

## The Angelus

V. 37 No. 50

V/. The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:

R/. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

R/. Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary...

V/. And the Word was made Flesh:

R/. (*while genuflecting*) And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V/. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,

R/. that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

V/. Let us pray:

R/. Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.



ST. MARTHA  
PARISH & SCHOOL

1100 West Grand River  
Okemos, MI 48864

517-349-1763 | [www.st-martha.org](http://www.st-martha.org)

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

### On Jordan's Bank

*Text: Jordanis oras praevia;  
Charles Coffin, 1676-1749;  
tr by John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt |  
Tune: WINCHESTER NEW,  
LM; |  
adapt from Musikalisches Handbuch,  
Hamburg, 1690*



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -  
 2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make  
 3. For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our  
 4. To heal the sick stretch out your hand, And  
 5. All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose

noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,  
 straight the way for God with - in, And let each heart pre -  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; With - out your grace we  
 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; Shine forth and let your  
 ad - vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 pare a home Where such a might - y guest may come.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 light re - store Earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

*Lector:* The word of the Lord.

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL

### PSALM

#### Psalm 85



Lord, let us see your kind-ness, and grant us your sal - va - tion.

*Text: The English translation of the Psalm  
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1. I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD - for he proclaims peace.  
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,  
glory dwelling in our land.
2. Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from heaven.
3. The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk, shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

## SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be,

conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

*Lector:* The word of the Lord.

**R:** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Tony Andorfer |  
Tune: Rejoice, Rejoice |  
Marty Hangen 1983  
GLA Publications*



Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

*Deacon/Priest:* The Lord be with you.

**R:** And with your spirit.

*Deacon/Priest:* A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

**R:** Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized

by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*Deacon/Priest:* The gospel of the Lord.

**R:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven,

[ *at the words that follow, all bow until ‘and became man’* ]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin

Mary, and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

Who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I  
confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sin, and I

look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the  
life of the world to come. Amen.

## OFFERTORY HYMN

### Be the Light

*Ed Bolduc and Jack Busche | Text  
and music © 2015 World Library  
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Publications, Inc.*

1. We are waiting in the darkness.  
Our souls still long for the light.  
Your very promise is a candle  
that leads us through the night.

2. As we await the birth of Jesus,  
help our busyness recede.  
Turn our dark days into brightness;  
peace and joy the gifts we need.

#### REFRAIN

Be the light shin-ing bright. Turn our nights back  
in-to day. Be the peace we want to know. Son of God,  
— Love Di-vine, come in-to our lives and be the light.

3. Meek and humble we await you. Our hearts are open. We long to receive.  
Come, Lord Jesus, dwell among us. Guide us in the lives we lead.

#### BRIDGE:

O come, O come, Emmanuel, the love of God, Emmanuel.  
Come, O come, Emmanuel. Our God is with us.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel, the love of God, Emmanuel.  
Come, O come, Emmanuel. Our God is with us.

## MASS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

*Tony Andorfer |  
Tune: Rejoice, Rejoice |  
Marty Haugen 1983  
GLA Publications*

5 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. —  
9 Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est!  
13 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-  
san - na in the high - est! Ho-san - na in the High-est!

4 We pro-claim your death, O Lord, and pro-fess your res-sur-  
rec-tion — un-til you come a-gain

A - men — A - men, A - men

Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta  
Lamb - - - of God, you take a - way the sins of the

mun - di, 1, 2 mi - se - re - re no - - bis.  
world, have mer - cy on us.  
3. do - na no - bis pa - - cem.  
grant us peace.

*Priest:* Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

## COMMUNION HYMN

### The King Shall Come

*Text: Greek; tr by John Brownlie,  
1859-1925, alt |  
Music © 2013, Trevor Thomson |  
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a division of OCP |  
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Verses 1, 2

1. The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And  
2. O bright-er than the ris-ing morn When

1. light tri-um - phant breaks, When beau-ty gilds the  
2. he, vic - to - rious, rose And left the lone - some

1. east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes.  
2. place of death, De - spite the rage of foes.

1. Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, To  
2. O bright-er than that glo-rious morn Shall

1. bear, and fight, and die, But crowned with glo -  
2. this fair morn - ing be, When Christ, our King,

1. - ry like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.  
2. in beau-ty comes, And we his face shall see!

