

The Church of
St. Margaret Mary



December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

**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 Sched-
ule**

Saturday Mass ... 4:30 pm
Reconciliation 4:00 pm
(or by appointment)

Sunday Mass ... 10:00 am
with *Children's Liturgy of
the Word*

**Weekday
Mass Schedule**

Tuesday: 5:30 pm Adora-
tion and 6:30 pm Mass
Wednesday 8:00 am Mass
Thursday 8:00 am Mass

**Experiencing the Heart
of Christ, we**

Know Jesus
in Word and Worship.

Live Jesus
in a vibrant, welcom-
ing
Catholic community.

Serve Jesus
in outreach and justice.



Third Sunday of
Advent

December 16, 2018

I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
Luke 3:16

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Reflection from Father Tom

How do we prepare for Christmas?

As Christmas draws near, we are busy shopping and getting the gifts wrapped. But the Gospel today invites us to reflect on how John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord for the first Christmas that happened 2000 years ago. As he preached, "The crowds asked John the Baptist," What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none." Sharing what we have with others is the way to prepare for Christmas because Christmas is the celebration of God sharing His only son with this world. It is by giving we receive. We share what we need, but not what we like to get rid of from our closets.

In the second reading today St. Paul calls to our attention to what kind of outcome the real Christmas should bring out in our life. "Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:4-7) St. Paul reminds us that the real Christmas is all about rejoicing in kindness shown to all. With a life of gratitude, we pray with no anxiety. Then the peace of God, which comes to us beyond our understanding, will fill our hearts. What an amazing way we are called to prepare for Christmas!

As the community of Annunciation, we are called to prepare for our Christmas with the similar spirit that John was talking about in the Gospel and with the gratitude that St. Paul was writing about. We should be a community that is filled with thanksgiving. It is by mutual compliments we grow as a community filled with Holy Spirit.

I thank you all for your dedication and commitment to our parish. I have seen numerous committed parishioners' contributions to our parish with their time and talents and treasure. There is a lot of labor donated to run our parish to have better liturgy and good building maintenance. May God bless those people who continue to show me an example of dedication! I thank everyone who shows an example of dedication to our faith and hard work for our children.

To make our Christmas gifts more meaningful, I may request you to share your prayers and financial assistants to those poor people affected by Cyclone in India. As I mentioned to you during the Mass couple weeks ago, the cyclone with 120 mph passed through the village I grew up at a stretch of 60 miles all the way to the West coast from the East (in South of India). About 73 people lost their lives. Thank God for the advanced notice. Otherwise thousands would have been dead in the cyclone like this. Thousands of People lost their homes. Along with other cultivations millions of banana and coconut trees were felled by the storm. The coconut trees are the sole source of their livelihood. Coconuts trees take nearly six year to yield and ten years to better yield. It may be better way to celebrate our Christmas by sharing with the people who lost their livelihood. Thank you for your generosity.

A burden shared becomes light. A long journey traveled with love becomes short. A Christmas shared with gifts of gratitude becomes meaningful.

Liturgy



4th Sunday of Advent (Mass Schedule)

December 22 - Saturday 4:30 pm

December 23 - Sunday 10:00 am

Vigil of Christmas

December 24 - 4:30 pm

Carols at 4:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass

December 25 - 10:00 am

Mary, Mother of God

January 1 - 9:00 am Mass

"Deck the Halls"

We will be preparing the environment for Christmas in church this year on Sunday, December 23rd after the 10:00am Mass. We can use as many wonderful worker elves as possible! Please contact Josh in the parish office as soon as possible so that he can plan out the decorating teams to ensure everything gets done efficiently.



Christmas Choir

This year, the Adult Choir will be singing at both the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass as well as the 10:00am Mass on Christmas Day. The Children's Choir will join the Adult Choir for Mass on Christmas Eve.

If you would like to sing with either choir, please contact Josh in the parish office. We would love to have a nice full choir for the birth of our Lord!

Christmas Memorials



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. Memorials will be listed in the January bulletin.

