



Come, all ye faithful... Come let us adore Him



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

*U.S.A. National Circus Church
The Pallottines (Society of Catholic Apostolate)*

December 25, 2022

Christmas

Mass Schedule

Saturday

7:30 a.m. & 8:30 a.m.
4 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. - *Vigil*

Sunday

7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m., & 5:30 p.m.
8 a.m. Spanish - *Parish Hall*
12 p.m. Vietnamese - *Parish Hall*

Weekday

7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Confessions - Reconciliation Room

Saturday 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. & 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday thru Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration - Carosella Chapel

Tuesday thru Thursday 9 a.m. - Noon

Rosary & Morning Prayer Devotions

Rosary is prayed daily after the 7:30 a.m. Mass
followed by Morning Prayer

Baptism Class

2nd Sunday of each month from 9 - 10 a.m.
in the Parish Hall. No need to **RSVP**

200 N. Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236

Telephone 941-366-4210 Fax 941-954-8434

Website www.stmartha.org **Facebook** St. Martha Roman Catholic Church

YouTube St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL **Instagram** [stmarthachurch_in_srq](https://www.instagram.com/stmarthachurch_in_srq)

Parish Office Hours Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to Noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.



From our Pastor, Fr. George...

Dear Parishioners of St. Martha,

Sunday Sermon – Nativity of the Lord in the Year “A”

From Dn. Vern Smith

Christmas peace! May abundant Christmas grace and joy be yours this blessed day.

As we reflect on the readings for this day of Christmas we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, which are beautifully theological – mystical really – somewhat above or removed from the flesh-and-blood, straw-and-animal, manger-and-child, Madonna-and-Child picture that you carry in your imagination: the picture of Mary, Joseph and the child, in a stable, surrounded by shepherds, as it is represented here at St Martha’s in our Christmas scene in our courtyard. The message in our readings invites you to close your eyes and move, as it were, through the forestage of this manger scene to contemplate the reality of the awesome power of God that hovers above it all.

Reflect for a moment on the power of God at work in this event. Separate the event for a moment, if you can, from the mystery behind it and above it, in order to grasp, however incompletely, some understanding of God’s eternal word, some measure of God’s powerful love that lies hidden behind the Christmas event.

We bow before the manger in order that our minds eye might move through the scene to behold the saving power that hovers over it. “God sent his own mind into the world” in this Christmas event!

Remember that as you ponder the words from the Gospel readings. They are familiar words from the prologue to the Gospel of John: “In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Nor, you can safely say, will the darkness of evil and sin, of terrorism and war, of hatred and injustice ever overcome it. Nor will the darkness of doubt that some of us have to deal with, nor the illness we bear, nor the reversals and disappointments that tend to get us down ever overcome us, so long as we turn to and remain close to the Light of the World.

“The true light,” writes St. John in the words proclaimed in these readings. “The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” That is what we see in the manger scene. “He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those that did accept him (and that, dear friends, is a reference to every one of you!) he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name (another reference to you!) who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice not by a man’s decision but of God (a reference to your rebirth in baptism!).”

And then John gives the pronouncement that brings us to our knees in grateful adoration: “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

There is so much there to contemplate. There is so much cause for wonder. There is so much reason to be grateful. And there is so much hope waiting to work its way deeper into your heart, if only you will let the key of faith open your heart to receive it. No matter how bad things appear to be around you, no matter how little faith you have in yourself, no matter how frightened you are, no matter how guilty you feel, no matter how empty you may be today, fall on your knees before the mystery and majesty of Christmas and let this Infant do for you what he was born to do for all, namely, rescue you from the darkness, bring you into the light, save you from your sins, and offer you the promise of eternal life. Merry Christmas!

May God bless us all at this time of Christmas!

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord begins the Christmas time in our Church life. Then we have the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, eight days of solemn celebration of this holy time of grace, which lasts until the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The Christmas carol, Silent Night speaks about: **“Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born.”** May these heavenly glories bring God’s blessing to you all, may this time be a time of grace!

