

**Stay**

*awake!*

## The Angelus

**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/. 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)

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Awake! Awake, and  
Greet the New Morn**

*Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950 |  
Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE, 9 8  
9 8 8 7 8 9; Marty Haugen, b.1950  
© 1983, GLA Publications, Inc.*

1. A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, For  
2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, When  
4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing; His hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing; As morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less. The ris - ing sun shall

soon\* he is born, Be - hold the Child of our long - ing!  
qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.  
qui - et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light; Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -  
Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul And hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer And love our end - less

geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door And  
kind - ness, The thun - der of his an - thems roll To  
won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And  
sto - ry. May God fill ev - 'ry day we share And

lives now in - side us for ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

### GREETING

*Priest:* In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**✠ Amen.**

*Priest:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**✠ And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

Tony Andorfer and Kate Hyme |  
© 2024

Musical score for the Penitential Act, featuring three staves of music with lyrics. The first staff is for the Cantor, and the second and third staves are for the All. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy." The music is in 6/8 time and features a simple, melodic line.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from

Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*Lector:* The word of the Lord.

**R:** Thanks be to God.

### RESPONSORIAL

#### PSALM

Psalm 122

*Text: The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc | Verse text from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 1998, 1997, 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc, Washington DC | Music: Tony Andorfer | All rights reserved |*

Musical score for the Responsorial Psalm, featuring two staves of music with lyrics. The lyrics are: "Let us go re - joic - ing to the house of the Lord." The music is in 4/4 time and features a simple, melodic line.

1. I rejoiced when they said to me, "We will go to the house of the LORD." And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.
2. Jerusalem is a city built with compact unity. It is there; it is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD.
3. According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the LORD. In it are set up judgment seats for the house of David.
4. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings.

## SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

Brothers and sisters: You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in

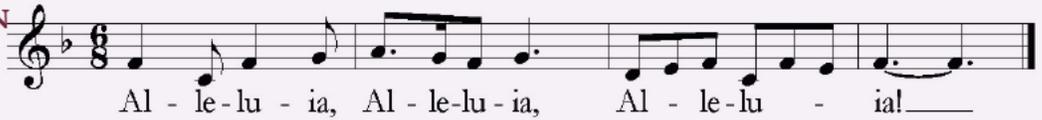
orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

*Lector:* The word of the Lord.

**✠ Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mass for Advent &  
Christmas



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

Show us Lord, your love;  
and grant us your salvation.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 24:37-44

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

*Deacon/Priest:* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**✠ And with your spirit.**

**✠ Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one

will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

*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.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER (PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL)

To each petition, all respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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### OFFERTORY HYMN

#### Jesus, Hope of the World

*Deanna Light and Paul A Tate |  
Text and music © 2001, WLP*

#### REFRAIN

Je - sus, hope of the world, ——— Je - sus,  
light in our dark - ness, ——— here we a - wait you, O  
Mas - ter Di - vine. Here we re - ceive you in bread and in  
wine: ——— Je - sus, hope of the world. ———

1. Come to us, O Son of God! Come, Lord Jesus!  
Come to us, O Son of Man! Come, Lord Jesus!  
Come, Son of God! Come, Son of Man!  
Shepherd your people in love!
2. Come to us, O Promised King! Come, Lord Jesus!  
Come to us, O Promised Peace! Come, Lord Jesus!  
Come, Promised King! Come, Promised Peace!  
Come and be Lord of our hearts!
3. Come to us, O Rising Sun! Come, Lord Jesus!  
Come to us, O Endless Light! Come, Lord Jesus!  
Come, Rising Sun! Come, Endless Light!  
Shatter the darkness of death!
4. Come to us, O Heart's Desire! Come, Lord Jesus!  
Come to us, O Saving Love! Come, Lord Jesus!  
Come, Heart's Desire! Come, Saving Love!  
Banish our doubt and our fear!

*Priest:* Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R** May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy church.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

*At the end of the prayer, all respond:* Amen.

### PREFACE DIALOGUE & PREFACE

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

**R** And with your spirit.

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

**R** We lift them up to the Lord.

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**R** It is right and just.

### SANCTUS

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!

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Mass for Advent & Christmas

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

### AMEN

Mass for Advent & Christmas

A - men — A - men, A - men

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### THE SIGN OF PEACE

### AGNUS DEI

Mass for Advent & Christmas

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

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

Let All Mortal Flesh  
Keep Silence

PICARDY |

Text: 87 87 87;

Liturgy of St James, 4th cent;

para by Gerard Moultrie,

1829-1885 |

Music: French, 17th cent



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, And with fear and  
2. King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, As of old on  
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van-guard  
4. At his feet the six-winged ser - aph; Cher - u - bim with



1. trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,  
2. earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture;  
3. on the way, As the Light of Light de - scend - eth  
4. sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the Pres - ence,



1. For with bless - ing in his hand Christ our God to earth de -  
2. In the Bod - y and the Blood He will give to all the  
3. From the realms of end - less day, That the pow'rs of hell may  
4. As with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



1. scend - eth, Our full hom - age to de - mand.  
2. faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.  
3. van - ish As the dark - ness clears a - way.  
4. lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

# COMMUNION HYMN VERSES

## Creator of the Stars of Night

*Creator alme siderum, Latin, 9th cent, | Tr by John Mason Neale | Vss © Church Pension Group | Ref: Ed Bolduc | Music: Ed Bolduc | Text (ref) and music © 2016 WLP, a div of GLA Publications, Inc.*



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your peo - ple's  
2. When we were draw - ing toward the night, You came; but  
3. At your great name, O Je - sus, now All knees must



1. ev - er - last - ing light; O Christ, Re - deem - er of us  
2. not in splen - dor bright, Not as a king but as the  
3. bend, all hearts must bow; All things on earth with one ac -



1. all, We pray you hear us when we call. *To Vs. 2*  
2. child Of Ma - ry, blame - less moth - er mild. *To Refrain*  
3. cord, Like those in heav - en, call you Lord. *To Refrain*

### REFRAIN



Come, come in your ho - ly light, we pray. O come, come re -



deem us, Lord. Come, come to your peo - ple now, we pray. O



1. *To Verse 3* 2. come, come re - deem us, Lord. Lord. Re -

### BRIDGE



joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el. Re -



joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

### FINAL REFRAIN



Come, come in your ho - ly light, we pray. O



come, come re - deem us, Lord. Come, come to your



peo - ple now, we pray. O come, come re - deem us, 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**

**Come, Emmanuel**

*Deanna Light and Paul A Tate |  
Text and music © 2001  
World Library Publications,  
a div of GLA Publications*

1. To a world awaiting the break of day, Come, Emmanuel!  
To a wand'ring people who've lost their way, Come, Emmanuel!  
Lord of heaven, yet Virgin's child, King by prophets foretold,  
to shepherds and wise men, to a manger of hay, Come, Emmanuel!

**REFRAIN**

Come, Em-man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el! Wis - dom a - wake us, rouse us and shake us!  
Come, Em - man - u - el!

2. Only you can soften our hearts of stone! Come, Emmanuel!  
You are here among us, and yet unknown! Come, Emmanuel!  
In our des'late and weary land, come and bloom like a rose.  
As light in the darkness for the lost and alone, Come, Emmanuel!
3. All the deaf shall hear and the blind shall see! Come, Emmanuel!  
And the mute shall speak and the lame run free! Come, Emmanuel!  
Sun of Justice and Prince of Peace, you are light of the world,  
who was, and who is, and who ever shall be! Come, Emmanuel!

*Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States, second typical edition, Copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970  
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# Mass Intentions

## Monday, December 1

8:20 am Intentions of Doug Hunter  
by A. Le

## Tuesday, December 2

8:20 am + Charles Valentine  
by CCW

## Wednesday, December 3

6:00 pm St. Martha Knights of Columbus  
by A. Le

## Thursday, December 4

8:20 am + Marie Babel  
by J. & L. Collom

## Friday, December 5

8:20 am Intentions of Soraya  
by A. Le

## Saturday, December 6

5:00 pm + Roberta Fugazzi  
by D. & H. Hillman

## Sunday, December 7

8:00 am + Timothy Boyd  
by J. Boyd

10:00 am People of the Parish

5:00 pm + Josh Bengel  
by D. & J. Bengel



## Altar Flowers

November 29 - December 5

### In Memory Of

Deceased members of Martyka, King,  
Koss, and Cichon Families

by Bill & Sue King

Floral arrangements may be dedicated in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Donation of \$90 covers the cost of one of the arrangements. Two are available each weekend.

Please contact the parish office (517-349-1763 or [office@st-martha.org](mailto:office@st-martha.org)) to schedule.

# Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 1, 2025

**Monday** Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday** **Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest**  
Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5,6; Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday** Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6;  
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

**Sunday** **Second Sunday of Advent**  
Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rm 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

# Intercessory Prayers

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

Frank Baldwin  
Judy Kramer  
Cheryl Granger  
Bill Nowland  
Gary Alchin  
Pat Bradshaw  
Phoebe Searl  
Shawn Rich  
Melissa Roznowski  
Richard Searl  
Jack George  
Finn O'Meara  
Adam Killingsworth  
Celia Indyk  
Henry Indyk  
Judy Richards  
Bob Blackburn  
Patrick Garvey  
Kimberly Owens  
Cindy Pendergast  
Al Kearney  
Rex Kolar  
Gabrielle Meece  
Rose McManaman  
John Paul Erford

**For those serving in our Armed Forces, especially:**

Albert Gillison,  
U.S. Space Force  
Joseph Irvin Gross,  
U.S. Navy  
Peter Harrison,  
U.S. Air Force  
Andrew Huff,  
U.S. Air Force  
Will Kordenbrock,  
U.S. Army  
Christian Menor,  
U.S. Army  
Stasu Reisner,  
U.S. Marines  
Louis Thole,  
U.S. Air Force

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

† Carol Bacile  
† Leticia Rodriguez  
† Peter Vellenga  
† Virginia DeSteyger  
† Donald Trentel  
† Darlene Nicklowsoich  
† David Martell  
† Mike Escamilla  
† Doris Bender  
† Jane Lajewski

**For † those innocent souls lost to the tragedy of abortion**

**For the Pope's December Intention: for Christians in areas of conflict**

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

Contact the office  
517-349-1763 or  
[office@st-martha.org](mailto:office@st-martha.org)  
to add an individual  
to the prayer list.

Names are listed on  
the healing list for 6  
weeks, armed forces  
until requested, and  
deceased for 3 weeks.





## Last Chance for Magnificat Orders

St. Martha's bulk pricing for February 2026 - January 2027 is just \$35 (vs. \$49 regular price). Issues will be available for pick up from the parish office. Scan the QR code to order online or contact the office to pay with cash or check. **Orders due by Monday, December 1.**



## This Week at St. Martha

### Monday, December 1

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*

### Tuesday, December 2

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*  
9:00 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

### Wednesday, December 3

6:00 pm Faith Formation, Grades 1-6  
6:30 pm Confessions *Fr. Mike*  
6:30 pm Adoration until 7:20 pm Benediction  
6:30 pm CCW December Meeting

### Thursday, December 4

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Ryan*  
7:00 pm Adult Choir - Choir Loft

### Friday, December 5

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Ryan*  
9:00 am Adoration until 9:00 pm Reposition

### Saturday, December 6

7:30 am Upper Room Men's Prayer Group - Bl. Solanus Casey Room  
11:30 am Children's Christmas Party  
3:00 pm Confessions *Fr. Ryan*

### Sunday, December 7

9:00 am Faith Formation, Grades 1-6  
9:00 am Donut Sunday - Parish Hall  
10:00 am CGS Level 1 - Atrium  
11:00 am Donut Sunday - Parish Hall  
11:00 am CGS Level 2 - Atrium  
11:00 am OCIA - Bl. Solanus Casey Room  
6:00 pm Grades 7-12 Faith Formation



## Holy Day of Obligation Masses

**Monday, December 8, 2025**

6:30 am  
8:20 am  
7:00 pm

## Liturgical Ministers

### Saturday, December 6 | 5:00 pm

S. D. Bartkowski; M. Kisting  
L. 1 - G. Styka W/2 - M. Loughlin-Krusky

### Sunday, December 7 | 8:00 am

S. C. & L. Kendall  
L. 1 - M. Finelli W/2 - E. Miller

### Sunday, December 7 | 10:00 am

S. K. and N. Leemon  
L. 1 - T. Melendez W/2 - D. Ianni

### Sunday, December 7 | 5:00 pm

S. H. Walton  
L. 1 - J. Pirich W/2 - B. Obinwanne

**Altar Servers** Volunteers at each Mass



## Ministry Scheduler Pro

Log in to **Ministry Scheduler Pro** to volunteer for open positions or for full schedules. Visit [st-martha.org/liturgicalministries](http://st-martha.org/liturgicalministries) or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



Please contact the parish office if you need assistance.

## Eucharist to Care Homes

**December 7, 2025**

Willows of Okemos	R. Salyers
Bickford of Okemos	C. Leece; L. Leece
Haslett Pointe, Medilodge	K. Mills
Dobie Road-ICMCF	J. Matuszak; M. Siminski;
	A. Rosalez

## Get Connected

Be a part of our digital congregation! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

[Facebook.com/st.martha.okemos](https://www.facebook.com/st.martha.okemos)

[Instagram.com/st.martha.okemos](https://www.instagram.com/st.martha.okemos)



### Easy Giving Electronically

Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, visit [st-martha.org/giving](http://st-martha.org/giving) or text "Give" to 517-200-3560



# From the Pastor's Desk



## **Children's Christmas Party!**

The Knights of Columbus, Council of the Catholic Women, Jackie Rosalez, and Andrea Patton have all come together to plan an amazing Christmas party for the children! I encourage all our parents to bring your kids. There will be lunch, games, and even a visit from Santa Claus! We will gather in the parish hall on December 6 at 11:30 am. I hope to see you there!

