

THE RIVERDALE CATHOLIC

A Weekly Bulletin of the Parish of St. Margaret of Cortona - St. Gabriel

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St. Margaret of Cortona
6000 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10741
718-549-8053

St. Gabriel
3250 Arlington Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463
718-548-4470

Holy Mass Schedule

The *Dies Domini*, "Day of the Lord"

St. Margaret's: Saturday at 5:15 p.m. | Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12 noon, 5:15 p.m.

St. Gabriel's: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. | Sunday: 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Weekday

St. Margaret's: Monday through Friday at 12 noon | Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (except for the First Saturday of the month)

St. Gabriel's: Monday through Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Confessions

St. Margaret's: Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

St. Gabriel's: Saturday from 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

St. Margaret's: 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

St. Margaret's: Miraculous Medal Novena on Tuesdays following 12 noon Mass | First Saturday in Honor of the Immaculate Heart - 11:30am Rosary followed by a Sung Latin Mass at 12 noon

St. Gabriel's: Miraculous Medal Novena on Mondays following the 9:00 a.m. Mass | Rosary following each weekday Mass

Rectory Office

St. Margaret's: Hours - Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | After Hours Emergency Line: 845-622-3996

St. Gabriel's: Hours - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | After Hours Emergency Line: 845-622-3996



PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Seán Connolly, *Pastor*

Fr. Walter Genito, Jr., *Parochial Vicar*

Fr. Timothy Boman, *Parochial Vicar*

Dcn. George Pitula

Fr. William Elder, *Weekend Associate*

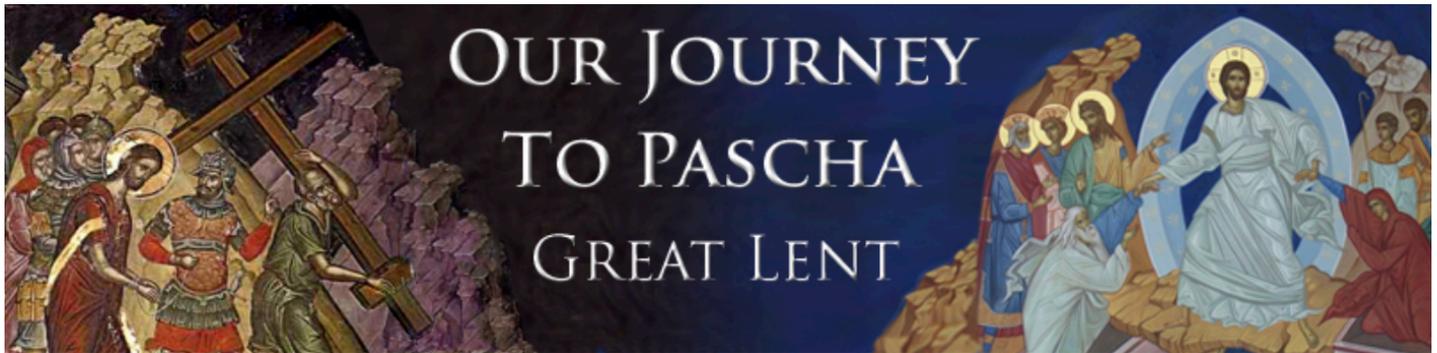
Fr. Justin Maria Cinnante, O. Carm., *Weekend Associate*

FROM THE DESK OF FR. SEÁN

Dear Parishioners,

Our Parish's New Coat of Arms (Logo)

In this bulletin, I am happy to present to you the new coat of arms (logo) of our parish. A detailed image and explanation is on the next page of this bulletin. I designed this image and believe it conveys well the history and identity of our Riverdale Catholic community. This coat of arms will feature prominently on the cover of each of our Sunday bulletins and our parish's signage, stationary, and website. I hope you like it!



Let's Feast before our Fast

These final days before our Lenten fast begins this Wednesday 18th February, we celebrate "Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday" or "Carnivale, Goodbye meat"; a beloved Catholic custom with famous celebrations in places like Venice, New Orleans, and Rio de Janeiro. It is our last feast and hurrah before our strict lenten fast begins on Ash Wednesday. I always enjoy the custom of having pancakes for dinner on Fat Tuesday. This custom comes from the stricter days when all animal products were forbidden during Lent. Our Catholic ancestors would use up their supply of butter, milk, and eggs before Ash Wednesday so they would not go to waste and thus, the custom of a "Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday" pancake dinner began. This is the rhythm and the routine of our Catholic life. We feast before we fast and we fast before we feast.

Ash Wednesday and Great Lent

Our fast begins this week with Ash Wednesday on 18th February. The imposition of ashes is a solemn ritual that signals the beginning of the penitential season of Lent where we prepare ourselves for the holy day of the Lord's resurrection at Easter by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The ashes come from the previous Palm Sunday. The palms are burned, the ashes collected and then crushed into a fine, sooty powder that is applied to each person's forehead in the shape of a cross as the minister says "Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This stark reminder of our mortality should compel us to reform our lives during this penitential season, to return to God through a more fervent practicing of our Catholic faith.

See in another page of this bulletin the schedule of liturgies for Ash Wednesday.

Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller collations that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

FROM THE DESK OF FR. SEÁN (CTD.)

In addition to our fasting and abstinence on the prescribed days of Lent mentioned above, we should also choose to deny ourselves something we enjoy throughout this forty day season. By doing this, we discipline our wills so that we are not slaves to our pleasures and can better conform our lives to God's will.

