

THE PARISH FAMILY OF ST. CATHARINE AND ST. MARGARET

SPRING LAKE, NEW JERSEY
REV. HAROLD F. CULLEN, PASTOR



Parish Directory

REV. HAROLD F. CULLEN PHD, PASTOR
REV. WILLIAM DUNLAP, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
REV. CHARLES WEISER, SENIOR PRIEST
REV DENNIS GALLAGHER, WEEKEND ASSISTANT
REV JOHN MORLEY, WEEKEND ASSISTANT
REV MARTIN PADOVANI, WEEKEND ASSISTANT
REV WILLIAM DOWD, WEEKEND ASSISTANT
EDWARD JENNINGS, DEACON
DR. JOHN LITTLE, DEACON
RICH BAIER, BUILDINGS
RICHARD CAMBRON, SPECIAL PROJECTS
MARILYN L. CASTELLANO, ED.D, PRINCIPAL
PATRICIA ROWAN, VICE PRINCIPAL
TAMMY SABLON, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
SISTER MARGARET TIERNEY, SC PASTORAL CARE
LISA DEFILLIPPO COLE, HR/ PUBLICITY
MARK McNULTY, YOUTH MINISTRY

NEW PARISHIONERS:

WELCOME! WE ENCOURAGE ALL NEW FAMILIES WHO MOVE INTO ST. CATHARINE - ST. MARGARET PARISH TO CALL THE RECTORY TO REGISTER IN THE PARISH.

Mass Schedule

St. Catharine Church

215 Essex Ave, Spring Lake, NJ 07762

SATURDAY: 5 PM

SUNDAY: 7 AM, 9 AM, 10:30 AM

MONDAY- SATURDAY (EXCEPT WEDNESDAY): 8 AM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 6:45 AM

St. Catharine Chapel

SUNDAY: 12 NOON

WEDNESDAY: 8 AM & 12 NOON

MONDAY - FRIDAY 12 NOON

St. Margaret Church

300 Ludlow Ave. Spring Lake, NJ 07762

SATURDAY: 4:30 PM

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM, 10 AM, 11:30 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

ST. CATHARINE CHAPEL, SATURDAY 3:30 – 4:30 PM

ST. MARGARET CHURCH, SATURDAY 3:00 – 4:00 PM



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 3, 2016

WWW.STCATHARINE-STMARGARET.ORG

CONTACTUS@STCATHARINE-STMARGARET.ORG

732-449-5765

~MASS INTENTIONS~

ST. CATHARINE CHURCH

MONDAY, January 4

8:00 AM Mary Baier
12:00 PM (Chapel) Joseph & Mary LoBuono

TUESDAY, January 5

8:00 AM Lou Taylor, SI
12:00 PM (Chapel) Kerry Slattery

WEDNESDAY, January 6

8:00 AM (Chapel) Catherine & Michael Flood
Mae Ewankov
Ann Marie Kalenka
Emile A. NeJame
Joan Scott
Michael Galvin
12:00 PM (Chapel) Marty Oswald

THURSDAY, January 7

8:00 AM Joseph & Barbara Vollath
12:00 PM (Chapel) Richard Verhose

FRIDAY, January 8

6:45 AM SI of Emile A. NeJame
8:00 AM Thomas Frances Guthrie, Jr.
Richard Mechler
Eileen Newman
Brad & Florence MacDonald
John Quinn
Bernhard Spang
12:00 PM (Chapel) Dorothy Vielkind

SATURDAY, January 9

6:45 AM Barwood Family
8:00 AM Jack Duffy
5:00 PM Joseph Cotov

SUNDAY, January 10

7:00 AM Peter F. Ryan
9:00 AM William Braniff
10:30 AM Sandra Ann Lapham
12:00 PM (Chapel) Robert Cox

ST. MARGARET CHURCH

SATURDAY, January 9

4:30 PM John D'Alesio Family

SUNDAY, January 10

8:30 AM People of the Parish
10:00 AM Mary G. Baier
11:30 AM Elwood Anderson

PASTORAL CARE: 732-449-5765

If you are going into the hospital, our priests will be happy to anoint you by appointment before admittance.

