Holy Family

December 31, 2023

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

And be thankful."

Colossians 3:15

20 24



\*

# ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH USA National Circus Church The Pallonttines (Society of Catholic Apostolate)



### Mass Schedule

**Saturday** 7:30am • 8:30am • 4pm *Vigil* • 5:30pm *Vigil* 

**Sunday** 7:30am • 9am • 10:30am • 12pm • 5:30pm

12pm Vietnamese Parish Hall

Weekday 7:30am - 8:30am - 12pm - 5:30pm

**Confession** - Reconciliation Room

Saturday 9-10am • 3-4pm Sunday-Friday 11:30am-12pm

**Eucharistic Adoration - Carosella Chapel** 

Tuesday-Thursday 9am-12pm

Rosary

Rosary prayed after 7:30am Mass

# St. Martha Catholic Church

200 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236 • Tel 941.366.4210 • Fax 941.954.8434 • StMartha.org

Facebook St. Martha Roman Catholic Church • Instagram stmarthachurch\_in\_srq • YouTube St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

Parish Office Hours Monday-Friday 8am-12pm and 12:30-4pm



# From Our Pastor, Father George

December 30-31, 2023

Homily, Lk 02, 22-40 From Deacon Bill

#### Dear Parishioners of St. Martha,

There are a few passages in Scripture which say something to the effect that Jesus' demands are hard to follow or difficult to accept. But there is another of His savings that, for man these things are impossible but with God, all things are possible.

The Gospel passage about the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph, might lead us to think that this ideal family couldn't be further from what our own families look like. And yet, our own families are Christ-centers, whether we recognize it or not. God works there as well as everywhere else. The example of the Holy Family reminds us of that fact today. It helps to put our priorities into perspective. The family at Nazareth says to us that if we place the love of God as priority #1 in each of our lives, that it will reflect into our love for each other and then into the world around us.

I was thinking the other day about how generous the families of St. Martha's are, especially during the Christmas season. When we need funds for Caritas every

month, our families come through for the needy of the area. We had turkeys donated to the Knights of Columbus in record numbers this year. You are generous people.

But sometimes we are not so generous with ourselves, or with one another. We get discouraged about our families, that they are not all that they should be. We sometimes fail one another with our selfishness and neglect. Maybe some of us were disappointed by our own families in the past. Mothers and fathers make mistakes with one another and their children. Children hurt their parents and sisters and brothers by their actions. It's easy to get discouraged about ourselves and the things that we sometimes do to one another. The family at Nazareth model can be seen as something so far from our family life that it isn't real for us.

But the Gospel gives us a lifeline for our families, regardless of the shape that family may take: the lifeline is Christ Himself, and the simple example that He gives us over and over again in so many Gospel passages: love one another. Parents, love your children and do the best you can; you will have done your duty with the gift you have been given as parents. Children, love your parents and listen to their voices of experience; you will have done your best and will not repeat history. Married couples, love one another as Christ loves you; your relationship will be as good as it can be. And those of you who are single, we often forget you and you are family too. The love that you have available within yourselves is meant to be shared with those around you.

In the family where love for one another is the most important thing, there is no blame, there is no selfishness. There is nothing that cannot be overcome: no crisis, no pain, no loss, no disappointment, because Christ is there, just like He was at Nazareth. The next time you have one of those moments that can discourage and hurt, remember that Jesus is just as present in your family as He was with Mary and Joseph. Share Him with one another, ask and pray for His help.

That's the message of the Feast of the Holy Family for us today: it is an affirmation of our families; it is a reminder that our families are sacred and blest and must be recognized as being Christ-filled. It is also a reminder that it is not an impossible task for our families to be the best that they can be, for with God present in them, all things are possible.

Remember this: we turn to Him in times of crisis and cry for help. We turn to Him during times of discouragement and ask for strength. In times of pain, we pray for comfort. But let us also turn to him in times of joy and say, Thank you God for all we have together.
View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



"... Parents. love

your children and do

the best you can... Children, love your

parents and listen to their

voices of experience ... ."

- Degcon Bill

#### From Father George

Sunday of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

#### May God bless you during this time of grace

The Nativity of Jesus in Bethlehem was very humble event and hardly noticed by the contemporary society, yet it brought salvation from evil and powerful message of peace in the middle of the Roman occupation of the Holy Land and it spread across the world. We pray and wish that God will bring peace to the people of the Holy Land and bless Ukraine at this time as well as all people of good will! May God bless you and your families!

January 1st is the World Day of prayer for Peace. It is not a holyday of obligation this year. We pray with the words of Scriptures: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be

> gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace (Numbers 6: 24-26).

> Thank you for Advent & Christmas decorations!. For Christmas Tree with colorful symbolize Jesus the Prince of peace, whose help we ask for at this time. May God bless all who helped to

Next Sunday (January 7, 2024) is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

With prayers for God's blessing to you and your family, **Father George** 

decorative items including doves of peace, which to me decorate our church!





