

The Church of

St. Margaret Mary

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



www.smm-gv.org

March 15, 2026
March 22, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Fifth Sunday of 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

Hindsight of our Sight!

The story of the blind man narrated in John's gospel reminds us of the paradox of our life; we do not see though we have eyes and we do not hear though we have ears. The elders and Jewish priests who thought they had eyes failed to see Jesus as their Messiah, whereas the blind man, who physically could not see, saw Jesus beyond his eyesight and proclaimed that Jesus was a prophet and later confessed as the Messiah. "So, they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." (John: 9: 17) Who was blind here? It seems the blind man was able to see the truth. But the people with eyes had blinded sight that they could not see the truth about Jesus. So, they threw the blind man out along with the truth. "They answered and said to him, 'You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?' Then they threw him out. (John: 9: 34)" But Jesus asked him "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The insightful blind man said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him (Jesus) (John: 9: 35).

God's Sight is Different from Our sight: In the first reading we read, "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." (1Sam: 16: 7) Is it not true that we try to judge people by their appearance, color, or race? But God sees the heart. God tells Samuel to see the hearts of Jesse's sons rather than their physical appearance.

Opening our Eyes of Faith: Our faculty of reasoning perceives what our physical eyes can see. However, our Faith can perceive the truth that our eyes cannot see. The blind man in the gospel of today saw Jesus with his eyes of faith not merely with his physical eyes. The truth of our life is seen not through our eyes but through our faith. While writing about blindness and sight, I would like to share here the story about Carol, who was a parishioner from my previous assignment. Carol lost her sight when she was 27 years old. But I can tell you she saw Jesus in her life more than some of us with all our eyesight. She lost her sight and went through the ordeals of breast cancer and bone cancer. Though she lost her sight, she never lost her faith. She lost her health, but never lost her wealth of heavenly happiness. She was always cheerful. I ran into her with her husband Steve many times at Perkins. I could see sparkling joy in her smile. Her husband told me that Carol never complained about her sickness or about her suffering. What a wonderful sight of faith she had despite all her physical suffering! She died at the age of 57. I visited her just before she died. She mentioned she was ready and happy to see Jesus in heaven. This reminded me of the story of the blind man in the gospel today, who was able to see Jesus with eyes of faith.

Reflection Continued

Open our eyes Lord, as our eyes are fogged with follies of our life.

Open our eyes Lord, as ours are blinded with our selfishness.

Open our eyes Lord, as our eyes are clouded with fallacies of this world.

Open our hearts Lord, that we will see others with our heart rather than with our eyes!

Let our sight be filled with hindsight of your Gospel! Amen.

Reconciliation

On the weekend of March 21st and 22nd, the Masses will begin with the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Neighboring Reconciliation Times

Sacred Heart Parish: Penance Service

Thursday, March 26th 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Good Shepherd: Lent Penance Service:

Sunday, March 22nd, 4:00 pm

Our Lady of Grace: Lent Day of Mercy:

Tuesday, March 24th, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

Spring Flower Sale Time

It's time to order your flowers from the spring flower sale! We will be using Gerten's nursery as our supplier again this year. The offerings this year are lovely!

You can order two different ways. We will have a paper ordering form, which we will collect before and after Mass on the weekends of March 14th and 15th and March 21st and 22nd. You can also order online by going to www.gertensfundraising.com. Then once at the site enter store ID 802 to be brought to the St. Margaret Mary page to make your order. (Hint: Using our paper order form will help you organize your order before going online). Sometimes Gerten's runs out of certain flowers. So order early to ensure you get the flowers you want.

You will also be able to donate to the parish gardens. Please write separate checks for the flower sale and the parish gardens.

Flowers will be available for pick up on Saturday May 16th between 12-4pm.

March 14— March 29

Saturday, March 14

3:30 pm Reconciliation
 4:00 pm Mass† Yvonne Leonard

Sunday, March 15 **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

10:00 am Mass† Mary Ann Sullivan

Tuesday, March 17

5:00 pm Adoration
 6:00 pm Mass† Craig Muntifering

Saturday, March 21

3:30 pm Reconciliation
 4:00 pm Mass★ People of SMM

Sunday, March 22 **Second Sunday of Lent**

10:00 am Mass† Pushpa Mary Rayar

Tuesday, March 24

5:00 pm Adoration
 6:00 pm Mass† Peter Percic

Saturday, March 28

3:30 pm Reconciliation
 4:00 pm Mass† Fritz Muntifering

Sunday, March 29 **Third Sunday of Lent**

10:00 am Mass★ People of SMM

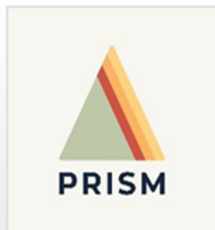
† deceased ★ living

Thank you

Thank you to Kathy Linden for the much needed tablecloths on the banquet tables! They look fantastic! Thank you to Kathy for *always* seeing where help is needed. We appreciate Kathy very much!

Social Ministry

March Needs: Food Share Month
Pantry staples, food, and cash



Alternative items always needed:
 Cereal, Canned soup, Canned tuna and chicken, Pasta, Peanut Butter, Pancake mix, Syrup, and Jelly.

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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
 Please call the office

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
 Mary Ann Davila
 Jim Franzen *Second Chair*
 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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Adult Faith Formation

Lenten Small Group Meetings Continue the Weeks of Sunday, March 15 and Sunday, March 22, 2026!

Lenten Small Group members, please check your group listed below for the correct date and time of your fourth and fifth meetings. 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 15 and March 22

Group 2: Sundays, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm with facilitators Jean Plucinski and Georgeann Wobschall on March 15 and March 22

Group 3: Tuesdays, 10:00 am to 11:30 am with facilitators Pat Lord and Mike Bloberger on March 17 and March 24

Before the fourth meeting, please read the material for Week 4 on pages 37 through 51 of the 2026 Lenten Small Group Study Guide which explores how Jesus is the one who heals and cares for us, hearing the cry of the poor, lessons learned from Jesus' healing of the man born blind, spiritual blindness, and the inspirational persons, St. Father Damien and Sister Rose Tillemans, CSJ.

Before the fifth meeting, please read the material for Week 5 on pages 52 through 65 of the 2026 Lenten Small Group Study Guide which explores how Jesus is the one who is our friend, resurrection and reconciliation reflections, and the inspirational persons, St. Don John Bosco and St. John, the Beloved Disciple.

Please remember to fill out the 2026 Lenten Small Group Evaluation sheet on page 67 of your study guide and turn it in to Pat Lord, Norine Stimart, or Jean Plucinski by Monday, March 30, 2026.

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in the Lenten Small Group meetings, especially the facilitators, all who brought treats, or helped with the set-up or clean-up!

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



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

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.

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.

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.



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be at 12:00 PM each Friday during Lent at the Church.

Good Friday Stations will be at 3:00 PM.

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