

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

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



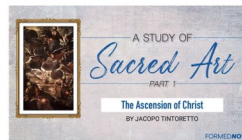
This Week on Formed

Week of May 17, 2026



Saint Rita

St. Rita of Cascia is immortalized in this wonderful, deeply moving film. This story is about the brave woman who married her knight, helped him overcome his dark past and convert to faith, happily bore him two children, and later endures immense pain as she loses everything in her life. Her story and love for Christ will inspire you to great holiness!



The Ascension | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp to expand your knowledge of sacred art. In this episode on Formed, they discuss The Ascension of Christ by Jacopo Tintoretto.



Saint Rita of Cascia: The True Story

A compelling docu-drama that tells the whole story of the amazing life of St. Rita of Cascia, the very popular saint who lived in Italy in the 14th century. Famous as the patroness of hopeless situations, St. Rita dealt with many very difficult and tragic events in her life. Through it all she developed a profound faith in God that was the source of her great strength, and why she is such a popular saint for all those dealing with difficult events in their own lives.

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

How do parishioners register to use our FORMED subscription?

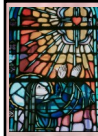
Registering for FORMED is easier than ever: Go to formed.org/signup:

1. Select our Parish by name;
2. Register with your name and email address;
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: office@saintmmc.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 PO 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 828-582-7932 on Mondays 6am – noon, all calls are held in strictest confidence.

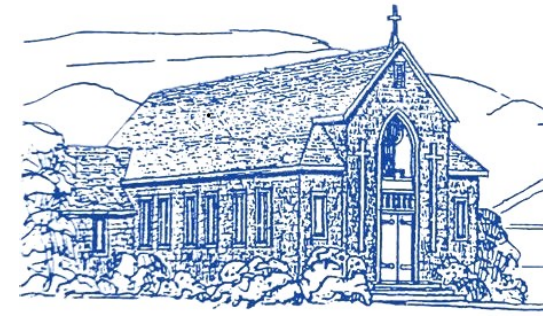
"Lord, help me to make time today to serve you in those who are most in need of encouragement or assistance." ~ St. Vincent de Paul

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
Join our volunteer team by contacting Hilary Kalisch at HRKalisch@rdoc.org.



St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

✦ Serving the Swannanoa Valley since 1936 ✦

May 17, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord- Seventh Sunday of Easter



Father John Allen, Pastor

Deacon Dan Hoffert

Deacon Ralph Eckoff, retired

Claudia G. Graham

Chief Financial & Operating Officer and Pastoral Associate

cggraham@saintmmc.com

Jennifer Puzerewski

Director of Ministries and Pastoral Associate

jpuzerewski@saintmmc.com

Kristina Maldonado, Youth Formation

Karen Parsons, Organist

102 Andrews Place

Swannanoa, North Carolina 28778

Website: www.saintmmc.com

www.facebook.com/stmargaretmmaryswannanoa

Celebration of the Sacraments

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm

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

Holy Days: Check website

CONFESSION

Confession times will be announced via Flocknote.

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.

While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." ~ Acts 1:9-11

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

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.

VISITS FOR SICK & HOMEBOUND: Call parish office.

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

Mass Intentions

Sat	05/16	4:30pm † John Clyne
Sun	05/17	8:30am Isla Tippin
		11:00am Pro Populo
		1:00pm Francisco Bonilla
Mon	05/18	 No Mass
Tue	05/19	 No Mass
Wed	05/20	 No Mass
Thur	05/21	 No Mass
Fri	05/22	 No Mass



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, Sally Schoen, Marellen Struhar, Bonnie Vess, Vivienne Joy, Vicki Wright, Sandy Yacovelli.

All Serving in Our Military, Especially Our Parish

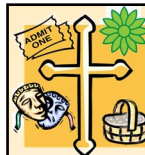
Family Members:

Captain Christian Kimball, son of Kristy Kimball.
Airman Jack Vess, son of Eric & Christine Vess.

IMPORTANT DATES!

May 16: 9:30am Women of StMMC Mtg (PH)
May 17: 12pm SAN Year End Event (PH)
May 19: 2pm Finance Council Mtg (JP23)
May 20: 5pm Parish Council Mtg (PH)
May 25: OFFICE CLOSED- Diocesan Holiday
May 30: 10am First Communion Rehearsal (CH)
June 3: 6:30pm Knights of Columbus Mtg (PH)
June 6: 10am First Holy Communion (CH)

(PH = Parish Hall; CH = Church)



PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

Are you interested in becoming more involved? Our Parish Life Commission has some great opportunities for you to share your time & talent!

