

MAGGIE'S CROSS

December 2019



A Letter From The Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

Hurry up and Wait!

If you or someone you love has ever served in a branch of the military, you have heard the phrase "Hurry up and wait." It describes the unique phenomenon within our Armed Forces in which there is a constant sense of urgency in getting ready for something. Ready for inspection, ready for travel, ready for deployment, ready to return home. In a lot of these instances, there is a rush to get ready, only to then wait endlessly for a plane to arrive, for further instructions to follow, for the commander to arrive, and on and on and on. Many a day in uniform for me was spent rushing to get ready for an activity, only to then wait around for hours or days at a time to finish the task!

The season of Advent sometimes feels like that for me. It is a busier time of year that demands

more from us. We need to get shopping done, there are end of the year parties to attend, we have to get ready for Christmas, and New Year's celebrations, and countless other activities that occupy our time. At the same time, the Church calls us during this season into a period of waiting for God to show His glory in the world. Waiting to celebrate the Incarnation of the Christ child, waiting for Jesus to come again. I must admit, waiting for me is much harder than keeping busy. While I have gotten better with my patience as I get older, it is still more natural for me to keep busy than it is for me keeping in wait for my Lord!

I would like to encourage all of us, as we navigate through the hecticness of this holiday season, to take what opportunities we have and explore some silent time with God and wait for His response. The Scriptures speak frequently about waiting for God.

**Rest in the Lord and wait
patiently for Him. (Ps 37)
The Lord is good to those
who wait for Him. (Lam 3)
I waited patiently for the
Lord; and He inclined His
ear to me and heard my
cry. (Ps 40)**

It encourages our watchfulness because it allows us to refocus our lives on the Lord and to remember to whom it is that we belong. And through that remembrance, we can then truly focus our activities on those actions that are pleasing in the sight of our Lord Jesus.

Jesus regularly separated Himself from the busyness of the world when He was wearied from the day, in order that He might reconnect with His Father. It is my hope and prayer for each of us, that during this busy season of Advent, we might set aside some intentional time to be with Jesus. That we each might let go a little bit of our hurriedness and embrace a bit more of our call to wait on the Lord.

*May you each have a blessed and
peaceful season of Advent.*

Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net



Christmas Service Times:

Tuesday, 12/24:
4:00 pm , 7:00 pm & *11:00 pm
*with incense

Wednesday, 12/25:
11:00 am

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

A NEW THREE WEEK PROGRAM TO BEGIN 12/3

Advent Nights are a time of rest, quiet, and prayer to help prepare our hearts for Christmas. The evenings will start at 7:00 pm and last for about an hour. The Evening will be made up of four parts: Eucharist, dinner, prayer, and Compline.

Advent Nights

Join us on Tuesdays at St. Margaret's for Advent Nights, a time of rest, quiet, and prayer to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Schedule	Dates
7:00pm - Eucharist	• 12/3
7:20pm - Dinner	• 12/10
7:45pm - Quiet Prayer	• 12/17
8:00pm - Compline	

To help plan for dinner please
RSVP to Deacon Eric,
grubb@saintmargarets.net



OUR SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

UPDATE AS OF 12/4

THANK YOU to all who have pledged to St. Margaret's for 2020.

We have received
223 pledges for
a total of
\$764,348.50.



Waiting in great wonder



BY FATHER LITO SANTOS+
santos@saintmargarets.net



We enter the season when the Love of the Father is fully revealed in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was announced to a young girl by an angel who responded with an amazing "let it be done to me, according to thy word." (Luke 1:38) She was surprised during her moment of prayer and allowed to become the bearer of the incarnate through her generous obedience to the power of God's spirit and thereby made it possible to rejoice in His arrival. The journey of Mary unfolds in the ever-fertile time of waiting in great wonder as various persons were involved: Joseph was surprised by the daunting task of accepting a pregnant girl and protecting her from the cruel world of his time. The shepherds were keeping their sheep in the wilderness when they received the word from the host of angels that brought them the good news of his birth. The zeal of the wisemen from the East who traveled great distances to find the child and offer homage to the newborn king. With great anticipation we wait during this season. Although we find it burdensome, we wait in lines. We wait to visit with friends and loved ones. Waiting is in the heart of this season yet it does not end here because our soul waits for the full realization of the promised glory. Thus Advent will turn into endless wonder and, for right now, we know - the best is yet to come because the reason for this season is Emmanuel the everlasting God-with- us.

Eternal peace and Blessings upon you and yours.

- Fr. Lito+

"From Him Who has so much we have all received loving-favor, one loving-favor after another. The Law was given through Moses, but loving-favor and truth came through Jesus Christ. The much-loved Son is beside the Father. No man has ever seen God. But Christ has made God known to us."