If you are IN the hospital, please call us to let us know so we can visit you, since hospitals no longer list patients' parishes.

*If you wish someone to visit you or your loved one in your home or assisted living, please notify us directly. **Sr. Margaret Tierney, Ext. 124***

Bereavement Support Group

*The next Bereavement Session is **Thursday, January 7, at 1:30 pm** in the convent. If you have lost a loved one do not feel alone in your journey, we are here to support you. **Call Sr. Margaret Tierney, Ext. 124.***

Thank you from the Mercy Center in Asbury Park

On behalf of Mercy Center, I want to thank you for your recent donation of sneakers.

Mercy Center's mission is to give those living in poverty in Monmouth County the support, counseling, and education they need to move on to healthier, better lives. Your support—combined with the commitment of hundreds of other compassionate, caring donors—helps provide the chronically underserved families in our community with life's basics.

Together, we are making a difference—one person, one family at a time.

Thank you again,

Sincerely,

Amy O'Neill, Director of Development

Please remember our sick: *Brian J. Mahoney, Kelly Thompson, Tom Herr, Emile A. NeJame, Megan Modeen, Carole Fragola, Tom Maguire, Rev. Francis Burla, Myra Amato, Thomas Byrne, Fr. Charles Weiser, Henry Schroeder, Tiffany Hanke Benner, Bob Patrignelli***



Please pray for the deceased: *Luke McDermott, Anna Gilligan Ball, Bernie Spang, Robert Chapman, Grace Braun, Barbara Ix***

Names remain on the sick and deceased at the request of parishioners for one month (4 weeks). If extended prayers are needed, please send a note or call. Thank you.



Dear Parishioners...

With the celebration of the Epiphany the Christmas season comes to a close. I still feel the glow of pride and wonder that emanated from our varied and joyous celebrations in both parishes. Of course, I realize increasingly that our little cocoon of multi-varied Christmas joy and celebration has become a small island in a coarse, and sometimes anti-social environment. This coarseness is particularly evident this year in the discourse and demeanor of some of those who aspire to be the leader of our nation. I have to applaud the Knights of Columbus for their concerted effort this year and prior years to remind people to *“Keep Christ in Christmas.”*

The Knights, however, and ourselves, are engaged in a war that would like to remove Christ from Christmas. You see little signs of it in the news constantly, from the elementary school in Stockton California that banned Poinsettias at Christmas last year because was that there was a Sikh Temple in the town and they did not want to seem exclusive (they did allow snowmen!): to the south Carolina nursing home where Santa was evicted *“because of the different cultures and beliefs of the people we care for”*.

These are examples of small mindedness and insane political correctness that exist in our country.

It is probably best to smile and laugh at the kind of insanity that prompts such scenarios.

A much more worrisome trend is the drive to turn Christmas from being a religious festival to a purely cultural phenomenon. This is the trend that elevates the commercial side of Christmas, with advertisements that now start popping up in September.

From my reading and understanding of the Fathers of our Nation, it is clear to me that while they believed in separation of Church and State, they never intended that religion be excluded from public life. I can only imagine how they would react to the decision to discourage members of Congress from using the words *“Merry Christmas”* when addressing their constituents.

It is important that we who believe in the mystery and meaning of Christmas, realize that there is a concerted intellectual effort to discredit Christianity itself as a world view.

The focus and intent is not to destroy Christmas (our economy would never survive that).

The intention is to keep it, but strip it from the spirituality from which it came, and reduce the experience of the Divine entering human history to just another holiday.

The greatest challenge to Christmas does not come from the people who are determined to keep it out of the public sphere. It comes from the concerted intellectual challenge to strip it of its meaning.

Take away the Christmas Nativity scene, take away the infant from the crib, and you are left with a holiday without a message and without a meaning. And take away the meaning - and the set of morals, and the culture that derived from it, is also in danger. It seems to me that this is what Pope Benedict has been saying for many years to the countries of Western Europe. He is reminding them, and reminding us, that the future for all of us could be a joyless and meaningless remnant of the great western civilization that was born 2016 years ago in a stable in Bethlehem.

Happy New Year Again!

