

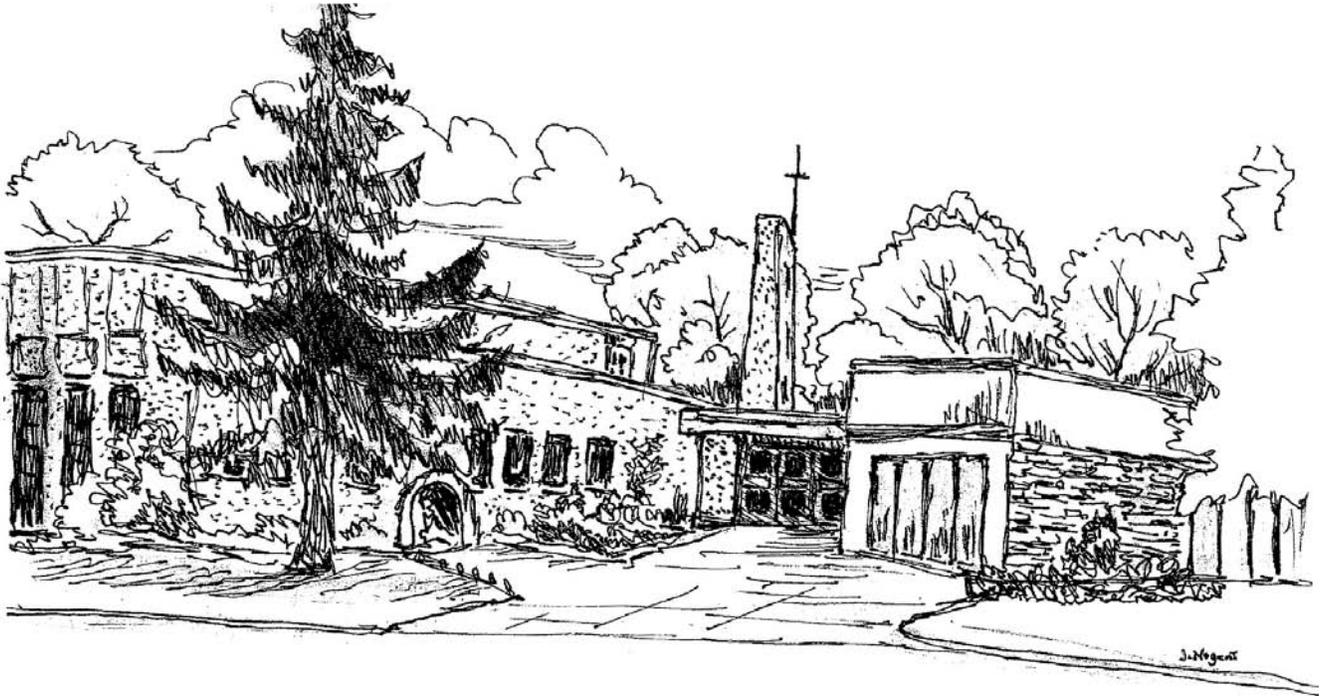


ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH

20 Idlewood Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario L8T 1V9

☎ 905-388-2200 ☎ 905-388-8416

🌐 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 8, 2026

REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL

Reflect upon next Sunday's Gospel throughout the week.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is:

John 9.1-41

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

March 1st, 2026 Collection

Regular Sunday Env.	\$ 5,657.00
Loose Cash	\$ 809.00
St.M.M. Parish Outreach	\$ 560.00
Building Fund	\$ 130.00
Hearts for HAITI	\$ 1,000.00

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

This year marks the 60th 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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are currently looking for volunteers to help during our Coffee Sunday following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Coffee Sunday takes place once a month, and we would truly appreciate any help you can offer. If you are able and willing to assist, please contact the Parish Office at (905) 388-2200 or email us at office@stmargaretmaryparish.ca.

Our website has had a makeover? Please take a look at our website which was redesigned under the direction of the Communications office for the Diocese of Hamilton. In the next few months we will be in the process of updating the information pages.



