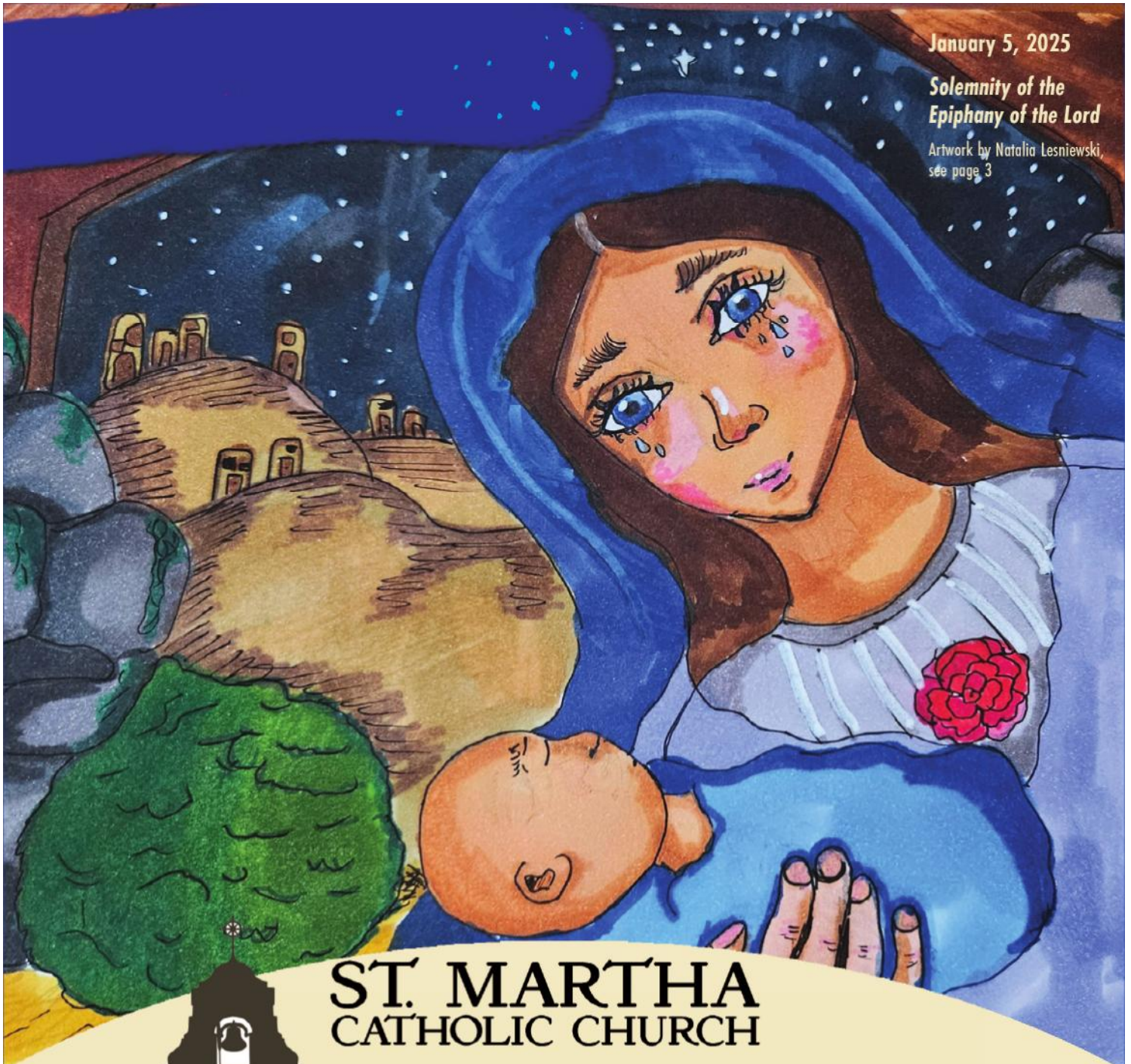


January 5, 2025

Solemnity of the
Epiphany of the Lord

Artwork by Natalia Lesniewski,
see page 3



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

January 5, 2025

Sermon for Sunday of the Solemnity of the Epiphany by Deacon Vern

During Christmas time we give presents to different people and others give presents to us. What's it all about? It all goes back to the story of the wise men going to Bethlehem, falling down on their knees, and offering the best gifts they could afford to the Baby King. But Christmas is not just about giving presents. It's more about being present, i.e. sharing ourselves with warmth, affection and sincerity. The quality of our personal presence is everything. In practice, gift-giving may sometimes be aimed more at keeping on side and keeping the peace than being really present. In fact, gift-giving may at times be part of the commercialization of Christmas instead of an expression of unconditional love.

The wise men were completely single-minded and sincere in their gift-giving. Their gifts were expressions of their respect, reverence, gratitude and love for the child. Their gifts were given with no strings attached, no conditions, and no mixed motives. The flaws in our own gift-giving may make us feel that the whole business of exchanging Christmas presents should be abolished, and that the commercialization of Christmas should be restrained and restricted, if not eliminated altogether.

If we think such thoughts, it may help to remember that the consumerism of Christmas is somewhat necessary. Were it a completely spiritual celebration, hundreds of small businesses would go to the wall. Thousands of factory workers making bon-bons, trees, chocolates, decorations, cards and toys, would find themselves unemployed. It may also be helpful to remember that if people did not spend money on gifts to family and friends at Christmas, their consciences would not be roused to make donations to the poor and needy at this special time of giving and sharing. (Many charities, in fact, experience a big boost at Christmas time).

Despite the limits and flaws in our gift-giving, it's important to both keep the practice alive and to purify it of its worst excesses. It's particularly important to the lives of children. The good news is that while they are attracted to receiving e.g., a gift of an I-pad or of shiny new roller-blades, they are also attracted to the Crib and to the story of the baby lying there clothed in rags. Their hearts are touched by the plight of his parents who are so poor that they can offer him nothing but their protection and affection.

