

December 3, 2023

*1st Sunday of Advent*



## ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

*USA National Circus Church The Pallantines (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 3, 2023

Sunday Sermon – First Sunday of Advent

From Father George

Dear Parishioners of St. Martha,

Today's reading from Isaiah speaks about the cry of the people for the Lord to return. Isaiah says: *Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you.* He speaks about the second Coming of the Lord, which will manifest itself for everyone to see. This second coming of Jesus is the subject of the first part of Advent. All readings and prayers during this time will direct our minds and hearts to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. The Advent Latin classic: *Rorate coeli desuper et nubes pluant justum* asks heavens to *Drop down dew, from above, and let the clouds rain the just.* Another advent classic sings in Aramaic language: *Marana-tha, Lord, come.* They help us to pray for what our Christian Creed professes: *He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.*

While later in Advent, we will prepare ourselves to celebrate the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered. We switch our attention and our advent prayers and resolutions to prepare us well to celebrate Christmas. Our top hymn of this time is going to be: *O come, o come, Emmanuel*, which sings: *Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.* It will use the so called: Great Antiphons like: *O Wisdom, O Adonai, O stock of Jesse, O key of David, O Rising Sun, O King, O Immanuel* to inspire us to remember the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and what meaning it had and it has for us today

When we hear Jesus telling his disciples to be on their guard and stay awake, we understand that he tells them to raise their souls to God, who will satisfy their needs. His today's: **Stay awake** - tells us to raise our souls to God, who will satisfy our needs. In the Gospel reading he compares those who are to be on their guard and stay awake to a - Doorkeeper – in clean clothes, elegantly dressed, ready to welcome the Lord with uplifted spirit, and our soul raised up to God.

Brothers and Sisters, Prophet Isaiah said: *We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.* Let's raise our souls to God, have our hope in God who reigns, put elegant clothes on ourselves, meaning - renew our faith in God, raise the standard of our manners, be on our guard and stay awake. The time of celebration is coming. Our hopes will be fulfilled

**Dec. 8, 2023 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

The Immaculate Conception, **which is a holy day of obligation**, is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America. There will be a special schedule of Masses for that day.

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)



**Think about your own Eucharistic Revival!** So far, we had a national and diocesan Eucharistic Revival events. At this time, I invite everyone in the parish to reflect on your own faith in Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist. Spend some time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, say your thanks to Jesus present there for you. Soon you will hear more about the small groups of the Eucharistic Revival in our parish, please consider joining them and benefiting from listening and learning more about the Lord and the Eucharist.

**We are rebuilding the church choir for 10:30am Sunday Mass!** In response to the good number of requests in the parish, I would like to invite volunteers who want to sing in the choir, to bring their names and contact phone numbers to the parish office, please! Virginia Bray - our parish Music Director will contact you, invite you to the audition and will inform you about the next step. We are hoping that together with the choir members, who sung in it before the Covid-19 pandemic, we will hear the choir at our Mass soon..

**We plan to have the following schedule of Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent and for Christmas:**

**Saturday, December 23:** 4pm, 4pm in hall, 5:30pm.

**Sunday, December 24:** 7:30am, 7:45am Spanish, 9am, 9am in hall, 10:30am, 12pm, 12pm Vietnamese in hall.

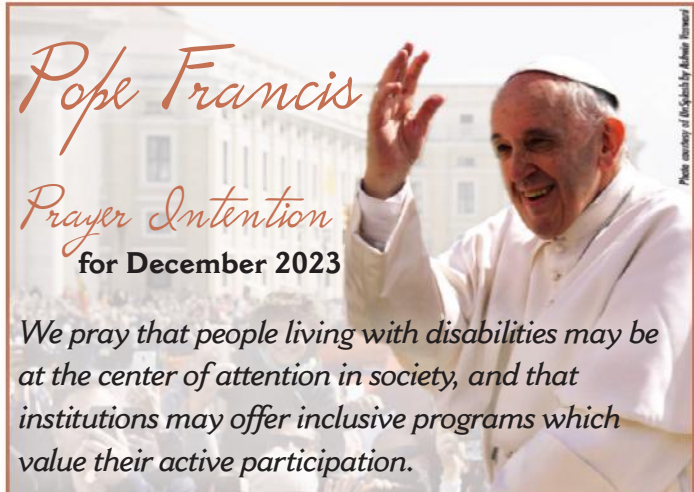
**Christmas Vigil:** 4pm, 4pm in hall, 5:30pm, 8pm Vietnamese, 11:30 Carol Service, Midnight.

**Monday, December 25:** 7:30am, 7:45am Spanish, 9am, 10:30am, 12pm, 12pm Vietnamese.

*“Stay awake - tells us to raise our souls to God, who will satisfy our needs.”*  
– Father George

Next Sunday (December 10, 2023) is the Second Sunday of Advent

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



*Pope Francis*  
*Prayer Intention*  
**for December 2023**

*We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.*

Photo courtesy of the Spanish by Andrew Rosewell



# Thanksgiving Dinner

Annual Knights of Columbus / Our Lady Of Victory Council #3358 Free Thanksgiving Dinner. Over 600 meals were served.



