

CHURCH OF SAINT MARGARET

24 Academy Street Madison, CT 06443

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Pastor: Reverend George S. Mukuka
pastor@stmargarechurch.com

Deacon Bob Macaluso
Telephone: 203-376-5747 **Email:** Deacon@stmargarechurch.com

Parish Office: 39 Academy Street, 203-245-7301
Website: www.stmargarechurch.com
Summer Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00 - 4:00, Fri 9:00 - 2:30

Parish Administrative Coordinator: Terry Birch,
Email: terry.birch@stmargarechurch.com

Administrative Assistant: Amelia Rivera
Email: amelia.rivera@stmargarechurch.com
203-245-7301, ext. 104

Faith Formation Pre-K – Kindergarten Program
Coordinator: Maureen Bloom
Email: sundayschool@stmargarechurch.com

Faith Formation Grades 1 - 8
Directors: Nancy Hoban & Christine McSweeney
Telephone: 203-245-7301, ext. 115
Email: religious.education@stmargarechurch.com

Faith Formation: Confirmation PLACE
2 year program for high school students
Coordinators: Joanne & Edward Arrandale
Telephone: 203-245-7301, ext. 108
Email: confirmation@stmargarechurch.com

Business Manager: Patrick Healey
Telephone: 203 245-7301, ext. 102
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Music Ministry
Director: Elizabeth Stone
Telephone: 203-245-7301, ext. 110
Email: elizabeth.stone@stmargarechurch.com

Parish Trustees: Robert Barrett, Robert McKenna

Parish Council President, Cynthia Silengo,
Email: silengo1010@aol.com

K of C: Grand Knight - Kevin Dolan,
Email: kevindolanpaintinginc@gmail.com
Little Miracles Pro-Life Ministry - Barbara Ciotti - 203-464-2644
SMC Women's Fellowship: Jane Stegina, Email: mwf2017@gmail.com

Schedule of Masses
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM
Holy Rosary: 7:15 AM
Daily Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 AM
Holy Day Masses: As announced
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays at 4:15 PM to 4:45 PM.
Eucharistic Exposition: Thursdays - 8:30 - 9:15 AM

Parish Registration
We extend a warm welcome to our new parishioners.
Please introduce yourself after Mass or at the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Baptism:
Baptisms are held on Sundays after the 10:30am Mass.
Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays at 4:15pm to 4:45pm.

Sacrament of Matrimony:
Arrangements should be made with the priest at least six months
in advance. Please contact the parish office for more information.



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." - Mt 16:24b-25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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East Shoreline Catholic Academy

*The inter-parish school of
St. Margaret in Madison, St. George in Guilford,
and St. John Bosco in Branford*

62 Cedar St., Branford, CT | 203-488-8386
eastshorelinecatholicacademy.org

Rev. George S. Mukuka
Rev. Kevin Dillon
Rev. Ryan M. Lerner

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS *Intentions*

Saturday	August 29, The Passion of Saint John the Baptist <i>For the intentions of Cassandra and Daniel Lyons.</i>
5:00 PM	
Sunday	August 30 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM	† <i>Theresa Norris</i> , requested by the Norris-Elfrey Family.
8:30 AM	† <i>David Merski</i> , requested by Adrienne and William Duggan.
8:30 AM	<i>For the Intentions of Meg and Dan Lyons</i> , requested by the Connelly Family.
10:30 AM	† <i>Edward Stryker</i> , requested by the LeBlanc Family.
Monday	August 31 <i>For the people of the Parish.</i>
8:00 AM	
Tuesday	September 1
8:00 AM	† <i>Gil Garre</i> , 1st anniversary, requested by his wife Deb Garre.
Wednesday	September 2
Thursday	September 3, St. Gregory
8:00 AM	† <i>Gil Garre</i> , 1st anniversary, requested by the staff of St. Margaret Church.
Friday	September 4,
8:00 AM	† <i>Leo McDonald</i> , requested by his wife Barbara.
Saturday	September 5, St. Teresa of Calcutta
5:00 PM	† <i>Dorothy and Earl Carta</i> , requested by the Earl Carta Family.
Sunday	September 6 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM	† <i>William Tamborlane</i> , requested by Karen and Florian Steffen.
8:30 AM	† <i>Consuelo Kling</i> , 3rd anniversary, requested by her son Frank Kling.
8:30 AM	<i>For the Intentions of Lucy Larocca</i> , requested by Maria and Paul Prete
10:30 AM	† <i>Brian Nee</i> , requested by his family.



