



MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

A Minute for Refuge

The term Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means arrival or to come. As we begin the new liturgical year with the season of Advent, the Church invites us all to remember again the great moment when God came to us in the flesh and dwelt among us and encourages us to prepare our hearts anew, when Jesus will come again and establish His kingdom on earth for all of eternity.

One of the themes that is evident throughout this season is the theme of being prepared. Contained in the readings for Advent is a heavy dose of prophets, from Jeremiah this past Sunday, to John the Baptist over the next two weeks, and finally Micah as we approach the Nativity of our Lord. In each case, we are being encouraged to prepare ourselves for the coming of the savior who is to truly come live with us. The days are surely coming proclaims Jeremiah. John tells us to Prepare the way of the Lord, and Micah reminds us of the promise of the one to come who is to rule in Israel.

To receive Jesus as we should, we need to prepare our hearts and souls for His arrival. For the ancient world, that time was spent preparing for the birth of a child. In our time, it means spending some time making space in our lives so that the birth of Jesus might become real in our hearts. **The season of Advent invites us to set aside some space in our lives to wait, set aside time, and prepare for Him who is to come.**

David in Psalm 62 writes "Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge." As Advent begins, perhaps it might benefit us all if we set aside a little bit of time to seek refuge in our Lord. I know that many of us are very busy in our lives, and December can be an especially crazy time of year. But can we spare a minute to stop, calm our heart, and reach out to Jesus? Sixty seconds is not a large amount of time, but I really do believe that these small moments we give to Jesus can have amazing impacts on our lives and to those around us. Amid the cacophony in our world, maybe we can all endeavor to plan intentional minutes during our day to seek the Lord and to find refuge in Him. Faithful people have done this for centuries to great benefit. Jesus routinely left large crowds and His disciples to pray. There must be something to this, if Jesus made it a priority, maybe it's worth our effort to do the same.

Can we spare a minute in prayer to give thanks?

Can we spare a minute to pray for the needs of this broken world?

Can we spare a minute to pray for the needs of others?

Can we simply spare a minute to listen for a whisper from God?

During these next few weeks, the Church invites us to live and breathe at a different pace. Please know that my daily prayer for all of us is that we can each find some time every day for intentional connection with Him, so that Jesus might become even more fully present in our hearts.

Peace to you during this Holy Season of Advent!

Your priest,

Fr. Todd

dill@saintmargarets.net



Advent

“The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.” - Henry Nouwen



The Lord is always coming. The season of Advent reminds us of this. The season of Advent is about preparation, excitement, and wondering. We are reminded that Christ came and that Christ will come again. As we prepare for this season, may our pace be slower, may we find time to think to wonder about the miracle of Jesus' incarnation as he came into the world a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes laid in a manger. May our spirits and hearts be full of God's Love for us that he sent his son. May we also remember this Advent, that Christ comes to us daily. Our spirits long to meet Christ wherever we may find ourselves. It is my hope and prayer for all of you this Advent, that your soul, your spirit meets Jesus each and every day of this Holy Advent. Amen.

“Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



BY REV. FATHER MATT ADDINGTON

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR

Father Matt is in the office M-Th
and can be reached at:
addington@saintmargarets.net



