ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH

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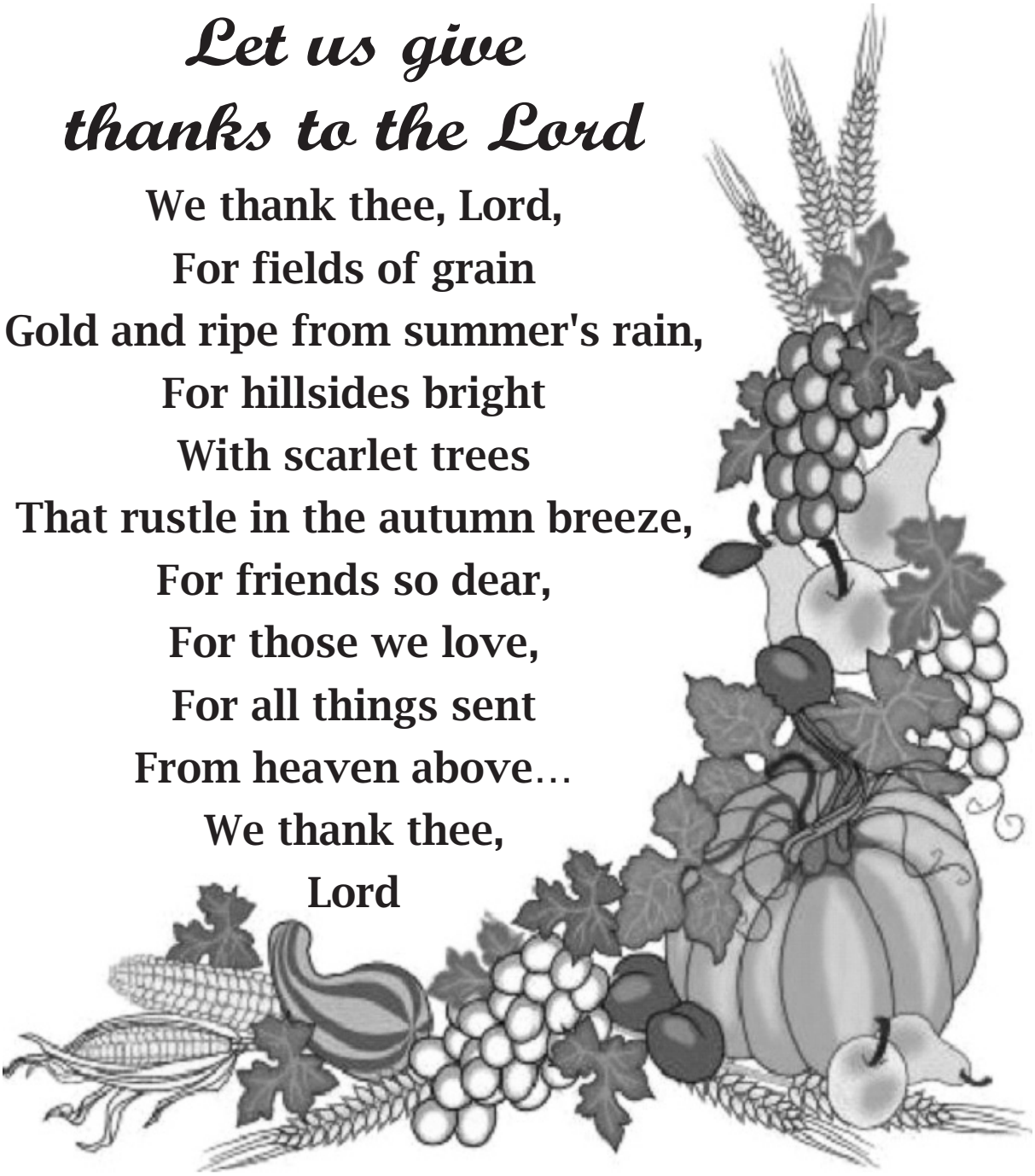
Very Rev. Msgr. Cornelius O'Mahony, Pastor
Rev. Mr. Rene Marechal, Deacon
Divine Dimaranan, Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper
Mary Luciani, Music Director
Buddy Guevarra, Custodian

Let us give thanks to the Lord

We thank thee, Lord,
For fields of grain
Gold and ripe from summer's rain,
For hillsides bright
With scarlet trees
That rustle in the autumn breeze,
For friends so dear,
For those we love,
For all things sent
From heaven above…
We thank thee,
Lord