Fr Harry Cullen

New Altar Server Installation, Dec 20, 2015





The Following have been enrolled in the St. Catharine-St. Margaret Parish Memorial Mass Society and will share in special masses to be celebrated at the 9:00am for 12 first Sundays beginning January 3, 2016.

- Anna Regina Ball
 Peter Clarizio
 Donna Phillips
 Luke McDermott
 Matthew I. Skarzynski
 Susan Walters
 Kevin Walters
 Elias Ursitti
 Francis Xavier Ventrice
 Ralph Pearce
 Kit Crowley
 Annamary Kavanaugh
 William Hamilton
 Brian Williams
 Robert Cox
 Courtney Pryor Minervini
 Michael Clayton
 Michael Murray
 Helen Murray
 Joseph F. Dolan
 Mary Bonczak
 Alexander Frank IX, Jr.
 Oliver Ferraro

Weekly Collection

December 19/20, 2015

Regular Collection	\$20,080.50
Second Collection	\$ 4,171.00
Total Collection	\$24,251.50

First Collection Summary By Mass

St. Margaret's	
Saturday 4.30PM	\$ 2,128.00
Sunday 8.30AM	\$ 1,514.00
Sunday 10.00AM	\$ 1,902.00
Sunday 11.30AM	\$ 1,514.00
Total St Margaret's	\$ 7,058.00

St. Catharine's	
Saturday 5.00PM	\$ 1,715.00
Sunday 7.00AM	\$ 1,362.00
Sunday 9.00AM	\$ 2,064.00
Sunday 10.30AM	\$ 2,496.00
Sunday 12.00PM (Chapel)	\$ 1,982.00
Total St Catharine's Church	\$ 9,619.00

Second Collection	
Total Cash Second Collection	\$ 1,704.00
Total Checks Second Collection	\$ 2,467.00
Total Second Collection	\$ 4,171.00

Miscellaneous	
Contributions that come in the mail	\$ 2,642.50
Loose Cash	\$ 761.00
Total Miscellaneous	\$ 3,403.50

Second Collections

Parishioners who use parish envelopes will notice that beginning the New Year, we have eliminated many of the second (green) envelopes. The Diocese requires us to have approximately 13 special second collections in the course of the year. We will also retain second collections for Diocesan Assessments, and for unforeseen emergencies and events. "Religious Education Programs" and "Parish programs" etc should and will be covered by the first collection. This does not mean that our operating expenses are decreasing. **The opposite is true.**

If you are in a position to do so, we urge that you consider increasing your offering to the first collection (white envelop) in 2016.



Members of our Parish who have family or friends in the service have given us their names which can be found in our Remembrance books in both churches in front of one of the side altars. We encourage you to stop there,

say a prayer for those listed and for all our service people. To add a name to our prayer list, please call Barbara 732-449-5392 or Karen 732-685-7065 or parishcouncil@stcatharine-stmargaret.org.

Faith In Our Future

On Jan 7, the members of the parish Core Leadership Team will be meeting to plan the next steps in the process of a parish self evaluation study.

In the weeks ahead, the team will be reaching out to the members of the parish, soliciting your input about the state of our parish, as part of a parish self evaluation. We are anticipating asking parishioners to respond either on line or by hard copy to a questionnaire about the parish. We may follow up with a town hall type meeting to listen and to share. The information that we gather will be very critical to parish planning for the future, and our collaboration with “cohort” parishes with who we will be working in order to:

1. Share more resources with each other and with parishes in need
2. Avoid unneeded duplication of services; and
3. Fill in the gaps where service and ministry have not been available.

The following members of the parish have agreed to serve as core leaders in conjunction with the pastor: Mary Ann Christopher, Maureen Martin, Mary Lou Oliva, Rich Diver

Our Parish Family of St. Catharine - St. Margaret would like to congratulate the following couples who were married in December:

December 5, 2015

William Kelly and Alyson Brown

December 19, 2015

Joseph Connell and Christen Caverly



Thank you

The 2015 Giving Tree project was a wonderful success. We are proud to say that because of your generosity we collected over \$1600 toward the purchase of sneakers for children. Our supermarket gift cards totaled \$3850 to be given to needy families throughout the year and the donations for seniors was over \$1,000.

We collected over 700 toys or clothing for Madonna House, Mercy Center, St Anthony parish in Lakewood, Mother of Mercy parish in Asbury Park and the children of Uganda and Honduras.

We sincerely thank everyone for your generous support of this project and a special thank you to all our “elves” that helped sort, package and deliver the gifts. May God bless you and your family.

Youth Town Hall Meeting

If you are interested in the future of the youth of the parish, we invite you to come to attend a meeting to explore, discuss and plan for the future of the youth of the parish. The meeting will be facilitated by Rudy Gomez, the Diocesan Youth Advisor.

It is hoped that from this event, a Youth Council will be formed for the parish to chart the direction forward, and to create meaningful structures that will serve the many needs of the young people, and young adults, of the parish. The meeting will take place in the school gymnasium on January 23 at 7.30PM.

Mary's Child
Pro-Life Ministry
Invites you on our Bus Trip for



Friday, January 22, 2016
Washington, D.C.

**RESERVE A SEAT FOR ONLY \$10
(COVERS BUS, CONTINENTAL
BREAKFAST & DRIVER TIP)**

*Bring brown bag lunch. We will stop for dinner
on the way home*

Seating is limited and "first come -first served"

All ages are welcome!

*To reserve seats and get full information,
please contact Mary Reilly at 732-685-6011 or
email maryschildprolifeministry@gmail.com*

Dear Parishioners of St. Catharine-St. Margaret Parish,

MAY THE LOVE AND LIGHT of Christmas
Illuminate ALL YOUR DAYS,
AND THROUGHOUT THE New Year
MAY God's peace BE IN YOUR HEART.

*"I wish you a very warm Christmas and may the Lord fill you
with his blessings in the new coming year."*

God bless you all.

Sr. Faida



**Daughters of St. Catharine and
St. Margaret**

Our next meeting is

Thursday, January 28, 2016 @ 7:00PM in
St. Margaret Hall

Please join us for a very unique and
inspirational meeting with Guest Speaker
Author Andrea Jo Rodgers who will share
her local rescue stories.

In 28 years as a volunteer EMT with the Spring Lake First Aid Squad, Andrea Jo Rodgers has responded to numerous life-and-death emergencies, assisting people in their most vulnerable moments. Andrea has included many of these inspirational rescue stories in her first book, *At Heaven's Edge: True Stories of Faith and Rescue*, published by Harvest House Publishers.

After her own life-threatening elevator accident, Andrea became inspired to share brief, real-life stories of heroic courage in the face of fear. In times of intense suffering, she has repeatedly witnessed signs of God's quiet intervention and healing presence. Some victims faced their mortality head-on and cried out to God for help. Many experienced fleeting, but life-changing connections with their first-responders. Often these crises became unexpected sources of inspiration.

Andrea will discuss what inspired her to write *At Heaven's Edge* and how the book came to fruition. She will also share several selections from the book, such as the occasion in which numerous bystanders, police, and EMS helped to rescue a young girl who was accidentally buried alive in sand. In another emergency, God orchestrated the rescue of a gentleman by bringing together an off-duty fireman, police and first aid squad members, and an EMT who was able to fix a damaged defibrillator with her teeth!

"I was swept up in each of the stories... you will be captured by the real life drama found on every page...."
Reverend David Cotton, Manager, Pastoral Care
Department -- Jersey Shore University Medical Center

"These true stories include some that made me laugh and some that brought tears to my eyes. They are beautifully told, filled with miracles, courage, grace and drama. I was moved by the tales of young lives just beginning and some older ones ending with grace and love. AT HEAVEN'S EDGE is truly an inspirational book that you will remember forever." -The Mews News

Andrea began volunteering with the Spring Lake First Aid Squad while in high school and continues to volunteer to this day. Over the years, she has responded to more than 6,800 first-aid and fire calls. She holds a clinical doctorate in physical therapy and has worked as a physical therapist in a trauma center for over 21 years.

For questions or more information, please call Gretchen Stevens at 732-213-7475 or email Gretchenstevens22@gmail.com.

