

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From the Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

Listening for God in the Silence

There are few things I enjoy more than being in an empty church in the early hours of the morning. Saint Margaret's, due to her wonderful architecture, is especially stunning at the break of day. The large, transparent windows that encompass the nave provide an extraordinary atmosphere at dawn, and I often spend some time early in morning, even if just a few minutes, sitting in the holy silence of this beautiful space. What I love most is hearing the different sounds when it is vacant. The whisper of the wind against the walls of the church, the creak of the roof as it settles, or the song of the bird as it sings just outside a window provide moments of sacred expression. It is so holy, and if one listens intently enough, you might just hear the voice of God whispering softly in your ear as you sit and contemplate the beauty around you.

Silence is such an important part of the spiritual life. Jesus routinely moved away from the business of

the world to quiet His soul and connect deeply with God. From the earliest moments of Jesus' ministry, Jesus went away, sat in solitude, and listened for the voice of His Father. In the Gospel of Mark, after Jesus had been baptized, was tempted in the wilderness, and then began His public ministry, Mark tells us:

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" (Mk 1:35-37)

Silence is also a profoundly important part of our liturgy. Silence is kept by those who gather before the worship service so that we might all pray to God and prepare ourselves for worship. Moments of stillness and quiet are intentionally created within the liturgy, often so that we can contemplate the previous reading, offer a personal petition, or prepare our hearts to receive absolution. Each moment offers us each a chance to put away our temporal distractions, focus on Jesus, and listen for what He may be saying to us.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to find time at home, or in any place that you can, to practice intentional silence. While the worship space at church is always

wonderful, quiet space can be created in many places. It could be as simple as finding a place of solitude in your home, on your back porch, or along a walking path, but find that place. You might just find Jesus there waiting for you.

The Sound of Silence

by Deborah Ann Belka

Upon the break of day,
I feel a calming stillness . . .
where everything appears
to be oddly motionless.

The sedated quietness,
infiltrates the early dawn
to the sound of silence
I find myself gently drawn.

The placid tranquility,
awakens up my soul
to ponder how only God
could this quietude control.

The peace radiating down,
seems so imaginable
that in its grip I remain
completely immovable.

Surrounded in silence,
I sense this to be . . .
just the kind of stillness for
Jesus to meet me!

-Fr. Todd+

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Notes from our Director of Music & Organist

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

While the choir is on a summer break, we'll be featuring members of our parish at our liturgies in July and early August.

July 2, Peter Queenan to sing arrangements of folk hymns by American composer Aaron Copland and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

July 9, Regina Dill will play music of the French baroque composer François Couperin, arranged for flute, as well as a Fantasy for organ and flute by Johann Krebs, star pupil of J. S. Bach.

July 16, Patti Kelly to sing "Thou shalt bring them in", from Handel's oratorio Israel in Egypt, accompanied by flute.

July 23, Nathaniel Parker, a young musician of the parish, will play a Fugue by Handel on our harpsichord.

July 30, Spring Plihcik will sing "I will sing of thy great mercies" from Mendelssohn's Paulus, which tells the story of the conversion and ministry of St. Paul.

August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, a small chamber ensemble of parishioners joined by the Boruff Violin Studio faculty will play movements from a suite by German baroque composer Georg Telemann.

Join us for worship each Sunday this summer, and enjoy beautiful music presented to the glory of God by these members of our community!



Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

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Summer

Thank you to our incredible teens who volunteered at Vacation Bible School in June! We love your energy and appreciate the time and energy you gave to help provide a fun week at Stellar VBS for our younger students.

**See more fun photos on the following pages.*

Our Costa Rica mission trip will leave on July 15 and return on July 23rd. The group will spend the week serving in San Jose through the Episcopal Diocese of Costa Rica. Our project has not been confirmed at time of publication, but we are fairly certain we will be doing constriction projects at one the daycare centers the Diocese operates.



We have a total of 24 people traveling to Costa Rica and we ask that you please keep the following team members in your prayers: *Hugh, Cynthia, Colin, Aidan, Meghan, Sharon, Jack, Kip, Annie, Zoe, Zach, Ian, Amy, Dylan, Matt, Briley, Mark, Sally, Toni, Joni, David, Jodi, Elizabeth and Fr. Todd.*





Children's Ministry

BY JAMIE PETERS

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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The sun is shining bright, and glory be to God for his wonderful blessings!

This past month was eventful for Saint Margaret's Children's Ministry as we held our **Stellar Vacation Bible School June 19th-June 22nd!**

We kicked off this amazing filled week of fun and fellowship with our "stellar" themed VBS with games, activities, crafts, and music as we explored what it means to shine Jesus' light in everyday life. Even though the outdoor weather was rainy, you would never have known it because the hallways of Saint Margaret's were filled with the smiles and laughter of children enjoying all the activities we had to offer.

In our **Imagination Station**, children made their own Galaxy Calming Bottles to help them remember "when life feels dark, shine Jesus' light". They even got to experience the launching of Alka Seltzer rockets in celebration of "when life is good, shine Jesus' light". In **Bible Adventures**, children heard stories of Jesus' life and got to taste foods that would have been present during Jesus' time. **All-Star Games and Galactic Snack Time** can always be counted as favorite stations!