Verse 3

3. The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau -  
3. - ty brings. Hail, Christ, the Lord! Thy peo-ple pray: Come  
3. quick - ly, King of kings. Come quick - ly, King of kings.



## COMMUNION HYMN

### Ready the Way

Text: Based on Isaiah 40:3, 4a |  
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Refrain



Read-y the way, read-y the way, read-y the way



of the Lord. of the Lord.

verse 1



1. Make straight the road, raise the val - leys, and



1. moun-tains make low. Turn-ing from sin, let the bro-ken be whole, to Refrain



1. and read-y the way of the Lord.

2. As we wait for you,  
give us the strength to walk in your truth,  
so we may love more like you  
and ready the way for you, Lord.

3. Let us see your face;  
in our hearts we prepare a place.  
Come bring this world your mercy and  
grace as we ready the way for you, Lord.


## ST. MICHAEL PRAYER

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

### People, Look East

Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965 |  
Text © 1928, Eleanor Farjeon,  
by perm of Harold Ober Assoc |  
French carol | BESANCON  
CAROL 87 98 87 |  
Harm by John Stainer, 1840-1901




1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near Of the  
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more  
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the  
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more  
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ, who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
light the bowl shall brim. Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
brings new life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley



a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple look  
nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple look  
fro - zen Now for fledg - ing - time is cho - sen. Peo - ple look  
weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple look  
hum - ming With the word, "The Lord is com - ing." Peo - ple look



East, and sing to - day: Love the Guest is on the way.  
East, and sing to - day: Love the Rose is on the way.  
East, and sing to - day: Love the Bird is on the way.  
East, and sing to - day: Love the Star is on the way.  
East, and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

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# From the Pastor's Desk

## Gospel Reflection

As we continue our preaching series on the Eucharist, we hear in the Gospel today that John the Baptist - the last and culmination of the prophets - baptized with water a baptism of repentance, but one

mightier than he would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Repentance means something. Ultimately repentance means to turn away from sin and self-centeredness and to turn toward God. It requires a complete and transformative change of heart and mind, what the Greeks call *metanoia*.

In Psalm 51, we read, "Lord, you will open my lips; and my mouth will proclaim your praise. For you do not desire sacrifice or I would give it; a burnt offering you would not accept. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn" (v. 17-19). Jesus Christ offered the ultimate sacrifice for each one of us as he took up the Cross and offered His life to the Father. As we offer the Eucharistic sacrifice of Holy Mass, that sacrifice is re-presented before us in an unbloody manner.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, writes, "I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:1-2). That which we offer as penance helps us repent from sin and, in a very real way, unites us to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ by helping us change our hearts and minds. In a mysterious and sacramental way, the sacrifice of Christ comes to life in the offering of our penance and repentance. To be a Eucharistic people - to be a people who become what and who we celebrate at every Mass - means that we must be a sacrificial people offering ourselves to the Father and living that sacrifice in our daily lives.

My father died almost a year ago on December 28, 2022. We celebrated his funeral Mass on January 5. Below is an excerpt from the funeral homily that I preached at his funeral Mass:

Everything my father did, every decision my father made was with not only the family in mind but also those whom he served as a golf professional. He cared deeply about his family, his members, and his customers. He worked long hours, would come home tired every day, just to get up early the next morning to do it all over again. And, he didn't get weekends off. He sacrificed his time and energy so that Shane and I could succeed and have opportunities that he himself missed out on. He sacrificed his time and energy so that his members and customers could take some time for themselves to relax and spend their time together. He sacrificed his time and energy striving to make sure everyone was taken care of. He sacrificed his own financial well-being as he worked tirelessly for his family. He will always be, for me, a model of sacrifice.

We gather together this morning to offer sacrifice ourselves. Bread and wine will be brought forward and placed on the altar to be presented to the Father as a sacrifice – the re-presentation of Christ's once and for all sacrifice as he hung on a cross. As the late Pope Benedict wrote, "The Eucharist draws us into Jesus' act of self-oblation. More than just statically receiving the incarnate *Logos*, we enter into the very dynamic of his self-giving." We are called to imitate what and who it is we celebrate. As Christ says himself, "No greater love can a man have than to lay down his life for his friends." Why do we gather at this altar this morning? To present the sacrifice to the heavenly father on behalf of my earthly father *and* that we might be all the more conformed to Christ to live sacrifice ourselves.