In fact, children very easily get the message that this is a story of love. They appreciate the humanity of the Holy Family, their struggles and their sacrifices, to bring to the human race the Light of the Nations. The story of the visit to the Crib by the Wise Men is a story of giving and receiving. It speaks of how gifts express love between persons, and of how gifts given with love bind people together. But it is not simply about the giving of things (in this case gold, frankincense, and myrrh) but the giving of persons, the sharing of selves.

In celebrating Epiphany we are celebrating the greatest proof of goodness there has ever been, of God's deeply personal love for us. For it was out of love, that the Father gave us the Son, and gave him to be our Light, our Saviour, our King and our Joy. His present to us is nothing less than the divine presence in our lives. The poet John Betjeman has aptly called this:

A present that cannot be priced,
 Given two thousand years ago.
 Yet if God had not given so,
 He still would be a distant stranger,
 And not the Baby in the manger.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



May God bless us all in this New Jubilee Year of 2025 - I invite you to use the following prayer from the Scriptures in the New year: *May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace* (Numbers 6: 24-26).

Jubilee Year 2025 - These are the things to do in the Jubilee Year: Go to Reconciliation, Read the Jubilee Document *Spes Non Confudit*, Make

a pilgrimage, Visit your Cathedral, Pray the Jubilee Prayer, Perform works of mercy, Review the resources, Practice Hope.

Parish Mission - February 24-26 at 6:30pm, Father Peter Hill will be officiating at the Mission, and offering sermons February 22-23 at all Masses.

The Jubilee Prayer - *Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen*

Parish Hall, Rectory, Office Building roof change works are on - in our St. Martha Campus. Beware of the construction traffic of tracks and workers presence.

Next Sunday, January 12, 2025, is Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

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

Pope Francis

Prayer Intention for January 2025

For pilgrims of hope

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



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

Bus transportation from
St Martha Church included.
(food/meals not included)

Questions contact:
sileo@stmartha.org

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

Space is limited

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

walking with purpose
SO MUCH MORE THAN A BIBLE STUDY

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 • 410.905.1090 or visit our website at stmarhawwp.godaddysites.com

St Mary's Academy and St Martha School Christmas Program and All School Mass!



