St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church is a welcoming parish of disciples inviting all to grow in holiness through the reverent celebration of the Eucharist and Sacraments while reaching out to those in need and sharing our Catholic faith with all.

St. Margaret Mary Councils

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Judy Clyne, Chair Phyllis Benbow Cesar Cueva Salvador Figueroa David Langdon Dan Little Marisol Mireles Brandon Schneeberger

LeAnn Wilson

FINANCE COUNCIL

Doug Thigpen, Chair John Czarnecki Ernie Reynolds Dulce Schneeberger Tom Schodorf

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CABINET

Tom Schodorf, Chair

Phyllis Benbow John Czarnecki
Antonio Garcia Claudia Graham
Kristy Kimball Laurie Looney
Anne Pacosa Mike Rovinski

To contact any Council Member, please send an email to: office@saintmmc.com.



This Week on Formed

Week of December 21, 2025



The Story of Christmas | Benjamin Cello Christmas Special

In this special hour-long television event, Benjamin Cello and his friends travel to Pennywhistle Park for a spectacular shadow puppet retelling of "The Story of Christmas" by Brother Joseph and "The Shadow of His Wings" puppet theater.



Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This farmous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



What Catholics Believe About Christmas: Traditions, Santa Claus

Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about Christmas. What are the 12 days of Christmas? Was Santa Claus a real person? What is Advent?

Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

How do parishioners register to use our FORMED subscription?

Registering for **FORMED** is easier than ever: Go to formed.org/signup:

- 1. Select our Parish by name;
- 2. Register with your name and email address;
- Check your email account for a link to begin using FORMED;
- 4. Scan the QR Code to download the **FORMED** app.

It's free! Download books, watch great movies, podcasts, and more!

Women of St. Margaret Mary

Our women's group is a service organization created to support the mission of our parish and our pastor's initiatives, and to promote individual spiritual growth through prayers, reflection, and action.

OUR MISSION

BECOME A MEMBER!

Catholic women 18 years and older are invited to join. Our group gives women the opportunity to fully live their Catholic faith by sharing their gifts and talents with our parish, the community, and each other.

Questions? Email: stmargaretmary1936@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a global Catholic fraternal order founded by Fr. Michael J. McGivney in 1882 to assist families upon the death of the main income earner. The organization has grown to become the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Knights support vocations, charitable outreach, professional insurance programs and more. Knights are dedicated to the principles of unity, charity, fraternity, and patriotism. Membership is open to practical Catholic men, aged 18 years or older. Learn more about the Knights of Columbus, by contacting Jesse Boeckermann at 605-376-4234 or email jessebach7@gmail.com.

St. Vincent de Paul Society



Thank you for your generous gifts and prayers to support our ministry. Most folks just need some help through a rough patch in their lives. If you can help us financially, SVdP poor boxes are in the church vestibule and in the

overflow seating entrance. Donations may also be mailed to PQ Box 4, Swannanoa, NC 28778 or given on the parish website saintmmc.com by choosing the fund St. Vincent de Paul Society.

If you would like to make an honor or memorial gift, contact Terry at 919-522-9892 or email terry.f.foley@gmail.com.

If you or someone you know is experiencing financial difficulties, please remember that SVdP is here to help. Call 800-862-1633 on Mondays 6am — noon, all calls are held in strictest confidence.

"Lord, help me to make time today to serve you in those who are most in need of encouragement or assistance." \sim St. Vincent de Paul

Catholic Charities Asheville

Catholic Charities serves the poor and vulnerable regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. We offer financial help, burial assistance, bilingual licensed clinical mental health counseling, elder ministry, immigration services, and a food pantry at our Asheville office.

We couldn't do what we do without our caring, dedicated volunteers and your generous donations.

Donate at www.ccdoc.org/give Join our volunteer team by contacting Hilary Kalisch at HRKalisch@rcdoc.org.



