

The Church of

St. Margaret Mary

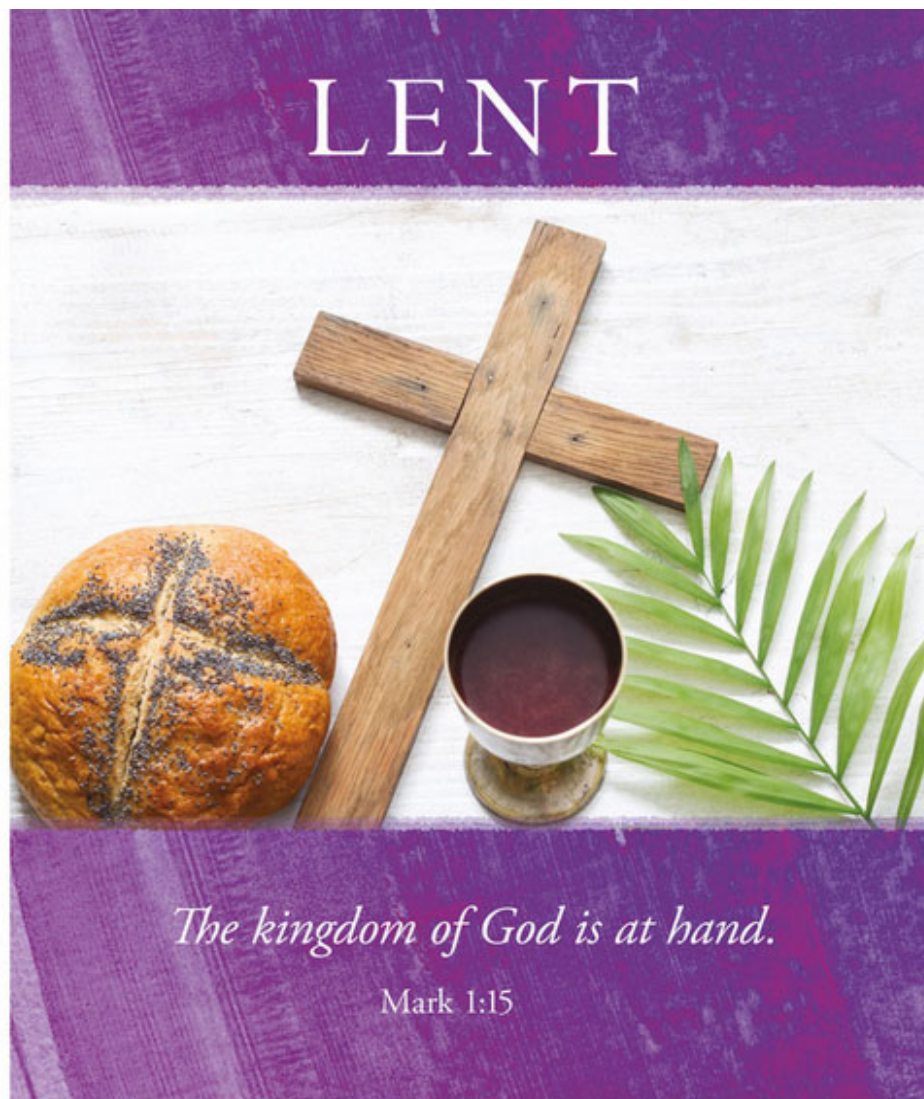
2323 Zenith Ave N., Golden Valley, MN 55422 # 763-588-9466



www.smm-gv.org

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent



The kingdom of God is at hand.

Mark 1:15

**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.**

**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

Dying to Live

It seems paradoxical and illogical to us when we hear Jesus' teachings, especially of today's gospel. "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." (John 12: 24-26)

A grain of wheat should fall to the ground and should die to produce much fruit. Even an uneducated farmer knows this simple truth. But it is the wonderful truth of our life! The grain should fall to the ground not only to produce much fruit but also for its continuous existence. If the wheat fails to fall to the ground, it dies itself by deterioration and decaying. For its continued survival as a grain, the wheat should die to the fertile ground. All grains that die, do not produce grains but only the grains that fall on the fertile ground do produce. All who die will not have life, but only those who die selflessly for the sake of others will gain eternal life.

We can see this concept of 'dying to live' runs all through teachings and life of Jesus. For example: "if you want to be a leader, be a servant." He showed this to his disciples by the example of washing their feet that they could be teachers and leaders by being servants. He tells us 'If you want to live, we should be ready to die.' He demonstrated this fact on the cross that by dying for the sake of others. Through his death on the cross, he brought resurrection and eternal life to everyone. This is a unique teaching of Jesus unlike doctrines of any other religions. This makes us a chosen people and the members of the royal priesthood (1 Pet 2:9), called to continue performing the similar sacrifices that our Chief Priest executed on Mount Calvary for the continued eternal life.

Prayer: Lord, give us the strength that we could fall to the ground like the grain of wheat, so that we could be resurrected to eternal life. Amen.

To Know St. Patrick

As we are celebrating St. Patrick's Day this weekend, it is good to remind ourselves of some facts of this great Saint. St. Patrick is connected to Ireland. But he was not Irish and he was born in Britain ruled by Romans in 4th Century AD. He was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 AD. to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity.