Congratulations to Natalia

whose artwork was selected as a Grand Prize Winner in the Missionary Childhood Association's Christmas Artwork Contest! Her artwork was chosen from thousands of entries submitted and will be featured on the Christmas cards of The Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS)!



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

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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

Helping the Homeless Be Housed

Please Help Make a Real Difference

Living in our downtown community, you certainly have seen people asking for money on our streets and on St. Martha property. Many of us wonder how we can help. Should we give these suffering people a few dollars?

The facts show that 90% of homeless people suffer from addiction and/or mental illness. Handing a homeless person cash enables the continuation of their substance abuse. Please do not give money to the homeless.

But what about our duty as Christians? Aren't we supposed to help the poor and those in need? The answer is yes, absolutely! But please do it the right way and let your donation truly do the good you intend.

You will find the Homeless Outreach donation box near the main doors of the church. Place your *few dollars* in this box on your way out of church. The monies collected will support these local homeless charities:

Caritas Food Pantry: A parish ministry at St. Martha. The food pantry is open Monday thru Friday and serves hundreds of families every week.

Resurrection House: Resurrection House provides a wide array of free services to the homeless including breakfast, lunch, bathrooms, showers, toiletries, laundry service, clothing, chapel, barber, health screening, medical doctor, dentist, vaccines, and legal services.

Family Promise: An organization addressing the gap in local services for pregnant mothers experiencing homelessness. Expectant mothers and their children can be housed at the Family Promise Francis House or Family Promise funding housing. Family Promise currently houses 39 pregnant mothers with children.

The Homeless Outreach donation box is the way to truly help. Placing your donations in the box will make a real difference.

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 Hours program.

Love of the Blessed Mother and her Son Jesus Christ.



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Angel's Attic • Stacy Kolbe
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Bradenton, FL 34202

**Location &
Material Donations**
1255 Seeds Ave, Sarasota,

Volunteers
941.413.3363

Hours
10am-1pm
Mon, Wed, Fri, and
2nd Sat of the month

Email
angelsattic1255@gmail.com

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

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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

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

Sun, Jan 5 • 10:15am Religious Ed Classes - Upstairs Classrooms
• Epiphany of the Lord

Tue, Jan 7 • 10:30am Emmaus Bible Study - Conference Room

Wed, Jan 8 • 9:30-11:30am - Walking with Purpose - Parish Hall

Thu, Jan 9 • 10am - Lectio Divina - Geenen Hall

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

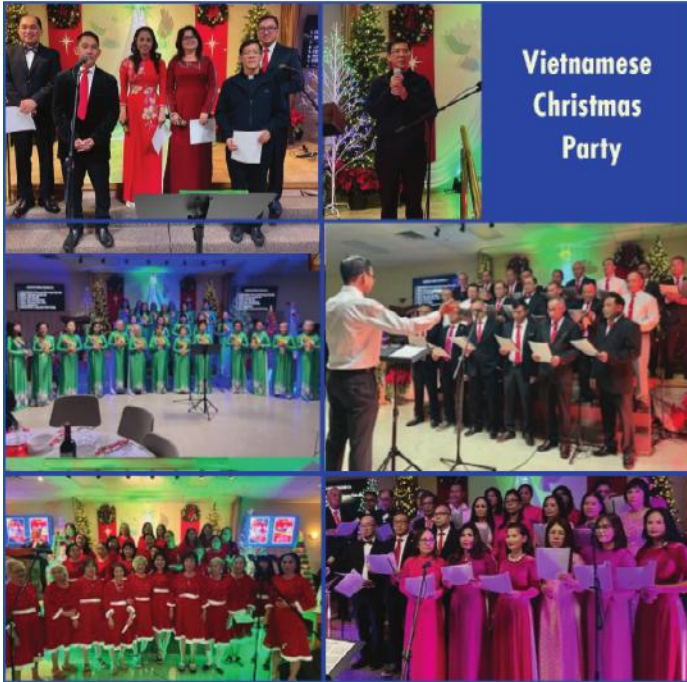
Family Promise of Sarasota-Manatee (FPSM)

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



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If being part of that community of Vincentians who *go to the poor* interests you, we invite you to join us. **Call the Incarnation parish office 941.921.6631** or come to one of our meetings on the **last Monday of each month at 6:30pm**.