Liturgical Ministry Schedule for St. Margaret Church Saturday, January 9th & Sunday, January 10th				
	SAT. 4:30PM	SUN. 8:30AM	SUN. 10:00AM	SUN. 11:30AM
Celebrant				
Altar Server	Liam Tennyson Sean Tennyson Bridget Kane	Andrew Gowan Hailey Hathaway Tyler Capristo	Shane Killeen Will Murphy Kiernan Flanagan	Bobby Marks Bridget Salmon
Lector	John Nugent	Kathleen Capristo	Sandra Keary	Ramon Cuasay
Eucharistic Minister	Helen Nugent Patricia Seltzer Paulette McCormack	Steve Mazur Donna Schrader Frances Scullli Liz Mangini	Mary-Jo Capko Emery Chiszar Liza Keefe John C. Curtis	Lourdes Cuasay Lynn Hayes Adelaide Sangiorgi
Liturgical Ministry Schedule for St. Catharine Church Saturday, January 9th & Sunday, January 10th				
	SAT. 5:00PM	SUN. 7:00AM	SUN. 9:00AM	SUN. 10:30AM
Celebrant				
Altar Server	Emma Spang Maeve Spang Morgan Crowley	Mary Gowen Matthew Gowen Elizabeth Perry Tommy Perry	Bailey McInerney Timothy McInerney	Kate Stedronski Maeve Cosgrove
Lector	Betsey Sheprow	Frank Ryan	Grace Brennan	Barbara Harrigan
Eucharistic Minister	Rachel Maget Paul Farrell Cynthia Eisenkerch	Betsy Ryan Robert Dougherty or Jerelyn Dougherty Michael Mastrocola Karolee Kowal	Elaine Molen Kathleen McCarthy John Ryan	MaryAnn D'Agostino Mark or Lynn Loyer Carole Morris Mary Ann Conte
Liturgical Ministry Schedule for St. Catharine Chapel Sunday, January 10th				
	12 NOON	<h1>A YEAR FOR PEACE</h1>		
Celebrant				
Altar Server	Olivia Maddalone			
Lector	Rosemary Frontero			
Eucharistic Minister	Ellie Vermeire Missy Shaw Margaret O'Regan			



January 2016

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word, during 10am mass
 - Queen of Peace Rosary, St. Catharine Church 3pm

Monday

Miraculous Medal Novena after 8am mass, St. Catharine Church

Tuesday

- Healthy Bones 10am, St. Margaret Hall
 - Blood Pressure Screenings 12:30pm - 1:30pm, Convent
 - Chair Yoga 1:30pm, St. Margaret Hall
 - CCD K-5, 4:30-5:45pm 6th & 7th, 7-8:15pm

Wednesday

- Women's Bible Study 9:30am, Convent
 - Eucharistic Devotion after 8am mass, Chapel
 - Benediction 4pm, Chapel
 - CYO Basketball 7:30pm, SCS GYM

Thursday

- Healthy Bones, 10am, St. Margaret Hall
 - Adult Choir, 7:30pm, Convent

MINISTRIES OF THE MONTH

Meet & Greet

Enjoy Food and Fellowship after the 11:30am mass once per month in St. Margaret Hall

CYO

Meetings at 7pm EVERY Sunday in SCS Gym

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!	2
3 Food Collection	4	5	6 SCS Technology Committee Meeting	7 Bereavement Session, 1:30 PM, Convent	8 Classic's Meeting, 1:30PM, St. Margaret Hall Faith in Our Future Core Leadership Meeting	9 Pastoral Council Meeting
10	11	12	13 Parish Spirituality Committee Meeting 7pm, Convent	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King's Birthday RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED	19	20	21	22 March for Life	23 Youth town Hall Meeting, 7:30PM, SCS Gym
24 Pick up Frozen Food Containers after mass	25	26	27	28 Daughters of St. Catharine- St. Margaret Meeting with Andrea Jo Rodgers, 7pm, St. Margaret Hall	29	30
31 Return filled Frozen Food Containers						

Upcoming Events

March 10th— Classic's St. Patrick's Day Party SCS Cafeteria \$20/ticket

April 19th— Classic's Day of Reflection at St. Alphonsus Retreat House

St. Catharine ~ St. Margaret Parish Family

215 Essex Avenue Spring Lake, New Jersey 07762

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Street and Telephone Numbers

