

St. Margaret's Parish

Burlington, MA



January 4, 2009

*W*E HAVE SEEN

HIS STAR IN THE EAST

AND HAVE COME

WITH GIFTS TO

ADORE THE *Lord.*

Epiphany Of The Lord



St. Margaret's Parish

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Parish Staff

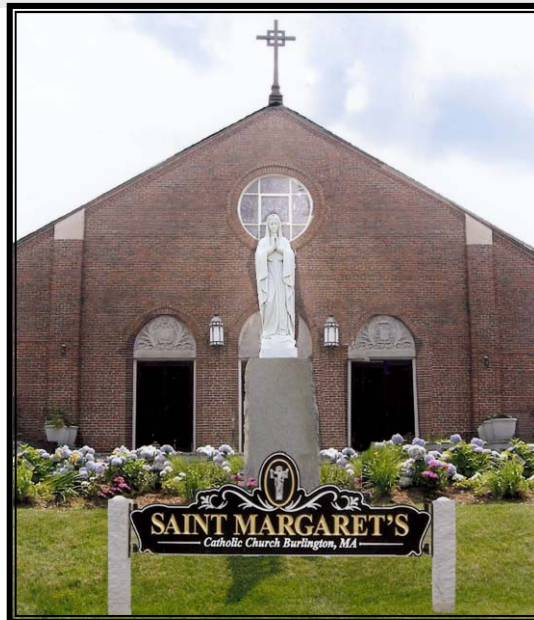


Rev. Joseph Robinson
Deacon Dick Bilotta
Mrs. Peg Kelly
Mrs. Tina Braceland
Mrs. Mary Murgio
Ms. Mary Meehan
Mrs. Marge Fusco
Ms. Christine Field
Mr. Sonny Dirienzo
Mr. John Reale
Mrs. Maureen Crowe

Pastor
Permanent Deacon
Business Manager
Parish Secretary
Director of Religious Education
Music Director and Soloist
Choir Director
Cantor
Facilities Manager
Asst. Facilities Manager
Housekeeper

Finance Council

Rev. Joseph Robinson
 Beverly Broderick
 David Cox
 Dick Donovan
 Carl Humphreys
 Arthur Huse
 Peg Kelly
 Jack O'Keeffe
 Nick Rosato
 Warren Russell



Pastoral Council

Rev. Joseph Robinson
 Deacon Dick Bilotta
 Gerry Broderick
 Lydia Brown
 Peter Dutton
 Julia Eggleston
 David Hanafin
 Mary Ippolito
 David Johnson
 Cynthia Kendall
 Art & Diana MacDonald
 Mary Lou McQuinn
 Peter O'Keeffe
 David Peterson
 Tony Sulfaro
 George Vallas

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

Dick Donovan

Home Visitation

Cynthia Kendall

Pro-Life

Charles & Rose Hanafin
Bob Rigby

Landscaping

Jim Brine
Mary Lou McQuinn
Pat Moreno

Ministries

Sacristan

Mary Peck

Baptisms

Eleanor Hutchinson
Andrea Lamb

Confirmation

Joanne Mackey
Lydia Brown
Simone Tigges

Helping Hands

Peg Kelly

Ushers

Frank McGonagle

Altar Servers

Judy Hanafin
Matthew Hanafin

Bulletin

Deacon Dick Bilotta
Tina Braceland
Janet Fitzgerald

Dear Parishioners:

A sincere thank you to all who contributed to our Grand Annual Collection. In these most difficult financial times, I realize the challenge of balancing budgets. St. Margaret's Finance Council has issued a financial report and a projected budget these past two years. Copies of the current fiscal year are at the entrance to the church.

At the end of the last fiscal year we had \$202,868.59 in our cash reserves accounts. During that year we were able to end the year "in the black" because of revenue enhancement and cost cutting. Because there is not any real cost cutting left and because our revenue is down significantly this fiscal year, barring a miracle I do not see how we can end this year "in the black". To the extent we are "in the red" will be reported in our financial figures on page 8 of the bulletin throughout the year. Our previously reported cash reserves will more than carry us through. However, this is not the ideal way to operate, but we will make do with what we have.

One last project, the sanding and refinishing of all the woodwork in the upper church will take place in February. After that there is not any other planned extraordinary expense. From what I have detected these past two years, and Chancery confirms, is that our amount of money banked each week is on the low side for a parish our size. This has been our history, going back years. I do not want to go the route of all kinds of fund-raisers. That approach is time-consuming and too intrusive. We have a problem that needs to be addressed, and my only approach at this time is to ask everyone to consider a \$1, \$2, or \$3 weekly increase in your offering. Little things add up and can make a real difference. If we can only get that weekly offertory collection to where it should be, namely over \$10,000, we will be just fine.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Jesus. Epiphany means "manifestation". The astrologers came from the East to find the ruler who was to shepherd His people Israel. The Redeeming King has shown all peoples "the way". He came for all peoples and all nations. Epiphany's theme is that Jesus is a universal King and the Savior of all.