Music at St. Margaret's

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

music@saintmargarets.net

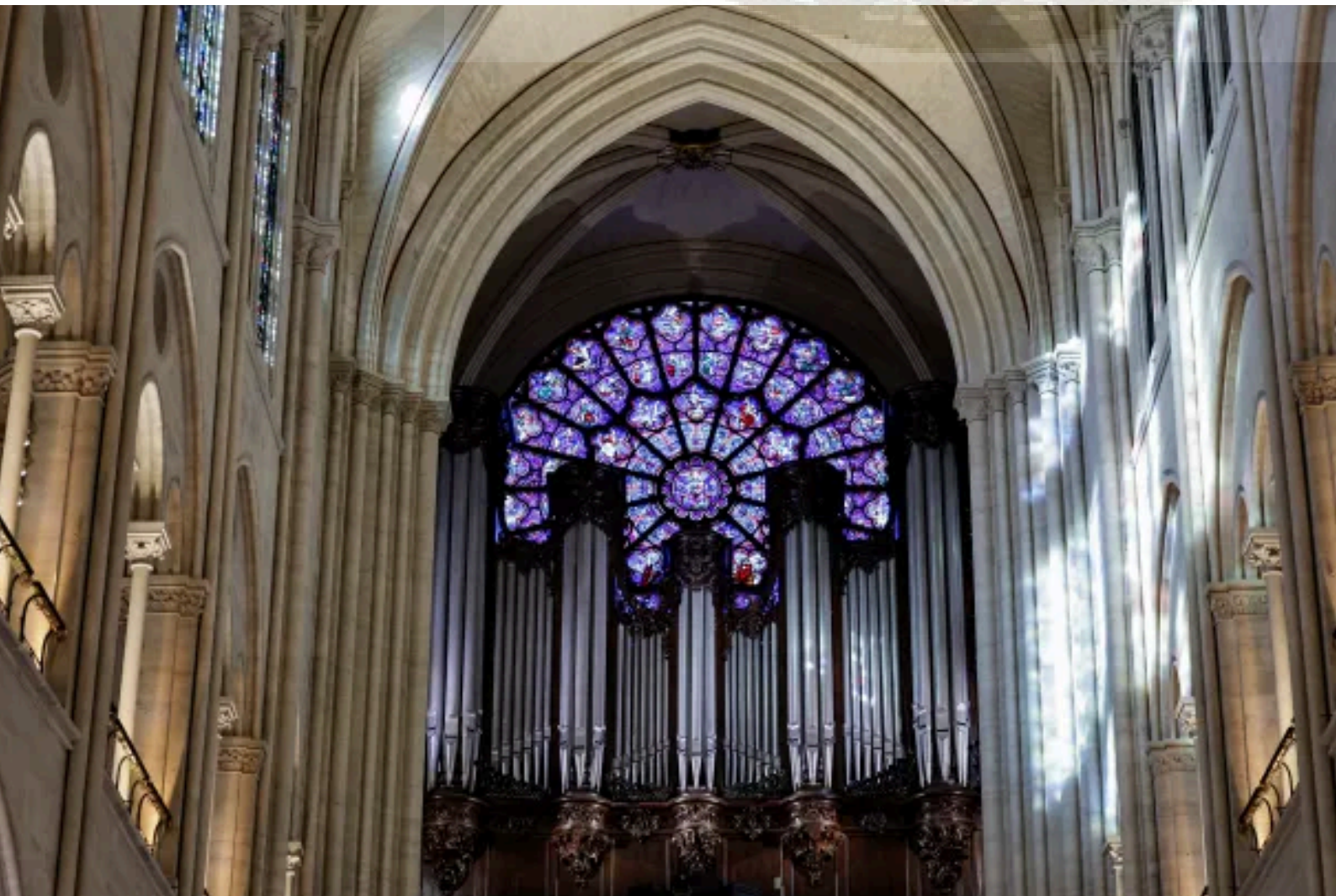
A CHRISTMAS TRIBUTE TO NOTRE DAME

Like many of you, I was heartbroken on April 15, 2019, to flip through the news and see Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris aflame. In 2010, I had the opportunity to hear Mass in the organ loft and to watch Olivier Latty brilliantly improvise at the 1868 Cavaillé-Coll organ. It seemed the heritage and history of that building would be lost forever, literally gone in flames.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of the French people, nine centuries of worship will continue in that building this month, as it reopens following a long renovation. The organ, with some parts dating to 1730, survived the fire intact and will again be heard for this year's Christmas Masses. Accordingly, for our Christmas Eve Eucharists, I have scheduled organ music pulled from the long tradition of excellent composers who have served there as organist.

