



ST. MARGARET
PARISH



Dear Friends,

Lent begins February 18 this year. We need to turn our attention and focus on spiritual journey and what Jesus has done for us and doing every day in ourselves.

Lent should bring us to stand before God on our own two feet. We meet Our Lord and we meet our humanity. The weeks of Lent are not a time of fluff, shallow prayer, or vague dreams of holiness. They are a time for change in one's spirit. The task is so serious that when Lent has ended, one's life should not be the same. Just as the apostles' changed when they encountered Jesus. So should we. That is what Lent is about.

The Lenten experience leads to personal renewal of our baptismal vows in Easter liturgy. The forty days' focus on the renewal of our faith commitment to the Lord Jesus is our yes to Him. Are we being more like Jesus? Are we loving our God and our neighbor as the Scriptures calls us? Let us take this Lent seriously. Let us delve into these forty days to reconnect with our Lord and His message.

To help all of us begin this journey, we are offering our Lenten schedule with the services throughout the season. Please keep this schedule in a visible place for information.

Let us journey with the Lord.

God Bless,

February 18, 2026 / Masses & Services

CHURCH

6:30 am (Mass) ~ 8:30 am (Mass) ~
12:15 pm (Service) ~ 5:00 pm (Service) ~ 7:00 pm (Mass)

MISSION

No Masses or Services

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is a season of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. On Ash Wednesday, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the faithful to remind them of death, of the sorrow they should feel for their sins and of the necessity of changing their lives. Our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and remind us that life passes away on Earth. The priest or minister, dipping a thumb into ashes previously blessed, marks the forehead of each with the sign of the cross, saying the words, "**Repent and believe in the Gospel.**"

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are blessed with Holy Water. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting.



WHEN SHOULD I FAST?

- **Abstinence from all meat** is to be observed by all Roman Catholics 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday.
- **Fasting** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Roman Catholics 18 - 59 years of age. Roman Catholics over the age of 60 are exempt.

For Roman Catholics whose health or ability to work would be negatively affected by fasting and/or abstinence, the regulations above do not apply. Current Canon Law requires that on the days of fasting, Catholics may eat only one full meal during the day. Additionally, they may eat up to two small meals or snacks. Church requirements on fasting only relate to solid food, not to drink, so any amount of water or other beverages may be consumed.

WHY DO WE FAST?

Christ fasted for 40 days and 40 nights to prepare Himself for the time that He would come face-to-face with Satan, because He knew He would need His Father's strength. To fast is to do without food. Its purpose is to experience the effects of not eating. It also serves to be a penance or a sacrifice – for the purpose of strengthening us. When we don't eat, for even a little while, we get hungry. When we are hungry, we have a heightened sense of awareness. When we fast, we have that feeling of alertness. It is purifying for the soul and prepares us to pray more deeply.

You may think you don't need to fast, but after you have fasted and felt the closeness of God and His strength in you, you become aware of how weak and far away from God we can be. Fasting is a tool that God has given us to become spiritually stronger so that we can go on our spiritual journey with Him. When you fast, you will find yourself being humbled. As He leads you to recognize and repent, you will experience special blessings. When you fast, you will empty yourself, opening yourself up to accept God more honestly. A renewed closeness with God and a greater sensitivity to spiritual things are usually the results of a fast.

Parish Lenten Mission

Mon., Tues., Wed., ~ March 9, 10, 11
7:00 pm ~ St. Margaret Church

Theme: Meeting Jesus at the well



Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM Conv.

Talks

Monday, March 9
The many husbands of the woman, our addictions
Romans 7:14-20, Matthew 13:44-46

Tuesday, March 10
Bringing people to conversion by love and gentleness Gal 6:1-4, Mat 9:9-14

Wednesday, March 11
What it means to take a risk like the woman did, the call to evangelization



Reconciliation will be available in the Church at the following times during the Lenten Mission

Mon, March 9 | 9:30-11:30 am ~ Tues, March 10~4:00-5:30 pm and 8:00-9:00 pm ~ Wed, March 11~1:30-3:00 pm

Reconciliation will take place in the Main Church.