St. Patrick's Day was originally celebrated in Ireland with religious services and feasts in honor of

St. Patrick on his death anniversary, March 17, 461AD. When Irish immigrants brought St. Patrick's Day traditions to the United States, the day evolved into a secular celebration of Irish culture. Cited from: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Saint-Patricks>. May St. Patrick intercede for the US that we are truly converted to Jesus!

Building and Grounds Update

We are currently working on replacing the AC unit which was vandalized last year. Finding the replacement and parts takes more time than we anticipated. However, we will hopefully have a new AC unit by this summer. You may be aware of the hail damage last year. So, our Church roof will be replaced along with other damages to our Church property. We are working with Catholic Mutual, our insurance group. Due to this vandalism and damage to the property, after consultation of our Finance council and Parish Council, we are planning to install chain-link fencing around our property to prevent further vandalism or damage to our Church property. This may be done during the spring/Summer.

Adult Faith Formation



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

Lenten Small Group members, please check your group listed below for the correct date and time of your fifth 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 Mar 17

Group 2: Sundays, 2 pm to 3:30 pm with facilitators Jean Plucinski and Georgeann on March 17

Group 3: Tuesdays, 10 am to 11:30 am with facilitators Pat Lord and Doris Thimmesh on March 19

Before the fifth meeting, please read the material for Week 5 on pages 47 through 56 of the 2024 Lenten Small Group Study Guide which explores how by giving up our lives for Jesus's sake, we can inherit eternal life, and the inspirational persons, St. Maxmilian Kolbe and St. Patrick.

Please remember to fill out the 2024 Lenten Small Group Evaluation sheet in the back of your study guide and turn it in to Pat Lord, Norine Stimart, or Jean Plucinski by Monday, March 25, 2024.

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in the Lenten Small Group meetings, especially the facilitators, all those who brought treats, or helped with the set-up or clean-up!

For more information, contact Jean Plucinski at adult-faith@smm-gv.org.

March 16—March 24

Saturday, March 16

3:30 pm Reconciliation
4:00 pm Mass † Richard Sullivan

Sunday, March 17 Fifth Sunday of Lent

10:00 am Mass † Pushpa Mary

Tuesday, March 19

5:00 pm Adoration
6:00 pm Mass † Mary Garvey

Saturday, March 23

3:30 pm Reconciliation
4:00 pm Mass † Alexi Navalny
..... † Kathleen Spartz

Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday

10:00 am Mass * People of SMM

† deceased * living

Parishioner Volunteer Thank you !

Thank you to all of our altar servers! We thank Lydia, Ethan and Sophia Buck, Olive Pauling, BJ Igherighe, Matthew and Mitchell Plucinski, and Andrew and Julia Brincks.

Many of them serve each week and we enjoy seeing them each time as they continue to share the celebration of Mass with our faith family. Thank you!

Social Ministry



March items needed:

Pantry staples, food and cash
The Prism food shelf is also in need of diapers and wipes: infant, toddler and adult.

SAVE THE DATE
EMPTY BOWLS SOUP SUPPER
TUESDAY MARCH 19

4:00-7:00 pm
Cooper High School
8230 47th Ave N

New Hope
Free will donation
Prism and nearby food shelves will benefit

Thank you for your generosity!

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

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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

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.

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.



Lenten Schedule

Stations of the Cross will be at noon (12:00 pm) each Friday.

Holy Thursday, March 28th , 7:00 pm

Stations of the Cross Good Friday, 3:00 pm

Good Friday, March 29th, 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil, March 30th, 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday, March 31st: 10:00 am

Easter Flower Memorials

Donor:	In Memory of:
Diana Fodstad	Robert and Evelyn Fodstad Cheryl Ann Cannon

Spring Flower Sale

SPRING FLOWER SALE

The order form for flowers will be in the back of the Church. Orders will be taken before and after Mass on the weekend of March 16th and 17th.

If you wish to look at pictures of the flowers offered, go to the Gerten's website under Spring Flower Fund-raiser or see pamphlets located in the back of the Church.

There will also be a form to donate a memorial to the parish gardens. Money collected will be used for planters on the Church grounds. Please write separate checks to St Margaret Mary's Church for the flower sale and the parish memorial garden offering.

The plants will be available for pickup at the parish office garage on Monday May 13th from 3-7 pm and Tuesday May 14th from 4-7pm.

Questions call Nancy Huntley at 763-522-9437

Lenten Movies Available For Free

Films on the Lives of Catholic Saints & Jesus you can watch for FREE on YouTube:

ST. PATRICK

St. Patrick: The Irish Legend (2000)

<https://youtu.be/ndUfgHopiPI>

STORY OF THE 12 APOSTLES

(History Channel)

<https://youtu.be/5tJbgPQxxzI>

ST. PETER

The Apostle Peter: Redemption (2016)

<https://youtu.be/AEVH0mrmIdE>

JESUS CHRIST

The Chronological Gospel Movie

<https://youtu.be/0MHzM09fwNI>

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Francesco (1989)

<https://youtu.be/qAoZFd0XH04>

Daily Bible Readings are available online at the United States Council of Catholic Bishop's website
www.usccb.org/bible/readings.