ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH

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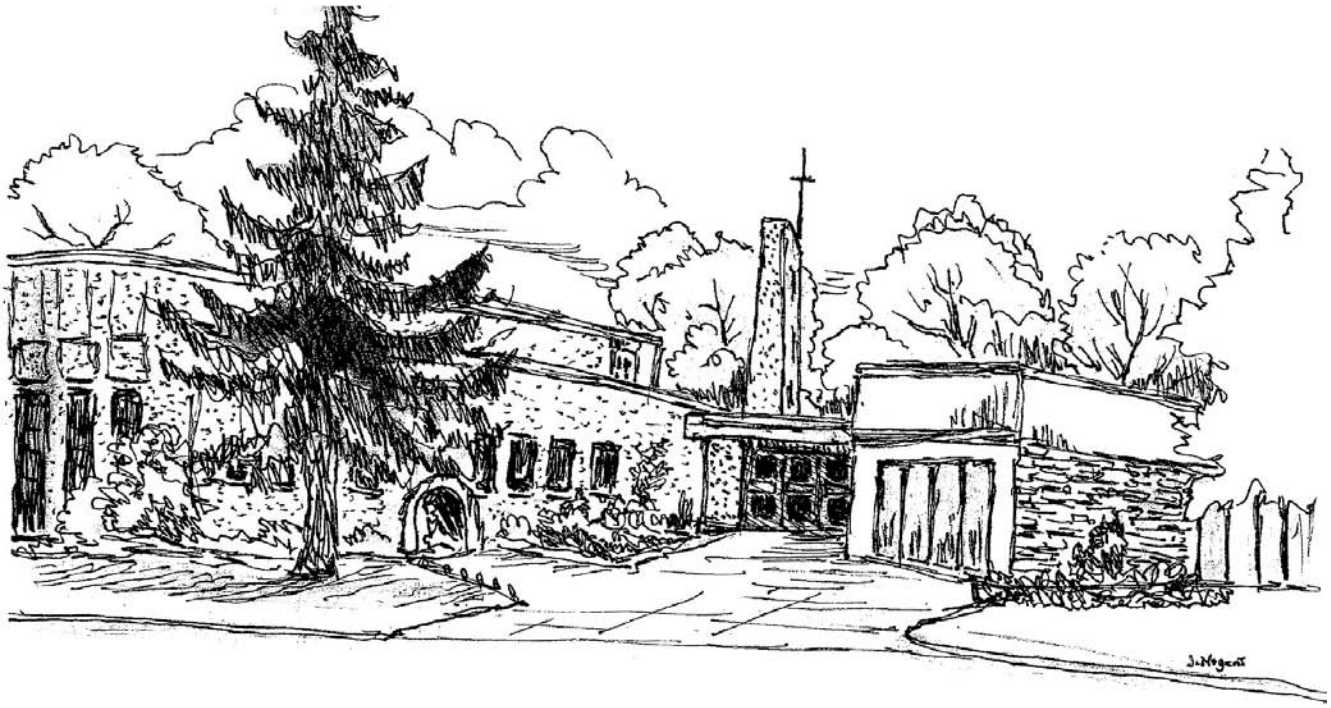

Very Rev. Msgr. Cornelius O'Mahony, Pastor
Rev. Mr. Rene Marechal, Deacon
Divine Dimaranan, Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper
Mary Luciani, Music Director
Buddy Guevarra, Custodian

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: Tuesday's – 12:00 noon-6:45 pm
Every First Friday of the month: 9:30 am-12:00 noon

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. Jean De Brebeuf Secondary	905-388-7020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2026

180 - 1

REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL

Reflect upon next Sunday's Gospel throughout the week.
Second Sunday of Advent
is: **Mark 1.1-8**

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

November 21-22, 2026

Regular Sunday Env.	$ 4,370.00
Building Fund	$ 240.00
Loose Collection	$ 650.00

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 With PAG, your weekly or monthly offertory donation is automatically withdrawn from your bank account, ensuring your regular support of the parish even when you are away or unable to attend Mass.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.

You will notice that the chair in the sanctuary that the presider sits looks different. **This is a temporary move** as we have some work to do to support the back on the original one. Sixty years of priests sitting against it have made it increasingly lose and noisy complicated by the fact that it is made of concrete which has aged. The metal supports for the back also need some major surgery and a new solution to make the chair more stable is found.

Pledge envelopes to help raise funds for the roof renovations are available in the information racks in the Narthex.

MEETING FOR CONFIRMATION: Parents and students who would like to celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on Saturday, April 17, 2027, **must attend** the scheduled meeting to begin preparation on **Wednesday, January 13th at 7.00 pm.** in the parish meeting room. Registration closes for the preparation process on Friday, February 12. Please note that the preparation process for 2027 has been significantly updated. Attendance at the initial meeting and the two activities scheduled during the time of preparation are required preparation steps which will be discussed in detail at the information meeting.



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

Tues., Dec. 1 7:00 pm	†Juliana & Cornelius Rodrigues
Wed., Dec. 2	†Anne Cupido
Thurs., Dec.3	†Rocco Della Nebbia
Fri., Dec. 4	†Lehing, Celing & Arnold Macapagal
Sat., Dec. 5 5:00 pm	†Steve & Stephanie Dushko †Jeff Toole †Nicola Cocca †Nancy Romyn †Emilia Lopes †Rosalinda M. Perez †Alicia Unno Bordi

Standing at the Threshold of a New Beginning:
There is something wonderful about the way the Church marks the passage of time. Last weekend, with the Feast of Christ the King, we brought another liturgical year to its conclusion. We had journeyed with Jesus through his birth, ministry, suffering, death and resurrection. Now, almost before we have caught our breath, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of another beginning. Welcome to Advent! For the next four weeks, the Church invites us to slow down, to listen, to wonder and, above all, to prepare our hearts for the remarkable story that is about to unfold.