NLV John 1:16-18

Questions of Faith



BY DEACON ERIC GRUBB
grubb@saintmargarets.net

**Questions of Faith—
When was Jesus born?**

"Jesus was born in the midst of a dark and sin-sick world, but he was born to set us free from sin and give us light in our darkness."

I love this question because I think it can be answered in two ways. It can be a question of history, but it can also be a question of deep spiritual importance. As a historical question, we do not know the exact day, month, or even year that Jesus was born. Scripture does not tell us that. In the year 525 AD Dionysius Exiguus set to make a new calendar that divided all history by the years before Christ (BC) and the years that came after the birth year of our Lord (AD). He determined this off the little information we have in the Gospel of Luke that Jesus was born during the reign of Emperor Augustus and when Quirinius was governor of Syria. In modern times historians and theologians have found more artifacts making them think that Dionysius was off by 3 to 6 years. So Jesus was born 2019 plus a few years ago.

One of my favorite Christmas hymns, O Holy Night, describes when Jesus was born: "O holy night! the stars are brightly shining/ It is the night of the dear Savior's birth./ Long lay the world in sin and error pining,/Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth./ A thrill of hope—the weary world rejoices,/ For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!/ Fall on your knees!/ O hear the angel voices!/ O night divine, O night when Christ was born!/ O night, O holy night, O night divine!" Jesus was born in the midst of a dark and sin-sick world, but he was born to set us free from sin and give us light in our darkness. That is what this season is all about.

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas.

- Deacon Eric





Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Teens have all sorts of questions about their life and their world and how faith fits into those things.

We know they do not always act like it, but they want to know what the adults in their world think about big things: **Why should I pray? How do you pray? How does God show up in your life? How do you live out your faith in your daily life?** The church has thoughts (and sometimes even answers) to those questions but the most important people in a teen's life, **their family**, not only has thoughts and answers but can have a dynamic discussion about those questions.

Parents can share their thoughts on their faith, can express why they believe what they do, and can show their teen on a daily basis why living the life Jesus calls us to is of utmost importance to them. This past summer, after meeting with families with youth about St. Margaret's formation offerings, Father Todd and I decided to try a different way of "doing" Sunday School for our teens. Our weekly formation time is now a class for youth and their parents where we discuss these large questions that likely do not have a simple answer. The conversations we have had this semester have been broad and have covered topics like what are we saying when we recite the Nicene Creed to how should I pray to what is the creation story trying to tell me? The conversations have been thoughtful and, hopefully, continue outside of the youth room as parents and teens talk about their faith: what they believe, what they don't believe, and even what they want to believe but are having trouble believing it. **We invite all 6th-12th graders and their parents to this class in the youth room. We gather weekly during the Sunday School hour (10:15-11:00 am).** All adults of the parish are welcome as well. We will meet December 8th and 15th before taking a short winter break. We will resume meeting weekly on January 5th.

Questions on our Youth Program?

Please contact Elizabeth at: pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

Only 2 EYC's left in 2019

- Please join us for EYC on December 8th and 15th from 5-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7pm.
- We will take a short winter break and resume gatherings on Jan 5th.
- All 6th-12th graders and friends are invited.

Haven't made it to EYC yet this year?

Please come visit the youth room for a meeting in December as we celebrate the season of Advent!



Sunday School



BY CATHERINE CHINTALA
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Sunday School students have been learning about the beautiful season of Advent, and what it means to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus!

STUDENTS READ FROM THE BOOK OF LUKE AND LEARN ABOUT MARY'S SONG OF PRAISE.

Catherine has office hours on Tuesdays & Fridays.
You can reach her at:
980-505-8960 or email:
childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

**St. Nicholas
Festival**
Saturday, 12/7
**9:30 am -
11:30 am**



The St. Margaret's Annual St. Nicholas Festival will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 9:30-11:30 am.

Please plan to join us for a special story in the nave, followed by a delicious pancake breakfast in the Parish Hall!

We will have live music, a photo booth, family-friendly crafts, and a visit from a very special guest!

We are looking for teen volunteers to help. If you are interested, please contact Catherine at: childrensministry@saintmargarets.net



As Advent is here and Christmas is just around the corner...that means Epiphany is not far behind!

We will celebrate Epiphany with our annual children's pageant on January 5, 2020 at the 9:00 am service.

We have many roles for children 4 years of age through 5th grade to participate in this sweet annual tradition! All costumes are provided.

There will be a rehearsal on Friday, January 3rd at 4:00 pm in the church.





Living a Life of Faith

by Janet Mills



As my time on the Vestry and as your Senior Warden nears its end, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for my time on the Vestry, and for the honor of serving as your Senior Warden this past year. Thank you for your confidence in me.

Through this service, I have had the good fortune to work with some incredibly talented and committed individuals. I have come to know and develop deeper relationships with members of our parish that had I not been on vestry, I likely wouldn't have known; relationships that I have come to cherish.

