



# ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH

20 Idlewood Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario L8T 1V9

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stmargaretmaryparish.ca



office@stmargaretmaryparish.ca



**Very Rev. Msgr. Cornelius O'Mahony, Pastor**

**Rev. Mr. Rene Marechal, Deacon**

**Divine Dimaranan, Administration/Secretary**

## Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon, 1:00-5:00 pm.

July & August: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon, 1:00-4:00 pm.

## Weekday Mass:

Tuesday: 7:00 pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 am

## Sunday Mass:

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am

## Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Available Saturday 4:00-4:30 pm or  
by appointment.

## Parish Devotions:

Eucharistic Adoration: Mon-Fri: 8:00 am-8:00 pm.

Sat: Benediction 8:45 am.

**Baptism:** Celebrated by appointment only.

Participation in a Baptismal Preparation Session is required. Please contact the parish office (905-388-2200) well in advance.

**Marriage:** Parishioners who are planning to marry should contact the parish office at least six months before the proposed wedding date.

**Visits to the Sick:** If you or someone you know is in need of a visit in home or hospital please call the parish office.

**New to the Parish:** Please register by completing a registration form (available online and in the Narthex). We also ask that you notify the office of any change in address or telephone number.

## Schools:

St. Margaret Mary	905-383-8122
St. Kateri Tekakwitha	905-385-8212
St. Anthony Daniel	905-389-5186
St. Thomas More Secondary	905-388-3030

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## FEBRUARY 22, 2026

### REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL

Reflect upon next Sunday's Gospel throughout the week.

The Second Sunday of Lent is:

**Matthew 17.1-9**

### OUR GIFTS TO GOD

#### February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Collection

Regular Sunday Env.	\$ 4,870.00
Loose Cash	\$ 668.00
Mission Coop-Haiti	\$ 118.00
St.M.M. Parish Outreach	\$ 188.00
Building Fund	\$ 302.00

*We thank you for your continued, dedicated and regular financial support for St. Margaret Mary Parish.*

**Parishioners from 16 to 30** Please join Msgr. Con on **Saturday, February 28 at 6.00 pm** (after the 5.00 pm Mass) for Pizza and a conversation about young adults and ministry to young adults in our parish. He will share some interesting findings from the **Springtide Institute** in California who have shared some interesting findings on young people and their relationships with the church over the last few years.

### DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Copies of the February Diocesan Prayer Calendar are available in the Narthex. They will now be made available every two months for you to take home and place in a prominent place.



### THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Are you celebrating your 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2026? You are cordially invited to join Bishop Dabrowski and couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, May 31, 2026 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration is found under Upcoming Events on the home page at [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com) or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

### SAVE THE DATE!

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Margaret Mary Parish! We are planning a few celebrations. To kick off our celebrations we plan to have our picnic right here on the Church grounds on July 12, 2026. We ask that you save the date and join us in this milestone celebration. More details will be made available closer to the date.



Mass at 7:00pm on Tuesday  
9:00am on Wednesday – Friday

Tues., Feb. 24 7:00 pm.	Intentions of Mark & Clarerose Mascarenas †Consolacion Rosal Abo
Wed., Feb 25 9:00 am	†Dominga Sabado †Alicja Malz
Thurs., Feb.26 9:00 am	†Wilfredo Dela Cruz Sr. †Stefania Malz
Fri., Feb. 27 9:00 am	Intentions of Santos & Sy Family
Sat., Feb. 28 5:00pm	†Pasquale Frenza †Josie Canaan †Ralph Urciuoli †Albert & Dianne VanHee †Alfredo Sison

**Friday's during Lent:** Mass in the morning at 9.00 am. with adoration of the Blessed sacrament during the day in the church. **A Holy Hour with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Meditations on the Stations of the Cross** begins at 7.00 pm.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** After many, many years, of service at St. Margaret Mary Parish, **Joe Pracsovics** will be leaving his position as Business Manager and Bookkeeper on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. The parish will have an opportunity to thank him for his service at the 11:00 am Mass, on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### PLEASE PICK UP 2026 DONATIONS ENVELOPES

**Donation envelopes for 2026 are available for pick-up at the church office until the end of February**, Tuesday to Friday, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. To arrange an alternate pick-up time, please contact the office at **905-388-2200**.

Unclaimed envelopes will be removed and reassigned after this period. Kindly do not use old envelopes, as they may already be assigned to another envelope holder.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** Parishioners and friends of St. Margaret Mary Parish are invited to a retreat day on **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9.30 am, to 3.00 pm.** in the church (lunch provided). The theme, **The Name of God is Mercy** and will be led by **Father Joseph de Viveiros**, currently serving as the Board Chaplain for the Catholic School Board in North Bay. He is a priest of the Congregation of the Resurrection. This will be an opportunity for parishioners to explore with him the beauty and freedom that we can experience when we cry out to God for mercy.

**So that we can plan for lunch, please let us know if you plan to attend by calling Divine at 905-388-2200 or email at [office@stmargaretmaryparish.ca](mailto:office@stmargaretmaryparish.ca).**



## **FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION**

The remaining Teaching Masses for First Communion preparation will be held during the **9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses on March 1, March 22, and April 19.** Attendance is mandatory for parents and communicants.

