4th Sunday of advent



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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

ST. MARTHA

From Our Pastor, Father George

December 24, 2023

Sunday Sermon — Fourth Sunday of Advent From Deacon Vern Smith Dear Parishioners of St. Martha,

When a mother is expecting a baby, in a way the whole family is expecting along with her. There is joy in expecting a beautiful happening to come. There is excitement in expecting a vacation trip that is going to be an entirely new experience. We ask friends who have been there. Expecting keeps us young. We look to the future instead of to the past. There are always new and exciting aspects in life, if only we have the eye to see them and the gift of wonder which children possess, and grown-ups should never lose.

Christmas is such an event to come. It is God revealing *the mystery kept secret for long ages.* He wants to be present with us. He wants to give us an image of himself in Jesus Christ, an image that we are able to perceive with our weak human senses. Christmas is great every year, but only for those who are expecting *Emmanuel – God with us* In faith and wonderment.

It is God who builds the house! It is God who sends the Savior! It is God who comes to Mary and through Mary gives us the Savior. All comes from God and all returns to God, but the present is the important time because it is now that God and humans are in relationship.

The first reading today is from the Second Book of Samuel. What a wonderful account of David and of David's desire to build a house for the Lord! The point of this account, however, is that all of us must recognize that God is the center of life and not us. At one level we can do nothing for God.

That should not stop us from trying to do everything for God! Even though all we have comes from God, we can still return His love by striving to live for Him and striving to be faithful to all that He asks of us. This is a normal, natural response to knowing the love of God.

The second reading today comes from the Letter to the Romans and speaks of the mystery of salvation now being revealed. Only when we believe in a personal God who loves us does any *plan of God* make sense. Sure, God does not have to *plan* the way that we humans do, but God always has our good in His mind and is working to bring about His goodness and love within us. Part of the *plan* of God was sending His Only Son to save us from ourselves.

Today, many people do not believe in God or in salvation. On the other hand, if we look around our world at any time in history — if we look today — we see what a mess we humans make of our lives. In the 1900s there was a large movement that believed that we humans could make everything better and perfect. That kind of thinking is still around us in those who are convinced that our problems come from political systems or from economic systems or from other causes. There is practically no recognition today that our problems come from our fallen human nature and that we humans, by ourselves, are unable to fix ourselves and are in need of salvation.

The Gospel from Saint Luke today presents us with Mary saying *yes* to God's invitation in her life. This is the dawn of our salvation! Only in Jesus the Savior will our world ever be at peace. Only in Jesus as Lord will nations be able to work together. Only with Jesus at the heart of our own personal lives can we truly serve the Lord in Spirit and Truth.

May God build our house, our Church, our country and our world — and with that hope we await the coming of the Lord! View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



From Father George

We plan to have the following schedule of Masses for the end of Advent and for Christmas

Masses of the 4th Sunday of Advent:

Saturday, December 23: 4pm, 4pm in Hall, 5:30pm Sunday, December 24: 7:30am, 7:45am Spanish, 9am, 9am in Hall, 10:30am,

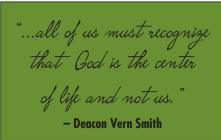
12pm, 12pm *Vietnamese* in Hall.

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.

May God bless you during this time of grace!

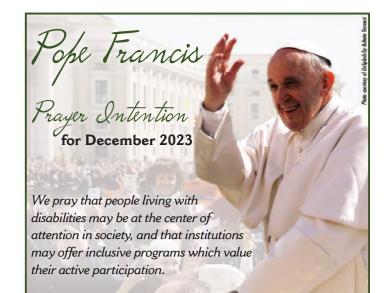


The Nativity of Jesus in Bethlehem was very humble event and hardly noticed by the contemporary society, yet it brought salvation from evil and powerful message of peace in the middle of the Roman occupation of the Holy Land and it spread across the world. We pray and wish that God will bring peace to 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!

Evening of Polish Carols – Tuesday, December 26, 2023 at 6pm

Fr. George, together with Maya Mazur, a pianist and vocalist, invite all Polish Language speakers to gather around the Crib and sing Christmas Carols to Jesus in Polish language.

Next Sunday (December 31, 2023) is the Feast of the Holy Family With prayers for God's blessing to you and your family, *Father George*



ST. MARTHA

Christmas Pagent

Thank you to our 3rd and 4th grade religious education class.



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





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 Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24 4:00pm Church 4:00pm Hall 5:30pm Church 8:00pm Vietnamese Church 11:30pm Lessons & Carols Church Midnight Mass Church Monday, December 25 7:30am Church 7:45am Spanish Hall 9:00am Church 10:30am Church 12:00pm Church 12:00pm Vietnamese Hall



St Martha School

3rd grade students from St Martha School were our greeters, readers, and gift bearers at the Family Mass.



