



St. Margaret Mary Church

Guide Book & Directory 2020

1830 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45239 | 513-521-7387
www.stmargaretmaryparish.org

Saint Margaret Mary Church

1830 West Galbraith Road • Cincinnati, OH 45239
(513) 521-7387 • www.stmargaretmaryparish.org

Dear Parishioners and Friends

As we look forward to the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of St. Margaret Mary Parish in 2020 we have planned a number of celebrations and gatherings for our parish community. I hope that you can join us for these celebrations. More information will be forthcoming as we approach 2020.

May you continue to find this booklet provided as a useful resource for our parish family as it provides some information concerning our parish, parish staff and our organizations and activities.

As reflected in our Mission statement we are a Roman Catholic faith community called to worship, to teach and evangelize, to serve and care for one another as followers of Christ.

Through the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy and the celebration of the Sacraments and other prayer and spiritual programs we deepen our life in the Lord. By the presence of our faith formation and education programs we further the call to teach as Jesus taught and to grow more as his disciples. Through the programs of service and outreach we respond to Jesus' invitation to love our neighbor.

As with any organization that is alive and active we find that change is part of our experience. While schedules and information are provided with the best intention to convey current practices and times, please remember to consult the weekly bulletin, the parish website at www.stmargaretmaryparish.org, or to contact the parish office, at 513-521-7387, for liturgy schedules and other current information regarding our parish life.

Sincerely,

Fr. Jerry Gardner

Parish Mission Statement

The Catholic people of this local community have come together as followers of Jesus Christ to build the parish family of St. Margaret Mary. We are called to worship and praise God; to teach and evangelize; and to serve and care for one another in a Christian environment.

Parish Staff

Rev. Jerome (Jerry) J. Gardner, *Pastor*

Fr. Dale Peterka, *Sunday and Holy Day Assistance*

Wilma McGlasson, *Faith Formation Director*..... wmcglasson@fuse.net

Jenni Petrey, *Business Manager*..... jpetrey@stmargaretmaryparish.org

Maureen Mason, *Secretary & Scheduler* mmason@zoomtown.com

George Becker, *Parish Musician*

Bill Johansing, *Maintenance*

Karrie Heeg, *Custodian*

Parish Office..... 521-7387

Faith Formation Office 729-0222

Bingo (Fri. after 6:00 p.m.)..... 729-1551

Mass Schedule

Be sure to check the weekly bulletin for occasional changes to the Mass schedule.

Weekdays:

Monday & Tuesday Mass at Assumption Church at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday Communion Service at St. Margaret Mary Church at 8:30 a.m.

Thursday & Friday Mass at St. Margaret Mary Church at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday: 4:30 p.m. (Saturday), 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Holy days: 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

2019-2020 Parish Pastoral Council

Kevin Sims, *Chairperson*..... 535-0440

Denise Blum, *Vice-Chair* 328-1517

Donna Bodkin 235-2471

Edward Cefalu 226-3206

Kelly Hartwig 470-7299

Bill Keuper 522-6422

Margie King 729-4643

Sharon Lech 382-4764

Pastoral Advisory Commissions

Worship Commission

Finance Commission

Tom Perazzo, 931-7382

Vocations Commission

Evelyn Bardua, 521-8155 or Linda Lech, 729-5420

Communications Commission

Janice Stentz, 405-0451

Faith Formation Commission

Wilma McGlasson, Faith Formation Director, 729-0222,
wmcglasson@fuse.net

Building & Grounds Commission

Bill Johansing, 521-7387

Sacraments

Baptism: Baptisms of infants and children under the age of seven are scheduled after the parents have participated in a preparation class. This class is scheduled with the Faith Formation Director as requested by the parents. Expectant parents are encouraged to participate in this class before the birth of the child.

The formation and baptism of children older than seven years of age and adults will be through the formation process of the R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

Parents and other interested participants should contact Wilma McGlasson, our parish Faith Formation Director at 729-0222, or email her at wmcglasson@fuse.net.

Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is normally scheduled on Saturday afternoons from 3:00-3:30 p.m. or by appointment, 521-7387. Parish penance services take place during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Catechesis for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation begins in second grade and a parish celebration of First Reconciliation takes place at the Parish Penance Service during Advent. Families who have children who are the appropriate age for this sacrament are generally contacted by the Faith Formation Director in late Summer regarding the sacramental preparations schedule for the upcoming school year. *Parents and other interested participants should contact Wilma McGlasson, our parish Faith Formation Director at 729-0222, or email her at wmcglasson@fuse.net.*

Holy Eucharist: Preparation for First Communion takes place for baptized Catholics ordinarily at the age of seven, usually in the second grade. Its celebration is normally scheduled during the Easter season. It is expected that an individual be in a faith formation program for at least one year prior to receiving his/her First Communion. Families who have children who are the appropriate age for this sacrament are generally contacted by the Faith Formation Director in late Summer regarding the sacramental preparations schedule for the upcoming school year. *Parents and other interested participants should contact Wilma McGlasson, our parish Faith Formation Director at 729-0222, or email her at wmcglasson@fuse.net.*

Confirmation: The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated yearly or every other year, depending on the need, for baptized Catholics age 12 or older. It is expected that the candidate for Confirmation be in a faith formation program that includes the participation of their parents or guardians and the Confirmation sponsor. Families who have children who are the appropriate age for this sacrament are generally contacted by the Faith Formation Director in late Summer regarding the sacramental preparations schedule for the upcoming school year. *Parents and other interested participants should contact Wilma McGlasson, our parish Faith Formation Director at 729-0222, or email her at wmcglasson@fuse.net.*

Marriage: Engaged couples—of whom one is a Catholic and a registered member of St. Margaret Mary parish—should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance of desired wedding date to make an appointment to meet with the pastor or his delegate. Participation in designated preparation programs, FOCCUS and an Archdiocesan Pre-Cana Program are prerequisites for the celebration of marriage as required by the Archdiocese and parish guidelines. A date for the wedding will be set only after this initial interview. *Contact the Parish Office, 521-7387 for more information.*

Anointing of the Sick: This sacrament is to be received by those of the faithful whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age. It is also intended for anyone before surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery. Individuals or family members should contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

In the case of an emergency, Anointing of the Sick can be received any time. Call the Rectory or Parish Office at 521-7387.

Holy Orders: Holy Orders are conferred upon men who are called to the ordained ministry in the Church, usually by the Archbishop. There is a period of discernment and preparation both ministerial and academic before someone is called to Holy Orders, whether for the diaconate or the priesthood.

If you are interested or know someone who might be a worthy candidate, you can contact Fr. Gardner at 521-7387 or you may also contact the Archdiocesan Vocation Office at 421-3131.



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Ms. Mandy Kirk-Principal

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Phone: (513) 931-3070 Fax: (513) 931-3707

Email: contact@olgcs.org

St. Margaret Mary parishioner K-8 students attend Our Lady of Grace Catholic School. Our Lady of Grace is a regional school formed in 2008 by the joining of St. Ann, Assumption, Little Flower and St. Margaret Mary schools. St. Margaret Mary parish students who attend Our Lady of Grace are subsidized by the parish when the family is registered and active as members of St. Margaret Mary parish.

The indicators of an active parishioner are in the areas of parish worship life (Sunday Mass attendance), and volunteer activities, especially involvement in the parish fundraisers: Friday Night Bingo Program, Casino Night and German Fest. An absence of participation in these areas has a great impact on parish life and parish financial resources for parish programs, including Our Lady of Grace Catholic School. As the demographics of our parish community change and the economy remains uncertain, everyone's help is needed, especially that of our school families who benefit greatly from the good will and generosity of all our parishioners.

Parishioners are provided with opportunities to support and connect with the OLG school community through school functions such as the annual Walk-a-Thon, Open House, theatrical and choral performances, and sporting events. Donations to the St. Margaret Mary Adopt-a-student program is another way parishioners are able to support our school.

For more information about registering a child for enrollment at OLG, contact the Parish Office, 521-7387. Visit the OLG web site for up-to-date information about the current school year, www.olgcs.org.

Adopt-a-Student Program: St. Margaret Mary's Adopt-a-Student program is a parish fund established to support registered and active parish families with identified financial needs for Catholic elementary school tuition. After completing the required form, the family's needs are reviewed and monies are distributed to the parish school in the name of the student from available funds when applicable.

Contact the Parish Office for information on how to contribute to this fund, or to inquire about becoming a recipient, 521-7387.

Liturgical Ministries

Lectors: Lectors assume the responsibility of clearly proclaiming the Word of God in Scripture readings during Mass. An interested person will meet with a parish staff person who will explain the functions of a lector, allow time for practice at the ambo, and answer any questions you may have. *If you are interested in more information about becoming a lector, contact Wilma McGlasson, our parish Faith Formation Director at 729-0222, or email her at wmcglasson@fuse.net.*

Eucharistic Ministers: Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, also known as Eucharistic Ministers, assist with distribution of Holy Communion during Mass, and also provide Holy Communion to parishioners who are sick, homebound or in nursing homes, witnessing to the presence of Christ in our midst. Some training is required and can be conveniently arranged for anyone who is interested in participating in this ministry. *If you are interested in more information about becoming a Eucharistic Minister, contact Wilma McGlasson, our parish Faith Formation Director at 729-0222, or email her at wmcglasson@fuse.net.*

Altar Servers: Boys and girls are called to serve at Mass beginning in the 5th grade or at age 10. Older children and adults of any age are welcome to assist with this important ministry as well. Adults may want to consider joining this ministry with their children or grandchildren. There is a great need for servers at all Masses. Training is required and will be provided. *If you are interested in more information about becoming an altar server, contact Wilma McGlasson, our parish Faith Formation Director at 729-0222, or email her at wmcglasson@fuse.net.*

Cross Bearers: Cross bearers carry the crucifix and lead the processional of the altar servers, lector and priest to the altar at the beginning of Mass as well as during the recession at the conclusion of Mass.

Ushers & Greeters: The responsibilities of the ushers are varied. Ushers are responsible for making fellow parishioners, as well as visitors, feel welcome in our church, opening the door and greeting people as they come into the church. They are also responsible for the safety of congregants, assisting if someone becomes ill or gets hurt. The ushers take up the offering and make sure the offertory procession is taken care of, and facilitate the distribution of Holy Communion. After Mass the ushers distribute the bulletins and lock up the church after everyone is gone.

Offertory Procession: Those who participate in the Offertory Procession are taking on a special role in the Mass. During the Offertory Procession, the gifts of bread and wine are presented to the priest at the altar. It is an expression of our willingness to offer to God what he has given to us and is symbolic of the congregation's participation in the Eucharist. Any individual or family that is interested in taking part in the Offertory Procession should notify one of the ushers before the beginning of Mass to be sure they are aware and to make sure that the need has not already been filled for that Mass.

Sacristan: Our parish's team of sacristans may work quietly behind the scenes, yet you would notice if they weren't there. Some of the tasks of a sacristan include making sure the water, wine and bread are ready and in place for the start of Mass; keeping the Sacristy clean and in order; light housekeeping around the altar and other areas of the church; keeping the holy water fonts clean and full; and laundering and ironing the altar cloths. Being a sacristan requires that you are capable of performing light housekeeping tasks (like dusting, vacuuming, etc), that you are reliable and able to come to the church during regular work week office hours. Generally a sacristan is scheduled once a month and their work needs to be completed before the weekend.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the Liturgical Ministries at St. Margaret Mary, contact the Parish Office at 521-7387 and you will be put in touch with someone on the team who can answer your questions and provide any training needed.

Music Ministries

In addition to the liturgical music provided by our parish musician, our parish is also blessed with the inspirational music and song of our Contemporary Music Group and Funeral Choir.

Contemporary Music Group: The Contemporary Music Group at St. Margaret Mary sings during the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays, providing music to inspire the congregation in giving glory and praise to God. The group rehearses every other Monday in the Church from 6:00-7:00 p.m. *Anyone who is interested in being a part of the Contemporary Music Group should contact Paul Hillner at Paul.Hillner@uc.edu to schedule an audition.*

Funeral Choir: Losing a loved one is a time when the presence and support of a worshipping community is valued. St. Margaret Mary parish is blessed to have a funeral choir that ministers to bereaved families by leading the singing at Masses of Christian Burial. This is especially appreciated when the family and circle of friends of the deceased is small. Since every choir member cannot attend every funeral, there can never be too many members! Won't you (or someone you know, you don't have to be a parishioner) consider lending your voice to this important ministry? *Contact George Becker via the Parish Office, 521-7387 or any choir member for particulars. We'd love to have you join us.*

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Adult Faith Formation

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): R.C.I.A. is a process developed by the Catholic Church for prospective adult converts to the Catholic faith, either un-baptized or baptized in another Christian faith. We invite anyone who is interested in learning about the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church to join us for discussions. R.C.I.A. provides opportunities for formation, study, prayer, and ritual for those considering becoming members of the Catholic faith community. If you are interested in pursuing the Catholic faith on a regular basis, we are happy to meet with you and proceed on this Journey of Faith together.

Catholics Come Home: Have you been away from us for a while or maybe a very long time? Would you like to learn about what you may have missed and to consider being a part of our faith community again? *Catholics Come Home* is a program designed for those who have been away and are interested in coming back into full communion with the Catholic Church. If you are interested in learning more, or discussing the program, Contact Wilma McGlasson, our parish Faith Formation Director. She will be happy to meet with you. And if you decide to join us again, we will help you make it happen.

Scripture Study: The scripture study group meets on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the Faith Formation Director's office in the Parish Activity Center to read and reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings and to pray for topics brought to their attention, including parishioners who ask for prayers. All are welcome.

Dynamic Catholic Book Club: Dynamic Catholic Book Club meets in the Faith Formation Director's office in the Parish Activity Center on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the current book being read by the group.

If you are interested in knowing more about any of the Adult Faith Formation offerings at St. MM, contact Wilma McGlasson, our parish Faith Formation Director. She will answer any questions you have. She can be reached at 729-0222, or email her at wmcglasson@fuse.net.

Religious Programs for Children

Youth Faith Formation at St. Margaret Mary

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW): C.L.O.W. takes place on Sunday mornings during 10:30 a.m. Mass and is designed especially for children ages 4 to 8. Children are called forward and dismissed to hear the readings at their level of understanding, returning to their parents after the Intercessions. Helpers, including Jr. High and High School parishioners, are needed and welcomed to assist with the program. Adults, age 18 and over must be VIRTUS certified (our child protection program). Contact our parish Faith Formation Director, Wilma McGlasson if you have questions about the program, including if you are interested in helping or becoming part of the leadership.

Parish School Religion (PSR): The PS.R. program is for the religious education and faith formation of parish children in grades 1-8 who attend public schools. PS.R. is currently offered on Sunday mornings from September to May and takes place between the Masses from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m.; or a plan can be created for individuals and their parent/guardian through home school supervision during the school year.

If you are interested in knowing more about any of the Youth Faith Formation offerings at St. MM, contact Wilma McGlasson, our parish Faith Formation Director. She will answer any questions you have. She can be reached at 729-0222, or email her at wmcglasson@fuse.net.

Prayer Ministries

Prayer Chain: The Prayer Chain at St. Margaret Mary is there for anyone who wants or needs prayers. Our purpose is to provide strength and healing through prayer, but also to let others know they are not alone. You can be a part of this ministry through e-mail or a phone chain. *If you would like to pray for those in need, please contact Linda Lech at 729-5420.*

5th Saturday Morning Mass and Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction: When there is a fifth Saturday in the month, St. Margaret Mary has an 8:30 a.m. Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and Benediction at 10:00 am. This can be a time of peace and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Anyone can attend but *if you would like to become a regular adorer, please call Linda Lech at 729-5420.*

Rosary Group: The purpose of this group is to offer prayer and praise to Our Lady by praying the Rosary, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and by singing hymns. The Rosary Group gathers every first Friday at 3:30 p.m. in Church. It is open to all — everyone is invited to join us in prayer and song. *For more information, contact Linda Lech 729-5420, or Evelyn Bardua 521-8155.*

Vocation Cup: Parishioners at St. Margaret Mary are encouraged to pray for vocations by signing up for the Vocation Cup for a period of one week. The Vocation Cup is a visible reminder in the home to pray and offer sacrifices for vocations, asking Our Lord to send laborers for His Church. Sign ups may also be repeated during the year. The sign up book is located in the Vocation Corner in the rear of Church in the Holy Family Room. *For more information, contact Linda Lech 729-5420, or Evelyn Bardua 521-8155.*

Cursillo: The Cursillo is an official worldwide movement of the Catholic Church, and is supported by the Holy See. The purpose of the Cursillo is to help each person to develop a better understanding of how much God loves them. As people discover the deep love of Jesus, they develop a natural desire to follow Him. The Cursillo utilizes a method for pursuing a continuous and progressive conversion to Christ, and it consists of leading a balanced life of piety, study, and action. The Cursillo encourages people to share their faith with friends in small prayer groups. The Cursillo recognizes the challenges of living as a disciple of Jesus and the dangers of trying to do it alone. By encouraging and supporting one another in small friendship groups, each person is better able to live the Gospel in his or her everyday life. Many people from St. Margaret Mary are involved with Cursillo and living the method the Cursillo promotes. *If you are interested, please contact Tom or Donna Perazzo at 931-7382.*

Ministries of Care, Guidance and Service

St. Margaret Mary Service Organization plans service and social events for all members of the parish with a focus on the youth. Events and services the group currently provides are: Mt. Healthy Christian Village Bingo (3rd Saturday of the month, helping residents play bingo), annual Easter Egg Scramble, Confirmation Reception, Jesus Day Retreat, Turkey Dinner, Celebration of Graduates and awarding of scholarships to qualifying student(s) attending a Catholic High School. The group is always open to new ideas for projects and opportunities to serve the parish and surrounding community.

Please contact Denise Blum if you have ideas, questions or are interested in learning how you can help with any of the St. MM Service Organization's activities, 328-1517.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul work to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to our neighbors in need. Vincentians are parish-based volunteers, young and old, men and women from all walks of life, all blessed with an awareness that our blessings should be shared with our brothers and sisters in need. Wherever there is a need, Vincentians go two-by-two to do what they can to ease the physical and emotional suffering of their neighbors. Sometimes they can only listen and offer comfort, but often they provide material assistance.

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Members of our parish St. Vincent De Paul Society offer year-round assistance and support to those in need who live within the parish boundaries. In addition to a special “Fifth Sunday” collection, the group conducts an annual food drive to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and also sponsors the Advent Giving Tree.

Contact Danny Amshoff, president, at 741-9007 for information about how you can get involved.

Bereavement Ministry: The mission of the Bereavement Ministry is to provide comfort and solace to those who have lost a loved one. Bereavement members assist grieving families with the preparation of their loved one’s funeral liturgy, helping them select the readings and hymns for the Funeral Mass which are taken from a handbook from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Bereavement members are also present for the families on the day of the Funeral Mass.

The Bereavement Ministry also helps to coordinate the Mass of Remembrance of the Deceased of St. Margaret Mary, held each year on the Sunday closest to the Feast of All Souls, when families of those who died during the past year are invited to come forward and light a candle in honor of their loved one as their names are read from the pulpit.

Members of the Bereavement Ministry feel it is an honor and a blessing to be there for our parish families in their time of grief. It is with a compassionate heart that they perform one of the works of Mercy.

If you are interested in learning more about this special ministry and how you can participate, please contact Linda Lech at 729-5420 or Pam Windisch, 521-7537.

Marriage Ministry: The mission of the Marriage Ministry is to assist the priest with preparing our engaged couples for marriage, with the intention of encouraging fruitful and lasting marriages. The engaged couple will meet with a married couple from the parish who has been trained to administer an inventory for marriage preparation called the FOCCUS. After this is complete, the engaged couple and married couple meet again for discussion on the topics from the FOCCUS.

St. Margaret Mary’s Marriage Ministry also sponsors an annual recognition of all couples in the parish who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of 25, 50, 60, 70 and 75 years. The couples are given special recognition at a Sunday Mass, followed by a reception for the couples and their guests in Madonna Hall.

If you have questions or an interest to get involved with this ministry, you can contact Rita Wietmarschen, 931-8415, or Linda Lech, 729-5420.

Ministries of, by, and for the Men of the Parish

Men's Saturday Morning Prayer Group: On Saturday mornings from 8:00-9:30 a.m., a men's small prayer group meets in Rm. 20 or 21 of the PAC to encourage and support one another in their individual efforts to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. Together they share their faith, pray together, and reflect upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *If you are interested in learning more, contact Tom Perazzo, 931-7382, or email tperazzo@cinci.rr.com.*

Men's Interfaith Community Prayer Breakfasts: The Men's Interfaith Community Prayer Breakfasts take place on Saturday mornings several times during the year. All men of the parish are invited to attend this ecumenical gathering of men from all churches in the community. Enjoy a morning of prayer, faith sharing and fellowship. The location of the breakfast rotates among the participating churches. *Watch the bulletin and calendar for the next scheduled date for this event.*

Helping Hands Ministries Volunteer Opportunities

"Many hands make light work"

Bulletin and Mailing Stuffers (B.A.M.S.): Many people are not aware that the inserts found in their weekly bulletins are hand-inserted by faithful parish volunteers each week. This same team also prepares the parish quarterly newsletter for mailing by folding, tabbing, applying mailing labels, and taking them to the post office, as well as being on call for any other special mailings that need to be assembled. The B.A.M.S. group has been shrinking. It is in great need of new helpers. The bulletins are stuffed every Friday morning in the Holy Family Room following morning Mass. The newsletters are quarterly and generally assembled during a day earlier in the week when they arrive from the printer. If you are someone who is available during the day and capable of working with your hands, this is a volunteer opportunity for you to consider. *Contact the Parish Office, 521-7387 for more information or to volunteer to help.*

St. Paul Community Dinner: Jesus taught us to love God, to love one another, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. St. Paul Church at Hamilton and Bising puts these words into action with their free Community Dinner that takes place every Tuesday evening from 5:00-6:30 p.m. They serve around 100 people each week. St. Margaret Mary takes a turn providing volunteers to prepare and serve the meal every 5th Tuesday. Meal prep begins at 4:00 p.m., serves from 5:00-6:30 p.m. followed by cleanup which is complete by 7:00 p.m. Help is always appreciated whether a person can be there the entire time or just part of the time. *If you can help with this wonderful outreach to our citizens, or would like to know more, call the Parish Office, 521-7387.*

Assisting Our Visually Impaired Parishioners: Clovernook Center for the Blind is located in North College Hill and many of its clients reside in the surrounding area. Those who are members of our Catholic community need transportation to Mass as well as assistance with a variety of other activities. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. *Contact the Parish Office, 521-7387 for more information or to volunteer to help.*

Buildings and Grounds Volunteers: The temporal needs of the parish buildings and grounds are identified and overseen by Parish Council and staff. Occasionally there is a need for assistance from volunteers to carry out particular tasks throughout the year. *If you wish to share a particular skill for the service of the parish, please contact the custodian through the Parish Office, 521-7387.*

Fundraisers

Friday Night Bingo: The mission of the bingo is to provide financial support to the parish. Our bingo is supported solely by volunteers and is the largest fundraising effort for the parish. All parishioners are encouraged to volunteer their time to the bingo on Friday night or by counting instants on Monday afternoon/evening. Monday night counting is on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 4:30 until 6:00 p.m. *Any questions, call Debbie Klein 513-403-1527.*

Casino Night is an event for those 21 and over. Patrons enjoy games of chance and cards, (Poker, Black Jack and Texas Holdem). Food and drink are included with admission. This event takes place on the Saturday before Ash Wednesday. Parishioners are encouraged to volunteer. *Contact Jenni Petrey, 521-7387 for more information.*

German Fest is a parish fundraiser taking place in the month of September. The event consists of an early admission cost that includes a German buffet and later general admission with cost including snacks and drinks. The centerpiece of the games is the Über Split-der-Pot in which the winner splits the total proceeds from the sale of the Über Split-der-Pot tickets. Must be 21 to attend. *Contact Jenni Petrey, 521-7387 for more information.*

Kroger Community Rewards: Kroger has made it even easier to help our parish earn money when you shop at Kroger or an affiliate store. Each time you shop and present your KrogerPlus card at checkout, your purchases will earn 4% cash back for the parish. **You must register your KrogerPlus card online** and then it is as simple as presenting your KrogerPlus card at checkout like you already do. The program is an easy way to earn money for the parish. **Simply log in to your online Kroger account, go to Account Settings, scroll down to Community Rewards. Our NPO# is NX063.** *Contact Jenni Petrey, 521-7387 for more information.*

Stewardship & Giving Opportunities

Weekly Collections: Sunday collections are a critical part of planning and budget formation for the parish. Consistent use of the parish collection envelopes provides the financial support needed for normal parish operating expenses and also ensures validation of contributions at tax time. With the many needs of parish life, your generosity is greatly appreciated and well used.

Online Giving: Offerings may be made electronically online through Online Giving. A link to instructions for registering with the parish Online Giving service can be found on the home page of the parish website. Or try the Online Giving “Quick Give” feature. This allows you to bypass the registration process in order to make a quicker donation. Online Giving can be used for making regular weekly contributions, or for holiday, holy day, special collections, and memorial contributions.

Planned Giving (Bequests): Planned giving is available through bequests, gift annuities, charitable trusts, charitable insurance and other opportunities. *Contact the Parish Office, 521-7387 for more information about making a planned gift.*

Mass Intentions: The “custom of requesting a priest to offer the Mass for a specific intention, even when one cannot be physically present at the Mass, is a long-standing tradition in the Church. The Church considers the Mass as the greatest possible prayer of intercession insofar as it is the perfect offering of Christ to the Father by making present the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection.”

“Because of the particular role of the priest as mediator between God and man, acting ‘in persona Christi’ when offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass, it is usually considered that special graces may be obtained when he applies the Mass to a particular intention.”

“The faithful generally make an offering, called a stipend, in order to apply the Mass to a specific intention. By making this offering, the faithful, by parting with something that is their own, associate themselves more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the sacred Host, and obtain thereby more abundant fruits (See Pope Paul VI’s letter “Firma in Traditione” of June 13, 1974.)” —Source: www.catholic.org

Contact the Parish Office at 521-7387 to arrange Planned Giving or Mass Intentions.

Parish Community Gatherings

In addition to the many spiritual and liturgical opportunities offered by St. Margaret Mary Parish, there are a number of occasions throughout the year when parishioners can gather together as a faith community, to enjoy fellowship, share a meal and generally celebrate being a parish. Information about upcoming activities and events are announced in the bulletin, on the parish website calendar, or in the quarterly parish newsletter.

Specific dates are announced once planning has taken place:

German Fest: On a Saturday in September

Celebrate St. Margaret Mary: Takes place on a weekend in October, selected to be in close proximity to the Feast of our patroness, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque which is on October 17.

Turkey Dinner: First Saturday in November

Casino Night: Saturday before Ash Wednesday