Fr. Robinson

Eternal Truths



Absolute Principles

- I think I have discovered the secret of life - you just have to hang around until you get used to it!*
- Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.*
- You will never be happy if you continue to search for what happiness consists of. You will never live life if you are looking for the meaning of life.*



Mass Schedule

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Saturday Vigil | 4:30 pm 7:30 pm |
| Sunday | 7:30 am 10:00 am (Upstairs) 10:00 am (Downstairs) 12:00 noon |
| Weekday | 6:45 am 9:00 am |
| Saturday | 9:00 am |

Sacraments

- Baptism** On the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 2:00 p.m. Please call for an interview with any priest at the rectory to fill out the baptismal form. If you have a priest coming for the Baptism, you are most welcome to schedule the Baptism at your convenience.
- Confirmation** Begins in the Ninth Grade and concludes in the Tenth Grade. Attendance includes class, liturgy, and ministry.
- Penance** Every Saturday in the lower church from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Marriage** Congratulations on your engagement ! Please schedule an appointment with a priest at least 6 months prior to the wedding. Engaged couples contemplating marriage are required to take a marriage preparation course. Available programs may be found on the Family Life website (www.familylifeboston.com) or by calling 617-746-5801.
- Anointing** Please call the rectory and we will visit at home. If anyone is confined to the house and would like to receive a Communion visit, please call us. Our eucharistic ministers assist us in these visits.
- Funerals** Arrangements are made through the funeral directors. They are most compassionate and experienced, and will be of great assistance to you at this particular time in your life. A priest from St. Margaret's will lead a prayer service at the wake and graveside, as well as preside at the Funeral Mass. Our parish hall is available after the funeral, if needed.

Private Devotions

- Rosary** – Daily after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the upper church.
- Eucharistic Adoration** – Every first Friday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m. at which time there is Benediction.
- Holy Hour** – Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the upper church. We pray to Our Lady of Fatima for the sick, the elderly, and the homebound.
- Bible Study** – Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

Mass Intentions

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|--|
| Saturday | Jan. | 3 | 9:00 am | Frank Presti |
| | | | 4:30 pm | Lillian Pyszczynski |
| | | | 7:30 pm | Vincent S. Michienzi |
| Sunday | Jan. | 4 | 7:30 am | Sally Meaney |
| | | | 10:00 am (u) | Joseph Nacinovich |
| | | | 12:00 noon | Roy Springer |
| Monday | Jan. | 5 | 9:00 am | Healing Mass for Patrice Guanci |
| Wednesday | Jan. | 6 | 6:45 am | Robert Capodilupo |
| | | | 9:00 am | Joseph Valerio |
| Saturday | Jan | 10 | 9:00 am | Natalina Presti (9th Anniversary) |
| | | | 4:30 pm | James Reynoldsi |
| | | | 7:30 pm | Special Intention |
| Sunday | Jan | 11 | 7:30 am | Rev. James Shaughnessey |
| | | | 10:00 am (u) | Robert Sheehan (6th Anniversary) |
| | | | 10:00 am (d) | Karen Vick (6th Anniversary) |
| | | | 12:00 noon | Nicola Francescucci |

Memorial Prayers: Josephine Lombardi, Susan Braceland, Violet Sweet, William Moretti



Prayers for the Sick



| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Jack Pessotti | John O'Connor |
| Brian Joseph | Donald Welch |
| Spike Lawless | Robert Menzies |
| Sis | Bella Russo |
| Tony Sulfaro | Sandra Davis |
| Helen Boyle | Fr. Richard Brady |
| Audrey Christiansen. | Dick Butler |
| Irene Grace | Scott M. |
| Baby Hannah | Nicholas |
| Chandra | John Nagle |
| Joyce Munger | Baby Haley |
| Brandina | John Presti |
| Stephen | Ollie Muir |
| Jean Simpson | Elizabeth Walsh |
| Robbin Durney | Alice Welch |
| Rebecca | Helen Feehan |
| Cathy Fichtner | Michael Munafo |
| Ronald Magliozzi | Connie Tedesco |
| Carl Christiansen | Paul Donovan |
| Fr. Ryan | Peggy McGarry |
| Patrice Guanci | |



