



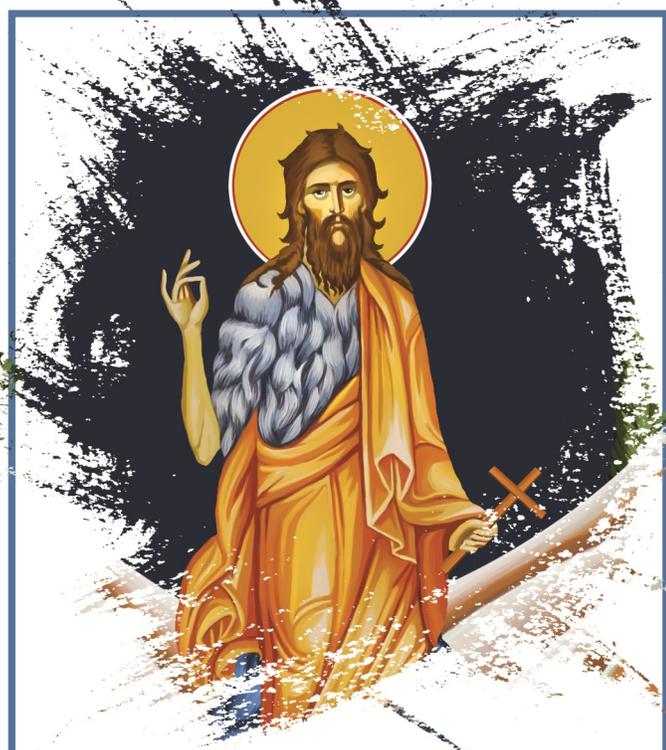
SANTA MARIA *del* MAR

CATHOLIC CHURCH

—SURSUM CORDA—

CATHOLIC PARISH *by the sea*

DECEMBER 13,



A MAN NAMED JOHN WAS SENT FROM GOD. HE CAME FOR TESTIMONY, TO TESTIFY TO THE LIGHT, SO THAT ALL MIGHT BELIEVE THROUGH HIM. — JN 1:6-7

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

2020 HOLIDAY

CHRISTMAS EVE
Thursday, Dec. 24
4pm Children's Mass
8pm Mass with Adult Choir

CHRISTMAS DAY
(Day of Obligation in the U.S.)
Friday, Dec. 25, 10am

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Thursday, Dec. 31, 4pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY
(Day of Obligation in the U.S.)
Friday, Jan. 1, 10am

WELCOME TO SANTA MARIA DEL MAR CATHOLIC CHURCH

FR. MANNY B. LOPEZ

Pastor

JOHN CARNEY

Special Advisor

CHRISTINE SUDANO

Parish Administrator
christine@smdmcc.org

DENISE COLLINS

Director of Religious Education
denise@smdmcc.org

MARIA FLAKE

New Members/Hospitality
maria@smdmcc.org

KIM CAZZANIGA

Music Director/Youth Ministry

kim@smdmcc.org

JEANNIE JOHNSON

Parish Secretary
jean@smdmcc.org

NILTON BOTELHO

Maintenance Supervisor
nilton@smdmcc.org

WWW.SMDMCC.ORG

915 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE | FLAGLER BEACH, FL 32136 | PHONE: 386-439-2791 | FAX: 386-439-1362



Parish Resources During the COVID-19 Crisis

Santa Maria del Mar Catholic Church
915 North Central Avenue
Flagler Beach, FL 32136
386-439-2791

www.smdmcc.org • [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/smdmcc/) (www.facebook.com/smdmcc/)

Parish Office: The parish office is open Tuesday-Friday, 9am-4pm with a break for lunch. All other buildings are closed until further notice. Please see Mass schedule below:

Parish Masses: Bishop Estévez has dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice.

Masks and social distancing are mandatory.

- **Sunday Mass** will be celebrated at 9am & 11am in the church. Masks are required.
- **Saturday Vigil Mass** will resume at 4pm. Masks are required.
- **Sunday 10am Mass** will continue to be **streamed** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/smdmcc/) (www.facebook.com/smdmcc/) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/SMDMCC) (<https://www.youtube.com/user/SMDMCC>).
- **Weekday Masses** will be celebrated on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9am in the church. Masks are required.
- **High-Risk Individuals**—Drive-up communion on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30am.
- **Adoration**—Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:30am-2pm. (Please contact Ginette Consentino (508) 423-9360 to sign up for Adoration)
- **Confessions**— Saturday 3:30-3:50pm (before 4pm Vigil Mass), Sunday 8:30-8:50am (before 9am Mass) and 10:30-10:50am (before 11am Mass).

Visit the parish website for additional information.

Appointments with Fr. Manny: Fr. Manny is available by phone Wednesday, 9:30am-12:30pm, and Thursday and Friday 9am-Noon. Call the parish office, 386-439-2791, to schedule an appointment.

Daily Readings: [Daily Mass readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) (<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>) and brief video reflections (<http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>) are available from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Your Offertory Contributions: If at all possible, please continue to support Santa Maria del Mar by mailing your offerings (checks only) to the church (address above) or use our convenient [online giving system](https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1748) (<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1748>).

Spiritual Communion: The Church encourages us to make an act of 'spiritual communion' when we are prevented from receiving the Eucharist at Mass: "My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen." (*St. Alphonsus Liguori*)

Rosary by Phone: Join the Legion of Mary daily at 4:20pm via conference call: 862-799-9790. For more information, Contact Steven at jsnandmijn@outlook.com or at 215-527-7411.

Diocesan Resources: The [Diocese of St. Augustine](https://www.dosafl.com/) (<https://www.dosafl.com/>) has a special [Coronavirus resource page](https://www.dosafl.com/coronavirus/) (<https://www.dosafl.com/coronavirus/>), including links to televised, online, and radio Masses in our diocese and beyond.

Magnificat: This monthly publication used for our weekday Masses is offering [complimentary access](https://us.magnificat.net/free) online (<https://us.magnificat.net/free>) and via its [iOS](#) and [Android](#) apps.

Laudate: The free [Laudate app](#) ([iOS](#) and [Android](#)) is a gateway to many Catholic prayers and other resources.

Formed: [FORMED.org](https://www.formed.org) has given SMdM limited-time free access to its library. It has great resources for all, including kids. Click Sign Up; select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization;" find Santa Maria Del Mar by parish name, address, or zip code; enter your email—and you're in!

Rice Bowl: CRS has instructions for contributing online, by phone, and by mail: <https://support.crs.org/donate/change-life-lent-0>. Rice bowls will be collected once we're able to assemble again.

Want to help others? You can help others in our community by mailing donations to [Society of St. Vincent de Paul](https://www.facebook.com/flaglersaintvincentdepaul/) (<https://www.facebook.com/flaglersaintvincentdepaul/>), P.O. Box 1328, Flagler Beach FL 32136. Contributions for international relief can be sent to [Catholic Relief Services](https://www.crs.org/) (<https://www.crs.org/>).

Click on any link (blue highlight) to take you directly to the referenced website. Last updated Nov. 8, 2020.

GOD IS THE JOY OF MY SOUL

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

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GOSPEL REFLECTION

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10a)

PSALM:

My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

SECOND READING:

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

GOSPEL:

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'" (Jn 1:23)

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass (c) 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

MON	DEC 14	TUES	DEC 15	WED	DEC 16	THUR	DEC 17	FRI	DEC 18	SAT	DEC 19	SUN	DEC 20
ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS		Zep 3:1-2, 9-13		Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25		Gn 49:2, 8-10		Jer 23:5-8		Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a		4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a		Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]		Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]		Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]		Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]		Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]		2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	
Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]		Mt 21:28-32		Lk 7:18b-23		Mt 1:1-17		Mt 1:18-25		Lk 1:5-25		Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]	
Mt 21:23-27												Rom 16:25-27	
												Lk 1:26-38	



STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE

Your offering of as little as one hour's wage will help us meet our daily needs.

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Thank you! Please consider making your weekly donation to Santa Maria del Mar online at: www.osvonlinegiving.com/1748

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

3rd Week,
Nov. 2020

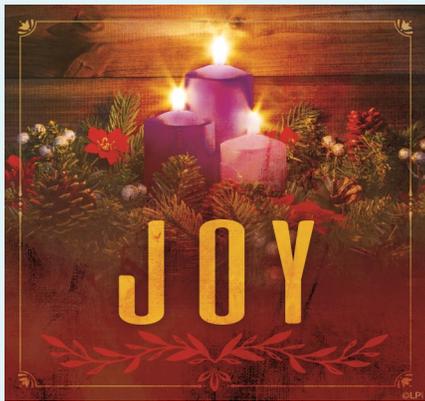
Offertory:
\$11,778.

Online Giving:
\$5,045

3rd Week,
Nov. 2019

Offertory:
\$16,447.

Online Giving:
\$3,265.



Keep up-to-date on announcements from the Diocese of St. Augustine regarding COVID-19 here: www.dosafl.com/coronavirus/

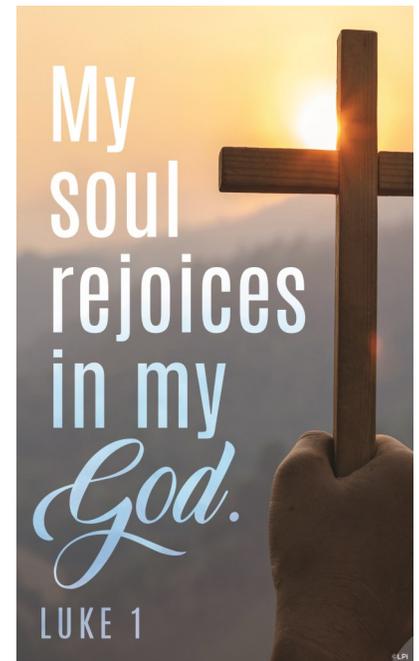
STEWARDSHIP ~ A WAY OF LIFE

REFLECTIONS ON STEWARDSHIP

Friends, we have all been anointed to "bring glad tidings to the poor" by Baptism. As the Psalm says, "Be confident and unafraid for our strength and courage come from the Lord."

