

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 Masses

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

Rev. Fr. Seán Connolly, Pastor

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

Rev. Fr. Timothy Boman, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. George Pitula, Deacon

Rev. Fr. William Elder, Weekend Associate

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

FROM THE DESK OF FR. SEÁN

Dear Parishioners,

Prayers for the Elect, the Catechumens of our Parish Preparing for Baptism

This ancient rite of the Catechumenate for Adults, comprising several distinct steps toward a person's new life of grace by baptism, was restored by Pope Paul VI. The period of the catechumenate, which is intended as a time to learn and live out the Christian faith, is sanctified by sacred rites to be celebrated at successive intervals. It is important that these rites be celebrated among the entire parish community as we come together to accept and encourage our new brothers and sisters into our ecclesial family.

What are the Scrutinies?

On the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent at our 12 noon Holy Mass at St. Margaret's, the newly named "Elect" participate in three successive rites called "the Scrutinies." These rites, with roots dating back to the early Church, take place during the Sunday Mass, each thematically linked to the Gospel reading for that Mass. The three passages from St. John's Gospel for these Sundays were selected around 500 AD as powerful depictions of the hidden transformation God accomplishes in the Elect through each Scrutiny. Each proclamation emphasizes repentance and conversion as the Light of Christ comes to pierce the darkness of sin and to bring life where there is death. The readings from Cycle A of the Lectionary are used when the scrutinies are celebrated because the Gospel selections for those days have been traditionally associated with baptism: the Samaritan woman at the well, the healing of the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus. By recounting these stories, emphasis is given to baptism's life-giving waters that give new eyes of faith, and we are given new life. We are reminded that Christ is the living water, the light of the world, the resurrection and the life.

The "Elect" along with their sponsors, kneel before the celebrant and the assembly, who pray for them silently with a series of intercessions. It culminates in a prayer of cleansing and protection (exorcism) with the laying-on-of-hands. Each Scrutiny is a step in preparing the Elect for the celebration and initiation soon to come.

The Scrutinies are God's way of taking a close, loving look at the Elect. God does not scrutinize the Catechumens in order to find what's wrong with them but to celebrate all that's beautiful, good, and true in them. Jesus "scrutinizes" us with Divine Light, revealing all that is valuable within each of us. He also reveals to us the ways in which we are hurting, or sick, or sinful. This is not to reject us, but to call us to new life and to healing.

May these Scrutinies call both our Elect and us into the living waters of baptism, to the light of holiness, to a new life in Christ, through His Resurrection.

Let us pray for our catechumens who are now the Elect, as they approach the day of their spiritual rebirth in baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter on the Holy Night of the Resurrection:

Esvin Diaz, Byron Doaz, Debbie Valdez, Allen Gregory, Leysha Yari Rosa Ortega, and Ephraim Bosgang

An Opportunity to Memorialize Two New Statues for St. Margaret's

Two statues are being shipped from Rome that will adorn St. Margaret's Church each year for Passiontide (the last two weeks of Great Lent) and the entirety of the Easter season. I am hoping a family will volunteer to cover the cost of one or both of these statues. A plaque will be placed on the back of each so it can be dedicated to the memory of a deceased loved one.

The Reposed Christ - Used for Passiontide and the Burial Service of Christ on Good Friday Evening - \$2,000

The Risen Christ - Used for the 50 Day Easter Season - \$2,000



Our Parish's Capital Campaign

Thanks to 228 of you, we have surpassed our \$1 million goal!

Pledged: \$1,114,625

Paid: \$431,996

Donors: 228

If you have not made your three-year pledge yet, please join the 228 of your fellow parishioners who have done so. Though we have reached our goal to cover the costs of the two boilers for our parish school, to repair the flat roofs of St. Margaret's Church and to paint and renovate its interior, there are still many facility upgrades our parish needs. These projects will be discussed with our parish council:

St. Gabriel's Church: a renovation of the sanctuary

St. Margaret's Church: new sound system, new doors, and in front to the church-new steps, railings, and lighting

Thank you for your consideration and any pledge you are able to make as we build this foundation together for the future of our parish.

May God reward your generosity!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Seán

**May God give many years to the newly illumined,
Molly Catherine and Kevin James Neilis, born
again by water and the Holy Spirit in baptism.**





FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

HOLY MASS, ALTAR & DINNER

Thursday 19th March

Solemn High Latin Mass at 6:00 p.m.

Saint Joseph's Altar Dinner to follow
in the school gym

\$15 per person, \$25 for families of 3 or more

Food drive, Dinner, Wine, Desserts, Tradition & Customs Explained

*If you can, please RSVP to this event by following
the link: <https://tinyurl.com/stjosephaltar2026> or
calling the rectory at 718-549-8053*

The Church of St. Margaret of Cortona
6000 Riverdale Ave | Bronx, NY

The St. Joseph's Altar is a beloved Catholic tradition that began in Sicily during the Middle Ages. When a devastating drought brought famine to the land, the faithful prayed for the intercession of St. Joseph. When the long-awaited rains came, they prepared a table of thanksgiving, sharing their food with the poor in gratitude for God's providence.

