Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time **4th October 2026**

The Riverdale Catholic

A Weekly Bulletin of the Parish of St. Margaret of Cortona - St. Gabriel
riverdalecatholic@gmail.com | riverdalecatholic.org

St. Margaret of Cortona
6000 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471
718-549-8053

St. Gabriel
3250 Arlington Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463
718-548-4470

Holy Masses

The *Dies Domini* (Day of the Lord)
St. Margaret's: Saturday at 4:00p.m. | Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

St. Gabriel's: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. | Sunday: 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon

Weekday

St. Margaret's: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:00 a.m.

St. Gabriel's: Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

Divine Office

St. Margaret's: *Lauds* (Morning Prayer) Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:30 a.m.

St. Gabriel's: *Lauds* (Morning Prayer) Monday through Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Confessions

St. Margaret's: Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. and by appointment

St. Gabriel's: Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. and by appointment

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

St. Margaret's: The Friday 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass concludes with exposition until None (Midafternoon Prayer) and benediction at 3:00 p.m.

Devotions Honoring the Mother of God

St. Margaret's: First Saturday of the Month in Honor of the Immaculate Heart - Rosary and confessions at 11:30 a.m. followed by a Sung Holy Mass according to the ancient Latin usage at 12 noon

St. Gabriel's: Recitation of the Rosary following each weekday Holy Mass

Rectory Office

St. Margaret's: Hours - Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. After Hours Emergency Line: 845-622-3996

St. Gabriel's: Hours - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | After Hours Emergency Line: 845-622-3996



Pastoral Staff

Rev. Fr. Seán Connolly, *Pastor*
Rev. Fr. Walter Genito, Jr., *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Mr. George Pitula, *Deacon*

St. Margaret of Cortona - St. Gabriel School

Mrs. Reagen Haney, *Principal*
School Office: 718-549-8580 |
rhaney@smsgny.org | smsgny.org

Religious Education

Ms. Frances Lopez Alvarado, *Director*
Religious Education Office:
riverdalecatholicreled@gmail.com

From the Desk of Fr. Seán

Dear parishioners,

Revitalization in Riverdale: Renderings Of The Renovated St. Margaret's Church
Thanks to the generosity and support of so many of you, we will begin this month the renovation of St. Margaret's Church. The project will include a new sound system, new front steps with railings, lighting, and doors, as well as a significant redesign of the church interior.

Included in this bulletin are architectural renderings of the renovated interior, which I hope you will agree will enhance the beauty and dignity of our church for the greater glory of God.

Throughout the history of the Catholic Church, beauty and sacred art have played an important role in lifting our hearts and minds toward God. From the great cathedrals and works of sacred art of the past to the churches of our own time, the Church has sought to create spaces that speak of the transcendence, goodness, and beauty of God. May the renewal of St. Margaret's help make our church a place where we encounter Christ, celebrate the sacred mysteries, and give greater glory to God for generations to come.

The 800th Anniversary Of The Transitus Of St. Francis of Assisi
This year marks the 800th anniversary of the Transitus, or passing from this life to eternal life, of St. Francis of Assisi, who died on 3rd October 1226. Each year, the Church celebrates his feast on 4th October, honoring a saint whose love for Christ, poverty, humility, and care for creation have touched countless generations. St. Francis is perhaps the most beloved of all the saints, not simply because of his joyful spirit and love of creation, but above all because of the extraordinary holiness of his life.



In 1224, while praying on Mount La Verna, St. Francis received the stigmata—the wounds corresponding to those suffered by Christ during his passion. These wounds appeared on his hands and feet, corresponding to the nails of the crucifixion, and on his side, corresponding to the wound caused by the lance. The stigmata were not sought by Francis as a spiritual achievement; rather, they were understood as a profound grace and outward sign of his interior union with the crucified Christ. As we commemorate the 800th anniversary of his Transitus, St. Francis invites us to contemplate the same call given to every Christian: to love Christ so deeply that our own lives become increasingly conformed to him.

