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

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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 14, 2025



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



30 Minutes BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirtwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.



Is Christmas Pagan? What Catholics Believe About Christmas

Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Christmas. Is Christmas a pagan holiday? Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25? What happened at the 'first Christmas'? Find out the answers to these and more!

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

OUR MISSION

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 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." ~ 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 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday

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

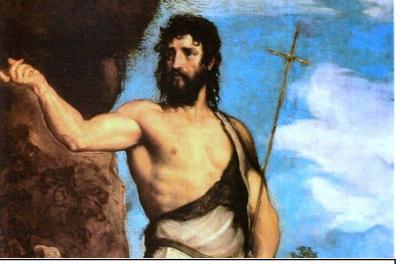
Please email to register: stmmcfaith@gmail.com.

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.



"This is the one about whom it is written: 'Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.' Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater then he."

~ Matthew 11:10-11

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 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 14, 2025

Mass Intentions

| Sat | 12/13 | 4:30pm | † John Clyne |
|------|-------|---------|----------------------------|
| Sun | 12/14 | 8:30am | † Kim Rovinski |
| | | 11:00am | Pro Populo |
| | | 1:00pm | Aaron Bonilla |
| Mon | 12/15 | 8:45am | † Juan A. Cruz |
| Tue | 12/16 | 8:45am | †Marie Blount |
| Wed | 12/17 | 8:45am | † Teresa Howell Strickland |
| Thur | 12/18 | 8:45am | † Bill & Mary Hayes |
| Fri | 12/19 | | 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.





"God walks into your soul with silent step. God comes to you more than you go to Him. Never will his coming be what you expect, and yet never will it disappoint. The more you respond to his gentle pressure, the greater will Be your freedom.

Ven. Fulton Sheen

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

IMPORTANT DATES!

Dec 14: 12pm Dogma & Donuts-Grades 9-12 Students (PH)

Dec 21: 12pm Dogma & Donuts - Young Adults (PH)

Dec 21: 2pm Parish Posada Celebration (PH)

Dec 27: 11am Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood

(PH = Parish Hall; CH = Church)

Scriptures for the Week

MON Dec 15

Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17; Ps 25: 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Ps 85: 8; Matthew 21: 23-27

Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13; Ps 34: 2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Matthew 21: 28-32

Genesis 49: 2, 8-10; Ps 72: 1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1: 1-17

THUR Dec 18

Jeremiah 23: 5-8; Ps 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1: 18-25

FRI Dec 19

Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71: 3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1: 5-25

<u>Isaiah 7: 10-</u>14; Ps 24: 1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 1: 26-38

SUN Dec 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7: 10-14; Ps 24: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Romans 1: 1-7; Matt 1: 23; Matthew 1: 18-24

Schedule for the Week

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

Mon Dec 15 8:45am Mass-Office closes at 11am

7pm Reunión del grupo masculine (PH)

Tues Dec 16 8:45am Mass

Wed Dec 17 8:45am Mass

Thur Dec 18 8:45am Mass

Rosary following Mass

11am St. Vincent de Paul Mtg (PH)

Church & Office Closed Fri Dec 19

Sat Dec 20 4:30pm Mass

Sun Dec 21 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:30am Mass

11:00am Mass

12pm Dogma & Donuts (Yng Adults-PH)

1pm Mass (Español)

2pm Parish Posada Celebration (PH)



Help Aging Religious

Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. This second collection is this weekend!



Our Plans

Our plans intend to:

- Preserve the charm and appearance of our existing
- Improve safety by adding side aisles and an additional
- Increase seating so all can worship together in the nave
- Add a priest's sacristy and improve the working
- Relocate the confessional to the back of the nave
- Enlarge the narthex to allow for a public restroom and a Baptistry
- Establish accessible seating access for the disabled
- Add a choir loft accessible from the narthex
- Enhance the church entrance with a portico and patio
- Allow for future improvements to the plaza and grounds

For more information contact Bells of Hope at 828-747-7261 Prayerfully consider making a sacrificial pledge over 3 years.



Stewardship



Offertory for the Month and Year to Date

DEC GOAL MONTH ACTUAL % OF GOAL

Offertory - Fiscal Yr To Date Jul 1 - Dec 10 % OF GOAL YTD ACTUAL

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%







Christmas Flowers

Our Christmas Flower Fund is accepting donations now! Flower Memorials will be published in our Christmas Bulletin. This is a special opportunity to remember or honor your loved ones. Place your donation (any amount) in a plain envelope, with your name & the name(s) of those you want to remember. Please note whether they are living or deceased. Thank your for your generosity!

Donations are due by Dec. 19th!!



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 "Campanas de Esperanza".





