

The Church of

St. Margaret Mary

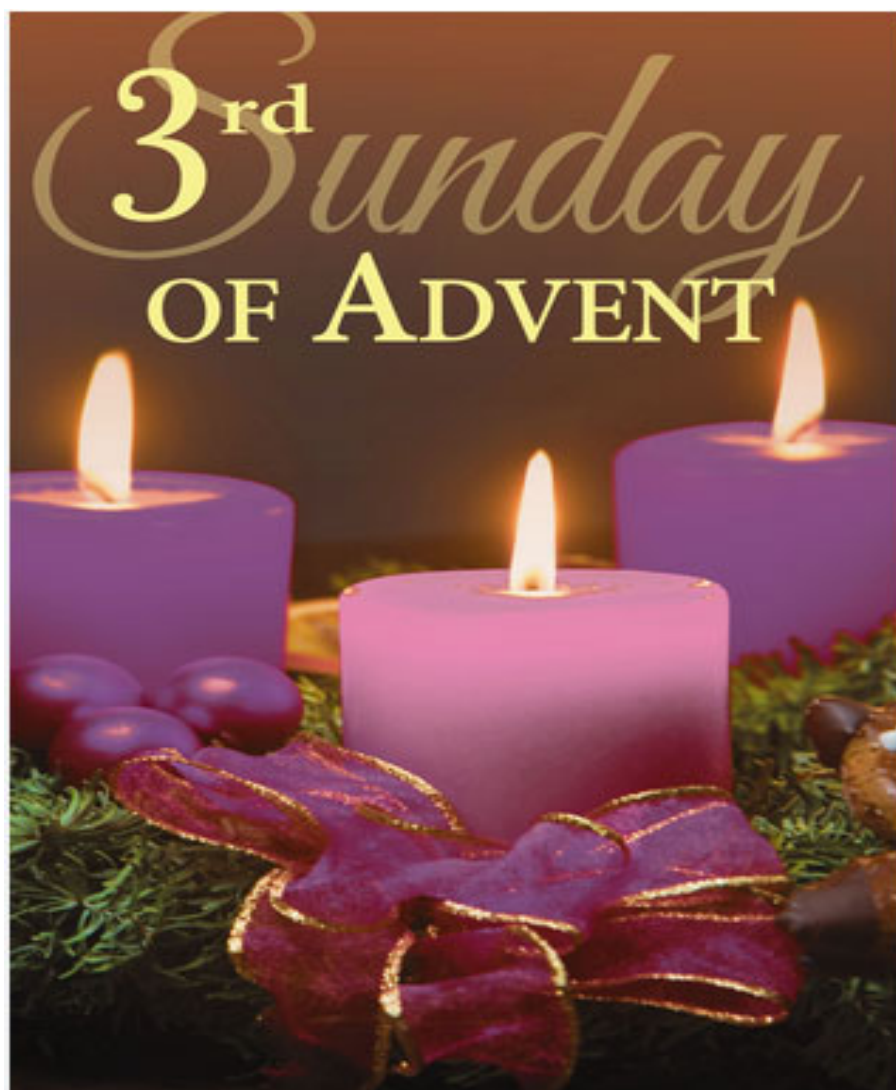
2323 Zenith Ave N., Golden Valley, MN 55422 # 763-588-9466



www.smm-gv.org

December 15, 2024

Third 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

Preparing for Christmas?

As Christmas draws near, we are busy with shopping and getting the gifts wrapped. But the Gospel today invites us to reflect on how John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord for the first Christmas that happened 2000 years ago. As he preached, "The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none." Sharing what we have with others is the way to prepare for Christmas because Christmas is the celebration of God sharing His only son with this world. It is by giving, we receive. We share what we need, but not what we like to get rid of from our closets.

In the second reading today St. Paul calls to our attention to what kind of outcome the real Christmas should bring out in our life. "Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:4-7) St. Paul reminds us that the real Christmas is all about rejoicing by our kindness shown to all. With a life of gratitude, we pray with no anxiety. Then the peace of God, which comes to us beyond our understanding, will fill our hearts. What an amazing way we are called to prepare for Christmas!

