

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)

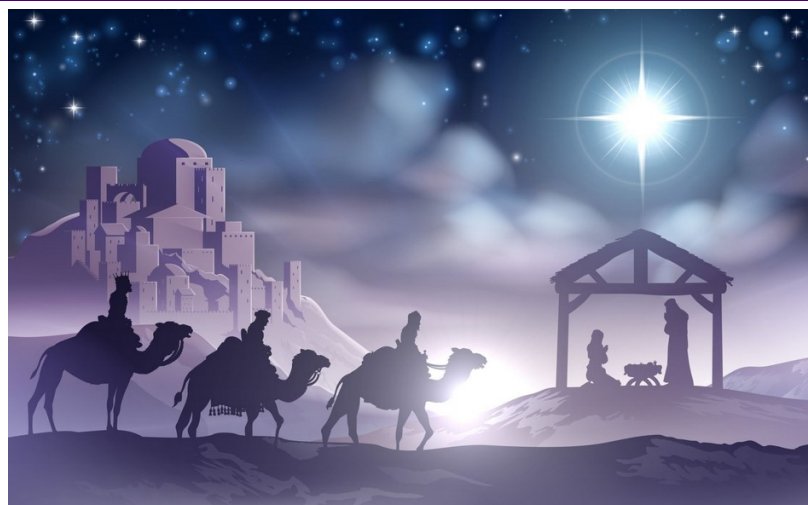
**December 24, 2023**

**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: 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

### 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!

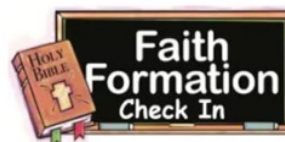
## Christmas Flower Memorials

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
Jennifer & Steve Erickson	Joseph & Mary Rolek Melvin & Viola Erickson

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Class will resume January 7<sup>th</sup>, 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!

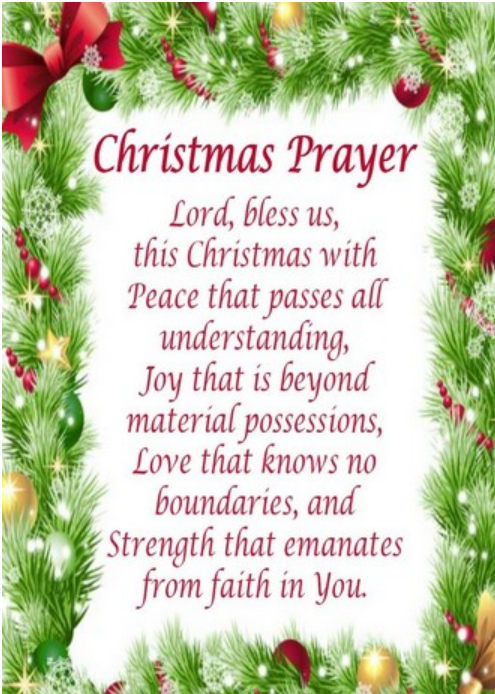




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Mary**  
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Monday: Office Closed  
Tuesdays through Thursdays : 9:00am  
to 3:00pm  
Fridays: 9:00 am to 12:00pm



### 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**  
**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](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings).