

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.



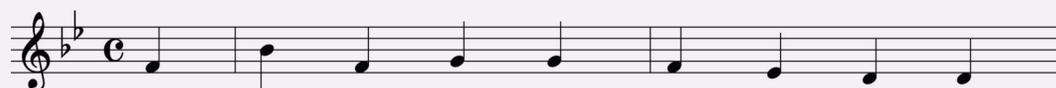
INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

On Jordan's Bank

*Text: Jordanis oras praevia;
Charles Coffin, 1676-1749;
tr by John Chandler, 1806-1876,
ali*

*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.

GREETING

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

R Amen.

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

R And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

*Tony Andorfer and Kate Hyne |
© 2024*

Cantor: Lord have mer - cy. *All:* Lord have mer - cy.
Cantor: Christ have mer - cy. *All:* Christ have mer - cy.
Cantor: Lord have mer - cy. *All:* Lord have mer - cy.

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ

welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: *Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.*

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*

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

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.

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: *A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.* John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do

not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN

Be the Light

Ed Bolduc and Jack Busche | Text and music © 2015 World Library Publications, a div. of GLA 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.

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
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.



1.-2. To Verses | Final 2

FINAL

Holy and
peaceful the day
of the mountain.

COMMUNION HYMN

The King Shall Come

Text: Greek; tr by John Brownlie,
1859-1925, alt |

Music © 2013, Trevor Thomson |
Published by Spirit & Song®,
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-ri-ous, 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-ri-ous 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.

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.

*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 8

- 6:30 am Alexander William
by A. Lang
8:20 am Michalyn
by A. Le
5:00 pm People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 9

- 8:20 am Lawrence & Catherine Blatnik

Wednesday, December 10

- 6:00 pm + Laura Hamtil
by The Wolff Family

Thursday, December 11

- 8:20 am + Mike Wolff
by The Wolff Family

Friday, December 11

- 8:20 am + Tim Wolff
by The Wolff Family

Saturday, December 13

- 5:00 pm Mark Foldenauer
by C. Foldenauer

Sunday, December 14

- 8:00 am People of the Parish
10:00 am + Joseph Pohl
by D & J Morgan
5:00 pm + Dr. Kenneth Murray
by Leo Kennedy

Altar Flowers

December 6-12

In Memory Of

Timothy Boyd

by Jeanne Boyd

In Memory Of

Kenneth Dec

by The Dec Family



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.

Dates are available in 2026, please contact the parish office (517-349-1763 or office@st-martha.org) to schedule.

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 8, 2025

- Monday** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday** Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday** Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
- Friday** Zech 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38
- Saturday** Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday** Third Sunday of Advent
Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Intercessory Prayers

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

Richard Hollowood
Frank Baldwin
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:

† Leticia Rodriguez
† Peter Vellenga
† Virginia DeSteyger
† Donald Trentel
† Darlene Nicklowsovich

For † those innocent souls lost to the tragedy of abortion

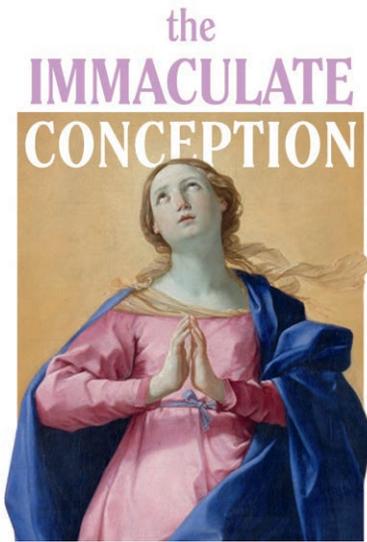
For the Pope's November Intention: for the prevention of suicide

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
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.





