

December 1, 2024
1st Sunday of Advent

Hope!



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

Confession - Reconciliation Room

Saturday 3-4pm • Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30am

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 1, 2024 is the First Sunday of Advent

Sunday Sermon Father Gennadi:

By the will of the good God, today we come to begin a new liturgical year. We certainly think that a new year, a new episode of human life will bring a better fate, more joy in everyday life. Today we start a new path, with a new chance for the renewal of life, for spiritual rebirth, for God, who wants to be born once again on this poor earth. We begin the Advent path, so what is Advent? A person is born with Advent. Advent is a coming, the arrival of something or someone, the waiting for the arrival of a dear person. A person calls it fate, happiness, destiny, adventure or the ordinary future. The Advent path to Christ is ahead of us not only in the manger, not only in the tabernacle, but above all in our hearts, in the family home, at work, at school. How great it is that God has still given us the future! Perhaps with great hope we will ascend the four Advent steps, higher and closer to Christ every Sunday.

We ask ourselves – what we shall do to meet Christ on the way? What can people do, accomplish it? Something must be done with Christ starting today! Some will wait for Him, love Him, others will hate Him, avoid Him, argue with Him, run away, then return to Him again, imitate Him, offend Him and apologize again, seek Him and despise Him again! Something must be constantly happening in a person with Christ! The living Christ is still working in a living person – in each of us – he is present in our personal, family, professional or even neighborly life. And that is why Advent begins again today as a path – it begins once again in your life and in my life! May this beginning of the Advent path awaken in us joy in waiting, courage in decisions. So how should we experience Advent? Only in looking at the world, the Christmas tree, or only as a repetition of history?

Let's look at the content of today's gospel. It is probably hard to believe everything that Jesus announced about the signs preceding His coming. We see these signs today when nature goes beyond its limits, just like men who brake the commandments. In this morally and physically crazy world, we are to maintain opposition to evil despite everything. Despite social pressure, despite fashion and cultural trends. Gluttony, drunkenness, worries about the comfort of life make the heart heavy. One can miss the most important visitation of humanity: the second coming of Christ. Jesus calls for prayer, because the day of His coming will be so unexpected and shocking that for many it will become a trap, a heart attack, a tsunami of the soul. All things will come to light. When God reveals himself, we too will experience the revelation of ourselves and who we really are!

I will tell you a painful story from my life, when I was 10 years old, I got burned with boiling water. The boiling teapot fell directly onto my head, face and part of my body. I experienced terrible pain. I was in hospital for 3 weeks, my face was bandaged, I could not open my eyes. My father was in hospital with me. I was alone in the hospital for the first night, I remember this feeling of loneliness and darkness. Doctors started treatment, once I lost consciousness before the procedure on the operating table. My face was disfigured. I remember one important sentence, said by the doctor: *Don't let him look in the mirror.* I don't remember my face, I didn't see it. Maybe it's a good thing, because it would have been a terrifying appearance and could have very negative consequences for me. I think about this event because the Lord's Day will be just such a day of truth about the face of our soul. Not everyone will withstand the clash with the truth about themselves. There may be those who will reject themselves, will not agree to the face of their soul and will fall into the abyss of self-rejection. It is not what we think about ourselves that is true, but what will be revealed in the light of the Lord's Day. May the desired closeness of God come – may the unity of hearts come. God is faithful in fulfilling the promises given to us – and what about us? What does He expect from us during these almost four weeks of the Advent march? We are to become better, more perfect. Our life is as it is – not everything depends on us. However, may there be more goodness, more kindness and peace in us.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



Advent Wreath in the church: The four candles of the Advent Wreath symbolize our vigilant expectation of the Lord Jesus. First part of Advent invites us, together with Prophet Isaiah and St. John the Baptist to focus on the Second Coming of Christ. Then with Mary, the Mother of God, and the whole Church we will be preparing to commemorate the Lord's First Coming in Bethlehem.