Prayers for Protection



| | | |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------|
| PFC Paul Marchese | Army | Afghanistan |
| Ens. Stephen Dutton | Navy | At Sea |
| PFC Rebecca L. Marion | Army | Iraq |
| Sgt. Joseph P. Surette | Army | Korea |
| CPL Richard Schaufus | Marines | Okinowa |
| Major Adam Boyd | Army | Iraq |
| MA-3 James Marchese | Navy | Italy |
| Tech Sgt. Jeremy Brooks | A.F. | Iraq |
| Rct. Steven Colombo | Marines | USA |
| Staff Sgt. Eric Leverone | Army | Afghanistan |
| Lt. Vince Lynch | Army | Germany |
| STS2 Kyle J. Marchese | Navy | At Sea |
| Capt. Chris Brooks | Army | Afghanistan |
| CW02 Scott Munger | Marines | Hawaii |
| Lt. Jennifer M. Delaney | USN | USA |
| LCPL Patrick Harrington | Marines | Iraq |



Announcements

Baptisms - This past week St. Margaret's celebrated the new life of Baptism with some of our "little" parishioners. We congratulate the parents and rejoice with them.

Therese Barbara Kosinski Jillian Mae Lopes Sophia Miriam Joseph

Funerals - This past week St. Margaret's has presided at the funeral of Henry Dello Russo & Jane Correia. Please remember them & their families in your prayers .

The Pilot - At the entryway to the church are subscription cards for home-delivery of our archdiocesan newspaper, The Pilot. We also leave a number of copies weekly on the tables at the entryway.

Clutter - there are all kinds of worthy causes that send us posters and fliers for advertising purposes. We will publicize them in the announcement page of the bulletin itself, but we do not post them in or around the church building itself. The entrance way to the church is a clutter free zone. Please do not post anything on the walls or the tables.

Teacher Needed - we are in need of one eighth grade C.C.D. teacher on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. If you can help us, please call Pat Moreno at 781-272-5375

Bulletin Sponsor - Budget Blinds custom makes shutters and draperies and gives free in-home estimates. Custom Bath Liners will do a complete makeover for your bathroom. Curves may well be just what some of us need for a New Year's resolution. And K & N Oil Service in Woburn delivers fuel oil & sells & services oil burners. We thank all of the above for taking ads in our bulletin.

Confessions - Our penance room has worked out just fine. Just remember to leave the door open when you finish. The room is spacious, well-lighted, and comfortable. If your children are with you, please explain to them the option of the kneeler or the chair.

Snow Removal - Sincere thanks to Mike Maguire, Tim Santry, and all the anonymous people for volunteering their services once again in plowing us out these past storms. Without their help the cost would be prohibiting. Every parish budgets thousands of dollars every winter for snow removal. We have been truly blessed. Say a prayer for the continued good health of our volunteers.

Thank You from Heartbeat for your Christmas Collection-Wow!!! Thank you so much for your donations of so many babies' and children's toys, clothing, blankets, gift certificates and other items to help the needy families we serve. The gifts are so appreciated! Eighty-one babies have been born so far this year to families helped by Heartbeat! The moms often cry tears of joy when they receive the gifts for their children. We tell them that the gifts are donated by people who love God and care about them. Thank you and God Bless you and Happy New Year!



Religious Education



Mary Murgo – Director

School Phone: 781-272-5810

Stmargccd@hotmail.com

ALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS must complete a **CORI** form every year. Please see your grade coordinator or the Religious Education Director to get your CORI form. If you completed a CORI form at St. Margaret's last year, you need to complete a **WHITE** form. If you are a **NEW** volunteer, you need to complete a **BLUE** form. CORI forms must be *personally verified* by a grade coordinator or the Religious Education Director. **Identification** must be presented. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

KCS Training for Grades 4-8 will be offered on January 26, 2009 from 8 am to 4 pm at Saint Julia Parish in Weston, MA. Lunch will be provided. Any teachers or parents who would like to attend a one-day training session in the personal safety/abuse prevention curriculum called "Keeping Children Safe" should send an email to STMARGCCD@HOTMAIL.COM at your earliest convenience. The KCS curriculum reviews safety rules, discusses peer pressure and power, babysitting, Internet/online safety, etc. *St. Margaret's is required to include the KCS curriculum in our religious education classes for grades 4-8.*

TAT Training for Grades 1-3 will be offered on February 2 & 3, 2009 from 8 am to 4 pm (both days) at Saint Catherine's Parish in Westford. TAT Training will also be offered on February 7 & 8 from 8 am to 4 pm (both days) at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in Braintree. Registration and breakfast begin 1/2 hour before the starting time. Lunch will be provided on both days of training. Please send an email to STMARGCCD@HOTMAIL.COM if you are interested in registering for a two day TAT training class. *St. Margaret's is required to include the TAT curriculum in our religious education classes for grades 1-3.*

SECOND GRADE ORAL PRAYER TESTS have begun. Please help your son/daughter practice the Hail Mary, Glory Be, Our Father, and Act of Contrition at home. See www.schoolnotes.com for copies of the required prayers. Children receive certificates and a small prize when they pass their oral prayer test.