This year, we welcome *Mark* as our principal Gospel companion. His Gospel is direct, urgent and challenging. On this first Sunday, Jesus calls us to remain awake and attentive. It is an invitation particularly appropriate for Advent: pay attention, because God is doing something wonderful, and we do not want to miss it.

During these weeks, we encounter familiar companions on the journey. Isaiah and Jeremiah speak of a people longing for God's promises to be fulfilled. John the Baptist calls us to prepare the way. Elizabeth reminds us that God works through unexpected circumstances. And Mary of Nazareth, with her extraordinary trust and courage, teaches us what it means to make room for God in our lives.

Their stories lead us towards Bethlehem, towards shepherds and angels, towards a young mother and her child. And there, in the simplicity of a stable, we encounter the astonishing truth that God has chosen to enter our world, not in power or splendour, but in vulnerability and love.

The Irish poet and mystic *John O'Donohue* offers a beautiful insight for this season. In his collection of blessings, ***To Bless the Space Between Us*****,** he reflects on the importance of life's thresholds, those moments when we leave something familiar behind and enter something new. Such moments, he suggests, deserve our attention, our reverence and our willingness to embrace possibility. What a wonderful way to

understand Advent! We stand at a threshold, invited not simply to repeat an ancient story, but to allow that story to awaken something new within us.

Of course, this is easier said than done. The weeks before Christmas can become a whirlwind of shopping, decorating, entertaining and countless obligations. These are often good and joyful activities. The challenge is not to abandon them, but to ensure they do not overwhelm the deeper meaning of the season. Perhaps we might consider a few simple Advent practices.

Begin each day with five minutes of quiet, asking God to help us recognize his presence. Light a candle at home and allow its gentle flame to remind us of the light coming into the world. Read a little of the Christmas story each week. Make time for someone who is lonely, struggling or forgotten. Be generous, not simply with gifts, but with patience, forgiveness and kindness. Above all, resist the temptation to rush through Advent simply to arrive at Christmas.

The story of Bethlehem is not an isolated event. It is the beginning of everything that follows. The child born in humility will become the teacher who welcomes sinners, heals the broken-hearted, challenges injustice and reveals the limitless love of God. His journey will lead to Jerusalem, the cross and the empty tomb. Without Bethlehem, we cannot fully understand Easter.

So, as we begin another liturgical year, may we enter Advent with open hearts, attentive minds and renewed wonder. For the greatest gift of Christmas is not something we prepare for God, but the extraordinary gift God has already prepared for us. And that changes everything.

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

RECONCILIATION IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

On Wednesday, December 16th, we have a day long opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the Christmas Season. Please join us in the morning from 11.00 to 12.30. In the afternoon from 2.00 to 3.30. And in the evening from 7.00 to 8.30. One week before an aid to help prepare for the sacrament will be available. Reconciliation is also available on Saturday from 4.10 to 4.50.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT- NOVEMBER 29, 2026

The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master's return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ. Could God's "particular task" for you be a call to a Church vocation? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, **contact Fr. John Ha, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 ext 2341.Email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com https://hamiltondiocese.com/**

On Tuesdays, from 12 noon until Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7.00 pm., you are invited to spend time in quiet in the church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. During this time, it is important that the Blessed Sacrament is never alone. We encourage parishioners to sign up for a specific time. A sheet with times is available on the table at the entrance to the church. This is a special time when pray with a special focus on the needs of our parishioners, especially those who are ill, those who are lonely and at this time of the year, those who find the seasons of Advent and Christmas difficult.

This weekend, we appeal to parishioners for help for the **Outreach Program** in the parish which helps the poor. The appeal this weekend is focused specifically on helping families and individuals for Christmas. Please read the special letter in the bulletin.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 9553

On November 17th, District Deputy Mark Mascarenhas presented two awards to Grand Knight Anthony Mari and Council 9553 of St. Margaret Mary Parish: the **Founders Award**, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Insurance, and the **Columbian Award**, recognizing the Council's commitment to charity and stewardship.

These achievements would not have been possible without the support of Msgr. Con and the generosity of our parishioners. Congratulations to all the Knights!

Interested in joining the Knights of Columbus? New members are always welcome! Please speak with any Knight after Mass for more information.

WHEN LIFE CHANGES: Grief Relief – Has someone you cared about died? Are you grieving the loss of the person's presence in your life? Are you looking for relief from the feelings associated with the loss of this loved one? You are not alone! The Hamilton Diocese offers a six-week grief program for your support. Series one for those new to the program (you are welcome to come again) will run from **February 17 – March 24, 2027, from 1:30 – 3 p.m.** Series two (for those who have taken part one) will be offered **April 7 – May 12, 2027, from 7 – 8:30 p.m.** Both will be held at the Chancery Office, at 700 King St. West in Hamilton. To register, go to hamiltondiocese.com and look at Upcoming Events for the date and When Life Changes: Grief Relief (Part One or Part Two), or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

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