

December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

ADVENT
WEEK 3
Joy.



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

USA National Circus Church The Pallottines (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 17, 2023

Sunday Sermon – Third Sunday of Advent

From Deacon Pat

Dear Parishioners of St. Martha,

Today, we light the third Advent candle. It is rose-colored and symbolizes joy. Rose is the liturgical color for joy.

Let's take a step back and recall that the four-week Advent Season is the period where we prepare our souls and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. It is a time for each of us to remember, through reflection, prayer, penance, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is for our souls.

The third Sunday is the Season's halfway point and is known as *Gaudate Sunday*. The Latin *Gaudate* translates to *Rejoice*. So, what have we to be joyous about?

As believers, we are privileged to have the most wonderful spiritual and filial relationship with God!

Consider John the Baptist's quote from the Gospel of St. Luke: *One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*

At Baptism, each of us was Baptized *In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit*. Also, each of us at that time was consecrated by anointing with the Holy Oil of Chrism. By water, each of us was Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. By Chrism, the Holy Spirit was introduced into our souls, and we became sharers in His royal and prophetic priesthood. As such, each of us participates in the Mystical Body of Christ.

To participate in this wonderful, special, spiritual relationship with the Triune God is certainly the reason to be joyous! The readings today reflect that!

Isaiah tells us: *The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me ... I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.*

Our Blessed Mother, Mary, in her beautiful canticle known as the Magnificat says: *My soul rejoices in my God. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

St. Paul tells us: *Rejoice always ... Do not quench the Spirit.* He goes on to tell us *May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* He explains the importance of cultivating a life of prayer, a cheerful attitude, being grateful in all circumstances, discerning what is good or evil, repenting from sin, going to confession, and becoming more unified with God our Savior.

We indeed have much to be joyous about! So, what do we do with this joyousness? Do we keep it to ourselves? No! Each of us, as believers, has a prophetic role and as such are called to bring this Divine Joy, this Divine Love to others. How? The answer is an invitation, a word of encouragement, a challenge, an explanation, a word of forgiveness, a note, a phone call.

Rejoice! Each of us can truly say, *The spirit of the Lord God is upon me!*

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



From Father George

Gaudete Sunday The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as *Gaudete Sunday*, so-called from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon. *Gaudete (Rejoice)*, taken from the Latin translation of Philippians 4: 4-5, sets a tone of joyful expectation for the Lord's birth and Second Coming, as does the permitted use of rose-colored vestments.

Three days special Christmas confession in St. Martha

During this third and last week of Advent our priests will be available for special Christmas confessions on Thursday, December 21st; Friday, December 22nd; and Saturday, December 23rd from 9am until 5pm. *"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them"* (Jn 20: 23).

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 the Encyclical Letter *On the Eucharist* of St. John Paul II:

Eucharistic communion brings about in a sublime way the mutual the natural 'abiding' of Christ and each of his followers: 'Abide in me, and I in you' (p.23)

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.

Masses of the Nativity of the Lord:

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

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

Next Sunday (December 24, 2023) is the Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Father George

*"Rejoice!
Each of us can truly say,
The spirit of the Lord God
is upon me!"*
— Deacon Pat

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 Unsplash by Adam White

Students from St. Martha's & St. Mary's 8th grade along with the Religious Education/Faith Formation Students Service Club accomplished the following:

- 132 gift cards and handmade Christmas Door Decorations for the residents at Casa Santa Marta
- Made hospital *Get Well* and *Christmas Cards*
- Made Christmas door decorations for nursing homes visited by our Parish
- Made 180 St. Nick Treat Bags for the parish children of the Religious Education/Faith Formation Program
- Provided toys and miscellaneous household items/gift cards for the families of Family Promise
- Stocked the pantry at Caritas with food and supplies
- Stocked the pantry at Family Promise
- Placed *kindness rocks* (that the students made) in the memorial garden and prayed for our parishioners
- Gave 85 *Blessing Bags* to Resurrection House for the homeless community
- Adopted 3 Families for Christmas and supplied toys, clothing, household items



St Nicholas

This week, the children learned all about St. Nicholas and decorated paper stockings to leave outside the classroom door. After finishing the St. Nicholas projects, the children knew St. Nicholas visited and left goodies on their stockings!



Student Art Awards



↑ Congratulations to Karys who received the National Award for the Missionary Childhood Association Christmas Artwork Contest, at the National Basilica of The Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. Karys was the only student selected from Florida and the Diocese of Venice.

↑ Congratulations to Nico, selected as one of the winners for the 2024 Sarasota County Government Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST) Calendar. Nico's artwork is featured for the month of February!



