

St. Margaret's Parish

Burlington, MA

February 22, 2009

GOD OUR FATHER

YOU CREATE US FROM

THE DUST OF THE EARTH

GRANT THAT THESE ASHES MAY BE

FOR US A SIGN OF OUR PENITENCE

AND A SYMBOL OF OUR MORTALITY



Ash Wednesday

St. Margaret's Parish

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Parish Staff

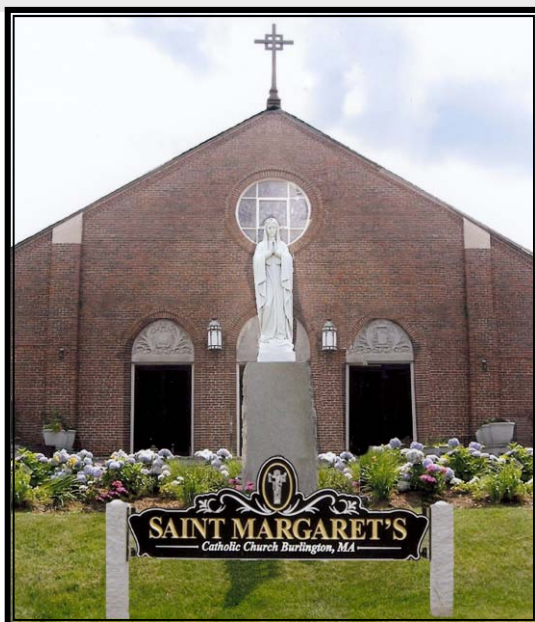


Rev. Joseph Robinson
Deacon Dick Bilotta
Mrs. Peg Kelly
Mrs. Tina Braceland
Mrs. Mary Murgio
Ms. Mary Meehan
Mrs. Marge Fusco
Ms. Christine Field
Mr. Sonny Dirienzo
Mr. John Reale
Mrs. Maureen Crowe

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
Stephen Morecroft
Peter O'Keeffe
David Peterson
Tony Sulfaro
George Vallas

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

Dick Donovan

Ministries

Home Visitation

Cynthia Kendall

Sacristan

Mary Peck

Pro-Life

Charles & Rose Hanafin
Bob Rigby

Baptisms

Eleanor Hutchinson
Andrea Lamb

Landscaping

Jim Brine
Mary Lou McQuinn
Pat Moreno

Confirmation

Joanne Mackey
Lydia Brown
Simone Tigges

Helping Hands

Peg Kelly

Ushers

Frank McGonagle

Altar Servers

Judy Hanafin
Matthew Hanafin

Bulletin/Website

Deacon Dick Bilotta
Tina Braceland
Janet Fitzgerald
K.G. Varghese

Dear Parishioners:

Wednesday, February 25, 2009 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses and the Mass schedule is listed below. Lent is a call to a springtime kind of penance, namely the softening of the ground, a digging and plowing down into our souls, so necessary if God's grace is to lead us to an Easter fruitfulness.

On the tables at the main entrance are Lenten folders for sacrificial offerings (almsgiving) this particular season. There are also the traditional mite boxes for our young people. These folders and mite boxes can be a daily reminder that the season of Lent is about Jesus' sacrifice for us and our sacrifice for others. So far this year St. Margaret's has contributed well over \$15,000 for charitable purposes. As far as I am concerned I think charity now begins at home. We are headed rapidly towards red ink for the fiscal year as you can see from our weekly figures. I am asking that we use these Lenten folders for our parish. One dollar a day of sacrificial offering for the forty days of Lent will help ease our predicament. Very few used these folders last year. I am hoping Lent 2009 will be vastly different. Only if a substantial number of us, including myself, participate will we make a real difference. Please consider using these folders. They are at all entrances to the Church. If you choose to participate just drop them into the collection box. And if our young ones use the mite boxes, they will be recognized in the announcement page of the bulletin. They made a great contribution last year.

Fr. Robinson

Ash Wednesday - February 25, 2009

6:45 a.m. - Mass & Ashes

9:00 a.m. - Mass & Ashes

7:30 p.m. - Mass & Ashes



Stations of the Cross
Every Friday afternoon in Lent at 3:00 p.m.
In the upstairs church



Lenten Regulations 2009

ABSTINENCE: Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligations of Abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.

FAST: Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

LENT is a period of special penitential observance. Following the instructions of the Holy See, The Bishops of the United States have declared that the obligation to fast and to abstain from meat still binds on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In this matter, the faithful enjoy freedom in conscience to excuse themselves, but as the Bishops state, "no Catholic Christian will lightly excuse himself (herself) from so hallowed an obligation" on these days. In addition, the tradition of abstinence from meat on the other Fridays of Lent is preserved.