Are our preparations complete? Are we ready to greet and meet God? Do not doubt that we have a responsibility to others to get ready for the meeting with our Creator. We all like to be in control of our life but it is essential to prepare for eternal life. Proceed with joyfulness and prayer demonstrating to all that it is with gladness that we look forward to being with the Lord. Keep what is good; keep away from all evil.

As *Stewards* we cannot change the whole world, but we can change part of it. What is your part that is challenging you? Is it enough for you to obtain God's mercy and reward?



THIS MONTH'S MINISTRY SALUTE

IN GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S GIFTS OF TIME AND TALENT TO US, WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE AND BLESS:

LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Mission of the Parish Library is to support the Parish by providing books on prayer, formation, stewardship, spirituality, support, saints, the Blessed Mother, the Old & New Testaments, etc. Included are books for children and Youth. The committee members review, catalog and shelve the books weekly, and check-in books that have been donated or purchased.

The Ministry members are Chair, Ivy Alvarez, Kim Atel, Rosemary Costabile, Maria Flake, Evonne Ligeiro, Allison Low, Kathy McArdle, Janice Romanish and Joan Smith. These parishioners quietly work unobserved as they offer a significant service to the parish.

The Library is located in the back of church next to the Chapel and extends a wealth of opportunity for everyone to enrich their faith and enhance their spirituality. If you are interested in joining the Library Ministry, please contact the Parish Office (maria@smdmcc.org).

*Spiritual reading is food for the soul.
The words enter into the mind and descend into the heart and help us to be a changed and better person.*

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

PAST & PRESENT



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PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

- **Col. Andrew Morgado** (US Army)
- **Jay Matthews** (US Navy)
- **Sgt. Benjamin Wurtz** (US Army/Ft. Hood, TX)
- **Honor Otmar** (US Air Force)
- **Matthew Callegari** (USCG)
- **Jayson Trucksess** (US Navy)
- **Chief Gregory Worman** (US Navy)
- **Joshua Raffaele** (USMC)
- **Rachel Mincey** (US Navy)
- **LCDR Brandon Aten** (USCG)
- **Joseph Otmar** (USMC)
- **Casey Henrikson** (US Navy)
- **Chad M.R. Schuch** (US Air Force)
- **Emma J. Schuch** (US Navy)
- **Col. Daniel O'Connor** (USMC)
- **Sgt. Sean Collins** (US Army)
- **Michael Martins** (USMC)
- **Dr. Nick Patellis** (NG/Kuwait)
- **Justin Smallwood** (USMC)
- **ENS Barret Manfre** (US Navy/ USS San Diego)
- **Bryan Donohue** (USMC)
- **Cpl. Ryan Rindge** (US Army)
- **Trent Jerdon** (US Army)

If you have a family member in the military and would like us to pray for them, call the parish office to have their name added to the bulletin, or email your request to Christine Sudano at christine@smdmcc.org. Please advise when a person above is no longer deployed so we can remove their name from our list. God bless them all & continue to pray for them!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK OF OUR PARISH IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Heal us, Lord, and we shall be healed; save us, and we shall be saved; for it is You we praise. Send relief and healing for all our diseases, our sufferings and our wounds; for You are a merciful and faithful healer. Blessed are You Lord, who heals the sick.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Beverly Alleman | • Susan Gronert | • Barbara Petrella |
| • Judy Batson | • Roe & Hal Hanson | • Hannah Pica |
| • Zafarani Betancourt | • John & Terri | • Marriane Prieser |
| • Nora Bocignone | • Louie Kolonics | • Peter Prieser, Sr. |
| • Michael Boyle Sr. | • Andrew Kozer | • Eileen Puglisi |
| • Br. Elijah | • John Kuchta | • Patricia Quinn |
| • Pat Brandt | • Silvestre Labaredas | • Vincent Raffaele |
| • Jim Brogan | • Deborah Lepley | • Vincent Raffaele |
| • Marlene Bushnoe | • Johnny Lewis | • Julie Raia |
| • Roger Carey Sr. | • Jim Loisel | • Robert Rizzo |
| • Joe Chiarello | • Dina Mancuso | • Barbara Royere |
| • Valerie Ann Cipolla | • Frankie Mancuso | • Amanda Ruotolo |
| • Daniel Clark | • Teresa Mancuso | • Brian Schalt |
| • Joseph Connell | • William Mania | • Kara Schalt |
| • Betty Connelly | • Linda Maxwell | • Amanda Schark |
| • Joshua Cummings | • Agnes Sister McDevitt | • Michael Sheridan |
| • Marlene Curtain | • Damien McFadden | • Sandy Silva |
| • Sheryl D. | • Elle McFadden | • David Smith |
| • Mary Dardzinski | • Vivian McMonagle | • Ryan Socrates |
| • Greg DiVico | • Giorgio Meloni | • Catherine Sveda |
| • Irene Donaghy | • Tiesha Miller | • James Terlizzo |
| • Robert DuLong | • Dolores Moody | • Stephen Troxell & Family |
| • Marie & Alfred Durand | • Peggy Morris (RIP) | • Gifford Tures |
| • Kirsten Ernst | • Barbara Motta | • Linda Walcek |
| • Greg Everett | • Lee Mulvihill | • Donald Whitmore |
| • Beth Farnsworth | • Mary Nolleman | • Deidre Williamson |
| • Antonio Filipe | • Bridget O'Hara | • Mary-Ann Woika |
| • Jonah Finn | • Jack O'Hara | • Kelly Wolff |
| • Lou Freda | • Kristen O'Hara | |
| • Lou Giammarlari | • Luisa Olivo | |
| • Scott Giguere | • Terry Parenteau | |
| • Roger Gronert | • Sue Persch | |

