



THE RIVERDALE CATHOLIC

A weekly bulletin of the

Parish of St. Margaret of Cortona - St. Gabriel

riverdalecatholic.org | riverdalecatholic@gmail.com | 718.549.8053



Served by: Fr. Seán M. Connolly, Pastor
Fr. Walter Genito, Jr. | Fr. Timothy Boman
Dcn. George Pitula

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA

6000 Riverdale Avenue,
Bronx, NY 10471
718-549-8053

Mass Schedule

The Lord's Day

Saturday: 5:15 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12 noon, 5:15 p.m.

Weekday

Monday through Friday: 12 noon

Saturday: 8:30 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and upon request

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday after the noon Mass until the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction at 3:00 p.m.

Devotions Honoring the Mother of God

- * The Miraculous Medal Novena: Tuesday following 12 noon Mass
- * Perpetual Help Novena: Wednesday following the 12 noon Mass in the baptistry
- * First Saturday of the Month in Honor of the Immaculate Heart: Regular 8:30 a.m. Mass followed by the Rosary; 11:30am Rosary followed by a Sung Latin Mass at 12 noon

Rectory Office

- * Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- * After Hours Emergency Line: 845-622-3996

THE CHURCH OF ST. GABRIEL

3250 Arlington Avenue
Bronx, NY 10463
718-548-4470

Mass Schedule

The Lord's Day

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Weekday

Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday from 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. and upon request

Devotions Honoring the Mother of God

- * Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday following the 9:00 a.m. Mass
- * Rosary: Following each weekday Mass

Rectory Office

- * Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- * After Hours Emergency Line: 845-622-3996

FROM THE DESK OF FR. SEÁN

Dear Parishioners,

The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Seán is Irish for John, so my patron (name) saint is St. John the Baptist. I have a great devotion to this saint and prayerfully reflect each year in a special way on his two feast days on the liturgical calendar--his nativity on 24th June and his beheading which is commemorated this week on 29th August.

St. John is the Forerunner to the Lord Jesus, in birth, ministry, and death.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, St. John was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. The prophet of God John, openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife to cohabit with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. He was martyred for speaking truth to power on God's plan for marriage and the family.

Too often we hear people say that matters of marriage and sexuality do not really matter, almost implying that God does not care that much about these issues. St. John's death tells us that these things do matter to God. They are worth dying over. The beheading of John the Baptist calls us to greater fidelity to God's love and his plan for human sexuality and marriage. We too must be joyful witnesses to God's plan and refuse to compromise with the culture.

On our recent pilgrimage to Rome for the jubilee, we began by visiting the shrines of Malta. In the co-cathedral of St. John in Valletta, we were able to see Caravaggio's masterful depiction of St. John's martyrdom. It is a huge altar piece that is 17 by 12 feet. Caravaggio's uniqueness lies in his revolutionary style that blended intense realism with dramatic *tenebrism*, a technique using strong contrasts of light and shadow. He departed from the idealized portrayals of the High Renaissance, opting for gritty realism by painting ordinary people as models for religious and mythological scenes.

According to Andrea Pomella in *Caravaggio: An Artist through Images* (2005), the work is widely considered to be Caravaggio's masterpiece as well as "one of the most important works in Western painting." Jonathan Jones has described The Beheading of St. John the Baptist as one of the ten greatest works of art of all time: "Death and human cruelty are laid bare by this masterpiece, as its scale and shadow daunt and possess the mind."

This vivid, realistic, and disturbing image lays the sacrifice of St. John's martyrdom to bear. May he pray to God for us that we may have something of his spirit, to bravely hold to the truths of our faith even when they come into conflict with those in power.

Fr. Timothy will be Visiting his Home in Nigeria

We are so grateful to Fr. Timothy for his missionary spirit in serving our parish far away from his home diocese of Nigeria.

Fr. Timothy has been with us the past three years and in all that time, he has not returned home to visit with his family and the brother priests of his diocese. We wish him a safe journey and enjoyable time home for the next month and look forward to his return toward the end of September.

Yours in Christ,
Father Seán



Find us on Facebook and Instagram:
Riverdale Catholic



The Baltimore Catechism Teaches

Lesson 3 - The Unity and Trinity of God

33. Can we fully understand how the three divine Persons, though really distinct from one another, are one and the same God?

We cannot fully understand how the three divine Persons, though really distinct from one another, are one and the same God because this is a supernatural mystery.

34. What is a supernatural mystery?

A supernatural mystery is a truth which we cannot fully understand, but we firmly believe because we have God's word for it.

(a) In addition to those truths which can be attained by man's natural reason, there are certain mysteries hidden in God which we cannot know without divine revelation, but which we must believe because God has revealed them. Divine mysteries by their very nature are far above the power of human understanding and even when revealed and accepted on faith they remain obscure during our life on earth. To understand these things fully, a finite mind would have to comprehend the infinite.