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	Feb. 21	4:30 pm	Vahey Family Memorial
		7:30 pm	Rev. James Shaughnessey
Sunday	Feb. 22	7:30 am	Paul Day
		10:00 am (u)	William Perry (1st Anniversary)
		12:00 noon	John McNeill (6th Anniversary)
Monday	Feb. 23	9:00 am	George James (1st Anniversary)
Tuesday	Feb. 24	6:45 am	George Zsovakis & his parents & family
		9:00 am	Marlow Cronin (7th Anniversary)
Wednesday	Feb. 25	9:00 am	Joseph Valerio
Thursday	Feb. 26	9:00 am	Mildred Patterson (10th Anniversary)
Friday	Feb. 27	9:00 am	Patricia M. Shea
Saturday	Feb. 28	9:00 am	Anthony & Marion Kuczynski
		4:30 pm	Winifred Brown
		7:30 pm	Helen Carr
Sunday	March 1	10:00 am	William Morrissey
		12:00 noon	Joseph Michael Moroney Jr. (4th Anniversary)



Prayers for the Sick



Jack Pessotti	Maria Caserta
Grace Tramantozzi	Brian Joseph
Barbara Danner	Donald Welch
Spike Lawless	Robert Menzies
Sis	Sandra Davis
Helen Boyle	Sal Solimine
Patrice Guanci	Dick Butler
Dottie Halley	Scott M.
Baby Hannah	Nicholas
Jean Simpson	John Nagle
Bea Reese	Baby Haley
Francis Ellis	Baby Courtney
Baby Declan	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
Peg Matarazzo	John M



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. With respect to those who are sick, please verify you have their permission, as not everyone wants the public to know he or she is ill. For those in the military, please give us their rank, branch of service, and where they are stationed.



Announcements

Baptisms - This past week, St. Margaret's celebrated the new life of Baptism with Olivia Ryan Brady. We congratulate her parents & rejoice with them.

Funerals - This past week, St Margaret's presided at the funeral of Louis Marconnot & Priscilla Bibeau. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Eucharistic Ministers - The diocese is holding a regional workshop in our parish hall on Tuesday evenings March 3 and March 10 from 7-9 p.m. Please see Fr. Robinson if interested.

Pro-Life Issue - There are postcards at all entrances to the church for those of you interested in addressing them to members of Congress, stating your opposition to the Freedom of Choice Act. The National Conference of Bishops is designating this group postcard mailing as one way to witness our pro-life stance on the abortion issue.

If You Would - On your collection envelopes it would be a big help if you would mark the amount in the appropriate spot. Also please do not use scotch tape. We open & count by hand and these things will help in easing the process.

Volunteer Needed - to help clean the sanctuary area & church-if possible on Mondays- or any other time during the week. Please call Mary Peck at 781-272-1967 if you can volunteer.

Burlington Knights of Columbus Council #4978 - will be one of nine local K of C Councils hosting a prom for the developmentally challenged, to be held on Wed., May 20, 2009 at the Tewksbury Country Club. Ages 15-35 are welcome. There is no charge for this event, and dresses & tuxedos will be provided. We are seeking sponsorships & donations of formal dresses. If you'd like to help out, or require more information on the prom, please contact Mike Judge at 781-507-1981.

Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline - 1-800-645-8333 : TTY: 1-800-377-1292. With the high cost of living in the Commonwealth and more than 522,000 people across the state struggling to put food on the table, chances are that a friend or neighbor of yours is having difficulty making ends meet this winter. Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline can help. Counselors can provide information and screen callers for food stamp eligibility, connect them to school meal programs, and direct them to emergency food resources right in their neighborhood. Their hours have been extended: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. -7:00 pm and on Saturday: 10am-2pm.

Catholic Appeal - The weekend of March 7-8 will be Catholic Appeal Weekend here at St. Margarets. Cardinal Sean is asking every Catholic household to participate in the 2009 Catholic Appeal, which funds the many central ministries and services of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Catholic Appeal is to our Archdiocese what the weekly offertory is to our parish- so your participation and support are critical. Because of the economic downturn, support of the Catholic Appeal is more urgent this year. Please begin to prayerfully consider how you will participate. Every gift matters. For more information, please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org.

Bible Study - will not be held on February 25 and will resume on March 4th.



Religious Education



Mary Murgo – Director

School Phone: 781-272-5810

Stmargccd@hotmail.com

GRADE 2: There will be a mandatory parents' meeting on **Sunday, March 8th at 7:00 p.m.** in the school hall to discuss First Penance and First Communion. Please make every effort to attend.

GRADE 2: Informational letters went home with students on Sunday, February 8th. If you did not receive one, please ask your child's teacher for a copy of the letter.