HOME SCHOOL: Please contact your grade coordinator if you need to pick up a book. **Grade 1:** Jim Brine at 781-272-1113; **Grades 2, 3, 4, and 5:** Mary Murgo at 781-272-5810; **Grade 6:** Margie Joyce at 781-221-5661; **Grade 7:** Tom Shannon at 781-229-2254; **Grade 8:** Pat Moreno at 781-272-5375.

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS and FEES ARE NOW DUE! Please send in a check if you have not already paid. Checks may be dropped off at the rectory or at the CCD office. Maximum family payment is \$175. For grades, 1 and 3-8, fee is \$50 per child. For grades 2, 9 and 10, fee is \$75 per child. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please pay what you can afford. Registration must be complete for students to remain on our mailing list.

10th Grade Parochial School Religious Education Students - A reminder that students attending Parochial School must start to attending class at St. Margaret's on January 4th. Any questions, please contact Lydia Brown at (781) 272-3391.

Altar Ministries – Jan.3/4



**Saturday
4:30 PM**

Celebrant: Father Kilroy
Cantor: Christine Field
Reader: Joanne Mackey
EMHC(s): Joanne O’Keeffe, Elaine Wishneusky,
Rosella Bilotta
Server(s): Kathleen & Kerri Mackey

**Saturday
7:30 PM**

Father Kilroy

Ron Kurtz
Janice Lentine, Mary Lou McQuinn
Ashley Poland, Riley Feller

**Sunday
7:30 AM**

Celebrant: Father Robinson
Cantor: ---
Reader: Beth Mackey
EMHC(s): Lucy Bramanti, Dawn Dionne
Server(s): Annabelle Dionne, Olivia Varghese

**Sunday
10:00 AM Upper Church**

Father Robinson
Christine Field
Dick Hanafin
Bill Boudreau, Keavan Stryker
Matt, Mike & Rob Ackerman

10:00 AM Children’s Mass

Celebrant: No Mass
Cantor:
Reader:
EMHC(s):
Server(s):

12:00 Noon

Father Robinson
Christine Field
Paul Mazzocca
Arthur Huse
James & John Kuczynski

Our friends and neighbors above will be serving at the Lord’s Table this weekend. We are always in need of Readers and/ or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) at Mass. If you are interested, please contact Dick Donovan at 978-670-2660. Assignments above are subject to change.

December 28, 2008
Latest Financial Figures

- \$2,000 - Gifts**
- \$2,410 - Grand Annual**
- \$13,479 - Clergy Benefit Trust Fund**
- \$7,836 - Weekly Offertory Collection**
- \$13,436 - Weekly Amount Banked**
- \$334,890 - Amount Banked YTD**
- \$292,500 - Budget Year to Date**
- \$42,390 - Budget Surplus Year to Date**

Upcoming Second Collections

- January 11 - Building Fund**
- January 25 - Latin America**

The Epiphany - A Metaphor for Life

This weekend, we celebrate the Epiphany – the event marked by the visit of the wise men bringing gifts to the Christ child. On its surface, it's a nice story which the author of Matthew undoubtedly included in his gospel as a way of emphasizing the divine nature of Jesus Christ – learned men coming from a distant land to bring precious gifts to Jesus in recognition of his kingship. But, as significant as that is, there really is a lot more to this event. This event is filled with much symbolism which raises its importance in salvation history to a high level and gives it a great deal of meaning for our own lives. So, let's take a look at some of that symbolism and what meaning it may have for us.

Perhaps the first thing that we should consider is to recognize the fact that the wise men were not Jewish. The Bible tells us that these men came from a land to the East, not from within Israel. So, these men were Gentiles. Now, that makes their visit very noteworthy. The ancient Israelites believed that the Messiah would be a political leader who would come to save the Jews and free them from Roman rule and establish Israel as God's dwelling place. But, of course, that's not who the Messiah turned out to be. The Israelites' understanding of the Messiah was far too limited. The Messiah did not come to free only the Israelites from foreign domination, but, rather, to free all of humanity from sin and death, itself. So, the fact that important, non-Israelite men came to worship Christ very early in his life is a clear indicator that Christ came to call everyone, all of humanity, to salvation.

