

The Church of

St. Margaret Mary



December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent



“Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make straight his paths.”

Mark 1: 1-8

**You Are
Welcome Here!**

**We're glad you're here.
Wherever you are
on your journey of faith,
you have a home
with us.**

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Mass 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation 4:00 pm
Sunday Mass 10:00 am
with Children's Liturgy of the Word

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday: no Mass
Tuesday: 5:30 pm Adoration
6:30 pm Mass
Wednesday: 8:00 am
Thursday: 8:00 am
Friday: no Mass

**Experiencing the Heart of
Christ, we**

Know Jesus

in Word and Worship.

Live Jesus

in a vibrant, welcoming
Catholic community.

Serve Jesus

in outreach and justice.

Reflections from Father Tom

Voice in the Desert

Kierkegaard, one of the modern existentialistic philosophers, narrates 'a story of a clown who was on a tour with his circus group. The preparation was grand and the circus was about to begin. Soon there broke out a fire in the camp. The clown went out to announce to the audience about the fire and asked them to take security measures. But the people just laughed the more serious he got about the fire more they laughed. He warned the people again, but nobody took him seriously. Being a clown, the people took his words for fun. But in reality the fire spread out more quickly than expected with disastrous consequences'.

This is exactly what happened when the John the Baptist preached to the people. They looked at the messenger not the message. As Jesus himself said, "John came neither eating nor drinking and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon'. The son of Man came eating and drinking, and they said 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners.' (Mt 11:17-18)". People judged John the Baptist by his costumes (appearance) more than by his message and they thought he was a clown. Jesus was judged by his association rather than the truth in his message. Similar to the story above, we sometimes take the prophets and religion as clowns. Kierkegaard was actually depicting the present religious situation of the world. He saw how secularism was rampant and religious values undermined in the society. He saw a society that was consumed by consumerism and confused with conflicting values. Religious leaders seem to lose their credibility with the result that they often are considered as the clowns. People do not take them seriously when important message are communicated. Leaders' visions and missions become meaningless without faith.

The Gospel message reflects the similar message that I have mentioned above. John the Baptist said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord'. He acknowledged who he was and who he was not. He said he was just the voice; and the one to come was mightier than he. How do we listen to the voice of John and how do we prepare for Christmas? So let us make our spiritual path straight with faith as our light.



Prayer:
Come Lord Jesus!
Lord Jesus Come to
make our hearts your
home!

Parish Communal Reconciliation Service



Wednesday, December 13
6:30 pm

Reconciliation Join in communal prayer to ask God's forgiveness for all that separates us from the love of God and one another. Advent is a season to anticipate joyfully the coming of Christ incarnate into our hearts. With great gratitude we seek the gift of forgiveness! All are welcome.

Other Communal Reconciliation opportunities near by:

Dec 14, 7 pm at St Joe's in New Hope

Dec 16, 10 am at St Bridget's in Minneapolis

Liturgy

"Deck the Halls"

We will be preparing the environment for Christmas in church this year in two phases. Come help out either Sunday, December 17th after the 10:00am mass AND/OR Sunday December 24 after the 10:00am. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is the same day as Christmas Eve. As these are not the same liturgy, all the elves will be very busy that day. Call or email Christina if you are able to help!



Christmas Choir

Carols, music and singing is a favorite tradition for many during the Christmas Season. If you would like to join the choir for caroling at 4:00 pm and sing for the 4:30 pm mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day 10:00 am, please contact Christina. All ages and abilities welcome!

Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions are offered at Mass in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as birthday or anniversary), or, most commonly, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died.

Please call the parish office to schedule your Mass Intentions.

Christmas Memorials



We invite you to remember a loved one, living or deceased, with a donation to the Christmas church environment.

Please enclose your contribution in a "memorial gift" envelope, print the name of your loved one being remembered on the envelope and return the envelope in the collection at mass. Memorial names will be in the January bulletin.

December 9 ~ December 17

Saturday, Dec 9

4:00 pm Confessions
4:30 pm Mass..... *People of St. Margaret Mary
Hospitality / New Member Registration

Sunday, Dec 10 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Mass..... *Theresa Dusatko
Hospitality / New Member Registration

Monday, Dec 11

Tuesday, Dec 12

2:00 pm Adult Faith Formation Meeting
5:30 pm Adoration
6:30 pm Mass

Wednesday, Dec 13

8:00 am Mass
6:30 pm Faith Formation Classes
6:30 pm Communal Reconciliation Service

Thursday, Dec 14

8:00 am Mass

Friday, Dec 15

Saturday, Dec 16

4:00 pm Confessions
4:30 pm Mass..... *People of St Margaret Mary

Sunday, Dec 17 3rd Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Mass

† deceased * living

Stewardship

As we come to the end of the calendar year, we will soon be totaling our charitable contributions amongst other documents to prepare our annual tax return. Please prayerfully consider your financial contributions to the parish. Are you current on your stewardship pledge for 2017? December is the time to make your pledge current. The parish depends on your support, both physically and financially to maintain and grow parish programs.

IRA Disbursements: Ask how you can benefit by directing your IRA minimum distribution to St. Margaret Mary Parish.

Gifts of Stock to St. Margaret Mary can provide you with **DOUBLE TAX BENEFITS**. First, you may be able to claim a charitable contribution donation in the amount of the current market value of the stock (original cost plus any increase in value). Second, you avoid paying taxes on the appreciated value of the donated stock.