This time, we meditate on the „the Great Antiphons” - from December 17 to 24, (so called „O” Antiphons) attributed to St. Gregory the Great and current composition was created by Amalarius of Metz (IX century).

These are the antiphons to Magnificat in the Evening Prayer and after the liturgy reform they have been placed, in the shortened form, in the Holy Mass as the Gospel acclamations. Antiphons, which theme has been drawn from the Old Testament, begin with the words: O sapientia (Wisdom), O adonai (Lord), O radix (Root), O clavis (Key of David), O oriens (East), O rex (King), O emmanuel.

The first letters of these Antiphons, read from the last to the first, compose an acclamation: **“ero cras” – I will come tomorrow.**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Christmas Carols

There will be an exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Thursday Dec. 29th from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.** in our Church. We are going to adore the Lord Jesus present in the Eucharist with Christmas Carols and with reflection from the Encyclical, *“On the Eucharist”* of St. John Paul II. Please join in for this hour of joyful adoration of Christ as our part in the national Eucharistic revival.

A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties. Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God’s love and compassion. Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.



Thank you for Advent/Christmas decorations!

We notice the **Advent Wreath** in the church, symbolizing our readiness for the Lord's coming, other wreaths and chains of evergreens, we have the **Christmas Tree** with colorful decorative items including **doves of peace**, which to me symbolize **Jesus the Prince of peace**, whose help we ask for at this time of war in Ukraine. In a harsh Ukrainian winter millions of people are without heat, water and electricity apart from the fact that they are regularly bombarded by the Russian army. God bless them with peace! Amen.

We pray to the Lord for the end of war in Ukraine: Jesus, the Prince of peace, come to our help!

You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.

Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God; ruthless people are trying to kill me - they have no regard for you. But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Turn to me and have mercy on me; show your strength on behalf of your servant; save me, because I serve you just as my mother did.

Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me. (*Psalms 86*)

Jesus, the Prince of peace, come to our help!

With prayers for God's blessing to you
and your family,
Fr. George



If the Church parking lot is full, the parking lot across Fruitville Rd also belongs to St. Martha.

Just remember to cross at the crosswalk!



Alcoholics Anonymous
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Clergy

Rev. George Suszko, S.A.C. Pastor

Rev. Jan Rykala, S.A.C.

Rev. Krzysztof "Chris" Frost, S.A.C.

Rev. Joseph Vu, C.R.M., *Hospital Chaplain*

Very Rev. Fausto Stampiglia, S.A.C. (*Retired*)

Rev. R. Patrick Wilson, S.A.C. (*Retired*)

Rev. Deacon William Ladroga

Rev. Deacon C. Patrick Macaulay

Rev. Deacon Robert Gaitens

Rev. Deacon Vern Smith

Sr. Cathy Bonfield, S.S.N.D.

Br. Lawrence Skitzki, C.S.C.

Br. William Dygert, C.S.C.

Parish Staff

Sara Brinn, Office Manager

Virginia Bray, Music Director

Patricia Sileo, Director of Religious Education

Teressa McCoy, Accountant

Pamela Paulson, Reception/Data Entry

Carole Roberts, Reception

Rose Ann Runnells, Sacristan

Janet Cocco, Sacristan

Joseph Angelicola, Sacristan

Miguel Jimenez, Facilities Manager

Eris Nunez, Maintenance

Blanca Goetz, Rectory Housekeeper

Claudia Moschini, Rectory Chef

This Week in Our Parish

Sunday, Dec 25 - Christmas

Monday, Dec 26

Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, Dec 27 - St. John the Evangelist

Wednesday, Dec 28 - Holy Innocents

Thursday, Dec 29 - St. Thomas Becket

10:00 a.m. Lectio Divina - Geenen Hall

6:00 p.m. Lectio Divina - Geenen Hall

6:00 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Church

Friday, Dec 30 - Holy Family

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Dec 31 - New Year's Eve; St. Sylvester I



