

December 8, 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent

Peace!



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH



Mass Schedule

Saturday 7:30am • 8:30am • 4pm Vigil • 5:30pm Vigil

Sunday 7:30am • 9am • 9am (Hall) • 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 • Monday-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](https://www.instagram.com/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 8, 2024

Sermon for the Second Sunday of Advent from Deacon Pat:

The readings for the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C, invite us to prepare our hearts to the coming of the Lord. They encourage us to reflect on the faithfulness of God's promises and examine our own readiness to welcome Jesus more fully into our lives.

In the first reading, Baruch proclaims a vision of hope and restoration. Jerusalem is invited to cast off her mourning and be clothed in God's beauty and glory. The exile is ending, and God Himself will lead His people back in joy and safety. Baruch speaks of a transformed landscape: valleys will be raised, and mountains made low, making an easy path for the people to return to God.

This imagery reflects God's initiative in saving His people. Even when the road seems impossible, God creates a way. The promise of restoration is not just for the exiled Israelites but for all of us. We are invited to remove anything that hinders our relationship with God, trusting in His power to guide us.

The Psalmist echoes this same theme in Psalm 126. Where we hear of joy returning to those who have sown in tears. This restoration symbolizes not just a physical return but a deep spiritual renewal.

**“ Even when
the road seems impossible,
God creates a way. ”**

– Matthew 22:39

In the Second reading, St. Paul expresses his confidence that God, who had begun a good work in us, will bring it to completion.

Paul's confidence that God will bring this work to completion encourages us not to lose heart, for God is always at work, preparing us for what lies ahead.

In today's Gospel, we hear John the Baptist's voice crying out in the wilderness, calling us to prepare the way of the Lord. **His call to repentance is an invitation for each of us to reflect on our lives, and to consider how we might clear the paths of our hearts for Christ.** The rough ways we encounter - whether they be our own disordered affections or the distractions of the world-require our attention and our cooperation with God's grace.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



2nd candle in the Advent Wreath:

The four candles of the Advent Wreath symbolize our vigilant expectation of the Lord Jesus. The **Second Candle** symbolizes St. John the Baptist, who proclaimed his presence when Jesus the Messiah came to his people. May the Lord's voice resound through the joy in our hearts.

The Immaculate Conception (Dec. 9, 2024) – Holy Day of Obligation: *Since December 8 falls on a Sunday, and because all Sundays take precedence, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this year will be celebrated Monday, December 9. The celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation, due to a recent clarification by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (reprinted from the Florida Catholic Diocese of Venice – Publisher: Bishop Frank Dewane).*

Jubilee Year 2025: 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, ecclesiastical, 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 15, 2024, 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 2024
For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



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
stmarthawwp@yahoo.com
410.905.1090

stmarthawwp.godaddsites.com
walkingwithpurpose.com



walking with purpose

The Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Dinner - approximately 600 meals served at the Knights Hall and delivered! Well done Knights, another great year!



Please Join Us!

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

HELP WANTED at St Martha Welcome Ministry Volunteer

- Reaching out to new residents • Insure a safe environment for all worshippers
- Providing tours • Orienting new parishioners • Staffing the Welcome Table

Contact: Stuart Love, Volunteer Coordinator
941.780.7834 • volunteer@stmartha.org

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.



Catholic Faith Appeal 2024 Campaign

Goal \$450,000

Collected \$307,349
(68.8%)

Still Need to Collect
\$142,651



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



SCAN TO GIVE

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Are you Catholic, but have not been Confirmed? Are you from another denomination and want to explore and embrace the Catholic Faith?

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

Patty Sileo: sileo@stmartha.org

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St Martha's Caritas Pantry

Caritas Outreach Ministry provides assistance with utility payments, transportation, food, prescriptions, and work attire for thousands in Sarasota in acute financial need. **Thank you all** for your donations and help in serving our community when we are in such a great need.

Caritas Food Ministry for November 2024
Serving **866 households** and **1,443 individuals**

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 Pierse 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

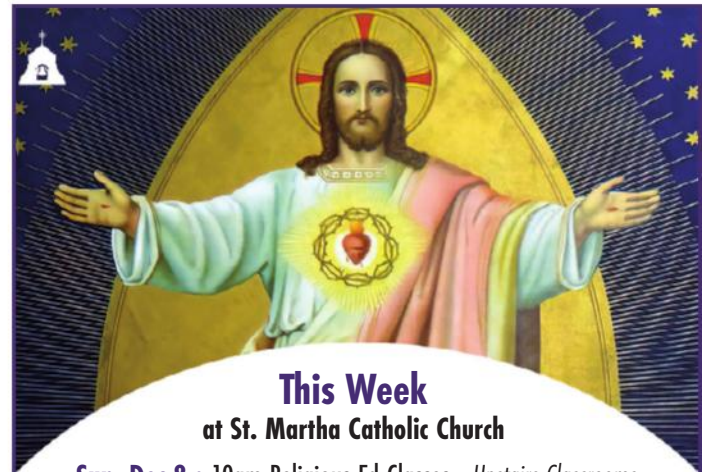
Bishop Nevins Academy

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



This Week

at St. Martha Catholic Church

Sun, Dec 8 • 10am Religious Ed Classes - *Upstairs Classrooms*

Mon, Dec 9 • Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Parish Office Closed