As we continue through this Advent season, let us be a Eucharistic people who strive to live sacrificially every day.

Know of my prayers for each one of you!

Fr. Ryan



# Mass Intentions

## Monday, December 11

8:30 am † Ron Styka by A. & J. Rosalez

## Tuesday, December 12

8:30 am † Luella Kramer by L. Waters

## Wednesday, December 13

8:30 am\* † Robert Golembiewski by D. & MB Anderson

*\*Time change this week for Lessons & Carols at 7 pm\**

## Thursday, December 14

8:30 am † Marybeth Horton by J. & R. Dionise

## Friday, December 15

8:30 am † Chuck Willems

## Saturday, December 16

5:00 pm People of the Parish

## Sunday, December 17

8:00 am † Bruce Everett by MG. Everett

10:00 am † Bernardo and † Lilia Ballesteros  
by O. Zustiak

5:00 pm † Cathy, † Greg, and † Tony Massa  
by J. Massa

# Scripture Readings

*For the Week of December 11, 2023*

## Monday

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26

## Tuesday

**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19;  
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

## Wednesday

**Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

## Thursday

**Memorial of Saint John of the Cross,  
Priest and Doctor of the Church**

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab;  
Mt 11:11-15

## Friday

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

## Saturday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19;  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

## Sunday

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54;  
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



## Altar Flowers

### Week of December 9

In Honor of Brent and Christine Patton  
on their 50th Wedding Anniversary  
by your family

## Lessons & Carols

**Wednesday, December 13**  
**7 pm in the Church**

*Daily Mass will be moved to 8:30 am*



## Intercessory Prayers

**St. Martha Parish prays  
for our brothers and  
sisters who need  
physical or spiritual  
healing, especially:**

Tom Cruce  
David Haraf  
Francesco Pipitone  
Nikki Roccas  
Ken Malkowski  
Diane Emrick  
Donald Trentel  
Sharon O'Dea  
Matthew Boersma  
Matt deLaFe  
Leslie Lavery  
Watson Ferreri  
Andrea Tanner  
John Ruh  
John Paul Erford  
Art Johnson  
Freda Winegar

Ronnie Patoprsty  
Jeffrey Rostek

**For those serving in our  
Armed Forces.**

**For † those who have  
gone before us,  
especially:**

† Mario Dionise  
† John L. Harron  
† Patricia Marrack  
† Elaine Muzi

**We offer these prayers  
in the name of Your  
Son, our Lord, Jesus  
Christ.  
Amen.**





## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children preschool through 2nd grade are welcome to join Children's Liturgy of the Word each Sunday during the 10 am Mass. Just send them up when Father makes the announcement. Parents of littles are also welcome to join. This program is free of charge.

## This Week at St. Martha

### Monday, December 11

9:00 am Reconciliation *Fr. Mike*

### Tuesday, December 12

**Happy Birthday Fr. Ryan!**

9:00 am Reconciliation *Fr. Mike*  
 9:15 am Women's Bible Study - *Bl. Solanus Casey Room*  
 6:30 pm GriefShare - *Bl. Solanus Casey Room*  
 7:30 pm Men's Pick Up Basketball - *Gym*

### Wednesday, December 13

9:00 am Reconciliation *Fr. Ryan*

**\*Mass is moved to 8:30 am today due to Lessons & Carols  
 No evening Mass, Adoration, or Benediction**

7:00 pm Lessons and Carols - *Sanctuary*  
 7:30 pm K of C General Membership Meeting

### Thursday, December 14

9:00 am Reconciliation *Fr. Mike*  
 9:15 am Prayer Quilt Ministry Open Meeting  
 - *Bl. Solanus Casey Room*  
 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal - *Choir Loft*

### Friday, December 15

9:00 am Reconciliation *Fr. Ryan*  
 9:00 am Friday Adoration until 5:45 pm Benediction

### Saturday, December 16

7:30 am Upper Room Men's Prayer Group - *Bl. Solanus Casey Room*  
 1:30 pm Ralph-Vinson Wedding  
 3:30 pm Reconciliation *Fr. Ryan*  
 6:00 pm Knights Christmas Party - *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Hall*

### Sunday, December 17

11:00 am Christmas Food Drive Sorting - *Glass Hallway*  
 11:00 am St. Vincent de Paul Open Meeting  
 - *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Hall*  
 6:00 pm High School Youth Group - *Bl. Solanus Casey Room*

