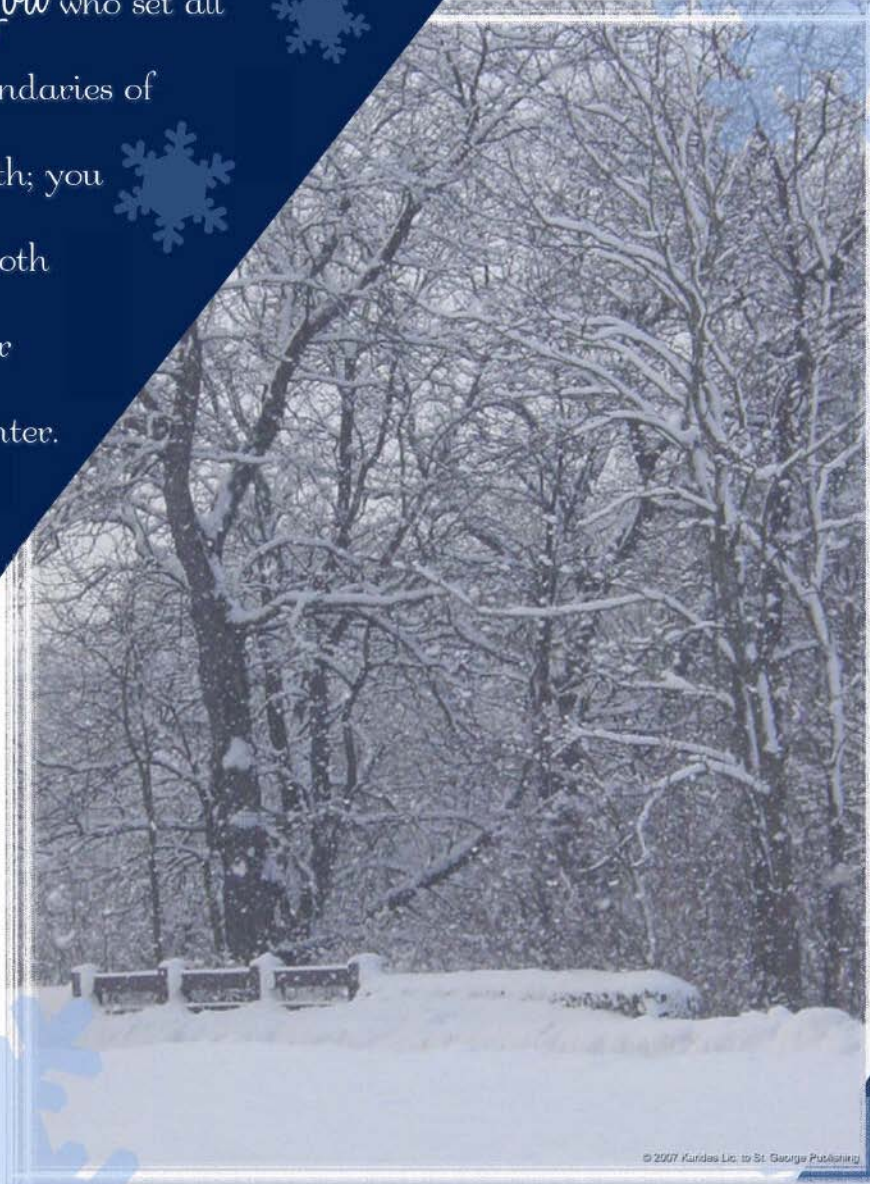


St. Margaret's Parish

Burlington, MA

It was *you* who set all
the boundaries of
the earth; you
made both
summer
and winter.