Holy Day of Obligation Masses

Monday, December 8, 2025

6:30 am, 8:20 am, & 6:30 pm

This Week at St. Martha

Monday, December 8

8:50 am No Confessions

Tuesday, December 9

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 10

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

Thursday, December 11

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Ryan*
 6:30 pm Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 12

6:30 pm Confessions *Fr. Ryan*
 9:00 pm Adoration until 9:00 pm Benediction

Saturday, December 13

7:30 am Upper Room Men's Prayer Group - Bl. Solanus Casey Room
 3:00 pm Confessions *Fr. Mike*

Sunday, December 14

9:00 am Faith Formation, Grades 1-6
 10:00 am Faith Formation CGS Level I (Ages 3-5)
 11:00 am OCIA - St. Kateri Room
 11:00 am Faith Formation CGS Level II (Grades 1 & 2)
 11:00 am St. Vincent de Paul Open Meeting

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, December 13 | 5:00 pm

S. D. and L. McAlvey
 L. 1 - N. Buckwalter W/2 - K. Draths

Sunday, December 14 | 8:00 am

S. C. and L. Kendall
 L. 1 - S. Zayko W/2 - J. Hessinger

Sunday, December 14 | 10:00 am

S. J. and K. Ault
 L. 1 - W. Otlewski W/2 - S. Grillo

Sunday, December 14 | 5:00 pm

S. J. and P. Riley
 L. 1 - A. Readett W/2 - N. Vozzo

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 or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



Please contact the parish office if you need assistance.

Eucharist to Care Homes

December 14, 2025

Willows of Okemos	R. Salyers
Bickford of Okemos	C Leece; L Leece
Haslett Pointe, Medilodge	S. Kostaroff
Dobie Road-ICMCF	V. and M.K. Mankowski

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 or text "Give" to 517-200-3560



From the Pastor's Desk



Mass Intentions

As we enter the new liturgical year, I think it is a good idea to revisit the guidelines for Mass intentions. When I first arrived here there was much confusion about Mass intentions. The Code of Canon Law guides our decisions and policies regarding Mass intentions and, in effort to help ensure that most everyone who desires a Mass intention

can schedule such an intention, we limit the number of Mass intentions from any one individual to 6 per year with no more than 2 for a weekend Mass. The policies we implemented three years ago can be found below:

Guidelines for Mass Intentions

Universal Church discipline as contained in canons 945 – 958 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law strictly regulates the offerings made for the celebration of Mass.

The Mass Intention Book will only be opened one year in advance from the date the request is being made. For example, if one comes to the parish office to request a Mass intention on August 17, 2026, the Mass Intention Book will only be opened through August 17, 2027.

A Mass intention may be requested for: an individual who is deceased; a living person who is sick or suffering; a living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special moment in their life; in thanksgiving to God (including the Lord Jesus or the Holy Spirit); in thanksgiving for a prayer from a Blessed or a Saint; or for a prayer intention (so long as the intention does not contradict Church teaching).

A Mass intention may not be requested for a prayer intention that contradicts Catholic moral doctrine.

Lengthy intention listings cannot be published in the bulletin and must be edited for the sake of brevity. Since the purpose of publishing the intention in the bulletin is to notify the parish of the intention, we suggest the omission of middle initials, titles, etc. Each intention is limited to either three names or one group. Please be sure to indicate if the person for whom the Mass is requested is living or dead.

A maximum of six (6) intentions per year from any one individual may be scheduled at the parish with no more than two (2) scheduled for a weekend Mass.

Requests will be honored on a first-come, first served basis in the order in which the request is received at the Parish Office.

A \$10 stipend, as determined by the provincial bishops, is suggested for each Mass request. Canon Law requires that all stipends taken for Mass intentions be said for the intention as designated.

Please note that Mass intentions may be requested for Sundays, most holidays, and weekdays throughout the year. Mass intentions cannot be scheduled for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, or All Souls Day (November 2). One Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation must be scheduled for the intentions of our parishioners known as pro populo (for the people) as required by canon law. Scheduling of multiple 'stipend' intentions for one Mass is prohibited by canon law.