Our local outreach this year for VBS was our collection of new school supplies for Rocky River Elementary School in Union County. Throughout the week, we discussed with the children about how we could shine Jesus' light out in our community. They brought in new school supplies to help provide the students and staff of Rocky River with a great head start on a new school year.

Stellar VBS was truly out of this world! Of course, all of it wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the fantastic group of youth and adult volunteers who gave their time and dedication. I can't thank you all enough for your help in making this a wonderful VBS this year. **See next pages for a glimpse of all the fun.*

Be sure to mark your calendars for the next two playground meet ups this summer:

- **July 15th: Playground Family Meet Up at the StM Playground at 9:30am**
- **August 19th: Playground Family Meet Up at the Blakeney Playground at 9:30am**

Have any questions? Please contact me at childrensministry@saintmargarets.net.



I hope you all have a happy, healthy, and fun summer!

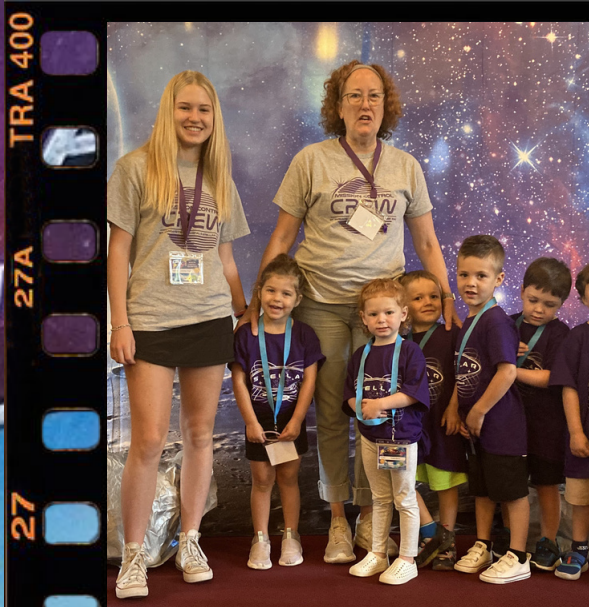
-Jamie

June
19-22



VBS
Stars





VBS
Stars



VBS
Stars



VBS Stars



VBS
Stars







Thank you

Thank you to all our *out of this world* volunteers!



"Jesus...said, I am the light of the world."

John 8:12



Parish Connection

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BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

REMINDER

StM SUMMER SESSIONS

We have created a great menu of events this summer for parishioners to get to know each other better and discover new connections. There is something for everyone and we hope you'll join us as often as you can. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the full flyer.

An RSVP is not required but appreciated so that we can plan for food, know who to look for at off-site locations and send updates with any last-minute changes.

RSVP by clicking here

Note: we have a new Sign Up Genius account with no more ads.

Please remember that we will never ask for your credit card via Sign Up Genius.

[Playground Meet & Greet](#)

Saturday, July 15 at St. Margaret's playground

hosted by Jamie Peters

Let the kids play while parents take some time to get to know each other better.

[Brew Crew for Men](#)

Tuesday, July 18 at 9:00am in the Parish Hall

Men of the Parish are invited to join Fr. Jay for coffee, breakfast snacks and conversation.

[Happy Hour for Men](#)

Thursday, July 20 at 5:30pm at DB's Tavern

Men of the Parish are invited to meet at DB's for some fun and fellowship.

Look for Josh Ward on-site.



"Conversations are being had and connections are being made at our Summer Session events!

It was so fun to see about 80 parishioners at our June Summer Sessions and we hope more will join us in July and August."

-Traci Scott





July Calendar

- 7/1 Funeral for Shirley Henry, 11:00 am
- 7/4 Church Office closed for Independence Day holiday
- 7/8 DOK monthly meeting, 9:30 am
- 7/8 Funeral for Ron Drake, 1:30 pm
- 7/12 EYC trip to Carowinds
- 7/15- 23 Costa Rica Mission Trip
- 7/15 Playground Meet & Greet for Families
at St. Margaret's Playground, 9:30 am
- 7/18 Brew Crew for Men in the Parish Hall, 9:00 am
- 7/18 Vestry Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 7/20 Happy Hour for Men at DB's Tavern, 5:30 pm
- 7/25 Shelter Meal cook & serve day, 1:00 pm & 5:30 pm



[CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#) *SERMONS in library!*

Prayer for our country

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will.

Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes

brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Our church office is open M-Th from 9:00-4:00
& 9:00-12:00 noon on Friday.

Rector

The Reverend r. Todd R. Dill+
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Priest Associate

The Reverend Fr. Jay Mills+
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2023 Vestry

Kathynn Dugan
Hugh Laughlin
Simon Haaroff
Paula Holbein
Colin Miles
Charlie Winsman
Josh Ward
Emily Nelson
Tom Washington
David Feldser, *Treasurer*