

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

Love!



## 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 • **YouTube** St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

**Parish Office Hours** Monday-Friday 8am-12pm and 12:30-4pm

## From Our Pastor, Father George

December 22, 2024

**Christmas Peace and Grace to everyone!** We have been shaken this year by politics and hurricanes and we still deal with these events which touched the lives of so many people. May God Almighty grant eternal life to those who lost their lives through the hurricanes. May God bless us with His gift of peace and grace, which Jesus brings to the world. May God save us in our need. May this new Jubilee Year of 2025 be the source of joy for us.

+ + + + +

### Sermon for the Fourth Sunday of Advent from Fr Jan:

#### A Mother's Greeting

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer: He is, as today's First Reading says, the ruler ... whose origin is from ... ancient times. He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king (see Ruth 4:11-17; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Matthew 2:6).

God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever (see 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Psalm 89:3-4, 28-29, 34-37, 132:11-12). Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom (see Isaiah 9:6-7; Ezekiel 34:23-25, 30; 37:24-28). He is the shepherd of Israel of whom we sing in today's Psalm From His throne in heaven He has come to save us.

Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the son of David and the only begotten Son of God, come in the flesh (see also Psalm 2:7). He is also our High Priest, from the mold of the mysterious Melchizedek, priest of God Most High, who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4).

All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary the mother of my Lord has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle (see Psalm 2:7). Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading, she who is to give birth. She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy – she is the mother of our Lord.

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)



**Fourth candle in the Advent Wreath** - Symbolizes Church of God, who is watchful in prayer and shines with holiness as to welcome the Lord in its midst. May it bring forth a Savior to the world.


**Jubilee Year 2025:** 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 29, 2024,** is the Feast of the Holy Family.

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.*

Photo courtesy of Instagram by Aduwin Romanoff

St Martha Church  
Attention Youth Grades 6-12



ROCK THE UNIVERSE

At Universal Studios Orlando

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Depart 2:00 p.m. — Return 2:00 a.m.

Cost is \$75.00

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St Martha Church included.  
(food/meals not included)

Questions contact:  
sileo@stmartha.org

Register: <https://permission.click/1XleJ/int>

Space is limited

Religious Education 3-4 grades - Christmas Pageant



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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](mailto:volunteer@stmartha.org)

K-1 Religious Education Class celebrating the feast day of "St. Nick" with a visit from St. Nick

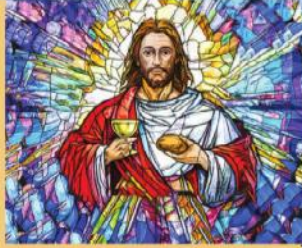


# Catholic Faith Appeal 2024 Campaign

**Goal \$450,000**

**Collected \$326,699**  
(72.6%)

**Still Need to Collect**  
**\$123,301**



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- Bring your donation into the Parish Office



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 • Catholic Charities Support of Parishes, Missions & Convents

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- 195,354 individuals were fed through groceries acquired in a food pantry or hot meals from a soup kitchen.
- 17,016 seniors had their needs assessed by a caseworker and were offered assistance with interpretation services, transportation, food, and community referrals in order to remain in their homes and live independently.
- 14,007 adults & children benefited from educational services which help to empower and build a brighter future.
- 5,020 victims of human trafficking received comprehensive case management and housing services.
- 3,840 adults & children obtained permanent or temporary housing.

**Donate online at [stmartha.org](http://stmartha.org) under the *Ways to Give* tab**



**Are you 70 1/2  
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The Federal Tax allows donors to **give directly** from their retirement account to a charity while avoiding the usual tax associated with IRA and 401K withdraws and the IRS does not count the transfer as income for federal tax purposes. Plus, qualified contributions may be counted toward the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) which are mandatory starting at age 72 but can begin at age 70 1/2

Donating via your retirement account is a simple process. Please contact **Samantha McDonald** in the Parish Office at 941.366.4210 or [smcdonald@stmartha.org](mailto:smcdonald@stmartha.org)

Father Bernie Evanofski invites you to join him on a 11 Day Pilgrimage to...

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# JOY to the WORLD

## 2024 Christmas Confessions Schedule

### Monday, December 23

9am-10am Father Gennadi  
 10am-11am Father Fausto  
 11am-12pm Father Joseph  
 12pm-1pm Father Jan  
 1pm-2pm Father Jan  
 2pm-3pm Father George  
 3pm-4pm Father Gennadi  
 4pm-5pm Father George

### Tuesday, December 24

9am-10am Father Fausto  
 10am-11am Father Jan  
 11am-12pm Father Jan  
 12pm-1pm Father George  
 1pm-2pm Father Joseph  
 2pm-3pm Father George  
 3pm-4pm Father Gennadi  
 \* 4pm-5pm Father Gennadi



**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**

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

- Sun, Dec 22** • 4th Sunday of Advent
- Mon, Dec 23** • *Saint John of Kanty*
- Tue, Dec 24** • Christmas Eve
- Wed, Dec 25** • Christmas
- Thu, Dec 26** • *Saint Stephen*
- Fri, Dec 27** • *Saint John*

*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  
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**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

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**Wishing you a wonderful and blessed Christmas and New Year!**  
We will not have sessions on Christmas or New Year's days, but return on January 8th. We hope to see you then in the Parish Hall at 9:30am!