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TWENTY-EIGHT SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 11, 2026

REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL

Reflect upon next Sunday's Gospel throughout the week.
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time is:
Matthew 22.15-21

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

October 3-4, 2026

Regular Sunday Env.	$ 4,590.00
Loose Collection	$ 575.00
STMM Outreach	$ 550.00

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

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

If you would like to support St. Margaret Mary Parish through **Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)**, we warmly invite you to enroll in this convenient program. With PAG, your weekly or monthly offertory donation is automatically withdrawn from your bank account, ensuring your regular support of the parish even when you are away or unable to attend Mass. You may choose the amount and frequency of your donation, and you can change or cancel your contribution at any time by contacting the parish office. Registration forms are available at the parish office. If you have any questions or would like assistance with enrolling, please contact the parish office during regular office hours by calling 905-388-2200 or email us at: office@stmargaretmaryparish.ca. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish community.

Please note: Mass for Thanksgiving Monday at 9.00 am.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. MARGARET MARY'S OCTOBERFEST EVENING

The Knights of Columbus at St. Margaret Mary invite everyone to their **Oktoberfest Evening on Wednesday, October 21st**. Doors open at **6:00 p.m.**, with dinner at **6:30 p.m.** Tickets are **$10 per person**, and everyone is welcome! Tickets will be available for purchase after all Masses on Saturday and Sunday. **The last day to purchase tickets is Sunday, October 18th.** Hope to see you all there**!**

PORKETTA ON A BUN

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Porketta on a Bun after all Masses on October 24/25. Prices are 1 for $6.00 or 3 for $15.00. Pre order sheets can be found in the narthex of the church. Last day to order will be Tuesday, October 20. Porketta Buns are supplied by Genuine Bakery.

Catholic Cemeteries **invites you to join for their Annual Fall Memorial Mass** on **Sunday, November 1, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** at **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Burlington**. The Mass will be celebrated by **Most Reverend Joseph Dabrowski, CSMA, Bishop of Hamilton**. **All are welcome.**

7:00pm on Tuesday
9:00am Wednesday to Friday

Tues.,Oct. 13 7:00 pm	†Anne Cupido †Pina Tornari †Linda Trinidad †Antonio Jose Raymundo Ornelas
Wed., Oct. 14	†Vitorino Paron
Thurs., Oct. 15	†Heather Kelly
Fri., Oct. 16	†Josefina Leoncio
Sat., Oct. 17 5:00 pm	†Joe Partito †Mary K. Pickett †Alice MacDougall †Gerardo & Consolatriz Salem †Linda Trinidad †Adele Brazzoni †All Souls in Purgatory

Grateful for the Whole Journey: Thanksgiving weekend arrives each year with familiar images: tables surrounded by family and friends, the colours of autumn, food shared generously, and perhaps a few moments when we consciously name the things for which we are grateful.

There is something very good about that. We need occasions that remind us to stop and say thank you. So much of life can be spent thinking about what we do not have, what has gone wrong, or what we still hope will happen. Thanksgiving invites us to notice what is already here: the people who love us, the beauty of creation, the gift of faith, and the simple blessing of another day.

But Henri Nouwen, the priest and spiritual writer, asks us to go deeper. He writes: ***"To be grateful for the good things that happen in our lives is easy, but to be grateful for all of our lives, the good as well as the bad, the moments of joy as well as the moments of sorrow, the successes as well as the failures, the rewards as well as the rejections—that requires hard spiritual work."***

That is a very different understanding of Thanksgiving. Gratitude at its deepest level embraces **all of life**: the good and the bad, the joyful and the painful. It recognizes that gladness and sadness are rarely completely separate, that joy and sorrow often belong together, and that mourning and dancing can somehow be part of the same journey.
This does not mean that we call suffering good. There are experiences for which we could never reasonably be expected to give thanks: death, illness, betrayal, disappointment, loneliness or failure. Christianity never asks us to pretend these things do not hurt. Jesus himself wept. He knew rejection and disappointment. In Gethsemane, he knew fear and anguish.

Christian gratitude is not pretending that everything is wonderful. It is something much more courageous. It is believing that **nothing has to be wasted**. Nouwen continues: *"We are only truly grateful people when we can say 'thank you' to all that has brought us to the present moment."*

Perhaps that is one of the invitations of Thanksgiving this year: to look back over the journey that has brought each of us to this particular moment.

