

The Church of

# St. Margaret Mary

2323 Zenith Ave N., Golden Valley, MN 55422 # 763-588-9466



[www.smm-gv.org](http://www.smm-gv.org)

December 17, 2023

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.**

## Mass Schedule

Saturday Mass: 4:00pm  
Sunday Mass: 10:00am  
Tuesday: 5:00pm Adoration  
6:00pm Mass

**View the weekend Masses online at:  
[www.smm-gv.org](http://www.smm-gv.org).**

**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.

## Reflection from Father Tom

### Who Are You?

One of the difficult questions of our life which is very seldom asked and rarely answered is: ‘Who am I?’ We try so hard to acquire knowledge of the world and every science available while we do not know the answer to a simple question: who am I? We, many times, forget or ignore the reality that the knowledge begins within, not from outside. This is why, the famous Greek philosopher, Socrates said, ‘Know thyself.’ Knowing oneself is the beginning of one’s wisdom and knowledge. Every one of us should constantly ask ourselves the question, ‘who am I?’ However, the surprising reality is that many of us do not know who we really are, other than knowing our names and origin.

The real knowledge of ourselves comes to us through sincere introspection of ourselves. That is why sages and spiritual masters stress the importance of self-awareness during the process of searching for the truth of ourselves. The truth of awareness consists in our ability to aware and understand our limitations and the knowledge is unlimited. More and more we learn, we come to realize that we can only learn less and less, as knowledge is like a big ocean and we try to sail through it with a small boat of our limited intellect. So, the knowledge is not of what we know, but it is of what we do not know. Thus, Tabula Rasa or emptiness of our mind is the beginning of our knowledge. As we reflected last week, the desert experience or emptying ourselves is the beginning of our spiritual journey. Being aware of our true emptiness or is the genesis of fullness in the Lord with joy.

One may wonder, what these ontological questions of our knowledge and existence have anything to do in reflecting the gospel today. In the Gospel, we hear the Levites and Pharisees asking John the Baptist the similar ontological question: ‘Who are you?’ John answered them who he is not rather than who he is. ‘I am not the Christ.’ So, they asked him, ‘What are you then? Are you Elijah?’ And he said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself? (Jn: 1:7-8). He finally tells them that he was ‘a voice in the desert’ to make straight the way of the Lord.

After listening to John the Baptist, we need to ask ourselves: who are we? Are we the voice of the Lord or ‘void’ of the Lord? What are our strengths and weaknesses? How well do we know ourselves? Where are we going? Are we servants or a master? Are we a proud intelligent person or humble intern in the vineyard of the Lord? Are our ways of life straight or crooked? Are our mountains of sins leveled? Are our valleys of spiritual void filled with righteous deeds? If our ways are straight and genuine, we are on the road to a joyful Christmas!

*Lord, make me what I am, teach me who I am, mold me where I am, and lead me there, where I will be with you finding my eternal Joy. Amen.*

## Stewardship Request!

YEAR END GIVING  
YOUR GIFT MAKES  
A DIFFERENCE

We are at the end of the year 2023. God has blessed us with many opportunities. As we thank God during this Holy Season of Christmas, please consider a year’s end gift to our Church that could also increase your tax deferred contributions. As you know, we currently could not find any renters for our School building. In the absence of rental income, it is very challenging to keep up with operating costs of our parish. We need your generous help. You might have received the 2024 Stewardship pledge form that was mailed to your home. Please fill it out and put it in the collection basket or return to the Parish office. This pledge helps us to budget for the year. Thank you!

Pastor and Leadership of our parish.

## Parishioner Volunteer Thank you !

Thank you to Vonnie Reilly for organizing the funeral luncheons and seeing that everything runs so smoothly for the families. Thank you Vonnie for all your hard work!

Please thank Michael and Cheryl Bloberger for the gifting the book, ‘Beautiful Eucharist’ to all our parishioners and faith family! Thank you for the thoughtful gift to our Church!

## Christmas Flower Donations

Envelopes are available in the back of Church for Christmas Flower Memorials. Please include the name of persons to be remembered on the envelope and place them in the collection baskets.



