

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.

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Mike Rovinski

To contact any Council Member, please send an email to: [office@saintmmc.com](mailto:office@saintmmc.com).



### This Week on Formed

Week of February 01, 2026



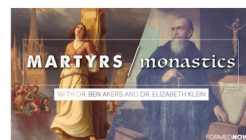
#### The Presentation

The Presentation is already foreshadowing the Cross. The offering Mary makes at the Presentation in the Temple becomes manifested and reaches its fulfillment at Calvary.



#### The Martyrs | Littlest Saints

When a young Christian girl is arrested and imprisoned in ancient Rome, she hears stories of martyrs like St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Lawrence the Deacon—will she find the strength to make the ultimate sacrifice for her faith?



#### Martyrs and Monastics

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. Elizabeth Klein, Professor of Theology at the Augustine Institute Graduate School, to discuss her Short Course: Martyrs and Monastics. Who are the early Church martyrs? What fueled their witness to the faith? How did monasticism develop? These questions and more are addressed in this show.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

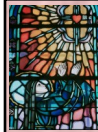
#### How do parishioners register to use our FORMED subscription?

Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:  
Go to [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup):

1. Select our Parish by name;
  2. Register with your name and email address;
  3. 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 MISSION

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.

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 PO Box 4, Swannanoa, NC 28778 or given on the parish website [saintmmc.com](https://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](mailto: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.” ~ 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](https://www.ccdoc.org/give)  
Join our volunteer team by contacting Hilary Kalisch at [HRKalisch@rdoc.org](mailto:HRKalisch@rdoc.org).



# St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

✦ Serving the Swannanoa Valley since 1936 ✦

February 1, 2026

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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](https://www.saintmmc.com)  
[www.facebook.com/stmargaretmaryswannanoa](https://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

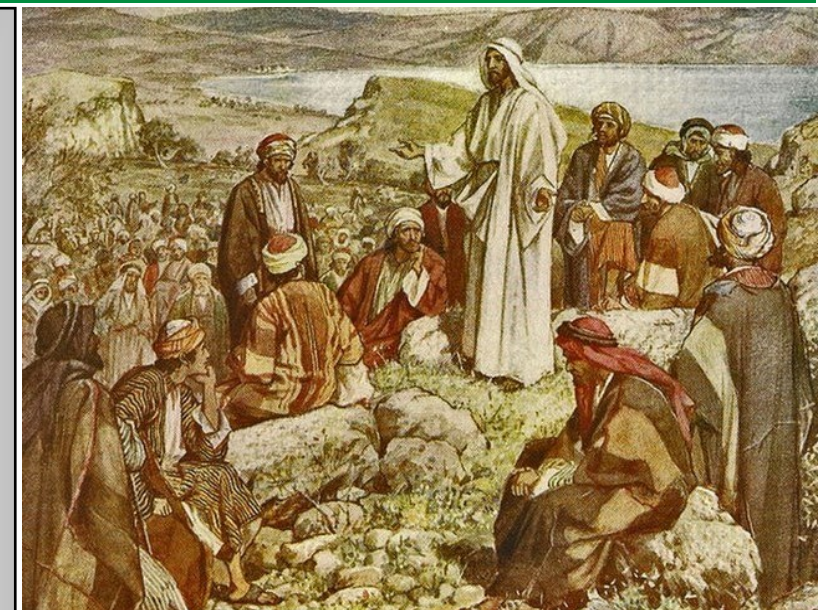
Please email to register: [stmmcfaith@gmail.com](mailto:stmmcfaith@gmail.com).