## **Lessons and Carols**

Please mark your calendars for our third annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 11 beginning at 6:30pm. Afterwards we will again gather in the glass hallway for some Christmas cheer including mulled wine, hot cider, and Christmas cookies. This is always a very well attended event and something I look forward to each year.

## **Gospel Reflection**

Today we celebrate the first Sunday of the Advent season - the great season of waiting ushering in a new liturgical year. Advent is meant to be a penitential season, much like Lent, as we move toward the great solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord. There is, however, a sweetness to the Advent season even if it is meant to be a bit penitential. As an aside, Advent is my favorite season of the year!

What are we waiting for? We certainly await the celebration of the birth of the savior - Christ's first coming. But, Advent and the celebration of Christmas are meant to point us to Christ's second coming. This is why our readings today kind of pick up where we left off at the end of the liturgical season the previous few weeks. Recall, at the end of the liturgical year the Church asks us to contemplate the four last things - death, judgment, heaven, and hell. Now, as we begin the new liturgical year and the season of Advent, our readings take on a similar theme - the end - thereby pointing us to Christ's second coming.

The book of Isaiah is filled with Messianic prophecies so our first reading for the entirety of Advent will come from Isaiah. But, in this first Sunday, though Isaiah is prophesying about the coming of the Messiah, we also read that He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. This is a clear foreshadowing of the Messiah's justice and the judgment that will befall all of us in the end times.

In our second reading St. Paul exhorts all of us to wake from our sleep for our salvation is nearer than we believed. In other words, we are moving toward the end - either because of the certainty of our death or because of Christ's second coming. Regardless, we are called to throw off the darkness of this world that is so seductive and attractive and put on the armor of light that is Jesus Christ.

In our Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we do not know on which day your Lord will come. What are we to do? Prepare ourselves *for at an hour we do not expect, the Son of Man will come.*



## **ST. MARTHA CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Saturday, December 6th - 11:30 AM-1:30 PM**  
in the parish hall

**All families are invited**

**We will have a taco lunch, games, and a gift and visit from Santa.**

**If you would like, you can bring a toy to donate to a child in need.**

**Please RSVP here:**

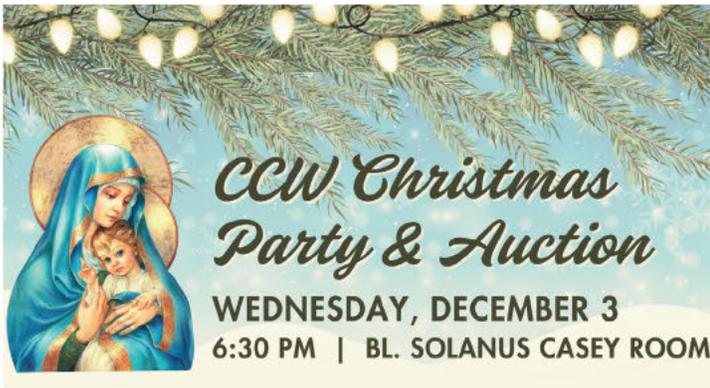


As we enter this great season, let us pray for the grace to wait well. The bridegroom is long delayed and it is easy to tire of waiting. Waiting brings tension, discomfort, and even uncertainty. Our culture prizes speed, instant gratification, constant entertainment, and spectacle. Waiting can seem boring and slow. Let us wait well! Let us wait well by not being distracted with everything that pulls us out of relationship with Jesus Christ. Let us wait well by remaining steadfast in our relationship with Christ through our prayer, our worship, our penance, and our meditation on the Word of God.

May this Advent season be for us a time to recommit ourselves to the Lord as we wait for our earthly sojourn to end and the coming of our Lord in his glory.