St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

🛧 Serving the Swannanoa Valley since 1936 💠

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Father John Allen, *Pastor*Deacon Dan Hoffert
Deacon Ralph Eckoff, retired

Claudia G. Graham
Chief Financial & Operating Officer and
Pastoral Associate
Jennifer Puzerewski
Director of Ministries and Pastoral Associate
Tayler D'Abbraccio, Youth Formation
Karen Parsons, Organist

102 Andrews Place Swannanoa, North Carolina 28778 Website: www.saintmmc.com www.facebook.com/stmargaretmaryswannanoa

Celebration of the Sacraments

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm

Sunday: 8:30am & 11:00am; 1:00pm (Spanish)

Monday - Thursday: 8:45am Holy Days: Check website

CONFESSION

Confession is available immediately following each daily Mass and on Saturdays immediately following the 4:30pm Mass and Sundays immediately following the 8:30am, and 11am Masses.

BAPTISM

Please contact the office to arrange preparation and to complete the required registrations and forms. Baptisms will be scheduled once these requirements are met.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

Please email to register: stmmcfaith@gmail.com.

MARRIAGE

An appointment with the Pastor must be scheduled at least *twelve months* before the intended wedding date and to begin preparation.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office during office hours to arrange anointing for parishioners of St. Margaret Mary. Anointing should take place immediately following diagnosis of any serious illness or before major surgery. Please do not wait until death is imminent to receive this sacrament. May also be requested during scheduled confession times.



"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

~ Matthew 1:20-21

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:15AM - 3:00PM Closed Fridays, Holy Days and Holidays

OFFICE: 828-686-8833, press 0 for Front Desk

Por informatión en español oprima 9

FAX: 828-686-8832

E-MAIL: office@saintmmc.com

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCIES FOR THE DYING: A family member of a St. Margaret Mary parishioner should call 828-686-8833, after business hours press 2

WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC? Join O.C.I.A.

OCIA is Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. We welcome those who desire to learn more about our Catholic faith, those who wish to become Catholic, and those who wish to return to the practice of their faith. For more information, please email Deacon Dan and Linda Hoffert at hofferts@bellsouth.net.

ADULT CHOIR/SCHOLA: Call the office at 828-686-8833.

VISITS FOR SICK & HOMEBOUND: Call parish office.

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION: Contact the Catholic Formation Team at: stmmcfaith@gmail.com.

December 21, 2025

Mass Intentions

Sat	12/20	4:30pm	Steve & Pam Raymond
Sun	12/21	8:30am	Pro Populo
		11:00am	Carol Kopko
		1:00pm	† Gumercindo Mireles
Mon	12/22	8:45am	Casie Rovinski
Tue	12/23	8:45am	†Ramon Leon
Wed	12/24	4:00pm	Holy Souls in Purgatory
		6:00pm	† Rick & Sara Howell
		8:00pm	Sally Shrock
Thur	12/25	10:00am	Pro Populo
Fri	12/26		NO MASS



Please Pray for...

Those who are sick or have special needs:

Shaun Benbow, Susan Blanchard, Kate Bogush, Dana Breeding, Joseph Buttera, Donna Collins, Barry Cook, Jack Crowley, Carolyn Dickenson, Maureen Flannigan, Patricia Grace, Baby Elizabeth Heimer, Bernie Hyland, Allison Hoefling, Don & Priscilla Kuffel, Jim Lauer, Lane Lehman, Janet Linda, Meghan McGinnis, Cecelia Meredith, Lori Owensby, Lindsey & Jordan Owensby, Marilyn Rebholz, Rhonda Rivera, Linda Robinson, Roger Salten, Sally Schoen, Marellen Struhar, Betty Testa, Arlene Turner, Vickie Wright, Toddler Vivienne Joy, Sandy Yacovelli.

Homebound or in Assisted Living:

Marian Bogdanowicz, Dorothy Kelly, Margaret Morrow

Our Family Members Serving in the Military:

Chief Petty Officer Chris Balot, son of Randy Balot Staff Sgt. Jordan Owensby, grandson of Linda Gurecky. Captain Christian Kimball, son of Kristy Kimball. Airman Jack Vess, son of Eric & Christine Vess.



"And the angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." Luke 1:35



IMPORTANT DATES!