Rectory, 215 Essex Avenue	732-449-5765
Convent, 211 Essex Avenue	732-449-5765, ext 126
School, 301 Second Avenue	732-449-4424
Religious Education Office, School	732-449-4424, ext 305, 310
St. Catharine Cemetery, W Chicago Blvd. Sea Girt	732-681-6269
St. Anne Cemetery, Allenwood Road, Wall	732-681-6269

PARISH WEBSITE: WWW.STCATHARINE-STMARGARET.ORG

PARISH E-MAIL: ContactUs@stcatharine-stmargaret.org

PARISH BULLETIN: www.cindygraves@optonline.net

PASTORAL COUNCIL E-MAIL: parishcouncil@stcatharine-stmargaret.org

SCHOOL WEBSITE: stcatharineschool.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: religioused@stcatharine-stmargaret.org

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday 9 AM -4:00 PM. Evenings and Saturdays by appointment. If you wish an appointment with a priest, please call beforehand. On Holy Days & Holidays, the rectory office is closed.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Sewing & Crafts Guild	Madelyn Curtis	732-449-0059
Bereavement Group	Sr. Margaret Tierney	732-449-5765 x124
St. Catharine Classics	Margaret O'Regan	732-449-3824
CYO Youth Group	Mark McNulty	732-449-5765 x125
Daughters of St. Catharine-	Gretchen Stevens	732-213-7475
Finance Council	PJ McMenamin	908-230-4085
Health Ministry	Cathi Breslin	732-449-6824
	Marion Mullarkey	732-449-8406
Holy Innocents Society	Tom Dorney	732-449-9589
Knights of Columbus	Angelo Moliterno	732-974-7258
Men's Prayer Group	Bill Pavincich	732-449-5623
Pastoral Council	Susan Marks	732-449-3491
Mary's Child Pro-Life Ministry	Pat Wright	609-752-7833
School PTA	Janet Schneider	732-359-7707
Social Concerns	Dave Wright	732-282-1998
Third Order of Mt Carmel	James Morrissey	732-489-2031
Women's Bible Group	Catherine Pavincich	732-449-5623

On the first night of his grandma's visit, little Michael was saying his prayers before he went to bed. **"Please God"** he shouted very loud *"send me a bike, a tool chest and a..."*

"Why are you praying so loud?" his older brother interjected
"God isn't deaf!"

"I know" said Michael, "but Grandma is."

~MASS SCHEDULES~

St. Catharine Church

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 7 AM, 9 AM, 10:30 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 8 AM

Friday & Saturday: 6:45 AM

St. Catharine Chapel

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday, 12 Noon

Wednesday: 8:00 AM & 12 Noon

Sunday: 12 Noon

St. Margaret Church

Saturday: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10 AM, & 11:30 AM

St. Catharine School

Weekday Mass for individual classes: 9:00AM

on Wednesdays and Fridays during the school year.

PARISH CONTACTS

RECTORY 732-449-5765

Administration	Ext. 169
Adult Education	Ext 102
Archives	Ext 401
Baptisms	Ext 102
Bookkeeping/Finance	Ext. 107
Buildings & Grounds	Ext 104
Bulletin	Ext 110
Envelopes, Registration	Ext 109
Funerals	Ext 102/101
Music Office	Ext 103
Pastoral Care	Ext 124
Publicity	Ext 169
Scheduling	Ext 173
Tax Letters	Ext 178
Weddings	Ext 166
Youth Ministry	Ext 125

The older the fiddle

The sweeter the tune

Irish Proverb

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"We, the Catholic community of St. Catharine - St. Margaret, gather in Christ's name to nurture spiritual growth through the various stages and challenges of life.

We are committed through liturgy, sacraments and parish activities - to proclaim the message of the Gospel, to provide a quality Catholic education for children and adults, to continue to build community and to serve those in need.

Rich in the traditions established in this community during the last century, we challenge ourselves to live our faith in loving service to the community's residents and its many summer visitors.

We affirm our concern for all members of the Mystical Body of Christ everywhere and particularly those who require assistance.

And always, we seek to know and love God and to love our neighbor as Jesus taught us."