Psalm 74:17



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Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time
February 1, 2009

St. Margaret's Parish

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Parish Staff

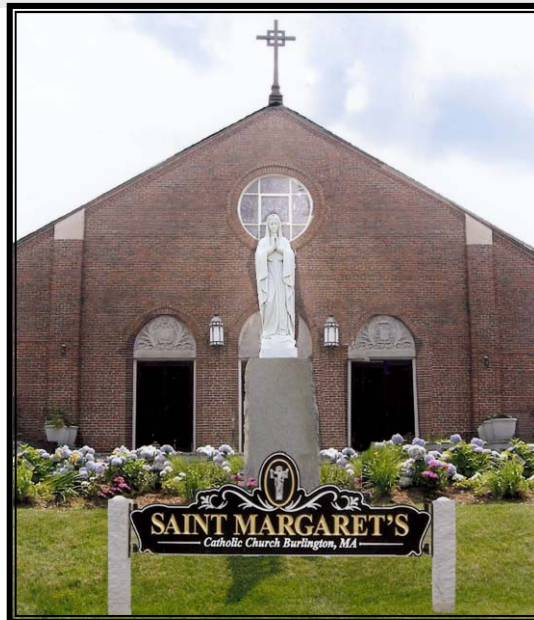


Rev. Joseph Robinson
Deacon Dick Bilotta
Mrs. Peg Kelly
Mrs. Tina Braceland
Mrs. Mary Murgio
Ms. Mary Meehan
Mrs. Marge Fusco
Ms. Christine Field
Mr. Sonny Dirienzo
Mr. John Reale
Mrs. Maureen Crowe

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:

We as a nation are off and running. Where we are in four years will be determined by the actions and the will of all of us. This country needs to pull together in a manner the likes of which we have not seen since the Great Depression and World War II. May all our problems be seen as challenges and possibilities!!

Catholicism has come a long way in this country since the election of J.F.K. in 1960. That moment in time marked a recognition that as a Church, both as an institution and a people, we had finally arrived as a player in the history of this country.

Today we have a Catholic as a Vice-President, a Speaker of the House, a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and there are four other Supreme Court Justices along with twenty-six percent of the U. S. Senate and 31% of the House of Representatives who are Catholics. That is a significant number of our brothers and sisters representing us in this democracy.

Now we can all argue that some are Catholic in name only but not in fact. I choose to ignore that critical approach, but rather focus on the fact that these men and woman have experienced the same upbringing in the Faith as we have and have opted to remain Catholic, even though some may dissent with some of our teachings, especially on the "cultural war issues". All of these Catholics face incredible scrutinization by citizens, fellow-Catholics, pundits, and the press. To be in the public eye and constantly critiqued is no easy task. One cannot win in the public's eye in any of these jobs. They need far more support and understanding from our Church than they have received in the past. But I don't see that ever happening. It seems our Church will never be happy until we drive all these "dissenters" out of office. What a sad state of affairs, that we have never learned to live as a people of faith in a pluralistic society and in a democracy. The only other solution is to isolate ourselves, pick up our ball and gloves and go home and live with only those who agree with us. We can rebuild our walls, not just to keep others out, but to keep the rest within. It will be deja-vu all over again. While the world progresses, we still yearn to step back in time again.

This approach and attitude continues to be a carry-over from the sixties when priests and nuns left their vocations at an alarming rate. The Church's response was one of punishment - no pension or health care coverage for services rendered, no public recognition of their marriages, no possibility of being a religious education teacher, lector, or Eucharistic minister, etc. It seems our first action is to react and then build on that. We have developed a pattern of habit and until we break this vicious cycle we will continue on this destructive path of falling apart from within. Our Church has so much potential, so much to offer, but we have never lived up to it. John XXIII started something but forces within fought it from the beginning and the tension continues. There is no real hope it will be resolved in our lifetime, but we need to turn a corner one way or the other. We have come to the proverbial fork in the road. My prayer is that it will not be more of the same!

Tuesday, February 3, 2009 is the Feast of St. Blaise, who is associated with healing illnesses of the throat. That blessing will be given at the end of the two morning Masses.