# K-1 Class at St Martha Religious Education









# ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Interested in the Catholic Faith and want to know more?

Are you Catholic, but have not been Confirmed?

Are you from another denomination and want to explore and embrace the Catholic Faith?

Contact Fr. George to meet and start your journey! frgeorge@stmartha.org



St Martha School's different grade levels celebrate Christmas.

### **Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress**

Indianapolis - July 17-24, 2024 with the Most Rev. Frank J Dewane Bishop of the Diocese of Venice

This represents the culmination of the Church's three-year effort to emphasize the Real Presence of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Eucharistic.

It is a pivotal moment in the Church, and a unique opportunity to draw into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Our Lord.

The Pilgrimage Package is \$1,049 includes National Eucharistic Congress 5-day pass with access to all speakers and events, and four nights' accommodations in a 4-star hotel within walking distance of the convention center.

The Package does not include transportation or meals.

Space is limited! Register today using the QR code.

Contact Carrie Harkey, harkey@dioceseofvenice.org







W 11 M 1
Weekly Mass Intentions
Sun, Dec 31
7:30am [JR] Alfredo Sacco
7:45am [CG] (Hall/Spanish) (L) Nicole Romano
9:00am [JR] Angie and George Cagliola
9:00am [GS] (Hall) Dorothy and John Garibaldi
10:30am [CF] For All Parishioners
12:00pm [FS] Clara Rodgers
12:00pm [JV] (Hall/Vietnamese) For All Parishioners
5:30pm [CF] L & D Mbrs of the Letourneau Family
Mon, Jan 1
7:30am [CF] Bro. Roger Berg, C.S.C.
8:30am [JR] Korolina Pulisz
12:00am [GS] Aldo Giovanucci
12:00pm [JV] (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm [GS] Ana Diederich
Tue, Jan 2
7:30am [GS] Elizabeth Barrett
8:30am [CF] Teresa Wiltowska
12:00pm [CF] Paul Suda, Jr
5:30pm [JR] Joseph Kocsin
Wed, Jan 3
7:30am [CF] Lynn Walters
8:30am [CF] Bob Ross
12:00pm [GS] James Van Sluytman
5:30pm [GS] Mary LoCicero
Thu, Jan 4
7:30am [JR] (L) Peggy Fitzmaurice
8:30am [JV] Larry Arronis
12:00pm [CF] Jim Johnson
5:30pm [FS] Peter Ortega
Fri, Jan 5
7:30am [JV] Phillip Anthony Watson
8:30am [GS] Dec'd Members of Showfolks
12:00pm [JR] Ray Gerharz 5:30pm [JR] L & D Mbrs of the Julie Tierney Family
7:30pm [JV] (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
Sat, Jan 6
7:30am [JR] (L) Fr. Chris Frost
8:30am [JV] Mary Angeles
4:00pm [FS] Bette Love 4:00pm [GS] (Hall) Matthew Ryan
5:30pm [CF] Ben and Margaret Becker
,
Sun, Jan 7
7:30am [CF] Catherine Licata
7:45am [CG] (Hall/Spanish) (L) Fr. Josph Harrison 9:00am [JR] St. Martha's Volunteers
9:00am [FS] (Hall) Barbara Sileo
10:30am [FD] (Circus Mass) For All Parishioners
12:00pm [JR] Aldo Giovanucci
12:00pm [JV] (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5.20nm [CC] Corald Darwerough Ir





2024 Florida ballot proposal: "Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion"

# A C T #3

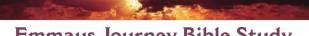
This proposed amendment would eliminate the current law requiring parental consent for minors.

It only retains parental notification which could be done after an abortion, leaving parents out of the decision.

Shouldn't a parent be part of that decision for their daughter?

**DECLINE TO SIGN** the petition for this dangerous pro-abortion amendment!

Questions? Go to dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife.



# **Emmaus Journey Bible Study**

Bring your Bible and a desire to share and learn with fellow participants with facilitator and parishioner Lindy Donahue. All are welcome! Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am (including Summer)

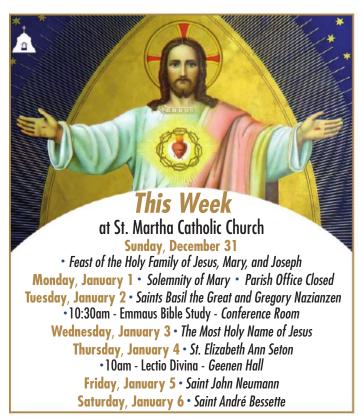
St. Martha Catholic Church, in the Conference Room Contact Lindy 724.263.8285 • lindydonahue@mac.com

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

5:30pm ....... [GS] ...... Gerald Boryszewski, Jr.

Fr. George (GS), Fr. Jan (JR), Fr. Chris (CF), Fr. Joseph (JV), Bishop Frank Dewane (FD),





#### St. Martha 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. 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.

