

ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH

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Very Rev. Msgr. Cornelius O'Mahony, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Rene Marechal, Deacon

Divine Dimaranan, Administration/Secretary

May the
Spirit of God
Lead You Through
the New Year



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 4, 2026

REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL

Reflect upon next Sunday's Gospel throughout the week.

The Baptism of The Lord is:

Matthew 3.13-17

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

December 21st, 2025 Collection

Regular Sunday Env.	\$ 10,662.00
Loose Cash	\$ 369.00
Building Fund	\$ 60.00
Christmas	\$ 3,465.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 455.00
Mission Coop- HAITI	\$ 200.00
St.M.M. Parish Outreach	\$ 660.00

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

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Copies of the January and February 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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We are pleased to share that the recent Church Bazaar was once again successful and had a net profit of **\$18,057.51**. Thank you so much to everyone who invested their time and effort to join us and help make this event a success.

Thank you again to all our sponsors, and congratulations to all the winners. We hope to see you all again at our next Bazaar!

And again, thank you..... to everyone who came out in the days before Christmas to help prepare the church for the festive season. On Monday, it was such a joy to see so many people in the church, some scurrying with ladders and straw and others making sure that everything was in place and perfect. In the evening it was music and more music with lots of laughter as the big practice took place for each of the Christmas Masses. Thank you to the sacristans, ushers, servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and our music ministry and the many others who took the time to get everything ready.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS -THANK YOU

The Knights of Columbus have donated **\$1,000** from the porchetta sale. St. Margaret Mary Parish truly appreciates their kindness and support, which will greatly benefit our parish. May God bless us all!

FYI: Just before Christmas, our alarm system and our security cameras were updated and expanded. Please note that we now have a dedicated camera (one) that records activity 24/7 in the church foyer. In the church, two cameras face the sanctuary area on the right and left and also record activity 24/7.



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

Tues., Jan. 6 7:00 pm.	†Vincenzo & Margherita Oddi †Pasquale & Donata Ferrelli
Wed., Jan. 7 9:00 am	†Mary D'Alessandro
Thurs., Jan. 8 9:00 am	Intentions of Lowie, Divine, Luis & Rob Dimaranan
Fri., Jan. 9 9:00 am	Intentions of Cynthia Panopio
Sat., Jan. 10 5:00pm	Intentions of Lilly Spence †Gennard & Elisabetta D'Aurora †Ascenzo, Letizia & Vittoria Sforza

PLEASE PICK UP!!

2026 DONATIONS ENVELOPES

Donation envelopes for 2026 are still available for pick-up at the church office from Tuesday to Friday, between 1:00–4:00 p.m. You may also call the office at 905-388-2200 to book a special pick-up time and day.



ATTENTION CANDIDATES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Enrolment for the Sacrament of Confirmation and the first session for the candidates takes place during the 9.00 am Mass on Sunday, January 11 (the first working session takes place after the Mass in the school). Please note that a parent or other family member is required to attend the first parish session with the Confirmation candidate.

The Epiphany of the Lord - January 4, 2026

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." God asks us to give our lives. What treasures have been given to you to share with others in Christ's name? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS- THANK YOU!

Thank you to all our parishioners for your generous donations toward the sanctuary Christmas flowers. Your kindness and remembrance of your loved ones are truly appreciated and help make our church more beautiful during this holy season. A Mass for them will be celebrated on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., and their names will be included in the bulletin as insert on that day as well. May God bless you for your generosity.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR..... **UNBOUND AND HOPEFUL**

As we turn the page on another year and step into a new one, I know that many of us do so carrying a mixture of emotions. There is gratitude, certainly, but also weariness. The past few years have not been easy. Loss, uncertainty, division, and anxiety have become familiar parts of daily life, and even as a new year begins, it can be difficult to feel truly at ease. For some, the future feels less like an open door and more like a question mark.