*We Commend to God's
Loving Embrace:
†††Victor Villarejos*

Parishioner of SMdM is in need of a kidney transplant.
Please contact the Parish Office, if you know of a possible donor.



- 12/16: 9am †Eric Brennen, †Luis Alvarado.
12/17: 9am †Ruth Morrissey, †Nicholas Osbourne, †Jim McDonald
†Rosalie Arcuri.
12/18: 9am †Roger Jasko, Martha Martinez (Birthday), †Lorraine Bouillion,
†Irene, Edward, and Sharon Harrington.
12/19: 4pm Amanda Ruotolo (special intention), †Alexander Bercheny,
†Stan Drescher.
12/20: 9am †Tony Gasparino, †Ted Roy, †Maria Mercedes Marrerro Oliveras,
†Evangelina Fernandez.
11am †Jennifer Horsman, †Anna and Salvatore Di Modica.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained

Question: Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?

Answer: The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the “Precepts” of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the Code of Canon Law. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 2042):

The first precept (“You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor”) requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The third precept (“You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season”) guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord’s Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: “Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human” (Dies Domini, no. 7).

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DRIVE-UP—CARRY-OUT FUNDRAISER Saturday, December 12

Menu: Roast Pork Loin, Herb Dressing, Apple Compote, Veggies, Cornbread
\$12 a meal (Pay at Pick-up).
Pick Up Time: 3:30—5:30pm
at the Parish Hall



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

We invite all youth in the parish to participate in the Knights of Columbus **Keep Christ in Christmas** poster contest. The contest will allow youth to engage their creative talent and imagination while understanding the true, spiritual meaning of Christmas

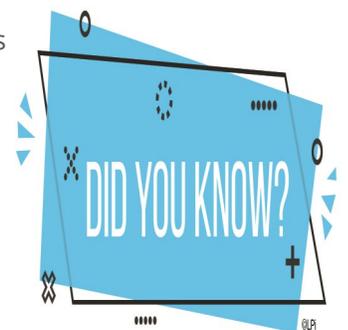


The contest is open to all youth between the ages of 5 and 14. Contest entrants compete in one of three age groups: 5-7, 8-10, and 11-14. Each participant will receive a Keep Christ in Christmas Participation Certificate. The **winner in each category will receive a \$25 gift card.**

Each poster should be the original work of a single person. It should be on 11 x 17 paper with the age and name of youth on the back.

All posters should be submitted to the Parish Office by December 20 for judging and winner announcement.

Our trust in God is tested and proven in tribulation. It is in these moments where, instead of complaining that our prayers have not been heard, we should ask ourselves why is it that we think they have not been heard and how is it that we know that our prayer has been effective. It is true that He knows what we need before we ask Him but He still wants us to ask as a child asks his father. (CCC #2734, 2736, 2738)





Shop fair trade
change lives

Bring Your Faith to the Marketplace: Shop the Online Fair-Trade Sale

Each fall, the Social Justice Ministry sponsors a fair-trade sale outside the church to call attention to Catholic social teaching on economic justice. The COVID-19 pandemic makes it impractical to hold a "live" sale this year. Instead, **this year's fair-trade sale is virtual and online!** (A select few items are also available for sale in the Gift Shop.)

It's never been easier to change a life for the better. When you buy handmade gifts, food items, and home decor **using the web link below**, not only will you be helping disadvantaged artisans and supporting fair-trade practices, but **20% of your purchase will be donated to our parish.** The link is available year-round:

www.serrv.org/?a=smdmfts

Dedicated to fighting poverty through fair trade since 1949, SERRV International works with nearly 8,000 artisans and farmers in 24 countries to bring you the world's most beautiful handcrafts. SERRV artisans and farmers benefit from fair wages, a sustainable income, safe working conditions, education, and equality. Fair-trade commitments reduce the need for people to migrate. For more information on a Catholic framework for economic justice, visit <https://www.usccb.org/committees/domestic-justice-and-human-development/economic-justice-domestic-poverty>

"[Pope] Benedict XVI reminded us that precisely because it is human, all human activity, including economic activity, must be ethically structured and governed. We must return to the centrality of the human being, to a more ethical vision of activities and of human relationships without the fear of losing something."

