

DATE	LITURGICAL SCHEDULE	MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday May 2nd Memorial of Saint Athanasius	8:00 AM Mass No Vigil Mass	† Mary Sanders Requested by John Sequeira
Sunday May 3rd Fourth Sunday of Easter	10:00 AM Mass	Pro Populo
Monday May 4th Monday of the Fourth Week of Easter	No Mass today	
Tuesday May 5th Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Easter	4:00 PM Mass	Carmelite Nuns Requested by Jan Plazerine
Wednesday May 6th Votive of Saint Joseph	8:00 AM Mass	† Sandra Smathers Grasty Requested by Bernice Smathers
Thursday May 7th Thursday of the Fourth Week of Easter	8:00 AM Mass	Jim Toner Requested by the Toner Family
Friday May 8th Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter	8:00 AM Mass	† Sonny Storch Requested by Jim and JoAnn Toner
Saturday May 9th Saturday of the Fourth Week of Easter	8:00 AM Mass No Vigil Mass	† Don Loetz Requested by Lynn Loetz
Sunday May 10th Fifth Sunday of Easter	10:00 AM Mass	Pro Populo

To request a Mass intention, please visit the parish office during normal business hours.

ST. MARGARET of SCOTLAND

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter May 3rd, 2020 anno Domini

MASS SCHEDULE	MISSION STATEMENT
Sunday Liturgy: 4:00 PM (Vigil) 8:00 AM (seasonal) 10:00 AM	To grow in the love of the Lord, follow the teachings of the Church, & serve one another and the community.
Monday: No Mass Today	CLERGY & STAFF
Tuesday: 4:00 PM	
Wednesday-Saturday: 8:00 AM	
1st Friday of the Month: 6:00 PM	
Holy Day of Obligation: Check website	Rev. Christopher Bond Pastor
Snow Days: Check website	Rev. Mr. Miles Merwin Deacon (seasonal)
Refer to back page for possible changes	Mrs. Leslie McCausland Secretary
	Ms. Nicki Conroy Faith Formation
	Mrs. Bernice Smathers Choir Director
	Ms. Faith Garner Organist
CONFESSIONS: Saturday: 3:00-3:45 PM, Sunday: 9:00-9:45 AM, 1/2 hour before all Daily Masses, or by appointment	OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 AM—4:00 PM Friday—Monday: Closed
SACRAMENTS/FUNERALS: Contact office	

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Imagine if our parish increased in numbers as much as the early Church did as reported in the First Reading from Acts. This is more or less a continuation of Peter's sermon, part of which we heard last week. In fact it begins exactly the same way: "Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed..." As indicated previously, St. Peter is clearly the spokesman for the Apostles.

However, what is remarkable about this particular passage is what is reported in the final verse: "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day." The Church literally went from a Church of a few hundred to a Church of thousands almost instantly. How would we deal with that if it happened here? Peter's words obviously touched lives. Historians are of the opinion that many of those who were baptized and converted on that day may have been pilgrims. They in turn took their faith back to where they were from, and it is clear how the Church grew so rapidly. We who are baptized are called to share that same Good News, that same message. Our parish may not increase by thousands, but if each of us vowed to share our beliefs as those early baptized must have, we would truly be disciples, and the Church would surely grow and advance.



The conviction felt by Peter is shown again in the Second Reading from his First Letter. Reinforcing his strong beliefs which led to the huge conversion reported in Acts, Peter always points to Jesus as our example when he reminds us that we are to be disciples. He says, "For this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving an example that you should follow in his footsteps."

Does that mean we must suffer? Perhaps not, certainly not to the extent the Lord did, but it does mean that we must be committed enough to our faith to be prepared to suffer if necessary. It is not always comfortable following Christ. We know that, and we are very aware of it in what we read, what we have experienced, and what we see reported to us about what is happening in many places in the world.

Jesus is our example as someone who suffered. He bore our sins. He endured punishment. When He was rejected and reviled, He did not respond in kind, but with more commitment to us and His Father. We were healed through Him. We can be sheep who have gone astray. This Easter season is our time to return to our Shepherd and the Savior of our souls. We have been called, and it is a calling to which we need to respond. The Gospel Reading for today reminds us that in addition to all we have heard already it is also Good Shepherd Sunday. Christ is more than an example to us; He is our Good Shepherd, and we are called to be like Him in that regard as well.

