

The Angelus

V. 37 No. 51

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel |
Text: LM with refrain;
Latin, 9th cent; verses 1, 3-6,
para in Psalterium Canticum
Catholicarum, Cologne, 1710 |
tr by John Mason Neale, 1818-
1866; verses 2, 7 tr fr
The Hymnal 1940, alt |
Music: Processionale, 15th cent
French |
adapt by Thomas Helmore,
1811-1890 | Chant, Mode I

Verses

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who
3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who
4. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se's stem, From

1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in
2. or - d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the
3. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient
4. ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them That trust thy

1. lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of
2. path of knowl - edge show, And teach us in her
3. times didst give the law, In cloud and maj - es -
4. might - y pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry

Refrain

1. God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
2. ways to go.
3. ty and awe.
4. o'er the grave.

el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe

of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

Text: The English translation of the
Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass
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Music: Roger Holtz, b.1950, and Jane
Tervilliger, b.1952; accomp by Jane Tervilliger,
b.1952, | © 2009, International Liturgy
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My soul re - joic - es, re - joic - es in my God.

1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
2. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy, holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
3. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

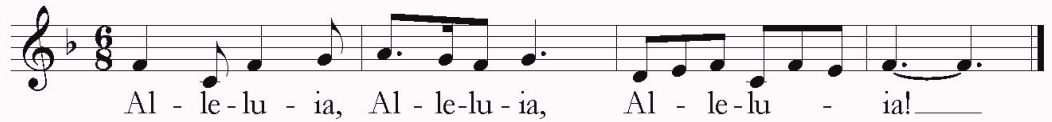
May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



The Spirit of God is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Deacon/Priest: The Lord be with you.

✠ And with your spirit.

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

✠ Glory to you, O Lord.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have

to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Deacon/Priest: The gospel of the Lord.

✠ 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

This is a Time of Waiting

David Kauffman |
 Arr by William Gokelman |
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6 This is a time of wait - ing. Sal - va - tion
 11 soon will be born. We will make read - y our
 hearts, Oh God. Pre - pare the way of the Lord.

1. No one knows the hour; no one knows the day.
What must be born in us to make a way?
2. A voice cries out in the wilderness, ready a path so straight.
What path must we walk to make a way?
3. From heaven comes redemption,
so do not be dismayed.
How can we be God's hope
and make a way?

MASS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Tony Andorfer |
 Tune: Rejoice, Rejoice |
 Marty Hangen 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

4 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.

✠ 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

On That Holy Mountain

Joe Mattingly |

Text and music © 1990, WLP



1. The wolf_ is the guest_ of the lamb,_
2. The poor_ shall re - ceive_ from the rich,_
3. _____ Jus - tice shall flow'r for all time,



1. on that ho - ly moun - tain. And the calf and the lion_
2. on that ho - ly moun - tain. And the sick and the lame
3. on that ho - ly moun - tain. — As long as the sun_



1. _____ shall lie down, on that ho - ly moun - tain.
2. _____ shall be healed, on that ho - ly moun - tain.
3. _____ still can shine, on that ho - ly moun - tain.



1. To - geth - er_ they shall rest with the_ child,
2. The wick - ed_ shall be slain by God's_ breath,
3. — Peace_ till the moon be no_ more,



1. on that ho - ly moun - tain, on that ho - ly moun - tain,
2. on that ho - ly moun - tain, on that ho - ly moun - tain,
3. on that ho - ly moun - tain, on that ho - ly moun - tain,



1. on that ho - ly moun - tain of the Lord. _____
2. on that ho - ly moun - tain of the Lord. _____
3. on that ho - ly moun - tain of the Lord. _____

REFRAIN



No harm or ruin_ on that ho - ly moun - tain.



That sa - cred day_ shall be filled with knowl - edge.



There shall be peace,_ led by all the chil - dren,



on that ho - ly moun - tain, on that ho - ly moun -



- tain, on that ho - ly moun - tain of the Lord.



Ho - ly and peace - ful the day of the moun - tain.

