

The Church of

St. Margaret Mary

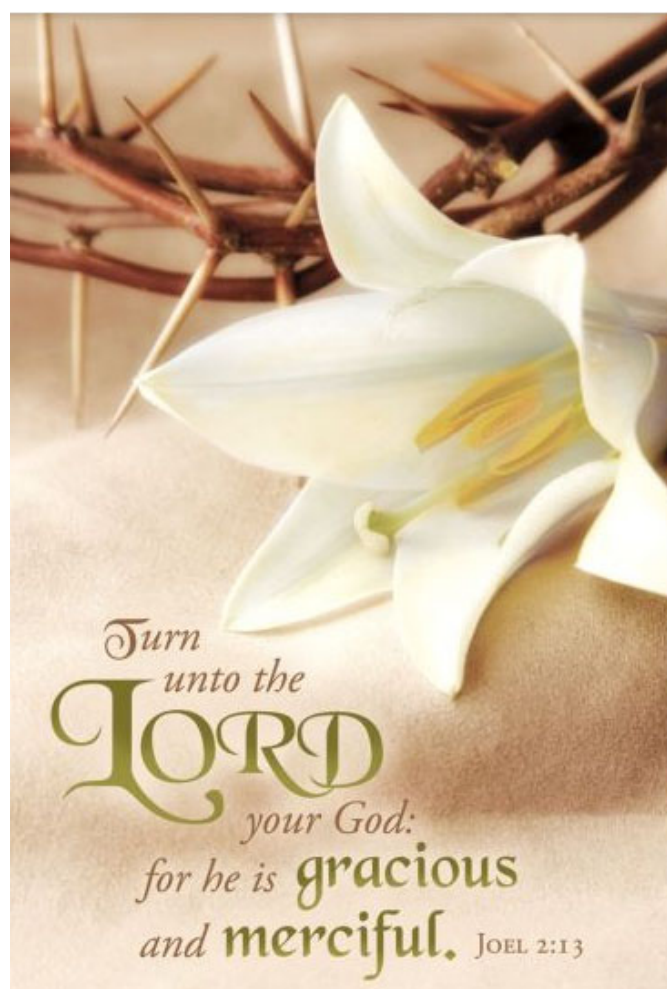
2323 Zenith Ave N., Golden Valley, MN 55422 # 763-588-9466



www.smm-gv.org

March 2, 2025
March 9, 2025

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
First Sunday in Lent



**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

Lent: A Time to Prevent and Time to Prepare!

As we are entering Lenten time from this Wednesday, let us focus on this liturgical season connecting to our spiritual life. It is the time to leave our busy life to move to an internal solitude to examine our life. It is time to check our souls. It is like going for a regular physical check up to prevent a major catastrophe in our bodily health.

With applying ashes, we begin this time of reflection with a spirit of humility that we are nothing comparing to the Almighty. Then we check our souls for what to improve and what to eliminate. So, Lent is a time to prevent our sins and a time to prepare for the eternal Easter.

As we are entering this holy season, the Gospel of Ash Wednesday invites us to pray, fast and share with the needy. Prayer is the greatest prevention and preparation tool for our spiritual life. Both personal prayer and community prayer are equally important. We come to gather as a community to pray in the Eucharistic celebration. So, you know the importance of participating in the weekly Eucharistic celebration. Besides this community prayer, Jesus calls us by his example and words to pray individually (personal prayer). I do not need to tell you the great miracles that can happen and are happening because of the power of prayer. Let us continue to pray with faith. Our prayers will be answered as per God's plan.

Prayer becomes more effective when it is accompanied with fasting. There is greater power for the prayer with fasting. Let us read what Jesus said about prayer with fasting: "But this kind of demon does not come out except by prayer and fasting (Matt.17:21)" Prayer with fasting gives us the power to drive out demons from us. Fasting is the way to control our physical desire. Controlling our physical passion is the way to control our passions of mind. That was why Jesus asked us to fast and pray.

The fruit of our persistent prayer and genuine fasting is charity. We are called to share with others who are less fortunate with what we saved by fasting and prayer. Let us fast, pray and share with the joyful spirit of Lent for the glory of God.

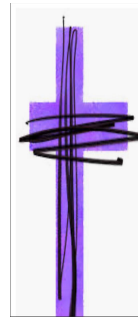
During this Lent I encourage you to participate in Masses. Please sign up for our Lenten Groups to share our spiritual journey with others and spend some time in your personal prayer and family prayer in the evenings. Let us make this Lent a time of prayer and meditation. I wish you all Joyful and Fruitful Lent!

Lord, lead us through the deserts of our passion to the oasis of your love. Amen.