PROJECT SHARE 2020

Giving Trees have arrived!

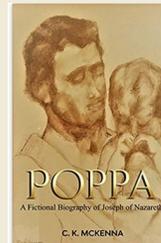
Santa Maria del Mar's parish family has a long history of generously supporting families in need at Christmas by "adopting" children from our giving trees at church and fulfilling a child's wishes that are listed on the star. This year, due to Covid-19, we expect the need to be greater than ever.



Deadline for return of gifts is Sunday, December 13.

Please consider stopping by church to adopt a child from the tree this Christmas. **If you are not yet comfortable stopping by church due to Covid-19**, please email Roseanne Stocker, Project Share coordinator, at rstocker1@outlook.com, or call her at (386) 503-1939. You can let Roseanne know what age child you would like to adopt and she will email you back the complete information.

Please make sure that your star is firmly attached to the gift when you return it to church so we can get it to



OPEN NOW: SMDM GIFT SHOP!!

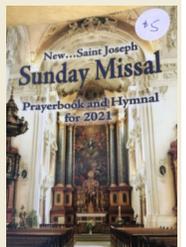
Gift Shop is now open before and after weekend Masses. Please continue to wear your mask, social distance and limit to TWO customers in the Gift Shop at any time.

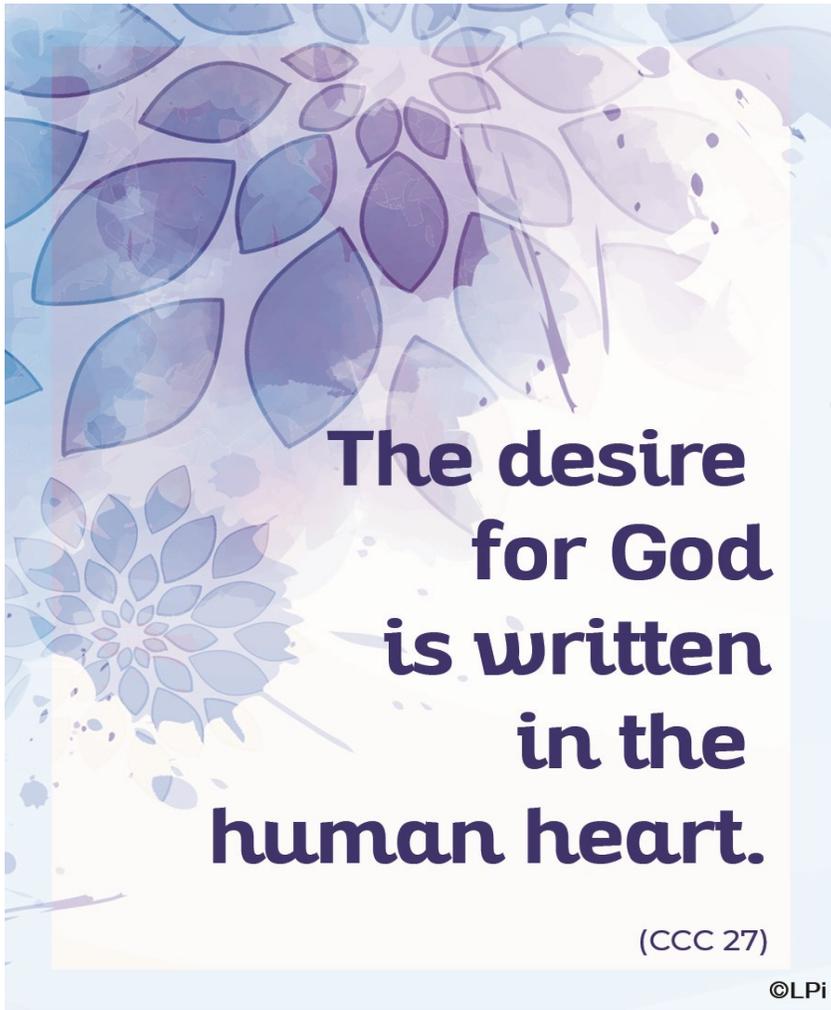
Have you seen the glass cabinet near the office? It has a display of many of our gift shop items. Take a look! Support the church and enhance your faith. Many items to choose from!

Order forms will be next to the cabinet in the white box in the Gathering Area. Please place completed forms in the slot by the office door. One of the gift shop volunteers will contact you about picking up and paying for your order. Please DO NOT submit payment until the order is filled.

"The Gift Shop has a limited quantity of 2021 Sunday Missals. Going fast and we will not be re-ordering. Also December Magnificats will be available later this month. Please pre-order in the Gift Shop to ensure you get your copy."

Thank you for your support and stay safe!





**The desire
for God
is written
in the
human heart.**

(CCC 27)

©LPI

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary is one of the largest lay apostolic associations in the Catholic Church, with several million members serving in most countries of the world. The goal of the Legion is to make its members better Catholics – through a balanced program of prayer and service in union with the Holy Spirit as He operates through Mary, the Mother of the Church.