***The Sanctuary Candle will burn from
August 30 through September 5
in loving memory of Mary Ann Rubinich,
requested by Cathie Cukar.***



PRAYER LIST FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Lord, please hold our troops in your loving hands. We acknowledge those from our parish and community who are proudly serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Please pray for their safety:

US Army:

CW3 Jennifer Dowler,
LTC Michael Braun,
MAJ Robert Herrin,
SGT Terrence Romano,
CAPT Matthew Wivell, US Army Ranger
CAPT Kristen Griest
SFC Mayra Rolón Rivera
SGT Joseph Starkey

US Navy:

Michael Bibeau
LTJG Peter Church
LTN James Cutler
ENS Robert Clayton Hayden, III
CMDR Chip Crawley, SEAL
SN Lukasz Kozloski

US Marine Corps:

LCPL, Benjamin Fazio,
SGT Max Tuccero
LCPL Brendan Smith

US Air Force:

SSGT. Anthony Malvin-Cox,
SRA Michael V. Davis-Penta
CPT Joseph P. Vitali
ILT Jamie Gorman
CPT Christian Amplo
1st Lt. Alison Lord

US Coast Guard:

LCDR Bobby McKenna
LTJG Roisin Beirne
LTJG Jack McKenna

US Air National Guard

SrA Jack F. Sandora

- Vocations -

"Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24)

Reflect:

Following Jesus often means surrendering our own plans for something greater. Each vocation calls us to trust that God's path, even when difficult, leads to true joy.

Discuss:

What are some ways you've experienced God's blessings after taking a leap of faith?

Pray:

Pray for those discerning their vocation, that they may have the courage to follow wherever Christ leads.

Do not conform yourselves to this age.

GOSPEL MEDITATION
August 30, 2026
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 16:21-27

Do you know what it is like to be thrilled by the power of Christian faith one moment and then utterly fail in it the next? I do. That is Peter in today's Gospel. After last week's bold confession, he now hears Jesus speak of suffering and death, and something in him recoils.

He takes Jesus aside and tries to correct him. Jesus responds with the shocking rebuke, "**Get behind me, Satan.**" Peter is the mirror of every disciple. We love Jesus until he contradicts the script we have written for our lives. Peter does not reject Jesus. He rejects a *suffering* Jesus.

So do we, whenever we avoid a hard responsibility, resist a demanding relationship, or cling to comfort instead of choosing love. We want a Lord who supports our plans, not one who overturns them.

Yet Jesus does not discard Peter. He redirects him. "**Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.**" In effect, Jesus says, stop trying to lead me. Let me lead you. Discipleship does not begin with heroism or clarity but with surrender. It means trusting that God's path to life often passes through places we would never choose.

Peter is all of us. We move from insight to confusion, from confidence to correction. That is why we should have hope. Jesus patiently teaches us again and again. Trust me. Get behind me. Follow me. When we stop fighting the crosses that come and start carrying them with him, we discover a freedom deeper than comfort and a love stronger than fear. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi

**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS
INVITATION**

If you are looking to deepen your understanding of the Catholic Faith or have questions about how God and the sacraments of the Church can help enrich your journey in life, we invite you to join the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults offered at Saint Margaret Church.

OCIA is for non-Catholics who want to join the Catholic Faith through Baptism or Profession of Faith; those who were baptized Catholic as infants but never received religious education, Confirmation or First Eucharist.

If you are interested in joining our OCIA process, please contact Deacon Bob Macaluso by phone or text at 203-376-5747 or by email at

Deacon@stmargaretchurch.com.

Deacon Bob will fill you in on the first steps of our journey together.

THIS WEEK AT GLANCE

Saturday 4:15 PM	August 29, Confessions, Church
Sunday Monday	August 30 August 31 Youth Ministry Open House
Tuesday 1:00 PM 1:00 PM	September 1 Weekly Bridge Group, Parish Center Spiritual Book Club, Parish Center, Room 105
Wednesday Thursday 8:30 AM	September 2 September 3 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,
Friday Saturday 4:15 PM	September 4 September 5 Confessions, Church
After Mass Sunday After all Masses	Monthly Soup & Tuna Collection September 6 Monthly Soup & Tuna Collection

August 22 & 23

Offertory Collection:	\$ 5,681.00
Donations by mail:	\$ 440.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,733.00
TOTAL:	\$ 8,854.00

Peer Leadership Ministry Team

The East Shoreline Catholic Peer Ministry Team is a group of teens who serve as positive role models and witnesses to the faith among their peers and to younger children across St. Margaret, St. John Bosco, and St. George, parishes.

These teens are supported as they grow in their own faith and are coached to reach out and minister to others by helping to lead retreats, faith formation classes, and other parish events. Contact Kim at: kreinwald@saintjohnboscobranford.org.

Youth Ministry Returns to St. Margaret

Meet our new Youth Minister, **Oliver Shannon**, and learn about the exciting events planned for the East Shore Catholic Youth Ministry this year. Youth Ministry is open to all St. Margaret parishioners in Grades 5 to 12, with various activities open to different age groups.

Open House, **August 31** from **6:00 to 7:00pm** in the Church Hall.



NEW Middle School Faith Formation to Include Confirmation

- Includes ALL 7th and 8th graders enrolled in the St. Margaret Faith Formation program.
- Rising 8th grades will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Fall of 2027 (when they are 9th graders).
- Rising 7th graders will receive the sacrament in the Spring of 2028 (when they are 8th graders.)

