

# *Saint Margaret of Antioch Church*

PEARL RIVER, NEW YORK

*Make safe  
the way that  
leads on high*

*First Sunday  
of Advent*



## *From the Desk of Father Raaser*

The last time Christmas fell on a Monday was back in 2006; the next time it will take place will be 2023. This year Christmas is a Monday, which means Christmas Eve is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We miss an entire week of readings and prayers of Advent this year. The Mass schedule will be a bit tricky, there's no 'double dipping' in attending Mass, one has to go for the 4th Sunday of Advent, and one has to go again to a Christmas Mass. And if you think that's tough, Valentine's Day this year is Ash Wednesday so much for the filet mignon dinner, hope she likes salmon!

So allow me to wish you all a Happy New Year! Here we are, eleven months into the calendar year, three months into the fiscal year, about twelve weeks into the school year — and about four weeks before our actual New Year, we begin our liturgical year.

We Christians live out time in a completely different basis. Christ is the center, the King of all creation. Time is a creation. Everyone up until recently mark time as before Christ (BC) or as the Year of the Lord (AD). The Church's liturgical year transcends and invades the worldly cycle of planets and seasons. It was the moment of the birth of the Lord that changed time; it is the birth of the Savior that centers our sense of time.

Even as we begin a new year, the readings today focus on the end times! It is the beginning of Advent; we contemplate the end of the world. At the end of Advent, we contemplate the beginning of our salvation, the beginning of the Kingdom. The coming of God's Son at the first Christmas is such an event; it took God centuries to prepare the world for the Nativity of His Son.

All the great moments of life, there is always a period of preparation; the birth of a child, a wedding, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, even a vacation with all the preparation work for one particular day.

Advent is the season of preparation, a season of patient waiting. Advent has a two-fold nature, first we are waiting for the Return of Christ, and then on December 17th, we prepare for the Christmas Season. The Nativity of Christ is so great a moment, that it is an entire season celebrated until January 11, the Baptism of the Lord. Unlike the music stations or the department stores, Christmas doesn't end on December 25th it just begins! So, for 4 weeks we prepare, and for at least 12 days afterwards we celebrate the Nativity of Christ.

So how should we prepare: first, every house should have an Advent wreath. Before dinner, we should light the candle for the week and pray together as a family. Go to confession before Christmas; don't light the decorations or the tree before Dec. 17th, pray together as a family, attend a daily Mass during the week, read a spiritual book about Advent or Christmas. Make Advent a spiritual, family experience. Pray for the world, pray for those who do not yet know the name of Jesus; pray for the person who is bugging you the most at that moment; pray that the world experiences the peace that the Savior brings.

December and Christmas shouldn't cause stress, but it happens - to some extent it is unavoidable. But if by the time Christmas Eve arrives, and your behavior more closely resembles Scrooge than St. Nicholas, or if you find yourself getting tired, grouchy and short—take a deep breath, find a quiet spot, meditate on the blessed peace and silence that must have accompanied the Lord's birth and offer all your struggles up to Him. In the end, there is no such thing as the perfect Christmas celebration - only the perfect Christ. Let's all keep calm and focus on Him this Advent. Have a Blessed Advent, have a blest time.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Sun., Dec. 3 – First Sunday of Advent**

4:30 PM – For the Parish  
 5:45 PM – Katherine Fitzpatrick  
 7:30 AM – Anton Picinic  
 9:00 AM – The Hart & Wallace Families  
 10:30 AM – Michael & Jack Galvin  
 12 Noon – The Fallon & Madden Families  
 In Thanksgiving  
 5:30 PM – Holy Souls