Last week we finally were able to have our Christmas pageant, after two snowstorms delayed it. When one observes the beauty & innocence of these young ones, one realizes they are here for a reason. They keep alive the dream of what the world could be, if it were not for the actions & decisions of so many adults. If we were to focus on the children of this world then all of us would be the better off. Children remind us of what we are called to be. They can bring out the best in us. I thank them & everyone who participated behind the scenes. We even had sheep in this year's pageant!!

In the past two weeks death has taken two of our long-time ushers, Frank Nocella and Joe Arena. This past year we also lost Joe Bramante and Gerry Pattie. Please remember them for their service to St. Margaret's. They continued to usher right to the very end, in spite of health problems.

Fr. Robinson



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.	31	4:30 pm	John Braceland (14th Anniversary)
			7:30 pm	Charlie & Mary Souza
Sunday	Feb.	1	7:30 am	John F. & Norma Kenney
			10:00 am (u)	Jan Donovan & Robert Sweeney
			12:00 noon	Marie Marchi
Monday	Feb.	2	9:00 am	Mary James
Tuesday	Feb.	3	9:00 am	Henry A. Kennedy
Friday	Feb.	6	9:00 am	Malachy Browne
Saturday	Feb.	7	9:00 am	Robert Westwater (1st Anniversary)
			4:30 pm	Mollie & William Holley & Holley Christiansen Barbieri
			7:30 pm	Helen Carr
Sunday	Feb.	8	7:30 am	Connie, Margaret, Connie Jr., George, Jim, Jack Hanafin & Donal Dignan
			10:00 am (u)	Mary McCarthy
			12:00 noon	David Desmond

Memorial Prayers:Roberta Sheppard, Chris Mitropoulos, Ronald Caserta, John Jordan



Prayers for the Sick



Jack Pessotti	John O'Connor
Brian Joseph	Donald Welch
Spike Lawless	Robert Menzies
Sis	Sandra Davis
Helen Boyle	Sal Solimine
Patrice Guanci	Dick Butler
Irene Grace	Scott M.
Baby Hannah	Nicholas
Jean Simpson	John Nagle
Bea Reese	Baby Haley
Francis Ellis	Baby Courtney
Stephen	Ollie Muir
Elizabeth Walsh	Fr. Ryan
Bella Russo	Alice Welch
Rebecca	Helen Feehan
Cathy Fichtner	Michael Munafo
Connie Tedesco	Ann Martin
Carl Christiansen	Paul Donovan
Peggy McGarry	Joe Brown
Barbara Danner	Baby Declan

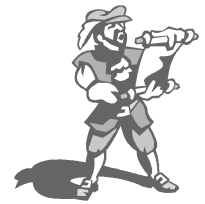


Prayers for Protection



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
Kerry McDonough	Air Force	Iraq
MA-3 James Marchese	Navy	Italy
Tech Sgt. Jeremy Brooks	A.F.	Iraq
Pvt. 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
Lt. Col. Mark Merlino	Army	Iraq

With regards to the prayers for healing and protection, there is a need to keep the list current and not outdated. Please call us in regards to that.



Announcements

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

Tayah Ann Maria Fulciniti
Kendall Morgan Heck

Matthew Thomas Blouin Farulla
Allyson Carolina Conway.

Funerals - This past week, St. Margaret's presided at the funeral of Frank Nocella and Joe Arena. Please remember Frank, Joe and their families in your prayers.

Parish Council - Next meeting Sunday February 8, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Italian Language Classes - for further information, class times and registration, please visit our website at www.burlingtonsonsofitaly.org or call Carol Nappa at 617-650-6302.

Careful - Please watch your comings and goings between the parking areas and the church. Drifts and ice are spotty. Everyone needs to be extremely cautious, especially on our front stairs.

New Altar Servers - have started altar serving classes for all 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders. Classes will be held Sat. mornings from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. For more information contact Matthew or Judy Hanafin at (781) 272-5696.

