

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



### This Week on Formed

Week of December 28, 2025



#### New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



#### The Holy Family

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season!



#### Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

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

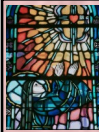
#### How do parishioners register to use our FORMED subscription?

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

December 28, 2025

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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](http://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.



When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."  
~ Matthew 2:13

#### 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).

December 28, 2025



Mass Intentions				
Sat	12/27	4:30pm	.....	† Michael Balukiewicz
Sun	12/28	8:30am	.....	Mandolyn Orrell
		11:00am	.....	Pro Populo
		1:00pm	.....	Benito Castro
Mon	12/29	8:45am	.....	No Mass
Tue	12/30	8:45am	.....	No Mass
Wed	12/31	4:30pm	.....	† Anthony Crabb
Thur	01/01	10:00am	.....	Pro Populo
Fri	01/02	8:45am	.....	† Ina Raymond



### 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.






### January Wedding Anniversaries:

David & Phyllis Benbow ~ 50  
Edward & Barbara ~ 29  
Daniel & Gabriella Dash ~ 23  
Oscar & Betzabel Ortiz-De La Torre ~ 22

### Happy Anniversary!






### IMPORTANT DATES!

**Jan 7:** 6:30pm Knights of Columbus Mtg (PH)  
**Jan 8:** 11am St. Vincent de Paul Mtg (PH)  
**Jan 10:** 9:30am Women of St. Margaret Mary Mtg (PH)  
**Jan 11:** 9:30am OCIA (PH)

(PH = Parish Hall; CH = Church)

Scriptures for the Week	
<b>MON Dec 29 Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Jn 2: 3-11; Ps 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2: 32; Lk 2: 22-35	
<b>TUE Dec 30</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> John 2: 12-17; Ps 96: 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Luke 2: 36-40	
<b>WED Dec 31 Sylvester I, Pope</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Jn 2: 18-21; Ps 96: 1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1: 14a, 12a; Jn 1: 1-18	
<b>THUR Jan 01 Mary, Mother of God Solemnity</b> Numbers 6: 22-27; Ps 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4: 4-7; Hebrews 1: 1-2; Luke 2: 16-21	
<b>FRI Jan 02 Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> John 2: 22-28; Ps 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Hebrews 1: 1-2; John 1: 19-28	
<b>SAT Jan 03 Holy Name of Jesus</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> John 2: 29 - 3: 6; Ps 98: 1, 3cd-4, 5-6; John 1: 14a, 12a; John 1: 29-34	
<b>SUN Jan 04 Epiphany of the Lord Solemnity</b> Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 2; Matthew 2: 1-12	



Schedule for the Week	
<b>Office open Monday-Wednesday 9:15am-3:00pm</b> The church is open for prayer during office hours.	
<b>Mon Dec 29</b>	Mass Cancelled 7pm Reunión del grupo masculino (PH)
<b>Tues Dec 30</b>	Mass Cancelled
<b>Wed Dec 31</b>	3pm-4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>Vigil of The Solemnity of Mary</b> 4:30pm Mass (bilingual)
<b>Thur Jan 01</b>	<b>The Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God-Holy Day of Obligation</b> 10am Mass
<b>Fri Jan 02</b>	8:30am First Friday Mass
<b>Sat Jan 03</b>	<b>Hospitality Weekend</b> 4:30pm Mass
<b>Sun Jan 04</b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b> 8:30am Mass 11:00am Mass 1pm Mass (Español)




### TRAVELING?

Don't take a vacation from your faith!  
Find a Mass while traveling by visiting:

Reverentcatholicmass.com  
Masstimes.org  
Catholicmasstimes.org



## Bells of Hope






**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





**Need a Mass Intention?**  
**Need a Quinceanera Blessing?**  
**Need any kind of Blessing?**  
**Need Anointing?**

If you are in need of any kind of Blessing or Prayer, contact the office at 828-686-8833.

The sacristy is a place for the servers and Fr. Allen to prepare for Mass. Please refrain from going to the sacristy for these types of requests.

**¿Necesita una intención para la Misa?**  
**¿Necesita una bendición para su quinceañera?**  
**¿Necesita algún tipo de bendición?**  
**¿Necesita la Unción de los Enfermos?**

Si necesita algún tipo de bendición u oración, comuníquese con la oficina al 828-686-8833.

La sacristía es un lugar donde los monaguillos y el Padre Allen se preparan para la Misa. Por favor, no acuda a la sacristía para este tipo de solicitudes.



## Stewardship



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

DEC GOAL	MONTH ACTUAL	% OF GOAL
\$24,000	\$21,576	90%

**Offertory - Fiscal Yr To Date Jul 1 - Dec 23**

GOAL	YTD ACTUAL	% OF GOAL
\$312,000	\$144,140	46.2%

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

*May God bless you for your financial stewardship!*



### Reflecting God's Light

2025 DSA Collected: **\$33,339.31**  
2025 Goal: **\$35,506.00**  
% of Goal: **94%**





**Priest Retirement Collected - \$5,983**  
**Priest Retirement Goal - \$9,618**



### Stewardship Reflection

December 28, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Joseph's obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel's warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God's will assures the best use of my talents, too!





