The Church of

St. Margaret Mary



www.smm-gv.org

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

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 25, 2023

The Nativity of the Lord



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

View the weekend Masses online at: 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

Daily Christmas!

This year, during the season of Advent, we have been focusing on four important theological concepts which should be part of our spiritual preparation for the great feast of Christmas: Faith, Hope, Joy, and Love. With faith we build our strong foundation of our Christian life. With hope we construct our spiritual home on the foundation. With joy we enter the home of our spiritual life. With love we live our life finding the purpose of our life. Thus, our Christmas is not a one day celebration in a year but it is a celebration of our daily life. We constantly live the life of love welcoming and recognizing the Infant Jesus, who brings joy to our life, by our life of love, faith, and hope.

As the Johannine Gospel proclaims, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (JN: 1:1,14)." We know the word of God is the expression of his Love for us. So, Christmas It is God's Love that became flesh and made his dwelling in our hearts. It is God's ultimate gift to us that we humans, who lost our paradise due our sins, will regain it though his son, Jesus. Such regaining the paradise does not happen within a day or the recognizing God's love personified through Jesus cannot be fathomed in a day. It is a lifelong process and a daily event of our everyday life.

We know that Christmas is not merely an external transaction of our material gifts, but it is the celebration of our internal transformation. Without the internal transformation of our hearts which should be filled with love, forgiveness, joy and finally recognizing the Infant Jesus in others with an unconditional mind, our festivities have no meaning. So, Christmas conveys the core meaning of our fundamental existence in this world. Thus, Christmas is not a celebration of Christ's birth, but is the celebration of our spiritual birth in Jesus Christ through our spiritual transformation. May the Infant Jesus bring such transformation in our daily life! Merry Christmas!

My personal sentiments of gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers in decorating our Church, money counters, sacristans, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, musicians, AV operators, Parish and Finance council members, trustees, building and grounds committee, Church cleaners, all generous donors and everyone who one way or the other who serve the enrichment of our faith community. I sincerely thank you for lovely greetings and for your generous love and gifts to me during this holy season.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas! May God bless you and your families during this great season of Joy!

Christmas Flower Memorials

Donor:	In Memory of:	
Norine Stimart	Margaret and Russell Stimart	
Tony and Jean Plucinski	Teresa Plucinski	
Patricia Lord	Bill and Agnes Lord	
Louise Hyser	Chuck, Florence and John Hyser	
Diana Fodstad	Robert & Evelyn Fodstad	
Diana Fodstad	Cheryl Ann (Magda) Cannon	
	Joseph & Mary Rolek	
Jennifer & Steve	Melvin & Viola Erick-	
Erickson	son	

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.



There will be Mass but no classes after Mass December 24th and December 31st. Class will resume January 7th, 2024!

Wishing you all many blessings this Christmas and in the new year!

Jim & Jon

Parishioner Volunteer Thank you !

Thank you to Nancy Becker and Michael McDonough for transforming the Church from Advent to Christmas in a short time! It is an incredible amount of work and they do a beautiful job! Thank you!

December 23— December 31

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† Michelle Lee

Sunday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Mass

3:30 pm Christmas Carols

4:00 pm Mass* People of SMM

Monday, Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass

Mass* People of SMM 10:00am

Tuesday, NO MASS December 26

5:00pm No Adoration 6:00pm NO MASS

Saturday, December 30

Reconciliation 3:30 pm Mass ...* Carol Bruggemann (Healing) 4:00 pm

Sunday, Dec 31 Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 pm **Reconciliation Service** 10:00 am Mass ... * Xavier Igherighe (Healing)

Monday, January 1 **Solemnity of Mary**

9:00 am Mass.....* People of SMM

> † deceased ★ living

Social Ministry



750 Children were registered to receive toys from the giving tree donations. Thank you for your generosity and in making someone's Christmas a joyful celebration! **PRISM** December items needed: Peanut Butter, Ce-

reals, Baking Supplies, etc. Brown paper bags are always needed.

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Pastoral Team

Pastor: Fr. Thomas Ravar 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, Secretery
Molly Anderson

PPC COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Nancy Huntley, Trustee Jean Plucinski. A dult Faith Formation...... Georgeann Wobschall, Social Ministry.....

FINANCE COUNCIL

Peter Aubart	
Michael Ficks	
Jeb Myers, Trustee	
Rick Riley	
Jim Sherburne	
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PRAYER CHAIN

Laurie Geving	763-546-6828
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Christmas Prayer Lord, bless us, this Christmas with Peace that passes all understanding, Joy that is beyond material possessions, Love that knows no boundaries, and Strength that emanates from faith in You.

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.



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

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 Office Closed

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.