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday Masses, March 5, 2025
8:00 AM and 6:00 PM
Stations of the Cross : 12:00 PM on Fridays

Adult Faith Formation



"Not by Bread Alone" booklets with daily reflections for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter based on the daily scripture readings are in the back of the Church. Please take one to enrich your prayer life!

A donation of \$2.00 may be put in the collection plate in the enclosed small envelope found in each booklet.

Lenten Small Group members, remember to pick up your printed copy of the 2025 Lenten Small Group Study Guide, "A Call to Holiness", in the back of the Church after Mass this weekend, March 1/2. 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 March 9.

Group 2, Sundays, 2 pm to 3:30 pm with facilitators Jean Plucinski and Georgeann Wobschall on March 9.

Group 3, Tuesdays, 10 am to 11:30 am with facilitators Pat Lord and Mike Bloberger/Doris Thimmesh on March 11.

Before the first meeting, please read the material for Week 1 on pages 1 through 13 of the 2025 Lenten Small Group Study Guide which explores how God calls each of us to be holy, how to answer our call to holiness by little acts of love, kindness, and faith, Lenten almsgiving and fasting, and the inspirational person, Pope Francis.

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

St Margaret Mary Parishioner

Rest in Peace

Veva Arnold

March 1—March 16

Saturday, March 1

3:30 pm Reconciliation
4:00 pm Mass † Rose Marie Novotny

Sunday, March 2 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 am Mass * People of SMM

Tuesday, March 4

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

Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday

8:00 am Mass † People of SMM
6:00 pm Mass † Veva Arnold

Saturday, March 8

3:30 pm Reconciliation
4:00 pm Mass † Karen Kuhn

Sunday, March 9 1st Sunday of Lent

10:00 am Mass † Arokia Mary Rayar

Tuesday, March 11

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

Saturday, March 15

3:30 pm Reconciliation
4:00 pm Mass † Jeanne Krumweide

Sunday, March 16 2nd Sunday of Lent

10:00 am Mass * People of SMM

† deceased * living

Social Ministry

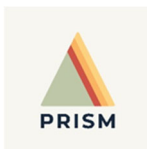
March Food Share Month:

Needs are pantry staples, food & cash (Prism can buy food from Second Harvest at a very low cost.)

Most needed are canned proteins: tuna, chicken, peanut butter and beans.

Items always needed: peanut butter, jelly, crackers and cheese, applesauce and pre-packaged fruit.

Alternate Items: sugar, oil, flour, cereal, pasta, soup, canned chicken and tuna, pancake mix and syrup.



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

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

Parishioner Volunteer Thank YOU!

Thank you to Pat Lord and Jean Plucinski for organizing the Lenten small groups. There is a tremendous amount of work and preparation that is done by these two volunteers. We thank them for making the Lenten groups both spiritual and enlightening!

We thank Jean Plucinski for organizing the Stations of the Cross, as well as our volunteers who will be leading the readings each week. We thank, Lee Burke, Mary Ann Davila, Peter Aubart, and Michael Bloberger. Thank you for volunteering to help us walk prayerfully alongside Jesus.

Neighboring Event: Franciscan Retreats

Theme: *Finding God in Difficult Times*

- Married Couples Retreat - April 4-6
- Women's Palm Sunday Retreat April 11-13*
- Men's Holy Week Retreat April 17-19*

Experience four conference talks on our poignant theme on these two-night retreats. Recharge mentally, physically and Spiritually.

This Retreat provides space for you to connect with your inner self and with Jesus, allowing you to rest, reflect, pray and journal. You will also have the opportunity to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation in an unhurried way, partake in guided prayer sessions, enjoy live music during Mass and meet one-on-one with a Spiritual Director. With ample unscheduled time, you can explore the beautiful surroundings and connect with your creator or visit with fellow retreat goers.

Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake MN www.franciscanretreats.net; 952-447-2182

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.

Annual Spring Flower Sale

It is time for the spring flower sale. Again. We will be getting the flowers from Gerten's. We have been very pleased with the variety of flowers offered and the quality of the plants.

Flower orders will be taken before and after Mass on the weekends of March 1st and 2nd and March 8th and 9th. Pictures of the flowers can be found on Gerten's website under Spring fundraising and in brochures at the back of Church.

Forms for the Church Memorial Garden may also be found on the website and in the back of Church on those weekends.

If you decide to donate to the church gardens and order flowers, please make out separate checks.

The flowers may be picked up on Saturday May 17th from 1-6 pm at the Parish Office Garage.

Thank you for your support!

Questions, please call Nancy Huntley 763-522-9437.