

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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This Week on Formed

Week of February 15, 2026



Lent | What Catholics Believe

Join Fr. Scott Bailey, a priest in the Archdiocese of Denver, as he answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Lent. What is Lent? Why is it 40 days long? Or even, what should I give up for Lent? Find out in this episode of What Catholics Believe.



Whole 40

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.



Heart of Prayer

Heart of Prayer invites participants into an intimate and peaceful retreat with Bishop Andrew Cozzens. Set in the beautiful Chateau on the Augustine Institute Campus, Heart of Prayer reveals the beauty and transcendence of a prayer life, as Bishop Cozzens draws from Scripture and the saints to offer guidance that is practical and down-to-earth.

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



St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

✦ Serving the Swannanoa Valley since 1936 ✦

February 15, 2026

Sixth 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
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: stmmcfath@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.



"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place."

~ Matthew 5:17-18

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 at 828-686-8833.

VISITS FOR SICK & HOMEBOUND: Call parish office.

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

Mass Intentions				
Sat	02/14	4:30pm	.....†	Dot Sobol
Sun	02/15	8:30am	.....	Pro Populo
		11:00am	.....†	Edwiga Rovinski
		1:00pm	.....	Janet Ramirez
Mon	02/16	8:45am	.....	Fernando Damian
Tue	02/17	8:45am	.....	Leila Flanagan
Wed	02/18	8:45am	.....†	Mary Finegan
Thur	02/19	8:45am	.....†	Anthony Lorenzetti
Fri	02/20		.....	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, 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.

 **VESPERS AND SOUP**
 Vespers and Soup is a cherished tradition at STMM that brings together parishioners for prayer & fellowship. Vespers (Evening Prayer) will be prayed in the church followed by soup and bread in the Parish Hall.
Join us on Tuesdays
February 24th - March 24th
6pm – 7pm.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

 **STATIONS of the CROSS**
 We are inviting all kids ages 8-16 to participate in the **Bi-lingual Living Stations of the Cross.** Join us February 19th, 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Parish Hall for the first practice. For more information please contact Lorena Valdez at 828-551-7123



Scriptures for the Week

MON Feb 16
 Jam 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Jn 14:6; Mk 8:11-13

TUE Feb 17 Seven Founders of the Order of Servites
 James 1: 12-18; Ps 94: 12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; John 14: 23; Mark 8: 14-21

WED Feb 18 Ash Wednesday-Day of Abstinence
 Joel 2: 12-18; Ps 51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2nd Corinthians 5: 20 - 6:2; Ps 95: 8; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

THUR Feb 19
 Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Ps 1: 1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Matthew 4: 17; Luke 9: 22-25

FRI Feb 20
 Isaiah 58: 1-9a; Ps 51: 3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Amos 5: 14; Matthew 9: 14-15

SAT Feb 21 Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor
 Isaiah 58: 9b-14; Ps 86: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Ezek 33: 11; Lk 5: 27-32

SUN Feb 22 First Sunday of Lent
 Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7; Ps 51: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Romans 5: 12-19 or 5: 12, 17-19; Matt 4: 4b; Matt 4:1-11

Schedule for the Week

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

Mon Feb 16 Diocesan Holiday-Office Closed
 8:45am Mass

Tues Feb 17 8:45am Mass
 4pm Parish Council Mtg (PH)

Wed Feb 18 Ash Wednesday
7:30am Ash Distribution (No Mass)
8:45am Mass (Ashes Distributed)
6pm Ash Distribution (No Mass)

Thur Feb 19 8:45am Mass; Rosary following Mass
 6:30pm Living Stations Rehearsal (PH)

Fri Feb 20 Church and Office Closed
 5:30pm Stations of the Cross (CH)
 6:30pm Estaciones de la Cruz (CH)

Sat Feb 21 9:30am KoC Highway Cleanup (PH)
 12pm Rite of Election (St. Eugene's)
 4:30pm Mass

Sun Feb 22 8:30am Mass
 9:30am OCIA Mtg (PH)
 11:00am Mass
 12pm SAN Catechetical Mtg (PH)
 1pm Mass (Español)

IMPORTANT DATES!

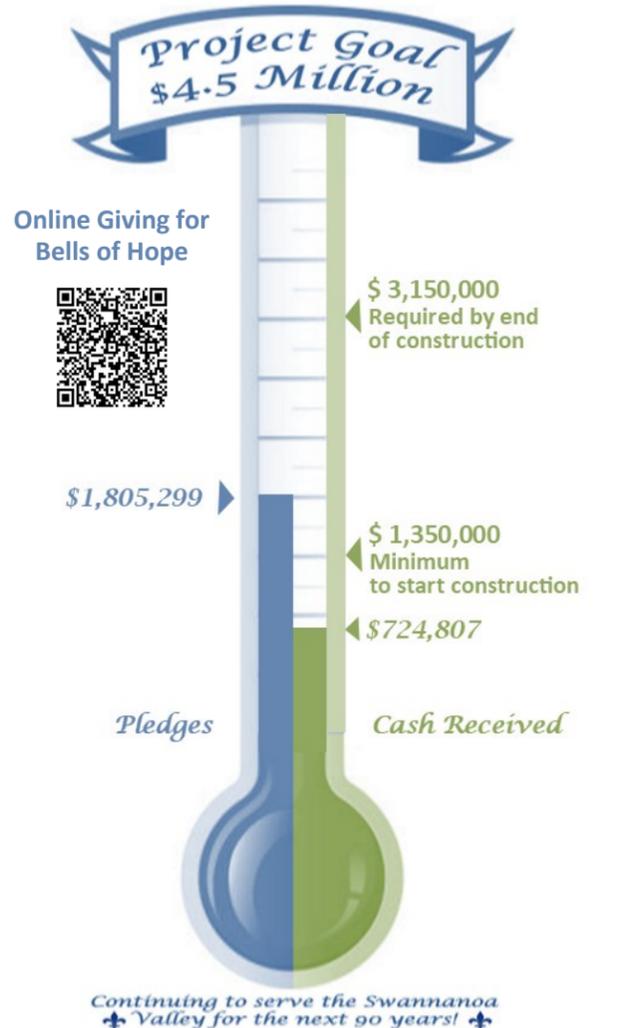
Feb 22: 12pm SAN Catechetical Mtg (PH)
Feb 24: Vespers & Soup Tuesday nights during lent at 6pm
Feb 26: 11am St. Vincent de Paul Mtg (PH)
 6:30pm Living Stations of the Cross Practice (PH)
Feb 27: 5:30pm Stations of the Cross-English (CH)
 6:30pm Stations of the Cross-Spanish (CH)
 (PH = Parish Hall; CH = Church)

