Saint Margaret Parish

374 Stevens Street ~ Lowell, MA 01851

Tel (978) 454-5143

Fax (978) 458-8472 www.stmargar

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 рм

Rev. Raymond P. Benoit Administrator

> Paul St.Cyr Facilities Manager

Karen Miller Business Manager

Barry Lloyd *Permanent Deacon*

Debra McAndrews Administrative Coordinator

Joanna Bazzinotti **Source State Stat**

Pamela Quinn Coordinator of Religious Education, Grades 1-8

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

> Ernest Houle Director of Music

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

MASS SCHEDULE

~ Main Church ~

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 рм Sunday Masses - 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 ам

~ 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. Hincent 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.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 2, 2015

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Intention</u>		<u>Celebrant</u>
Aug 01	Saturday	4:00pm	Leda Gaillarder	47th Anniversary	Fr. Ray
Aug 02	Sunday	7:30am	Dianne Maille	1st Anniversary	Fr. Raju
	·	9:00am	The Benoit, Parent, and	·	Ū
			Driscoll Families	Memorial	Fr. Ray
		11:00am	Joseph McNamara	5th Anniversary	Fr. Ray
Aug 03	Monday	8:30am	Joan Butler	Memorial	Fr. Raju
Aug 04	Tuesday	8:30am	Edith Gath	Memorial	Fr. Raju
Aug 05	Wednesday	8:30am	Roland and Lucille Neveux	Special Intention	Fr. Raju
Aug 06	Thursday	8:30am	Joan Butler	Memorial	Fr. Ray
Aug 07	Friday	8:30am	John T. & Florence T. Mahoney	Wedding Anniversary Memorial	Fr. Ray
Aug 08	Saturday	8:30am	Lillian Thibault	Memorial	Fr. Ray
		4:00pm	Thomas A. Golden, Sr.	10th Anniversary	Fr. Ray
Aug 09	Sunday	7:30am	People of St. Margaret Parish	Special Intention	Fr. Ray
	-	9:00am	Jackie Hilla	1st Anniversary	Fr. Ray
		11:00am	Wayne Fairbrother	34th Anniversary	Fr. Raju

+ Mass Intentions +

+ Steeple Bells +

Our Steeple Bells will ring this week in loving memory of Florence T. Mahoney.

+ Sanctuary / Altar Lamps +

Our Sanctuary & Altar Lamps will burn this week:

- . Sanctuary Lamp (Church):
- In loving memory of Brien C. Monahan.
- . Sanctuary Lamp (Chapel):
- In loving memory of Rosamond E. Martin. **Special Intentions for Maria A. Ortiz.**
- . Sacred Heart Lamp (Church):
- . Blessed Mother Lamp (Church): Special Intentions for Eleanor O'Connor.

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

+ In Memoriam +

During the week of July 19, 2015

The Rite of Christian Burial was celebrated for

Ann C. Dowling **Lorraine Flory Marotte Raymond K. Sousa** Lillian F. Thibault Let us remember them and their loved ones in our pravers.

<u>CIRCLE HOME, INC</u>

(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, August 6th, from 8:30 to 10:00am No appointments are needed and no fees are charged for this drop-in clinic.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

II. Carla A. Bettencourt & Diogo R. Maia **III. Caitlin Hanley & William Caswell**

Today's Scripture Readings - Catholic Community Hymnal # 630

🞵 Hymns 🎵

- Entrance Offertory
- 407 **Praise and Thanksgiving** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 311
- Communion 435
 - **Eat This Bread** 444
- Recessional **Alleluia!** Sing to Jesus

PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

July 25-26, 2015

. 1st Collection: Weekly Offertory# of Envelopes: 202Envelopes: \$3,172.00Non-Envelope: \$653.00Total: \$3,825.00

- - -

. $\frac{2^{nd}$ Collection: Utilities Assistance# of Envelopes:165Envelopes:\$1,611.00Non-Envelope:\$479.00Total:\$2,090.00

2nd Collection this weekend: <u>Catholic Relief Services</u>

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

MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE APPEAL WEEKEND - AUGUST 8-9

At all Masses on the weekend of August 8th & 9th, Sr. Pat Conner, SNDdeN will speak on behalf of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur ministries. She currently works at the Notre Dame Congregational Mission Office in Ipswich, MA and has served as a school principal in both Lowell and Tyngsboro.