#### 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.



*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*  
~ Matthew 5:10

#### 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 información en español oprima 9

**FAX:** 828-686-8832

**E-MAIL:** [office@saintmmc.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:stmmcfaith@gmail.com).

February 1, 2026



Mass Intentions				
Sat	01/31	4:30pm	.....	† Peg Russ
Sun	02/01	8:30am	.....	† Dot Sobol
		11:00am	.....	Pro Populo
		1:00pm	.....	Fernando Damian
Mon	02/02	8:45am	.....	Leila Flanagan
Tue	02/03	8:45am	.....	† Vincent Morisset
Wed	02/04	8:45am	.....	† Harry & Helen Brooks
Thur	02/05	8:45am	.....	Barbara Vincelli
Fri	02/06		.....	Mike Cheatham

 **Please Pray for...**


**Those who are sick or have special needs:**  
Marian Bogdanowicz, Shaun Benbow, Susan Blanchard, Donna Collins, Jack Crowley, Carolyn Dickenson, Bernie Hyland, Allison Hoefling, Dorothy Kelly, Don & Priscilla Kuffel, Jim Lauer, Cecelia Meredith, Margaret Morrow, Marilyn Rebholz, Sally Schoen, Marellen Struhar, Vivienne Joy, Vicki Wright, Sandy Yacovelli.


**Our Family Members Serving in the Military:**  
**Captain Christian Kimball**, son of Kristy Kimball.  
**Airman Jack Vess**, son of Eric & Christine Vess.



**IMPORTANT DATES!**

Feb 2: 8:45am Candlemas & candle blessing  
Feb 3: St. Blaise Throat Blessing following 8:45am Mass  
Feb 18: Ash Wednesday  
Feb 20: 5:30pm Stations of the Cross-English (CH)  
6:30pm Stations of the Cross-Spanish (CH)  
Feb 24: Vespers & Soup Tuesday nights during lent at 6pm

(PH = Parish Hall; CH = Church)

 Our Altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of Dot Sobol by the Sobol Family *May Dot Rest In Peace.*

 Fr. Allen would like to express thanks to Salvador Figueroa for decades of service on our Parish Council. Salvador has decided to step down and Maria Borges has accepted her appointment to the Parish Council.

 Knights of Columbus Pancake and Sausage Breakfast February 8th, after the 8:30am & 11am Masses Donations are appreciated to help support the Knight's charitable outreach. 

**Scriptures for the Week**

**MON Feb 2 Presentation of the Lord**  
Malachi 3:1-4; Ps 24: 7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 32; Luke 2: 22-40 or Luke 2: 22-32

**TUE Feb 3 Blaise, Bishop, Martyr**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 18: 9-10, 14, 24-25a, 30 - 19: 3; Ps 86: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Matthew 8: 17; Mark 5: 21-43

**WED Feb 4**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sam 24: 2, 9-17; Ps 32: 1-2, 5, 6, 7; John 10: 27; Mark 6: 1-6

**THUR Feb 5 Agatha, Virgin, Martyr**  
1<sup>st</sup> Kings 2: 1-4, 10-12; 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 29: 10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Mark 1: 15; Mark 6: 7-13

**FRI Feb 6 Paul Miki, Priest, Martyr**  
Sirach 47: 2-11; Ps 18: 31, 47 & 50, 51; Lk 8: 15; Mk 6: 14-29

**SAT Feb 7 Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Kings 3: 4-13; Ps 119: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; John 10: 27; Mark 6: 30-34

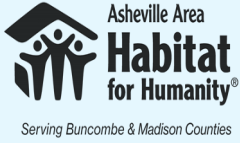
**SUN Feb 8**  
Isaiah 58: 7-10; Ps 112: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2: 1-5; John 8: 12; Matthew 5: 13-16

**Schedule for the Week**

**Office open Monday-Thursday 9:15am-3:00pm**  
The church is open for prayer during office hours.

**Mon Feb 2** 8:45am Candlemas  
**Tues Feb 3** 8:45am Mass; St. Blaise Throat Blessing  
**Wed Feb 4** 8:45am Mass  
6:30pm Knights of Columbus Mtg (PH)  
**Thur Feb 5** 8:45am Mass  
**Fri Feb 6** 8:45am First Friday Mass  
Church and Office Closed  
**Sat Feb 7** 4:30pm Mass  
**Sun Feb 8** 8:30am Mass  
11:00am Mass  
1pm Mass (Español)

Our faith community is being asked to join other Asheville area churches to support the AVL Habitat Faith Build House at New Heights phase II off Old Haywood Rd. in West Asheville.



Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity  
Serving Buncombe & Madison Counties

All work will be done inside or landscaping outside in January and February. Dates: Sat. 1/24, Tue. 1/27, Sat. 1/31, Sat. 2/7 & 2/14, Thu. 2/19, Sat. 2/21, Fri. 2/27 (morning) and Sat. 2/28. Two volunteers are needed for each day. No experience is needed. Work days are from 8:30am until 4pm with breaks for snacks and lunch. A representative will be outside after Masses on 1/31 & 2/1 to recruit volunteers.

Contact parishioner David Langdon at 828-776-4675 or davidlangdon70@gmail.com for more information. Please consider lending a helping hand to this worthwhile project to provide affordable housing to a local family.



# Bells of Hope



**Project Goal \$4.5 Million**

3,150,000 Required by end of construction

1,350,000 Minimum to start construction

\$719,499

Pledges

Cash Received


Continuing to serve the Swannanoa Valley for the next 90 years!

**Thank you** to everyone who has pledged to our Bells of Hope campaign. We have made progress toward our groundbreaking goal and need your ongoing generosity to fulfill our construction commitments and meet the future financial needs of our church.

**For more information contact Bells of Hope at 828-747-7261.**

**Online Giving for Bells of Hope**






## St. Blaise Throat Blessing

- The Blessing of the Throats is a sacramental of the Roman Catholic Church, traditionally performed on February 3, the feast day of St. Blaise, a fourth-century bishop and martyr.
- This ritual involves a priest or deacon using two blessed candles, often tied with a red ribbon, to bless the throats of the faithful, invoking protection against throat ailments.
- St. Blaise is associated with throat healing due to a legend in which he miraculously saved a boy choking on a fishbone.
- The blessing is rooted in centuries-old Catholic tradition, reflecting the Church's belief in the intercession of saints for physical and spiritual well-being.
- Celebrated widely in Catholic communities, the ritual emphasizes God's grace and healing power through the intercession of St. Blaise.
- The practice also connects to the broader Catholic understanding of sacramentals as sacred signs that prepare the faithful to receive grace.

**Join us on Feb. 3rd at 8:45am for Throat Blessings**

Read more at: <https://www.catholicshare.com/what-is-the-origin-and-meaning-of-the-catholic-blessing-of-st-blaise-for-throats-on-february-3/>

## Stewardship



**Offertory for the Month and Year to Date**

JAN GOAL	MONTH ACTUAL	% OF GOAL
\$24,000	\$24,362	101%


**Offertory - Fiscal Yr To Date Jul 1 - Jan 28**

GOAL	YTD ACTUAL	% OF GOAL
\$312,000	\$178,864	57.3%

**National Mission Collection—\$978.56**

**Donate online at [saintmmc.com](https://saintmmc.com) or here**

*May God bless you for your financial stewardship!*




**2025 Contribution Statements** were mailed on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you donated \$250 or more to St. Margaret Mary's Parish in 2025, you should receive your statement in the mail.

Please call the parish office if you do not receive your statement by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Stewardship Reflection

February 1, 2026  
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Blessed are they who are what they are and do what they do for the sake of the Kingdom! The Gospel today assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the Kingdom will be rewarded!



## Candlemas Day

## What is Candlemas?

Candlemas Day is grounded in the biblical account found in *Luke 2:22-40*, which describes Mary and Joseph presenting the infant Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem. According to Jewish law, a mother was required to undergo purification 40 days after giving birth, as outlined in *Leviticus 12:2-8*. This event also involved presenting the firstborn son to God, as prescribed in *Exodus 13:2*. During this visit, Simeon, a righteous man, recognized Jesus as the Messiah, proclaiming Him as a "light for revelation to the Gentiles" (*Luke 2:32*). This declaration forms the theological core of Candlemas, emphasizing Christ as the light of the world. The feast, formally known as the Presentation of the Lord, is referenced in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 529) as a moment revealing Jesus' mission. The use of candles during the celebration symbolizes this light, illuminating the faithful's path toward salvation.

**Join us on Feb. 2nd at 8:45am for Mass and bring your candles to be blessed!**

Read more at: <https://www.catholicshare.com/celebrating-candlemas-day-a-timeless-tradition-of-light-and-devotion/>