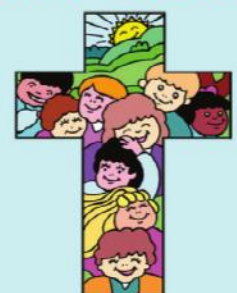
# Luncheon for the Homeless

St Martha was honored to have hosted the 22nd Annual Downtown Sarasota Ministerial Association Luncheon for the Homeless.



# Religious Education Classes

2023-2024  
Religious Education /  
Faith Formation  
Registration  
can be found online at  
[stmartha.org](http://stmartha.org)





## Weekly Mass Intentions



Sun, Dec 3.....Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7;  
1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

7:30am ..... [GS] ..... Ryan Halstead by Mother  
7:45am ..... [CG] ..... (Hall/Span) Peter Romano by Family  
9:00am ..... [JR] ..... George Romero by Maryann Miller  
9:00am ..... [GS] ..... (Hall) (L) Kate Shaver by Nora Stephan  
10:30am ..... [CF] ..... For All Parishioners  
12:00pm ..... [FS] ..... Mary Sharp by Stephen Mislyan  
12:00pm ..... [VA] ..... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
5:30pm ..... [CF] ..... L & D Mbrs of the Plouffe Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe

Mon, Dec 4.....Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

7:30am ..... [VA] ..... Karen McGinnis by Mary Pat McNally  
8:30am ..... [JR] ..... Marilou Heraty by Peter Heraty  
12:00pm ..... [JR] ..... Dorota Dodds by Sonia and Gary Galante  
5:30pm ..... [GS] ..... Genevieve Favelukes by the O'Neill Family

Tue, Dec 5.....Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

7:30am ..... [CF] ..... Juliet Gomes by Allison Sneed  
8:30am ..... [VA] ..... Aldo Giovanucci by Rita Giovanucci  
12:00pm ..... [GS] ..... Missing and exploited children by Joe and Betty Plouffe  
5:30pm ..... [GS] ..... (L) Frank Horan by Linda Blouin

Wed, Dec 6.....Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

7:30am ..... [CF] ..... Gladys Palencia by Paul and David Shigley  
8:30am ..... [JR] ..... The Giovanucci and Bruno Families by Rita Giovanucci  
12:00pm ..... [GS] ..... Magda and Antonio Vila by Alina Urdaneta  
5:30pm ..... [FS] ..... Luis Riccardo Paez by Nancy Trujillo

Thu, Dec 7.....Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

7:30am ..... [JR] ..... Jacqueline Letourneau by Linda Blouin  
8:30am ..... [JV] ..... (L) Gladys Gonzales by Adriana Duarte  
12:00pm ..... [JR] ..... Jeff Peterson by Mollie and Peggy O'Connell  
5:30pm ..... [CF] ..... (L) Steve and Ana Jayson 25th Anniversary by Ana

Fri, Dec 8.....Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

7:30am ..... [JV] ..... Richard Koziol by Bob Kruse  
9:00am ..... [CF] ..... Mildred Marsicano by Margaret Henderson  
10:30am ..... [GS] ..... For All Parishioners  
12:00pm ..... [CF] ..... (L) John and Nicole Sacco by Margaret Henderson  
5:30pm ..... [JR] ..... Lillian Massara by Aldo

Sat, Dec 9.....Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8

7:30am ..... [JV] ..... Linda and Nicholas Dicianni by Carmela  
8:30am ..... [JR] ..... Robert & Marguarite Romaine by Fr. Robert Romaine & Gail  
4:00pm ..... [GS] ..... Judy Piercy by Paula Shigley  
5:30pm ..... [FS] ..... Diana Orama by the Orama Family

Sun, Dec 10.....Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

7:30am ..... [JR] ..... David Kruse by Bob Kruse  
7:45am ..... [CG] ..... (Hall/Span) (L) Fr. Michael Martine by Friend  
9:00am ..... [FS] ..... Kenneth Collins by loving Wife, Claire  
9:00am ..... [CF] ..... (Hall) Helen Kavigh by Michael Houlihan  
10:30am ..... [GS] ..... For All Parishioners  
12:00pm ..... [CF] ..... Carmen Russo by Stephen Mislyan  
12:00pm ..... [JV] ..... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
5:30pm ..... [JR] ..... L & D Mbrs of the Burch Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe

Fr. George (GS), Fr. Jan (JR), Fr. Chris (CF), Fr. Joseph (JV),  
Fr. Celestino (CG), Fr. Fausto (FS), Fr. Vincent (VA)



DIocese OF Venice IN Florida  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, men and women of Religious Communities past the age of seventy outnumber younger religious by nearly three to one. For most of their lives, elderly religious worked tirelessly during their days of active ministry, helping the neediest among us, often for minimal pay. Today, they need our help. Religious communities find it increasingly difficult to provide for their needs, due to rising health care costs, decreasing income and diminishing retirement savings.

Each year, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) provides support through the annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious by providing financial assistance to religious communities for medications, nursing care and much more. Additionally, they support educational programming, services and resources that enable religious communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs.