Sr. Pat will be speaking about and asking for support of the SND missions in South America and Africa and will focus on the Photovoltaic Solar Power Project in Africa. <u>And so the Second Collection on August 8th & 9th will be to support this Missionary Cooperative Appeal</u>.

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, were founded in 1804 by Marie Rose Julie Billiart, a French peasant women. The vision and hope of St. Julie Billiart 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.

IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We are truly blessed by members of our Saint Margaret Parish family! So many of you offer your time and talents to build the Kingdom of God. It is through caring, sharing and praying that our community grows in love and support of one another. The success of our Religious Education programs depends on the dedicated individuals in our parish who are willing to share their time, talent and faith with our parish youth. We encourage all parishioners, young and old alike, to help out in some way. We are in need of Catechists, Teacher Aides, and Confirmation Program Team Members.

Would you be willing and able to donate your time and giftedness on most Sunday mornings from late August through May in our Religious Education Program (Grades 1-8), or one Sunday evening a month from September through May to witness to your faith with our Confirmation students? 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 would wish to give 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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Exodus 16:2-4 Ephesians 4:17, 20-24 John 6:24-35

Let Us Pray for God to Provide Us with Our Daily Bread

God gave the Israelites bread from heaven to sustain them on their desert journey to the Promised Land. The manna appeared on the ground each day near the place where the people camped. They could gather only what they needed for the day. If anyone tried to hoard more than a day's portion, it turned rotten and wormy. Only in the sixth day could they gather and save enough for two days - that day and the Sabbath. This truly was *daily bread*!

At the last Supper, Jesus instituted the Eucharist., giving us food from heaven - his own body and blood - to sustain us on our spiritual journey from this life to the eternal Kingdom of heaven. Jesus continues to give himself to us in the Eucharist each time we attend Mass. This nourishment is necessary for the life and health of our souls. It comes to us through the action of the holy Spirit and the ministry of the priest in the words of consecration.

In the prayer that Jesus taught us, we pray - *give us this day our daily bread*. We believe that God cares about the things we need each day to sustain our lives. God also cares that we have spiritual strength to build up our faith and trust. Knowing god's concern for us can fortify us in times of trial and temptation. Dependent upon a generous and loving god, we must never forget to thank him for all that comes to us.

Sometimes our physical needs seem to monopolize our prayer time. Too many people lack basic food and shelter; terrible diseases take their toll on family members and friends; our world suffers from pollution; we see the misuse of power in many places; abortion concerns us, as well as the lack of peace among nations - the list goes on and on. These are all worthy causes for our prayer. God's help in finding solutions to these problems is part of the *daily bread* that we seek.

We also must pray for the *spiritual food* that is essential in our lives. So, in our prayer we remember the needs of our faith family gathered to worship. We pray for the holy women and men who dedicate their lives to the work of the Church. We pray for those who do not know Jesus, that they may come to faith in him. We pray for ourselves, that we may grow in holiness and charity. As we offer these prayers, we are always to remember how generous is our God, who gives us all good things. How sincere is our thanksgiving prayer today and every day of our lives?

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO PARISHIONER LORRAINE PRIMEAU 2015 FRANCO-AMERICAN OF THE YEAR!

As announced by the Franco-American Day Committee, Inc., at the French Mass held at Ste. Marguerite D'Youville Church on Sunday, June 21st, Lorraine Primeau was selected as the 2015 Franco-American of the Year. Lorraine contributes to the city's French culture through the women's French club: Le Cercle Jeanne Mance.

Since joining 28 years ago, Lorraine has served in many capacities: Board of Director, Treasurer, Secretary, and five years as President. Lorraine's biggest task has been to see that the French language is continuously promoted.

Lorraine was very surprised that she was named Franco-American of the Year 2015. "I can't take this honor all on my own... I want to share it with all the wonderful ladies in my French club and all the wonderful nuns who taught us the language and the grammar and the specialness about my Franco-American heritage."