We resume 5.30pm weekday Mass and Confessions: As the Universal Church looks toward the Jubilee Year 2025 (the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord), the USCCB is thrilled to support the Holy Father in this *event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church.*

Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: *We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire...*


The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.

Next Sunday, December 8, 2024, is the Second Sunday of Advent.

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



A Message from
BISHOP DEWANE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are thousands of Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests, who offer their lives in service working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, receiving minimal pay. Many remain in ministry and are committed to their vocations well into their retirement years. During your lifetime, there may have been religious men and women who were a positive influence on you.

Religious institutes are responsible for their own finances and for the care of their members but often lack adequate retirement savings due to reinvesting in the ministry and education of younger members, as well as the rising cost of health care. The Bishops of the United States established the Retirement Fund for Religious to help struggling religious communities meet the ongoing needs of their aging members.

As Christians, we are called to serve the Lord and help those in need. Our elderly religious offer examples of what it means to answer this call. The Retirement Fund for Religious Collection will take place on the weekend of December 7 & 8, 2024, in the Diocese of Venice. Your gift will provide vital funding for medications, nursing care, and helps religious congregations plan for future retirement needs. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

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

Dinner for Life held at Knights of Columbus



St Mary's Academy Thanksgiving Feast



Please Join Us!



**Thursday mornings at 10am for
Lectio Divina classes in Geenen Hall.**

St. Martha Holiday Wine & Cheese Event!

December 14 after the 4pm and 5:30pm masses in the Courtyard.
It's a great way to meet other parishioners and to get to know the priests better.



Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

This Advent, find peace and balance at Walking with Purpose

Feeling pulled in many directions? Do you find it hard to balance the demands placed on your time? God wants to support and help us so that we can be our best in every season of our lives.

In *Keeping in Balance*, we'll explore Biblical ideas for managing life's pace and pressure while living with calm and steadiness. Come along on a journey throughout Scripture as we discover the relevance of Old and New Testament wisdom to our current daily challenges. Your lifestyle of health and holiness awaits.

**Wednesdays in St Martha's Parish Hall
December 4-18 from 9:30-11:30am**

**Questions? Contact Kelly Rizzo
stmarhawwp@yahoo.com
410.905.1090**

**stmarhawwp.godaddysites.com
walkingwithpurpose.com**



Wedding Banns

Noah Richard LaBelle & Ashleigh Nicole Rodhouse (3)

David Rojas & Sherril Salas (3)



Catholic Faith Appeal 2024 Campaign

Goal \$450,000

Collected \$280,135
(62.3%)

Still Need to Collect
\$169,865



Contributions For: • Vocations & Clergy Support • Ministry Outreach & Services
• Catholic Education • Catholic Charities Support of Parishes, Missions & Convents



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To schedule an appointment with Fr. George and start your journey, contact

Patty Sileo: sileo@stmartha.org

All School Mass and Birthday Wishes for Father George



View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Emmaus Journey Bible Study Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am

St. Martha Catholic Church, Conference Room – All are welcome!
Bring your Bible and a desire to share and learn with participants, a facilitator, and parishioner **Lindy Donahue**.

Call Lindy 724.263.8285 lindydonahue@mac.com



Solve 

If you are interested in making a donation to help offset this loss, please send a check to **SOLVE Maternity Homes**

1335 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205

SOLVE is a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides cost-free maternity housing and support for at-risk women during and after pregnancy. Since 1976, **SOLVE** has been empowering at-risk pregnant women to become confident, capable parents and thriving members of society. **SOLVE** relies totally on donations and private funding, accepting no government monies. **SOLVE** operates five homes in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

One of **SOLVE**'s yearly fund raisers is the poinsettia sale. Unfortunately **SOLVE** is unable to provide poinsettias this year as the grower, who is near the Gulf, suffered devastating damage and has no blooming varieties available.

Please pray for this business and its dedicated workers.

We hope that poinsettias will again be available for Christmas 2025.

Thank You! 