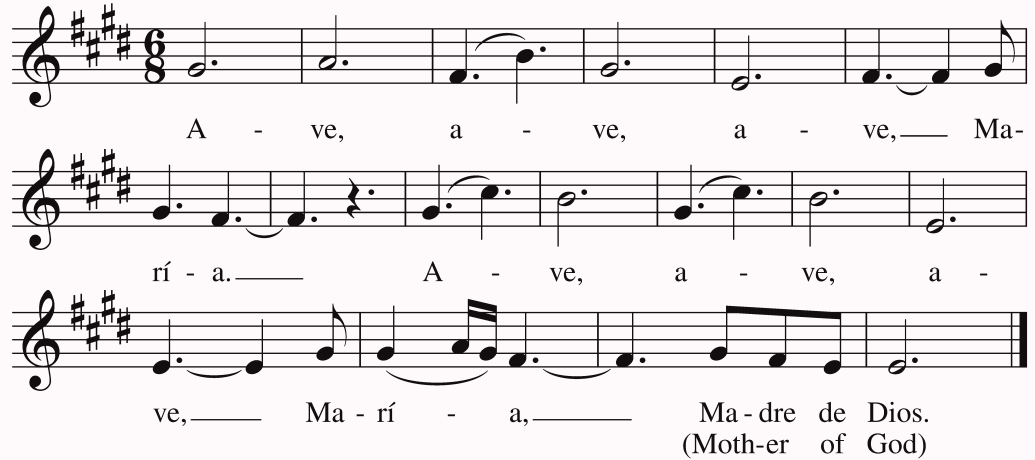
COMMUNION HYMN

Ave Maria (Madre de Dios)

John Angotti | Music copyright ©
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1. O beautiful Mother filled with God's love,
bearing the child so meek and mild, gift of God's love.
You are blessed and chosen because of your faith,
accepting God's plan, bearing the Son of Man; you are filled with grace.
So we sing your praises, O Queen of queens.

REFRAIN



A - ve, a - ve, a - ve, — Ma-
rí - a. — A - ve, a - ve, a -
ve, — Ma - rí - a, — Ma - dre de Dios.
(Moth-er of God)

2. O beautiful Mother, we pray to you for strength in our weakness
when we search for forgiveness and courage to start a-new.
Jesus your Son, born of your womb, shows us the way,
brightens each day by rising from the tomb!
So we sing your praises, O Queen of queens.

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

Savior of the Nations, Come

Text: *Veni Redemptor gentium;*
ascribed to St. Ambrose of Milan, 340-
397; German tr by Martin Luther,
1483-1546; English tr sts 1-3, 5 by
William M Reynolds, 1812-1876,
alt; st 4 by Martin L Seltz, 1909-
1967, alt | © 2006, Augsburg
Fortress |
Tune: NUN KOMM DER
HEIDEN HEIL AND 77 77;
Geistliche Gesangbuchlein,
Wittenberg, 1524



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's Son, make
2. Not by hu - man flesh and blood, But the Spir - it
3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous child Of the Vir - gin
4. From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, Back to God his
5. Bright - ly does Christ's man - ger shine, Glo - rious is its
here your home. Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh,
un - de - filed! Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son,
path - way leads; Out to van - quish death's com - mand,
light di - vine. Night can - not this light sub - due;
That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
Ea - ger now his race to run!
Back to reign at God's right hand.
Let our faith shine ev - er new.

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From the Pastor's Desk

Gospel Reflection

This week, we continue our preaching series on the Eucharist. Last week, we focused on the Eucharist as sacrifice and our call to live sacrifice - to be sacrifice - ourselves. In the Gospel this weekend, we again hear about

John the Baptist who came to give testimony of Jesus Christ.

Testimony is given through words. Jesus Christ Himself is the logos - the Word made flesh. God the Father communicates Himself through His Word - God the Son. Words matter. Words mean something. To be a Eucharistic people, our words should be life-giving rather than injurious or untruthful. Again, I want to share an excerpt from my father's funeral homily with you as we understand the Eucharist through our own use of words:

To quote Fr. Charlie Fox, Vice Rector of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, words are like nuclear power. Nuclear power has the ability to light up a city, but it also has the power to obliterate that same city. Proverbs 11:9 - "With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor." Proverbs 18:21 - "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Matthew 5:37 - "Let your yes mean yes and your no mean no. Anything more than this comes from the Evil One." Luke 6:45 - "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. First Corinthians 13:1 - "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."

Words matter. I cannot recall a conversation with my father that did not end with the words, "I love you." We live in a world where, arguably, men have

become afraid of those words. As a man, he was not afraid to say those words, and he said them often to my mom, my brother, and myself. Those words have made all the difference in my life because I never questioned whether my father loved me. Hearing those words meant that I matter and that I am somebody. I will miss hearing those words come from my father. I will miss the daily texts and phone calls. I wish I would have called more. (I have a lot of shortcomings as a son to atone for).