View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Weekly Mass Intentions

weekiy muss	
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
	(Hall/Span) For All Parishioners
9:00am [CF]	
	(Hall) For All Parishioners
10:30am [JR]	
12:00pm [CF]	
12:00pm [JV]	(Hall/Vietnamese) For All Parishioners
4:00pm [FS]	
4:00pm [GS]	(Hall) For All Parishioners
5:30pm [CF]	For All Parishioners
8:00pm [JV]	(Vietnamese/Church) For All Parishioners
Midnight [GS]	For All Parishioners
-	ls 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
7:30am [CF]	For All Parishioners
	(Hall/Span) For All Parishioners
9:00am [FS]	For All Parishioners
10:30am [JR]	
12:00pm [GS]	
12.00pm [US]	(Hall/Vietnamese) For All Parishioners
-	
IUE, DEC 26	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
	Marco Zas by Theresa Gilbertson
8:30am [GS]	Marco and Jennie Petrone by Daughter
12:00pm [CF]	Lily Moccia 2nd Anniv by Anthony Moccia and Family
	Judy Piercy by Family
Wed, Dec 27	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
7:30am [CF]	(L) Mark Whigham by Tom Murphy
8:30am [CF]	Barbara Sileo by Marcia and Jim Norris
12:00pm [GS]	Patsy Ann Taylor by Hank and Jack
	William L'Heureux by the Family
Thu Dec 28	1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18
7·30am [IR]	Thomas Moles by Kay Delaney
8:30am [JR]	Mass for the Holy Innocents
12:00pm [JV]	In Mem of Honorata Hidalgo by Carl & Cynthia Campbell
5:30pm [FS]	John Donahue by Terry and Lindy Donahue
	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
	Lillian Berdeaux by David and Paula Shigley
2.300III[JV]	Tristan Barth by Mom and Dad
12.00nm [I2]	Elizabeth Duch by Stephanie and Milton Kruk
5.20nm [JR]	L & D Mbrs of the Julie Tierney Fam by Friend
	1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
	Linda White by Tom Murphy
8:30am [65]	Delores Leon by Michael Ortega
4:00pm [JK]	Anita Corben by Friend
4:00pm [CF]	(Hall) For All Parishioners
-	Gerald Boryszewski, Jr. by the Boryszewski Fam
Sun, Dec 31	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40
7:30am [JR]	A Ifredo Sacco by Theresa Gilbertson
	(Hall/ Span) (L) Nicole Romano by Friend
9:00am [JR]	Angie and George Cagliola by Maryann Miller
9:00am [GS]	(Hall) Dorothy and John Garibaldi by Joan and Rene
10:30am [FS]	
	Clara Rodgers by Stephen Mislyan
	(Hall/Vietnamese) For All Parishioners
5:30pm [CF]	L & D Mbrs of the Letourneau Family by Linda Blouin
Fr. George (GS). Fr. Jan (J	R), Fr. Chris (CF), Fr. Joseph (JV), Fr. Celestino (CG), Fr. Fausto (FS)





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

F A C T # 2

This proposed amendment does not require a **medical doctor**, only a **healthcare provider**, to determine if an abortion is necessary to protect the mother's health. *Women deserve better!*

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

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

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Sunday, December 24 • Christmas Eve Monday, December 25 • Christmas • Parish Office Closed Tuesday, December 26 • Saint Stephen • Parish Office Closed Wednesday, December 27 • Saint John Thursday, December 28 • The Holy Innocents •10am - Lectio Divina - Geenen Hall Friday, December 29 • Saint Thomas Becket Saturday, December 30 • The Holy Family

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
Archivist
Arimathean Ministry Parish Office 941.366.4210
Catholic Charities Joan Pierse 941.366.4210
Community Pregnancy Clinics
Casa Santa Marta
Choir/Cantor
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
O.C.I.A
Parish Council Beth Cannata 941.321.2953
Prayer Line
Respect Life Ministry
Rosary Makers Maxine Brand 941.374.6605
Solve Maternity Homes Peggy Kerwin 941.748.0094
Ushers
Volunteer Coordinator
Witness to Love Jim & Agnes Rutushni 941.960.5128

Neighboring Diocesan Parishes

D.

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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

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

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

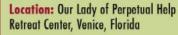
Televised Mass for the Homebound on Christmas Day - The televised Christmas Day Mass for the Homebound with Celebrant Bishop Frank J. Dewane will air for a full hour on Christmas Day. For all viewers the Mass will air at 8am on both the CW and WFTX (FOX-4) Networks. Please check your cable provider for 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.

Volunteers Needed for Prison Outreach - Join the team of Diocesan volunteers who enter county jails and state prisons within the 10-county Diocese of Venice to do pastoral outreach, distribute the Eucharist and facilitate programs. Priests, Deacons, and lay volunteers are encouraged to assist in this ministry. Volunteers will first participate in an orientation program before entering the facility and will "shadow" experienced volunteers until you feel comfortable. Times and days vary by facility. Please contact Joe Mallof at 224.217.7139 or Bob Hiniker 863-558-0407 to learn where you can fit into this joyful opportunity.



SAVE THE DATE

Event: Women's Emmaus Retreat Hosted by: Epiphany Cathedral Parish Date: March 8-10, 2024



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!

A ministry of hope providing much needed items at no cost: shoes, baby and children's items, kitchen items, linens, and more.

Volunteers are the lifeblood that keep the heart of the Attic beating strong. Giving back to the community while lending your time and talent to Angel's Attic is rewarding and fulfilling. High school students can earn credit through the Community Service.



Financial Donations Angel's Attic c/o Robert Klinger 2024 Tanglewood Dr. Sarasota, FL 34239

Location & Material Donations 1255 Seeds Avenue Sarasota, FL

> Volunteers 941.280.0208

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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