Mass intentions will be granted as close to the requested date and time as possible. If it is not possible to comply with the primary request, the next closest date and time will be scheduled.

The schedule of Mass intentions is subject to change according to the Mass schedule and there is no promise that they will be said on the scheduled day due to priest illness, schedule change, diocesan obligation, etc. Attempts will be made to contact the concerned parties ahead of time, but that is not always possible.

Gospel Reflection

In our Gospel today we hear the familiar exhortation of St. John the Baptist, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" Like the season of Lent, Advent is a kind of penitential season. I use the phrase kind of because the Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Roman Calendar say that the season of Advent is a period of devout and expected delight. That being said, in John Grondelski's 2019 article in the National Catholic Register titled *Is Advent a Penitential Season?*, he gives a theological reasoning for penance during the season of Advent.

Quoting St. Anselm, he asks the question, "Why did God become man?" He points to the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed that we profess each Sunday - for us men and for our salvation. The speculative theological question that is still debated amongst theologians is would the Incarnation have happened if man had not sinned? Answering that question is not the point of this reflection. Perhaps another article...

God became man because man had indeed sinned. Man was in need of something - salvation. In order for heaven to be opened up to us, God entered the realm of humanity to draw us back to himself. He pursued us...and continues to pursue us. The incarnation was God's great rescue mission to pay the debt that humanity could not pay on its own.

Continued on page 14



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.



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



Early Bulletin Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin

Submissions Due On

December 14 - 3rd Sun. Advent Mon., December 8

December 21 - 4th Sun. Advent Wed., December 10

December 28 - Holy Family Wed., December 17

DECORATE the Church FOR CHRISTMAS

Monday, Dec. 22 | 9am -1 pm | Church

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](tel:517-449-1708) or bmartell@st-martha.org

LESSONS & CAROLS

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

Light Refreshments to Follow



CCW Poinsettia Sale Pick Up

December 6 & 7 | After All Masses | Bl. Solanus Casey Room

If you ordered from the Poinsettia Sale, be sure to pick up your flowers and wreaths from the Bl. Solanus Casey Room after Masses this weekend.



From the Pastor's Desk Continued

The point is Advent prepares us for Christmas - the celebration of the Incarnation - and for Christ's second coming which, at that time, each of us will be judged. So, there is a theological basis for the season of Advent being a penitential season.

John the Baptist exhorts each of us to, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" In the Act of Contrition that we recite in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we pray, "I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin." I think the questions before us are, for what am I in need of repentance? What are my particular sins? Let's take that a step further. Am I really willing to try to avoid those same sins or those occasions that might lead me into sin?

I recall years ago meeting with someone who said they weren't really trying to stop their particular sins. As we continued the conversation and processed everything, this person realized that they did not actually believe what they had said. They did, in fact, want to stop sinning in particular ways. There were, however, underlying emotions, thoughts, feelings, and even past trauma that led them to seek out particular sins and behavior. This was a moment of real grace because this realization and insight gave the Lord a chance to speak truth into the person's heart. The truth that this person longed to hear, know, and understand was that they were loved - that they mattered. You see, our sins are just symptoms of something deeper.

These remaining weeks of Advent can be for us a period of that same real grace. St. Paul writes, "We know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold into slavery to sin. What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate" (Romans 7:14-15). I think we can all relate to St. Paul.

As we move through these remaining weeks before the great solemnity of Christmas, let's try to cast our nets out into the depths of our hearts. Let us ask the Lord for insight into why we do the things we do not want to do. Where are those places deep within ourselves that we are afraid to go? Why are we afraid to go there? Perhaps we're afraid that we will judge ourselves too harshly. The Lord wants to speak truth into the depths of our very beings. The truth is we are loved so much that God became one of us and paid the ultimate price - the debt that we could not pay ourselves.

