

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 22, 2024**

**Fourth 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](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

### Meaningful Merry Christmas

During these holy days, our minds are busy with buying or online-ordering gifts for Christmas, wrapping them and mailing them to our family members and friends. At this time, I would like to remind all of us (including myself) what Jesus told Martha and Mary when he visited them at their home. "As they (Jesus and his disciples) continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary (who) sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him, and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is a need for only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." (Luke 10:38-42)

These words of Jesus should reverberate in our ears during these busy days, "Martha, Martha you are anxious and worried about many things." One thing we need to do during this Christmas is to listen to Jesus. We celebrate the incarnation of the Eternal Word that became flesh to dwell among us. ("And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" John 1:14). As we heard last week's readings, St. Paul reminds us "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God" (Phil.4:5-6).

Christmas is one of the most commercialized festivals of Christian holidays. Amid our noisy shopping and overloaded gifts, we should not forget the real meaning of Christmas. We are so busy decorating the roads that we may forget to travel in it. The purpose and the importance of the festival should not be lost in the shopping malls or online shopping.

Like Mary, the sister of Martha, we should take the better part of listening to Jesus who comes into our hearts during this busy time. It is not a time to worry about what we did not get for Christmas as a gift, but it is a time to think about what we need to share with others with a spirit of gratitude to God. Let us not miss the real meaning of Christmas among the meaningless material things. Moreover, let us not miss the voice of God amid noises of our life. Let us go to our 'deserts' where there will be no barriers to listen to His voices.

Helen Keller, who had impairments of seeing and hearing, once said, "The best and the most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, but they must be felt with your heart". Unless we feel the Christmas in our hearts, all our gifts and the time we spend on shopping in choosing your gifts may become useless. May the Lord born in the manger be born in our home decorated not by the Christmas trees or lights or gifts

## Reflection Continued

but in our home decorated with love, forgiveness, joy, peace, and prayerfulness!

### Thank You!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael McDonough and all the volunteers who decorated the Church during this festival and Mary Bur and cantors for their beautiful singing during this holy season. My sincere thanks to Greeters, Sacristans, money counters, Lectors, Eucharistic ministers, AV operators, volunteers of hospitality, Amanda Rosas for children's liturgy and our Business Administrator, Mary Muntifering. I thank all of you, who in one way or another helped for the success of the great celebration of Christmas. I extend my sincere thanks to all of you who sent me beautiful Christmas cards with generous gifts. I wholeheartedly thank you and keep you and your families in my prayers.

May the infant Jesus bless you all!

## Baptism and Welcome!



Please rejoice and welcome our newest member to our St. Margaret Faith Family!

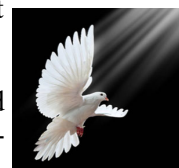
### *Baptism of Emily Grace Ficks*

Daughter of Michael and Hannah Ficks and sister, Greta

## Adult Faith Formation

The Advent Afternoon of Reflection Last Saturday Was a Success!

Thank you to our reflection leader, David Liedl, and the 17 people from St. Margaret Mary and the 11 people from St. Bridget's who attended the Advent Afternoon of Reflection last Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm in Visitation Hall! David Liedl asked us "to pause, wait, ponder, wonder, and linger" in Advent by contemplating many aspects of a fascinating fresco of the Annunciation done by Fra Angelico in the 15th century. In addition, reflection participants wish to thank Pat Lord, Norine Stimart, Joyce Reha, Georgeann Wobschall, Jean Plucinski, Gerri Hare, Mary Muntifering, and Dick Karels for providing wonderful treats and beverages. Everyone received a postcard size image of the Annunciation fresco to take home with them for further meditation.



## Dec 21—Jan 5

### 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 .....† Mary Garvey

### 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

### Tuesday, December 31 New Year's Eve

6:00 pm Mass.....† Shelli Whitehouse

### Wednesday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

9:00 am Mass .....★ People of SMM

### Saturday, January 4

3:30 pm Reconciliation  
4:00 pm Mass .....† Phil & Elaine Wencil

### Sunday, January 5 The Epiphany of the Lord

10:00 am Mass .....★ People of SMM

† deceased ★ living

## Social Ministry

### PRISM needs for December: Toys and Gift Cards!

950 children will receive Christmas gifts this year. Anything not used for the Christmas season will be used for the Birthday Room at Prism. Thank you for your generosity!

### January needs: Toilet paper and paper products

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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## 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

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

## Christmas Flower Memorials

Donor:	In Memory of:
Teri Murphy	Kevin Murphy (Husband) Al & Agnes Wencl (Parents)
Marge McLaughlin	Kathleen Spartz
Vonnie Reilly	Ray & Louise Sauer
Arlene Karels	Vernice & John Mechels Lucy Anne Karels
MaryAnn Davila	Chester, Rita, and Robert Duda
Lee Burke	Marguerite (Reet) Burke
Tony & Jean Plucinski	Teresa Plucinski
Bill Komarek	Virginia Komarek
Pat Lord	Bill & Agnes Lord
Diana Fodstad	Robert & Evelyn Fodstad
Pat & JoAnn Doyle	Anonymous
Norine Stimart	Margaret & Russell Stimart

## 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 Bishop's website [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://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](mailto: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 Troy and Karen Brantner for their much needed help in setting up the Christmas trees. We also thank Lucille Cervantes for her supervision!

Thank you to all the Buck children, Celeste, Sophia, Savannah and Ethan, for helping set up and put lights on all the trees as well.

Thank you to Michael McDonough for his constant care and attention to our Church's decorating and environment.



## Christmas Liturgy Schedule

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** Christmas Eve: 3:30 PM Mass and Christmas Carols

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Wed** Christmas Day: 10:00 AM Mass

**Dec 31<sup>st</sup> Tue** Solemnity of Mary : 6:00 PM Mass

**Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Wed** Solemnity of Mary: 9:00 AM Mass