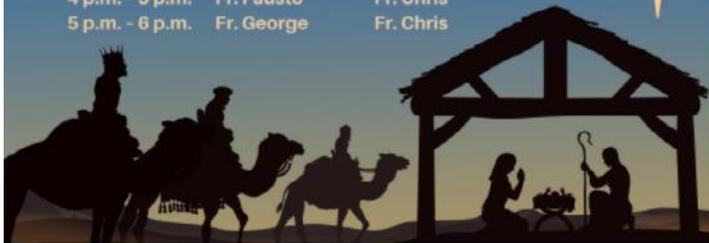
CHRISTMAS 2022

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24	Sunday, December 25
4:00 p.m. (Church)	7:30 a.m. (Church)
4:00 p.m. (Hall)	8:00 a.m. Spanish (Hall)
5:30 p.m. (Church)	9:00 a.m. (Church)
5:30 p.m. (Hall)	9:00 a.m. (Hall)
8:00 p.m. Vietnamese (Church)	10:30 a.m. (Church)
11:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols (Church)	10:30 a.m. (Hall)
Midnight (Church)	Noon (Church)
	Noon Vietnamese (Hall)
	5:30 p.m. (Church)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

	Thurs., Dec. 22	Fri., Dec. 23	Sat., Dec. 24
9 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Fr. Chris	Fr. George	Fr. Joseph
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Fr. Chris	Fr. Fausto	Fr. Jan
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Fr. Jan	Fr. Fausto	Fr. Chris
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Fr. Jan	Fr. Joseph	Fr. George
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.	Fr. Joseph	Fr. Jan	Fr. Chris
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Fr. George	Fr. Jan	Fr. Fausto
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Fr. Fausto	Fr. George	
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Fr. Fausto	Fr. Chris	
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Fr. George	Fr. Chris	



RESPECT LIFE

respect · love · protect

The infant Christ 'came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph' (PC 5). The humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah in a stable, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son in the years to come. Joseph's devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us.

POINSETTIAS FOR A CAUSE!

Many Thanks to all the parishioners who supported SOLVE Maternity Homes at the recent poinsettia fundraiser.

The sale was such a success that all of the poinsettias were sold by the 9 a.m. Mass!

In addition, over \$350 in donations were given.

The mothers of SOLVE thank you!



17TH ANNUAL ST. AUGUSTINE

March for Life

MAIN EVENT SAT/JAN 14

Speakers, Music & Activities

National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche
101 San Marco Ave.
9AM - Mass with Bishop Eric Pohlmeier
Mass outside (weather permitting)
NOON-3PM - KOC Council 611 March for Life
Spaghetti Dinner at Cathedral Parish

FRIDAY KICK OFF JAN 13

Kick Off - Shrine

2-4PM - College Leadership Training
5PM - Adoration & Praise and Worship Music
6PM - Mass
6:45PM - Illuminated Living Rosary
FOOD TRUCKS
7:30 - 9PM - Praise & Worship Concert

PLEASE BRING A DONATION OF DIAPERS TO HELP OUR PREGNANCY CARE CENTERS IN NEED



SPEAKERS

MELISSA COLES: documentary "I Lived on Parker Ave" Movie LIFEMARK
DR. JASON PHILIPS: Ob/Gyn-The Abortion Pill
Wayne Friday: Sidewalk Testimony

WE CHOOSE TO LOVE THEM BOTH!



This will be our last march!

WWW.MARCHFORLIFE2AUGUSTINE.COM



Support Program for Separated or Divorced Catholics

12 Session Video-based Peer Support Group

Begins January 24, 2023 at

Our Lady of Lourdes in Venice

For details or to register

bobandchrismialek@icloud.com or 815 275-5305




LION OF JUDAH PRESENTS

GAME NIGHT

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6 JANUARY FROM 5:30-7:30 PM

PRE-REGISTRATION BY JANUARY 3 IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND. TO REGISTER CLICK ON THE QR CODE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Theology on Tap Sarasota takes place on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Mandeville Beer Garden in Sarasota, 428 N. Lemon Ave, Sarasota. All **YOUTH** are invited to the garden for food and refreshments, presentations, and discussions about the Catholic Faith. Email evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org with any questions.

