

The Church of

# St. Margaret Mary

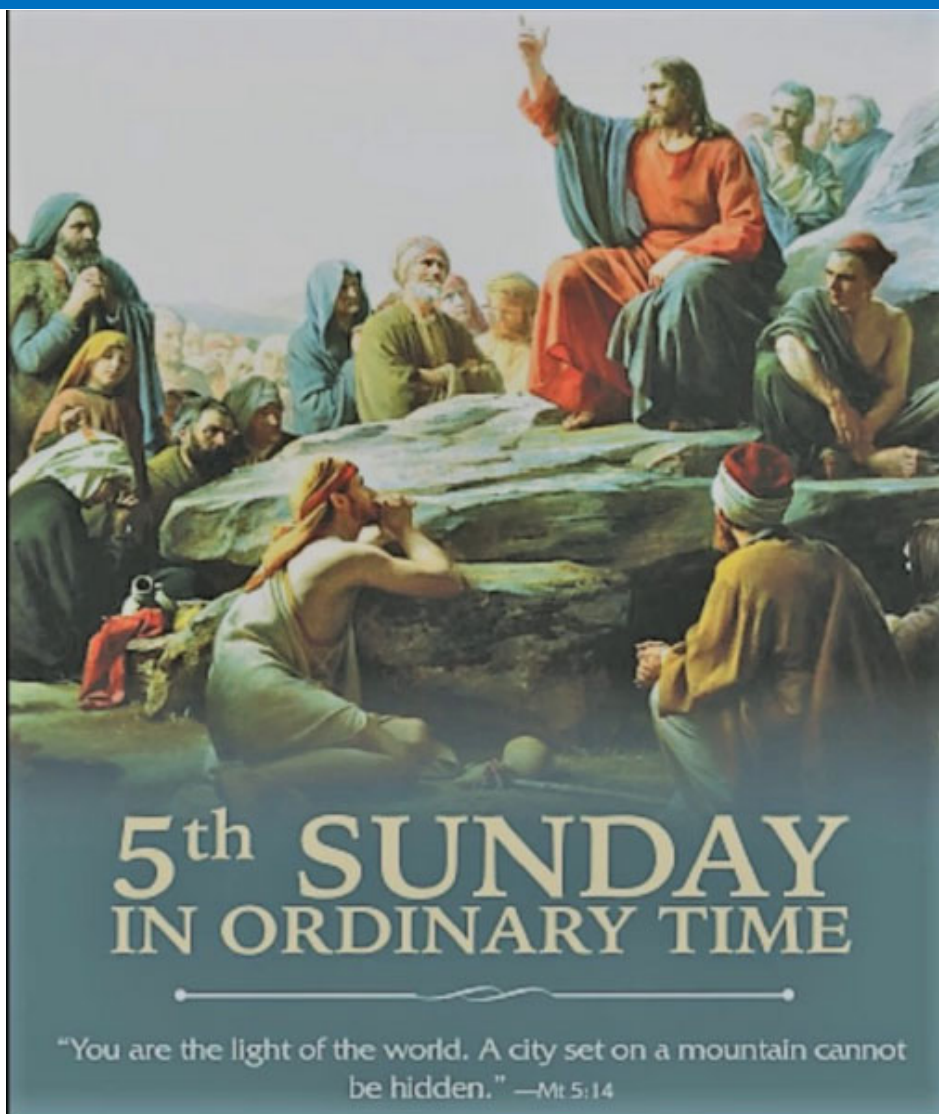
2323 Zenith Ave N., Golden Valley, MN 55422 # 763-588-9466



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

February 4, 2024

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.” —Mt 5:14

**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

### Freedom to Be a Slave

What is 'Freedom?' Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "Freedom 'the quality or state of being free: such as the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action; liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another.'" Pursuing this definition, no one can be free in its true sense. We can never live in a world that has absence of necessity. As we live in a family and community, others around us constrain our choices. We may not do it by coercion or because of direct threat. However, we do it by love. We force ourselves to work hard to improve our life.

Most of the time the word freedom is more misused than properly understood. We like to associate the word to our ability to do something proscribed rather than prescribed. It is understood more negatively than being an affirmative force to be productive.

In the world of freedom, no one wants to be a slave. But, St. Paul, in the second reading of this weekend, defines that his freedom is to be a slave. "Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so as to win over as many as possible" (I Cor. 9:22). If St. Paul had freedom to be a slave, then what is real freedom? Who is then free? In a real sense, as I mentioned before, none of us is free. Dutch philosopher Baruch Spinoza (1631-77) would say, "The free will is only an illusion". Moreover, we are slaves of our own fantasies and selfishness. As St. Paul says, we are free only when we are slaves for the Lord. If you are in love, we know we lost our freedom in its true sense. Real freedom is to be a slave of love in Christ.