## Liturgical Ministers

### Saturday, December 16 | 5:00 pm

S. M. Goldynia and M. Sellers  
 L. 1 - L. Blatnik **W/2** - B. Martell  
 A.S. J. O'Leary, A. & O. Obinwanne, H. Rustad

### Sunday, December 17 | 8:00 am

S. C. and L. Kendall  
 L. 1 - S. O'Dea **W/2** - M. Fletcher  
 A.S. S. Burkhardt, C. Ingram, O. Zayko,  
 J. Schafer - **Sub Requested**

### Sunday, December 17 | 10:00 am

S. M. and N. Bobinski  
 L. 1 - C. Flammini **W/2** - D. Ianni  
 A.S. A. Cerizza, M. & M. Johnston, M. Robinson

### Sunday, December 17 | 5:00 pm

S. J. and P. Riley  
 L. 1 - J. Dassance **W/2** - A. Readett  
 A.S. E. & J. Jungwirth, A. & G. McBride

Log in to **Ministry Scheduler Pro** to sign up for upcoming holy days and full schedules. Visit [st-martha.org/liturgicalministries](http://st-martha.org/liturgicalministries) or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



## Eucharist to Care Homes

**December 17, 2023**

**Willows of Okemos** R. Salyers  
**Brookdale, Medilodge** S. O'Dea  
**ICMCF** V. and M. Mankowski

## Please take note of our early bulletin deadlines!

Bulletin Date	Content Needed By
December 17	<i>Past due date</i>
December 24	Monday, December 11
December 31	Monday, December 18



**Easy Giving Electronically**  
 Scan the QR Code with your phone's camera, visit [st-martha.org/giving](http://st-martha.org/giving) or text "Give" to 517-200-3560

"NO GREATER LOVE" YOUTH MINISTRY  
**EXAM PREP NIGHT**  
 December 17 | 6:00 to 8:00 PM  
**FOOD + GAMES + SPACE FOR STUDYING**





## Knights Christmas Party

Saturday, December 16 | 6 pm  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Hall

RSVP by Sunday, December 10, via email to [vermeeschjn@aol.com](mailto:vermeeschjn@aol.com) and [steve.zayko@gmail.com](mailto:steve.zayko@gmail.com)

The Knights will have our annual Christmas Party to celebrate the "Reason for the Season" and say thank you to all member Knights for all the work you have done to further our four principles. All Knights and their spouses (better halves) are invited to the celebration that will include hors d'oeuvres, drinks, full dinner (Lansing Catering), Christmas Music (bring your singing voice), and Holiday Cheer.

## Christmas Food Drive

Due by Sunday, December 17

We are collecting non-perishable items such as soup, cereal, pasta, canned meat and fish, gravy, and instant potatoes. Donation boxes are in the glass hallway; cash donations can be put in the collection for perishable items. **All food donations are due Sunday, December 17.** Volunteers are needed on Sunday, December 17, at 11 am to sort and pack the food with deliveries immediately afterward. Helpers of all ages are encouraged! **If you can help with deliveries, please contact Beth Buiocchi at 517-927-2688 or [ebuiocchi1@comcast.net](mailto:ebuiocchi1@comcast.net).**



## Children's Christmas Eve Pageant

Sunday, December 24 | 3:30 pm

Rehearsal: Monday, December 18 | 6:30-7:30 pm

All children are invited to join in our Christmas Eve Children's Pageant on Christmas Eve, at 3:30 pm, right before the Christmas Eve Children's Mass. There are two ways to join in:

1. If your child would like to be Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Lead Angel, Lead Shepherd, the donkey, or Narrator, they must attend a rehearsal on Monday, December 18th from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the church.
2. If your child would like to just join in the fun without a lead role, they can come to church by 3:15 pm on Christmas Eve, wearing a shepherd or angel costume and just join in! We will meet in the glass hallway behind the church on Christmas Eve.

We are also looking for a baby to play Baby Jesus, so if you have a baby interested in being the star of the show, please contact Jackie Rosalez at [jrosalez@st-martha.org](mailto:jrosalez@st-martha.org).

# DECORATE the Church FOR CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 22 | 1 - 4 pm

Come for all or part of the time at your convenience!