Eighteenth century composers Louis-Claude Daquin and Claude Balbastre were both central contributors to the genre of French noëls. These are variations on popular carols, and Balbastre's carols in particular were so raucous that he was banned from playing them due to dancing breaking out during Mass. Louis Vierne, who took the position in 1900, was a blind man who brought both subtle expression and new harmonic language to the organ. He died at the organ console there in 1937, immediately before beginning the finale of his 1,750th recital. His Carillon sur la sonnerie du Carillon de la chapelle du Château de Longpont (or, as I call it, Carillon), is a virtuosic showpiece, with a fast pedal ostinato driving to the end of the piece.

Merry Christmas to you all, and enjoy a tribute to one of the great monuments of Christendom at our Christmas Eve services!



SAINT MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STEWARDSHIP

2025

Update

Pledge Goal

\$1,040,000

2025 PLEDGING UNITS AS OF 12/2/24:	215
AMOUNT PLEDGED TO DATE:	\$871,105
AMOUNT NEEDED TO REACH GOAL:	\$168,895
% REMAINING:	16%

If you have not pledged yet and would like to

CLICK HERE



to **PLEDGE NOW.**

*Many thanks to the households
who have pledged to support the
work of St. Margaret's in 2025!*

*For those who have not pledged, we hope
that you will prayerfully consider giving
so that the work done in our building and
in our community can continue.*

**Where
are
you
rooted?**

Join us for

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 15

4:00 pm in the evening

THE CHOIRS OF SAINT MARGARET'S

The beloved King's College tradition.

Reception to follow.



Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

Our StM Youth Group is wrapping up our fall semester and we have had an incredibly fun fall semester!

We started our fall meetings with discussing how are God's beautiful and varied creations "created in Christ Jesus to do good works..." (Ephesians 2:10). We followed this theme of good works all fall and spent November hearing how Jesus is our healer and our teacher! We heard of Jesus healing others, of being interrupted and having compassion on those who believed in him, we heard Jesus tell us we are "the salt of the earth" and how we bring out the best in each other. We discussed Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish builder and how it is not enough to hear the words of Jesus (as we do each week) but we must act on those words!

Youth group plays games, eats a lot of candy, does crafts, gets a little messy, and we can be just a bit noisy but, we sure do dive into the scriptures and have great conversations. We'd love for your student to join us soon.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us in December from 5:00-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7:00pm. Haven't been to EYC yet this school year? Come join us! We'd love to see you as we celebrate the season of Advent. We will meet Dec 8th and Dec 15th (White Elephant Christmas Party). All 6th-12th graders are invited, friends are always welcome!

It's White Elephant time! Make sure to carve out time in your schedule for EYC on Dec 15th from 5-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7. Bring a small (\$10 or less) gift for our yearly, hilarious tradition of a White Elephant gift exchange; feel free to get creative or reuse something from around the house. Remember: **NO GIFT CARDS.** Christmas PJs or tacky Christmas sweaters welcome!



Stay up-to-date with youth group gatherings by signing up for our EYC text updates: text **stmyouth1** to **43506** and reply "yes" if prompted with an opt-in text message.





SUPPORT OUR COSTA RICA MISSION TEAM



Autobell car wash gift cards ON SALE NOW!

The Costa Rica mission team is selling Autobell car wash gift cards for \$20.

Half of the \$20 stays at St. Margaret's and will go towards our mission trip costs.

These gift cards are good for any Autobell service, do not expire, and are valid at all Autobell locations.

They make great gifts and stocking stuffers!

If you order prior to Sunday morning and attend StM, we will have them waiting for you at our sales table.

We will also happily mail tickets!

Thank you for your support of our Costa Rica mission trip.

[CLICK HERE](#) to purchase
or stop by the table near the narthex on a Sunday morning.



Children's Ministry



BY JAMIE PETER
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

Has your Elf on the Shelf made His or Her appearance yet? Have your children made their Christmas list for Santa? With all the hustle and bustle of this magical season, take time to remember that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

It is almost time for two of our annual children's events here at Saint Margaret's! The Saint Nicholas Festival is on Saturday, December 7th from 9:30am to 11:30am. Join us for a joyous morning of fun crafts and fellowship as we celebrate the Advent season! Please enter through the front red doors where we will start out in the Nave with story time with Father Matt. From there we will have crafts, a digital photo booth, a hot cocoa bar, breakfast...and maybe a special appearance from Saint Nicholas himself! Please kindly RSVP if you have not done so already.