We wish Lorraine Primeau a wonderful year as Lowell's Franco-American of the year 2015, as she will no doubt continue working to honor the values of her patron St. Jeanne Mance.

We wish to thank Cecile Provencher for her kind offer to allow us to include the above article in our bulletin. It contains excerpts from a posting in the June 5th bulletin of the Parish Communities of Ste. Marguerite d'Youville, Dracut, and St. Rita, Lowell.



All too often, people quote either some spiritual book they found at a yard sale or a flaky televangelist with a message of planting a seed for prosperity. They call it 'Christian' and many think that makes it good. The message is one of false hope, twisting quotes from the Bible and the message of the Gospel into a pretzel of confusion and razzle-dazzle. Gimmicky gifts and silly ideas are portrayed as serious elements of faith that God so loves and blesses. So much of what passes for Christian spirituality is shallow and superstitious. It's the equivalent of spiritual junk food.

Faith needs to be nourished and sustained. Jesus knows this and offers us the best meal we can have - the gift of finest wheat, the Eucharist. It unites us to Him, joining our minds, hearts and souls with His. We become what we receive, and what we receive is the Body and Blood of Christ. Nourished and sustained in body and soul, we can say with Saint Paul that it is no longer I who live, but Christ who dwells in me. Spiritual junk food may move people to pray, but it will never give people strength to stay.

Where do you go for your spiritual nourishment? There are no easy fixes, no simple answers, no shortcuts. The way of the cross is the way of Christ. In the Eucharist we join ourselves to Him and walk with Him through sacrifice, discipline and prayer. We find in Him the banquet of life and the manna of heaven.



By Dr. Scott Hahn

Endurance Test

The journey of discipleship is a life-long exodus from the slavery of sin and death to the holiness of truth in Mount Zion, the promised land of eternal life. The road can get rough. And when it does, we can be tempted to complain like the Israelites in this week's First Reading. We have to see these times of hardship as a test of what is in our hearts, a call to trust God more and to purify the motives for our faith.

As Paul reminds us in this week's Epistle, we must leave behind our old self-deceptions and desires and live according to the likeness of God in which we are made. Jesus tells the crowd in this week's Gospel that they are following him for the wrong reasons. They seek him because he filled their bellies. The Israelites, too, were content to follow God so long as there was plenty of food.

Food is the most obvious of signs—because it is the most basic of our human needs. We need our daily bread to live. But we cannot live by this bread alone. We need the bread of eternal life that preserves those who believe in him. The manna in the wilderness, like the bread Jesus multiplied for the crowd, was a sign of God's Providence—that we should trust that he will provide.

These signs pointed to their fulfillment in the Eucharist, the abundant bread of angels we sing about in this week's Psalm. This is the food that God longs to give us. This is the bread we should be seeking. But too often we don't ask for this bread. Instead we seek the perishable stuff of our every day wants and anxieties. In our weakness we think these things are what we really need. We have to trust God more. If we seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, all these things will be ours as well.

KEEPING GOD'S HOME & OUR CHURCH CLEAN

\$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 <u>Friday, September 11th</u>, 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!

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 <u>Religious Education Inquiry Form</u> located in the wall racks at all entrances of the church.

Complete the form and return it to the rectory office and Joanna Bazzinotti, Coordinator of Faith Formation, will be in contact with you. 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!

SAMARITANS OF MERRIMACK VALLEY VOLUNTEER TRAINING

The Samaritans of Merrimack Valley, a program of Family Services of the Merrimack Valley, is looking for caring people who are willing to help others by answering our suicide crisis help line. Most people who call our line are not suicidal; they need someone to listen to them. We offer emotional support for those who are dealing with life stressors and need befriending. For more information and a volunteer packet, please email Debbie at dhelms@fsmv.org or call (978) 327-6671.



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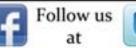
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Rachel mourns her children; She refuses to be consoled, because her children are no more. Thus says the Lord: "Cease from your cries of mourning. Wipe the tears from your eyes...There is hope for your future." Jeremiah 31:15-17



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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