



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,

Christmas

This week we celebrate Christmas. Christmas! The mere sounding of this word brings joy to the heart. This annual winter celebration has been dear to us since childhood. In our increasingly secular age, however, we must not lose sight of this celebration's meaning. As the saying goes, we must "keep Christ in Christmas" and the best way of doing so is by keeping the Mass in Christmas. Christmas is "Christ's Mass." Just as the Lord Jesus was born into our world in Bethlehem on that first Christmas night two thousand years ago, he is born anew on the altar at every Mass when the bread and wine become his Body and Blood. I look forward to having you with us at Christmas Mass this year, and pray that the warmth of Christmases past, present, and yet to come be yours!

The Christmas Tree and Crèche

The two chief symbols of Christmas are the tree and the crèche.

The Christmas tree has its origins in winter customs of the Germanic peoples of the first millennium. Life was tough in the northern regions of Europe during the winter months. Even with all the amenities that make life so much easier for us in our modern day, we still have to ward off the pull of seasonal depression during the bleakness of winter with its heavy snows, cold winds, and short days with little sunlight. It is a natural human impulse to find ways to brighten one's spirit during this time of the year. A Yuletide custom was to bring evergreen conifers such as a fir, spruce, or pine tree into the home as a decoration. Evergreen not only survives the harsh winter but thrives in it. The Nordic and German peoples believed the tree would give them the gift of strength to live through the tough stretch of the cold months. When the Gospel of Jesus Christ took root among the Germanic tribes, the custom of decorating the home with an evergreen tree was kept. This tree which even the cold of winter cannot kill, symbolized for these new Christians the eternal life offered by Christ. Even the tree's triangular shape began to be seen as representative of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit—the one true God that alone should be worshipped. Just as the evergreen of the Christmas tree endures the cold of winter while all other flowers and plants wither away, in the midst of our fallen world Christ has come to bring the promise of lasting life.

The Christmas crèche tradition originated with St. Francis, who staged the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve in 1223 while visiting the Italian village of Greccio. St. Francis had received permission from Pope Honorius III to hold Midnight Mass in a cave near Greccio's town square. "I want to do something that will recall the memory of that child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by," St. Francis reportedly said. St. Francis gathered a cast of live animals for the scene. He proclaimed the Gospel to the people of Greccio and then preached to them about Jesus' humility and poverty. Coupled with the nativity scene, St. Francis' preaching greatly moved the congregation, and from then on the idea of staging live nativities spread throughout Italy.

The nativity scene is like a living gospel rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture. The scene conveys to us the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. So great is his love for us, that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.

Thank You to our Friends at Riverdale on Hudson Funeral Home

Anne and Jeffrey Wiecek of the Riverdale on Hudson Funeral Home are again gifting us with religious calendars for 2026 that indicate all of our Catholic feast days and liturgical seasons. They will distribute them at the Holy Masses this weekend. We thank them for this gift to our parish family.

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)

N.B. There will be no Holy Masses publicly offered on the Morning of Christmas Eve. There will be no 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon Holy Mass at St. Gabriel's and St. Margaret's on Wednesday 24th December.





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, for a link for
the donation page, or scan the QR
code to donate.



WeShare



THE 55th ANNUAL MEN'S BEEFSTEAK

The 55th 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.

St. Margaret of Cortona

MONDAY, 12/22

12 noon: **Jeremiah and Ellen Brosnan**

TUESDAY, 12/23

12 noon.: **Joseph Citarella**

WEDNESDAY, 12/24

12 noon: **James Wilson**

THURSDAY, 12/25 *The Nativity of the Lord*

4:00 p.m. (Family Mass): **Mary E. Sullivan**

7:30 p.m. (Vigil): **Rocco, Filja and Dovalin Mrnacaj**

Midnight: **Michael and Margaret Sheehan**

8:00 a.m.: **Rocco, Filja and Dovalin Mrnacaj**

10:00 a.m.: **Michael Vaughn**

12:00 p.m.: **Joseph Moscato**

FRIDAY, 12/26

12 noon: **Mary Fordiano**

SATURDAY, 12/27

8:30 a.m.: **Fran Vukaj**

SUNDAY, 12/28 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

5:15 p.m. (vigil): **Patricia W. Hess and Patrick O'Sullivan**

8 a.m.: **Kevin O'Donnell**

10 a.m.: **Hickey and Martyn Families**

12 p.m.: **Donald E. Kiernan**

5:15 p.m.: **Mark McFeeley**

St. Gabriel

MONDAY, 12/22

9:00 a.m.: **Gloria P. Gadioma**

TUESDAY, 12/23

9:00 a.m.: **Gabrielle Veletutti**

WEDNESDAY, 12/24

9:00 a.m.: **James Gadioma**

THURSDAY, 12/25 *The Nativity of the Lord*

5:00 p.m. (Family Mass): **Kenneth T. Curtin**

9:30 a.m.: **David Barko**

11:30 a.m.: **Philip Kelly**

FRIDAY, 12/26

9:00 a.m.: **Liz and Ken Regan**

SUNDAY, 12/28 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

5 p.m. (vigil): **Philip Kelly**

9:30 a.m.: **Ranulfo Ramos**

11:30 a.m.: **Sarah and Neil Quinn**

For our parish benefactors.

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

The Collection for Sunday 14th December will be published in next week's bulletin.

Let us pray for, Michael McGrath and Mary Ann Venticinque-Malkin, who have recently fallen asleep in the Lord. May they rest in peace and rise in glory!



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



Find us on Facebook and Instagram:
Riverdale Catholic



THE VIGIL OF
EPIPHANY
Blessing of Epiphany
Water

Monday, 5th January
2026, 6:00 PM

The Church of St. Margaret of Cortona
6000 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471

**N.B. Please kindly bring your
own water. Thank you!**