St. Paul was not writing about political freedom, economic freedom, or psychological freedom. But he writes about Spiritual freedom. Every one of us has freedom to do the right thing by avoiding wrong. Somehow the concept of freedom is comprehended by many as their freedom to do what they want to do and forgetting what they must do to be free. Such people, in fact, are not free from their own slavery to emotion, passion or selfishness. Unless one empties him/herself in the name of Jesus from the attachments of the world, he/she cannot claim to be free. We are many times enslaved with our worldly freedom, but we will be free, like St. Paul, only when we are free to be slaves to the Lord. When we do good, we are free from evil. Otherwise, we are enslaved to evil and

we are no longer free. "When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life (Rom 6:20-22). Worldly freedom leads to a slavery to sin. But, a slavery (surrendering) to God leads to true freedom.

*Free us, Lord, from the slavery of sin that we will be slaves of Love for the service of others. Amen.*

## Adult Faith Formation



Holy Adult Mind  
Follow Soul Faith Spirit Believe  
Heart Catholic Formation Prayer Christ  
Love of God Understand Relationship

### Adult Faith Formation

#### 2024 Lenten Small Group Meetings

#### "Following in the Footsteps of Jesus"

All participants, please pick up your printed copy of the 2024 Lenten Small Group Study Guide, "Following in the Footsteps of Jesus", in the back of church after Mass this weekend, February 3/4 or next, February 10/11. Also, please check your group listed below for the correct date and time of your first meeting.

All meetings will be held in Visitation Hall.

Group 1: Sundays, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm with facilitators Steve Gleason and Margaret Webinger on February 18th

Group 2: Sundays, 2 pm to 3:30 pm with facilitators Jean Plucinski and Georgeann on February 18th

Group 3: Tuesdays, 10 am to 11:30 am with facilitators Pat Lord and Doris Thimmesh on February 20th

Before the first meeting, please read the material for Week 1 on pages 1 through 13 of the 2024 Lenten Small Group Study Guide which explores the original meaning of Lent, the benefits of silence and solitude in deepening our relationship with God, and how the Holy Spirit inspires and empowers us.

For more information, contact Jean Plucinski at 763-593-0664 or at [adultfaith@smm-gv.org](mailto:adultfaith@smm-gv.org).

## February 3—February 13

### Saturday, February 3

3:30 pm Reconciliation  
 4:00 pm Mass..... \* People of SMM

### Sunday, Feb 4 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 am Mass ..... † Mary Garvey

### Tuesday, Feb 6

5:00 pm Adoration  
 6:00 pm Mass ..... \* People of SMM

### Saturday, February 10

3:30 pm Reconciliation  
 4:00 pm Mass..... \* People of SMM

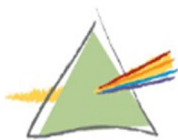
### Sunday, Feb 11 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 am Mass ..... \* People of SMM

### Tuesday, February 13

5:00 pm Adoration  
 6:00 pm Mass ..... \* Expectant Parents  
    † deceased    \* living

## Social Ministry



February items needed:  
 Kitchen spices

Alternative Items:  
 Sugar, oil, flour, cereal, pasta, soup,  
 canned tuna and chicken, pancake  
 mix, peanut butter, jelly, and syrup.

The need for food continues to grow. The winter months traditionally have fewer donations. Please continue to be generous.

## Parishioner Volunteer Thank you !

Thank you to Vonnie Reilly, Diana Fodstad, Tom Lang and Dick Karels who are our greeters and ushers for our weekend Masses. They joyfully greet each of our parishioners and guests each week, and collect our treasure! Thank you for all that you do!

**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

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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

## History of St. Margaret Mary



### 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 was celebrated in the basement of the school

### 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.

### Measure of our Treasure

July 2023-January 2024	Totals:	
Envelopes & Plate	\$124,945.00	
Budgeted Amount	\$133,292.00	
Net Difference From Budget	(\$8,347.00)	

### Mass and Mess

Please let Mary Muntifering know if there is any interest in hosting or participating in a fellowship meal after the 4:00 PM Mass on a Saturday. This would be a wonderful opportunity to socialize with our fellow parishioners and friends. Let us join hands in prayer and work together to build our community.

### Neighboring Event

#### *St Bridget's Lenten Day of Recollection*

*Date: Saturday, March 9th, 2024*

*Time: 9:00 am—12:00 pm*

*Where: St Bridget Church*

*3811 Emerson Ave N Minneapolis, MN*

Title: "Oh, Happy Fault: God Bless the Broken Road"

Facilitator: David Liedl

Please call 612-529-7779 to RSVP.

See the flyer in the back of the Church for more details;

All are welcome!

**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).