- ⇒ Hospitality Weekend!
- ⇒ Parish Events! (Parish Picnics, Movie Nights, Bingo, Parish Outings-such as Tourist Baseball Games.)
- ⇒ Bereavement & Other Luncheons
- ⇒ Teen and youth activities! (Soccer Games in the park, Game Nights and Pizza Parties!)
- ⇒ Flower Planting

If you are interested, or if you have any new ideas, reach out to LeAnn at parishlife@saintmmc.com

Scriptures for the Week

MON May 18 John I, Pope, Martyr

Acts 19: 1-8; Ps 68: 2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Colossians 3: 1; John 16: 29-33

TUE May 19

Acts 20: 17-27; Ps 68: 10-11, 20-21; Jn 14: 16; Jn 17: 1-11a

WED May 20 Bernardine of Siena, Priest, Religious

Acts 20: 28-38; Ps 68: 29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; John 17: 17b, 17a; John 17: 11b-19

THUR May 21 Christopher Magallanes, Priest

Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11; Ps 16: 1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Jn 17: 21; John 17: 20-26

FRI May 22 Rita of Cascia, Religious

Acts 25: 13b-21; Ps 103: 1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; John 14: 26; John 21: 15-19

SAT May 23

Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31; Ps 11: 4, 5 and 7; John 16: 7, 13; John 21: 20-25

SUN May 24 Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2: 1-11; Ps 104: 1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1st Cor 12: 3b-7, 12-13; John 20: 19-23

Schedule for the Week

Office open Monday - Thursday 9:15am-3:00pm

The church is open for prayer during office hours.

Mon	May 18	No Mass
Tues	May 19	No Mass 2pm Finance Council Mtg (JP23)
Wed	May 20	No Mass 5pm Parish Council Mtg (PH)
Thur	May 21	No Mass
Fri	May 22	Office and Church Closed
Sat	May 23	11am Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood 3:30pm Confessions 4:30pm Mass
Sun	May 24	Pentecost Sunday 8:30am Mass 11:00am Mass 1pm Mass (Español)



Special thanks...

to Fred Boscarino for beautifying our Mary statue.



Ascension of the Lord

Each year, forty days after Easter, the Church celebrates the Ascension of the Lord — a feast of hope, mission, and promise.

Forty days after Easter, we lift our eyes with the apostles and witness the Lord's return to the Father. It is a feast of triumph — and a call to live what has been entrusted to us.

Yet the Ascension can feel like a feast of absence — Jesus is gone, and the disciples are left standing and looking up at the sky. But the Church invites us to see it differently. The Ascension is not an ending. It is the beginning of everything that comes next.

Jesus did not ascend to abandon us. He ascended to prepare a place for us — and to send us the gift he promised: the Holy Spirit.

What Is the Ascension of Jesus?

The Ascension is the event recorded in the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of Luke, in which Jesus — forty days after his Resurrection — led his disciples to the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem, blessed them, and was taken up into heaven before their eyes.

Two angels appeared and said to the disciples: *“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”* (Acts 1:11)

The Ascension marks the completion of Christ's earthly mission. He who became flesh, suffered, died, and rose from the dead now returns to the Father — but not without us. He takes our human nature with him into the heart of the Trinity. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, wherever the Head has gone, the Body hopes to follow.

What the Ascension Means for Us Today

The Ascension is far more than a departure. It carries several layers of meaning that the Church invites us to contemplate:

- ◆ Christ intercedes for us
- ◆ He prepares a place for us
- ◆ The Holy Spirit is given
- ◆ We receive a mission

For more information go to novenatosaints.com

Stewardship



Offertory for Month & Fiscal Year to Date

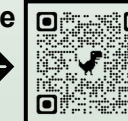
MAY GOAL	MAY ACTUAL	% OF GOAL
\$30,000	\$11,445	38.1%

Offertory - Fiscal Yr To Date Jul 1 - May 13

GOAL	YTD ACTUAL	% OF GOAL
\$312,000	\$261,580	83.8%

Donate online at saintmmc.com or here

May God bless you for your financial stewardship!



2026 DSA Collected: \$15,321
2026 Goal: \$31,948
% of Goal: 48%



International Collection

The second collection this weekend combines five collections into one. Your contribution to the good work of these organizations will give you an opportunity to participate in the mission of the Church internationally.

- ◆ Collection for the Holy Land
- ◆ Collection for the Works of the Holy Father (Peter's Pence)
- ◆ Church in Latin America
- ◆ Church in Central & Eastern Europe
- ◆ Church in Africa

Envelopes for this collection are in your parish envelope packet and you may donate online at our Parish Website.

Bells of Hope

Cash received - \$913,372
Pledges received - \$1,905,932
Goal - \$4,500,000