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

Tues., Mar 10 7:00 pm.	†Salvatore De Stephanis †Antonio & Domenica Saturnino
Wed., Mar 11 9:00 am	†Maria Barbara Uznanska
Thurs., Mar 12 9:00 am	†All Souls in Purgatory
Fri., Mar 13 9:00 am	†Betty Feijo
Sat., Mar 14 5:00pm	†Shlemon Hanna Osi

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Parishioners and friends of St. Margaret Mary Parish are invited to a retreat day next **Saturday, March 14th 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.**

2025 TAX RECEIPTS

2025 Tax Receipts are available for pick-up in the narthex of the Church after each Mass this weekend. Receipts that have not been picked will be mailed this week.



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.

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 1st, 2026. Thank you in advance.

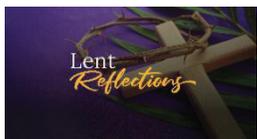
THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER:

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 905-388-2200 at your earliest convenience. Thank you very much for your assistance.



A REFLECTION FOR LENT 3:

The Gospel account of the woman at the well (John 4:5–42) is the first of three great dramatic encounters proclaimed during Lent in Year A,

followed by the healing of the man born blind and the sacrament of the raising of Lazarus. Together they reveal a gradual deepening of faith: from thirst, to sight, to life. The central theme of the woman at the well is **spiritual thirst and the gift of living water**, the invitation to move from surface-level religion to a personal encounter that transforms the heart.

At the beginning of the story, both Jesus and the woman come to the well with ordinary needs. Jesus is physically thirsty; the woman comes for daily water. Yet the conversation quickly moves beyond the practical into the spiritual. Jesus speaks of “living water,” a gift that satisfies the deepest human longing — the thirst for God, meaning, healing, and belonging. Lent, at its heart, is about recognizing this thirst within ourselves. We often try to satisfy it through distractions, achievements, or habits that leave us empty. Jesus invites us to admit our need and allow him to fill it.

This encounter is striking because of the boundaries it crosses. A Jewish man speaks openly with a Samaritan woman, someone doubly marginalized by ethnicity and social circumstance. The woman’s past is complicated; she carries wounds and perhaps shame. Yet Jesus approaches her not with condemnation but with honesty and respect. He reveals her life to her — not to humiliate, but to free her. This teaches us an essential Lenten truth: conversion begins when we allow ourselves to be truly seen by God. Jesus knows us completely, yet still chooses to speak to us, call us, and offer grace.

As the dialogue unfolds, the woman’s understanding deepens. She moves from seeing Jesus as a stranger, to calling him a prophet, and finally to recognizing the possibility that he is the Messiah. This gradual awakening mirrors the Lenten journey. Faith often grows step by step, through questions and conversation rather than instant clarity. Lent gives us space for this process through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity that open our hearts to deeper awareness.

Jesus’ words about worship “in spirit and truth” point toward a renewal of relationship with God. True worship is not merely about place or external practice but about an interior transformation. Lent challenges us to move beyond routine observance toward authentic discipleship — to let our prayers be honest, our repentance sincere, and our charity rooted in love rather than obligation.

The woman’s response is equally important. She leaves her water jar behind and goes to share what she has experienced. The jar symbolizes her old priorities; her encounter with Christ sends her outward in mission. In Lent, we are not only called to personal renewal but to witness. A genuine meeting with Christ always leads us toward others.

Ultimately, this story teaches that Lent is not about spiritual perfection but about encounter. Jesus meets us at the ordinary wells of our lives and offers living water that becomes “a spring welling up to eternal life.” The invitation is simple yet profound: acknowledge your thirst, allow Christ to speak honestly to your heart, and let that encounter change how you live.

SPEAKING SYNODALITY

The **Office for Evangelization and Catechesis** invite 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/>

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.humandevlopment.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: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/>. This event is co-sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton.

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