"Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may

go and do him homage.

Matthew 2: 8





January 7, 2024

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

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

# ST. MARTHA

## From Our Pastor, Father George January 7, 2024

Epiphany of the Lord: Mt 2:1-12

#### **From Deacon Bob**

#### Dear Parishioners of St. Martha,

In today's Gospel, on the Epiphany, we find the magi, come to the baby Jesus. After encountering Our Lord, they depart by another way. The magi encountered a perception of essential nature or meaning of the birth of the Christ. They entered Bethlehem one way, encountered Mary and the baby Jesus, were changed, and left different people. The Feast of Our Lord's Birth: Christmas, and today the Epiphany of Our Lord are feats the Church hopes does the same to us.

Through our lives we all have encountered epiphanies (with a small *e*). We came to the situation one way and left a changed person. For me it was the birth of our first child. Up to the moment of Meghan's birth, I understood the priorities of God, family, friends, society, then me in that order. But I did not fully understand unconditional love and 100% self-sacrifice. That fateful day on October 13.

1994, I had an epiphany. I entered the birthing room honestly wanting to be in the waiting room handing out cigars. However, Margaret expected me to be in the room with her, and I understood my responsibility to be in there. So I was in there. Prior to the delivery, Dr. Pollack asked if I wanted to the cut the umbilical cord. I told him not only did I NOT want to cut it, but I was also going to watch and focus strictly on Margaret as I feared the experience would be too graphic.

But the moment Meghan's head crowned, I had an epiphany (Small e). At that second, I was changed. Not only was I focused on my daughter's birth, but Dr. Pollack also had to keep on pushing me out of the way. When he pulled the scissors out to cut the cord, I almost grabbed them out of his hand, as now I insisted that I wanted to cut the cord. My life changed! From that moment

on, my life was never mine again. It was Meghan's, then Meghan and Mackenzie's, then Meghan, MacKenzie and Patrick's. I experienced unconditional love, and the rest of my life would be dedicated to the responsibility God put in my hands that day.

When the Father gave us the Word made Flesh that very first Christmas, He invited us into an Epiphany (with a Large *E*). He gave us His Son so we could have a divine revelation of true reality. In the baby Jesus, God offered us hope in this weary world. If we, like the magi, enter the manger and truly *see* Jesus, understand what He brings to our world: our weary world will rejoice.

We all entered this Christmas season with some sort of secular baggage regardless of our love and faith in God. In Epiphany Jesus too offers hope. He wants to give us His peace. His peace is not found in things such as money, trips, power, personal relationships, and/or succuss. It is found in the most unassuming place of all. It is found in a manger.

A parishioner and friend gave me a present this Christmas. It was a small marble sign with the phrase from Roman's: *If God is for us, who can be against us?* The magi understood the moment they entered the manger what they thought was important before was not. I entered a birthing room thinking I knew what was important and found it was not. Jesus is calling us all this season to have the same Epiphany as the magi.

As many of you know earlier this year, I had another epiphany (small *e*) when a friend provided a saying that has helped me accept the peace that Jesus is inviting us into which I have previously shared with you. *Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God.* This Christmas Season, may we be touched by His birth, and as we entered the Season one way, may we like the magi "depart by another way."



"Peace is not

the absence of trouble, but the

presence of God.

- Deacon Bob

#### **From Father George**

# Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord – gold, frankincense, and myrrh

The words of the Christmas Carol: We Three Kings of Orient Are, which is sung on the Epiphany of the Lord tell us about the meaning of the gifts offered to Jesus by the Magi: Gold I bring to crown him again; King forever, ceasing never... Frankincense to offer I; incense owns a Deity nigh; Prayer and praising, Gladly raising... Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, Bleeding, dying... .

They reveal Jesus as King, God and the Anointed. The whole world recognizes the Son of God and Jesus reveals himself to all the nations. Nothing equals: Royalty, Divinity and Self-offering of Christ and all people own him love and worship.

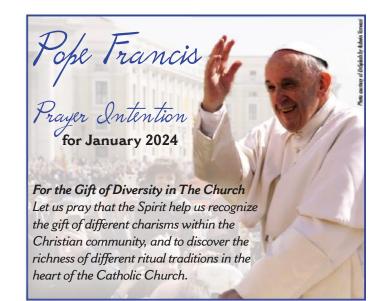
Thank you for Christmas gifts and presents!. I am sure I am writing this on behalf of all clergy of St. Martha's parish. Thank you so much

for beautiful cards, Christmas wishes and prayers as well as gifts and presents given to us individually or given to all clergy. You are very kind and generous to us and we all appreciate your respect and care for your priests and deacons. May God almighty bless you with his abundant goodness!