G.K. Chesterton's *St. Francis Of Assisi*
Chesterton's *St. Francis of Assisi* is a uniquely beautiful kind of biography—less a conventional account of a saint's life than a portrait that makes Francis's holiness come alive, and it is one of my favorite books because no other book I have read has left me with such a genuine desire to become holy and, like Francis, to become a saint.

Here are some of my favorite quotes:

--"Anyhow Francis was evidently torn two ways with the botheration of two talkers, but finished his business with the merchant somehow; and when he had finished it, found the beggar was gone. Francis leapt from his booth, left all the bales of velvet and embroidery behind him apparently unprotected, and went racing across the market place like an arrow from the bow. Still running, he threaded the labyrinth of the narrow and crooked streets of the little town, looking for his beggar, whom he eventually discovered; and loaded that astonished mendicant with money. Then he straightened himself, so to speak, and swore before God that he would never all his life refuse help to a poor man. The sweeping simplicity of this undertaking is extremely characteristic. Never was any man so little afraid of his own promises. His life was one riot of rash vows; of rash vows that turned out right...In a sense he continued running for the rest of his life, as he ran after the beggar."

--"He was, to the last agonies of asceticism, a Troubadour. He was a lover of God and he was really and truly a lover of men; possibly a much rarer mystical vocation."

--"I have said that St. Francis deliberately did not see the wood for the trees. It is even more true that he deliberately did not see the mob for the men...He only saw the image of God multiplied but never monotonous. To him a man was always a man and did not disappear in a dense crowd any more than in a desert. He honoured all men; that is, he not only loved but respected them all. What gave him his extraordinary personal power was this; that from the Pope to the beggar, from the sultan of Syria in his pavilion to the ragged robbers crawling out from the wood, there was never a man who looked into those brown burning eyes without being certain that Francis Bernardone was really interested in *him*; in his own inner individual life from the cradle to the grave; that he himself was being valued and taken seriously, and not merely added to the spoils of some social policy or the names in some clerical document."

--"He devoured fasting as a man devours food. He plunged after poverty as men have dug madly for gold."

--"The eager face under the brown hood was that of a man always going somewhere, as if he followed as well as he watched the flight of the birds. And this sense of motion is indeed the meaning of the whole revolution that he made; for the work that has now to be described was of the nature of an earthquake or a volcano, an explosion that drove outwards with dynamic energy the forces stored up by ten centuries in the monastic fortress or arsenal and scattered all its riches recklessly to the ends of the earth. In a better sense than the antithesis commonly conveys, it is true to say that what St. Benedict had stored St. Francis scattered; but in the world of spiritual things what had been stored into the barns like grain was scattered over the world as seed. The servants of God who had been a besieged garrison became a marching army; the ways of the world were filled as with thunder with the trampling of their feet and far ahead of that ever swelling host went a man singing; as simply he had sung that morning in the winter woods, where he walked alone."

--"It has been said that there was only one Christian, who died on the cross; it is truer to say in this sense that there was only one Franciscan, whose name was Francis."

