they have? When did we teach our children to give generously? When have we witnessed the surprise that seemingly have no explanation? When did someone come into our life at our most vulnerable moment? Do we believe in miracles?

From today's first reading we know Elisha believed. He ordered that multitudes be fed and there was some left over. Again, it is the story of plenty, the story of responding to human need, the story of sharing. Sharing has the quality of bringing people together. It is what binds a neighborhood, a community, or a parish. It makes no difference if the sharing is about a tragedy or about a celebration.

In today's second reading from the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul speaks of the unity that must be preserved among us. Unity can only happen when equality happens. Sharing is an important part of preserving the unity among us. We have *one Lord, one faith, one baptism*. How then, can we not share what we have? How can we not share the Lord who has been so good to us. Will others never come to know God because we refuse to share? The dimensions of sharing to preserve the unity among us reach far and wide.

Do we find even the most minute opportunity to give something of what we have been given? Paul invites us to do this with *perfect humility, meekness, and patience*. Are we willing? Can we remember when someone did just this for us? What would our life be, where would we be today, if someone had not done likewise? Does gratitude not move us? Yes, my friends, miracles can happen! Are we willing to be the workers of them for others?

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

**MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE APPEAL WEEKEND - AUGUST 8-9**

In conformity with the Missionary Cooperative Plan as established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and coordinated by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the Archdiocese of Boston, the Second Collection on the weekend of August 8th & 9th will be to support this Missionary Cooperative Appeal.

At all Masses that weekend, Sr. Pat Conner, SNDdeN will speak on behalf of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur ministries in Africa and Latin America. She will tell the Notre Dame story from personal experience throughout countries in Africa and Latin America. The financial appeal that she will make is on behalf of the ministry needs in evangelization, education, pastoral and health care.

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, were founded in 1804 by Marie Rose Julie Billiard, a French peasant woman. The vision and hope of St. Julie Billiard was that her sisters would go throughout the world, proclaiming God's loving care for all peoples. Today, the Sisters of Notre Dame serve in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the United States.

Throughout their long history as an educational order they have always emphasized the care of those living in poverty in the most abandoned places. They are women of courage and faith, unafraid of the personal cost of the living out of the Gospel. They stand with the poor through a diversity of educational ministries at all levels of society.

Our prayers, encouragement, and the Second Collection which will be taken up join our parish in a very particular way with the mission of this religious congregation of Sisters. Let us be as generous as we are able.



**By James Gaffney**

After the hurricane devastated the south, a group decided to travel there for 10 days to help with the rebuilding efforts. Many people wanted to go, but could not get time from work or were constrained by other responsibilities. A local business proposed a plan that would enable everyone to support the effort, even though they could not go. Donations of food, supplies, campers, and trucks were made, all of which enabled the crew to do a great job. The community supplied the mission and great things happened.

When God gives us a mission, He supplies what we need. He never asks us to do anything without giving us all that is necessary for success. There are countless examples of people who have achieved the impossible because they trusted in the power of God. How many churches, schools, hospitals, missions, programs and social causes have flourished in spite of opposition and skepticism? What God decides, He also provides. Just when we think we cannot possibly reconcile, forgive, feed, clothe, give or pray, the Lord comes through and we find that we have all that we need.

What is your impossible task? What is it that God wants you to do? Trust in His Providence. As the proverb says, Plan as though all depends on God; work as though all depends on you. He will not fail you.



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**By Dr. Scott Hahn**

### **Bread Left Over**

Today's liturgy brings together several strands of Old Testament expectation to reveal Jesus as Israel's promised Messiah and king, the Lord who comes to feed His people. Notice the parallels between today's Gospel and First Reading. Both Elisha and Jesus face a crowd of hungry people with only a few "barley" loaves. We hear similar words about how impossible it will be to feed the crowd with so little. And in both the miraculous multiplication of bread satisfies the hungry and leaves food left over.

The Elisha story looks back to Moses, the prophet who fed God's people in the wilderness. Moses prophesied that God would send a prophet like him. The crowd in today's Gospel, witnessing His miracle, identifies Jesus as that prophet. The Gospel today again shows Jesus to be the Lord, the good shepherd, who makes His people lie down on green grass and spreads a table before them.

The miraculous feeding is a sign that God has begun to fulfill His promise, which we sing of in today's Psalm - to give His people food in due season and satisfy their desire. But Jesus points to the final fulfillment of that promise in the Eucharist. He does the same things He does at the Last Supper - He *takes* the loaves, pronounces a blessing of *thanksgiving* (literally, "eucharist"), and *gives* the bread to the people. Notice, too, that 12 baskets of bread are left over, one for each of the apostles.

These are signs that should point us to the Eucharist - in which the Church founded on the apostles continues to feed us with the living bread of His body. In this Eucharist, we are made one body with the Lord, as we hear in today's Epistle. Let us resolve again, then, to live lives worthy of such a great calling.

### **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.



# **\$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!

**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!***

### **ARE YOU LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?**

If you have a child entering First Grade this coming school year or you are new to our parish family and would like to enroll your child in any grade of our Religious Education Program, please, pick up a Religious Education Inquiry Form located in the wall racks at all entrances of the church.

Simply complete the form and return it to the rectory office and Joanna Bazzinotti, Coordinator of Faith Formation will be in contact with you. The Faith Formation Office email and phone contact information is also included on the form. Please, know that as part of the registration process, all new students in the Religious Education Program must have a long form copy of their Baptism record from the church where the sacrament was received.

### **2016 CORI FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL VOLUNTEERS**

Massachusetts State law requires any person 17 years of age and older, who serves as a volunteer in any parish ministry, must complete a CORI form (Criminal Offense Record Information). This form requires verification of identity with a photo document (e.g. Massachusetts Drivers License or passport). There are no exceptions to this requirement!

Fulfilling this legal requirement is one way we demonstrate our commitment to protect all our parishioners and all who visit with us ..especially the children and the elderly, who are the most vulnerable among us. Please, come to the rectory office any day Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30am and 2:30pm to complete the CORI Form for 2016. We thank you for your cooperation!

### **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

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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



Project Rachel is a confidential Catholic outreach ministry offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. **Trust in the tender embrace of God's merciful love.**

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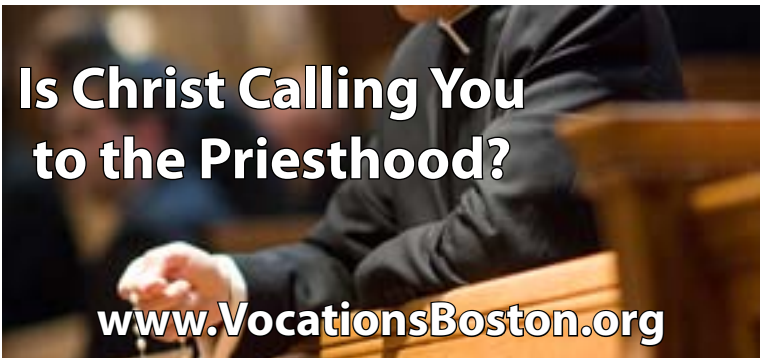



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