**Mon., Dec. 4 – Saint John Damascene,  
 Priest and Doctor of the Church**

7 AM – Margaret Miller  
 9 AM – Catherine Du Plessis

**Tues., Dec. 5 – Advent Weekday**

7 AM – Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gannon  
 9 AM – Helen Murray

**Wed., Dec. 6 – Saint Nicholas, Bishop**

7 AM – Florence & Sigmund Makowski  
 9 AM – James Basquil

**Thurs., Dec. 7 – Saint Ambrose, Bishop and  
 Doctor of the Church**

7 AM – Pat Foley  
 9 AM – Catherine Du Plessis  
 7:30 PM – Katherine & Odd Hagman Sr.

**Fri., Dec. 8 – The Immaculate Conception of the  
 Blessed Virgin Mary**

7 AM – George Andrela  
 9 AM – John Cooney  
 Noon – For the Parish  
 4:30 PM – Margaret Kasper  
 7:30 PM – Bridget Murray & Marie Greene

**Sat., Dec. 9 – St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin**

9 AM – Nancy Lovett  
 12 Noon – Anthony

**Sun., Dec. 10 – Second Sunday of Advent**

4:30 PM – William & Nora Brett  
 5:45 PM – Frederick A. Spicer  
 7:30 AM – For the Parish  
 9:00 AM – Bridget & Bernard Fegan  
 10:30 AM – Michael Badger Sr.  
 12 Noon – Antoinette & Nicholas Paciello  
 5:30 PM – Patrick Corr (5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)



**The Immaculate Conception of the  
 Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – A Holy Day of Obligation**  
**Masses: Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM**  
**Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 7AM, 9AM, Noon, 4:30PM, 7:30 PM**

**Weekly Collection** for Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> - \$ 10,671.75  
**Weekly Collection** for Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> - \$ 12,361.16  
**Thanksgiving Collection** \$ 2,139.00  
**Catholic Charities** \$ 1,401.00

Thank you for all who have contributed to the collections.

**Daily Readings of the Week**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday** Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37  
**Monday** Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11  
**Tuesday** Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24  
**Wednesday** Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37  
**Thursday** Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27  
**Friday** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
**Saturday** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

**Readings for Next Sunday**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

Isaiah emphasizes that from the desert to the mountains, all people must prepare for “the glory of the Lord to be revealed.” Rather than looking only at God’s power, Isaiah focuses on God’s kindness, comparing it to a shepherd who feeds and cares for his flock.

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

For those who are impatient for the Second Coming, Peter explains that time is different to God than to people. He reminds them that they should be grateful for the extra time to prepare, and concentrate on striving to become all that God would want them to be.

**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8** In this passage, John the Baptist stressed the importance of the coming of the Messiah. He acknowledged that he was only the messenger, and unfit to “stoop and untie his sandal straps.” John urged them to prepare for one far holier than he, who would walk among them.



**WEDDING BANNS**

**III** *William Miller, Jr. & Raina Paolini*

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 4:30 PM**  
**5:45 PM**  
**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>– 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, Noon**  
**(NO 5:30 PM Mass)**



**Christmas Eve**

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 PM – Church**  
**4:30 PM – Gym**  
**7:00 PM – Church**  
**10:00 PM - Church**

**Christmas Day**

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 AM, 9 AM, 10:30 AM, Noon**

**Saint Margaret of Antioch  
School News . . .**

We have been super busy during the month of November. Our participation in food drives for the hungry and fundraisers to raise funds for the poor have allowed us to act on our feelings as we think about the needs of others. The children have learned that empathy is the feeling we have when we know others are in need, and compassion is the action we put forth in response to what we feel.



With that said, we have supported SM Parish Food drive building 22 bags of food for needy families to celebrate Thanksgiving with a meal that is sure to bring families happiness this season. We have also collected \$533 that will go toward the purchase of coats for homeless children of NYC via the Building Blocks Organization. Both initiatives support our monthly value of FRIENDSHIP. We look forward to the season of Advent in preparation to celebrate the birth of Christ.

God bless you, Patricia Maldonado – *Principal*

**November 500 Club winners:**

- #482 Williams (School Family - grade 1)
- #429 Russell (School Family - grade 1)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Christmas Trees, Wreaths &  
Grave Blankets**



St. Margaret of Antioch School will be selling Christmas Trees, Wreaths and Grave Blankets the weekends of:

**Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>. Friday, 4 – 8 PM;**

**Sat., 10 AM - 8 PM & Sun., 9 AM - 6 PM**

Trees are freshly cut from a farm upstate and will arrive at the school the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Trees will cost \$60, wreaths will cost \$40 and grave blankets will be \$50. Please stop by one of these weekends and support the school. For questions, please contact Peggy Neil at 914-419-8920 or email [pt1run@aol.com](mailto:pt1run@aol.com).

