

SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 10, 2023

2nd 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_sq • **YouTube** St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

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

From Our Pastor, Father George

December 10, 2023

Sunday Sermon – John The Baptist - The Voice Preparing The Way for the Coming of the Mightier One

From Fr. Jan Rykala SAC

Dear Parishioners of St. Martha,

During my missionary work in New Guinea, the road leading to one of my 10 churches was badly damaged by the rainy season. It was almost non-passable. I was asking my parishioners from that area to come and work on the road so I could easily arrive to the church to celebrate Sunday mass but they did not do it, so I stopped saying mass in their village because I didn't want to ruin my car which was already old and easily might break down. It seemed that they didn't care. After some time, one of their church leaders appeared in my office asking: *One of our village leaders died and we want you to celebrate his funeral and burial at our church!* I answered that the road is non-passable and I cannot come! He said: *Father, our villagers were working few days on the road and it is in good shape so you can come!* Indeed, the road was much better than before so I came to the village and celebrated the funeral. After I finished, I told them: For Jesus who comes always among us when we celebrate the Sunday or daily Eucharist. You didn't want to fix the road but for your leader who died you did. Think about it a little: who is more important: Jesus or your village leader?

Spiritually, we Catholics in many ways are like those villagers in New Guinea! We can do a lot of things to meet famous people, sport or movie stars, to achieve difficult goals in our careers, we can sacrifice money or even health to get to certain levels of living or social status but to do something more difficult or demanding to prepare the way for The Lord, to deepen our relationship with God or greater love or knowledge of Him we are not too willing.

The time of advent, which is the time of getting ready for the three way coming of Jesus into our lives: He comes everyday to meet us in the persons of other people, circumstances of our or others lives; He will finally come back one day to judge the living and the dead at Parousia; He came already 2000 years ago in Bethlehem and we celebrate this mystery at Christmas. He can come into our lives only if He finds the smooth, good road between Himself and our hearts.

John The Baptist calls us as he called the people of Juda and Jerusalem to repent of our sins, meaning fix the road for Jesus to come to save us: remove the mountains or hills of our pride and other sins which have its source in this one of the main or grievous sins and to fill our valleys with trust in God's faithful love Who always comes to heal, support, comfort, lead and simply to be with us always.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



From Father George

Fr. George stays now in the former "Bethesda House." I am happy to report that I have moved into what I call the Green House on 4th Street. This house will now also become a community center for our priests. I am two houses away from Fr. Chris. I said farewell to the "Convent" where I lived since March 2022. Fr. Joseph still stays there, and we all pray that we will have the new Rectory sometime soon.

I am very grateful to Miguel, Eris and Carlos, our maintenance team, for helping to renew this house and adjust it to a new purpose.

Short Advent, please plan Christmas Masses well! This year Advent has only three full weeks. The Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 24) will have Masses in the morning with the 12pm Mass being the last Mass of the Sunday. The evening Masses on that day will be the Vigils of Christmas, which we celebrate on Monday, December 25, 2023. Please plan your Masses well so you will fulfill the obligation of both: the Sunday Mass attendance and the Christmas Mass attendance.

Quote from "This is my Body" of Bp. Robert Barron:
Just as food sustains, repairs, and delights the body, so the Eucharist sustains, repairs and delights the soul.

"He can come into our lives only if He finds the smooth, good road between Himself and our hearts."
- Father Jan Rykala

Would you like to volunteer for the choir for 10.30am Sunday Mass?

If so, come by the parish office, leave your name and contact phone number! 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.

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.

Next Sunday (December 17, 2023) is the Third 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 Instagram by @vatican

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sunday, December 3rd lighting of the Advent Wreath and special mass for our First Communicants.



Please consider including St Martha in your will, trust, or designating us as a beneficiary!

Thank YOU!

