

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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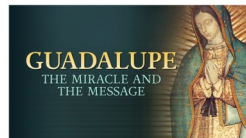
This Week on Formed

Week of December 07, 2025



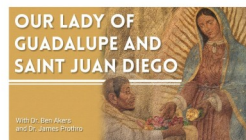
What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.



Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.



Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego | Catholic Saints

Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Dr. James Prothro to discuss Mary's apparition to Saint Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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

How do parishioners register to use our FORMED subscription?

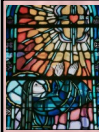
Registering for **FORMED** is easier than ever:
Go to formed.org/signup:

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* ✦

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

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
Taylor 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

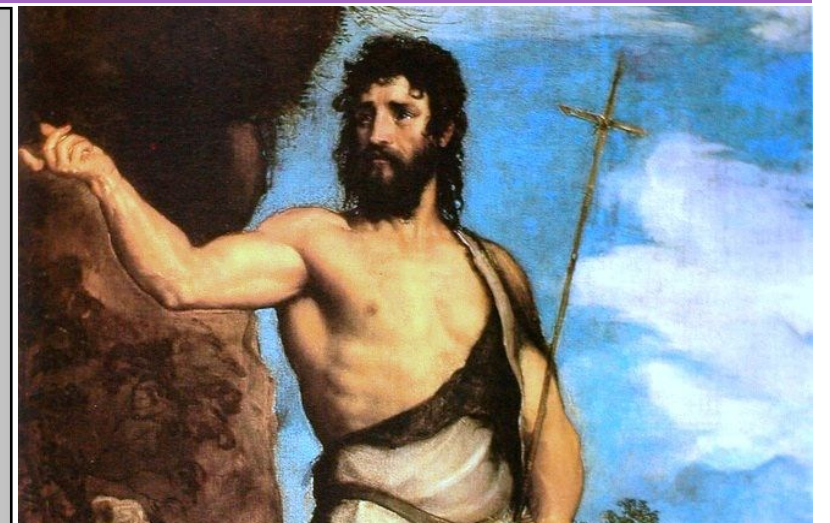
Please email to register: stmmcfait@gmail.com.

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.



John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: "A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." ~ Matthew 3:1-3

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: stmmcfait@gmail.com.

December 7, 2025



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 December 13-14!**

*Let the little children come to me;
do not prevent them, for the
kingdom of God belongs to such as
these.*

Mk 10:14

20th Annual March for Life Charlotte

**Jan. 9, 2026
March at 12:00pm**

Start to gather at 11am at the parking lot on the corner of W. Palmer and S. Church St. (across from the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center) and march at 12:00pm to Trade & Tryon St. After the speakers have finished we will pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Signs will be available at the staging area parking lot. If you bring a sign, it must meet picketing law regulations. If you work uptown, join us on your lunch hour for part of the march! Be prepared to park on your own if needed. Check our web-site frequently for updates on parking.



Fr. Brian Becker
Director of Formation
St. Joseph's College Seminary
&
Vocations Promoter
Diocese of Charlotte

Holy Sacrifice

of the Mass

Offered for The Unborn

Jan. 9, 2026 10:00am



Cathedral of St. Patrick
1621 Dilworth Rd. East
Charlotte, NC 28203

Be a witness for the sanctity of human life and march for an act of reparation for an end to abortion.

marchforlifecharlotte.com



St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

Advent & Christmas 2025



December

Wednesday, 3rd-12th: 7pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (church)

Friday, 5th: 8:45am First Friday Mass

Monday, 8th: **Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Holy Day of Obligation (Office Closed)

8:45am Mass, campus closed 15 minutes after Mass

6pm Mass-Bilingual

Thursday, 11th: 8:45am Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe (Bilingual)

Friday, 12th: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (No Mass)

5am-6am Mañanitas (church)

7pm Procession & Rosary (Grovemont Park)

Sunday, 14th: 12pm School At Nazareth Family Christmas Gathering

12pm Dogma & Donuts with Manuel Rodriguez-Grades 9-12 (Bilingual-Overflow)

Sunday, 21st: 12pm Dogma & Donuts with Manuel Rodriguez-Young Adults (Bilingual-PH)

2pm **Parish Posada Celebration** (parish hall and portico)

Tuesday, 23rd thru Friday 26th: Office Closed

Wednesday, 24th: **Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)**

Masses at 4pm, 6pm (Bilingual) and 8pm

Thursday, 25th: **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)**

10am Mass

Saturday/Sunday 27th-28th: **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Regular Mass Schedule

Monday/Tuesday 29th & 30th: No daily Mass

Wednesday, 31st: **Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God**

Holy Day of Obligation

4:30pm Vigil Mass-Bilingual

JANUARY

Thursday, 1st: **Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation**

10am Mass; Campus closed 15 minutes after Mass

Friday, 2nd: 8:45am First Friday Mass



St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

Adviento y Navidad 2025



DICIEMBRE

Miércoles, 3rd-12th: 7pm Novena a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (iglesia)

