

# ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

589 HUGEL AVENUE, MIDLAND, ONTARIO L4R 1W3

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Pastor: Father Roselle Cyrille R. Azares

Deacons: Anthony Ruta P.D., Timothy Dunlop P.D.

Parish Secretary: Juanita Wootton-Radko



*Feast of the Holy Family*



**When One Believes**

Motherhood (and fatherhood, for that matter) should be one of the most challenging roles a person takes in life. Consider how much time and care we lavish upon our animal pets, making sure that we give them the right food and protecting them from predators. How much more demanding is rearing a child or a whole family!

Imagine the anxiety (also the excitement, true) of making sure the growing life in the womb is secure until it is to be born into this world. Not to mention the pains of childbirth that first-time mothers vow are the most painful. Beyond this, motherhood, as our own mothers testify, demands so much more in terms of psycho-emotional, social, economic, and spiritual resources so the children can be provided with the best environment for growth into maturity. In a true sense, motherhood requires the whole life of a woman.

Today, a week after the birth of our Savior, we celebrate the solemn feast of his Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. While she was like us in all things, she was also very special in the eyes of God. She alone was spared from the stain of original sin as she was immaculately conceived. She was singled out from among women to the bearer of Jesus, the Son of God. In her lowliness, as she herself proclaims in the Magnificat – the Lord deigned to choose her and blessed her in a way no one else in the human race was.

While we praise and acclaim her for her blessedness, let us not forget what an enormous responsibility she was made to bear. It is difficult enough to be a good mother to a “mere” human being; how much more difficult it is to one who is both human *and* divine.

Further, motherhood demands maturity and readiness for such an enormous task. Mary was a very young woman, we suppose, when offered the task. Humanly speaking, she was not that ready to be the Mother of God or “God-bearer.” And yet, she believed that the

**Tuesday Jan. 2nd**

**Saint Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors**

12:05pm + Roy Francis Arbour  
Requested by the Arbour family

**Wednesday Jan 3rd**

**The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

12:05pm +Eugenio & Catarina  
Requested by The Moscon Family

**Thursday Jan 4th**

**Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

12:05 pm + Simone Flaim  
Requested by The Moscon Family

**Friday Jan 5th**

**Saint John Neumann, Bishop**

11 am – Holy Hour  
12:05 pm +Linda  
Requested by her children

**Saturday, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>**

*There is no 10:00 am Mass today!*

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Saturday Jan 6th**

5 pm +Betty June Sheba  
Requested by Toddy Blaicher

**Sunday Jan 7th**

9am +Mass for the People  
11:30 am + Ted & Audrey Percival  
Requested by the Family

**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for  
January 2024**

*For the gift of diversity in the Church*

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic church.

God who called her and gave her the mission would also give her enough resources to fulfill the task.

As we celebrate the great gift of the motherhood of God that Mary received and carried out, we also remember how courageous and trusting she was, although she did not understand how everything would turn out. On this note, let us also pray for all mothers and mothers-to-be, especially those who are struggling with their challenging role, that God may bless them and endow them with the same courage and faith that Mary had.

Amen.

Fr. R C R A.

### **Happy New Year**

#### **From St. Margaret's Clergy and Staff**

Fr. Roselle, Deacon Tony, Deacon Tim, Juanita, Katie, Richard, Rose, Sharron, Steve

### **You're Invited to Volunteer for...**

The 11:30am Sunday Mass Choir with Organist Diana Swift for the 2024 Liturgical Year! Practices are Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:30pm, beginning mid-January 2024. Please consider being part of an important ministry at St. Margaret's.

Please call: Diana 705-795-0055  
or call Pauline Ruta 705-527-1128

### **2024 Calendars**

Looking for your 2024 calendar? The Parish Life Committee will be selling our very own 2024 St. Margaret's liturgical calendars featuring the stained-glass windows of St. Margarets. Makes a great Christmas gift! Available after Mass and at the Parish office during office hours.

### **Sanctuary Lamp**

**December 31 – January 6**

This week the lamp burns in memory of  
*Johnathan Therrien*

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

#### **Feast of the Holy Family– Sunday**

**December 31st**

9 am      11:30 am

#### **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

*Note: this is a holy day of obligation for all Catholics*

#### **Vigil Mass – Sunday Dec. 31st**

**5:00 p.m.**

#### **Monday January 1<sup>st</sup>**

10 am

#### **Epiphany of the Lord**

#### **Vigil Mass -- Saturday January 6th**

*Note: no 10am mass today*

5 pm

#### **Sunday January 7th**

9 am      11:30 am

### **2023 Donations and Tax Receipts**

All donations for St. Margaret's Parish or the Society for St. Vincent de Paul must be received by the Parish Office by Dec. 31, 2023, to be included on your 2023 tax receipt. Any gifts received after that date will be mailed out the first week of February. Tax receipts will be mailed out mid-February 2024.

*Thank you for all the ways you generously support the parish.*



### **Please remember the following people in your**

**prayers:** Michael Pontze, Frank Whitkins, Vincenia Bee, Bob Dorion, Carol Quesnelle, Barrett Smith, Alex Latondress, Malachy Maguire; Nick Tardif, Lynda Stanek; Lloyd Leroux; Mary Fletcher; Sherry Archer; Abigail Brown; Romelda Morson; Nicole Marchildon; Stephen Roach; Lilah Bates; Shelley Smith; Nadine Adams; Peter Pattenaude; Bob Kokron; Brenda Bylow; John Jerome; Marshal Laurin, John Gunther, and Marilyn Dalton

**Please pray for our recently deceased relatives and friends,** Bob Lesperance, Karen Keays and Eric Holden



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