Registration for Faith Formation Grades PreK-8 2026/27 year is now open.

If you were previously registered with our program you will automatically receive an email with a link to the registration form. If you are new to our parish or our program, please use this QR code:



The link is also available on our St. Margaret website under the Faith Formation Overview tab. Registration will close Friday, September 11th and classes begin the week of October 5th.

If you have any questions, please contact: Nancy Hoban & Chris McSweeney, Coordinators of Grades PreK-6 & Middle School Confirmation religious.education@stmargaretchurch.com or 203.245.7301 ext. 115.



Confirmation PLACE for High School Students

Registration for Confirmation PLACE for high school students is now open. Scan the QR code to register. We are in a transition year as we move the Sacrament of Confirmation from being conferred during the high school years to being conferred in 8th grade.

Students who were in the 1st-year of the Confirmation PLACE program in 2025-2026 are now 2nd-year students for 2026-2027. Your Confirmation will be the fall of 2026: October 24 at 10:00 am at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford and a celebration with your Parish will be October 25 at the 10:30 am Mass at St. Margaret Church followed by refreshments.

Students who were never enrolled in the Confirmation program or were in 8th grade in 2025-2026 are considered 1st-year students in the Confirmation PLACE program for 2026-2027. Your Confirmation will be in the spring of 2027.

Please mark your calendars for Orientation on Sunday, September 13 in the Church:

6:00 pm for 1st-year students

7:30 pm for 2nd-year students



All students and at least one parent are to attend.

For more information, please contact: Ed and Joanne Arrandale, Coordinators of Confirmation PLACE, confirmation@stmargaretchurch.com or 203-245-7301, ext. 108.



Cooperative Mission Appeal at St. Margaret Church Weekend of September 5th and 6th

Serving in the peripheries of Cameroon: Mission Talk 2026

We welcome the Rev. Francis Nche, from Cameroon, who will be the celebrant.

Free-will offering baskets will be placed at the entrances of the church for the Appeal.

SAVE THE DATE!

SAINT MARGARET PARISH MASS AND PICNIC

The Annual Saint Margaret Parish Mass and Picnic will be held at the Madison Surf Club Deck on *Sunday, September 13, 2026*, commencing with Mass at 10:30am.

Please sign up for Mass, the picnic, and/or to bring refreshments through the link provided in the Flocknote and on our website.

We look forward to seeing you there!



12th Annual Lourdes in a Day Pilgrimage of the Sick September 12, 9am to 3pm

**Cathedral of St Joseph
140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford**



The Cathedral is fully handicap accessible, a complimentary lunch will be served and Lourdes water distributed.

The order of the day includes Reconciliation, rosary, washing of hands with Lourdes water, Mass with Anointing of the Sick, lunch, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Archbishop Christopher Coyne is the principal celebrant and homilist.

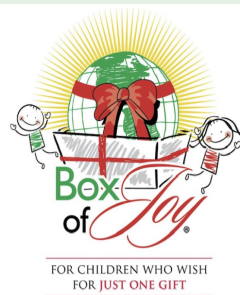
Register by **September 2** at lourdesinaday@gmail.com. Please enter through the Asylum Street parking lot in the rear of the Cathedral (only entrance with elevator).



The Knights of Columbus Monthly Rosary

All are invited to attend our Monthly Rosary on **Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 7:00pm in the church**. Free rosaries and guides to praying the rosary will be available. There will be coffee and refreshments afterwards in the Church Hall.

For additional information, contact the Chairman of the Monthly Rosary ministry, Dr. Robert Tafuri at rtsr7591@gmail.com.



The **Box of Joy** program is back at our parish this year, and we're excited to once again come together to bring Christmas joy to children in need!

Our goal is to fill 300 shoebox-sized boxes with fun and useful gifts for children ages 2–14.

The boxes are on their way and will be due back in early November, so now is the perfect time to start shopping!

Keep an eye out for small toys, school supplies, and warm-weather clothing on sale. Every item you choose can help make Christmas a little brighter for a child who may otherwise have very little to celebrate.

Let's fill all 300 boxes—and fill them with joy!

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS!

We invite you to a special evening called REBOOT that's coming to our parish. It's an event for anyone looking for encouragement, inspiration, and practical ways to grow closer to God in everyday life.

The speaker, Chris Stefanick, is an internationally known Catholic author and speaker who has helped thousands of people deepen their faith through his engaging storytelling, humor, and practical wisdom.

His presentations are uplifting, relatable, and filled with real-life examples that resonate whether you're actively practicing your faith or simply looking for hope and renewal. You'll leave feeling encouraged, inspired, and reminded that God is present in every stage of life.



*The tradition continues here at St. Margaret Church
with our annual Blessing of the Backpacks!*

*Children of all ages joined Fr. George as he blessed the students and their backpacks
before they return to school this week.*

We ask God to guide, protect, and bless these children, teachers, and families.

