ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH

20 Idlewood Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario L8T 1V9

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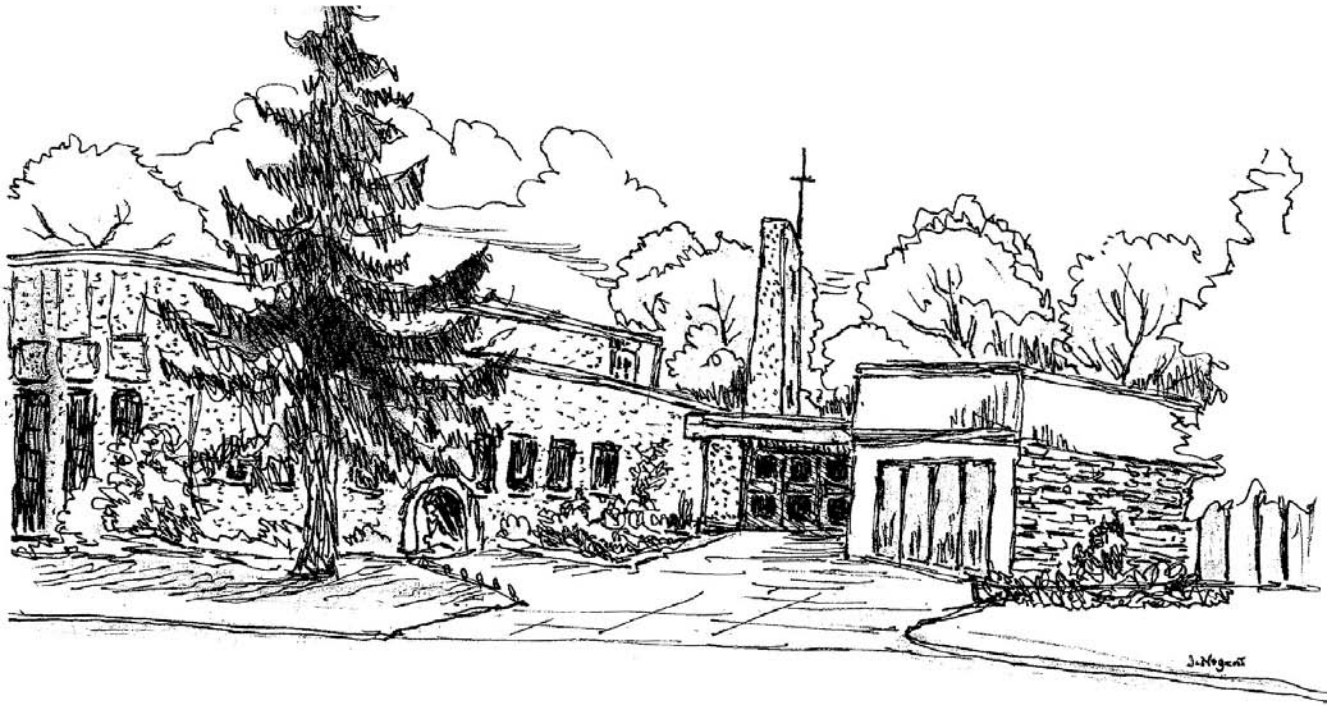
stmargaretmaryparish.ca office@stmargaretmaryparish.ca



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 15, 2026

REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL

Reflect upon next Sunday's Gospel throughout the week.
The Fifth Sunday of Lent is:
John 11.1-45

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

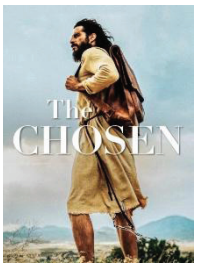
March 8th ,2026 Collection

Regular Sunday Env.	$ 4,430.00
Loose Cash	$ 965.00
St.M.M. Parish Outreach	$ 125.00
Building Fund	$ 95.00

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

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Copies of the March/April 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.



MOVIE NIGHT IN PREPARATION FOR HOLY WEEK

The people responsible for the **Chosen** series of video presentations on the life of Jesus have produced a series of beautiful introductions to holy week that are a perfect way to prepare for Holy week. Please join us after the 5.00 pm. Mass on Saturday, March 28th in the Hearth Room for pizza and ice-cream and two episodes of the **Chosen** presentation of the events leading up to Jesus entry to Jerusalem and the Passover meal with his disciples. Please let us know if you plan to attend, how many will come with you and any food allergies. (905) 388-2200 or email office@stmargaretmaryparish.ca.

PARISH NEWS: Tuesday morning, Rob McFadden from the (Building and Maintenance Committee), Divine from the Office and I spent over three hours with officials from the diocese going over the new **Fire Safety Plan** for the Church, meeting rooms and rectory. The report is extensive and included a long list of recommendations, updating and changes that are in the process of being implemented and attended to. One of the follow-up procedures that we must implement is the training of all staff and volunteers who have a responsibility for meetings and guiding people into and out of the buildings. To that end, ushers, group and committee leaders (including CWL and Knights of Columbus) and sacristans are invited to a meeting on **Tuesday evening, April 14th at 7.30 pm**. to hear more about the report and procedures that need to be in place so that we are in compliance with the regulations of the Fire Department, City of Hamilton and the Diocese.

