

ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH

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Very Rev. Msgr. Cornelius O'Mahony, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Rene Marechal, Deacon

Divine Dimaranan, Administration/Secretary



Advent

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025

REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL

Reflect upon next Sunday's Gospel throughout the week.
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is:

Matthew 2.13-15, 19-23

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

December 14th Collection

This will be included in our next bulletin.

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

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Mon., Dec. 22	Rev. Richard Dordunu
Tues., Dec. 23	Rev. Robert Kiffman
Wed., Dec. 24	Consecrated Virgin Candidates
Thurs., Dec. 25	<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>
Fri., Dec. 26	Rev. Jason Kuntz
Sat., Dec. 27	Rev. Andrew Lopatniuk



Tues., Dec. 23 7:00 pm.	Intentions of Elsie & Stanley Bialkowski †Flora Mabini †Vivian, Azzadine, Emily & Francesco Porto
Wed., Dec. 24 4:00 pm 9:00 pm	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
Thurs., Dec. 25 9:00 am. 11:00 am	<i>Christmas Day</i>
Fri., Dec. 26 9:00 am	†Joseph Spatazzo †Pas, Francis & Roy Naguit
Sat., Dec. 27 5:00pm	†Tony Stanfl Jr. †Nellie Naronski †Michael Jacowitz †Unberto Pauletto †Mario M. Perez
Sun. Dec. 28 @ 11:00 am	†Joao, Arruda, John & Maria Arruda †Antonio & Luisa Mare

2026 DONATIONS ENVELOPES STILL AVAILABLE

Donation envelopes for 2026 are still available for pick-up in the narthex and are arranged alphabetically for your convenience. Returning parishioners are asked to please dispose of all old envelopes and begin using the **pink envelope** available in the narthex. Be sure to write your **full name and address** on the pink envelope so your donation is properly credited to you. Please do not continue using old envelopes, as the numbers may have changed and could now belong to another family. If you need a new set of envelopes, please contact the Church Office.



THE FINAL DAYS OF WAITING: MARY AND JOHN AS OUR GUIDES



As the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** arrives, the candles on the wreath are nearly all alight, and the waiting of the season has grown short. The Church's liturgy takes on a new intimacy, no longer speaking in general terms of the Lord's coming, but dwelling on the quiet moments just before His birth. These are the last words before Christmas, the final breaths of hope before the Word becomes flesh.

In these days, our attention turns most fully toward Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and John the Baptist, the forerunner who prepared His way. Both embody the essence of Advent: waiting, listening, and responding to God's call with courage and faith.

Mary stands at the heart of this final week. Her "yes" to the angel's message, "*Let it be done to me according to your word*" is the perfect model of trustful surrender. In her, we see what it means to make space for Christ, literally and spiritually.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Parishioners may make a donation for the sanctuary Christmas flowers in memory of deceased loved ones. A Mass for them will

be celebrated on The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, **Sunday, January 11th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.**, and their names will be included in the bulletin. Please clearly print the name of the person to be memorialized on the back of the donation envelope. **The deadline for donations is on Christmas, December 25th, 2025.**

She carries the Word of God within her, allowing divine life to grow unseen until the appointed time. Her waiting is not passive; it is filled with prayer, attentiveness, and love. She teaches us that Advent is a time for openness to mystery, for saying “yes” even when we do not fully understand what God is asking of us.

John the Baptist, too, remains a central figure in these closing days. From his mother’s womb, he leapt for joy at the presence of the unborn Christ. His entire life points away from himself toward the One who is to come. John’s humility and boldness remind us that preparing for Christ means conversion of heart, a willingness to make straight the paths of our lives by turning away from sin and opening ourselves to grace. His voice still cries out in our wilderness, urging us to look beyond the noise of the world and make room for God’s transforming presence.

Together, Mary and John form a kind of Advent duet. Mary represents the quiet, hidden side of preparation, the interior “yes” that allows God’s will to unfold. John represents the active, prophetic side, the call to repentance and renewal. Both are needed if we are to welcome Christ fully: a listening heart and a courageous witness.

As Christmas draws near, the Church invites us to enter into the same readiness. The final days of Advent are not simply about finishing preparations or wrapping gifts; they are about stilling our hearts enough to hear the whisper of God’s promise fulfilled. In our own lives, we might echo Mary’s prayer, “*My soul magnifies the Lord*” and John’s proclamation, “*He must increase; I must decrease.*”

These last days before the Nativity remind us that God comes to those who make room for Him. He enters the quiet, humble spaces of our hearts just as He once entered the quiet of Bethlehem. Like Mary and John, may we wait with love, listen with faith, and be ready to welcome Christ, who is always drawing near.

Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent

Loving God,
As we draw near to the celebration of Christ’s birth,
help us to wait with the faith of Mary
and to prepare the way with the courage of John.
Open our hearts to Your presence
in the quiet and the ordinary moments of our days.
Fill our waiting with hope,
our hearts with peace,
and our lives with the joy of Your coming.
May we welcome Your Son with love,
and bear His light into the world.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen



Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you in this holy season. As we approach Christmas, my heart is moved to offer you warm wishes for a joyful and hope-filled celebration of our Lord’s birth. At this time of year, when the daylight fades quickly, the air grows sharp, and snow begins to settle upon the earth, we are reminded of the opening lines of the beloved carol *In the Bleak Midwinter*: “**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan...**” The poet captures something we know well: winter can feel stark, quiet, and austere. And yet, in that very stillness, God once chose to enter our world.

Christ was not born into warmth or abundance, but into the cold and the ordinary. He came among simple people, in a humble place, under the cover of night. And because He entered our darkness, the darkness was forever changed. This is the mystery we celebrate each Christmas, the Light that no darkness can overcome has come into the world.

As the days grow short and we feel the winter settle around us, the message of Christmas becomes even more vivid. We gather each year not merely to remember a holy moment long ago, but to celebrate what Christ continues to do now. His light still breaks into the places in our lives that feel cold or uncertain. His presence still brings warmth to hearts weighed down by worry. His love still shines in the shadows we would rather not face.

The carol ends with a simple, beautiful offering: “**What can I give Him, poor as I am?**” This question echoes in every sincere Christian heart. What do we give to the One who has given us everything? The carol’s answer is as true today as when it was written: “**Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.**” That is the gift Christ desires most. Not perfection. Not achievement. Not the illusion that we have everything together. He wants us, our trust, our openness, our willingness to let His light enter the cold corners of our lives.

This Christmas, I invite you to pause amid the busyness, the gatherings, the joyful noise, and the occasional winter weariness. Take a moment to let the light of Christ rest upon you. Let it transform whatever darkness you may be carrying, grief, worry, loneliness, burdens known only to God. His light is gentle, persistent, and healing. It reminds us that we are never alone, that God has drawn close, and that His love is stronger than any night.

As a parish family, may we also be bearers of that light to one another. A kind word, a small gesture, a thoughtful prayer may be the very warmth someone else needs this season. Together, we witness to the truth that Christ’s light still shines brightly in our world.

May the peace of the Christ Child fill your homes, may His hope renew your spirits, and may His joy remain with you throughout the coming year. From my heart to yours, I wish you and your loved ones a blessed and merry Christmas.

In Christ’s love and light,

Very Rev. Msgr. Con O’Mahony

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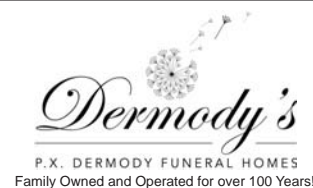
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