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SAINT MARGARET  
PARISH



December, 2017

Dear Friends,

A Time of Panic! The deadline is rapidly approaching! As it bears down on us unrelentingly, we may find ourselves nearing panic. Our focus flits from one thing to another as we become more obsessed with crossing the item of the moment off of our list. Our original spending guide is ignored as we concentrate on buying *something* special for that person. Or we want to get a tree, any tree!

Panic rarely travels alone. It is usually accompanied by fatigue, discouragement, and depression. When panic begins peering at us, it is time to reestablish our priorities. It is amazing to realize how unimportant so many anxieties become when placed in the context of salvation history.

It is a time to recall that God's Incarnation is a season - not just one day. Therefore, the gifts received after Christmas Day can be welcomed and still timely; the cards and letters received then are read more leisurely; cookies and other goodies are appreciated even later. If the flight home is delayed because of weather, it is a disappointment and not a catastrophe.

The "real" Christmas story is full of details that somehow must have seemed less than ideal to Mary and Joseph. Had Mary experienced a moment of panic at Gabriel's visit? Had Joseph felt panic-stricken at the news of Mary's pregnancy? Surely Mary did not want to be separated from family and friends during the time of the birth of her baby. Joseph must have grieved that his wife, without the traditional support of her family or friends, had to give birth in a stable. And that flight into Egypt certainly was not how they had planned to begin their lives as new parents.

And yet, in spite of all these panic-producing situations, God did become incarnate. In the context of salvation history, that is what is important and overpowering, consoling and challenging, unbelievable and faith-building, affirming and subduing, sustaining and joyous, fulfilling and hopeful.

My Christmas wish for you is that peace fills your hearts during this season, the peace that only Jesus can give. Do not let panic ruin Christmas for you and your family.



*On behalf of the whole parish staff at Saint Margaret,  
I wish all a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.*

*Fr. [Signature]*

# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2017

## ADVENT RECONCILIATION

### Individual Reconciliation - Monday, December 11

10:00 am – 12:00 pm; 1:00 – 3:00 pm; 6:00 – 8:00 pm - Saint Margaret Church

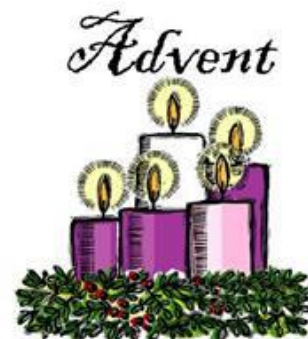
### Mass: Saturday, December 23

Saint Margaret Church 4:00 pm

### Mass: Sunday, December 24

Saint Margaret Church 8:00am and 10:00 am (No Noon Mass)

Saint Mary Magdalen Mission 9:00 am (No 11:00 am Mass)



## CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES – Sunday, December 24

Saint Margaret Church 4:00, 6:00 and 10:30 pm Mass

Saint Mary Magdalen Mission 4:00, 6:00 and 9:00 pm

John Carroll School 4:30 pm

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES – Monday, December 25

Saint Margaret Church 8:00 am, 10:00 am and noon

Saint Mary Magdalen (Note: No 9:00 am or 11:00 am Mass)

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

*Not a Holy Day of Obligation in the Archdiocese of Baltimore*

### Mass: Saturday, December 30

Saint Margaret Church 4:00 pm

### Mass: Sunday, December 31

Saint Margaret Church 8:00am, 10:00 am and Noon

Saint Mary Magdalen 9:00 am and 11:00 am

### Mass: Monday, January 1, 2018

Saint Margaret Church 8:30am

Saint Margaret Church  
141 N. Hickory Avenue  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

[www.stmargaret.org](http://www.stmargaret.org)

Saint Mary Magdalen  
1716 Churchville Road  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014