Natural Family Planning Classes - The Couple to Couple League for National Family Planning announces a series of classes beginning on Sunday, Feb. 1 at 2:00 p.m. in North Billerica. For more information or to pre-register please phone Ed & Robin Kuczynski at (978) 670-2838 or e-mail at EDSNMP@juno.com

Eucharistic Adoration - will be held First Friday, February 6, 2009 after the 9 am Mass from 9:30am-5pm ending in Benediction. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited at 3pm by Deacon Counihan. Sign up sheets will be at the back of the church to ensure we have coverage for all hours. If you can't sign up for an hour, please come at your convenience. We hope parents will bring their children to this beautiful devotion which helps us to establish heart to heart contact with Jesus who is truly present in the Host.

Tax Statements - have arrived and can be picked up at the rectory, preferably during the weekdays between 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. If there is a mistake just call Fr. Robinson and it will be corrected. These statements don't include the Grand Annual donation. If you need a Grand Annual statement, see Fr. Robinson.

Congratulations - Two of our parishioners, Tim McLaughlin and Jason Chludzinski, have received the Eagle Scout award, the highest honor in scouting. Their dedication and contribution to our town & church is greatly to be admired & imitated. Well done gentlemen!

St. Irene's - Carlisle - Feb.5th at 7:30 p.m. presents "Culture, Science and the Church".



Religious Education



Mary Murgo – Director

School Phone: 781-272-5810

Stmargccd@hotmail.com

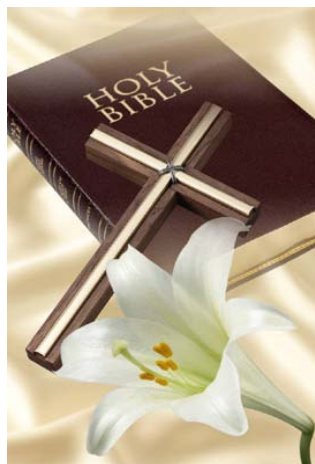
GRADE 2: Congratulations to Isabella Alessi, Joseph Barbieri, Elisa Gonzalez, Matthew Smith, Andrew Woods, and Gabriel Zeinoun for successfully passing their oral prayer tests!

GRADE 2: PARENTS please help your children practice the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and Act of Contrition at home. All oral prayer testing should be completed by **March 8th, 2009**. See www.schoolnotes.com for copies of the required prayers.

GRADES 2 and 3 Schedule Change: Due to the snow cancellations, the lessons on Child Safety will *not* be taught at the end of the weekly religious education lessons. Instead, all of the Child Safety lessons will be taught on Sunday, May 17th, 2009. Parent volunteers are needed to teach these lessons. Training is available for interested parents. To sign up for training or to find out more information, please send an email to stmargccd@hotmail.com.

FIRST PENANCE will take place on **Saturday, April 4th** at 9:30 and at 11:30 in the upstairs church. Students whose last names begin with **A-L** will make First Penance at **9:30 a.m.** Students whose last names begin with **M-Z** will make First Penance at **11:30 a.m.** Second grade students and their parents are invited to attend a reception at the school hall immediately after the penance service. The reception will be provided by students in grades 9 and 10.

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.*



Altar Ministries – Jan 31/ Feb 1



Saturday
4:30 PM
Celebrant: Father Robinson
Cantor: Kaitlyn Sullivan
Reader: Joanne Mackey
EMHC(s): Joanne O’Keeffe, Elaine Wishneusky,
 Rosella Bilotta
Server(s): Matt, Mike & Rob Ackerman

Saturday
7:30 PM
 Father Robinson

 Michael Fazio
 Frances Fazio, Jean Field
 Mario Fazio, Riley Feller

Sunday
7:30 AM
Celebrant: Father Kilroy
Cantor: ---
Reader: Beth Mackey
EMHC(s): Lucy Bramanti, Dawn Dionne
Server(s): Annabelle Dionne, Paige Brand

Sunday
10:00 AM Upper Church
 Father Kilroy
 Christine Field
 Dick Hanafin
 Bill Boudreau, Keavan Stryker
 August Kaminski, Olivia Varghese

10:00 AM Children’s Mass
Celebrant: Fr. Robinson
Cantor: April Healy, George Vallas
Reader:
EMHC(s): Nicole Griffin, Mary Rigby, Jolene Fogerty
Server(s): Nicole Scola, Kevin Coluci

12:00 Noon
 Father Robinson
 Christine Field
 Paul Mazzocca
 Arthur Huse
 Ross Griffin, Kevin Cox

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.