Tue, Dec 10 • 10:30am Emmaus Bible Study - *Conference Room*

Wed, Dec 11 • 9:30-11:30am - Walking with Purpose - *Parish Hall*
• *Saint Damasus I*

Thu, Dec 12 • 10am - Lectio Divina - *Geenen Hall*
• *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Fri, Dec 13 • *Saint Lucy*

Sat, Dec 14 • *Saint John of the Cross*

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

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

**Information for
Families with Students in Catholic School**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that *parents receive the responsibility of evangelizing their children and calls them the first heralds of the faith.* The family is also called domestic church – the church of the home. It is so important for parents to be strong role models as active Catholics, becoming the primary catechists in the faith development of their children.

In keeping with this important role of parents, there will be two requirements to qualify for the Practicing Catholic Tuition Discount when submitting the Parish Affiliation Form.

The first requirement is 50% attendance at Sunday Mass for the year. To confirm your attendance, please place your offertory envelope in the basket during the offertory collection (an offertory contribution of at least a quarter should be included in the envelope).

The second requirement is participation in at least one parish ministry.

Please see the list (right) of qualifying ministries for parents, children, and families.

Ministries for Children
Altar Server. Assigned to serve at a Saturday Vigil Mass or Sunday Mass (training program provided)
Frequency at least once a month.

Ministries for Families
Greeters & Offertory Gift Bearers Before Mass, greet and welcome parishioners/visitors at the main entrance of the church, and during Mass bring offertory gifts to the altar.
Frequency once a month.

Family Ministry
Parents and children serve coffee and donuts to parishioners on Sunday morning for a ninety-minute shift between 7am & 1pm.
Frequency once a month.

To enroll in a ministry, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator
Stuart Love at volunteer@stmartha.org or **941.780.7834**



Weekly Mass Intentions

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

Mon, Dec 9 **Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38**
 7:30am [JV].... (L) Bill Odenweller by David and Paula Shigley
 9:00am [JR] Robert & Marguerite Romaine by Gail & Fr. Robert Romaine
 10:30am [GR]... For all Parishioners
 12:00pm [GS]... Ewin Monet by Evelyn Theis
 5:30pm [JR] ... Renato Deleon by Hermie Deleon
 7:30pm [JV].... (Vietnamese) Special Intentions

Tue, Dec 10 **Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14**
 7:30am [JR] ... Ken Collins by Claire Collins
 8:30am [GR]... (L) Joshua Duarte by Mom and Dad
 12:00pm [JR] ... (L) Louise and Joanie by Friend
 5:30pm [GS]... Famiglia Stragapede by Carmela

Wed, Dec 11 **Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30**
 7:30am [GR]... Holy Souls in Purgatory by John J. DeStefano
 8:30am [GS] .. Charles Koenig by Sharon Koenig
 12:00pm [JR] ... Mary Corona by Susan Schussler
 5:30pm [GR]... Mary Moretta by Carmela Scarongella

Thu, Dec 12 **Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38**
 7:30am [JR] ... (L) Wayne Donahue & Sons by Terry and Lindy Donahue
 8:30am [JV].... (L) Miguel Jimenez by Michael
 12:00pm [FS] ... Richard Feasley by Donald Smith
 5:30pm [GR]... Monique Refrin by Sam and Rose Calco

Fri, Dec 13 **Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19**
 7:30am [JV].... Holy Souls in Purgatory by John J. DeStefano
 8:30am [GR]... John Sheridan by Family
 12:00pm [GR]... Dr. Joseph Iacopelli by John Iacopelli
 5:30pm [GS]... Gaspare and Angela Teresi by Alda Stipanov

Sat, Dec 14 **Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13**
 7:30am [JV].... Holy Souls in Purgatory by John J. DeStefano
 8:30am [GS]... Nelly Younan and Sisters by Joe and Nora Stephan
 4:00pm [GS]... (L) Serge Lochard by Friend
 5:30pm [GR]... Diana Orama by the Orama Family

Sun, Dec 15 **Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18**
 7:30am [GS]... Al Zucaro by Catherine Giblin
 9:00am [GR]... Gail Capone by St. Martha's Volunteers
 9:00am [JR] ... (Hall) John Sheridan by Paula and David Shigley
 10:30am [FS] ... For All Parishioners
 12:00pm [JR] ... (L) Fiorella Duarte by Mom and Dad
 12:00pm [JV].... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
 5:30pm [GR]... (L) Macgregor Helms by John and Mary McGruder

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



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