The image of a shepherd and sheep is a common one in the Bible and in Holy Scripture because the idea of a sheep and shepherds was so well known to the culture and the people of that time. It is not something we may relate to as well, but we can appreciate how important it was. In that area each night many flocks may have been kept together in one sheepfold, one protected area. For the purpose of rest and being good stewards, one shepherd may have been put in charge so the others could get some rest.

That one shepherd would sleep with his body across the gate to keep the sheep in and to keep invaders out. In Jesus' own words from today's Gospel, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep." Jesus also points out that "...the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep and leads them out." Each shepherd had a personal connection with his sheep. A shepherd did not "drive" his sheep; he led them. He also had a distinctive call that his sheep recognized and responded to. In the morning each shepherd would come to the common sheepfold, give his unique call and his sheep would come out and follow him. Do we follow our Shepherd? Do we listen carefully enough to recognize His voice? That is what our lives really should be about.

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GOING FORWARD

The Stay at Home order in the state of North Carolina is set to expire on **Friday, May 8th**. We can anticipate that North Carolina will follow the lead of other states by "phasing back" to normal which will take place over the course of the following weeks and months. However, the first phase might still be rather restrictive. Additionally, the governor could extend, yet again, current orders. In any event, whenever Haywood County and the state at large officially begin to "reopen," we at St. Margaret's parish will do all that we can to liberate the current restrictions and related logistics with regards to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. As we go deeper into the phase structure, other events and gatherings may be allowed to resume. Of course, just because the state or county might relax the rules, does not mean all of you will be comfortable just yet to go back to the way things were. Please do whatever you feel is safe for you and your family! On that note, one's obligation to attend Sunday Mass (regardless of what the government decides to do) will not be reinstated until Bishop Jugis says that it is.

As always, stay tuned to timely announcements in the bulletin, on the website, and through parish emails. We are in the process of contacting all registered parishioners to update our files. However, if you have not been receiving parish emails and would like to, please call the parish office during normal business hours to ensure we have your current contact information. Additionally, if you are not a registered parishioner and would like to be, please call the office.

COLLECTIONS

Next weekend we will have a second collection for the Preservation and Improvement of the parish. For those who come to the Church for the 10AM Sunday liturgy, the Knights of Columbus will come around to the cars after Mass with 2 baskets to collect this and the general offertory. Again, these and any donations can also be submitted in the box as you come into the Church throughout the week or by turning them in to Leslie during normal business hours. You may also mail your checks.

By now, you should also be aware of another option. Online giving is now available! We accept all major credit/debit cards as well as ACH payments (Automated Clearing House) directly from your checking or savings account. Regardless of your form of payment, you will have the option to designate the fund or collection to which your donation will go. You can even contribute to multiple funds in one transaction. If you would like to setup a recurring contribution you can do that too. If you include your name and/or envelope number on the memo line your contribution will be recorded on our ledger as if you dropped an envelope in the basket. The process is simple and completely secure! Please visit our website; www.stmargaretofscotlandmv.org and **click the "GIVE ONLINE" button** to get started! Thank you for your continued generosity!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

R. Allan, Chris Churchill, Denise Collins, Thomas Dexter, Elliot Dowdell, Norma Esbenshade, Pat Gerkaris, Dick Hamel, Maryellen & Ray Hoefer, Joe Hoefer, Jess, Ketchum, Ann Ketchum, Josh Ketchum, Kimberly Krisan, Matt Loetz, G. Lydia, R. Mas, Peter Mino, Robert Missana, S. Mullen, Michael Naydock, Joseph Orvos, Pat & Suzanne Palmiere, Pat & George Pastore, Mike R., Marie S., Sue Quick, Edward Smathers, Austin Strader, Tinley Jane Toner, Jim Toner, Pvt. Luke Turner, Olivia Triollo, Michael Welch, Bella Grace Yarrington, Bruce Yarrington, David Yarrington.

Names will remain on this list for one month unless notified otherwise.

OFFERINGS (APRIL 14th-APRIL 26th)

Offertory	Preservation & Improvement	Seminarian Education	Votives
\$4,382	\$787	\$80	\$3

DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL 2020

Assessment/Goal	Amount Paid	Pledges Outstanding	Over (Under)
\$22,000	\$8,567	\$11,974	(\$1,459)

**Diocesan ledger does not always reflect recent contributions*