Words matter and words effect change. I work with high school students and spent time working with college students, and I can promise you that kids today do not hear those words often enough spoken from their fathers. So, dads, I beg you, tell your kids you love them and that you are proud of them. Do not be afraid of those words and say them often. Our kids need to hear them because those words, coming from you, their fathers, will make all the difference in your kids' lives.

Words matter and words effect change. In the Eucharistic Prayer, we pray the words of institution, the words that Jesus himself said over bread and wine, and those words transform, transubstantiate, bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Words change reality because words have power. Jesus Christ himself is the Word, the Logos, the Word made flesh, and through the Word came creation and through the Word came salvation..

As we continue our journey through Advent, let us continually beg the Lord for the grace to live what and who it is we celebrate at every single Mass - Jesus Christ. May our words be life-giving.

Know of my prayers for you all!

Fr. Ryan

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



Mass Intentions

- Monday, December 18**
8:30 am † Chuck Willems
- Tuesday, December 19**
8:30 am † Constance Kazmierski *by P. Kazmierski*
- Wednesday, December 20**
6:00 pm † Matthew Dexter *by O. Zustiak*
- Thursday, December 21**
8:30 am † Father William Wegher *by Fr. John Whitlock*
- Friday, December 22**
8:30 am † Ron Styka *by A. & S. Kearney*
- Saturday, December 23**
5:00 pm † John Kowatch *by St. Martha CCW*
7:00 pm † Mrs. Beverly Jean McCann *by B. McCann*
- Sunday, December 24**
10:00 am People of St. Martha Parish

4:00 pm Children of St. Martha Parish
7:00 pm † Gwen Sinila *by D. Sinila*
Midnight People of St. Martha Parish
- Monday, December 25**
10:00 am † Alexandra Meredith Duda
by Dr. A. Duda & Family

Scripture Readings

- For the Week of December 17, 2023*
- 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
- Monday** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
- Tuesday** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;
Lk 1:5-25
- Wednesday** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21;
Lk 1:39-45
- Friday** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
- Saturday** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14;
Lk 1:57-66
- Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent**
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
- Monday The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**
Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14;
Lk 2:1-14

Congratulations

James and Arissa may you “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
- 2 Peter 3:18



Intercessory Prayers

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

Anne Curtin
Tibus Family
Tammy Giddings
David Haraf
Francesco Pipitone
Nikki Roccas
Ken Malkowski
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:**

† Louise Jones
† Dominga Guerra
† Diane Emrick
† Tom Cruce
† Mario Dionise

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

Amen.

Christmas Food Drive

Due by this Sunday, December 17

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.

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, December 23 | 5:00 pm

S. D. Hunter and M. Sellers
L. 1 - L. Blatnik **W/2** - M. Loughlin-Krusky
A.S. D. Blatnik, A. Collom, E. & N. Jungwirth

Saturday, December 23 | 7:00 pm

S. J. and G. Ianni
L. 1 - A. Readett **W/2** - J. Hessinger
A.S. **Volunteers Needed**

Sunday, December 24 | 10:00 am

S. D. and F. Herring
L. 1 - B. Martell **W/2** - J. Dassance
A.S. **Volunteers Needed**

Sunday, December 24 | 4:00 pm

S. **Volunteers Needed**
L. Preselected Youth
A.S. C. Ingram, E. & N. Jungwirth, **Volunteer Needed**

Sunday, December 24 | 7:00 pm

S. D. and F. Herring
L. 1 - C. DeKoninck **W/2** - J. Zalba
A.S. D. Farone, **Volunteers Needed**

Monday, December 25 | 12:00 am Midnight

S. D. Bartkowski and M. Kisting
L. 1 - R. Lenz **W/2** - C. Flammini
A.S. H. Cruz, R. Maluchnik, **Volunteers Needed**

Monday, December 25 | 10:00 am

S. S. and T. O'Dea
L. 1 - L. Blatnik **W/2** - S. O'Dea
A.S. **Volunteers Needed**

Log in to **Ministry Scheduler Pro** to volunteer for an open positions and full schedules. Visit st-martha.org/liturgicalministries or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



This Week at St. Martha

Monday, December 18

9:00 am Reconciliation *Fr. Ryan*
6:00 pm Children's Choir Practice - *Lower Level Glass Hallway*
6:30 pm Christmas Eve Children's Pageant Rehearsal - *Church*

Tuesday, December 19

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

Wednesday, December 20

4:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal
6:30 pm Reconciliation *Fr. Mike*
6:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration until 7:20 Benediction

Thursday, December 21

9:00 am Reconciliation *Fr. Ryan*
9:15 am Fruits of the Spirit - Mom Group - *Bl. Solanus Casey Room*
2:00 pm Newar-Rodriguez Wedding

Friday, December 22

Parish Office Open 8:00 am - Noon

9:00 am Reconciliation *Fr. Ryan*
9:00 am Friday Adoration until 11:45 am Benediction
1:00 pm Church Decorating for Christmas

Saturday, December 23

7:30 am Upper Room Men's Prayer Group - *Bl. Solanus Casey Room*
3:30 pm Reconciliation *Fr. Mike*

Eucharist to Care Homes

December 23, 2023

Willows of Okemos R. Salyers
Brookdale, Medilodge K. Mills
ICMCF B. and C. Buiocchi



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

Please Note: Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26

Please take note of our early bulletin deadlines!