Our members participate in the life of the parish by visiting families, the sick (both in their homes, nursing homes, and hospitals), and by collaborating with other ministries in any apostolic undertakings sponsored by the Parish.

Our members meet weekly for prayer, spiritual reflection, discussion, and planning in a family atmosphere. Then, we are assigned an apostolic work and report back the following week.

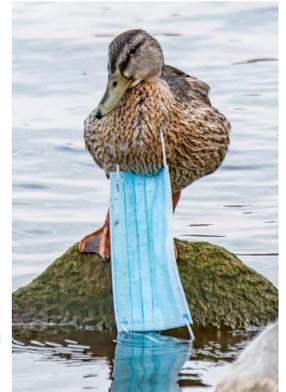
**For more information,
contact Steven Neyer at 215-527-7411.**

THE PLAGUE OF PLASTIC IN THE OCEAN AND IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Plastic bags, drinking straws, takeout containers, plastic ties and cups...the list can go on and on. When marine mammals swallow plastics, detrimental things happen to them. There is quite a lot of pain, discomfort and perforation internally. The sea life, when entangled in plastic, can drown, choke to death or suffer physical harm such as amputation and infection.



In the last 11 years, a study shows nearly 1,800 species were adversely affected by plastics. Police the actions of yourself and family; discard plastic in safe containers. If you go to the beach, bring a plastic bag and gloves to help with clean-up. You can make a difference.



And something you may not have thought of...be sure to clip the strings on disposable masks before discarding to prevent birds and other wildlife becoming entangled.

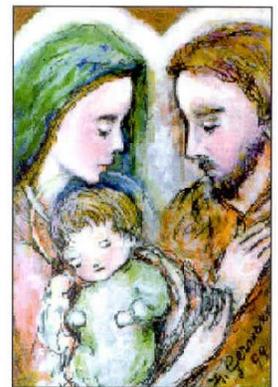
RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Rosary for Life, Alpha Women's Center

Please join our Rosary for Life at **8:30am** before the **First Friday Mass.**

Pray for Unborn Human Life

Thank you for your generous donations of diapers, wipes, and gift cards during our Annual Baby Shower. Please continue to donate to the Alpha Women's Center at 386-586-0210.



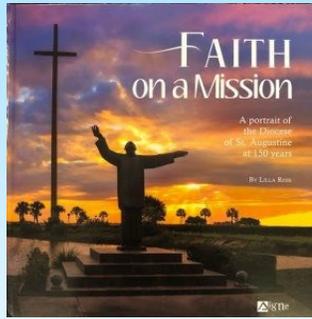
*Bundle of Joy, Fr. G. Pegoraro, S.C.
© 1999 Pious Union of St. Joseph, Inc.*

Thank you for supporting our ministry.

FAITH ON A MISSION: HISTORY OF

Do you enjoy history? Who said "Stewardship is not a program or a way to raise more money for the parish. It is a Way of Life that seeks to put God first in our lives..."? How many thrift stores sponsored by the Society of St Vincent de Paul are there in the Diocese? Why did Father Thomas Cody need track shoes?

Answers to all of these questions and information on the rich history of the Diocese of St Augustine can be found in "Faith on a Mission." **Now on sale at the Parish Office and the Gift Shop for \$25.** Over 300 pages of beautiful images, historical facts and pullout mementos. View a copy of the book prior to purchase in the Parish Office Tues.—Fri. from 9am to 4pm and in the Gift Shop before and after weekend Masses. Please note that there are limited quantities available. Please purchase a copy now! They make wonderful Christmas presents!



BIRTHDAYS

December 14

Claudine Alfonso-Mundis, Tessa Bellomusto, Courtney Brady, Robert Chrzanowski, Lauren Holley, Vivianne Holt, Isabella Mikutel, Amy Motta, Antonina Perrone, Daniel Rindge, Bianca Robinson, Scenic Root, Tara Ryan, Ralph Santore, Irene Schaefer, John Stella, Regina Subba-Rao, John Tobin Jr., Kim Trettner, Amy Williamson

December 15

Fernando Botelho, Noah Buitrago, Grace Davis, Chris Fleissner, Mary Hack, Arnold Hardy, Eugene Koprowski, Charlotte Low, Linda Nolan, Theresa O'Hara, Charles Oravetz, Thomas Thode, Karlene Torres

December 16

Barbara Castillo, Joanne Cejka, Teresa Colon, David Conover, Barbara Dinardo, Jenna Elliott, Regina Finnigan, Irene Goodwin, Joy Gournic, Kris Keiser, Joan King, Grace Maple, Gail Moro, Sarah Nash, Susan Strutz, Louise Vos, Celeste Weiss

December 17

Antoinette Allen, James Armstrong, Mary Burns, Dylan Cappetta, Maria DeAussen, Joseph DeVries, Michael Erbele, Adam Fenty, Ronald Krupa, Theresa McLean, Brittany Moore-Vasser, Mason Ortiz, Biserka Palajs, Felicia Palermo, Patricia Perszyk, Donna Romano, Denyse Student, Mark Toft

