

The Church of

# St. Margaret Mary

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



www.smm-gv.org

February 15, 2026  
February 22, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
First Sunday of Lent

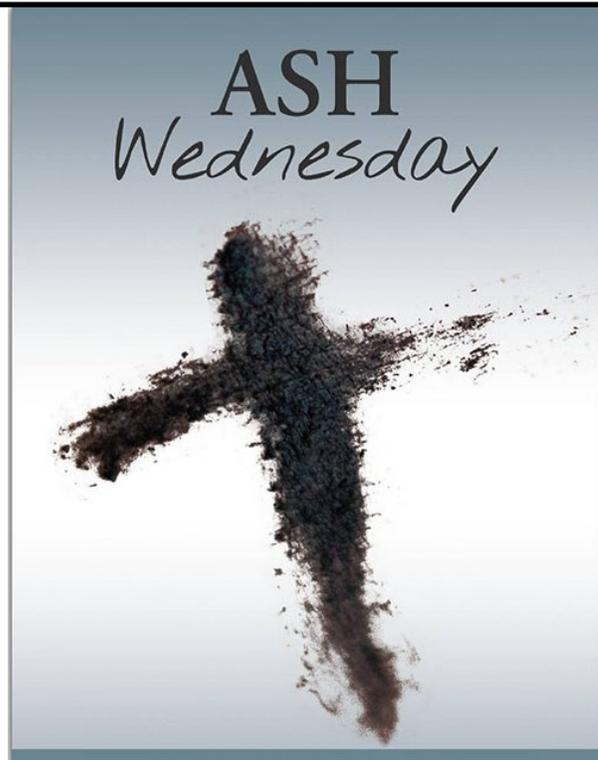


### Stations of the Cross

12:00 PM on Fridays,  
Starting on February 20th

### Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026  
Masses at 8:00 am and 6:00 pm



**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

### PRAY, FAST AND SHARE

From this Wednesday we begin the season of Lent. Lent is the time to leave our busy life to move to an internal solitude to examine our life. It is a time of checking our soul. It is like going for a regular physical checkup to prevent a major catastrophe in our health.

If we do not go for a regular physical checkup, then we may not know what kind of problems we have. Similarly, if we do not check our spiritual life, we may not know what kind of trouble we are in. So, Lent is a time of prevention and preparation. We prevent ourselves from sins and prepare ourselves for the great feast of Easter.

As we enter this holy season, the Gospel of these days 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. 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 genuine prayer and persistent fasting is charity. We share with others who are less fortunate with what we gained 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 more in the daily Masses and Sunday Eucharistic Celebrations. Spend some time for your personal prayer daily and family prayer in the evenings. Let us make this Lent a time of prayer and meditation. I wish you all a Joyful and Fruitful Lent!

*Prayer: Lord, Lead us through the deserts of emptiness in our heart to the oasis of your love. Amen.*

## Reflection—First Sunday of Lent

### RISE ABOVE OUR TEMPTATIONS

Season of Lent in the liturgical calendar is meant for our preparation for the great feast of Easter which is the celebration of our liberation from the bondage of sin and winning the power of evil. Such liberation begins by successfully fighting against our daily temptations.

In the Gospel today, we hear the story of Jesus' temptations. Jesus was fully divine and fully human. He was a human being like us. He did have temptations like we do. The difference is that Jesus conquered his temptations, but we many times fail. We need to learn from our Master how to fight against our temptations.

As we see there are three kinds of temptations Jesus had to deal with in the Gospel.

**1: *To change the stones into loaves of bread:*** Jesus was hungry after being in the desert for forty days. He is tempted to use his special power for a selfish reason. It is not the bread alone we need to survive; we need the Word of God. So, Jesus was tempted to be selfish and misuse the power of God to satisfy his hunger rather than using it for others.

**2: *Testing God:*** Sometimes, because of our arrogance, we are tempted to test God himself. It is a struggle with faith. As Adam and Eve tried to be equal to God and not being obedient to God, we are constantly tempted to ride with our pride. We all go through the struggle in one way or the other to answer the question about God in our life and why we need to be obedient to him.

**3: *To gain worldly power:*** The power of evil tries to trick us by telling us if we compromise on God's way, we could gain the earthly kingdom. It is like selling your eyes to buy beautiful art. But the price is expensive because we could lose our life in the process. We must adore God, not earthly wealth, or comfort. All will perish, as the gospel says, unless we have joy in our families, joy in our lives, and by following and adoring God. These things will last forever.

I pray that all of us have a fruitful Lent. God bless you and your families during this wonderful liturgical season.

*Prayer: O, Lord, Lead us not into temptations, but deliver us from evil. Amen*



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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

### Thank you!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who do the physical labor around the church grounds, including our building and grounds committee, our volunteer cleaners, and our sacristans! Thank you to Patrick Doyle, Michael Bloberger, Rich Kramer and Tony Plucinski for always opening the gates for us to attend Mass even on the coldest of days!

Thank you for keeping our Church safe!

### Homebound Eucharistic Ministers

We would like to thank all of our Homebound Eucharistic Ministers for the wonderful work they do. We thank Georgeann Wobschall, Nancy Huntley, Laurie Geving, Teri Murphy and Norine Stimart.

Our numbers of homebound parishioners are growing. We are in need of more ministers to visit and distribute communion to them.

Please consider joining other Eucharistic Ministers (on a rotating schedule) to visit parishioners Sundays after Mass for a period of friendship, love, and prayer followed by the parishioner receiving our Lord in Holy Communion.

If you feel called to share your faith through this homebound ministry, please contact the parish office.

### Neighboring Event

Church of St. Bridget Lenten Retreat “On The Way to The Holy City” will be Saturday, March 7, 2026. Mass at 9:00 am followed by the retreat from 10:00 am —12:00 pm.

Retreat will be led by Alex Schlinder, a Music Missionary and Catholic worship leader, musician and singer-songwriter.

Information will be available on the bulletin board in the back of the Church.



### Adult Faith Formation

#### Lenten Small Group Meetings Start the Week of Sunday, February 22, 2026!

Lenten Small Group members, 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 February 22

**Group 2:** Sundays, 2 pm to 3:30 pm with facilitators Jean Plucinski and Georgeann on February 22

**Group 3:** Tuesdays, 10 am to 11:30 am with facilitators Pat Lord and Mike Bloberger on February 24

Before the first meeting, please read the material for Week 1 on pages 1 through 11 of the 2026 Lenten Small Group Study Guide which explores how Jesus is the one who loves, how Lent is a time for spiritual renewal, the last encyclical written by Pope Francis, “Dilexit Nos” (“He Loved Us”), the spirituality of the heart, and the inspirational person, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

“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 church. Please take one to enrich your prayer life! A donation of two dollars may be put in the collection plate in the enclosed small envelope found in each booklet.

For more information, contact Jean Plucinski at [adult-faith@smm-gv.org](mailto:adult-faith@smm-gv.org) or at 763-593-0664.

### Rest in Peace

*May the perpetual  
light shine upon him.*

**Ian Drummond**