May these remaining weeks of Advent be life changing for us. May we rend our hearts before the gentleness of God who longs to bring healing through our repentance and our continued conversion.

Know of my prayers for you all!

Fr. Ryan



Welcome to Cheryl!

Cheryl comes to us after nine and a half years of dedicated service at the diocesan level, where she supported multiple ministries as an Administrative Assistant including the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis and most recently serving the Chief Finance Officer as a member of the Diocesan Finance Team in Lansing.

Cheryl's work has reflected her God-given gifts of encouragement, helps, service, hospitality, and administration, lived out quietly and faithfully behind the scenes. As she transitions from her diocesan role into parish life, Cheryl is excited to bring her gifts into our community, "much like St. Martha, who served the Lord with practical love, attentiveness, and a welcoming heart."

Cheryl and her husband, Alan, live in St. Johns, Michigan. Their family has expanded as their three grown children have married, and they now revel in time spent with their six grandchildren.

Cheryl expressed that, "It is a true blessing to have this opportunity to be joining the St. Martha's staff team. I am joyfully looking forward to enlisting my skills in service to the Church's mission and the daily life of this vibrant parish who seeks to share the redeeming love of Christ through acts of faith, hope and charity. All glory and praise be to God!"

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Wednesday, December 24
4:00pm
7:00pm
11:00pm

Thursday, December 25
10:00am

Knights Adult Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14 | 6 pm | Parish Hall

The St. Martha Knights of Columbus Council 10006 will be hosting our annual Christmas Party for our members to celebrate the "Reason for the Season" on Saturday December 13, 2025 at 6 pm in the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall.

This is the Council's way of saying THANK YOU to all member Knights for all the work you have done this past year to further our four principles. All Knights and their spouses (better halves) are invited to the celebration.



Our middle school students recently joined the National Youth Conference virtually and took part in a live Q&A session with Pope Leo XIV. The Holy Father spoke to them about God's mercy, friendship with Jesus, and the importance of living their faith with courage and joy.

Pope Leo reminded the students that none of us is perfect, but sin never has the final word. Jesus always welcomes us back, especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When we feel sad or overwhelmed, he encouraged the students to turn to Jesus as a true friend by speaking to Him honestly in prayer and spending time with Him in Adoration. "He always hears you, and He is always with you."

The pope also talked about real friendships and authentic communication. True friends help us grow closer to Christ, and honest conversations allow Jesus to work through the people in our lives.

Addressing technology, Pope Leo urged students to use it wisely. While helpful for prayer and learning, it can never replace real, in-person relationships. He encouraged them to think critically, use technology for good, like St. Carlo Acutis, and remember that AI can assist but cannot replace human wisdom.

When asked about the Church's future, Pope Leo offered great hope: Jesus will always guide His Church, and young people are an essential part of it right now. He encouraged students to attend Mass, pray, serve others, read Scripture, and stay close to the sacraments.

The pope closed by reminding the youth that they are called to greatness. God has a plan for each of them whether in family life, religious life, or service to the Church. "Dream big and be open to what God wants you to do."

May our students continue to grow as missionary disciples, sharing the joy and light of Christ with the world!

Andrea Patton, Principal

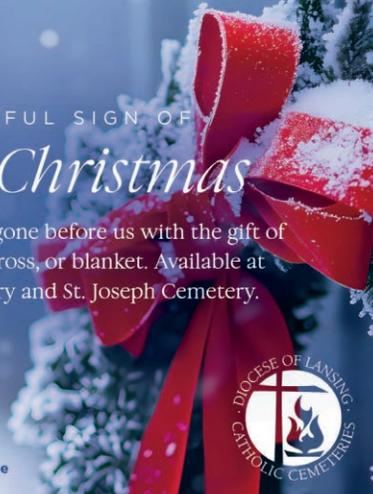


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*Wed., Jan. 14
6:30-8 pm*



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TUITION & FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION NIGHT

*Tues., Feb. 3
6 pm in the Library*

A presentation by Renee Fischman from our Tuition Office about the financial aid process and how we support families in making a Lansing Catholic education affordable.