As the community of St. Margaret Mary, we are called to prepare for our Christmas with the similar spirit that John was talking about in the Gospel and with the gratitude that St. Paul was writing about. We should be a community that is filled with thanksgiving. It is by mutual compliments we grow as a community filled with the Holy Spirit. As a community filled with kindness, in the last couple of weeks you have donated many gifts to the underprivileged through the Giving Tree.

I thank you all for your dedication and commitment to our parish. I have seen numerous committed parishioners' contributions to our parish. It melts my heart to see the volunteers who work so hard to the up-keeping of our buildings. There is a lot of labor donated through our parish building maintenance. May God bless those people who continue to show me an example of dedication! There is a volunteer in our parish, whenever he meets, he thanks me for giving him an opportunity to serve our community. Such a spirit could be the fruit of true Christmas shown in sharing and caring for others. I thank everyone who shows an example of dedication to our faith and hard work for our children.

A burden shared becomes light. A long journey traveled with love becomes short. A Christmas shared with gifts of gratitude becomes meaningful.



Christmas Liturgy Schedule

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

Dec 15th Sunday: 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 pm Mass

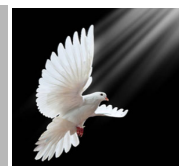
Retirement Fund for Religious

There are envelopes in the pews if you would like to make a donation to the Retirement for Religious. Please help support our retired religious brothers and sisters. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Flower Memorials

Would you like to remember a loved one by a Christmas Memorial Flower? Please use the envelopes in the pews for Christmas Flower Memorials and designate your loved one.

Adult Faith Formation Advent Afternoon of Reflection



The Advent Afternoon of Reflection Is This Saturday!

Thank you to the 21 people from St. Margaret Mary and the 13 people from St. Bridget's who signed up for the Advent Afternoon of Reflection that is this 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." We look forward to a wonderful experience to help us prepare for the coming of Christ!

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

Dec 14—Dec 29

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

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

3:30 pm Christmas Carols
 4:00 pm Mass★ People of SMM

Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am Mass★ People of SMM

Saturday, December 28

3:30 pm Reconciliation
 4:00 pm Mass† Matt Buettner
★ Ukrainian People

Sunday, December 29 The Holy Family

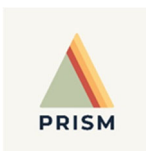
10:00 am Mass★ People of SMM

† deceased ★ living

Social Ministry

PRISM needs for December: Toys and Gift Cards!

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Giving Tree. There was an abundance of toys and gifts ensuring that those in need will have a joyous Christmas! Thank you everyone who helped to fill the tree with gifts.



Items always needed: peanut butter, jelly, crackers and cheese, applesauce and prepackaged fruit.

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

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

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!

Thank you to Steve Gleason for setting up our Christmas light display on the entry of the Church. The festive lights inspire our Christmas spirit!
Thank you to Michael McDonough for his constant care and attention he gives to decorating our Church for each season!
Thank you to Georgeann Wobschall for leading the care of the Giving Tree and ensuring that the less fortunate children have a joyous Christmas!

St Margaret Mary Parishioner

Rest in Peace

Richard Walker



Advent Reflection Dec 14th

Advent Afternoon of Reflection

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Advent Reflection! We were blessed to have David Liedl join and lead us for our Advent celebration. May we continue to be inspired by his words and reflection!

Stewardship

YEAR END GIVING
YOUR GIFT MAKES
A DIFFERENCE

We are in the final weeks of 2024. Please consider a year's end gift to St. Margaret Mary Church. If you have not already done so please complete the 2025 Stewardship pledge and return it to the office by mail, collection basket or drop off. We thank you for your support to our faith family.

Endowment Fund

"A Gift that Keeps on Giving, Year after Year."

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Parish Endowment Fund. Ongoing contributions of cash and stock helps grow the fund where the principal amount is always at work for the parish and cannot be removed. The parish can elect to spend the interest earned to fund special projects or programs of the parish.

Daily Bible Readings are available online at the United States Council of Catholic Bishops website