



# 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,

**Gaudete Sunday**

It is the Third Sunday of Advent which is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is Latin for “rejoice” and comes from Philippians 4:4-5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.” This is the Introit, or entrance antiphon, for today's Mass and is also the first line of the second reading. Gaudete Sunday is a day for rejoicing as we draw near to the birth of Jesus, and it marks the midpoint of our Advent fast. The sacred ministers at the Mass don rose colored vestments today to denote this joyful anticipation we have that Christmas is near.

**Reconciliation Monday**

Confession will be offered in all parishes throughout the entire Archdiocese of New York and the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre tomorrow, Monday 15th December from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Making a good confession is the best way to enter into the spirit of the Advent season to prepare for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. St. Paul teaches us, “This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim 1:15). The very reason God sent his only Son to live among us, to suffer and die for us and to rise from the dead was so that he could save us from sin and death. No matter what sins you have committed, and no matter how many times or for how many months or even years you have committed them, God can forgive you, and he wants to do so more than you can possibly imagine. Make good use of the opportunity afforded you tomorrow on "Reconciliation Monday." The priest-confessor will be happy to give you any help you need in order to make a good confession and receive God's forgiveness. Even if you have no idea what to do or say, the priest is there to help you.

Confessions on Monday 15th December:

2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at both St. Margaret's and St. Gabriel's.

**2nd Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols**

Join us this afternoon, 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.

**Capital Campaign Progress**

Thank you to the parishioners of St. Margaret of Cortona-St. Gabriel Parish for your continued generosity and support of our \$1 million capital campaign. Because of your faith and commitment, we are making strong progress toward our goal:

- **Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000**
- **Total Pledged: \$730,431**
- **Total Paid to Date: \$219,614**

We are deeply grateful for every gift and every prayer that supports this important work.

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)**



Congratulations to our Parish's "Man of the Year"

**Carl Romani**

Thank you for your fidelity and service to our parish!





## New Year's Eve Holy Hour

**End and Begin the Year with Us in  
Prayer**

An hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
from 11:00 p.m. to Midnight

Solemn Chanting of the *Te Deum*  
in thanksgiving for graces received in 2025

Solemn chanting of the *Veni Creator Spiritus*  
beseeching the guidance of the Holy Spirit  
throughout the New Year 2026

St. Margaret's Church

**Sign up to support our parish by recurring donations!**

Please go to our parish website homepage,  
[riverdalecatholic.org](http://riverdalecatholic.org), for a link for  
the donation page, or scan the QR  
code to donate.



**WeShare**



Join us for a Lecture Series on:  
**The Seven Ecumenical Councils  
of the Undivided Church**

To be given by:  
**Father Walter J. Genito Jr**

**At St. Margaret of Cortona Church,  
6000 Riverdale Ave, Bronx, NY**

**At 7:00 p.m. on the following eight  
Mondays:**

15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

20<sup>th</sup> October 2025

10<sup>th</sup> November 2025

15<sup>th</sup> December 2025

12<sup>th</sup> January 2026

9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

16<sup>th</sup> March 2026

13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

This book will serve as a guide for this  
series:

**The First Seven Ecumenical Councils (325-  
787): Their History and Theology**  
By Leo D. Davis SJ (1988)

*If you are unable to either obtain a copy of  
this book or attend every lecture, please keep  
on attending this Lecture Series whenever you  
can. You will not have to “make up” missed  
lectures in order to understand and appreciate  
the ones you do attend.*



**St. Margaret of Cortona**

MONDAY, 12/15

12 noon: Kelly, McTague and Cullen Families

TUESDAY, 12/16

12 noon.: Timmy Conway

WEDNESDAY, 12/17

12 noon: Manuel Garcia

THURSDAY, 12/18

12 noon: Philip Furlong

FRIDAY, 12/19

12 noon: Meehan Family and Shane Nolan

SATURDAY, 12/20

8:30 a.m.: For an increase in Religious Vocations

SUNDAY, 12/21 *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

5:15 p.m. (vigil): Michel, James and John Sullivan

8 a.m.: Nancy Berry

10 a.m.: Agnes and Margaret Donovan and Family

12 p.m.: Peter Dolan

5:15 p.m.: Sarah, Joseph and Patrick Woods

**St. Gabriel**

MONDAY, 12/15

9:00 a.m.: Margaret and Michael McCarthy

TUESDAY, 12/16

9:00 a.m.: Thomas Kearney

WEDNESDAY, 12/17

9:00 a.m.: All the Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, 12/18

9:00 a.m.: Deceased Members of the Dunne Family

FRIDAY, 12/19

9:00 a.m.: Carlo Guarini

SUNDAY, 12/21 *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

5 p.m. (vigil): John and Ellie Quinn

9:30 a.m.: Nora Ryan

11:30 a.m.: Francisco Ramos Gabriel

**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 7th December**

In-pew: \$10,553

Second Collection in Support of our Parish School: \$2,823

Candles: \$373

First Saturday Latin Mass: \$485

Immaculate Conception Masses: \$2,575

WeShare online giving: \$4,877

Total: \$21,687

**The Baltimore Catechism Teaches**

A running series of questions and answers from the Baltimore Catechism to grow deeper in knowledge and love of God.

**66. What is mortal sin?**

Mortal sin is a grievous offense against the law of God. "Flee from sins as from the face of a serpent; for if thou comest near them, they will take hold of thee." (Ecclesiasticus 21:2)

**67. Why is this sin called mortal?**

This sin is called mortal, or deadly, because it deprives the sinner of sanctifying grace, the supernatural life of the soul. "Before man is life and death, good and evil; that which he shall choose shall be given him." (Ecclesiasticus 15:18)

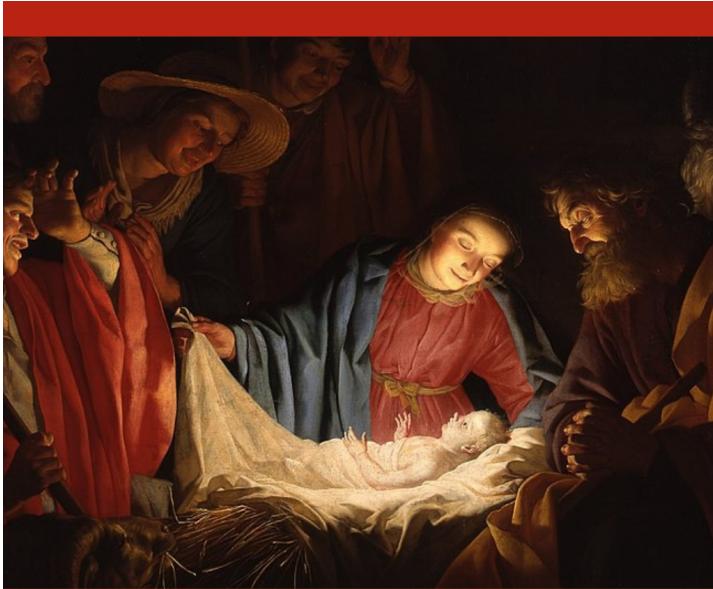
**69. What three things are necessary to make a sin mortal?**

To make a sin mortal these three things are needed:

the thought, desire, word, action, or omission must be seriously wrong or considered seriously wrong; the sinner, must be mindful of the serious wrong; the sinner must fully consent to it.

Many years of happiness, health, and salvation to the couples, Michael & Naomi and Cristian and Erin, who have become one flesh in the bond of holy matrimony.





*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 55<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
MEN'S BEEFSTEAK**

The 55<sup>th</sup> 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