As I mentioned in my homily a few weeks ago, I saw the film *Hamnet*, a story inspired by the early life of William Shakespeare, his wife Agnes, and the death of their young son during an outbreak of the plague. Based on a book published just before the first COVID lockdown in 2020, the movie faithfully follows this true story which is at times tough to watch. The final third is a deeply honest portrayal of grief, raw, helpless, and unsettling in its truth. One sees how loss can bind a person, narrowing their world and weighing heavily on the heart.

And yet, there is also a quiet transformation. As the story unfolds, Agnes's anger and despair do not simply disappear, but they slowly give way to something new. In her eyes, one can see grief loosening its grip, making room for hope, for calm, and for a fragile but real sense of peace. The pain remains, but it no longer has the final word. By the end, we are left hoping that both parents are stepping forward together, wounded yet still capable of life.

That movement, from being bound by grief to being able to walk forward again, calls to mind a powerful moment from the Gospel of John. When Jesus raises Lazarus from the tomb, He does not stop at restoring his life. Turning to those standing nearby, Jesus says, "Unbind him, and let him go free." Lazarus is alive, but he is still wrapped in the cloths of death. Life has returned, yet freedom must follow.

As we begin this new year, those words may speak directly to our own experience. Many of us are very much alive, faithfully showing up day after day, yet still bound by the weight of recent years, by grief, fear, anger, disappointment, or fatigue. The invitation of the Gospel is not to pretend those burdens do not exist, but to allow ourselves, with God's help, to be unbound. To loosen our grip on what keeps us tied to the tombs of the past, and to trust that God desires not only our survival, but our freedom.

The world around us remains uncertain. That reality does not change simply because the calendar does. And yet, as people of faith, we live in joyful hope. The medieval mystic Julian of Norwich, who lived in a time marked by plague and instability, clung to a promise she repeated often: "All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of thing will be well." Her words were not naïve optimism; they were an expression of deep trust in God's abiding presence and faithful love.

As a parish community, let us step into this new year with open hearts and open minds. Let us be willing, gently and honestly, to lay down the detritus and dark weight of the past year—or even many years—and to walk the new path ahead unburdened and free. May we support one another in this

work, offering patience, compassion, and hope to all who walk beside us.

After *Hamnet* ends, one is reminded that the rest of Shakespeare's story still lay ahead. His greatest works were yet to be written, and their beauty continues to touch hearts and minds even today. As we begin this new year together, may we trust that our own story is far from finished. With

God's grace, the chapters yet to come may hold more life, more meaning, and more hope than we can yet imagine. With every blessing for the new year,

Msgr. Con

AN INVITATION FROM HAMILTON RIGHT TO LIFE
Hamilton Right to Life invites you to participate in our **17th Annual Candlelight Prayer Vigil on Saturday, January 24th** honoring the 4-million unborn children who have lost their lives through abortion since 1980, and to pray for a transformation in the hearts and minds of those who view abortion as a solution to crisis or unplanned pregnancy. Evening Program of prayer, Gospel readings and music begins at **7:00pm** at **St. George Reformed Episcopal Church, 134 Emerson St., Hamilton**, followed by a short walk to Main St. for a half-hour of prayer and silent witness across from McMaster Children's Hospital. Afterward we'll return to St. George's for hot drinks, fellowship and a short presentation by Rev. Dr. Wayne Hancock. This is an outdoor event. Please dress warmly and according to weather conditions. Signs and battery-operated candles will be supplied. Please go to our website to register: [HamiltonRightToLife.org/events](https://hamiltonrighttolife.org/events).

CHRISTMAS YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT During the Christmas Season, Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on **Saturday, January 3rd at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Road West, Hamilton)**. Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

PARENTING TIP #174 Christmas is a wonderful time of year! We see family, experience the joys of gift giving and receiving and have some time as a family just to be. It is however, more than any of these things, the celebration of the birth of Christ. In the hustle and bustle of the season we can forget to focus on this moment, where a child came into the world so that each of us could experience the profound gift of Salvation. This Christmas, enjoy all the fun stuff, but remember to focus, through stories, Mass, prayer and discussions, on the joy of Christ's birth and the real reason for the season. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

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