



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 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 Dies Domini, "Day of the Lord"

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. (except for the First Saturday of the month)

Confessions

Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. | 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

First Saturday in Honor of the Immaculate Heart - 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 Dies Domini, "Day of the Lord"

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. | Upon request

Devotions Honoring the Mother of God

The Miraculous Medal Novena - Monday following the 9:00 a.m. Mass

The Holy 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 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tomorrow 8th December, is a holy day of obligation in honor of the patroness of the United States of America, the Mother of God under the title of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. Please see the next page of this bulletin for the schedule of Holy Masses both at St. Margaret's and St. Gabriel's.

The Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, was conceived without the stain of original sin. This unique privilege was granted by God at the moment of her conception, preserved by the foreseen merits of her son, Jesus Christ. While Mary was conceived through normal biological means by her mother, Saint Anne, her soul was kept immaculate from the start. Only Jesus Christ is sinless on his own account. Mary was rendered sinless on account of a prevenient action of God, applying Christ's future merits of the Redemption to her. Mary was preserved from original sin contrary to all the other children of Adam are conceived separated from God. God made her immaculate in order to render Mary a pure vessel to bear God-made-flesh.

Like all of us, Mary needed a savior. She is the first saved of the whole mankind. And Jesus was an amazing savior to his mother, because through his merits God redeemed Mary in a most remarkable manner, preserving her from the stain of original sin. In fact, in her Magnificat, Mary rejoices in the wonderful work of her savior, connecting her salvation in Christ with all generations calling her blessed:

"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior. Because he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid: for, behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed."

This doctrine was formally defined by the Catholic Church in 1854, affirming a consistent belief of local churches throughout the world for generations.

The Symbolism of Evergreen

The evergreen that adorns our churches and homes during the winter months has a poignant symbolism many are unaware of. Evergreen trees, wreaths, and garlands of spruce, fir, and pine symbolize our Christian hope in the eternal life brought to our fallen world by Jesus Christ. Just as the evergreen endures the cold of winter while all other flowers and plants wither away, in the midst of our fallen world subject to death, Christ has come to bring healing and everlasting life. The evergreen, then, symbolizes the promise of lasting life brought to our world that was once dead to sin.

Be sure to Join us for These Special Advent Events

Christmas Tree lighting, Blessing of the Creche, and Caroling with Hot Chocolate

Monday 8th December after the 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Immaculate Conception at St. Margaret's

Saturday 13th December after the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Gabriel's

2nd Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

Mark your calendar and be sure to join us on Sunday 14th December at 3:00 p.m. at St. Margaret's for our 2nd Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. This beautiful service will be sure to put you in the Christmas spirit as we anticipate the celebration of the Lord's birth. Be sure to join us and invite family and friends. Through nine readings of Sacred Scripture, the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus will be told interspersed with the singing of Advent hymns and Christmas carols.

Yours in Christ,
Father Seán

Schedule of Holy Masses for Christmas and New Years

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

**4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and Midnight at St. Margaret's
5:00 p.m. at St. Gabriel's**

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December

**8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon at St. Margaret's
9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel's**

(Note: There will not be a 5:15 p.m. Holy Mass on Christmas Day)

New Year's Eve-Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, Wednesday 31st December

5:15 p.m. at St. Margaret's

5:00 p.m. at St. Gabriel's

***11:00 p.m. to Midnight Holy Hour**

with the chanting of the Te Deum and Veni Creator at St. Margaret's

New Year's Day-Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, Thursday 1st January

10:00 a.m. and 12 noon at St. Margaret's

9:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel's

(Note: There will not be a 5:15 p.m. Holy Mass on New Year's Day)





Monday 8th December

The Immaculate Conception

Holy Mass Schedule:
9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
at St. Gabriel's
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.
at St. Margaret's



Christmas Tree Lighting

*With Blessing of the Creche
and Caroling with Hot Chocolate*

- **Monday 8th December** after the 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Immaculate Conception at St. Margaret's
- **Saturday 13th December** after the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Gabriel's

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, or scan the QR code to donate.



Many years of health and salvation to the newly illumined, **Leo Kolbe Nguyen**, who was reborn by water and the Holy Spirit in baptism.