Monday, January 8, 2024 – The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord! This feast ends the Christmas time in the Liturgy, and it brings Ordinary time of the year. White color of Christmas changes into the green color and our Christmas decorations

will be removed from the church.

Next Sunday (January 14, 2024) is the 2nd Sunday of the Year With prayers for God's blessing to you and your family, *Father George* 



2



# Vietnamese Christmas Celebration at St Martha





# **Complimentary Life Planning Seminar**

St. Martha Catholic Church has partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida and local estate planning experts to host a complimentary seminar, which will provide participants with the knowledge they need to make critical health, legal, and financial decisions for themselves and/or a loved one.

#### Obtain important information on:

- Avoiding Guardianship
- Wills vs. Trusts
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Beneficiary Designations
- Healthcare Surrogates
- Advanced Directives
- Financial Planning
- Smarter Ways to Give, and more

Reserve Your Place Today! Call 941.486.4722



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



At **Walking With Purpose**, we believe that relationships matter, truth matters, and you matter. Our vision for the future is that as more Catholic women deepen their relationships with Jesus Christ, eternity-changing transformation will take place in their hearts – and, by extension – in their families, in their communities, and ultimately, in our world.

Come and encounter the God that loves you and wants to share His life with you.

JOIN US! Wednesdays from 9:30-1 1:30am - *Geenen Hall* 941.525.2697

stmarthawwp@yahoo.com - stmarthawwp.godaddysites.com

### RECOVERING OUR FAITH IN THE EUCHARIST

Presented by: Dr. Michael Dauphinais

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024 12 PM (Youth - High School Students)

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 6:30 PM (All Parishioners) Epiphany Cathedral Parish, Parish Center 310 Sarasota Street, Venice, FL 34285

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



### Weekly Mass Intentions

| Sun lan 7                   | ls 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12                              |
|-----------------------------|--|
|                             |  |
| 7:30am [UF]                 | Catherine Licata by Gary and Antoniela                             |
| /:45am [CG]                 | (Hall/Spanish) (L) Fr. Josph Harrison by Friend                    |
| 9:00am [JK]                 | St. Martha's Volunteers by Clergy                                  |
|                             | (Hall) Barbara Sileo by the Religious Ed Family                    |
| 10:30am [FD]                |  |
| 12:00pm [JR]                | Aldo Giovanucci by Rita Giovanucci                                 |
| 12:00pm [JV]                | (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions                               |
| 5:30pm [GS]                 | Gerald Boryszewski, Jr. by the Boryszewski Family                  |
| Mon. Jan 8                  | ls 55:1-11; Mk 1:7-11  |
| 7:30am []                   | Victor Polansky by Claire Collins                                  |
|                             | Tim Donahue by Mom and Dadz  |
| 12.00am []                  | Matthew Hansen by Friend   |
| 5·30nm []                   | Sissy Miller by Mary and Eddie McGough                             |
|                             |  |
| Tue, Jan 9                  | 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28  |
| 7:30am []                   | Joseph Dormeyer by David and Paula Shigley                         |
| 8:30am []                   | (L) Andres Duarte by Mom and Dad                                   |
| 12:00pm []                  | (L) St. Martha's Priests by the Duarte Family                      |
| 5:30pm []                   | Tom Patt by Jack Buckingham  |
| Wed Jan 10                  | 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39                                     |
|                             | Vincent LoCicero by Helene Halpern and Family                      |
|                             | Margerette Hopkins by Gary and Antoniela                           |
| 12.00nm []                  | John Kovacik & Aldar & Mirka Graffinger by Magda Kovac             |
| 5·30nm []                   | The Poor Souls in Purgatory by Javier Olivos                       |
|                             |  |
|                             | 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45  |
|                             | Tom Patt by Marge and Paul Lortie                                  |
| 8:30am []                   | (L) Julie Saluke by David and Paula Shigley                        |
| 12:00pm []                  | Tom Fuerst by the Tahiti Park Neighborhood                         |
| 5:30pm []                   | Dick Simes by Michael Ortega                                       |
| Fri Jan 12                  | 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12                                      |
| 7:30am []                   | Loretta Stellato by Marge and Paul Lortie                          |
|                             | David Barnett by Tom Murphy  |
|                             | Lelamae Slusser by son, Jack                                       |
| 5·30nm []                   | Kathleen Mulvany by Marcia Norris                                  |
|                             |  |
| Saf, Jan 13                 | 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17                               |
|                             | (L) David Owens by Marge and Paul Lortie                           |
| 8:30am []                   | Deborah Skinner by Clyde Easterbrooks                              |
| 4:00pm []                   | Grazia Parrinello by the Kiwczak Family                            |
|                             | (Hall) For All Parishioners  |
| 5:30pm []                   | Jean Arena by Friend   |
| Sun Jan 14                  | 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-4                |
| 7·30am []                   | Joseph Gannon by Madonna Weir                                      |
| 7:45am []                   | (Hall/ Span) (L) Charles and Lucilla Eschmann by Ann Crowley       |
| 9.00am []                   | Carol Lewis by Jane Herbert  |
| 0.00am []                   | (Hall) Ed O'Shea by Ann Crowley                                    |
| 10:30am []                  | Ear All Dryichianarc   |
|                             |  |
| 12.00µIII []                | Rosetta Barbera by Cathy Giblin<br>(Hall /Vict) Special Intentions |
|                             | (Hall/Viet) Special Intentions                                     |
| 5.30hili []                 | Lisa Walsh by Lucy Nicandri  |
| Fr Goorge (CC) Fr Int (     | D) Er Chris (CE) Er Joseph (IV) Dichen Frank Deuren (CD)           |
| ri. George (GS), Fr. Jah (J | R), Fr. Chris (CF), Fr. Joseph (JV), Bishop Frank Dewane (FD),     |