December 18

Dave Adair, Michele Cornelius, Edward Davis, Jonathan Dopp, Daniel Gil, Lori Giliberti, Andy Graff, Mario Imperati, Phuong Nguyen, Jack O'Reilly, Jose Papa, Lisa Peterson, Isabella Rodrigues, Jandel Rodriguez, Samantha Ursal, Lillian Villanova

December 19

Bridget Arsenault, Mary DeBlasi, Nicholas Kubiet, Jessica Rubin, Richard Rubin Jr. Carolann Schiro, Clayton Thomas III, Michele Vitale

December 20

Denise Barnett, Lawrence Fiume, Beau Mairi Gomos, Charlie Gray, Ronald Hamaty, Owen McKinley, James Newman, Jake Wallace



SANTA MARIA *del* MAR CATHOLIC CHURCH —SURSUM CORDA—

SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY

An opportunity to more deeply understand and increase your faith.

We have learned through our first session, The Sacraments, that the current situation of meeting in the church sanctuary is far from ideal in terms of encouraging communication and interaction, following proper Covid protocols and generally allowing people to get as much out of the course as possible. For now, we will postpone more classes until the Learning Center reopens and we can all get together in a classroom environment which is more conducive to our spiritual growth and development.

Coming up!

When possible we will be offering a brand new course: **Hebrews.**

Hebrews takes us on a guided tour of what is considered the "Holy of Holies" of biblical theology. The book of Hebrews is steeped in rich truths about our Catholic Faith, almost like a second Catechism. This study will help us to:

- Understand the book of Hebrews and a variety of aspects of the Catholic faith including the Creed, the Sacraments, salvation, judgment, heaven, hell, morality and prayer.
- Appreciate, more fully, the power of the Holy Mass and return to church with a renewed awe and awareness that heaven is truly present to us.
- Learn the critical differences between the Old and New Covenant.
- Be encouraged by the community of saints, the tremendous "cloud of witnesses" rooting for us to get to heaven and interceding on our behalf.
- Be challenged to become the faithful Catholics we're called to be as we realize that much is expected from those to whom much is given.
- Awaken to the true sublimity of God's revelation and work in and through Jesus Christ so we can see all of the beauty laid present to us.
- Discover key connections to the patriarchal period of salvation history and veiled references to the Blessed Mother and the Mercy Seat.

May the Holy Spirit move you to join us and enjoy the blessings of these enlightening sessions.

REFLECTION FROM LIFE TEEN ON THIS WEEK'S READ-

Lord God, the path to joy is united with the path of prayer. Help us open your Word through this group and embrace what it means to rejoice always and pray unceasingly. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THINK ABOUT IT...

- Is it easy for you to make decisions when picking one thing means not getting something else? What is the most difficult "either/or" decision you have ever made?
- Do you feel like being holy means giving up a life of joy? Why?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.
- Are you a joyful person? Does your joy reflect your faith?
- What holds you back from "praying unceasingly"?
- Saint Paul said we need to "rejoice always" and "pray unceasingly." How are these two things tied together? How is it possible that more prayer can equal more joy?
- Do you really believe this connection? What makes it difficult to believe?
- Do you see your faith as an "either/or" question? Do you ever feel that in order to be holy you can no longer be happy? Why?
- Where in your life do you struggle most with joy? How can your faith bring joy back into that area?
- Where is one area you struggle with prayer?



PRAY ABOUT IT...

Respond to the following prompt:

One thing I could live without but would struggle to live without is

_____.

Ask someone to hold you accountable for the next week to the thing you filled in the blank space.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF...

Don't just give up the "blank space" but do it joyfully. Replace occasions where they would have used that object with prayer.



LIFE TEEN
Leading Teens Closer to Christ

JOIN A LIFE TEEN DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Contact Kim Cazzaniga at (386) 931-8710 (text is best!)



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- . Adams Rehab Solutions Physical Therapy
- . Olde Florida Title



Virtual Faith Formation (K-8)

***First Sunday of the Month Children's Class at 10am / Mass at 11am. Attendance encouraged.**

December:

- Dec.13 Class at home
- Dec. 20 Class/**zoom** meet
- Dec. 27 No Class/Christmas Break

January:

- Jan.10 **Class 10am / Mass 11am**
- Jan. 17 Class at home
- Jan. 24 Class/**zoom** meet
- Jan. 31 Class at home

February:

- Feb. 7 **Class 10am / Mass 11am**
- Feb. 14 Class at home
- Feb. 21 Class/**zoom** meet
- Feb. 28 Class at home

March:

- Mar. 7 **Class 10am / Mass 11am**
- Mar. 14 Class at home
- Mar. 21 No Class/ Spring Break
- Mar. 28 Class at home

April:

- Apr. 4 Easter Sunday
- Apr. 11 **Class 10am / Mass 11am**
- Apr. 18 Class at home
- Apr. 25 Class/**zoom** meet

May:

- May 2 **Class 10am / Mass 11am**
 - May 8 **Confirmation (Sat) @2pm**
 - May 16 **First Communion time TBA**
- *Contact Denise@smdmcc.org*

ATTENTION: The Diocese of St. Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with all allegations in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner. To Report Abuse, call the police or the Department of Children & Families at (800) 962-2873. Or call the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (904) 208-6979 or email inquiries@dosaf1.com. To report abuse by a bishop, call (800) 276-1562 or visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

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All activities are free!