Your support is greatly appreciated.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ST. MARGARET CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
BLOOD DRIVE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

**in THE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM**

Give the Gift of Life during the season of giving! 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will help recruit blood donors and convey the message of the joy of the season.



\* \* \* \* \*

**THE GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR PREP**

**Prayer for Immaculate Conception**



O most pure Virgin Mary conceived without sin, from the very first instant, you were entirely immaculate. O glorious Mary full of grace, you are the mother of my God – the Queen of Angels and of men. I humbly venerate you as the chosen mother of my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

+ + +

***A Special Word of Thanks to Our Families***

*Who supported our Thanksgiving Food Drive.*

*The Franciscan Sisters called to let us know that they were able to give away 300 turkeys and 700 bags of food, thanks to the generosity of parishes like ours!*

**Christmas Food Drive:** Our children are asked to donate the following items for the Christmas Food Drive.

- Your donation may be brought to class the week of December 4th or 11th. The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal will pick up the donations on Thursday, December 14th. Thank you for your generosity.
- K & 1st Grades – 2 Cans of Soup
- 2nd Grades – 2 Cans of Pineapples
- 3rd Grades – 2 Cans of Beans (Black, Red, Kidney etc.)
- 4th Grades – Bag of Rice
- 5th Grades – 2 Boxes of Instant Potatoes
- 6th Grades – 2 Cans of Tomatoes/Spaghetti Sauce (please NO glass jars)
- 7th Grades – 2 Boxes of Cake or Brownie Mix
- 8th Grades – 2 Cans of Vegetables (Carrots & Peas)
- \$1.00 if possible to help defray the cost of the Hams for this Christmas Meal.

**Advent** is an important time to prepare our minds and hearts for the coming of Our Savior. Please join the children and families of PREP in their Advent Activity of performing Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

-We will once again support the Angel Project to help build a day care center in Ghana using small miter boxes for loose change.

- A Christmas Food drive will provide a meal for a family in need.

-We will pray decades of the Rosary both in class and out for all of people on our prayer list and for all of the families in Saint Margaret's.

*We wish all a fruitful and faithful Advent Season.*

**2017 Advent Parish Giving Tree**


***You will see our Parish Giving Tree  
In the Church vestibule.***



***Please take home a gift tag and return an  
UNWRAPPED gift by next Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.***

***The gifts should be returned to the Church vestibule.  
These gifts will be distributed before Christmas  
to local charities.***

***Thank you for your generosity!***

**A Sincere Thank You to all who donated to our Annual Thanksgiving Food Project**  
 **We collected 110 bags of food and 58 turkeys!**

### YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Saint Margaret's Youth Group has begun their second year. The focus of our group is living the Corporal Works of Mercy. **THIS WEEKEND - Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**



we will collect toiletries after all Masses. The items will be distributed by Albertus Magnus High School students to the homeless in NYC. Please adhere to the list below. Small & travel size items work best.

**TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSH, SOAP, RAZORS  
 HAND WIPES, TISSUES (small packs), COMB,  
 LOTION, SHAMPOO, CHAPSTICK, SOCKS (new)  
 STRETCH GLOVES –  
 SOMETIMES CALLED "MAGIC GLOVES"**



### **"Share What You Can"**

Our next collection takes place  
**THIS WEEKEND**

**Saturday/Sunday - December 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>**

We invite you to **"SHARE WHAT YOU CAN"** by donating *non-perishable foods* at St. Margaret's Church. **Suggested Items:** boxed cereal, juice boxes, canned vegetables, soup, beans, tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly, instant potatoes. (no glass containers-please)

**Coffee and Conversation with Fr. George.** At OLSH Parish Hall (120 Kings Hwy, Tappan) on Mon., a series of videos & conversation on topics relevant to our lives as Catholics in 2017. 1 hour session includes: video by Fr. George Torok discussion & light refreshments. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> - 1:15 PM, "Recent American Catholic Personalities". Call the rectory if you have any questions (845-359-1230) All are WELCOME!