Please contact Brigit Martell and let her know your availability at 517-449-1708 or [brigit.martell@gmail.com](mailto:brigit.martell@gmail.com)



## Hallow App

Perhaps you've noticed the beautiful banner as you were entering church, or maybe you picked up a card as you entered the pew! We're excited to announce a partnership with Hallow this Advent. Hallow is a Catholic prayer and meditation app that helps people deepen their relationship with God and create a daily habit of prayer through audio-guided prayer sessions ranging from 1-to-60 minutes long - there are over 10,000 prayer sessions available on the app!

Hallow is currently offering their annual Advent Pray 25 Challenge. The app makes it easy to set and achieve a goal of daily prayer this Advent. You can even set reminders on your phone so you don't forget!

Our partnership with Hallow includes FREE Hallow subscriptions for all parishioners through Easter! We hope you'll take advantage of this gift from the parish. In order to have full access to Hallow, including the Advent Pray 25 Challenge, you can scan the QR code here or visit [hallow.com/holyday](http://hallow.com/holyday) then follow the sign-up instructions.



SCAN NOW





**CALLING ALL CHILDREN GRADES 3 AND UP:**

# Come join the Christmas Eve Children's Choir!

**We will sing at the  
4pm Mass &  
Prelude**

**Two Practices Available:**

**Monday, Dec. 18 at 6:00 p.m. - Dress in Christmas (or any) PJ's!**

**Thurs, Dec. 21 at 6:00 p.m.- Decorate yourself like a Christmas Tree!\***

*\*Homemade decorations or things you already have at home.*

*Please don't buy anything new.*

**"Best Dressed" wins a prize!**

*Come one. come all!*  
**We need YOUR voice!**

Contact Mrs. Joey DiMenno  
[jdimenno@st-martha.org](mailto:jdimenno@st-martha.org)



## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday, December 23**

5:00 pm and 7:00 pm

**Sunday, December 24**

10:00 am



## **Christmas**

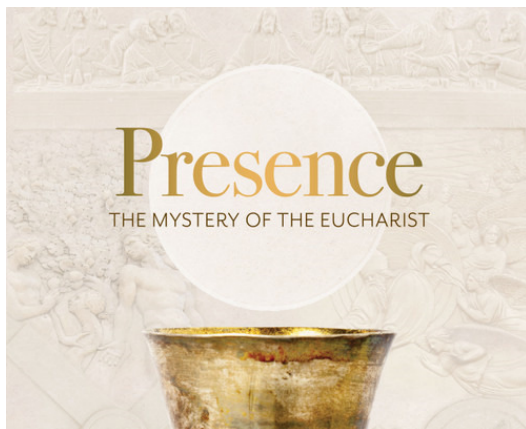
**Sunday, December 24**

4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, Midnight

**Monday, December 25**

10:00 am

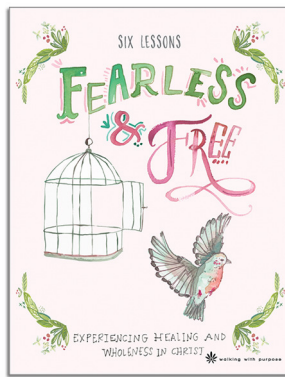




With our awesome homilies on the Eucharist, are you inspired to want to learn more?

On **Formed.org**, a streaming service that we have already purchased for all of you, **Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist** explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation.

How do you get on **Formed.org**? It is very easy, go to **Formed.org** on your computer or find the app on your phone. If you stream on TV, you can also find the app there. Click the link for individuals and follow the prompts to add your email and find your parish (St. Martha). We hope you enjoy the Presence series as well as hundreds of other movies, classes, programs, and e-books.



## Fearless and Free Saturday Morning Women's Bible Study

Beginning Saturday, January 13 | 9 - 10:30 am  
Bl. Solanus Casey Room

*Fearless and Free*, based on the book of Ephesians, is ideal for those who long for wholeness of heart and are in need of freedom from past wounds. This Bible study will run 6 weeks from January 13 through February 17. If you have any questions, please contact Hallie Card at [hcard@st-martha.org](mailto:hcard@st-martha.org)

## Preparing for Christmas with Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 12 | 7 pm

Mercy Hall, Resurrection Parish, Lansing

This December 12—the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe—join nationally acclaimed Catholic writer and speaker Meg Hunter-Kilmer as she reflects on the beauty of Mary's message at Guadalupe and the ways it opens our heart to the coming of Jesus. This event is open to all ages, with a light reception to follow, along with book sales and the chance to have them signed. They make perfect Christmas gifts!