(b) In heaven there will be a fuller understanding of these mysteries, but never an infinite comprehension of them.

(c) It is reasonable to believe supernatural mysteries revealed by God because He can neither deceive nor be deceived. In our everyday life, we believe many things on the word of human beings even though at times they deceive or are deceived.



Holy Mass Intentions

The 2026 schedule for Holy Mass intentions will not be made available until Wednesday 1st October. You can still, however, purchase unannounced Mass intentions anytime for \$10.

Please remember that praying for the living and the dead is a spiritual work of mercy, and that the most powerful prayer we have is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which can be offered for the living or the dead.

Request a
Mass Intention

Welcome to the Parish of St Margaret-St. Gabriel!

If you are not registered as a parishioner, please fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____

Email Address: _____

☐ Please send me a New Parishioner's Packet

☐ Change of address/telephone number

☐ Moving, please remove from parish list

Let us pray for CATHERINE "KITTY" SHERIDAN, NANCY GALLAGHER and NORA GRENAWALT, who have recently fallen asleep in the Lord. May they rest in peace and rise in glory!

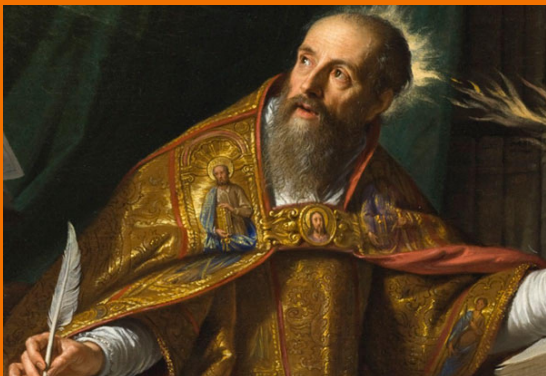
The Second Collection on Sunday 24th August is for the upkeep of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.

Saints of the Week

Saint Monica (331 - 387)--Feast Day 27th August

She was born at Thagaste in Africa of a Christian family. She was married young, to Patricius, and among her children was Augustine. He had a brilliant intellect and uncertain morals and his wayward spiritual career saw him at one time a Manichee and then a Neoplatonist. With many tears she prayed unceasingly to God for his conversion and her prayers were answered shortly before she died. She had a deep faith and outstanding virtue and is a wonderful example of a Christian mother.

St Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430)--Feast Day 28th August



Augustine was born in Thagaste in Africa of a Berber family. He was brought up a Christian but left the Church early and spent a great deal of time seriously seeking the truth, first in the Manichaean heresy, which he abandoned on seeing how nonsensical it was, and then in Neoplatonism, until at length, through the prayers of his mother and the teaching of St. Ambrose of Milan, he was converted back to Christianity and baptized in 387, shortly before his mother's death.

Augustine had a brilliant legal and academic career, but after his conversion he returned home to Africa and led an ascetic life. He was elected Bishop of Hippo and spent 34 years looking after his flock, teaching them, strengthening them in the faith and protecting them strenuously against the errors of the time. He wrote an enormous amount and left a permanent mark on both philosophy and theology. His Confessions, as dazzling in style as they are deep in content, are a landmark of world literature.

He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Boniface VIII in 1308.

**Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist
29th August**

Saint John the Baptist has two feasts to himself. One, in August, celebrates his death, and one, in June, celebrates his birth. And this is as it should be, for as Christ himself said, John was the greatest of the sons of men.

The greatest, but also the most tragic. A prophet from before his birth, leaping in the womb to announce the coming of the incarnate God, his task was to proclaim the fulfilment of all prophecies – and thus his own obsolescence. And he did it: with unequalled courage he spread the news that he, the greatest of all men, was the least in the kingdom of heaven. His disciples, and the devil, would have preferred him to fight, to build his sect, to defeat this upstart whom he himself had baptized, to seize his place in history. But he did not – and so, rightly, he has his place, and he has glory in heaven.

We envy the great and the talented, and sometimes we think that they themselves are beyond envy. But when they come across someone with greater gifts, as one day most of them will, they will see for the first time what it means to feel like us. Let us pray that they, like John the Baptist, may pass that test.



Sign up to support our parish by recurring donations!

**Please go to our parish website homepage, riverdalecatholic.org, for a link for the donation page.
wesharedonate.org**

All the families of our parish should take advantage of FORMED--an online platform that provides the best Catholic movies, documentaries, cartoons for the kids, audio books and lectures, all at your fingertips, on your Roku, Apple TV, web browser, or FORMED iOS and Android apps. It's kind of like a "Catholic Netflix." It is easy to use and has many good and entertaining options to help your family explore our Catholic faith while at home. It is an especially helpful supplement for all that your children are learning in our religious education program.