Bulletin Date	Content Needed By
December 24	Past due date
December 31	Monday, December 18
January 7	Thursday, December 28





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 Children's Pageant on Christmas Eve at 3:30 pm, right before the 4:00 pm Children's Mass. There are two ways to join in:

1. If your child would like to be Mary, Joseph, Lead Angel, Lead Shepherd, the donkey, or Narrator, they must attend a rehearsal on Monday, December 18 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.

If you have any questions, contact Jackie Rosalez at jrosalez@st-martha.org.

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!

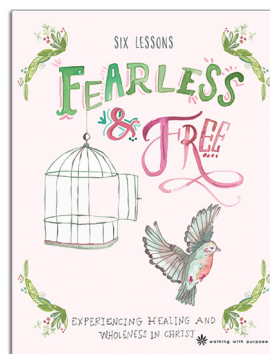
Contact Mrs. Joey DiMenno
jdimenno@st-martha.org

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



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. Books are available from the office for \$20 (cash or check) or on the first day.

If you have any questions, please contact Hallie Card at hcard@st-martha.org



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.



Confirmation Retreat

Our 9th graders preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation attended the Diocese of Lansing Confirmation Retreat: Outpouring. This amazing weekend included Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Let us pray for our Confirmandi as they continue their journey to Confirmation this April!



THE TIME TO GIVE BLOOD IS NOW



**American
Red Cross**



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Blood Drive

**Saturday, January 6, 2024
10 am - 4 pm | Solanus Casey Room**

St Martha Knights of Columbus is hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 10:00am until 4:00pm. You can register online at redcrossblood.org (Sponsor code: StMarthaOkemos)

Thank You

The Knights of Columbus St. Martha Council 10006 offers our thanks to all who participated in the 2023 Holy Cross Services Sweatshirt Collection Drive. Through your generosity, we were able to donate 45 new sweatshirts to the Holy Cross Services New Hope Center. Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas!

Tom Muncie, Chairman

Votive Candles

Don't forget our votive candles in the north entrance of the church. Lighting one or more candles is a beautiful way to honor or enhance prayer intentions for a loved one. By making a candle donation, you help our St. Vincent de Paul Conference's ongoing mission to assist vulnerable parishioners and community members in need of basic necessities - shelter, food, utilities, household goods and clothing. Thank you!

If you would like to contact the St. Martha St. Vincent de Paul conference, please call the office at (517) 349-1763 and select option #8 to leave a voicemail message. Donations can also be made to the conference through the parish website.



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

Cynthia Farnsworth | Secretary
cfarnsworth@st-martha.org

Gym Class at St. Martha

We are having a great time in Physical Education class! It has been so fun to see the camaraderie build and the skills increase with our students. Physical fitness is a wonderful gift that is given to us by God.

We had a lot of fun with Thanksgiving themed games - Pumpkin Workout, Toss the Turkey, and Pumpkin Patch. Spatial awareness, calisthenics, and game boundaries have been a focus of PE class as they transcend all athletic activities. We are looking forward to continuing our basketball unit in the next few weeks and our students will enjoy Advent and Christmas themed games. As we continue this Advent season, we are preparing for Jesus. I am blessed to help teach our Miracles that 'health is wealth!', so we are able to serve Him in all we are called to do.

Wishing you a blessed Advent season!

- Mrs. Becky Strzalkowski
PE Teacher





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



@st.martha.okemos

Parish Office

Phone517-349-1763
Office HoursMonday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Parish & School Staff

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

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

Education Commission

Michael Keefe, Chair
educationcommission@st-martha.org

Evangelization Committee

Beth Buiocchi and Mary Jo Hirt, Chairs

Council of Catholic Women

Christine Patton, President
stmarthaccw@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus

Steve Zayko, Grand Knight
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 by Monday at noon ahead the weekend requested.

Mass Announcements Must Be Emailed to 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 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.

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 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.