Know of my prayers for you all!  
Fr. Ryan





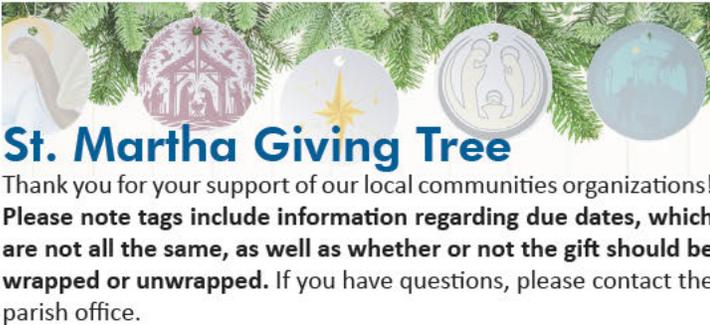
*CCW Christmas Party & Auction*  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3**  
 6:30 PM | BL. SOLANUS CASEY ROOM



**LESSONS & CAROLS**

**Thursday, December 11**  
**6:30 pm in the Church**

*Light Refreshments to Follow*



**St. Martha Giving Tree**

Thank you for your support of our local communities organizations!  
**Please note tags include information regarding due dates, which are not all the same, as well as whether or not the gift should be wrapped or unwrapped.** If you have questions, please contact the parish office.



**Sweatshirt Drive**

The Knights of Columbus, Okemos St. Martha Council 10006 is once again collecting sweatshirts for Holy Cross Services residents. NEW sweatshirts in youth sizes XS, S, M, L and adult sizes S, M, L, XL are requested with pro sports or college logos. Quality is more important than quantity. Remember that your gift may be the only one they receive this Christmas. Place the sweatshirts in a decorated gift box and write the size on the outside. If it is gender specific, please mark it accordingly in large, easy to read lettering. The sweatshirts can be dropped off at the St. Martha Parish office. **The drop off deadline is 12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 3.** Thank you for your participation! Please contact Tom Muncie at 517.927.8370 or [tmuncie@juno.com](mailto:tmuncie@juno.com) with any questions.

# Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord

PSALM 122:1

## CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

3rd Grade and up

**December 24**  
 3:30 Prelude  
 4:00 Mass

**Rehearsal**  
 Monday, Dec. 22  
 6:00  
 Followed by PIZZA  
 Parish Hall

[jdimenno@st-martha.org](mailto:jdimenno@st-martha.org)



All children are invited to join in our Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant on **December 24th at 3:30 pm**, just before the 4 pm Children's Mass.

You can join in 2 different ways:

1. If you would like to be a narrator, Mary, Joseph, one of the Wise Men, the donkey, the star, the lead angel, or the lead shepherd, you must attend a rehearsal on Monday, December 22nd, from 6-7 pm in the church. We will choose the roles at that time, OR

2. You can join us on Christmas Eve in the glass hallway behind the church by 3:15 pm to be an angel, shepherd, or farm animal. You can join us in costume, or we will have some costumes available.

**We also need a baby for Baby Jesus. If you would like your baby to have this fun role, please contact Jackie Rosalez at [jrosalez@st-martha.org](mailto:jrosalez@st-martha.org)**



### Ministry Leaders

#### Parish Pastoral Council

Anne Readett, Chair

#### Finance Council

Gigi Matias, Chair

#### Communication Committee

Judi Smelser and Dave Maluchnik, Chairs  
communication@st-martha.org

#### Evangelization Committee

Beth Buiocchi and Mary Jo Hirt, Chairs

#### Council of Catholic Women

Lauren VanSteel, President  
stmarthaccw@gmail.com

#### Knights of Columbus

Johnathan Drushel-Smith, Grand Knight  
gk10006@mikofc.org

#### St. Vincent de Paul

Sandy Kearney, President

#### Environment Committee

Brigit Martell, Jean Morgan

#### 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 [bulletin@st-martha.org](mailto:bulletin@st-martha.org) by Monday at noon ahead of the weekend requested.

**Mass Announcements** Must be emailed to [office@st-martha.org](mailto:office@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

**Baptisms** take place the 2nd Sunday of each month. Parents who are baptizing their first child will need to attend a class. Visit [st-martha.org/baptism](http://st-martha.org/baptism) to get started.

**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 visit [st-martha.org/marriage](http://st-martha.org/marriage) to complete the form to get the process started.

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

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



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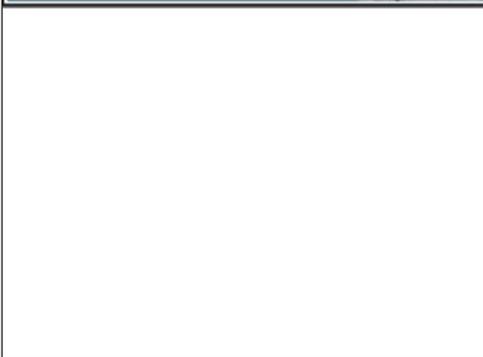
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