Viernes, 5th: 8:45am Misa del Primer Viernes

Lunes, 8th: **Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María**

Día de Precepto (Oficina cerrada)

Misa de 8:45am , campus cerrado 15 minutos después de la misa

Misa de 6pm - Bilingüe

Jueves, 11th: 8:45am Misa de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Bilingüe)

Viernes 12th: Festividad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (No hay Misa)

5am-6am Mañanitas (iglesia)

7pm Procesión y Rosario (Grovemont Park)

Domingo 14th: 12pm Reunión Navideña Familiar de la Escuela de Nazaret

12pm Donas y Dogma con Manuel Rodríguez - Grados 9-12 (Bilingüe-overflow)

Domingo 21th: 12pm Donas y Dogma con Manuel Rodríguez, Jóvenes Adultos (Bilingüe-PH)

2pm **Celebración de la Posada Parroquial** (salón parroquial y pórtico)

Martes 23 a viernes 26: Oficina cerrada

Miércoles 24th: **Vigilia de la Natividad del Señor (Nochebuena)**

Misas a las 4pm, 6pm (Bilingüe) y 8pm

Jueves 25th: **Natividad del Señor (Navidad)**

10am Misa

Sábado/Domingo 27th y 28th: **La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José**

Horario de misas regulares

Lunes/martes 29 y 30: No hay misa diaria

Miércoles, 31st: **Vigilia de la Solemnidad de María Madre de Dios - Día de precepto**

4:30pm Misa de vigilia bilingüe

ENERO

Jueves 1st: **Solemnidad de María la Santa Madre de Dios - Día de precepto**

10am Misa ; el campus estará cerrado 15 minutos después de la misa

Viernes 2nd: 8:45 am Misa del Primer Viernes

What is Dogma & Donuts?

St. Margaret Mary is offering a unique opportunity for our Youth and Young Adults to boost their knowledge of the Catholic Faith while enjoying time with their peers over brunch. Sign-ups for this event coming soon!

We will be offering two Sunday sessions in December led by Manuel Rodriguez. December 14th for our High School Students (teens) and December 21st for our Young Adults (college age-30 years old). Sessions begin at 12pm in the Parish Hall.

Santa Margarita María ofrece una oportunidad única para que nuestros jóvenes y adultos jóvenes profundicen en la fe católica mientras disfrutan de un brunch con sus compañeros. ¡Las inscripciones para este evento estarán disponibles próximamente!

Ofreceremos dos sesiones dominicales en diciembre, dirigidas por Manuel Rodríguez. El 14 de diciembre para nuestros estudiantes de preparatoria (adolescentes) y el 21 de diciembre para nuestros jóvenes adultos (universitarios hasta 30 años). Las sesiones comienzan a las 12:00 p. m. en el Salón Parroquial.



10 facts about Advent

The season of Advent developed in the Church over time. Here are 10 facts that you may not know about the roots and meanings of Advent:

1. Advent is a time of expectation and preparation for the birth of the Lord. The word “Advent” derives from the Latin word “adventus,” which means “coming,” and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.
2. Advent has a changing start date, but it always contains four Sundays. It starts on the Sunday closest to the feast of [St. Andrew the Apostle \(Nov. 30\)](#). It can begin as early as Nov. 27th or as late as Dec. 3.
3. Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. Advent was chosen to begin the year as representative of the time in history that Christ was not known to us. With His birth the beginning of our faith was founded. The liturgical year ends with the feast of Christ the King, His reign over the universe.
4. The Advent season has two meanings. It emphasizes both the celebration of Christ coming into the world as a man and also the second coming when the Lord will return again. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the Parousia, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event. The traditional color of Advent is purple or violet, which symbolizes the penitential spirit. Religious traditions associated with Advent express all these themes.
5. Hope is a predominant theme of Advent. The Israelites hoped for a Messiah to come, and Christ entered the world. We are hopeful for the arrival of Christ again into the world.
6. Advent is a reminder of the Old Testament promises of the coming of the Messiah. The Advent tradition of the Jesse Tree consists of symbols of the Messiah coming from the line of Jesse (Lk 3: 23-38). Isaiah is often read during this season to remember that we are waiting for the day when the Messiah will come again.
7. Advent focuses on light as opposed to darkness. Christ enters our dark world and casts away the darkness of sin to redeem us. He will come again as the light of the world.
8. Advent has two parts. The first portion the First Sunday of Advent until Dec. 16 is preparation for the second coming of Christ. The second portion from Dec. 17 to 24 directly prepares us for the commemoration of the first coming of Christ, Christmas.
9. The origins of Advent can be traced back to the Church in France. In the 4th Century, the Church in France used the period before Epiphany as a time of preparation for baptism. It was called “St. Martin’s Lent” for the 40 days that started on Nov. 11, the feast of St. Martin of Tours.
10. Advent as we know today was developed in Rome. Pope Gregory I in the late 6th or early 7th Century composed many of the prayers, antiphons and psalm responses. Many themes and ideas we now know can be traced to the Roman Advent season.

— Reprinted from the Catholic Apostolate Center, online at www.catholicapostolatecenter.org, and from EWTN