Today, the altar is beautifully adorned with breads, pastries, flowers, and symbolic foods, each recalling God's abundant blessings and St. Joseph's loving care for the Holy Family and the Church. On this Solemnity, we honor St. Joseph's paternal intercession by offering the prayers and works of our day in thanksgiving for graces received and in petition for our special intentions.

A cherished custom is to make a donation to the altar in memory of a deceased loved one and to display their photo as a sign of loving remembrance. The Feast of St. Joseph offers a joyful pause during our Lenten journey, giving us a foretaste of the Easter joy to come as we break our fast.

You are warmly invited to join us after the 6:00 p.m. Holy Mass in honor of St. Joseph to learn more about this rich tradition, share in a festive meal, and support those in need through our parish food drive.

Please contact our rectory office to let us know if you are coming so we can prepare enough food: 718-549-8053.

If you would like to contribute to the Saint Joseph's Altar, please let us know when you call the office, leave your number, and we will get back to you to make arrangements.

To include a photo of a deceased loved one on the altar, kindly drop off a framed photo at the rectory office with a donation of your choice. Please tape the name of the deceased with your own name and phone number to the back of the frame.

Food drive donations will be collected at the door along with the \$15 entry fee. Kindly bring non-perishable items only.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For additions or updates, including anniversaries, birthdays. etc. please
email: riverdalecatholicbulletin@gmail.com

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: Bartholomew Murray and Thomas Egan, *that they may rest in peace, rise in glory, and their memories be eternal.*

THE SICK: Andrea Amato, Yanni Anastasiou, Irene Anzalone, Joe Bastone, John Beckley, Betty Betz, Iva Boatin, Kitty Boyle, Ellen Brown, Robert Carlson, Maggie Caputo, Cindy Casto, Joy Chambers, Fanny Chondris, Teresa Colgan, Barbara Cosme, Thomas Cronin, Kate Daly, Michael Dannucci, Jennifer Davey, Catherine Davis, Antonio DeFeo, Steven DeRavaneusich (list continues next week), *that the healing hand of Jesus the Divine Physician may be upon them.*

BAPTIZED: Molly Catherine and Kevin James Neilis, *that these newly illumined children of God may walk always in the light of Christ.*

CATECHUMENS: Esvin Diaz, Byron Doaz, Debbie Valdez, Allen Gregory, Leysha Yari Rosa Ortega, and Ephraim Bosgang, *that the good work begun in them may be brought to fulfillment.*

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE: Drilon Pemaj & Jordana Cristina Perena Barbosa, Michael Jennings & Jenna Catelyn DeMarco, Paul Timothy Murphy & Michelle Megan Walpole, James Joseph Meyer & Kassandra Andrea Pugliese, *that the Lord may bless them and keep them always one.*



**St. Margaret and
St. Gabriel, Pray
to God for us!**



**A Good Opportunity for an Act
of Charity this Lent**

There will be a Blood Drive at Walsh
Hall in St. Gabriel's Rectory
Sunday 15th March 8:30 a.m. to 2:00
p.m.

SAVE A LIFE



**Stations of the Cross
Every Friday during Lent**

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



**Hospitality Sunday
at St. Gabriel's**

Saturday 7th March

Wine & Cheese Fellowship after the
5:00 p.m. Holy Mass in the
gymnasium

Sunday 8th March

Breakfast and Fellowship after the
9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Holy Masses in
Walsh Hall

St. Margaret of Cortona

MONDAY, 3/9 *St. Francis of Rome, Religious*

12 noon: **Paddy Jumper**

TUESDAY, 3/10

12 noon.: **John Searson**

WEDNESDAY, 3/11

12 noon: **Antonia Mojica**

THURSDAY, 3/12

12 noon: **Alex Emerling**

FRIDAY, 3/13

12 noon: **All the Souls in Purgatory**

SATURDAY, 3/14

8:30 a.m.: **Thomas Foody**

SUNDAY, 3/15 *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

5:15 p.m. (vigil): **McConnell-O'Donnell Family**

8 a.m.: **Mark and Patrick Flynn**

10 a.m.: **Manuel Alvarado and the Alvarado Family**

12 p.m.: **Catherine V. And John J. Marshall and the Marshall Family**

5:15 p.m.: **Michael and Eileen Martyn**

St. Gabriel

MONDAY, 3/9 *St. Francis of Rome, Religious*

9:00 a.m.: **Mary Ann and Martin Houlihan**

TUESDAY, 3/10

9:00 a.m.: **Kevin Walsh**

WEDNESDAY, 3/11

9:00 a.m.: **Anna Yarina**

THURSDAY, 3/12

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

FRIDAY, 3/13

9:00 a.m.: **Maurice and Lily Paul**

SUNDAY, 3/14 *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

5 p.m. (vigil): **Maggie Gordon and the Gordon Family**

9:30 a.m.: **Suzanne LaMantia**

11:30 a.m.: **Antonio and Adelina Pepenella, Sr.**

For our parish benefactors.

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

Sunday 1st March 2026

In-pew: \$13,097

Monthly Second Collection for our Parish

School: \$6,106

WeShare Online Giving: \$2,474

Candles: \$1,509

Total: \$23, 106

**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: _____

☐ 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