Bells of Hope



THANK YOU to all who have pledged to our Bells of Hope campaign. We are over halfway to our cash goal to break ground! So far, 115 families have contributed to Bells of Hope, many former parishioners and visitors who love our church and wish to see our plans come to fruition. We need everyone to prayerfully consider making a sacrificial gift to Bells of Hope. Pledge cards and envelopes are in the church entrance. You may also use the QR code below to set up a pledge or make a one-time gift online.

For questions or more information on giving, contact Bells of Hope at 828-747-7261.



Stewardship

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

FEB GOAL	MONTH ACTUAL	% OF GOAL
\$24,000	\$11,349	47.3%

Offertory - Fiscal Yr To Date Jul 1 - Feb 11

GOAL	YTD ACTUAL	% OF GOAL
\$312,000	\$191,070	61%

Donate online at saintmmc.com or here 

May God bless you for your financial stewardship! ➔

Altar Flowers

No Altar Flowers during lent.
 Stay tuned for more information on Easter Flower Sponsorship.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
 THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

Join the Spring 2026 40 Days for Life campaign of prayer, fasting and community outreach to stop abortion! This peaceful, prayerful and law-abiding effort involves spending time in prayer outside a local abortion facility.

The campaign goes from Ash Wednesday, February 18 to Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026.

To learn more about the Asheville campaign and to sign up for prayer hours, go to www.40daysforlife.com/en/asheville 

EMMAUS  **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 27th to Mar 1st, 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 

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

LENT 2026



Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.



1st Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026



Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026



2nd Sunday of Lent

March 01, 2026



Maundy Thursday

April 02, 2026



3rd Sunday of Lent

March 08, 2026



Good Friday

April 03, 2026



Laetere Sunday

March 15, 2026



Holy Saturday

April 04, 2026



5th Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026



Easter Sunday

April 05, 2026



What is Lent?

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by [giving alms](#); and we practice self-control through [fasting](#). We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this [reflection](#). In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the [Order of Christian Initiation of Adults](#), a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.

USCCB.org



HugotSeminarista



@HugotSem

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church



Ash Wednesday

- 7:30am Ash Distribution (No Mass)
- 8:45am Mass with Ash Distribution
- 6:00pm Ash Distribution (No Mass)

Tuesdays in Lent, February 24-March 31

- 6:00pm Vespers
- 6:30pm Soup

Fridays in Lent, February 20-March 27

- 5:30pm Stations of the Cross (English)
- 6:30pm Estaciones de la cruz (español)
- 5:30pm Good Friday-Living Stations of the Cross
(Bilingual-in Grovemont Park)

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence from meat for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Rite Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Rite Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

El Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo son días obligatorios de ayuno y abstinencia para los católicos. Además, los viernes durante la Cuaresma son días obligatorios de abstinencia. Para los miembros de la Iglesia Católica de Rito Latino, las normas son obligatorias desde la edad de 18 años hasta los 59. Cuando se ayuna, se le permite a la persona comer una comida completa, así como dos comidas más pequeñas que juntas no equivalgan a una comida completa. Las normas sobre la abstinencia de carne son vinculantes para los miembros de la Iglesia Católica de Rito

GUIDE TO FASTING

FRIDAYS OF LENT:
March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11,
Good Friday April 18

RULES FOR FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine are required to fast and abstain from meat (fish is permitted) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics over fourteen should abstain on all Fridays in Lent.

The law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, observing—as far as quantity and quality are concerned approved local custom.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, we should not only abstain from all meat, but also fast by limiting ourselves to one meal for the entire day.

TIPS FOR FASTING

Start Slow: If you're new to fasting, begin with small steps like skipping one meal.

Stay Hydrated: Drink plenty of water throughout the fasting period to stay healthy.

Choose Wisely: Opt for nutritious foods when breaking your fast to nourish your body.

Pray and Reflect: Use fasting as a time for prayer, self-examination, and drawing closer to God.

BENEFITS OF FASTING

Spiritual Growth: Fasting can deepen our spiritual connection and focus during Lent.

Self-Discipline: The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that fasting "helps us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart" (2043). Fasting teaches self-control and strengthens our willpower.

Solidarity: Fasting in solidarity with others fosters empathy and compassion.

EXCEPTIONS TO FASTING

Those with health conditions, pregnant or nursing women, and the elderly are exempt from fasting requirements.

If fasting poses a risk to your health or well-being, you are not obligated to fast.