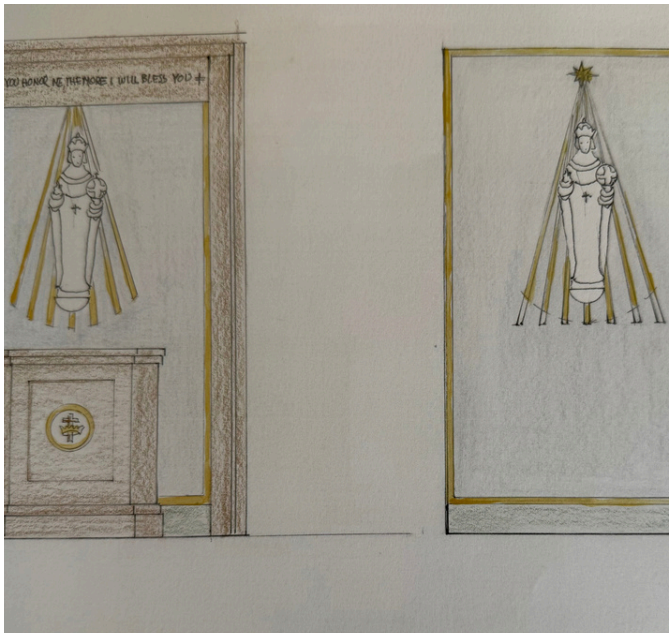
Yours in Christ,
Fr. Seán

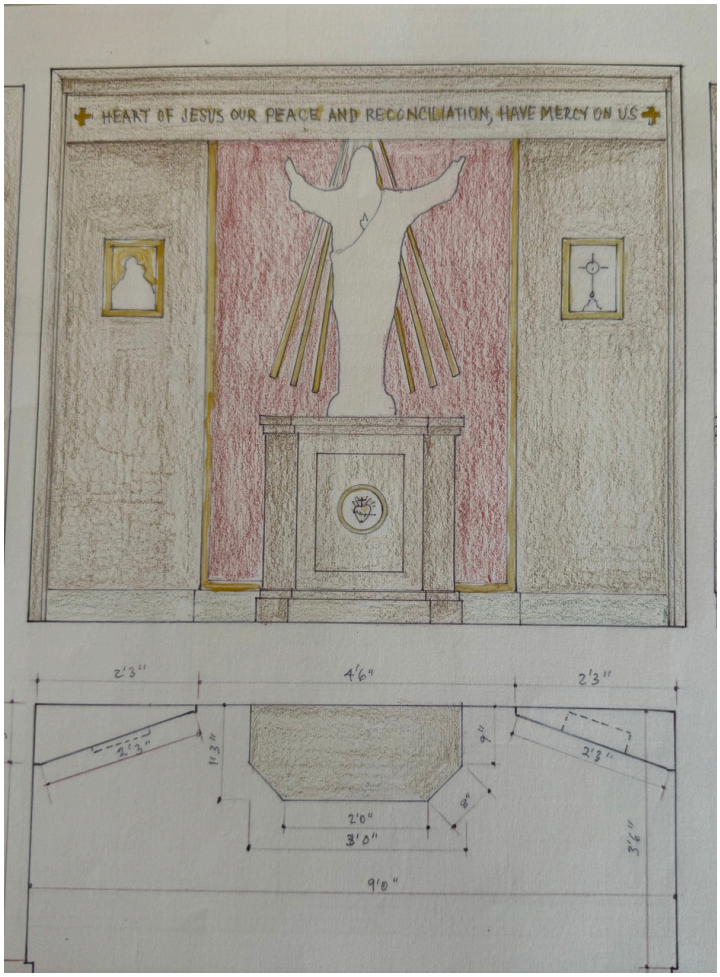
Revitalization in Riverdale

Renderings of the renovated interior of St. Margaret's Church:











Fr. Walter's Lecture Series

resumes Monday, 5th October at 6:30 p.m
at St. Margaret's Church.

He will be offering a monthly reflection on different Bible Stories.

The First Lecture this coming Monday will be on the story of creation in Genesis chapters 1 to 3.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

THE FRIDAY 9:00 A.M. HOLY MASS AT ST. MARGARET'S CONCLUDES WITH EXPOSITION UNTIL NONE (MIDAFTERNOON PRAYER) AND BENEDICTION AT 3:00 P.M.