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

Tues., Mar 17 7:00 pm.	†Antonio & Domenica Damico †Maria Barbara Uznanska
Wed., Mar 18 9:00 am	†Emilio Vittorini †Marjory & John Biller
Thurs., Mar 19 9:00 am	†Josefina Fajardo †Giuseppe Di Placito †Mark Bistoyong
Fri., Mar 20 9:00 am	†Phyllis Mancini
Sat., Mar 21 5:00pm	†Alfonso De Luca †Dominga Sabado †Dilio Silvestri †Deceased Members of Silvestri & Giammarco Families

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.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

The next Teaching Mass for First Communion preparation will be held during the **11:00 AM (only) on March 22, and April 19**.

Reconciliation for Grade 2: Children are invited to celebrate 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER:

Thursday, March 19th is set aside as a day when we are available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in the parish church. Come between 11.00 am. and 12 Noon, 2.00 pm. to 3.00 pm. and in the evening between 7.00 pm. and 8.30 pm. Materials to help prepare for the sacrament will be available in the narthex beforehand.

Parishioners have been asking about the litany used during the **Penitential Rite** at the beginning of Mass since we began the season of Lent. It is based on a text often attributed to **William Arthur Ward** (December 17, 1921 - March 30, 1994) and used at the Vatican by **Pope Francis** during Lent, 2025. Copies of the fuller version are available on the information table in the narthex of the church.

DONATION ENVELOPE # 793

We are currently trying to identify the owner of **Donation Envelope #793 from the year 2023**. If this envelope number belongs to you, or if you know who it may belong to, please kindly contact the Parish Office at 905-388-2200at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much for your assistance.

A REFLECTION FOR LENT 4: The Gospel story of the man born blind (John 9:1–41), proclaimed on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is the second of the great dramatic passages from the Gospel of John. If the woman at the well reveals **Christ as the source of living water**, this episode reveals him as **the light who gives true sight**. The healing itself is extraordinary, yet the deeper drama unfolds afterward, as the man who receives sight must also choose faith, even when it costs him.

The story begins with a question shaped by the thinking of the time: who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus rejects the idea that suffering is a punishment. Instead, he sees an opportunity for God's works to be revealed. He heals the man in a strikingly physical way, making mud with saliva and sending him to wash in the pool of Siloam. The man obeys and comes back able to see. Already we glimpse an important Lenten lesson: faith often requires trust before understanding. The man does not argue or demand proof; he simply follows Jesus' instruction, and his life changes.

But the true tension begins after the healing. His neighbors question him, uncertain whether this can really be the same man. The religious authorities investigate because the healing occurred on the Sabbath. Rather than rejoicing that a man has received sight, they focus on rules and categories. The healed man finds himself under pressure, interrogated repeatedly, while even his parents withdraw out of fear. The story shows that encountering Christ can bring both joy and conflict. Conversion is not always comfortable; it may challenge accepted opinions or draw criticism from others.

As the questioning intensifies, the man grows in clarity and courage. At first he simply says, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes." Later he calls Jesus a prophet. Eventually, when pressed to denounce him, he responds with disarming honesty and conviction. His words are among the most beautiful testimonies in the Gospel: "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." He does not claim theological expertise. His authority comes from experience. Lent reminds us that faith is not merely ideas about God but a living encounter that changes us.

The man's boldness deepens as he challenges the authorities themselves: "If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." In speaking the truth, he is cast out. Yet this rejection becomes the moment of deepest grace, because Jesus seeks him out again. The story ends not only with physical sight but with spiritual vision. When Jesus reveals himself as the Son of Man, the healed man responds, "Lord, I believe," and he worships him.

This Gospel teaches that true blindness is not the lack of physical sight but the refusal to recognize God at work. The religious leaders, confident in their knowledge, remain spiritually blind, while the once-blind man comes to faith through humility and honesty. During Lent, we are invited to undergo a similar journey — moving from partial understanding toward clearer vision. The story challenges us to ask: where do we resist the light? Are we willing to let Christ open our eyes, even if it unsettles our comfort or expectations?

Ultimately, the man born blind becomes a model disciple. He moves from darkness to light, from uncertainty to courage, and from healing to worship. His witness encourages us to stand firmly in faith and to proclaim, with gratitude and simplicity, that Christ has changed our lives.

LISTENING AND FASTING: POPE LEO XIV'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2026 Pope Leo XIV's message for Lent 2026, entitled "Listening and fasting. Lent as a time of Conversion," was published on Friday, February 13, by the Holy See Press Office. To read Pope Leo's message, and download a helpful infographic, visit the Dicastery for Integral Human Development here: www.humandevelopment.va .

VOCATIONS RECOGNITION DINNER 2026 The Serra Club of Hamilton warmly invites you to attend the 23rd Annual Vocations Recognition Dinner on **Wednesday, April 29, 2026**, at Liuna Station to celebrate the dedicated service of our Priests, Deacons, Religious Brothers and Sisters, and Consecrated Virgins in the Diocese of Hamilton. Milestone anniversaries will be honored, and we will hear the inspiring faith journeys of this year's ordinandi and candidates. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Tickets are $90 per person. For more information and to order tickets, visit the Diocese of Hamilton website: https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/. This event is co-sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton.

NOVENA FOR THE UNBORN

As we approach the Feast of the Annunciation, how can you say YES to life like Mary did? This year let's all pray this novena - Spiritual Adoption of an Unborn Child (by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen). The prayers are said for nine months – from March 25 thru December 25.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.

Pray one decade of the Rosary
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn, pray for us. Amen

For more information on how you can help with pro-life issues, visit our website Hamiltonrighttolife.org or contact us at 905-528-3065

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