**Albertus Magnus on the Move!** Come see the new AM Take a Tour Thursdays Program provides a great opportunity to learn what sets Albertus apart from all other high schools. Tours will be held:

Dec. 7th, 14<sup>th</sup> & Jan. 4th, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

Visit [www.albertusmagnus.net](http://www.albertusmagnus.net) for more details.

### **Saint Margaret Rosary Altar Society**

12/04 – 12/10 – Team #2 – M. Young  
 12/11 – 12/17 – Team #3 – M. Clark  
 12/18 – 12/24 – Team #4 – T. Anselmi  
 12/25 – 12/31 – Team #5 – A. Byrne



**ROSARY ALTAR MEETING:** After the 10:30 AM Mass. This Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Toner Hall.

**ROSARY MAKERS:** Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> after the 9 AM Mass in the Doyle Center.



### **Dominican College Christmas Concert**

Rev. Alphonse Stephenson & the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea – **This Weekend, Sun., Dec. 3 at 3pm**, Hennessy Center, Dominican College, 470 Western Hwy, Orangeburg, NY.

Tickets: \$30; \$25 for seniors & veterans; \$20 for student's school ID. Sweets Dessert reception following the concert. Holiday Buffet at 1 pm in the Granito Center. Buffet tickets \$20 per person. Seating is limited. On-line reservations: [www.dc.edu/christmas-concert](http://www.dc.edu/christmas-concert)

**6th Annual Holiday Raffle tickets** are on sale now.

1st Prize: \$2000, 2nd Prize: \$500, 3rd Prize:

Amazon Echo Tickets are 3 for \$100 or \$50 each

Drawing Date: December 15, 2017.

On-line purchases: [www.dc.edu/annual-holiday-raffle](http://www.dc.edu/annual-holiday-raffle)

Purchase tickets with Mary Lichtman at 845.848.7406 or online. Additional information: [specialevents@dc.edu](mailto:specialevents@dc.edu)

### **-BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY CRECHE**

At the Rockland County Legislative building, New Hempstead Rd., New City will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. A blessing will be given and Christmas Carols will be sung.

Please join us at this beautiful ceremony.

### **-NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE**

At St. Francis of Assisi Church, 128 Parrott Rd., West Nyack on Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 PM with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Midnight Mass on Sat., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be united with Churches across the country in prayer to end abortion and all offenses against the Culture of Life.

### **-CONCERT FOR LIFE**

Free Concert for Life to benefit the Moms & Babies of Good Counsel Home in Spring Valley.

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM at the Marion Shrine, Stony Point. The Honoree Liz O'Brien, Chairperson, Rockland Right to Life Committee.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW:** On Sun., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, Saint Joseph Regional H.S., Montvale, NJ. Annual Christmas Craft Show - 10AM - 4PM. Over 125 juried crafts people & fine artists. Admission \$2. Children & senior citizens (65+) free. *No Strollers.* [www.sjrnj.org](http://www.sjrnj.org)

### **Join Venture – 230 NY – 340 Sparkill, NY**

**Sun., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – A Winter Concert, 3:30 – 5:30 PM**

No cost. Featuring **Venture's Rock Academy Band**. Cookies & juice served. Admission is open to all. Kindly respond to [Kbilodeau@campventure.org](mailto:Kbilodeau@campventure.org) also . . .

. . . **Sat., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert, 3 – 4 PM**

Featuring the **Rockland County Catholic Choir**.

Open to the public with

freewill donation requested for admission.

For additional info or to register visit

[www.venturefoundation.org](http://www.venturefoundation.org) - click appropriate event link.

**Remember your deceased loved ones  
at Saint Margaret's by:**

- Having flowers placed at the altar in their loving memory;
- Having the Sanctuary Lamp burn in a deceased loved-one's memory;
- Enroll your deceased loved-one in the Parish Holy Souls Society;
- Have an announced or unannounced Mass celebrated in your loved-one's memory.