St. Margaret of Cortona

MONDAY, 12/8 *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

12 noon: **Rocco, Filja and Dovalin Mrnacaj**

TUESDAY, 12/9 *St. Juan Diego Cuaahtlatotzin*

12 noon.: **Deceased Members of the Grenawalt, Shannon, Perfume and Pembroke Families**

WEDNESDAY, 12/10 *Our Lady of Loreto*

12 noon: **Thomas Connolly**

THURSDAY, 12/11

12 noon: **Mary L. And Mary Catherine Cronin**

FRIDAY, 12/12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

12 noon: **Shri Rau**

SATURDAY, 12/13 *St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

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

SUNDAY, 12/14 *The Third Sunday of Advent*

5:15 p.m. (vigil): **Maureen Kelly**

8 a.m.: **Jack and Mary Williams**

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

12 p.m.: **John J. And Catherine V. Marshall and John H. Smith**

5:15 p.m.: **Mary Presciutti**

St. Gabriel

MONDAY, 12/8 *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

9:00 a.m.: **William and Elizabeth Tiedemann**

TUESDAY, 12/9 *St. Juan Diego Cuaahtlatotzin*

9:00 a.m.: **Mary Kelliher**

WEDNESDAY, 12/10 *Our Lady of Loreto*

9:00 a.m.: **Patrick Connolly and William True**

THURSDAY, 12/11

9:00 a.m.: **John Carleton**

FRIDAY, 12/12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

9:00 a.m.: **Mary Lynch**

SUNDAY, 12/14 *The Third Sunday of Advent*

5 p.m. (vigil): **Daly and Sheehan Families**

9:30 a.m.: **Marcy Grace Cafiero**

11:30 a.m.: **Nancy Marsich**

Gabriel

Find us on Facebook and Instagram:
Riverdale Catholic

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 Totals - 30th November 2025

In pew \$12,738

Candles \$326

Weshare \$1964

Total \$15,028

The Giving Tree

Inspired by Pope Leo's recent apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi te* - where he wrote: "Charity is not optional but a requirement of true worship," we are excited to bring back an old tradition: the Giving Tree

The children in our school, as well as those in our School of Religion, will be creating paper ornaments to decorate a Giving Tree for each church. On the back of each ornament will be the first name, age, and gift wish for a child in need.

We are partnering with KRVC (Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation) to provide gifts for local children living in shelters this Christmas. Please return gifts **unwrapped, with the ornament attached**, by **Sunday 14th December**. Gifts can be left under or behind the tree, and volunteers will collect them after each Holy Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach our children the importance of helping those who are less fortunate.

Finally, while this is a wonderful practice of almsgiving, we do not want any child on our list to be disappointed. If you feel you may not be able to fulfill the request, please do not take an ornament.





Join us for a festival of

Lessons and Carols

*This is a beloved Christmas tradition of
nine lessons from Sacred Scripture and
nine carols sung beautifully by our schola*

**Sunday 14th December
3:00 p.m.**

The Church of
St. Margaret of Cortona

THE 55th ANNUAL MEN'S BEEFSTEAK

The 55^h Annual Men's Beefsteak will take place on Friday, 6 February at 7:30 PM in the Msgr. Daniel A. Peake Memorial Hall in St. Margaret-St. Gabriel School. Once again, all the proceeds from the fundraiser cover the expenses for operating St. Margaret's-St. Gabriel CYO teams. It also offsets additional expenses for the intramural basketball program and awards presentation.

The Night on the Town Raffle is a way in which everyone can participate in the Beefsteak and support the athletic program for the youth of St. Margaret's. The Grand Prize is a Manhattan Hotel Reservation, Dinner for two at a Smith and Wollensky Restaurant, and two tickets to a Broadway Show. Donation for the Raffle tickets is still only \$1 each or a book of six for \$5. Members of the Beefsteak Committee and their supporters will have raffle books for sale after Masses beginning Saturday evening, 17 January. You may purchase tickets there or take them home, fill them out and return them the following week.

The Beefsteak Committee is grateful for the great support they receive for this event.

Tickets to the Beefsteak are on sale in St. Margaret's Rectory beginning Monday 8 December. They make great stocking stuffers! **TICKETS GO VERY QUICKLY!** Cost \$60 per ticket, \$25 for seniors over 65.

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: _____

☐ Please send me a New Parishioner's Packet

☐ Change of address/telephone number

☐ Moving, please remove from parish list