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Venice will conduct the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious the weekend of December 9 and 10, 2023. Your support provides day to day care of elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

Thank you for your generosity towards these men and women who have given their lives to serve our Lord, the Church and Her Faithful. I take this opportunity to extend to each of you the assurances of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers for you and your family. Have a Blessed Advent Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

## 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)**

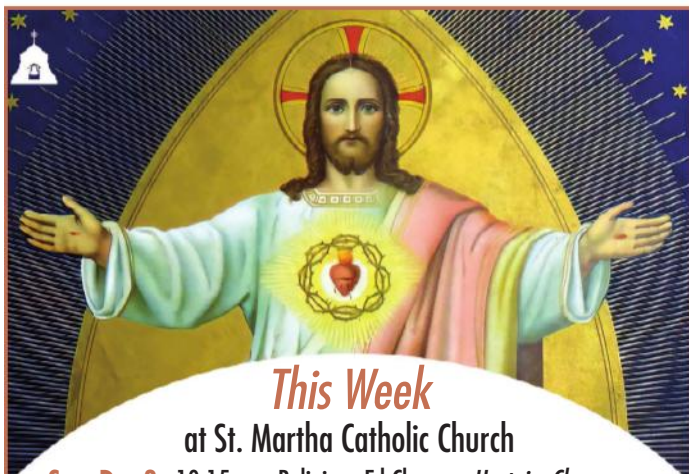
St. Martha Catholic Church, in the Conference Room  
Contact Lindy 724.263.8285 • lindydonahue@mac.com

RESPECT LIFE  
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## Abortion Preeminent Issue for U.S. Bishops

At their Plenary Fall meeting November 15, the U.S. Bishops approved an amendment reaffirming that opposition to abortion is their *preeminent* priority ahead of the 2024 elections *because it directly attacks our most vulnerable and voiceless brothers and sisters and destroys more than a million lives per year in our country alone*. This amendment passed with an overwhelming 225 votes in favor and 11 opposed. The amendment is part of their document: *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*.

In the words of Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: *It's not simply a public policy issue. It is a deeply, deeply pastoral issue of loving the moms in need, helping them bring their babies to term, and then providing them with what they need to move forward.*



## This Week

at St. Martha Catholic Church

**Sun, Dec 3** • 10:15am - Religious Ed Classes - *Upstairs Classrooms*

**Mon, Dec 4** • *Saint John Damascene*

**Tue, Dec 5** • 10:30am - Emmaus Bible Study - *Conference Room*

**Wed, Dec 6** • *Saint Nicholas*

• 9:30-11:30am - Walking with Purpose - *Geenen Hall*

**Thu, Dec 7** • *Saint Ambrose* • 10am - Lectio Divina - *Geenen Hall*

**Fri, Dec 8** • *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

• Office Closed

**Sat, Dec 9** • *Saint Juan Diego*

### 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 Yu, 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

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
Catholic Charities . . . . .	Joan Pierse . . . . .	941.366.4210
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 (9-11am, 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. . . . .	Sue Thompson . . . . .	suehome2@verizon.net
Parish Council . . . . .	Beth Cannata . . . . .	941.321.2953
Prayer Line . . . . .	Parish Office . . . . .	941.366.4210
Respect Life Ministry . . . . .	Kate Shaver . . . . .	ksshaver@comcast.net
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

St. Jude . . . . .	Sarasota . . . . .	941.955.3934
Christ the King . . . . .	Sarasota . . . . .	941.924.2777
Incarnation . . . . .	Sarasota . . . . .	941.921.6631
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs . . . . .	Sarasota . . . . .	941.755.1826
St. Patrick . . . . .	Sarasota . . . . .	941.378.1703
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 . . . Principal Mrs. MariJo Hanson 941.953.4181

St. Mary Academy . . . . . Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds 941.366.4010

### Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 . . . . . 941.371.4917



*St. Martha Wine & Cheese Event!*




**Join us for Holiday Wine & Cheese**  
In the Courtyard • December 9 after the 4pm and 5:30pm Masses

**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](http://familypromisesarasota-manatee.org)

 **ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**  
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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](mailto:frgeorge@stmartha.org)

**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](mailto:harkey@dioceseofvenice.org)

**Register Today**  


*Upcoming Event in the Diocese*

**Faith & Ale Lee County** - A Catholic Men's group invites you to join in fellowship on **Thursday, December 14** from **6-8pm** at **Church of the Resurrection Parish Center**, 8121 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers. The speaker is Adam Nguyen, Sr. Manager of Engineering & Construction at the Lee County Port Authority. Adam was born and raised in Saigon, Vietnam and immigrated to the U.S. in 1985. He is a member of St. John XXIII Parish and serves as the president of the Vietnamese Catholic Community at the Parish. Adam will be speaking about My Escape from Postwar Vietnam where he shares his own journey to the U.S. Pizza and refreshments are included for a \$10 donation. Online reservations required [faithandale.com](http://faithandale.com).

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Questions?  
[stmarthawwp@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarthawwp@yahoo.com) • 941-525-2697  
[walkingwithpurpose.com](http://walkingwithpurpose.com)

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**Volunteers**  
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**Hours**  
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