**If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Rizzo at [stmarhawwp@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarhawwp@yahoo.com) • 410.905.1090 or visit our website at [stmarhawwp.godaddysites.com](http://stmarhawwp.godaddysites.com)**

**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**

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To schedule an appointment with  
Fr. George and start your journey, contact  
**Patty Sileo: [sileo@stmartha.org](mailto:sileo@stmartha.org)**




**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](mailto:lindydonahue@mac.com)**



**Weekly Mass Intentions**

**Sun, Dec 22** ..... **Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45**  
7:30am ..... [JR] .....Famiglia Campanale by Carmela  
9:00am ..... [GR] .....Jerry Reddy by Bernadette Gazboda  
9:00am ..... [FS] .....(Hall) John W. Stellar by Ann Flynn  
10:30am ..... [GS] .....For All Parishioners  
12:00pm ..... [FS] .....Robert, Susan, & Michael Brabazon by Kathleen Brabazon  
12:00pm ..... [JV] .....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
5:30pm ..... [GS] .....L & D Mbrs of the Burch Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe

**Mon, Dec 23** ..... **Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66**  
7:30am ..... [GR] .....Harris Williams by Marie Williams  
8:30am ..... [JV] .....Tomasz Wiltowski by the Corsaro Family  
12:00pm ..... [JR] .....Theresa Drauden by Nancy Drauden  
5:30pm ..... [GS] .....Thang Kien Tran by Robert and Lan Girard

**Tue, Dec 24** ..... **2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79**  
7:30am ..... [GS] .....(L) Chris Reddy by Grandma  
8:30am ..... [JR] .....Carmela Picardi by the Picardi and Rutigliano Families  
12:00pm ..... [GR] .....Richard Moran by Family  
4:00pm ..... [GS] .....For All Parishioners  
4:00pm ..... [FS] .....(Hall) For All Parishioners  
5:30pm ..... [JR] .....For All Parishioners  
8:00pm ..... [JV] .....(Vietnamese) For All Parishioners  
12:00am ..... [GS] .....For All Parishioners

**Wed, Dec 25** ..... **Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18**  
7:30am ..... [GR] .....For All Parishioners  
9:00am ..... [JR] .....For All Parishioners  
10:30am ..... [GS] .....For All Parishioners  
12:00pm ..... [FS] .....For All Parishioners  
12:00pm ..... [JV] .....For All Parishioners

**Thu, Dec 26** ..... **Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22**  
7:30am ..... [GR] .....Judy Piercy by Courtney  
8:30am ..... [JR] .....Marco S. and Jennie Petrone by Daughter  
12:00pm ..... [GR] .....L & D Mbrs of the Thomas Family by Joe & Betty Plouffe  
5:30pm ..... [JR] .....Charles Cavallo by Patrice Stark

**Fri, Dec 27** ..... **1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8**  
7:30am ..... [JR] .....(L) William and Thomas Ferguson by Elena Kiang  
8:30am ..... [GR] .....Holy Souls in Purgatory by John J. DeStefano  
12:00pm ..... [JR] .....Frank Coppa by Marge Coppa  
5:30pm ..... [GR] .....William L'Heureux by the Family

**Sat, Dec 28** ..... **1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18**  
7:30am ..... [JV] .....John Donahue by Terry and Lindy Donahue  
8:30am ..... [JR] .....The Holy Innocents  
4:00pm ..... [FS] .....Anita Corben by Friend  
4:00pm ..... [GR] .....(Hall) Special Intentions  
5:30pm ..... [GS] .....Jim Norris by Karen Renda

**Sun, Dec 29** ..... **1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52**  
7:30am ..... [GR] .....Sabrina Garbowski by Scott and Bridget Hakes  
9:00am ..... [GS] .....Tristan Barth by Mom and Dad  
9:00am ..... [JR] .....(Hall) (L) Lennox Renda by Marcia Norris  
10:30am ..... [JR] .....For All Parishioners  
12:00pm ..... [FS] .....Mary Sharp by Stephen Mislyan  
12:00pm ..... [JV] .....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
5:30pm ..... [JR] .....Carol Lewis by Marice Lewis

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



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