

The Church of

St. Margaret Mary

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



www.smm-gv.org

December 8, 2024

Second 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.**

**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

A Voice in the Desert

The gospel of this weekend reads, “The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.” As we read this passage, this question may arise in our mind: Why did the word of God come to John in the desert? Why not in the cities?

A desert is a place where nothing exists except the sand. There is no house, road, water, toys, computers, internet, TV, shopping malls or comforts. There is nothing in the desert to distract one’s mind from listening to God’s word. The desert is a place of suffering and challenge. It is a symbolic way of God telling us that His word would come to us only through suffering and hard life. Comfort or convenience is not the place where one can encounter God. Amid noise of our pleasures, the word of God will be lost.

If we wish to celebrate a meaningful Christmas, we need to empty ourselves like the desert and remove all the worldly distraction from our mind, only then can we listen to the word God.

As we hear the word of God, let us prepare the way of the Lord, not our ways. “A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:5-6). When our ways are made smooth, we can see the salvation of God.

Prayer: God, give us the wisdom to prepare the way of your Son, so that we will be able to reach you at the end of our life journey. Amen.

Dec 9 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



There will not be Mass on Monday, December 9.

Those who are able to observe the Solemnity are encouraged to do so. Please reflect on the readings of the day, engage in prayer individually, with others, or as a family.

Let us honor this special day dedicated to Our Blessed Mother.



Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Dec 14th Sat Advent Reflection: 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm Confessions

Dec 15th Sun Communal Penance: 9:30 am and 10:00 am Mass

Dec 24th Tuesday Christmas Eve: 3:30 PM Mass and Christmas Carols

Dec 25th Wed Christmas Day: 10:00 am Mass

Dec 31st Tue Solemnity of Mary : 6:00 pm Mass

Jan 1st Wed Solemnity of Mary: 9:00 am Mass

Retirement Fund for Religious

Support those who have given a lifetime. Religious Sisters, Brothers, and Priests have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. The annual Retirement Fund for Religious helps enable many religious communities to meet their pressing retirement needs for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Your contributions also support newer religious communities with their retirement planning. In 2023, together, the faithful of our archdiocese donated \$428,604 to the fund. A testament to how much we love our consecrated religious! We thank you for your past generosity and ask when the 2024 collection takes place December 7—8, if you’d please give generously and gratitude to our religious sisters, brothers, and priests. Donations may be given directly to your parish for them to forward onto the archdiocese.

Adult Faith Formation Advent Afternoon of Reflection



Advent Afternoon of Reflection Sign-Up Wraps Up this Weekend!

An Advent Afternoon of Reflection is planned for Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm in Visitation Hall followed by an opportunity in Church for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 3:30 pm and the 4 pm Mass. David Liedl, a trained spiritual director who lived 33 years as a Franciscan brother, is leading the reflection entitled “Rejoice, O Highly Favored: Three Ways to Welcome the Word Made Flesh.” Sign-up sheets are available this weekend, December 7/8, in the back of the Church.

For more information, contact Jean Plucinski at 763-593-0664 or at adultfaith@smm-gv.org.

Dec 7—Dec 22

Saturday, December 7

3:30 pm Reconciliation
 4:00 pm Mass★ Ukrainian People

Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Mass†Marguerite "Reet" Burke

Tuesday, December 10

5:00 pm Adoration
 6:00 pm Mass† Al & Agnes Wencil

Saturday, December 14

1:30 pm Advent Afternoon of Reflection
 3:30 pm Reconciliation
 4:00 pm Mass★ Immigrants

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Reconciliation Service
 10:00 am Mass† Leopold Rosas

Tuesday, December 17

5:00 pm Adoration
 6:00 pm Mass.....† Kevin and Frank Murphy

Saturday, December 21

3:30 pm Reconciliation
 4:00 pm Mass† Margaret & Russell Stimart

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Mass★ People of SMM

† deceased ★ living

Social Ministry

PRISM needs for November and December:
Holiday Toys, Gifts and Gift Cards
Teen gifts are in high demand.



Holiday Toy Tree is here! SMM will collect gifts (Giving Tree) on December 9. Please have all your donations placed under the tree and gift cards in the collection basket.

Please do not wrap your gifts.

Items always needed: peanut butter, jelly, crackers and cheese, applesauce and prepackaged fruit.
 Alternate Items: sugar, oil, flour, cereal, pasta, soup, canned chicken and tuna, pancake mix and syrup.

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 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

Molly Anderson
 Collin Abram, *Secretary*.....
 Sue Buck
 Hannah Ficks, *Second Chair*.....
 Jim Franzen
 Steve Gleason, *Chair*.....

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 763-772-7762

**The Church of St. Margaret
Mary**

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MN 763-588-9466
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Monday: Office Closed
Tuesdays through Thursdays : 9:00am
to 3:00pm
Fridays: 9:00 am to 12:00pm

Advent Reflection Dec 14th

Advent Afternoon of Reflection

On Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 1:30 pm to 3:30pm, spiritual director David Liedl will be leading an Advent Reflection in Visitation Hall entitled “Rejoice, O Highly Favored: Three Ways to Welcome the Word Made Flesh”. The Advent/Christmas Season celebrates the manifold ways God chooses to live among us, to be for us “Emmanuel.” Our afternoon of reflection explores three ways that enable us to better open ourselves to the Word Made Flesh and deepen our experience of joy, gratitude, and peace. Guiding us to these reflections will be one of Fra Angelico’s masterpieces from the 15th century. His painting, The Annunciation, stands at the top of a staircase in the Monastery of San Marco in Florence, Italy. The fresco was intended to inspire the monks of his monastery who walked past this image every day. Come join us as we seek to gather our own treasure of spiritual inspiration from this great work of art and for this great season.

Our reflection leader, David Liedl, was shaped by the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi having lived for 33 years as a Franciscan brother. In that capacity he served: as a contemplative in the South Bronx, a retreat director in Orlando, and a community leader in Minneapolis. He is a trained spiritual director and provided ministry as a chaplain and Director of Pastoral Care at Catholic Eldercare. The one constant in his varied expressions of ministry is his passion to help people live into the fullness of their spiritual lives. His artistic talents find expression as a musician, poet, photographer, potter, and liturgical artist. He lives in Fridley, has an active practice as a spiritual director, and offers respite care for people living with dementia.

Signup sheets will be available the weekend, November 30/December 1, in the back of church!
For more information, contact Jean Plucinski at 763-593-0664 or at adultfaith@smm-gv.org.

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

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 \$5.00 is appreciated to defray the increased 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.

Parishioner Volunteer Thank YOU!

This week we thank Michael and Cheryl Bloberger for donating the books titled, “33 Days of Eucharistic Glory, A Spiritual Pilgrimage”. They have generously donated the books as a Christmas gift to each of the St. Margaret Mary Parishioners. We thank them for their thoughtful and prayerful gift to us. Thank you!

Christmas Flower Envelopes

Christmas Flower Donation envelopes are available in the pews and the back of the Church.

St Margaret Mary Parishioner	
<i>Rest in Peace</i>	Michael Cavanaugh