Diocese of Venice

1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285 941.484.9543

Outreach Ministries

Altar Servers	Dn. Vern Smith	dcvern@stmartha.org
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
Eucharist Adoration	Parish Office	941.366.4210
Extraordinary Ministers	Dc. Pat Macaulay	dpat@novavista.com
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
Knights of Columbus	Tom Gillis	941.400.6991
Lectors	Dc. Pat Macaulay	dcpatrick@stmartha.org
O.C.I.A.	Sue Thompson	941.350.9466
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	Steve Mislyan	941-993-0997
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

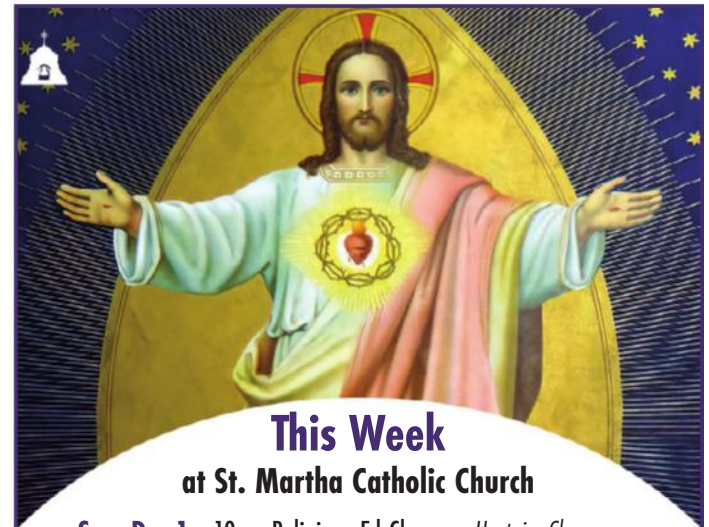
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St. Martha Catholic School Principal Mrs. MariJo Hanson 941.953.4181

St. Mary Academy Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds 941.366.4010

Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 941.371.4917



**This Week
at St. Martha Catholic Church**

Sun, Dec 1 • 10am Religious Ed Classes - *Upstairs Classrooms*

Tue, Dec 3 • 10:30am Emmaus Bible Study - *Conference Room*
• *Saint Francis Xavier*

Wed, Dec 4 • 9:30-11:30am - *Walking with Purpose* - *Parish Hall*
• *Saint John Damascene*

Thu, Dec 5 • 10am - *Lectio Divina* - *Geenen Hall*

Fri, Dec 6 • 9:30-10:30am - *Rosary Makers* - *Geenen Hall*
• *Saint Nicolas*

Sat, Dec 7 • *Saint Ambrose*

Welcome New Parishioners!

We are so happy to welcome you to
St Martha Catholic Church
and are glad you have joined us!



To Register, please
scan the QR code or
visit stmartha.org



St. Martha Clergy

Rev. George Suszko, S.A.C. Pastor
Rev. Jan Rykala, S.A.C.
Rev. Gennadi Romachko, S.A.C.
Rev. Joseph Vu, C.R.M.,
Hospital Chaplain
Very Rev. Fausto Stampiglia,
S.A.C. (Retired)
Rev. Deacon Robert Gaitens
Rev. Deacon C. Patrick Macaulay
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
Blanca Goetz, Event Coordinator
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 Napoles, Maintenance
Claudia Moschini, Rectory Chef

HELPING HOMELESS FAMILIES

Family Promise of Sarasota-Manatee (FPSM)

In partnership with multiple social service agencies and supported by 20 interfaith congregations, including St. Martha, **FPSM** offers families with children services and community resources to stay in or obtain safe, sustainable housing, including case management, child care referrals, negotiation strategies, emergency funds.