Meg Hunter-Kilmer is a world-traveling missionary and storyteller who loves telling people about the fierce and tender love of God. She holds two degrees in theology from the University of Notre Dame, is a Fellow of the Sullivan Family Saints Initiative in the McGrath Institute for Church Life, and has written one book about Scripture (*A Year In The Word Catholic Bible Journal*) and two books about the Saints (*Saints Around the World* and *Pray for Us: 75 Saints who Sinned, Suffered, and Struggled on Their Way to Holiness*).



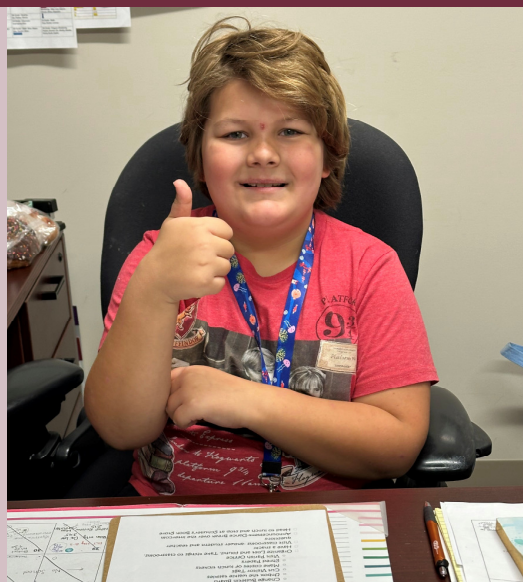
In a loving, nurturing, Christ-like environment, **Saint Martha School** guides each student to develop his or her unique ability and potential through prayer, study, and service.

Andrea Patton | Principal  
[apatton@st-martha.org](mailto:apatton@st-martha.org)

Cynthia Farnsworth | Secretary  
[cfarnsworth@st-martha.org](mailto:cfarnsworth@st-martha.org)

## Principal Barker

As part of the Fall Fundraiser, a "Principal for the Day" was auctioned off. This year our special Principal was Mr. Barker! Mr. Barker visited each of the classrooms, inspected the school, and, after all that hard work, got the enjoy lunch at Buddy's Pizza with Mrs. Patton and Fr. Ryan.







# ST. MARTHA PARISH & SCHOOL

1100 West Grand River  
Okemos, MI 48864

## Parish Mission Statement

Walking together in Word and Sacrament, the Catholic Community of Saint Martha shares the redeeming love of Christ through acts of faith, hope, and charity

[www.st-martha.org](http://www.st-martha.org)



@st.martha.okemos

### Parish Office

Phone .....517-349-1763  
Office Hours .....Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Parish & School Staff

Father Ryan Riley | Pastor ..... [frryan@st-martha.org](mailto:frryan@st-martha.org)  
Father Mike Murray | Sacramental Assistance ..... [frmike@st-martha.org](mailto:frmike@st-martha.org)  
Deacon Carl Boehlert | Deacon ..... [dcncarl@st-martha.org](mailto:dcncarl@st-martha.org)  
Deacon Jim Collom | Deacon ..... [dcnjim@st-martha.org](mailto:dcnjim@st-martha.org)  
Deacon Dave Drayton | Deacon ..... [dcndave@st-martha.org](mailto:dcndave@st-martha.org)  
Hallie Card | Director of Discipleship  
and Director of Parish Operations ..... [hcard@st-martha.org](mailto:hcard@st-martha.org)  
Gregg Alchin | Facilities Manager ..... [gachin@st-martha.org](mailto:gachin@st-martha.org)  
Andrea Patton | School Principal ..... [apatton@st-martha.org](mailto:apatton@st-martha.org)  
Cynthia Farnsworth | School Secretary ..... [cfarnsworth@st-martha.org](mailto:cfarnsworth@st-martha.org)  
Jackie Rosalez | Faith Formation Director ..... [jrosalez@st-martha.org](mailto:jrosalez@st-martha.org)  
Claudia Fountain | Youth Ministry Director ..... [cfountain@st-martha.org](mailto:cfountain@st-martha.org)  
Sam Matias | Youth Ministry Intern ..... [smatias@st-martha.org](mailto:smatias@st-martha.org)  
Tony Andorfer | Music and Liturgy Director ..... [tandorfer@st-martha.org](mailto:tandorfer@st-martha.org)  
Joey DiMenno | Children Choirs Director ..... [jdimenno@st-martha.org](mailto:jdimenno@st-martha.org)  
Claire Boomer | Administrative Assistant ..... [cboomer@st-martha.org](mailto:cboomer@st-martha.org)