Sanctify Your Driving - St. Joseph's Shelf, a website which offers a collection of articles focused on living the Catholic Faith in daily life, has published an enlightening article titled, "How to sanctify your driving". The article offers practical ways on how to sanctify your driving by making it a time to encounter opportunities to grow in virtue. The article can be found by following the link, <https://stjosephshelf.com/how-to-sanctify-your-driving/>.

Permanent Diaconate Class - The Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida, has approved the call for applicants to the Permanent Diaconate, Class of 2028. There are currently ten men studying in the five-year program. The new class will begin in September 2023. Further information is available from the Diaconate Office at the Catholic Center in Venice by calling Deacon Bob Gaitens, Director of Diaconate Student Formation, at 941-350-2634 or Gaitens@dioceseofvenice.org

Anniversary Mass - All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Masses will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on February 4 at St. Leo the Great Parish, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs and at 11:00 a.m. on February 18 at Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue, Venice. Please contact your local parish office for reservations no later than a week prior to the event you choose to attend.

World Youth Day - Registration is open for World Youth Day 2023 to Lisbon, Portugal. You are invited to join Bishop Frank J. Dewane for the trip to Lisbon with two nights in Fatima. This 11-day pilgrimage is from July 29 to August 8, 2023. Travel arrangements are facilitated by Peter's Way Tours. Space is limited and registration must be completed by Saturday, December 31. Please visit <https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/evangelization/world-youth-day-2023/> for registration and further information.

Catholic Days at the Capitol in Tallahassee, March 7-9, 2023. The three-day trip includes a legislative briefing on important bills relating to human life and dignity, a breakfast with legislators and the Florida Bishops, tours of the capitol and museum, scheduled visits with legislators and the annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit with the Florida Bishops and public officials. Bus transportation is provided while space is available at no cost. For more details contact Jeanne Berdeaux at 941-374-1068 or Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org.

DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Eucharistic Congress

The Word Made Flesh - John 1:14

Youth Rally
Friday, March 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Keynote Speaker
Father Timothy Anastos
Music
The Vigil Project



Bishop
Frank J. Dewane

Eucharistic Congress
Saturday, March 25, 2023
9:00 a.m.- 6:00p.m.
Renowned National Speakers
English and Spanish Tracks
Mass & Eucharistic Procession
Men's and Women's
Breakouts



Caloosa Sound Convention Center
and Luminary Hotel
1365 Monroe Street, Fort Myers
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941-484-9543




Weekly Mass Intentions

Sun., Dec. 25	Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
7:30 a.m. [JR]	For All Parishioners
8:00 a.m. [CG]	(Hall/Span) For All Parishioners
9:00 a.m. [GS]	For All Parishioners
9:00 a.m. [JR]	(Hall) For All Parishioners
10:30 a.m. [FS]	For All Parishioners
10:30 a.m. [GS]	For All Parishioners
12:00 p.m. [CF]	For All Parishioners
12:00 p.m. [JV]	(Hall/Viet) For All Parishioners
5:30 p.m. [GS]	For All Parishioners
Mon., Dec. 26	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
7:30 a.m.	Chuck Cooney by David and Paula Shigley
8:30 a.m.	Marie Hoffberg
12:00 p.m.	Haley Halbrook by Mom
5:30 p.m.	Marco S. and Jennie Petrone by Marie J. Kilker
Tues., Dec. 27	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a,2-8
7:30 a.m.	Louis Zazarino by the St. Martha Staff
8:30 a.m.	William L'Heureux by the L'Heureux Family
12:00 p.m.	Margaret Rimka by Friends
5:30 p.m.	Yvonne and Douglas Greenlaw by Maria Greci
Wed., Dec. 28	1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18
7:30 a.m.	John Donahue by the Donahue Family
8:30 a.m.	The Holy Innocents
12:00 p.m.	Ann Leugers Cerone by Emily Anton
5:30 p.m.	Roger Fisher by Parents
Thurs., Dec. 29	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
7:30 a.m.	(L) Phil & (L) Barry Starr by Maureen & Terry Aldrich
9:00 a.m.	Tristan Barth by Mom and Dad
12:00 p.m.	Mass of Thanksgiving by C. Valdes
5:30 p.m.	Mr. & Mrs. Vido Valerio by Jackie Rogers
Fri., Dec. 30	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
7:30 a.m.	William Smith by Margaret Gale
8:30 a.m.	Fulvia and Ivo Sgattoni by Maria Greci
12:00 p.m.	Edward & Margaret Mearman by Eddie & Mary Pam and Dick by Maureen and Terry Aldrich
Sat., Dec. 31	1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
7:30 a.m.	Louis Zazarino by the St. Martha Staff
8:30 a.m.	Lewis & Betty Smith by Theresa Smith Gilbertson
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Confession
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Confession
4:00 p.m.	Anita Cornell by Annette and Denis Barth
5:30 p.m.	(L) Grace Benlice by Glenda Natividad
Sun., Jan. 1	Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
7:30 a.m.	Ryan Halstead by Mother
8:00 a.m.	(Hall/Span) Gail Anderson by the Heibel Family
9:00 a.m.	Mary and Nick Greci by Maria Greci
9:00 a.m.	(Hall) Ukranian immigrants to the U.S. by Terry & Maureen
10:30 a.m.	For All Parishioners
12:00 p.m.	Ronnie Sharp by Ollie and Debbie Griffith
12:00 p.m.	(Hall/Viet) Special Intentions
5:30 p.m.	Liv & Dec'd Mbrs of the Plouffe Family by Joe & Betty