This year we will be having our children's Christmas pageant at our 3pm Christmas Eve service. All children and youth are welcome! Costumes and props will be provided at this "pickup" Nativity pageant. No rehearsals and no sign ups are needed, just show up by 2:45pm to participate in this sweet tradition as we share the story of the birth of Jesus! More information will be provided soon!

Our children's Sunday School this past month looked at Mark 12: 38-44 and the Widow's Offering. Students made their own Offering Bags with small pictures or names of things they could offer to God besides money, like their talents, kindness, or love. We also celebrated our patron Saint Margaret this past month and made kid-friendly Advent wreaths to prepare for the Advent season.



Our **Club 4-5** kids took a trip off site in November to get some ice cream and talk about gratitude. We would love to welcome more 4th and 5th graders to this awesome group, so **mark your calendars for our next meeting on Dec. 8th.**

Please be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming dates in Children's Ministry:

December 7th:

Annual Saint Nicholas Festival 9:30-11:30am

*Breakfast will be offered

December 8th:

Club 4-5 11:45am-1:00pm

December 15th:

Last Sunday School Classes of 2024

December 24th:

Children's Christmas Pageant at the 3pm Service

January 5th:

No Sunday School Classes-
Parish Breakfast at 9:15am

January 12th:

Sunday School Classes Resume in 2025



SAINT MARGARET'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**Please join us at the 3pm Christmas Eve Service
for this special "Pick Up" Nativity Pageant!**

No rehearsals or speaking parts required.

All you have to do is arrive by 2:45pm to pick up a costume in the Connector Hallway. Participants will sit with their family during the service.

JOIN US IN THIS LIGHTHEARTED PERFORMANCE AS AN ANGEL, WISEMAN, SHEPHERD, OR EVEN AN ADORABLE ANIMAL AS WE SHARE THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH.

Questions?

Contact Jamie at
childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

The pageant is geared toward Preschool through Eighth Graders.



St M



SAINT MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
invites you to our annual

SAINT NICHOLAS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

9:30AM TO 11:30AM

Join us as we gather to enjoy the
beautiful season of Advent!

We will have breakfast, holiday crafts,
story time with Father Matt, a festive photobooth,
a hot cocoa bar, & a special appearance by Saint Nicholas.

**Kindly RSVP for the
festival and breakfast.**

**\$5 per person/\$20 max donation
suggested for breakfast.**

Please bring canned goods &
non-perishable food
to benefit Common Heart.



[Click Here
to
RSVP](#)

QUESTIONS?
Contact Jamie at
childrensministry@saintmargarets.net



St M



Parish Connection & Outreach

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

connection@saintmargarets.net

Thank you to our twelve volunteers that picked up Thanksgiving meals from Common Heart's Great Turkey Countdown and delivered them to 28 families in Waxhaw. This food served about 130 people for Thanksgiving! A big thank you to Common Heart and all of its supporters for letting us help you deliver 1,500 meals again this year...always a fun event!

Angel Tree


Drivers are needed to transport all of the gifts over to the Christmas Bureau in Monroe on Tuesday, December 10th. We don't have our scheduled drop-off time yet, but it will be during the workday. If you are able to help deliver, please let Traci know at: connection@saintmargarets.net.

Thank you to all who adopted an Angel from our tree this year! Our parishioners are helping to brighten the Christmas season for 80 children in Union County! UNWRAPPED gifts are due back to St. Margaret's by Sunday, December 8th.

- You do not need to buy all of the items on their list, but no additional gifts will be added to what you purchase.
- The Christmas Bureau suggests buying one outfit, one larger gift and at least one smaller gift for each child.
- If you buy a bike, it must be assembled.
- Please clearly LABEL each of your items with the child's name, Family ID and Gift ID (e.g. Dylan, Family ID 27417, Gift ID 43396).