That understanding, of course, is central to Christian, and especially Catholic, thought and teaching as to who we are as a people of God. Unity is a central feature of God's revelation to humanity. Jesus came to break down the barriers between people, to call everyone to unite with each other and with him. St. Paul writes about that in today's reading from Ephesians: "Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel." Later on in the same letter he makes an even stronger point saying that we should make "every effort to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all who is above all, and through all, and in all." All of that understanding, at some level, is affirmed in the visit of the wise men.

Another bit of symbolism that we can find in this event is that of faith and trust. Even though they were not Israelites and, therefore, may not have had a great understanding of the one true God – in spite of that, they followed that star, traveling a great distance, probably not knowing exactly where they were going or what they would find when they got there. That's an example for us in our lives. God will often call us to go in a certain direction in our lives, to follow a certain path. We may not always know ahead of time just what we will encounter along the way. God asks us to just follow his lead and trust in him that, no matter what happens, he will see us through it. If he calls us to do something, then he will make it possible for us to do it.

Which brings us to the next image. You know, we all have talents and capabilities – things that we can do we do well. So, the image of the of these three important men laying very expensive gifts at the feet of the Christ child can be seen as symbolic of us offering our talents and capabilities to God so that he can use us as his instruments in this world to help build his kingdom. It speaks to the wisdom of accepting the will of God in our lives with humility.

King Herod was the evil figure in this event. He was a very worldly person, motivated by self-gratification; totally unscrupulous and interested only in maintaining his own wealth and power. The image of the wise men coming into contact with Herod, hearing his wishes, but, then ignoring them because of what they heard in a dream – all of that is symbolic of those who turn away from the evil in this world - turn away from the siren call of those attractions of this world which go against the will of God – instead, choosing to do the right thing and respond to God's call in their lives.

The wise men were educated men. It was through their knowledge that they came to believe in and search for this newborn king and to believe that the Star of Bethlehem would lead them to him - a king whom we would later understand to be God himself. Jesus is God's revelation of himself to the world. So, wrapped up in the Epiphany event, we have this image of education and knowledge being used to seek out the truth and search for God. What was true then is true now. For, there can be no greater use for education and knowledge than to seek God's revelation; to understand God's truth – because, in His revelation, we find God, Himself.

And, then, there was the famous astral phenomenon that we call the Star of Bethlehem. This star was the guide that the wise men followed to reach their goal. It symbolizes God's word and what he has revealed to us – his truth. So, we have the image of the wise men following the light of the start of Bethlehem in their search for the newborn king as symbolic of us following the light of God's truth in our lives toward that same goal – Jesus, himself.

Finally, we can compare and contrast the Epiphany event with another similar event, that of the shepherds' call, from the gospel that was read at some of the masses on Christmas Day. In that event, angels came to a group of shepherds announcing the birth of the Messiah and encouraging them to visit him. Put these events side by side and you see that God calls us to him in many different ways. For the shepherds it was a grand revelation from heaven; for the wise men, it was quietly, through study and knowledge. The shepherds only had to go a short distance to reach their goal, while the wise men had to travel far from home. The wise men brought precious gifts, while the shepherds just brought themselves.

Putting all of this together brings us back to the meaning of the Epiphany event as symbolic of the journey that we all take along the road of life. Christ calls everyone to him and that call may be a whisper or a shout. Our journey to him may be very short or it may be a long and, perhaps dangerous, route. We may not always know ahead of time what we will find along the way. Nevertheless, Christ asks us, in faith, to just trust him and keep going.

He warns us that there will be temptations along the way – the things and attitudes of this world that, on the surface, may seem attractive or appeal to human reason, but, which are, in truth, against the will of God and filled with danger. From these, he asks us to turn away and stay focused on him.

In order to help us avoid the danger, he gives us the light of his revealed truth. He asks us to learn as much as we can about what he has revealed to us. Because, the better we understand his revelation, the more we know about him, the easier it will be to love him and accept his truth in our lives.

And, in our journey, Christ asks us to use whatever gifts he has given us in the service of others, always acting in such a way as to help others stay on the path toward him, but never in a way that would cause or help them to take the wrong path in life or damage their relationship with him.

How will we know when we have arrived at our destination? How will we know when we have truly arrived in Christ's presence? When we can set aside the temptations of this world, set aside the attitudes of this world, set aside the cares of this world, lay them at his feet and seek only to be in his presence, as a member of and heir to his kingdom.

Ultimately, the Epiphany story is a metaphor for the journey of life, a journey in which we should seek to liberate ourselves of the burdens of this world, give them to Jesus, and let him fill us for all time with his love and grace.

Deacon Dick