An Advent journey to foster personal spiritual growth

Join Our Lady for

UNA NOCHE DE NAVIDAD

A Night of Christmas

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DEC. 19 AT 6PM
FREE ADMISSION

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The Parish Council Listening Post

Do you have a comment or suggestion for the Parish Council to consider? Submit items on paper by placing them in the **Listening Post box** located on the cabinet under the wall-mounted TV in the Gathering Area, or you can submit items via email by sending them to:
listeningpost@smdmcc.org.

All submitted items must be civil and respectful, and be within the scope of the Parish Council, i.e., the pastoral life of the parish.

FREE BIBLES AVAILABLE

Many bibles have been donated to the Parish Library and now we are offering some of them to the parish community. The bibles are located on the bottom two shelves in the bookcase closest to the Chapel. Please feel free to take your choice. There are editions for adults, teens and children. Many have attractive, colorful pictures. Consider taking one to

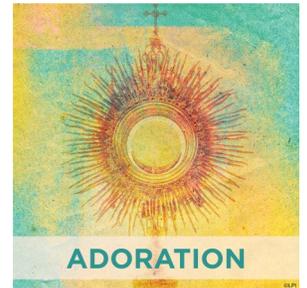


EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

God gives us every breath and second of our lives, why not give Him back one hour in Adoration?

**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
9:30am—2:00 pm in the
Adoration Chapel**

Contact Ginette Consentino (508-423-9360) for information or to sign up for Adoration.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

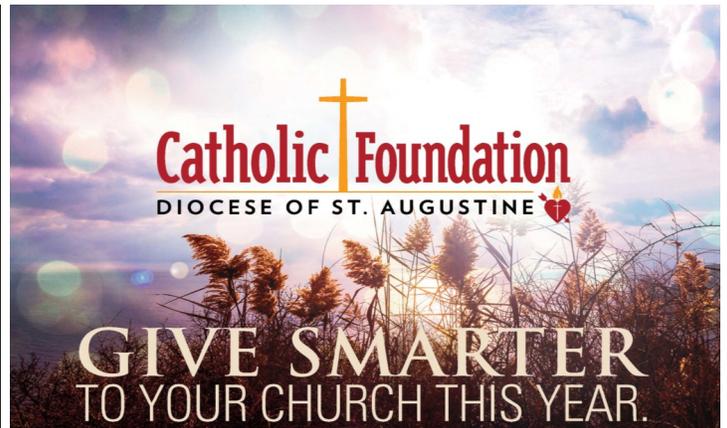
Please donate at your local parish or by mail at:

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Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

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Above, from left: Sister Alice Garcia, SSCJ, 91; Brother Martin Gonzales, OCSO, 95; Sister Theresa McGrath, CCVI, 86; Sister Anne Cecile Muldoon, OSU, 93; Abbot Emeritus Peter Eberle, OSB, 79.
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GIVE SMARTER TO YOUR CHURCH THIS YEAR.

Use your IRA or other assets to make a gift to your parish, Catholic school, and favorite Catholic ministry.

- You can use your annual distribution to make a gift and avoid adding to your taxable income.
 - » Gifts must be from your regular IRA, not from Roth IRAs or retirement plans.
 - » Distributions must be made directly from the IRA custodian to a qualified non-profit. All diocesan parishes, schools, and ministries qualify.
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You decide if your gift goes directly to your chosen parish, school, or ministry or to the recipient's permanent endowment within the Catholic Foundation.

**Contact Cliff Evans,
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading: Isaiah shares his understanding of his prophetic call and his experience of the Lord as a God of justice and compassion. As we continue in the season of Advent, what new spiritual insights are you discovering?

Second Reading: Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be thankful to God and be active in their newly found faith in Christ by following his moral imperatives. How are you putting your faith into practice during this Advent?

Gospel: John tells us that the religious leaders in Jerusalem questioned the identity of John the Baptist, wondering if he was the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet who Moses prophesied would come. John the Baptist responds in humility, with a clear sense of his own call. Do you humbly accept God's call in your life?

LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.

©LPi



RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

GROWING

WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE B



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



GOSPEL

John the Baptist prepared the way for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. He shouted in the desert, "Get your soul ready. The Lord is coming." Today John still warns you to get your soul ready for Jesus. Ask God to forgive you. Then forgive yourself and others. Shout to the world. Be a witness by your actions. Show that you believe in God. Then you will be ready when Jesus comes to take you to heaven with him.



PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for all of my sins.



MISSION

I will forgive others and ask them to forgive me when I hurt them.

3rd Sunday of Advent • John 1:6-8, 19-28

Behold Your Mother

(JOHN: 19:27)

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