Registering for FORMED is easy!

- Go to formed.org/signup
- Select your parish ("St. Margaret of Cortona - St. Gabriel) or your parish zip code ("10471")
- Register with your name and email address
- Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED



This Week on Formed

Week of August 24, 2025



The Confessions of St. Augustine | Littlest Saints

A child, a sinner, a saint. Join us as we share the story of St. Augustine, tailored to our children, as he wrestles with God and comes to the faith.



Feast of Saint Monica | Catholic Saints

Throughout her life, St. Monica constantly prayed for the conversion of Augustine, her beloved son. In a moment of desperation, she even asked for the bishop's help. In response, he said, "the son of those tears surely will not perish." Truly, as this bishop remarked, Monica's tearful prayers helped build her son into the Doctor of Grace. In this video, join Dr. Gray and Dr. Sehorn as they discuss this great Saint.



The Confessions of Saint Augustine

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio captures the poetry and passion of Saint Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430) in a performance that is accessible and deeply moving. The play is astonishingly relevant for our own times. Augustine struggled with promiscuity, fathered a child out-of-wedlock and dabbled in a "new age" style cult. Be inspired by his relentless pursuit of Truth and encouraged by the prayerful perseverance of his faithful mother, Saint Monica.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Registration for Religious Education

Our parish's religious education program is intended to assist parents in fulfilling their obligation in the formation of their children in the Catholic faith. Our children should be baptized as infants and then catechized so they are well prepared for the happy day of their first holy communion ideally at seven years of age, and their confirmation ideally at twelve years of age. As a part of the program, all families are expected to regularly worship with our parish community at Sunday Mass, an obligation shared by all Christians.

We have two distinct programs:

--St. Margaret's with class on Wednesday's from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the school building

--St. Gabriel's with class on Sunday's immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Mass from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon in the school building

The program runs from late September to May.

To register you children, please fill out the forms available in the vestibule of our churches and drop them off either in the sacristies after Mass or at our rectory offices.

For any questions, please contact our religious education program directors:

Ms. Frances Lopez Alvarado at St. Margaret's:
riverdalecatholicreled@gmail.com

Ms. Pamela Singho at St. Gabriel's:
smsgbxced@yahoo.com.



St. Margaret of Cortona

MONDAY, 8/25 *St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest*

12 noon: **Claire Sherry**

TUESDAY, 8/26

12 noon.: **Edward Grenawalt and Deceased**

Members of the Grenawalt Family

WEDNESDAY, 8/27 *St. Monica*

12 noon: **Kathryn McKeon**

THURSDAY, 8/28 *St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

12 noon: **Sylvia Raptis**

FRIDAY, 8/29

12 noon: **Thomas and Margaret Broderick**

SATURDAY, 8/30

8:30 a.m.: **All the Souls in Purgatory**

SUNDAY, 8/31 *Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

5:15 p.m. (vigil): **Richard Hickey**

8 a.m.: **Alphonse Tambwe Walomani**

10 a.m.: **Felicia Diaz**

12 p.m.: **Margaret Citarella**

5:15 p.m.: **Catherine and Tom Conway**

St. Gabriel

MONDAY, 8/25 *St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest*

9:00 a.m.: **Special Intention**

TUESDAY, 8/26

9:00 a.m.: **Betty and Suzanne LaMantia**

WEDNESDAY, 8/27 *St. Monica*

9:00 a.m.: **Joseph P. Sullivan**

THURSDAY, 8/28 *St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

9:00 a.m.: **Bartle Dunne**

FRIDAY, 8/29

9:00 a.m. (vigil): **Agnes Cody**

SUNDAY, 8/31 *Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

5 p.m. (vigil): **Brian Hussey**

9:30 a.m.: **John McNamara**

11:30 a.m.: **Sarah Santiago**

For our parish benefactors.

Deign, O Lord, for Thy Name's Sake, to reward with eternal life all those who do us good. Amen.

Collection Sunday 17th August

In-pew: \$12,176

WeShare online giving: \$2,158

Candles: \$1,057

Assumption: \$4,652

Total: \$20,042

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

Are you an adult Catholic who never received the Sacrament of Confirmation or the other Sacraments? Are you unbaptized or not a Catholic and would like to consider entering the Catholic Church? Do you know of some friends or family who are in a situation such as this? We will begin classes and instruction in the Catholic faith in later September, in preparation for reception of the Sacraments at Easter next spring. Please begin to plan accordingly and consider speaking to your friends or loved ones about this opportunity.

Make an appointment at the rectory office with our pastor Father Seán, to become a part of this order.



The sanctuary flowers for the month of August have been donated in loving memory of

Raymond A. O'Keefe & Maureen O'Keefe Greco

Memory Eternal!

The Second Collection on Sunday 24th August is for the upkeep of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.