For the 55th time, the Men's Beefsteak was a Great Success for Our Parish and Neighborhood

The 55th Men's Beefsteak was a great success yet again. 500 were in attendance, keeping a cherished Riverdale tradition that is over a half century old. This single night fundraiser covers the cost of the athletics program of our parish and school along with the maintenance of our gymnasium. A heartfelt thanks to the organizing committee and all who attended. Till next year!

Saint Valentine

This past Friday was the feast of the Roman priest and martyr, St. Valentine. Tradition holds that Valentine became famous for marrying couples who were in love but couldn't get legally married during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who outlawed weddings. Claudius wanted to recruit lots of men to be soldiers in his army and thought that marriage would be an obstacle to recruiting new soldiers. He also wanted to prevent his existing soldiers from getting married because he thought that marriage would distract them from their work. Valentine was eventually arrested and sentenced to death. A letter he wrote from prison to a woman he was counseling on how to live a virtuous Christian life was signed, "Your Valentine."

Yours in Christ,
Father Seán



St Margaret of Cortona
and St. Gabriel,
Pray to God for Us!



On 1st August 2015, St. Margaret of Cortona in North Riverdale and St. Gabriel in South Riverdale, were merged into one new parish shepherded by the same pastor. Ten years later, a coat of arms (or logo) has been designed by our pastor, Fr. Seán, to reflect the history and identity of the Riverdale Catholic community that is one united parish.

The Parish of St. Margaret of Cortona - St. Gabriel Coat of Arms



The shield is designed in a *testa di cavallo*, "horse head" shape, a distinctive style prevalent in Rome during the Italian Renaissance.

A green (vert) field is divided into an upper and lower portion by horizontal wavy bars (fesses) that are represented in silver (argent) and blue (azure). In the upper portion there is a gold (or) dog and in the lower portion there is a gold (or) trumpet.

The green field symbolizes the Irish heritage of the first Catholics of Riverdale who established St. Margaret's in 1889. The Irish immigrants were people who earned their daily bread by the sweat of their brow who donated the little they had to finance the construction of the new church. Our deepest gratitude must go to those intrepid folks, priests and people alike, for the results they achieved in laying the foundation of this parish.

The horizontal wavy bars in silver and blue symbolize the Hudson River from which the neighborhood Riverdale takes its name.

The upper portion of the shield symbolizes North Riverdale where the Church of St. Margaret of Cortona is located. The dog at its center is the chief symbol of North Riverdale's patron as this loving animal was used by God to win her conversion.

The lower portion of the shield symbolizes South Riverdale where the Church of St. Gabriel is located. The trumpet at its center is one of the chief symbols of South Riverdale's patron. The divine messenger will sound the trumpet at the end of the age indicating the Lord's return in glory and the resurrection of the dead.

Mark your calendars!

Ash Wednesday 18th February, the beginning of our Lenten Fast



8:30 a.m. Holy Mass - St. Margaret's

9:00 a.m. Holy Mass - St. Gabriel's

12 noon Holy Mass - St. Margaret's

4:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word - St. Margaret's

6:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word - St. Gabriel's

7:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word - St. Margaret's

Join us for a Lenten Mission

23rd, 24th, and 25th February
at 6:30 p.m. at St. Margaret's
Church

Preached by Fr. Leo Camurati, O.P.

“Repent and Believe in the
Gospel”



Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent

9:30 a.m. at St. Gabriels

7:00 p.m. at St. Margaret's

“As they led him away [to be crucified]...there followed a great crowd of people..” (Luke 23:26-27)

St. Margaret of Cortona

MONDAY, 2/16

12 noon: **Margaret and Patrick Kelly and John Moore and the Moore Family**

TUESDAY, 2/17 *The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order*

12 noon.: **The Nugent Family**

WEDNESDAY, 2/18 *Ash Wednesday*

12 noon: **Connolly and Barrett Families**

THURSDAY, 2/19 *Thursday after Ash Wednesday*

12 noon: **Rose Quattrocco**

FRIDAY, 2/20 *Friday after Ash Wednesday*

12 noon: **Veronica and Paul Striker**

SATURDAY, 2/21 *Saturday after Ash Wednesday*

8:30 a.m.: **Stephen and Mary Heisel**

SUNDAY, 2/22 *First Sunday in Lent*

5:15 p.m. (vigil): **David Pagliaro**

8 a.m.: **McConnell and O'Donnell Families**

10 a.m.: **Robert W. Seurkamp**

12 p.m.: **Veronica McCaffrey**

5:15 p.m.: **The Hughes Family**

St. Gabriel

MONDAY, 2/16

9:00 a.m.: **Jeanne and Peter Iguanzo**

TUESDAY, 2/17 *The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order*

9:00 a.m.: **Edward Walters**

WEDNESDAY, 2/18 *Ash Wednesday*

9:00 a.m.: **Virginia O'Rourke**

THURSDAY, 2/19 *Thursday after Ash Wednesday*

9:00 a.m.: **Maria C. Garcia**

FRIDAY, 2/20 *Friday after Ash Wednesday*

9:00 a.m.: **Sonya Wesley**

SUNDAY, 2/22 *First Sunday of Lent*

5 p.m. (vigil): **Thomas Daly**

9:30 a.m.: **Special Intention**

11:30 a.m.: **Joseph Mongolia**

*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 Total 8th February 2026:

In pew: \$8,421

First Saturday Latin Mass: \$243

Candles: \$378

WeShare: \$2407

Total: \$11,449

**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

Find us on Facebook and Instagram:



Riverdale Catholic



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.

wesharedonate.org