LENT & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent

12:15 p.m. *in the Chapel* and 7:00 p.m. *in the Church*

Good Friday, April 3 • Noon *in the Church* and 5:30 p.m. *at the Mission*

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays (*excluding Holy Saturday*) • Church • 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Living Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 27 • Church • 7:00 p.m.

The Living Stations of the Cross is an opportunity this Lenten season for us to accompany Jesus' walk through the narrow streets of Jerusalem. We will journey with him on his way to Calvary through scripture, reflection, acting, and song.



Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord

Saturday, March 28 • Church • 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29 • Church • 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon

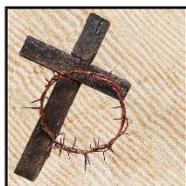
Sunday, March 29 • Mission • 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.



Holy Thursday – April 2, 2026

Morning Prayer • Church • 8:30 a.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper • Church • 7:00 p.m. (*incense will be used*)
Adoration will take place in the Church until 9:00 p.m., concluding with *Night Prayer*.

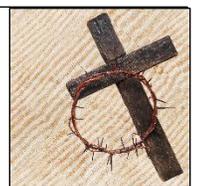


Good Friday – April 3, 2026 (*No Confessions*)

Morning Prayer • Church • 8:30 a.m. | *Stations* • Church • Noon

Celebration of the Lord's Passion • Church • 3:00 p.m.

Contemporary Stations • Mission • 5:30 p.m.



Holy Saturday – April 4, 2026

Morning Prayer • Church • 8:30 a.m.

Blessing of Food • Church • Noon (*new location*)

Easter Vigil • Church • 7:00 p.m. (*incense will be used*)



Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of Our Lord – April 5, 2026

Church • 6:30 a.m. (*quiet*), 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon

Mission • 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.



LENTEN ALMSGIVING

PRAY FAST GIVE

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Through this Lenten Season, we will be collecting items to benefit a local organization each week. Please know that your donation, no matter how large or small, will make a huge difference and change lives.

February 21-22

Harford Community Action Agency

Toiletries for adults & children to include body wash, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and body lotion

February 28-March 1

Char Half-Way House & Homecoming Project

Laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, and all cleaning supplies

March 7-8

Anna's House

Paper towels, toilet paper, diapers size 3 & 4, pull ups size 4, 5, & 6, laundry detergent, dish & hand soap, trash bags, Kleenex tissues, shampoo, and conditioner.

March 14-15

Welcome One Center

10" paper plates, 12 oz. paper bowls, 8 oz. hot paper cups, 10 oz. plastic cups, ground coffee, toilet paper, paper towels, contractor trash bags, and laundry pods, latex free vinyl gloves.

March 21-22

Brandon's House & My Daughter's House

Laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, and all cleaning supplies

March 28-29

Harford Family House

Large contractor black bags (Walmart/Home Depot), paper towels, toilet paper, glass cleaner (32oz), all-purpose spray cleaner (no bleach), juice boxes, cereal, granola bars, latex and powder free disposable gloves, feminine care pads.

Easter Weekend, April 4-5

St. Margaret Outreach

Gift Cards for ShopRite, Walmart, or Target

Support Our Lenten Baby Bottle Campaign

This Lent, St. Margaret's invites you to join us in supporting Choose Hope Women's Center (formerly Birthright) through our Baby Bottle Campaign. During this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we ask you to help bring hope to women and families facing unexpected pregnancies.

Simply fill your baby bottle with spare change, cash, or a check—or give conveniently by using the QR code provided. Your generosity helps provide free pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, education, and ongoing compassionate support to those in need.

Baby bottles will be distributed at all Masses on the first weekend of Lent (February 21–22) and collected on Palm Sunday weekend (March 28–29).

Thank you for being an anchor of life and love in our community.

Your support truly makes a life-changing difference.



Scan to learn more.

Stephanie Atha

Executive Director
Choose Hope Women's Center

Location

1924 Pulaski Highway
Edgewood, MD 21040

Contact Us

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