January 25, 2009
Latest Financial Figures

\$2,379 - Latin America
\$7,317 - Weekly Offertory Collection
\$8,692 - Weekly Amount Banked
\$374,048 - Amount Banked YTD
\$337,500 - Budget Year to Date
\$36,548 - Budget Surplus Year to Date

Upcoming Second Collections

February 8 - Peter’s Pence
February 15 - Building Fund

Saint Blaise – Bishop and Martyr

On February 3, the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Blaise. As part of that celebration, we have the blessing of the throats. But – who was St. Blaise?

Very little is known about St. Blaise. St. Blaise was a fourth century bishop who lived in Armenia. Much of what is known about the life of St. Blaise comes from the legends about his life. It is believed that Blaise was martyred for the Faith in his diocese of Sebastea in Armenia in the year 316. The legends surrounding St. Blaise state that, during the persecution of Roman Emperor Licinius, Blaise was forced into exile into the hills in the backcountry of his diocese. There he lived as a hermit, spending his days in prayer and penance.



The legends say that one of the products of Blaise's holiness was that even the most wild of animals became his companions without any harm to him. One day hunters discovered Blaise while seeking wild animals for the amphitheater and arrested him as a Christian. Blaise was taken to prison, but on the way there he interceded to God on the behalf of a child who was choking to death on a fish bone. The child was cured, but Blaise was forced to continue on his way to prison. While in prison, Blaise confirmed that he was a Christian and was given the chance to recant his profession of Faith if he offered worship to the pagan idols. Blaise refused even after being tortured. Finally, Blaise was beheaded.

St. Blaise is revered as the patron saint of wild animals and of those with maladies of the throat. He was a very popular saint during the middle ages, most probably because, according to legend, he was a physician and wonderful cures were ascribed to him. For this reason, the faithful sought his help and intercession when ill. Numberless churches and altars were dedicated to him and many localities throughout Europe claimed to possess some of his relics.

In many places on the day of his feast the blessing of St. Blaise is given: two candles are consecrated, generally by a prayer, these are then held in a crossed position over the heads of the faithful or the people are touched on the throat with them. In other places oil is consecrated in which the wick of a small candle is dipped. The throats of those present are touched with the wick. At the same time the following blessing is given: "Per intercessionem S. Blasii liberet te Deus a malo gutteris et a quovis alio malo" (May God at the intercession of St. Blaise preserve you from throat troubles and every other evil). In some dioceses is added: "in nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus" and the priest makes the sign of the cross over the faithful. In the Latin Church, his feast falls on February 3rd and in the Oriental Churches on February 11th. He is represented holding two crossed candles in his hand or in a cave surrounded by wild beasts, as he was found by the hunters of the governor.

101%

What does it mean to give MORE than 100%? Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%?

How about achieving 101%?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help answer these questions.

If: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Corresponds to: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O- R- K

$$8+1+18+4+23+ 15+18+11 = 98\%$$

And:

K-N-O-W-L-E- D-G-E

$$11+14+15+23+ 12+5+4+7+ 5 = 96\%$$

And:

A-T-T-I-T-U- D-E

$$1+20+20+9+20+ 21+4+5 = 100\%$$

But, most importantly:

L-O-V-E-O-F- G-O-D

$$12+15+22+5+15+ 6+7+15+4 = 101\%$$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that while Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the **Love of God** that will put you over the top!