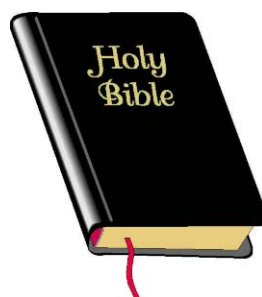
GRADE 2: Congratulations to Jayson Blouin, Mikayla Bonaventura, Christopher Boyle, Robert Castelluccio, Connor Collins, Joshua Coughlin, Elijah Gullage, Steven Humphreys, Cameron Impemba, Garrett Mallard, Sean McGillivray, William Metcalf, Madison Metzdorf, Patrick Miniutti, Liam Murphy, Jillian Murray, Ryan O'Connor, Magdalena Papia, John Pestana, Alyson Pinkham, Timothy Pinkham, Anthony Ponzini, Jessica Poulin, Caitlin Shea, Anthony Uberti, Kevin Urquhart, and Cameron Wheelock for successfully passing their oral prayer tests! *(Parents, thank you for helping your children learn their prayers!)*

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.

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.

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.

Please Note - Any religious education teacher in grades seven through twelve, who is interested and has the time, St. Margaret's will sponsor for an all-day symposium for adolescent catechesis featuring the Cardinal and other presenters at the new Pastoral Center in Braintree on Tuesday, March 5, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch is included. Please see Father Robinson as soon as possible as seats are limited.



Altar Ministries – Feb 21 / 22



Saturday
4:30 PM
Celebrant: Fr. Robinson
Cantor: Chuck Carnell
Reader: Janet Fitzgerald
EMHC(s): Tom Bova, Judy Curtin, Rosemarie Hrubí
Server(s): Jillian Ghio, Olivia Varghese

Saturday
7:30 PM
Fr. Robinson

Ron Kurtz
Mary Lou McQuinn, Stephen Morecroft
Ashley Poland, Riley Feller

Sunday
7:30 AM
Celebrant: Fr. Kilroy
Cantor: ---
Reader: Carl Humphreys
EMHC(s): Arthur Hughes, Brian Walsh
Server(s): Ross Griffin, Kevin Cox

Sunday
10:00 AM Upper Church
Fr. Kilroy
Christine Field
Laurie Glasser
Dick Donovan, Donna Donovan
Marie Fazio, Nicholas Whitney

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

12:00 Noon
Fr. Robinson
Christine Field
Paul Blanchard
Kathleen Blanchard
Nicholas Whitney, Paige Brand

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.

February 15, 2009
Latest Financial Figures

\$6,039 - Weekly Offertory Collection
\$4,672 - Building Fund
\$12,266 - Weekly Amount Banked
\$402,304 - Amount Banked YTD
\$371,250 - Budget Year to Date
\$31,054 - Budget Surplus Year to Date

Upcoming Second Collections

March 8 - Catholic Appeal

Spring Cleaning

Well, it's that time of year again. Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The word 'Lent' comes from an Old English word meaning Spring. And, just as we speak of 'spring cleaning' for our homes, Lent is supposed to be 'spring cleaning' for our souls.

Lent is supposed to be a time of spiritual restoration. It's about renewing our covenant with God. It's a time when we should take a step back from the routine of daily life and deepen our relationship with God. Lent is a season for soul-searching and repentance; a time for reflection and taking stock. Lent is about reflecting on our relationship with God and looking for areas in that relationship that we need to work on.

Questions and issues that we might reflect on during this time might include things like:

- > Are there areas of my life where I am not living the gospel as well as I should?
- > Am I spending enough time working on my relationship with God? Do I pray enough? Do I listen to what He has to say to me?
- > Have I allowed the influences of the world around me to dull my sense of right and wrong?
- > Have I truly opened my mind and heart completely to hear and obey God's will? Or, is there a part of me that I am withholding from him?

Questions like these can help us zero in on those areas of our lives which hinder us from having as deep a relationship with God as we should – as He would like.

Find some quiet time each day to spend some quality time with God. And, you know, it doesn't have to be a lot of time – 15 to 20 minutes is all it takes – doing something that takes you out of the world and puts you into God's presence. One very good way is to crack open the Bible, read a passage (maybe one of the readings for that day) and reflect on it. How is God trying to reach you through that reading today? There are some good daily meditation periodicals that you could subscribe to that could be very helpful. If you feel a bit more ambitious, then join us at our weekly Bible Study/ Prayer Group meetings where we come together to pray and share on God's Word.

Lent really is a great opportunity that we have every year to dust out the corners of our hearts, clean away our spiritual cobwebs, and polish up our holiness. We should emerge from Lent with a bright, shiny, renewed relationship with God, ready to greet him as He rises from the tomb on Easter Sunday.

A Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You, I can do nothing. By Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love.

God of love, bring me back to You. Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season nourish me with Your word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer.

Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father, our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom.

I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever. Amen.

Deacon Dick