# **Dinner & Dancing**

February 3, 2024 from 6-10pm Father Fausto Parish Hall

 6pm - Cocktails • 7-10pm Dinner & Dancing
Tickets are <sup>5</sup>30, sold after the 4pm and 5:30pm Masses on January 13 and after the 9am & 10:30am Masses on January 14 & 21.
Tickets also available in the church office beginning January 12th.



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

F A C T # 4

This proposed amendment could eliminate abortion clinic **safety regulations** putting women's health at risk.

Women deserve better care!

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)





#### 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.

#### 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 Bożena Borowiecka, Rectory Housekeeper Blanca Goetz, Administrative Assistant 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                  |                        |                        |
| ,<br>Archivist                 |                        |                        |
| Arimathean Ministry            |                        |                        |
| Catholic Charities             |                        |                        |
| Community Pregnancy Clinics.   |                        | 941.260.5427           |
| Casa Santa Marta               |                        |                        |
| 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) . |                        |                        |
| Hospitality Ministry           | .Beth Cannata          | 941.321.2953           |
| Jail Ministry                  |                        |                        |
| Knights of Columbus            |                        |                        |
| Lectors                        |                        |                        |
| 0.C.I.A                        |                        |                        |
| Parish Council                 |                        |                        |
| Prayer Line                    |                        |                        |
| Respect Life Ministry          |                        |                        |
| Rosary Makers                  |                        |                        |
| Solve Maternity Homes          |                        |                        |
| Ushers                         |                        |                        |
| Volunteer Coordinator          |                        |                        |
| 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 |

#### **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's Caritas Pantry is honored to serve our community. In 2023 we served 7,369 Households and 13,033 individuals. December 2023 we served 542 households served and 1,000 individuals. Last year, in 2022, we served 12,119 individuals. Great work all and thank you!

Caritas is an outreach ministry established in 1980 by Rev. Jerome A. Carosella that provides assistance with utility payments, food, transportation, prescriptions, and work attire for thousands of Sarasota residents per year in acute financial need.

The program is a joint effort of five downtown churches: First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Church of the Redeemer, St. Martha Catholic Church, and First United Methodist Church. **941.366.5620** 

If you are interested in becoming a Caritas volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@stmartha.org

Wedding Banns

(2) Michael Duhig and Christina Kim (2) Erik Holsen and Mary Dixon

### 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



Saturday, January 13 after the 4pm and 5:30pm Masses

# **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

### 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 941.413.3363

Hours 10am-1pm Mon, Wed, Fri, and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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