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

Parish Book Club

DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY



Discussion led by Fr. Seán Connolly

Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th October at 6:30 P.M.
at the Riverdale Steakhouse ("Connaughton's")

Purgatorio XVII – XXXIII (17-33)

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For additions or updates, including anniversaries, birthdays. etc. please email: riverdalecatholicbulletin@gmail.com

NEWLY BAPTIZED: Jago Oliver Bridge and Carmel Sistine Scattaretico, *that these newly illumined child of God may walk always in the light of Christ.*

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE: Marc Vincent Valinoti & Alexandra Terese Giga, *that the Lord may bless them and keep them always one.*

THE SICK: Jean Donahue, Eugene Donnelly, Patricia Dooley, Daniel Doran, Pat Doran, Michael Dunne, Frances Dunne, Jarek Dworakowski, Robby Ernau, Hector Figueroa, *that the healing hand of Jesus the Divine Physician may be upon them.*



St. Margaret of Cortona and St. Gabriel, Pray to God for Us!







May God give many years of health and salvation to the newly illumined children of God, Jago Oliver Bridge and Carmel Sistine Scattaretico, born again by water and the Holy Spirit in baptism.

Catholic Widows and Widowers of Yonkers will meet on Thurs, Oct 15th, 12:30pm, St. Ann's Church, Fr. Anthony Hall, 31 College Place, Yonkers. Info: 914.423.5331. New members are always welcome.



Lauds (Morning Prayer) will commence this Monday 5th October and will be prayed at 8:30 a.m. before the 9:00 a.m. Holy Masses Monday through Friday.

Sign up to support our parish by recurring donations! Please go to our parish website homepage, **riverdalecatholic.org**, for a link for the donation page, or scan the QR code to donate.

wesharedonate.org

WeShare

For our parish benefactors. Deign, O Lord, for Thy Name's Sake, to reward with eternal life all those who do us good. Amen.

Collection 27th September 2026

In-pew: $11,255
Candles: $969
WeShare online giving: $1,549

Total: $13,773

Second Collection for St. Joseph's Seminary: $4,141

St. Margaret of Cortona

MONDAY 10/5
9:00 Fr. Seán Connolly (living)
WEDNESDAY 10/7
Our Lady of the Rosary
9:00 Harry K. Boynes and Mary Callahan, Kathleen Houlihan, and Sheila Foley
FRIDAY 10/9
St. Denis, Bishop and Companions, Martyrs
9:00 Michael T. Courtney and Ana Leticia deMarchelly and Mary Claire Tasker
SUNDAY 10/11
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 (Vigil) Claire Mulligan
9:00 Mary Jane and Mary B. Whalen and Mary O'Brien
11:00 Duillo Mazzuca and Arlene and Sean O'Neill

St. Gabriel

TUESDAY 10/6
St. Bruno, Priest
9:00 Stan and Helen Periera and Dan, Bridget, and John Griffin, John Moore and the Moore Family
THURSDAY 10/8
9:00 Scott Dillin and Mary L., and Mary Catherine Cronin
SUNDAY 10/11
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 (Vigil) John McManus
10:00 Harrold Dobbs
12:00 Breda Chambers (Farrelly)

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Riverdale Catholic

Words of Life from Antonio Cardinal Bacci's *Meditations* For Each Day



October, the Month of the Holy Rosary:

"We should say the Rosary devoutly every day. This beautiful prayer is very pleasing to Our Lady and the Church is particularly anxious that we should recite it during the month of October. Families which say the Holy Rosary together can hope for a special blessing from God and for the maternal protection of Mary.

If possible, every family should gather together in the evening and recite the Rosary before an image of our Blessed Mother. If the parents set an example, their children will join them. It is consoling to come together after the toil and trouble of the day in order to confide our cares and hopes to Mary."

Antonio Cardinal Bacci (1885–1971) was an Italian cardinal and scholar who served in the Roman Curia for decades as secretary for briefs to princes, composing in Latin all the major pontifical documents.

Welcome to the Parish of St Margaret - St. Gabriel!

If you are not registered as a parishioner, please fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office

Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone#:_____

EmailAddress:_____

__Change of address/telephone number

__Moving, please remove from parish list