Weekly Mass Intentions



- 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
- Mon, Dec 18** **Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:8-25**
- 7:30am [GS] Betty and Lou Smith by Daughter
 8:30am [JV] Elisa Guerino by James Guerino, Jr.
 12:00pm [GS] Mary E. Newman by Paula and Cedric Dendy
 5:30pm [JR] Missing and exploited children by Joe and Betty Plouffe
- Tue, Dec 19** **Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25**
- 7:30am [GS] James Guerino I by James Guerino, Jr.
 8:30am [GS] Dec Mbrs of the Weigand Fam by Jennifer Archangel
 12:00pm [CF] Richard Bradley by Barbara Bradley
 5:30pm [CF] (L) Gigi Luna by Adriana Duarte
- Wed, Dec 20** **Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38**
- 7:30am [CF] Sarah Dormeyer by David and Paula Shigley
 8:30am [GS] James Guerino III by James Guerino, Jr.
 12:00pm [GS] Missing and exploited children by Joe and Betty Plouffe
 5:30pm [CF] Chester B. Hryniewicz by Riccardo and Cynthia Arcaro
- Thu, Dec 21** **Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45**
- 7:30am [CF] John O'Brien by Dec. Bill and Lou Ladroga
 8:30am [JR] Robert Humbroecht by Gail Fisher
 12:00pm [JV] Dec'd Mbrs of the Prickel Fam by Jennifer Archangel
 5:30pm [FS] L & D Mbrs of the Letourneau Fam by Linda
- Fri, Dec 22** **1 Sm 1:24- 28; Lk 1:46-56**
- 7:30am [GS] (L) Claire Collins by Friend
 8:30am [JV] The Poor Souls in Purgatory by Javier Olivos
 12:00pm [CF] Theresa Drauden by Nancy Drauden
 5:30pm [JR] Robert Guenther by Riccardo and Cynthia Arcaro
- Sat, Dec 23** **Mal 3:1-4; 23-24; Lk 1:57-66**
- 7:30am [JV] (L) Nicole Olds by Family
 8:30am [GS] Tomasz Wiltowski by the Corsaro Family
 4:00pm [CF] Richard Moran by the Moran Family
 4:00pm [FS] (Hall) For All Parishioners
 5:30pm [JR] Ryan Halstead by Mother
- Sun, Dec 24** **2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38**
- 7:30am [GS] For All Parishioners
 7:45am [CG] (Hall/Span) For All Parishioners
 9:00am [CF] For All Parishioners
 9:00am [FS] (Hall) For All Parishioners
 10:30am [JR] For All Parishioners
 12:00pm [CF] For All Parishioners
 12:00pm [JV] (Hall/Vietnamese) For All Parishioners
 4:00pm [FS] For All Parishioners
 4:00pm [GS] (Hall) For All Parishionersr
 5:30pm [CF] For All Parishioners
 8:00pm [JV] (Vietnamese/Church) For All Parishioners
 Midnight [GS] For All Parishioners

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

Save the Date

Dinner & Dancing
 February 3, 2024 from 6:30pm
 Father Fausto Parish Hall
 More details to follow!

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

Thank YOU!

To Learn More 941.441.1124



ST. MARTHA
CATHOLIC CHURCH
The Parishioner's Ministry of Catholic Association

Congratulations State Champs!



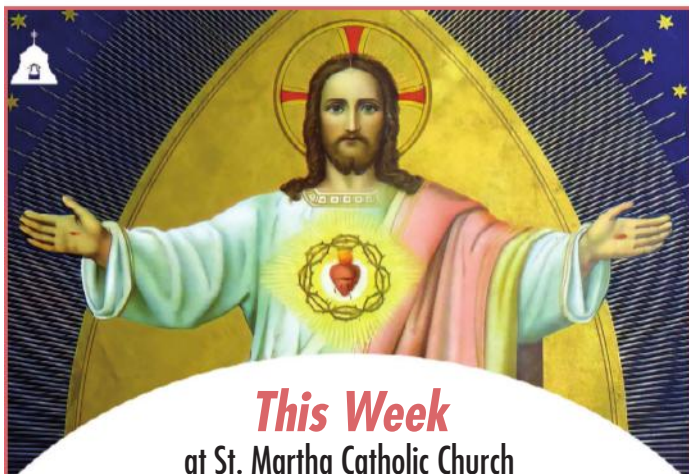
Congratulations to the Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School Football Team for Winning The 2023 State Championship!

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



This Week
at St. Martha Catholic Church

Sun, Dec 17

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

Tue, Dec 19

- 10:30am - Emmaus Bible Study - *Conference Room*

Thu, Dec 21

- *Saint Peter Canisius*

- 10am - Lectio Divina - *Geenen Hall*

Sat, Dec 23 • Saint John of Kanty

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 Pierser 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

Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 941.371.4917

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

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

Angel's Attic Volunteers & Donations Needed

We gratefully accept donations, and gratefully accept YOU!

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Know the facts!

2024 Florida Ballot Proposal:
"Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion"

FACT #1

This proposed amendment would legalize abortion up until birth, even allowing partial birth abortion.

Isn't that going too far?

DECLINE TO SIGN



the petition for this dangerous pro-abortion amendment!
Questions? Go to dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife

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

Register Today



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

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



Learn More / Donate
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