**The Catholic Widow & Widowers Club of Rockland County** will be meeting this weekend, Sunday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at 1 Squadron Blvd. Office, (Opposite New City Library Parking Lot), New City. Dessert & coffee will be served. New members/guests are welcome.

For information call Janet at (914) 661-8599.

**BEREAVEMENT H.A.N.D.S.** Support group for parents who have lost a child. Founder, Ann Carucci. Meeting: 6:30-8 PM at H.A.N.D.S. head-quarters, 9 Scott Drive, New City, free of charge. Also, one-on-one counseling sessions. Widows & widowers group meet Monday evening at same address as above. Phone: 634-6706, Fax: 634-9199; Email: Hands423@aol.com

**ST. MARGARET PARENTING CENTER - 9:30 - 11 AM**  
Every Wednesday in Toner Hall (lower Church).

For more information please call:  
Erika Fitzpatrick @ 845-826-3843

**Remember St. Margaret's Parish**

**in Your Will** - Your attorney in conjunction with your accountant can prepare a proper will and make other arrangements for the easy, inexpensive transfer of your estate. If you would like to speak to a gift planning specialist about how to include our parish in your will or living trust, call (646) 794-3317 or email [plannedgiving@archny.org](mailto:plannedgiving@archny.org)

**Archbishop Stepinac HS Theatre presents the Disney hit, NEWSIES.** Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM & matinees Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> – 2 PM. Tickets: \$22 adults & \$18 children under 12 & senior citizens.

For reservations call 914-946-4800 ext. 200.

Email [theatre@stepinac.org](mailto:theatre@stepinac.org)

*Saint Margaret's wishes to thank*

**B & B AUTO BODY**  
for advertising in our Church bulletin.

**Catholic Everything Expo** Come and rejoice in the richness of our faith! Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sat. & Sun.)  
8 AM – 6 PM. Meadowlands Exposition Center  
355 Plaza Dr., Secaucus, NJ 07094. Holy Mass,  
Preaching, Music, Exhibits, Christmas Gift Bazaar  
Tickets: at [www.johnleaps.com](http://www.johnleaps.com) – 800-313-6933  
email [johnleapsproduction@gmail.com](mailto:johnleapsproduction@gmail.com)

**BECOME A KNIGHT** – Triune Council- K of C 2052 Invitation to practicing Catholic Men who want to join with others that support the practices of the Church, & The Charity, Fraternity, Unity & Patriotism within the Order of Knights.  
For more information: K. McGovern at 845-735-2444 or C. Nawoichyk – 845-735-3969



**PADRE PIO CHILDREN'S ROSARY GROUP**

All Children (& parents) Welcome! We explain & recite the rosary prior to the 9 AM Mass & attend Mass together following recitation of the rosary –  
**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month 8:30 AM** at St. Margaret.

Light refreshments will follow in Toner Hall.

For more info call: Maura, Grace or Kathryn McGraw – (SMS students) 845-359-0529 –

Coordinator: Mr. McGraw

**CENACLE OF LIFE Wednesdays: 6–6:45PM**-Promoted by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, to defeat the culture of death & elevate a culture of life. 2 rosaries & a fast 1x a week (traditional fast: bread & water or fasting from a favorite activity could be done. Implore God's mercy through his mother. Group meets on Wednesdays in Church. All are welcome. Call: Terry at 735-5238 or Margaret at 735-7398 [www.CenaclesofLife.org](http://www.CenaclesofLife.org)

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Web: [www.saintmargaretparish.com](http://www.saintmargaretparish.com)

**Parish Office Hours:**

Mon. – Fri., 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

**PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM – PREP**

(Parish Center) – Phone: 845-735-5489

**SAINT MARGARET SCHOOL** Phone: 845-735-2855

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday:** 4:30 PM & 5:45 PM

**Sunday:** 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 10:30AM, 12 Noon, 5:30PM

**Weekdays:** Monday – Friday – 7:00 AM & 9:00 AM  
Saturday – 9:00 AM & 12 Noon

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM  
& 11:00 AM – 11:45 AM

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