### St. Martha Parish School (Preschool - Grade 8)

Phone ..... 517-349-3322  
Office Hours ..... Monday - Friday 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

### Lansing Catholic High School (Grades 9-12)

Phone ..... 517-267-2100  
Office Hours ..... Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Website ..... [lansingcatholic.org](http://lansingcatholic.org)

### Mass Opportunities

Saturday ..... 5:00 pm

Sunday ..... 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday ..... 8:30 am

Wednesday ..... 6:00 pm

Saturday ..... 9:00 am  
at St. Mary Church, Williamston

### Reconciliation Opportunities

Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday ..... after 8:30 am Mass  
until all are heard

Wednesday ..... 6:45 to 7:15 pm

Saturday ..... 3:30 to 4:30 pm

### Other times by appointment

### Prayer/Adoration Opportunities

Monday  
International Rosary ..... after 8:30 am Mass

Wednesday  
Rosary for the Unborn ..... 5:30 pm

Our Mother of Perpetual  
Help Devotions ..... 5:45 pm

Adoration ..... after 6:00 pm Mass  
until 7:20 pm Benediction

Thursday  
Rosary for Peace and  
Those Suffering From War ..... 8:00 am

Friday  
Rosary ..... after 8:30 am Mass

First Friday Adoration ..... after 8:30 am Mass  
until 3:00 pm Benediction



## Ministry Leaders

### Parish Pastoral Council

John Saltzgaber, Chair

### Finance Council

Gigi Matias, Chair

### Communication Committee

Judi Smelser and Dave Maluchnik, Chairs  
[communication@st-martha.org](mailto:communication@st-martha.org)

### Education Commission

Michael Keefe, Chair  
[educationcommission@st-martha.org](mailto:educationcommission@st-martha.org)

### Evangelization Committee

Beth Buiocchi and Mary Jo Hirt, Chairs

### Council of Catholic Women

Christine Patton, President  
[stmarthaccw@gmail.com](mailto:stmarthaccw@gmail.com)

### Knights of Columbus

Steve Zayko, Grand Knight  
[Gk10006@mikofc.org](mailto:Gk10006@mikofc.org)

### St. Vincent de Paul

Al Kearney, President

### Environment Committee

Brigit Martell, Jean Morgan, Ingrid Schwab

### Prayer Quilt Ministry

Mary Hall, Coordinator

### Service/Outreach Ministry

Renee Salyers, Coordinator

### Upper Room Men's Prayer Group

Michael Siminski and Frank Fortier

## Bulletin & Announcement Deadlines

**Bulletin Articles Must Be Emailed to [cboomer@st-martha.org](mailto:cboomer@st-martha.org) by Monday at noon** ahead the weekend requested.

**Mass Announcements Must Be Emailed to [cboomer@st-martha.org](mailto:cboomer@st-martha.org) by Wednesday at noon** ahead of the weekend requested.

**Intercessory Prayer List in the bulletin** includes sick individuals for 6 weeks (unless specified for a longer time), deceased individuals for 3 weeks, and military individuals until we are notified they are home. Please contact the parish office to add a name.

## Sacramental Information

**Baptism** Parents who are baptizing their first child will need to attend a preparation class. Please visit [st-martha.org/baptism](http://st-martha.org/baptism) to complete the registration form.

**First Reconciliation/First Communion and Confirmation** for non-school students is completed as part of our Faith Formation program. Please email Jackie Rosalez at [jrosalez@st-martha.org](mailto:jrosalez@st-martha.org).

**Marriage Preparation** begins with a meeting with the priest at least 9 months in advance of your ideal wedding date. Please email Fr. Ryan [frryan@st-martha.org](mailto:frryan@st-martha.org) to schedule an appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick** can be arranged by contacting the parish office.

**Want to become Catholic as an adult?** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is for older teens or adults who are considering becoming Catholic or just want to learn more about our Faith. Please email Deacon Carl Boehlert for more information at [cboehlert@st-martha.org](mailto:cboehlert@st-martha.org).