**Reconciliation for Grade 2:** Parents/Guardians are invited to bring their children for First Reconciliation on **Tuesday, March 24 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM or any Saturday during April from 4.00 to 4.45 PM.** Thank you for your cooperation.



## **PORCHETTA ON A BUN**

The Knights of Columbus will be selling **Porchetta on a Bun** after all Masses on **February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>.** The cost is **\$6.00 per bun** or **three for \$15.00.** Pre-order sheets will be available in the **narthex** of the church.

## **40 DAYS FOR LIFE HAMILTON**

Looking for something to do this Lent? 40 Days for Life Hamilton invites you to help to try and make a change for Hamilton's pre-born children! YOU can participate in a peaceful prayer vigil across the street from McMaster Children's Hospital, each day from February 18 – March 29 anytime between 7:00am to 7:00 pm. You can sign up for just ONE hour during this Lenten season 2026! Sign up online: <https://bit.ly/40dayshamilton>

## **SPEAKING SYNODALITY**

The **Office for Evangelization and Catechesis** invites you to join our three-part workshop series on Synodality and its applications in local parish settings. This seminar is encouraged for those involved in parish councils, pastoral planning, and leadership at all levels of Catholic community living. There will be 2 locations for each 3-part session series: Hamilton (with a Zoom option) and, Guelph. Registration and further details can be found here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/>

## **SPRING BOOK CLUB: "ON LOVE OF THE POOR"**

The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invite you to join us for a four-week virtual book club, exploring Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation, *"On Love of the Poor."* Aligned with our Lenten journey, this series will explore the key themes and messages of our Holy Father's message on love and solidarity with those who experience marginalization. Registration can be made here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/>

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

The St. Margaret Mary Women's Group is starting up again and warmly welcomes all women to our first session, **"Word of the Year,"** on **February 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:30–11:00 a.m.** If you're interested or have any questions, please contact **Patricia M.** at [smmwomensgroup@gmail.com](mailto:smmwomensgroup@gmail.com).

## **CWL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

CWL membership dues are \$ 40.00 for 2026. Please use the envelopes provided with your name, email and phone number and if you know your CWL number by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Thank you in advance.

**A REFLECTION FOR LENT 1:** The Gospel proclaimed on the First Sunday of Lent each year places us in the desert with Jesus. The scene is striking, before Jesus begins his public ministry, he is led by the Spirit into silence, hunger, and testing. Lent begins here too, not with activity, but with clarity.

The first message for us today is that temptation is not a sign of failure. Jesus, who is without sin, experiences real temptation. This means that being tested is part of authentic discipleship, not evidence that God is absent. The desert represents those moments in life when distractions fall away and we face what truly drives us our fears, desires, and attachments. Lent invites us to enter that interior desert willingly through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, so that God can reveal what needs healing.

The three temptations speak directly to modern life. First, the devil urges Jesus to turn stones into bread. At one level, this is about hunger; at a deeper level, it asks whether material satisfaction alone can define human life. Jesus' response, "one does not live on bread alone" reminds us that we are spiritual beings. Today, we often look for quick relief: entertainment, consumption, constant noise. Lent asks us to rediscover deeper nourishment, in scripture, silence, and relationship with God.

Second, Jesus is offered power and glory. The temptation here is control, to achieve good ends through worldly dominance. In our time, success, influence, and recognition can quietly become idols. Jesus rejects the shortcut, choosing instead the humble path of trust and service. For us, Lent becomes a season to examine where ambition or ego may be shaping our choices more than love or fidelity.

Third, the devil invites Jesus to throw himself from the temple, forcing God to act. This is the temptation to test God rather than trust God, demanding signs, guarantees, or immediate answers. Many people today struggle with impatience or discouragement when God seems silent. Jesus' response shows mature faith: trust does not manipulate; it perseveres even without certainty.

Another important detail is that Jesus answers every temptation with Scripture. He does not argue emotionally or rely on willpower alone. He stands on the Word of God. This suggests that Lent is not only about "giving things up" but about filling ourselves with what strengthens us spiritually. When we pray with Scripture, we begin to see reality through God's eyes rather than through fear or temptation.

Finally, the Gospel ends by saying the devil departed "for a time." Temptation returns: the spiritual life is ongoing. Lent is not about achieving perfection in forty days but about training the heart to choose God again and again. The same Spirit who led Jesus into the desert also sustained Him there, and that same Spirit accompanies us.

As we begin Lent, the Gospel invites us to walk with Jesus into the desert not with anxiety, but with hope. The struggle itself becomes a place of encounter. In confronting temptation, we learn who we are, whom we trust, and what truly gives life. Lent, then, is less about deprivation and more about freedom, the freedom to belong more fully to God.



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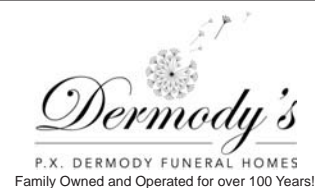
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