



ST. MARGARET
PARISH



Dear Friends,

I cannot believe that I am talking about Lent just after we have taken down our Christmas decorations. This year Lent begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday. We need to refocus our lives again to begin this great spiritual journey.

Lent should help us to stand before God on our own two feet. We meet God, and we meet ourselves. The weeks of Lent are not a time of fluff, shallow prayer, or vague dreams of holiness. They are a time for change in the depth of one's spirit. The task is so serious that when Lent has ended, one's life should never be the same.

The Lenten experience leads to a personal renewal of our baptismal vows in the Easter liturgy. The forty days focus on the renewal of our faith commitment to the Lord Jesus. Are we being more like Christ? Are we loving our God and our neighbor as Scripture calls for? To take this public renewal lightly would be to mock God. We must profess our faith with utmost seriousness.

To help all of us begin this spiritual journey, St. Margaret Parish is offering our Lenten schedule with times for Ash Wednesday Masses and services, Stations of the Cross, and the Holy Week liturgies. Please keep this schedule in a visible place for your information.

I also invite you to participate in our Parish Lenten Mission with Father Robert Pagliari, C.Ss.R. as our Mission Director. We will be focusing on the theme, *"My Yolk is Easy - My Burden is Light."* The Mission begins on the Third Sunday of Lent with Father Pagliari introducing himself at all the weekend Masses. The Mission talks will begin on Sunday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. and will continue Monday, March 24 and Tuesday, March 25 at the same time. Please join us as we journey with the Lord.

God Bless,

March 5, 2025 | Masses & Services

CHURCH

6:30 a.m. (Mass) • 8:30 a.m. (Mass) • 12:15 p.m. (Service) • 7:00 p.m. (Mass)

MISSION

5:00 p.m. (Service) • 7:00 p.m. (Mass)



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is a season of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the faithful to remind them of death, of the sorrow they should feel for their sins and of the necessity of changing their lives. Our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and remind us that life passes away on Earth. The priest or minister, dipping a thumb into ashes previously blessed, marks the forehead of each with the sign of the cross, saying the words, **"Repent and believe in the Gospel."**

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are blessed with Holy Water. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting.

WHEN SHOULD I FAST?

- **Abstinence from all meat** is to be observed by all Roman Catholics *14 years of age and older* on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday.
- **Fasting** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Roman Catholics *18 - 59 years of age*. Roman Catholics over the *age of 60 are exempt*.

For Roman Catholics whose health or ability to work would be negatively affected by fasting and/or abstinence, the regulations above do not apply. Current Canon Law requires that on the days of fasting, Catholics may eat only one full meal during the day. Additionally, they may eat up to two small meals or snacks. Church requirements on fasting only relate to solid food, not to drink, so any amount of water or other beverages may be consumed.

WHY DO WE FAST?

Christ fasted for 40 days and 40 nights to prepare Himself for the time that He would come face-to-face with Satan, because He knew He would need His Father's strength. To fast is to do without food. Its purpose is to experience the effects of not eating. It also serves to be a penance or a sacrifice – for the purpose of strengthening us. When we don't eat, for even a little while, we get hungry. When we are hungry, we have a heightened sense of awareness. When we fast, we have that feeling of alertness. It is purifying for the soul and prepares us to pray more deeply.

You may think you don't need to fast, but after you have fasted and felt the closeness of God and His strength in you, you become aware of how weak and far away from God we can be. Fasting is a tool that God has given us to become spiritually stronger so that we can go on our spiritual journey with Him. When you fast, you will find yourself being humbled. As He leads you to recognize and repent, you will experience special blessings. When you fast, you will empty yourself, opening yourself up to accept God more honestly. A renewed closeness with God and a greater sensitivity to spiritual things are usually the results of a fast.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION



Sunday, March 23 | 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 24 | 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25 | 7:00 pm.



“My Yoke is *Easy*
My Burden is *Light*”

- Matthew 11:30

Reconciliation will be available in the Church at the following times during the Lenten Mission

Monday, March 24 | 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. & 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 25 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Reconciliation will take place in the Main Church.

LENT & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent

12:15 p.m. *in the Chapel* and 7:00 p.m. *in the Church*

Good Friday, April 18 · Noon *in the Church* and 5:30 p.m. *at the Mission*

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays (*excluding Holy Saturday*) · Church · 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 06 · Church · 7:00 p.m.