### 26th Carolina Men's Emmaus

**ATTENTION MEN!!!** Are you looking for a chance to learn more about yourself, your faith and your role in today's society?

Come spend the weekend, **Feb 27<sup>th</sup> to Mar 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026** with other men, just like you, and have an authentic, intentional, life changing weekend.

See any of the men in an Emmaus shirt, contact **Steve Corson at (864) 982-1640**, visit [www.emmausofthecarolinas.org](http://www.emmausofthecarolinas.org)





*Our Thanks to All Who Contributed to our  
2025 Christmas Flower Fund*

**Donations were made:**

**In loving memory of:**

Barton & Ruth Allen, Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio *by Fr. John Allen*

John Clyne, Florian & Alyce Sprenger, Ellen & Edwin Boeckermann,  
Josh Sprenger, Lori Sprenger, *by Jesse Boeckermann*

Chester & Margaret Orlowski *by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bullick*

Father Wilbur N. Thomas *by Fanny Forteza*

Rev. Matthew Leonard, Sara Peacock, Jason Geraghty, Glenn Geraghty, Nancy  
Geraghty, Hap Newell, Barbara McMurray *by Peter & Claudia Graham*

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Marcaccio *by Jerry & Rosa Hoffart*

The Mobley family, The Ensor Family, Matt & Jeri Habner  
*by Jurona Mobley*

John Pacosa *by Anne Pacosa*

Napoleon Sr. & Bernice Spencer Sr. *by Rosie Palmisano*

Gardner & Gertrude Roberts, Scott & Sue McNulty, Tom & Rose Lee  
*by Gardner & Barbara Roberts*

**Additional donations were made by:**

*Paul & Alison Curtin  
Jose & Chris DeSousa  
Beverly Penland*

DECEMBER 2025



## Meaning and History of Holy Family

The Holy Family, made up of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, shows us the beauty of faith and the strength of love in everyday life. They are a model for every family, encouraging us to trust in God, care for one another, and bring hope to the world.

- **Jesus:** The Son of God, whose life teaches mercy and sacrifice.
- **Mary:** The loving Mother, embraced by grace and devoted to God's will.
- **Joseph:** The humble protector, a symbol of strength and dedication in fatherhood.

### Holy Family as the Model of Unity and Love

The Holy Family, composed of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, is a shining example of love, unity, and obedience to God's will. They teach us to honor our duties and care for one another, showing that even in humble circumstances, one can create a household full of faith and grace.

- **Unity** – Their life together reminds us that love and mutual respect build a strong and faithful family.
- **Obedience** – Each member listened to God even when the path was hard, inspiring many to trust in divine guidance.
- **Sanctity in Daily Life** – Their ordinary daily life is seen as a way to experience the sacred, turning family routines into acts of faith.

### Patronages and Devotional Practices

The Holy Family is honored in many parts of the world. They are seen as the patron of families, married life, and home life. Devotees often pray to the Holy Family for guidance, protection, and the grace to live virtuous lives founded on faith and charity.

- **Patronage of Families** – They are invoked in prayers for protection and blessing over family homes.
- **Role Models for Parenthood** – Many believe that following the example of Mary and Joseph can help parents instill values of love and discipline in their children.
- **Feast of the Holy Family** – Celebrated in the Catholic Church, this feast unites the family in prayer and reflection on the sacred bonds that tie us together.

### Miracles and Intercessory Graces

The Holy Family has a long history of being believed to intercede for miracles and blessings. Many faithful have experienced unexpected graces and healing by seeking their help, making the Holy Family an enduring symbol of hope in the midst of trials.

- **Reported Miracles** – Numerous accounts, from healing illnesses to saving families in dangerous times, have been attributed to their intercession.
- **Spiritual Protection** – Their powerful example of humility and trust in God offers a spiritual shield for hearts burdened by worry and fear.
- **Community Devotion** – Special novenas and prayers centered on the Holy Family help build strong communities united in prayer and love, spreading grace wherever they gather.

The history of the Holy Family comes from the Gospels. Their journey—from Bethlehem to Egypt and back to Nazareth—reminds us that God's plan unfolds even through challenges. Their example inspires families to live in prayer, unity, and service, always placing faith at the center of life.

[www.thecatholicvoice.com/holidays/holy-family](http://www.thecatholicvoice.com/holidays/holy-family)



**Christmas Tree outreach 2025**

St. Margaret Mary Church was blessed with a generous donation this year to help families with Christmas. We are thankful that we were able to give away Christmas trees.



**Parish Posadas 2025**

This year we did something different. Our Posada Celebration was scheduled as a one-time parish event on 12/21/25. We had a terrific turnout and fun was had by all!



**Dogma & Donuts**

Our “Young Adults” had an afternoon of faith inspiration lead by Manuel Rodriguez. They want more! Stay tuned for our future Dogma & Donuts schedule in the New Year!