To see your child's wish list, click here: <https://bit.ly/24AngelTree>

Blood Drive at St. Margaret's, Sunday December 15th

 OneBlood will be on-site from 9am-1pm. Please schedule your appointment to donate whole blood or platelets by clicking the links here:

Whole Blood: <https://bit.ly/4hWNf5B> Platelets: <https://bit.ly/4ghsosz>

Questions, contact Jeremy Ervin at jereseth@yahoo.com

Pantry update

Christmas cheer is coming to our weekly pantry!

Each Wednesday in December, we plan to offer a hot chocolate table, play holiday music and even have a visit from Santa himself!

We have seen record-setting numbers of families coming to get food at our pantry and we are blessed to have enough volunteers each week to serve them.

If you'd like to volunteer, please add your name to the wait list on the days that you're available because many people do cancel a day or two before. The pantry will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The January schedule should be open very soon so, grab your spot quickly.

Click here to volunteer: <https://bit.ly/stmpantry>

Please contact Traci with any questions at connection@saintmargarets.net



Welcome new members!

Wayne Durkee

Cheval family

Gene, Tara, Gene Jr., Reagan, Luke



Ladies of St. Margaret's, You're Invited to an Advent Social!

Thursday, December 12th
at 6:30pm

in the Parish Hall

Take a break from the busyness of the season and enjoy fellowship with your StM friends.

Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament or decor item for a "white elephant" gift exchange (\$20 max).

No gag gifts please.

Cookies & punch will be served.

Please let us know if you plan to attend by clicking **HERE**.

Questions, contact Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net



Rector

The Reverend Fr. Todd R. Dill+
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Assistant to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Matt Addington+
addington@saintmargarets.net

Priest Associate

The Reverend Sarah Hollar+
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Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

Organist & Director of Music

Gavin D. Craig
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Executive Assistant to the Rector

Joanie Cameron
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Assistant to the Rector for Youth Ministries

Elizabeth Pfeifer
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Assistant to the Rector for Preschool Ministries

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Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Accounting

Kathy Marakoff
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Assistant to the Rector for Children's Ministry

Jamie Peters
childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

**Assistant to the Rector for Outreach
& Parish Connection**

Traci Scott
connection@saintmargarets.net

2024 Vestry

Emily Nelson, Senior Warden
Tom Washington, Junior Warden

Paula Holbein
Philip Huff
Bill MacMinn
Jenny Marlier
Colin Miles
Amy Pharr
Josh Ward

David Feldser, Treasurer



December Calendar

- 12/8 StM 101 Express Newcomers Class & Tour, 9:30am
- 12/12 StM Women's Advent Social, 6:30pm in the Parish Hall
- 12/14 Advent Retreat Day (pre-registration required)
- 12/15 Blood Drive
- 12/15 Lessons & Carols, 4:00pm followed by a reception
- 12/21 Community Kitchen Fellowship, 9:00am
- 12/21 Knots of Love monthly meeting, 10:00am
- 12/24 **Christmas Eve: NOTE NEW TIMES THIS YEAR!**
3:00pm Children's Eucharist
5:30pm Choral Eucharist
8:00pm Sung Eucharist
- 12/25 **Christmas Day: 11:00am Sung Eucharist**
- 12/25-29 Church Office Closed
- 12/30 Church Office open, 9:00am-noon
- 12/31-1/1 Church Office closed



*First Monday of the month: Prayer time in the nave with Father Todd, 10:00 am

*Wednesday Evenings: Food Pantry, 6:00 pm & Compline on FB Live at 9:00 pm

 [CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#) **SERMONS in library!**

 **REMINDER:** Wednesday Evening Compline with Father Todd, 9 pm on Facebook



Poinsettias & Greenery that will decorate the church for Christmas are dedicated in memory & in thanksgiving of loved ones from within our St. Margaret's Parish Family.



Thank you to all who made donation to help in this effort to add beauty to our worship space.