Discover for yourself if being part of this ministry can provide something special to your life and to the lives of others.

The harvest is indeed great, but more laborers are needed.

Save the Date
Dinner Dance

Join Us!

Dinner, Wine, Beer, and Live Music by Jump Start
February 15, 2025 from 6pm
St Martha Church, Father Fausto Hall

Weekly Mass Intentions

Sun, Jan 5 **Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12**

- 7:30am.....[GS]....Thomas Bauer by John and Lydia Arimono
- 9:00am.....[FS]....Hank Salerno by Ann Crowley
- 9:00am.....[GR]....(Hall) Phil Paul by Marcia Norris
- 10:30am.....[GS]....For All Parishioners
- 12:00pm.....[JR]....Ed O'Brien by Cathy and George Phillips
- 12:00pm.....[JV]....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
- 5:30pm.....[GR]....L & D Mbrs of the Plouffe Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe

Mon, Jan 6 **1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25**

- 7:30am.....[JR]....Brad Hanes by Jennifer Hines and Family
- 8:30am.....[JV]....Georgina Armand by Casey Pilon
- 12:00pm.....[GS]....Mary Kay Keuch by Cathy and George Phillips
- 5:30pm.....[GS]....Souls in Purgatory by Julio and Miriam Ramirez

Tue, Jan 7 **1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44**

- 7:30am.....[GR]....Vincent LoCicero by Helen Halpern
- 8:30am.....[GS]....Rosa Delia by Paul Blank
- 12:00pm.....[JR]....Violeta D. Gaddi by Maylyn Vancoppenolle
- 5:30pm.....[JR]....(L) Loran McGruder by John and Mary McGruder

Wed, Jan 8 **1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52**

- 7:30am.....[JR]....Tim Donahue by Mom and Dad
- 8:30am.....[GR]....Fran Degan by John Schaefer
- 12:00pm.....[GS]....Angela A. Bennett by Tina Mroczkowski
- 5:30pm.....[GR]....Michael Haddad by Helene and Larry McCarthy

Thu, Jan 9 **1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22**

- 7:30am.....[GR]....Philomena Kennedy by Christopher Downey
- 8:30am.....[JV]....Bob Corey by John Corey
- 12:00pm.....[JR]....Kwang-Jalee Longhi by Tina Mroczkowski
- 5:30pm.....[FS]....Jene LaBelle by Bridget Hannibal

Fri, Jan 10 **1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16**

- 7:30am.....[JV]....Leslie Franco by Evelyn Meisner
- 8:30am.....[GS]....Deceased Members of Showfolks
- 12:00pm.....[GR]....John Kovacic & Dr. A. Grafinger by Magda Kovacic
- 5:30pm.....[GR]....Marjorie Herring by Nikki LaBelle

Sat, Jan 11 **1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30**

- 7:30am.....[GS]....(L) Peggy Fitzmaurice by Marge and Paul Lortie
- 8:30am.....[JV]....Rosemay Rodney by Liberty
- 4:00pm.....[JR]....(L) Dian Lynch by Marie Williams
- 4:00pm.....[GS]....(Hall) (L) Christopher Birstler by Nicole Romano
- 5:30pm.....[GR]....Mary Porter by Marilyn Kneafsey

Sun, Jan 12 **Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22**

- 7:30am.....[JR]....Dec. Mbrs of the Congregation of Holy Cross by Friend
- 9:00am.....[GR]....Bette Love by the Family
- 9:00am.....[GS]....(Hall) Lelamae Slusser by Hank and Jack
- 10:30am.....[FS]....For All Parishioners
- 12:00pm.....[GR]....Joseph, Steve, Dave, & Angelo by Elizabeth Trelinski
- 12:00pm.....[JV]....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
- 5:30pm.....[GS]....L & D Mbrs of the Burch Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe

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



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