#### St. Martha Parish Staff

Samantha McDonald, Business Manager Patricia Sileo, Director of Religious Education

Pamela Paulson, Reception/Data Entry

Maxine Brand, Reception

Virginia Bray, Music Director

Susie Runnells, Sacristan

Janet Cocco, Sacristan

Joe Angelicola, Sacristan

Miguel Jimenez, Facilities Manager

Eris Nunez, Maintenance

Carlos Sierra Naploes, Maintenance

Blanca Goetz, Rectory Housekeeper

Claudia Moschini, Rectory Chef



#### Diocese of Venice

1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285. . . . . . . . . 941.484.9543

#### **Outreach Ministries**

Outreach Ministries
Altar Servers Dn. Vern Smith dcvern@stmartha.org
Altar Society
Archivist
Arimathean Ministry Parish Office 941.366.4210
Catholic Charities Joan Pierse 941.366.4210
Community Pregnancy Clinics 941.260.5427
Casa Santa Marta
Choir/Cantor
Council of Catholic Women
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
Herrig Caritas (9-11am, 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
Parish Council Beth Cannata 941.321.2953
Prayer Line
Respect Life Ministry Kate Shaver ksshaver@comcast.net
Rosary Makers
Solve Maternity Homes Peggy Kerwin 941.748.0094
Ushers
Volunteer Coordinator Stuart Love 941.780.7834
Witness to Love Jim & Agnes Rutushni 941.960.5128

#### **Neighboring Diocesan Parishes**

St. Jude	
Christ the King	
Incarnation	
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs	
St. Patrick	
St. Mary Star of the Sea Longboat Key 941.383.1255	
St. Thomas More	
St. Joseph	
St. Michael the Archangel Siesta Key 941.349.4174	
Our Lady of the Angels Lakewood Ranch 941 752 6770	

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# Upcoming Event in the Diocese

Save the Date - The Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of Collier County invites all to the program Jewish and Catholic Perspectives on Sin and Forgiveness on Sunday, January 21 from 2:30pm at the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center, 4720 Pine Ridge Road, Naples. Father George Ratzmann, Pastor of St. William Parish in Naples, and Rabbi Mark Gross of the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island, present their commentaries on the topic. Table discussions follows the presentations with refreshments. RSVP 239.263.4205.

Save the Date - Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land is hosting Christopher West and Mike Mangione from Theology of the Body Institute at St. John the Evangelist Parish, 625 111th Ave N, Naples on Thursday, February 29 from 7-9:30pm. An inspired blend of live music, art, and presentation that taps the deepest desires of the human heart and offers a vision of the Gospel like you've never heard. \$25, register m4mnaplesfl.eventbrite.com. Contact Natalie Campbell 239.566.8740 ext. 3909 natalie@sjecc.com

Televised Mass for the Homebound on Christmas Day - The televised Christmas Day Mass for the Homebound with Celebrant Bishop Frank J. Dewane will air for a full hour on Christmas Day. For all viewers the Mass will air at 8am on both the CW and WFTX (FOX-4) Networks. Please check your cable provider for channel listings. To view the Mass on the Diocesan website visit dioceseofvenice.org/televisedmass. Leaflet missals are available upon request by calling Gail Ardy at 941.486.4714 or by writing: TV Mass, Diocese of Venice, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285. For more information email ardy@dioceseofvenice.org.

# **HELP WANTED**

#### **Hospital Volunteer**

We are looking for a caring and compassionate person to serve the Catholic patients at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

As a member of a three-person team, the duties include a weekly visit with patients to comfort, pray, and distribute the Holy Eucharist.

Visits last three hours. Volunteers are needed for Thursday, Friday, or Saturday morning team.

No experience required.

Training and mentoring provided.

Interested persons should contact
Stuart Love, Volunteer Coordinator
941-780-7834 • volunteer@stmartha.org

Wedding Banns
(1) Michael Duhig and Christina Kim
(1) Erik Holsen and Mary Dixon

# **SAVE THE DATE**

Event: Women's Emmaus Retreat
Hosted by: Epiphany Cathedral Parish

Date: March 8-10, 2024

Location: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center, Venice, Florida

More information will be published closer to the retreat.

This retreat weekend would make a wonderful Christmas gift for that special woman in your life.

Questions or More Info
DONNA VODRASKA 941.496.4464 • 630.336.0918



Volunteers & Donations Needed

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# Location & Material Donations

1255 Seeds Avenue Sarasota, FL

> Volunteers 941.413.3363

#### Hours

10am-1pm Mon, Wed, Fri, and 2nd Sat of the month

# Email

angelsattic1255@ gmail.com

# **HELPING HOMELESS FAMILIES**

Family Promise of Sarasota-Manatee (FPSM)

takes a holistic approach to the crisis of families with children facing homelessness.

In partnership with multiple social service agencies, FPSM offers families with

children a variety of services: case management, affordable child care referrals, negotiation strategies with debt agencies and landlords, emergency funds and other community resources to stay in or obtain safe, sustainable housing.

FPSM is supported by 20 interfaith congregations, including St. Martha.

If you are a family in danger of eviction, call 211.



Learn More / Donate familypromisesarasota-manatee.org



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