Serving our Lord as a member of the Vestry and as Senior Warden has not only been an honor, it's been a time of personal growth; it's strengthened my beliefs, my faith and my commitment to ministry service.

It's been a pleasure, it's been challenging, but most of all rewarding to work alongside fellow vestry members, our clergy and our staff. Having served with so many kind, loving, compassionate, and giving individuals has made me a better person, deepened my faith, and I believe, made me a better Christian.

I am blessed to have so many caring, generous, and faithful people in my life. Thank you for your support, your ministry, most especially for our faith community.

Blessings to you and your family.

Interested in running for a Vestry leadership position for 2020? Please contact Janet at: janet@mills-mills.com

thank you

"Serving our Lord as a member of the Vestry and as Senior Warden has not only been an honor, it's been a time of personal growth..."

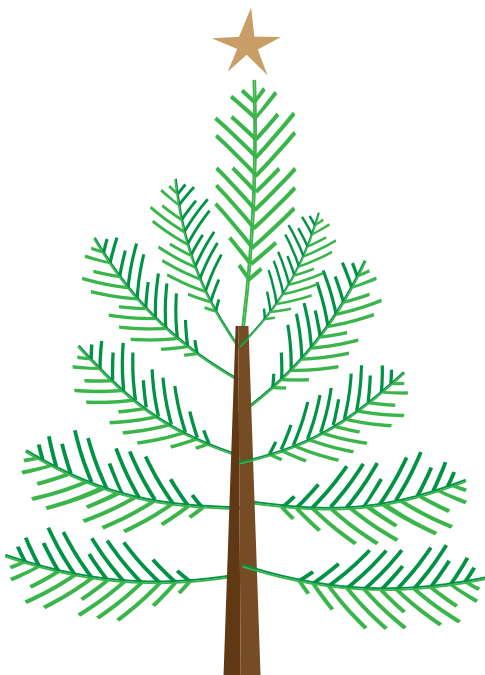




BY TRACI SCOTT
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR NEWCOMERS & PARISH LIFE

a place to CONNECT

*People Loving God,
we give thanks that you
have brought new faces
and families to join us
in ministry.
Knit us together, one to
another, so that in unity
we may know you
and serve you in
Jesus' name. Amen.*



**We welcome the following
new parishioners to
St. Margaret's:**



RoseMary Anderson

Jill Thrower

James Gaunt

The Godwin Family

The Hasty Family

The Kabalka Family

The Koulsar Family

The Poor Family



Questions on membership or parish life?

Please contact Traci at:
connection@saintmargarets.net

Traci has office hours on M-W-F and is here to assist newcomers and seasoned parishioners to feel connected to the life of our parish. She can help find the right ministry for you and answer questions on adult education to outreach opportunities. She'll get you pointed in the right direction to becoming an engaged & active member.



December Calendar

- 12/7 St. Nicholas Festival & pancake breakfast, 9:30 am -11:30 am
 - 12/8 Exploratory Meeting on a pilgrimage to Spain, 5:00 pm Prayer Rm.
 - 12/10 Advent Nights with Deacon Eric, 7:00 pm
 - 12/14 Deacon Eric's Ordination, St. Paul's in Winston Salem, NC, 11:00 am
 - 12/15 Blood Drive
 - 12/15 Club 4-5, 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall
 - 12/15 SAGES to Matthews Playhouse, 2:00 pm
 - 12/17 Advent Nights with Deacon Eric, 7:00 pm
 - 12/21 Men's monthly fellowship breakfast, 8:00 am
 - 12/24 Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm & *11:00 pm** *with incense
 - 12/25 Christmas Day Service at 11:00 am**
 - 12/26-27 Church Office open 9:00 am-12:00 noon
 - 12/28 No Saturday 5:00 pm service
 - 12/29 Two service schedule: 8:00 am & 10:00 am *No Breakfast. *No Sunday School.
- Looking Ahead:**
- 1/5 Epiphany Pageant during the 9:00 service
 - 1/12 Ordination Celebration for Eric Grubb following the 11:15 service



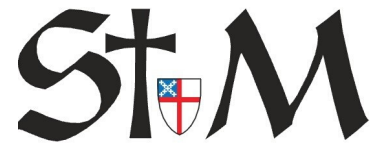
BLESSING FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*



Rector

The Reverend Fr. Todd R. Dill+

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Senior Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care

The Reverend Fr. Lito Santos+

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Assistant to the Rector

The Reverend Deacon Eric Grubb

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Assistant to the Rector for Newcomers & Parish Life

Traci Scott

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2019 Vestry

Janet Mills, *Senior Warden*

Amy Gorman, *Junior Warden*

Phil Hejl

Linda Jensen

Chris Cox

Julie Jenkins

Terry Anderson

Mike Murphy

Densel White

Warren McDonald, *Treasurer*