December 15 ~ December 23

Saturday, Dec 15

4:00 pm Confessions
4:30 pm Mass † Ila Herbert
★ Michael Cavanaugh

Sunday, Dec 16 Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Mass.... ★ People of St Margaret Mary

Monday, Dec 17

10:15 am Dinner At Your Door

Tuesday, Dec 18

5:30 pm Adoration
6:30 pm Mass.... † Lillian Mitchell

Wednesday, Dec 19

8:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Children's Choir
6:30 pm Faith Formation Class

Thursday, Dec 20

8:00 am Mass † Ernie Ronnie
7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
Loaves and Fishes

Saturday, Dec 22

1:00 pm Adult & Children Choir Rehearsal
4:00 pm Confessions
4:30 pm Mass † Gary Bernhagen

Sunday, Dec 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Mass.... ★ People of St Margaret Mary

† deceased ★ living

Stewardship

Each year, during our annual stewardship renewal, you are asked to prayerfully renew your financial commitment to the parish. It is with your support, both physically and financially that the parish can maintain and grow parish programs.

Stewardship is not merely about money. It is about managing and sharing the gifts that God has entrusted to us with our community. The very life we live, the talents we have, the treasure we possess and the time we have are generous gifts from God. It is an opportunity to give back to God from what he has provided us with. St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that it is by giving we can receive.

If you wish to begin contributing electronically, please find a form in the vestibule of the church. (Look for a lavender form.) This a convenient and safe way to contribute to the parish. If you have questions, please contact Diane Mareck at dmareck@smm-gv.org or call the parish office 763-588-9466.

In order to claim donations on your 2018 tax return, please have your donations to the parish office by Dec 31 or postmarked in 2018.

Religious Retirement

Thank you to all who supported the Retirement Fund for Religious. Contributions can be made until the end of the year. Envelopes are available in the back of church; or simply use a plain envelope and indicate Religious Retirement in the memo line of your check.

Social Ministry



Thank you to all who supported St. Margaret Mary's Giving Tree with gifts and gift cards for the PRISM Holiday Toy Shoppe.

If you still want to donate toys or money for children of families that use PRISM, please do so. If items are leftover they are used in the Birthday Room throughout the year. (needed.)

Thank you for your generosity.



December Needs: Pantry items—spices, canned goods, oil, basic soups, etc.
Thank you for your support

Faith Formation

Wed, Dec 19 All Faith Formation students will make fleece tie blankets in Visitation Hall as a service project. The blankets will be donated to the Children's Minnesota Hospital in Edina

Dec 26 and Jan 2 No classes - Christmas Break

Children's Choir

December Schedule

Wed, Dec 19 5:30pm Rehearsal
Sat, Dec 22 1:00pm Rehearsal w/ Adult Choir
Sun, Dec 23 10:00am Sing at 10:00am Mass
Mon, Dec 24 4:00pm Sing at Christmas Eve Mass

Upcoming Parish Events

Vigil of Christmas

December 24 - 4:30 pm
Carols at 4:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass

December 25 - 10:00 am

Mary, Mother of God

January 1 - 9:00 am Mass

Neighboring Events

Good Shepherd School - Uniting Academics, Faith, and Family - K-6th Grade Learn what it's like to be part of our award winning school and vibrant community? Open Houses will be held on Jan 10 and 15th at 6 pm. RSVP by calling 763-545-4285 or school-info@gsgvschool.org

Abria Pregnancy Resources offers a **safe, non-judgmental and supportive environment** for women and couples facing an unexpected pregnancy. Abria Pregnancy Resources seeks volunteers to join in their mission. We need volunteers and training is provided. Locations in St. Paul and North Minneapolis. For more information call Gwen at 651-348-7799 or visit our website supporters.abria.org.

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: myparish@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

**Coordinator of Faith For-
mation / Youth Ministry** Joshua Diaz
jdiaz@smm-gv.org

Director of Liturgy Joshua Diaz
jdiaz@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

At Large Members

Tina Gorgos
Brittney Hynes
Mark Hastie
Susan Hoke
Richard Kramer
Kayleen Taffe

COUNCIL FOR MISSION & MINISTRY

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Nancy Huntley, *Trustee*
Jean Plucinski, *Adult Faith Formation*
Georgeann Wobschall, *Social Ministry*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jeb Myers, *Trustee*
Rick Riley
Gene Blanski
Jim Sherburne

PRAYER CHAIN

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