Dec 21: 12pm Dogma & Donuts - Young Adults (PH) Dec 21: 2pm Parish Posada Celebration (PH)

Dec 27: 11am Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood

Jan 11: 9:30am OCIA (PH)

(PH = Parish Hall; CH = Church)

Scriptures for the Week

MON Dec 22

1st Sam 1: 24-28; 1st Sam 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1: 46-56

TUE Dec 23 John of Kanty, Priest

Malachi 3: 1-4, 4: 5-6; Ps 25: 4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1: 57-66

2nd Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Luke 1: 67-79

THUR Dec 25 The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 52: 7-10; Ps 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1: 1-6; John 1: 1-18

FRI Dec 26 Stephen, Protomartyr

Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59; Ps 31: 3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Ps 118: 26a, 27a; Matthew 10: 17-22

SAT Dec 27 John, Apostle, Evangelist

1st John 1: 1-4; Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20: 1a and 2-8

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14; Ps 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3: 12-21; Colossians 3: 15a, 16a; Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

Schedule for the Week

Office closed Tuesday-Thursday

The church is open for prayer during office hours.

Mon Dec 22 8:45am Mass

9:15am-3pm Office Open

7pm Reunión del grupo masculine (PH)

8:45am Mass Tues Dec 23

Wed Dec 24 The Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

4pm, 6pm (bilingual), 8pm

Thur Dec 25 The Nativity of the Lord

10am Mass

Fri Dec 26 Church & Office Closed

Sat Dec 27 11am Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood

4:30pm Mass

Sun Dec 28 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30am Mass

11:00am Mass

1pm Mass (Español)



Pick up your 2026 Calendar this weekend! Donations are appreciated.



December Wedding Anniversaries:



Joe & Bea Madden ~ 52 John & Marellen Struhar ~ 48 Paul & Alison Curtain ~ 45 Gerado & Hermila Gonzales ~ 28 Salvado & Julia Arzate-Castillo ~ 20

Happy Anniversary!



UPDATE:

- ♦ Thus far we have received a total of \$479,702.39 in cash donations.
- We have \$1,495,404 pledged.
- ♦ We have received 69 gifts: 52 from parishioners and 17 from non-parishioners.
- We have 28 pledges—gifts spread over 3 to 5 years. Three pledges over \$200K, 3 over \$50K, 4 over \$10K, and 14 over \$2K.

If you have any questions, big or small, please call Anne at our Bells of Hope help desk: 828-747-7261. Your gifts are a blessing to our parish.

These improvements to our church have just been a vision over the last 25 years. Your gifts to Bells of Hope will make that vision a reality. Thank you for your incredible generosity.

> **Online Giving for Bells of Hope**











INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

On school days, we follow Buncombe County Schools. If schools are closed, our campus is also closed and there are no Masses. If schools are delayed there is no Mass and the office will open at 11:00am.

Parishioners will be notified through Flocknote text about any cancellations. We also will post schedule updates on our parish Facebook page and our parish website.

> Check our website (saintmmc.com) or WLOS Channel 13 or WLOS.com.

Stewardship



MONTH ACTUAL

% OF GOAL

Offertory - Fiscal Yr To Date Jul 1 - Dec 17 GOAL \$312,000 % OF GOAL YTD ACTUAL

Religious Retirement - \$1,430

Donate online at saintmmc.com or here

May God bless you for your financial stewardship!





Reflecting God's Light

2025 DSA Collected: \$32,889.31 2025 Goal: \$35,506.00 % of Goal: 93%







Stewardship A way of living

Stewardship Reflection December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary. God grant that I mat be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.



Parish staff gets asked this time of year, "What does Father want for Christmas?"

Father Allen considers himself to be the luckiest priest in the world to be at St. Margaret Mary. Father needs nothing and requests no personal gifts be given to him. He asks for prayers and support from everyone to the Bells of Hope Capital Campaign!

En esta época del año, al personal parroquial se le pregunta: "¿Qué desea el Padre para Navidad?"

El Padre Allen se considera el sacerdote más afortunado del mundo por estar en Santa Margarita María. El Padre no necesita nada y no pide que le den regalos personales. Pide oraciones y apoyo de todos para la Campaña de Capital "Campañas de Esperanza".