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



Learn More / Donate
familypromisesarasota-manatee.org



Sunday, December 8, 9:00AM–5:00PM

Basic Evangelization Training

St. Paul Parish Hall
1330 E Oak St, Arcadia, FL 34266

Basic Evangelization Training is among the most hands-on, practical, and dynamic evangelization workshops available for Catholics today. It is also our most popular workshop. Participants will gain the courage they need to be enthusiastic and joyful evangelists as they overcome any fear they have to share their faith through a series of presentations, small group work, role playing, and prayer ministry.



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- Morning hospitality and lunch

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Questions? Contact:
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stpaulse.com/venice



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For more information, call 239-334-4007, email, TeeUp4kids@ccdov.org
or visit catholiccharitiesdov.org

Weekly Mass Intentions

Sun, Dec 1 **Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2;**
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

7:30am..... [JR] (L) Agnieszka & Nicholas Corsaro by the Corsaro Family
9:00am..... [GS]..... (L) Claire Collins by David and Paula Shigley
9:00am..... [FS] (Hall) Holy Souls in Purgatory by John J. DeStefano
10:30am.... [GR]..... For All Parishioners
12:00pm.... [GR]..... Aldo Giovanucci by Mary and Bob Bowmaster
12:00pm.... [JV]..... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm..... [GS]..... Gerald Boryszewski, Jr. by the Boryszewski Family

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

7:30am..... [JR] Bro. Edward Dailey, C.S.C by Bros. of Holy Cross
8:30am..... [GS]..... Constance M. Maier by Son, Harry
12:00pm.... [JV]..... (L) Eric Helms by John and Mary McGruder
5:30pm..... [JR] (L) Jessica McGruder by John and Mary McGruder

Tue, Dec 3 **Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24**

7:30am..... [GS]..... Vincent Alexander by Marcia Alexander
8:30am..... [GR]..... Fr. Patrick Wilson by Jean Berkey
12:00pm.... [GS]..... (L) John and Mary McGruder by John and Mary McGruder
5:30pm..... [GR]..... William Fitzsimmons by Harry Maier

Wed, Dec 4..... **Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37**

7:30am..... [GR]..... Fernando Hernandez by the Family
8:30am..... [JR] Thomas Osborne by Chris O'Dierna
12:00pm.... [GR]..... Marilou Heraty by Peter Heraty
5:30pm..... [GS]..... Special Intentions

Thu, Dec 5 **Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27**

7:30am..... [JR] Special Intentions
8:30am..... [JV]..... Giuse Bui Xuan Hoan by Thuy and Daniel Hartnell
12:00pm.... [FS] Fencia & Richard Fronckowiak by Leeann Fronckowiak
5:30pm..... [GR]..... Fr. Gerald Fitzsimmons by John Schaefer

Fri, Dec 6 **Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31**

7:30am..... [JV]..... Fr. Patrick Wilson by John Corey
8:30am..... [FS] (L) Claire Collins by Friend
12:00pm.... [GR]..... Rev. Kenneth Kauckey by the Norton Family
5:30pm..... [JR] L & D Mbrs of the Julie Tierney Family by Friend

Sat, Dec 7 **Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8**

7:30am..... [GS]..... John Sheridan by the Family
8:30am..... [JV]..... (L) Kate Shaver by Joe and Nora Stephan
4:00pm..... [GR]..... Andrew Stengel by Mike and Karen Stengel
5:30pm..... [JR] Jacinto Monet by Evelyn

Sun, Dec 8..... **Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6**

7:30am..... [GR]..... Lillian Massara by Aldo
9:00am..... [FS] Domenica and Francesco DiMora by Mimi and Jim Lerario
9:00am..... [GS]..... (Hall) Joseph Gesper Brun by the Family
10:30am.... [JR] For All Parishioners
12:00pm.... [GR]..... Estelle Hartnett & Paul Neuschel by Magda Kovacic
12:00pm.... [JV]..... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm..... [JR] L & D Mbrs of the Plouffe Family by Joe & Betty Plouffe

**Fr. George (GS), Fr. Jan (JR), Fr. Joseph (JV),
Fr. Fausto (FS), Fr Gennadi (GR)**



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