Tenebrae (meaning darkness or shadow) is a service that has been celebrated since the Middle Ages. Come join us for this scripture and music oriented liturgical service as we prepare ourselves for Christ's death and resurrection.

Living Stations of the Cross

Friday, April 11 · Church · 7:00 p.m.

The Living Stations of the Cross is an opportunity this Lenten season for us to accompany Jesus' walk through the narrow streets of Jerusalem. We will journey with him on his way to Calvary through scripture, reflection, acting, and song.

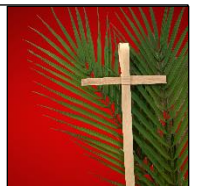


Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord

Saturday, April 12 · Church · 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 13 · Church · 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon

Sunday, April 13 · Mission · 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

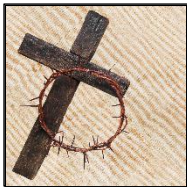


Holy Thursday – April 17, 2025

Morning Prayer · Church · 8:30 a.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper · Church · 7:00 p.m. (*incense will be used*)

Adoration will take place in the Church until 9:00 p.m., concluding with Night Prayer.

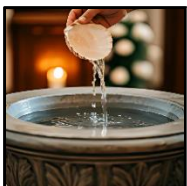
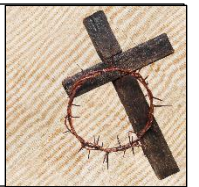


Good Friday – April 18, 2025 (*No Confessions*)

Morning Prayer · Church · 8:30 a.m. | Stations · Church · Noon

Celebration of the Lord's Passion · Church · 3:00 p.m.

Contemporary Stations · Mission · 5:30 p.m.



Holy Saturday – April 19, 2025

Morning Prayer · Church · 8:30 a.m.

Blessing of Food · Mission · Noon

Easter Vigil · Church · 7:00 p.m. (*incense will be used*)



Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of Our Lord – April 20, 2025

Church · 6:30 a.m. (*quiet*), 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon

Mission · 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.



LENTEN ALMSGIVING

PRAY FAST GIVE

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Through this Lenten Season, we will be collecting items to benefit a different local organization each week. Please know that your donation, no matter how large or small, will make a huge difference and change lives.

March 08 – 09 **Harford Community Action Agency**

Toiletries for adults & children to include body wash, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and body lotion

March 15 – 16 **Char Half-Way House & Homecoming Project**

Laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, and all cleaning supplies

March 22 – 23 **Anna's House**

Paper towels, toilet paper, diapers size 3 & 4, pull ups size 4, 5, & 6, laundry detergent, dish & hand soap, trash bags, Kleenex tissues, shampoo, and conditioner.

March 29 – 30 **Welcome One Center**

10" paper plates, 12 oz. paper bowls, 8 oz. hot paper cups, 10 oz. plastic cups, ground coffee, toilet paper, paper towels, 13 gal. kitchen trash bags, and laundry pods.

April 05 – 06 **Brandon's House & My Daughter's House**

Laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, and all cleaning supplies

April 12 – 13 **Harford Family House**

Large contractor black bags (Walmart/Home Depot), paper towels, toilet paper, glass cleaner (32oz), all-purpose spray cleaner (no bleach), bath towels, 2 in. paint brushes, and roller sleeves (3/8 nap for rolling paint).

Easter Weekend, April 19 – 20 **St. Margaret Outreach**

Gift Cards for ShopRite, Walmart, or Target

Please Support our Lenten Bottle Campaign

Choose Hope Women's Center (formerly Birthright) invites you to give during this season of prayer and sacrifice. Fill your baby bottle with change, bills, checks, or use the QR code for parish donations. Your generosity supports parents facing unexpected pregnancies with compassionate care, education, and ongoing support.

Baby bottles will be distributed at all Masses on the first Sunday of Lent (March 8-9) and collected on Palm Sunday weekend (April 12-13).

Thank you for your dedication to life—together, we make a difference!

Stephanie Atha

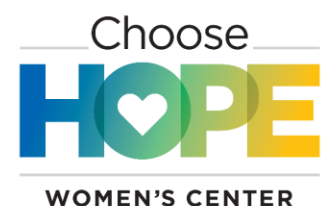
Executive Director
Choose Hope Women's Center

Location

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Contact Us

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[Scan to learn more.](#)