## December 16 — December 25

### Saturday, December 16

3:30 pm Reconciliation  
 4:00 pm Mass .....† Leopold Rosas

### Sunday, Dec 17 Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 pm Reconciliation Service  
 10:00 am Mass .....★ People of SMM

### Tuesday, December 19

5:00pm Adoration  
 6:00pm Mass .....★ People of SMM

### Saturday, December 23

3:30 pm Reconciliation  
 4:00 pm Mass .....† Richard Sullivan  
 .....† Joseph and Florence Reger

### Sunday, Dec 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00am Mass .....† Mary Garvey

### Sunday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Mass

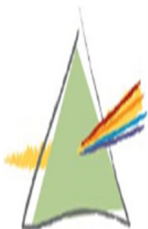
3:30 pm Christmas Carols  
 4:00 pm Mass .....★ People of SMM

### Monday, Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass

10:00am Mass .....★ People of SMM

† deceased ★ living

## Social Ministry



PRISM

### PRISM GIVING TREE:

Thank you for your generosity to the Giving Tree!

November numbers from PRISM:

- 1,804 households served
- 4,263 individuals served
- 3,258 visits
- 339 first-time visits
- 145,597 lbs. of food distributed

December items needed:

Peanut Butter, Cereals, Baking Supplies, etc..  
 Brown Paper Grocery Bags always needed.

**The Church of St. Margaret Mary**  
 2323 Zenith Ave. N., Golden Valley, MN 55422  
 763-588-9466

## Pastoral Team

### Pastor:

Fr. Thomas Rayar  
 frtom@smm-gv.org  
 For Pastoral Emergencies and Anointing of the Sick  
 Call 763-515-2005

### Business Administration

Mary Muntifering  
 marym@smm-gv.org

### Music Ministry

Mary Bur  
 mbur@smm-gv.org

## 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.

## Parish Pastoral Council

### AT LARGE MEMBERS

Michael Bloberger, First Chair.....  
 Collin Abram .....  
 Brenda Brincks,.....  
 Hannah Ficks, *Second Chair*.....  
 Steve Gleason, Secretary .....  
 Molly Anderson .....

### PPC COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

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

### FINANCE COUNCIL

Peter Aubart .....  
 Michael Ficks .....  
 Jeb Myers, *Trustee*.....  
 Rick Riley .....  
 Jim Sherburne .....

### PRAYER CHAIN

Laurie Geving ..... 763-546-6828

**The Church of St. Margaret  
Mary**  
2323 Zenith Ave. N., Golden Valley,  
MN 763-588-9466  
www.smm-gv.org



Monday: Office Closed  
Tuesdays through Thursdays : 9:00am  
to 3:00pm  
Fridays: 9:00 am to 12:00pm

## Parishioner Volunteer Thank you !

Thank you to everyone who donated presents and gift cards for the PRISM giving tree! The generosity of our faith family is phenomenal! Thank you for helping those less fortunate celebrate the Christmas!



## Devotional Candles

*"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).* In today's culture, lighting devotional candles signifies our prayer offered in faith coming into the light of God. With the light of faith, we petition our Lord in prayer to pray with us and for us to the Lord. The vigil candle that is lit remains so for a period of time and symbolizes how the person desires "to remain present to the Lord in prayer even though we may depart and go about our daily business."

Your donation of \$3.00 is appreciated to defray the cost of the candles.

## Mass Intentions



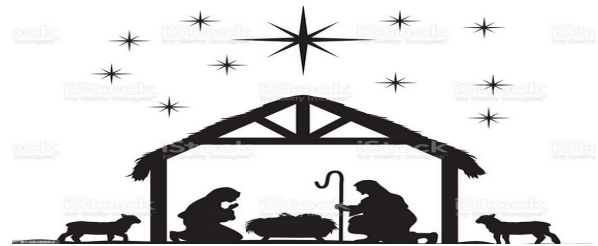
Mass Intentions are offered in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as birthday or anniversary), or for the repose of the soul of someone who has died.

Please contact Mary (marym@smm-gv.org) in the parish office to schedule your Mass Intentions. Suggested minimum donation is \$7.00 or more per Mass.

## History of St. Margaret Mary



Mass was celebrated in the basement of the school



## Christmas Liturgy Schedule

**Sunday, December 24th**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**  
**Mass at 10:00 am**

**Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve Mass**  
**3:30 pm Christmas Carols**  
**4:00 pm Mass**

**Monday, December 25th – Christmas Day**  
**10:00 am Mass**

**Tuesday, December 26th—No Mass**

**Monday, January 1st**  
**Feast of Mary Mother of God**  
**9:00 am Mass**

**Daily Bible Readings** are available online at the United States Council of Catholic Bishop's website [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings).