



ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OMAHA

6116 Dodge Street Omaha NE 68132-2114
Phone 402-558-2255 Fax 402-551-6644
smmomaha.org

Welcome

It is with great joy that our parish welcomes you as a newly registered member!

This packet provides you with some general information about our parish ministries, organizations and activities.

We hope it will provide information about opportunities that will help you to live out your faith as an engaged member of our parish.

Please call us if you have any questions or if we can be of help in any way.

**“Plene Vivit in Sacro Corde Christi Resurgentis”
Fully alive in the Sacred Heart of the Risen Christ**

The people of St. Margaret Mary parish are a Catholic Christian community gathered together to celebrate the presence of Christ in sacrifice and sacrament. Our community is supported and developed by meeting spiritual, educational and social needs.
(Parish Mission Statement)

Church Staff 402-558-2255

Pastor: Rev. Greg. Baxter

Associate Pastor: Rev. Vincent Sunguti

In Residence:

Rev. Andy Roza

Rev. Joseph Taphorn

Pastoral Coordinator : Deacon Marty Smith (Alice)

Deacons:

Deacon Chuck Adams (Susan)

Deacon Jim Keating (Marianne)

Deacon Mike Conzett (Valerie)

Music Ministry Director: Peg Lacy

Youth Ministry Director: Jennifer Varner

Religious Education Director: Linda Stryker 402-558-9119

School Principal : Peggy Grennan 402-551-6663

Administration

Parish Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is the central coordinating body of the Parish. It is charged with overall parish pastoral development, and identifying goals and annual objectives of the parish, with the approval of the Pastor. Within the parameters of Archdiocesan policy and Church law, it is also responsible for the formulation of policy for the parish.

Parish Finance Committee:

The Parish Finance committee is charged with the budgeting and tracking of the finances of the Parish.

School Board:

It is the role of the School Board, in alignment with the parish pastoral plan, to advise and assist the Pastor and Principal on issues related to school policy, finance/tuition, staffing, curriculum, alumni relations, institutional advancement, school building and grounds and other areas of concern to the life of the school. The term is for three years and the Board typically will meet from September . May.

Catechesis and Faith Formation Board:

The role of the Catechesis and Faith Formation Board, in alignment with the parish pastoral plan, will be to advise and assist the Pastor, the Director of Religious Education and Director of Youth Ministry, in the establishment and implementation of policy and program curriculum, which aids and supports opportunities for all parishioners to encounter, to learn, and to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

This means being attentive to the catechetical and faith formation needs of our senior adults, adults with children at home, single adults, and young adults. It includes our college and high school students and our children of catechetical age, both in our religious education program and in our school, as well as a focus on early childhood catechesis. The board will also be attentive to the needs of those who desire to become members of the faith by offering support to the RCIA program.

Athletic Committee:

Plans and implements athletic programs for parishioners, including adults and children, in furtherance of the Christian educational mission. Contact: Dave Dare 402-556-8914

Education

Adult Formation:

Encourages life-long faith development by offering a variety of formation and spiritual renewal opportunities for adults at varying stages of their pilgrim journey. Adult formation programs for the parish are offered through the Adult Education Sub-committee of the St. Margaret Mary Catechesis and Faith Formation Board. **Contact: Jeff Steiner 402-210-2799, jsteiner93@gmail.com or Linda Stryker 402-558-9119, lstryker@smmomaha.org**

Baptism and Baptism Preparation Class

Baptism classes are provided to assist parents in their roles as primary spiritual educators for their children. Parents must attend the class prior to their first child's baptism. Visit our website at <http://smmomaha.org/baptism/> for more information and to register for Baptisms or classes. Forms are also available in the kiosks of the church or by calling the Parish Office.

Contact: Parish Office 402-558-2255

Bible Study

Scripture study and faith sharing. Men, women and mixed groups are offered on various days and different times of the week to fit many different schedules.

Contact: Sue Mandel, Chairperson 402-556-9354, smandel@cox.net or Linda Stryker 402-558-2255

Elementary 5-Day School – State Accredited & National Blue Ribbon Award (2008)

St. Margaret Mary Parish provides the services of a Catholic Elementary Day School, serving Kindergarten through 8th grade. The mission statement of our school is *Saint Margaret Mary School forms young people in faith, conscience, scholarship and service in the Catholic tradition*. Our desire is for students to become personally responsible to God, self, family and country.

Contact: Peggy Grennan 402-551-6663

Subsidiary Bodies:

Day School Committee: Advises the Board with respect to all matters related to St. Margaret Mary School. This committee deals with all matters related to the day school.

Home and School Association: Helps organize the volunteer efforts of families at St. Margaret Mary School. Aims to facilitate better communication between teachers, families, students, etc. For a complete list of the numerous committees and volunteer opportunities refer to the Home and School Handbook.

Marriage: A Journey for Life

Marriage preparation is intended to assist couples in preparing for marriage in the Archdiocese of Omaha. Each of the marriage preparation programs provides a solid understanding of the Catholic Christian tradition of marriage. Lead couples are always welcomed. **Contact: Family Life Office 402-551-9003/www.archomaha.org, or Fr. Greg Baxter 402-558-2255 or smmomaha.org**

(RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults:

RCIA is directed to those people interested in learning more about our faith and considering either entry, or coming into full communion, with the Catholic Church. The rewards of this ministry come from the fellowship and community that develops among people trying to live out their lives as Catholics.

Contact: Deacon Chuck Adams 402-556-8261

Religious Education

Our Religious Education Program is offered to children in grades 1-8. It is intended for children who are not attending Catholic school. The RE program follows the same curriculum as the Catholic school. The curriculum is Christ centered and includes formation in morality, Catholic prayer and liturgy. Persons interested in volunteering are encouraged to offer their talents in teaching as well as music, drama and art.

Contact: Linda Stryker 402-558-9119, lstryker@smmomaha.org

Sunday School

Sunday School is for 3- to 5-year olds. They use Sharing God's Story to learn Bible stories. Each week they listen to a new story and do special activities, such as music, art and drama. Sunday School meets at 10:20-11:30am in the lower level of church.

Contact: Linda Stryker 402-558-9119, lstryker@smmomaha.org

That Man Is You

This program combines the best scientific research with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints. It tackles real issues facing real men. It looks at the leadership role that has been entrusted to men; addresses the temptations and struggles that men face in a culture that attacks authentic manhood; and helps formulate a plan that allows men to overcome these obstacles.

Contact: Deacon Chuck Adams 402-556-8261

Young Adult Ministry

Adults in their 20s & 30s gather to build community, socialize, pray and serve the parish and community. All walks of life; married or single -- with or without children

Contact: Deacon Marty Smith 402-558-2255

Youth Ministry:

Youth Ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of the young people, and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community. Youth Ministry offers educational, spiritual, social, and service opportunities for youth in grades 7-12. **Contact: Jennifer Varner 402-558-2255**

Service

Funeral Luncheon Ministry:

Arranges, prepares and serves a luncheon for family and friends of deceased parishioners upon request. A nominal fee is charged.

Contact: Parish Office 402-558-2255

Hospital Ministry:

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) help the priests visit patients at local hospitals and nursing homes, as well as making home visits to the sick.

Contact: Deacon Marty Smith 402-558-2255

Gardens and Grounds Ministry:

This group plants and maintains all gardens on the grounds. In addition, they work with the trees and bushes to maintain the original appearance and preserve the vision of Fr. Suneg. **Contact: Don Schinzel 402-558-2255**

Guild

The Women's Guild fosters the spirit of Christian fellowship and helps respond to the material needs of the parish through a network of Circles made up of SMM women of various backgrounds, ages and interests. All women of the parish are welcome to join a Circle. **Guild President: Anne Specht 402-895-6997**

Guild Welcome Ministry: for Guild questions or to discuss which Circle is best for

Circle 1: you, please contact the Guild President.

Members: Primarily made up of women who are Baby Boomers. We are women, who are empty nesters, (and *wanna be empty nesters!*) We are women who are married or single. We have a wide range of life experiences and are always happy to have new women join our circle!

Activities: Meetings are in member's homes the third week of the month on Tuesday or Wednesdays. Members are involved in many parish ministries and will chair the Estate Sale again this year.

Circle 2:

Members: Mothers with school-age children.

Activities: Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am. This group is very active in the parish, school and community service. We have co-chaired the Wild West Casino Night, and Dancing with the Stars.

Circle 3

Members: Young women & mothers with young children through middle school.

Activities: Involved in a variety of projects to support the SMM community. Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. Child care is available for \$2 per child, \$5 per family.

Circle 4:

Members: Mixed ages.

Activities: Meetings are usually the third Thursday of each month in the evening. September salad supper, Easter baskets for elderly and disadvantaged children, Christmas Project, Parish Pizza Party & various social activities.

Circle 5:

Members: 60 & above

Activities: Meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month in homes for Noon luncheons. Involved in EPS fundraising, serving dinner at the Stephen Center, and help other Circles with projects as much as we are able. We provide care and support for each Circle member.

Circle 6:

Members: Mixed ages; Mothers with children (Infant through college age)

Activities: Typically meet the 1st Tuesday of each month, and rotate daytime and evening meetings With a variety of activities. Activities include supporting Essential Pregnancy Services, Holiday Make & Take Boutique, Ladies Night, Movie Night and Marriage Enrichment

Circle 7:

Members: Age 50 and above

Activities: Calling all ladies who have "been there done that" to relax at lunch once a month, September through April, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Suneg Center at Noon. Hear parish and Guild news and know there is no project ... ever.

Circle 8:

Members: Mixed ages, 40's – 50's and with children of all ages.

Activities: Meet 4-5 times a year in the home of various members. This warm group of women is involved in various ministries and supports other Circle's projects. We are a social group that enjoys spiritual fellowship. Spouses and guests are often included. All are welcome!

Circle 9:

Members: Mixed ages; 50 and above.

Activities: Meetings held the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 9:15am in the church chapel to pray the Rosary and occasionally go for coffee. Anyone who enjoys the Rosary is welcome to join us. We are also host an Advent Enrichment coffee.

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Circle 10:

Members: Mothers of elementary through college age children

Activities: Meets the second Wednesday of the month with various meeting times. Supports a variety of parish events. Sponsors the "Chasing Sainthood" Family Fun Run and holds fun family and couple events

Guild Standing Committees:

Marthas: Provides meals for parishioners during illness, hospitalization and other emergencies.

Contact: Lisa Manning 402-561-9155

St. Ann's: Takes care of weekly cleaning of altar linens.

Contact: Mary Pat Mockler 402-391-8799

Knights of Columbus

A Catholic men's fraternal organization. The primary purpose is to bring Catholic men together to serve the needs of the parish, and the Holy Father. A secondary purpose is to bring Catholic men and their families together in Christian fellowship **Contact: Britton DeWeese 402-238-7887**

Men's Club

A parish-wide community of sons, brothers, husbands and fathers. This diverse group wants to live out what it means to be Catholic living in today's secular world. The goal of the Men's Club is to support its members through friendship and prayer. Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Contact: Arnie Ovalles 402-689-1488

Nursery

All children ages approximately 6 months to 5 years are welcome to attend the nursery at no charge. The nursery is open during the 10:30a.m. Mass on Sunday mornings. It is located in the church basement (first door to the right as you walk off the elevator). A combination of volunteers from our parish, and parents of children who use the nursery staff the nursery. If you would like to volunteer one shift every six weeks, your time would be greatly appreciated. We hope that you find the nursery a safe and happy place to leave your children while you celebrate the Mass.

Contact: Adriana Cisneros 402-540-7830

Parish Nursing Ministry

Is recognized as a specialty practice by the American Nurses Association. Parish nurses understand health as a dynamic process encompassing the whole person - body, mind and spirit. Parish nurses strive to promote healthy lifestyles for all ages.

Contact: Lucretia Danielson 402-558-8299/Carol Lim 402-553-6274/Elizabeth Pokorny 402-553-1713

"Senior Saints" Senior Adult Group

Luncheon program six times a year . occasional speakers . minimal cost asked to cover both lunch and entertainment. **Contact: Deacon Marty Smith 402-558-2255**

Welcoming Committee

Receives and welcomes new members to our parish family. Educate new members that we are a stewardship parish, and welcome their involvement. Help new members become a parish family friend as quickly as possible. Encourage their involvement to enhance our stewardship activities and spiritual outreach.

Contact: Deacon Marty Smith 402-558-2255

Outreach

Apostolic Oblates:

The Apostolic Oblates are a group of laywomen desiring to live a consecrated life for God, the world, and others. Their message is simple: Feed the mind with knowledge of God; warm the heart with His Spirit; and use our hands in ministry to his people. The Apostolic Oblates strive to teach Christian values by providing a variety of ministries geared for all ages. Summer camps are provided for girls, along with activities for children, young adults, families and senior citizens. **Contact: 402-553-4418**

Bereavement:

The Bereavement Ministry Volunteers sensitively and compassionately visit those who have had a death in the family. Each Bereavement Minister volunteers to assist in making the visits for a particular month, serving then for the same month each year. This ministry has quietly and strongly supported the families of those who have been buried from our parish. **Contact: Alice Smith 402-689-4800**

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts:

Through weekly troop meetings, camping, field trips, and individual projects, the scout completes achievements to progress toward Eagle Scout. Scouts work independently and in groups during projects and numerous volunteer opportunities within the community **Contact: (Cub Scouts, Grades 1 - 4) Richard Clark 402-650-6720, rrclark1@cox.net (Boy Scouts grades 5 and up) Tim Begley 402-558-2827, tpbegley@cox.net**

Catholic Charities:

Catholic Charities provides counseling services, community services (i.e. food pantry, refugee and immigrant help, domestic abuse shelter), various children's services (i.e. adoption), and drug and alcohol rehabilitation counseling. **Contact: 402-554-0520**

Emergency Pregnancy Services:

This agency enables women to continue pregnancy by offering testing, baby/maternity clothes and other items, as well as serving as a referral service.

Contact: 402-554-0121

Girl Scouts:

Girls from ages 5 to 17 who live within the parish boundaries are eligible to join the Girl Scout Program. A major focus of Girl Scouts is community service, and the motivating force is a spiritual one. The program teaches the girls to be leaders in the community through involvement in fun activities. Numerous volunteer opportunities are available.

Contact: Parish Office 402-558-2255

Habitat for Humanity:

Habitat for Humanity is a private, non-profit organization that provides housing for low-income individuals. Habitat depends on the community for financial and volunteer support in building and restoring homes for this purpose.

Contact: John Ducey 402-573-7348

Pro-Life Committee:

The goal of the committee is to promote the respect for life throughout the parish and greater community through prayer and action. SMM participates in local pro-life events such as the Annual Life Chain, 40 Days for Life prayer vigil in the fall and spring and the National Night of Prayer for Life. The committee also educates parishioners on legislative action that concerns life issues.

Contact: Carolyn Manhart 402-556-6192 or Mike Fecci 402-556-4728

Pro Sanctity:

Pro-Sanctity is an organization founded to provide spiritual growth. The name Pro-Sanctity means "For Holiness." The organization's goal is to help people grow spiritually by merging social and spiritual activities. The Omaha Pro-sanctity group runs a girls' summer camp, and offers retreats, festivals of faith and scripture studies for children, teens, adults and seniors. The Apostolic Oblates are a group within Pro-Sanctity.

Contact: 402-289-1938

St. Vincent de Paul:

The St. Margaret Mary Vincentians are a group that helps families in times of crisis to meet their basic needs such as groceries, clothing and utility bills. They work in conjunction with the St. Vincent de Paul shelter, store, and other local social agencies. Volunteers attend meetings and make home visits.

Contact: Deacon Marty Smith 402-689-4800

Siena/Francis House:

This shelter provides meals, clothing pantry supplies, medical care, and recovery programs to the homeless and disadvantaged in our community. **Contact: 402-341-1821**

Stephen Center:

The Stephen Center provides shelter in crisis situations, self-help programs, transitional housing, and free medical clinics to those who are needy. Volunteers may cook and serve meals, stay overnight or do clerical and reception work. **Contact: 402-731-0238**

Spiritual/Liturgical**Altar Servers:**

Altar Servers participate in the Mass by assisting the celebrant. 6th-8th graders in Day School and Religious Education are invited to do this ministry by becoming trained and agreeing to serve. They will be on Saturday/Sunday/Holy Day schedules and 8:30am weekday Mass schedules

Contact: Linda Stryker 402-558-9119; lstryker@smmomaha.org

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC):

These are people who are trained to distribute communion at Mass, to the home bound, and to those in the hospital. **Contact: Fr. Greg Baxter 402-558-2255**

Greeters:

Greeters provide a particular element of hospitality, which is necessary for any human celebration. The success of the celebration depends upon this element of hospitality. A primary qualification for Greeters is that they be interested in, care about, and are at ease with other people. Greeters make people feel welcomed and radiate their joy of Christ to others. All who gather at the table of the Lord do so as sisters and brothers in the Lord. We want to welcome them as such.

Contact: Deacon Marty Smith 402-556-2255

Lectors: Lectors participate in the Mass by reading the Scripture. Annual training and mandation is offered to those interested in becoming a Lector

Contact: Fr. Greg Baxter 402-558-2255

Junior Legion of Mary:

An opportunity for children between the ages of 10-18 to grow in their faith through a program of prayer and spiritual works of mercy. Meets once a week during the school year under the supervision of the Legion of Mary's spiritual advisor and two adult members of the Legion of Mary.

Contact: Barb Thompson 402-554-8656

Legion of Mary:

The Legion of Mary is an apostolic organization whose goal is the glory of God through sanctification of its members who they serve. This is accomplished by regular prayer format and by doing two hours of apostolic work weekly. Works done at St. Margaret Mary include home-to-home calls and visiting the sick, elderly and shut-ins in hospitals, nursing homes and residences. Additional works embrace providing religious books and articles in the parish library, supporting the parish adoration program and maintaining a prayer line.

Contact: Daphne Patil 402-551-2136

Liturgy Committee/Arts & Environment:

This committee plans and develops the themes, art, and environment for the seasons of the liturgical year. Its goal is to enhance the spiritual lives of the parish members. **Contact: Mary and Paul Stultz 402-551-6075**

Music Ministry:

"In my life I will praise the Lord; I will make music to my God while I live". (Psalm 146:2) St. Margaret Mary Parish relies on volunteers, who, through their musical talent, help bring about a prayerful celebration of the liturgies. The opportunities to be involved in music ministry are many and varied. Instrumentalists, particularly brass, woodwind and string players, are often needed. Singers may consider being part of the children's choir (3rd-8th grade), adult choir, small groups (8-12 members), quartets, trios, duets, or a solo cantor. If you are musically gifted in some way, please consider being part of the music ministry at your parish.

Contact: Peg Lacy 402-558-2255

Ushers:

Ushers serve during the Mass by assisting people in finding seats, handing out bulletins, and taking up the collections.

Contact: Deacon Marty Smith 402-556-2255

Prayer Groups:

Various prayer groups within the parish meet in prayer and praise to increase personal growth in the Spirit.

Christians Encounter Christ (CEC):

Christians Encounter Christ (CEC) is a Catholic movement within the Archdiocese of Omaha. The CEC Method is introduced on a 3-day weekend retreat. It is a combined effort of laity and clergy toward evangelization of the world in which we live by strengthened spirituality lived and shared in everyday environments. The community spirit of the weekend is continued through group and community gatherings called Avanti Cristo.

Contact: Deacon Chuck Adams 402-558-2255

Christian Mothers:

We are a group of "Christian Mothers" with children of all ages. We meet to pray, offer support and hear speakers with topics relating to marriage and family. There are no dues, no service projects. It's a time to grow spiritually with other mothers. Mothers of all ages are welcome.

Contact: Kara Collins 402-431-0322

Eucharistic Adoration:

Members of this ministry are committed to praying for the sanctity of all human life, world peace, an end to abortion, and vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It is our goal to have a prayerful presence in the church at all times between the hours of 6am and 9pm. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday from 9am-5pm in Our Lady's Chapel. **Contact: Daphne Patil 402-551-2136**

MAV Catholics/Fellowship Of Catholic University Students (FOCUS):

Hosted by St. Margaret Mary and sponsored by the Archdiocese of Omaha and FOCUS. College students are invited for fellowship, Reconciliation and Mass on Sunday and Thursday nights. Additional activities are held throughout the school term for students from all Omaha colleges and universities.

Contact: Katie Winkler 402-558-3100

Monday Morning Prayer Group:

Meets every Monday morning in the Suneg Center (lower level of the church) from 9:30am-11:00am. The Monday Morning Prayer Group gathers together in prayer and praise of the Lord Jesus Christ to grow in our daily faith walk. All are welcome. Childcare provided.

Contact: Martie Jaworski 402-558-4709 or Kathy Havranek 402-681-3743

Evening Prayer & Benediction (Vespers)

Vespers is the common prayer by people of God from ancient times. The church has had the custom of celebrating each day the liturgy of the hours. In this way the church fulfills the Lord's precept to pray without ceasing. It is offering praise and thanksgiving to God the Father. All parishioners are invited to celebrate the liturgy of the hours, to come together in unity of prayers, heart and voice each Sunday at 4:00pm in the Chapel.

Contact: Daphne Patil 402-551-2136