



Please pray for our brothers and sisters who are ill. For our parishioners, their families and caregivers, including: Marilyn Hawkins, Theresa Rock, Ann and Lorraine Leduc, Andrea DeMeo, Neil McCarthy, Sheila Gasnick, Emily Miller, Andrea Redway, Patrick and Alice Cornwall, Jim and Clare Dashney, Garry MacDonald, Audrey Bazinet, Andrew Thibault and Eileen Skeoch.

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### March 17<sup>th</sup>

9:30AM – For the Intentions of Our Parish

11:30AM – For the Intentions of Our Parish

#### March 24<sup>th</sup>

9:30AM – For the Intentions of Our Parish

11:30AM – For Phil O'Hara  
Requested by Kathy O'Hara



### FINANCIAL REPORT March 10th 2018

14/40 Envelope Donations \$	320.00
36 Pre-Authorized Debit \$	1221.25
Loose Collection - \$	61.00
Vigil Lights	35.00
Rental Income \$	50.00
Salary Reimbursement \$	670.50
<b>Total - \$</b>	<b>2357.75</b>
<b>Weekly Operational Costs \$</b>	<b>3000.00</b>
<b>Variance \$</b>	<b>-642.25</b>

**SUNDAY SUPPER REPORT:** Team four hosted a relaxed evening with 55 guests coming out on a stormy night. On the menu was chicken chili on rice, fresh bread and salad. Dessert was home-made cinnamon cake and ice cream.

#### WHAT IS COMMUNITY WITHOUT CHURCH?

The premiere screening of the documentary *Who Needs Church?* takes place on Saturday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer (Bank Street at the Canal). The film documents this neighbourhood church's struggle to keep its doors open to a dwindling congregation. For more information, see our bulletin board or the March edition of the OSCAR.

### INVIGORATING ST MARGARET MARY PARISH

Last month, the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council met with Father Geoff Kerslake from the Archdiocese of Ottawa. Father Kerslake raised some important issues – issues that affect many Catholic Parishes. He talked about declining attendance at mass, and limited financial resources. His thoughts challenged us to think about how we view our future here at St. Margaret Mary.

The Parish Council and Finance Council met again this week – we decided that our small Christian community has a future, and we are putting together a plan to invigorate our Parish. We have often talked about the financial pressures our Parish faces. But a more fundamental issue is the need to grow our community. That will provide us with greater stability and a brighter future. And we are working on how to make that a reality.

We began by asking ourselves what would bring someone specifically to St. Margaret Mary, and realized that we have many strengths. For example,

- We have a strong emphasis on social outreach with the Sunday Supper program;
- A close association with Carleton University;
- A wonderful music ministry; and
- A small, comfortable, welcoming environment for students, young adults, or those returning to church.

From this we started to develop ideas on how to promote our Parish and invite people in. We don't have a complete plan yet, but there are a number of things that we can all do, some of them beginning right now. We would like to advertise our Parish more widely, make greater use of our website

and social media, and reach out to different parts of the local community, including past parishioners and their families that have left for whatever reason.

We had many more ideas this week, although it will take a bit of time to put it all together. But we can start some things now, and Easter is a great time to do that. Most importantly, we will need your help. Please invite your friends and acquaintances to join us at our Easter celebrations, and welcome those who come that perhaps you have not seen for a while.

After Easter, we will be developing a longer-term plan to ensure that our Parish remains viable. This Fall will be the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Margaret Mary, and it is a fitting occasion to celebrate and re-energize our church community. And again, we will need your help. In the weeks following Easter we will be seeking your ideas and your assistance in implementing the most promising ones.

We believe that many people would like to be part of a small close-knit Christian community of the kind that we are so fortunate to have here at our Parish. We need to reach out and invite them in. Easter is a good time to start, but for us it will just be a beginning. We have some work ahead of us, but it will be worth doing.



**LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** This year our Parish will be joining with our neighboring parish Holy Canadian Martyrs for our Lenten Reconciliation Service on **Tuesday, April 2nd at 7:00pm.**