Fr. George (GS), Fr. Jan (JR), Fr. Chris (CF), Fr. Joseph (JV),

Fr. Celestino (CG), Fr. Fausto (FS), Fr. Patrick (PW)

DIOCESE OF VENICE

1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285

941-484-9543

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Altar Servers	Dn. Vern Smith	dcvern@stmartha.org
Altar Society	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Archivist	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Arimathean Ministry	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Bethesda House	Colleen McMenamin	941-366-1886
Catholic Charities	Joan Pierse	941-355-4680
Community Pregnancy Clinics		941-260-5427
Casa Santa Marta		941-366-4448
Choir/Cantor	Virginia Bray	941-366-4210
Council of Catholic Women	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Development Committee	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Eucharist Adoration	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Extraordinary Ministers	Dc. Pat Macaulay	dcpatrick@stmartha.org
Finance Council	John Corey	coreyjjj5@gmail.com
Family Ministry	Gary Kerschner	fmosm@comcast.net
Herrig Caritas (9-11 a.m., M-F)	Tony Cocco, Chair	941-366-5620
Hospitality Ministry	Beth Cannata	941-321-2953
Jail Ministry	Dc. Kevin McKenney	kmckenney55@gmail.com
Knights of Columbus	David Kiszak	941-928-8388
Lectors	Dc. Pat Macaulay	dcpatrick@stmartha.org
O.C.I.A.	Sue Thompson	suchome2@verizon.net
Parish Council	Beth Cannata	941-321-2953
Prayer Line	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Respect Life Ministry	Joseph Gina	941-702-1700
Rosary Makers	Maxine Brand	941-374-6605
Solve Maternity Homes	Peggy Kerwin	941-748-0094
Ushers	Dc. Bill Ladroga	dcbill@stmartha.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Stuart Love	941-780-7834
Witness to Love	Jim & Agnes Rutushni	941-960-5128

NEIGHBORING DIOCESAN PARISHES

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Our Lady Queen of Martyrs	Sarasota	941-755-1826
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St. Mary Star of the Sea	Longboat Key	941-383-1255
St. Thomas More	Sarasota	941-923-1691
St. Joseph	Bradenton	941-756-3732
St. Michael the Archangel	Siesta Key	941-349-4174
Our Lady of the Angels	Lakewood Ranch	941-752-6770

BISHOP NEVINS ACADEMY

4380 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232

St. Martha Catholic School

941-953-4181

Principal: Mrs. Siobhan Young

St. Mary Academy

941-366-4010

Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds

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