Questions?

Claire Boomer C08, Admissions Director
claire.boomer@lansingcatholic.org
Office: 517-267-2113

Renee Fischman, Tuition Office
renee.fischman@lansingcatholic.org
Office: 517-267-2107

WOMEN'S ADVENT BRUNCH

WITH GUEST SPEAKER 
SHERI WOHLFERT

SAVE THE DATE!

Ladies are encourage to "host" a table and invite 4-8 other women. In their group they will bring all of the food, dishes and any decor they would like to make their table pretty. Coffee, juice, tea and water will be provided.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT ELCATHOLICS.ORG/UPCOMING EVENTS



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

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- What should I do after college?
- How do I know if I am ready to marry my girlfriend/boyfriend?
- What if God is calling me to priesthood or a religious vocation?
- Should I volunteer or take a gap year?
- How do I invite God into the "big decisions" in my life?

REGISTRATION
Scan the code or visit to register <https://tinyurl.com/discernment-retreat>
Questions: Contact Katie Gleason at kgleason@dioceseoflansing.org





“Repent, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!”

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.



Daily Mass Opportunities

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm
Monday, Tuesday 8:20 am
Wednesday 6:00 pm
Thursday, Friday 8:20 am
Saturday 9:00 am
at St. Mary Church, Williamston

Confessions Opportunities

Monday, Tuesday after 8:20 am Mass
until all are heard
Wednesday 6:45 to 7:15 pm
Thursday, Friday after 8:20 am Mass
until all are heard
Saturday 3:00 to 4:30 pm
Other times by appointment

Adoration Opportunities

Wednesday ... Adoration after 6:00 pm Mass
until 7:20 pm Benediction
Friday Adoration after 8:20 am Mass
until 9:00 pm Reposition

St. Martha Parish Office

Phone 517-349-1763
Email office@st-martha.org
Website www.st-martha.org
Facebook and Instagram @st.martha.okemos
Parish Office Hours Monday - Friday 8 am - 4 pm

Father Ryan Riley

Pastor
frryan@st-martha.org

Father Mike Murray

In Residence
frmike@st-martha.org

Deacon Jim Collom

OCIA Coordinator
dcnjim@st-martha.org

Deacon Dave Drayton

Outreach Ministries
dcndave@st-martha.org

Kimberly Keefe

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Gregg Alchin

Facilities Manager
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Jackie Rosalez

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Tony Andorfer

Director of Music and Liturgy
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Joey DiMenno

Director Children's Choirs
jdimenno@st-martha.org

Monica Amoroso

Communications Assistant
mamoroso@st-martha.org

St. Martha Parish School (Preschool - Grade 8)

Phone 517-349-3322
School Office Hours 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

Andrea Patton

School Principal
apatton@st-martha.org

Cynthia Farnsworth

School Secretary
cfarnsworth@st-martha.org

Lansing Catholic High School (Grades 9-12)

Phone 517-267-2100
Website lansingcatholic.org



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communication@st-martha.org

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smarthaccw@gmail.com

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gk10006@mikofc.org

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Sandy Kearney, President

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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 by Monday at noon ahead of the weekend requested.

Mass Announcements Must be emailed to 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

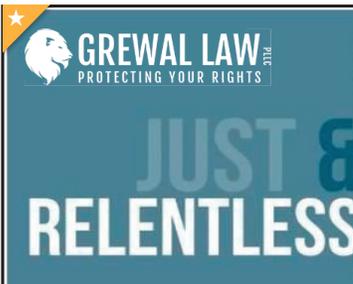
Baptisms take place the 2nd Sunday of each month. Parents who are baptizing their first child will need to attend a class. Visit st-martha.org/baptism to get started.

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.

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 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.



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