In order to have these contributions for your 2017 tax return, please start the process now. Please consult your tax advisor for complete details.

Religious Retirement

The elderly religious need your help. There are more than 32,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests living in the United States. They served us well through sacrifice, prayer and love and now they need our support to help fund medications and nursing care. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you.

Pastoral Care

Homebound Eucharistic Ministers

We are looking for additional people to take Communion to homebound parishioners once a month on a rotating bases. If you can help with this rewarding ministry, please call the parish office. Training is required.

Faith Formation

Wed, December 13 Classes at 6:30 pm

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Social Ministry



Last few days to donate gifts or gift cards to PRISM for the toy distribution. Gifts need to be at St Margaret Mary before December 14.

Gift ideas are displayed on the Giving Tree. Please place your unwrapped gift under the tree and place gift cards in collection. Thank you for your generosity.

Volunteer to help with the distribution of these gifts at Valley Community Presbyterian Church Dec 14 - 16 by contacting Kevin at klythe@prism.org

Loaves & Fishes: SMM will be cooking and serving a meal at St. Stephen on Thursday, December 21. Please consider joining us. Together we can be the Body of Christ for those in need.

Meet at St Stephens at **4:30 pm** to set up, serve at **5:30 pm** and clean up around **6:30 pm**.

Upcoming Parish Events

December 13 Communal Reconciliation 6:30 pm
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Mass Schedule)
December 23 - Saturday 4:30 pm Mass
December 24 - Sunday 10:00 am Mass
Christmas Eve Mass
December 24 - 4:30 pm Mass
Christmas Day Mass
December 25 - 10:00 am Mass
Mary, Mother of God
January 1 - 10:00 am Mass

Cana Dinner February 10 Mark your calendar!

Neighboring Parish Events

20th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Friday, Dec 15 at 7 pm at St Bartholomew Catholic Church. The homilist will be Fr Michael Joncas. Visit the website for more information. www.st-barts.org

Following the Spirit Discernment Series 2018: How is God leading you? Considering making changes in your life? Following The Spirit (FTS) is designed to give clarity in decision making, as well as provide encouragement and support to men and women for the journey.

Sponsored by the Visitation Sisters of Minneapolis, will be offered the last Monday of the month, January–April 2018, 7:00-9:00pm. It is a four part series anchored in Salesian Spirituality and the rich Christian tradition of Call Stories. For more information contact: Sr. Katherine Mullin, katherinefmullin@gmail.com or Joan Miltenberger, joan.miltenberger@gmail.com. To register: click on the link: <https://goo.gl/Cdvp9W>.

Catholic Schools

Catholic Schools Affiliated with St. Margaret Mary

Good Shepherd (K-6) 763-545-4285 145 Jersey Ave S. Golden Valley www.gsgvschool.org	Sacred Heart (PreK-8) 763-537-1329 4050 Hubbard Ave N. Robbinsdale www.sacredheartrobbinsdale.org
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Spiritual Life

Anointing of the Sick

If you, or someone you know of, is ill, elderly or facing surgery, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

Please call the Parish Center **early** in your pregnancy or adoption process to register for a Baptism Preparation Session.

Marriage

Please call the parish office six months in advance.

RCIA, First Eucharist, Confirmation

Please call the Parish Center.

The Church of St. Margaret Mary
2323 Zenith Ave. N., Golden Valley, MN 55422

Parish Center Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 8 - 3:30 pm, Friday 8 - noon
763-588-9466 Fax: 763-588-0040
Web: www.smm-gv.org
Email: office@smm-gv.org

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Mass 4:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation 4:00 pm
Sunday Mass..... 10:00 am
with Children's Liturgy of the Word

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Mass at 6:30 pm (Adoration at 5:30 pm)
Wednesday and Thursday, Mass at 8:00 am

Pastoral Team

Pastor	Father Thomas Rayar frtom@smm-gv.org
Faith Formation for Children & Adults	faith@smm-gv.org
Liturgy, Music & Liturgical Environment	Christina Maas cmaas@smm-gv.org
Parish Business Administrator	Diane Mareck dmareck@smm-gv.org

Pastoral Emergencies and Anointing of the Sick
call Father Tom at 763-515-2005

Parish Leadership

COUNCIL FOR MISSION & MINISTRY

Marian Beumer, *First Chair*..... 612-529-4945
Mark Hastie, *Second Chair* 763-710-4149
Susan Hoke, *Secretary*..... 763-546-6744
Richard Karels..... 763-588-3271
Richard Kramer..... 763-521-0851
Anne Marsnik..... 763-535-4125

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES for CMM

Nancy Huntley, *Trustee* 763-522-9437
Mike McMonagle, *Liturgy*..... 952-545-6705
Jean Plucinski, *Adult Faith Formation*..... 763-593-0664
Georgeann Wobschall, *Social Ministry*..... 763-545-7026

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sybi Czeneszew, *Chair*..... 612-377-3992
Rick Riley 763-529-8741
Gene Blanski..... 763-732-1655
Jim Sherburne 763-588-5364
Jeb Myers, *Trustee*..... 952-693-8135

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (CCW)

Laurie Geving 763-546-6828

PRAYER CHAIN

Jennie Schlumpberger..... 763-546-5088