There will be things we remember with happiness: people who have loved us, friendships that sustained us, doors that opened unexpectedly, prayers that were answered. But there will be other things as well. There may be an empty chair at the Thanksgiving table this year. There may be a relationship that has changed, an illness that has frightened us, a disappointment we are still carrying, or a prayer that seems to have gone unanswered. Some may look back and see choices they would make differently if they could live those days again.

And yet, all of it has brought us here. That does not mean God caused everything that happened or that everything was God's will. But faith allows us to believe that God has been present through it all and that, in God's hands, even the wounds of our lives can become places where grace enters. Perhaps suffering has made us gentler. Failure may have made us less judgmental. Grief may have taught us how precious another person can be. Something we once thought would destroy us may, years later, have become part of the compassion with which we meet another person's suffering. That is why Nouwen encourages us not to divide our lives into the parts we treasure and the parts we would rather erase. Instead, he invites us to look at the whole journey and trust that somewhere within it we may discover *"the guiding hand of a loving God."* Maybe that is the deeper grace of Thanksgiving.

We come before God not simply carrying a basket filled with our blessings but carrying our whole lives. The laughter and the tears, the successes and the failures. The people who remain and the people we miss. The prayers answered and the prayers still waiting for an answer. And standing before God with all of it, perhaps we can slowly learn to say: **Thank you, Lord, for the whole journey. For what I understand and what I do not. For what I would gladly live again and even for what I would never choose to live again. Thank you for bringing me to this moment. And thank you for being with me along the way.**

The quote that this reflection is based on is from: Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith*, "The Spiritual Work of Gratitude," January 12.

BAZAAR ON A ROLL!!

Next weekend, we will resume distribution of Capital Prize tickets before & after all weekend masses. In addition, we will be accepting Attic Treasures donations one hour before each Mass. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex. We warmly encourage you to sign up - it is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, have fun & support our parish! We are also gratefully accepting donations for the Penny Sale, Craft Table, Kid'sKorner & Turkey Roll. Every contribution , big or small helps make our parish event a success! Thank you for your continued support & may God bless us all! Happy Thanksgiving!

MISSION CO-OP – HAITI

On the weekend of October 17-18, the Twinning Committee is delighted to welcome Monsignor Philippe Jean-Pierre, the founding Pastor of St. Gabriel Parish in Beau-Sejour, to share with us a few words regarding the current difficulties and sufferings our sisters and brothers in Haiti are living with each day. After all Masses, please join us in the Hearth Room for a reception, new photo displays and a chance to discuss our Twinning Mission with St. Gabriel Parish.

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING

Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin from October 2026 to December 31, 2027. The advertising will begin in December 2026 & support the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1-800-268-2637.

ADVENT RETREAT – LOVE FROM BETHLEHEM

Join us for a special Advent Retreat with **Fr. Michael Mascarenhas** on **Saturday, December 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Journey with **Mary and St. Francis of Assisi** as we reflect on God's love in the Incarnation and the true meaning of Christmas. Come and prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ and rediscover the joy and wonder of His birth!

Faith is something we receive, but it is also something we continue to explore throughout our lives. There are always new questions to ask, new insights to discover, and new ways of understanding what it means to follow Christ.

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ is a series of three four-week opportunities to explore **faith, spirituality, and our life in the Christian community.**

The invitation is open to everyone. Perhaps you have been part of the Church all your life and would simply like an opportunity to revisit some of the foundations of your faith. Perhaps you would like to deepen your spiritual life or think more carefully about what it means to belong to a Christian community. Or perhaps you are simply curious and would like to know more.

This year, rather than beginning primarily with presentations or teaching, we will begin with **people and their stories**. Throughout the series we will encounter the witness and testimony of men and women, young and old, some well-known and others less familiar, who speak honestly about their experiences and their own journeys of faith. Their stories will become a starting point for our own reflection, conversation and questions.

Pick up a brochure with more information and dates on the information rack.

PREPARING FOR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

"The invitation is for all peoples"

Isaiah sees a feast the Lord prepares "for all peoples" (Is 25:6). In the Gospel the king sends servants to the highways so that the wedding hall may be filled (Mt 22:1-14). Mission is that invitation carried to every nation. Next Sunday is the 100th World Mission Sunday. Please plan to pray for missionaries and to support the second collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which aids young Churches in more than 1,100 mission territories.

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