To Learn More 941.441.1124



Religious Education Classes

2023-2024

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Registration

can be found online at

stmartha.org



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

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Weekly Mass Intentions

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

Mon, Dec 11.....Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

7:30am [JV] Conrad Wiet, M.D. by Beth Pudik
 8:30am [JR] Maria Concetta Occhino by Gary and Antonia
 12:00pm [GS] Theodore "Teddy" Crow by Sonia and Gary Galante
 5:30pm [JR] (L) Asuncion Nunez-Ferras by Adriana Duarte

Tue, Dec 12.....Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38

7:30am [GS] Janet Arcand by Marcia Norris
 8:30am [CF] Marie Irene Merhy by Anton and Natalie
 12:00pm [GS] (L) Louise and Joanie by Friend
 5:30pm [GS] Laura Joseph Shannon by Riccardo and Cynthia Arcaro

Wed, Dec 13.....Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

7:30am [JR] The Poor Souls in Purgatory by Javier and Gloria Olivos
 8:30am [GS] L & D Mbrs of the Thomas Family by Joe & Betty Plouffe
 12:00pm [GS] Aldo Giovanucci by Ed and Joyce Wenzke
 5:30pm [CF] (L) John Sheridan by Family

Thu, Dec 14.....Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

7:30am [JR] Barbara Sileo by MEV Homeowners
 8:30am [CF] Wesley Pitts by Tina Mroczkowski
 12:00pm [JV] Barbara Maggio by James Maggio
 5:30pm [FS] Margita Kastelan by Ljubica Plisic

Fri, Dec 15.....Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

7:30am [GS] (L) Special Intentions of Al Zucaro by Catherine Giblin
 8:30am [CF] Mary Lou Shulz by Marcia Norris
 12:00pm [CF] Missing and exploited children by Joe and Betty Plouffe
 5:30pm [JR] (L) Macgregor Helms by Mary and John McGruder

Sat, Dec 16.....Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

7:30am [JV] John Nassab by Carole Nassab
 8:30am [GS] Bill Zaiser by Roberta Molaro
 4:00pm [JR] PatsyAnn J. Taylor by Jack and Hank
 5:30pm [CF] L & D Mbrs of the Julie Tierney Family by Friend

Sun, Dec 17.....Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

7:30am [CF] For the Archangel Fam & Thanksgiving by Jennifer Archangel
 7:45am [CG] (Hall/Span) (L) Daniella Farrand by Friend
 9:00am [GS] Robert, Susan, & Michael Brabazon by Kathleen Brabazon
 9:00am [JR] (Hall) (L) Debbie by Diane
 10:30am [FS] For All Parishioners
 12:00pm [GS] Alister Munroe by the Munroe-Lansiquot Families
 12:00pm [JV] (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
 5:30pm [GS] Ben and Margaret Becker by Jeff Becker

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



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

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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 10 • 10:15am - Religious Ed Classes - *Upstairs Classrooms*

Mon, Dec 11 • *Saint Damasus I*

Tue, Dec 12 • *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
• 10:30am - Emmaus Bible Study - *Conference Room*

Wed, Dec 13 • *Saint Lucy*
• 9:30-11:30am - Walking with Purpose - *Geenen Hall*

Thu, Dec 14 • *Saint John of the Cross*
• 10am - Lectio Divina - *Geenen Hall*

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

- 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 Piere 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 Kizsak 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

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 St. Martha Catholic School . . . Principal Mrs. MariJo Hanson 941.953.4181
 St. Mary Academy Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds 941.366.4010

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Hours

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

Email

angelsattic1255@
gmail.com

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 the Theology of the Body Institute at **St. John the Evangelist Parish**, 625 111th Ave N, Naples on **Thursday, February 29** from 7-9:30pm and is 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. The cost is \$25. Register at m4mnaplesfl.eventbrite.com. For more information contact Natalie Campbell at natalie@sjecc.com or **239.566.8740** ext. 3909.

St. Martha's Out in the Community
- St. Martha's Eucharistic Ministers bringing Jesus to
the Grand Villa for the Catholic Residents.




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.**

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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.

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Contact **Carrie Harkey**,
harkey@dioceseofvenice.org

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