

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

December 28, 2025

V. 39 No. 53



ST. MARTHA
PARISH & SCHOOL

1100 West Grand River
Okemos, MI 48864

517-349-1763 | www.st-martha.org

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY | Text: 87 87 77;
Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander,
1818-1895, alt |
Music: Henry J Gauntlett,
1805-1876



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly
2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is God and
3. And through all his won - drous child - hood He would hon - or
4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by day like
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own re -



1. cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by
2. Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a sta - ble,
3. and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly maid - en
4. us he grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and help - less,
5. deem - ing love; For that child so dear and gen - tle



1. In a man - ger for his bed. Mar - y was that
2. And his cra - dle was a stall. With the poor and
3. In whose gen - tle arms he lay. Chris - tian chil - dren
4. Tears and smiles like us he knew: And he feels for
5. Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove: And he leads his



1. moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.
2. mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
3. all should be Kind, o - be - dient, good as he.
4. all our sad - ness, And he shares in all our glad - ness.
5. chil - dren on To the place where he has gone.

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.

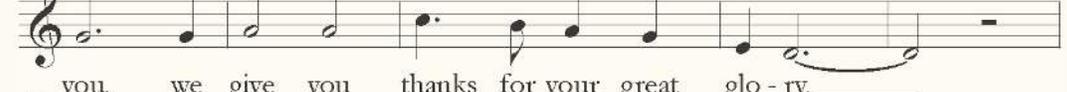
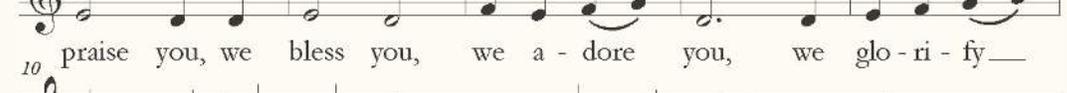
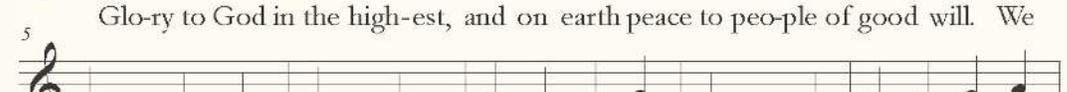
℟: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

GLORIA

Mass for Saint Martha

Tony Andorfer |
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Music © 2025, Tony Andorfer |
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Lord God, heav-en-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa-ther. Lord Je-sus Christ,

24 On - ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the

28 Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on

32 us; you take a-way the sins of the world, re - ceive our

36 prayer; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther,

40 have mer-cy on us. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

44 you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

48 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

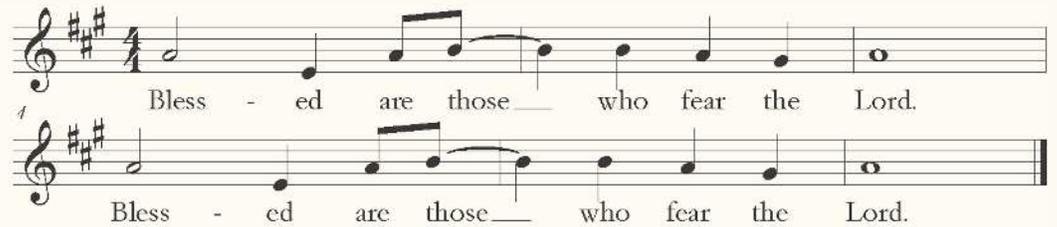
℟: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL

PSALM

Psalm 128

Text: The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc | All rights reserved | 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 | All rights reserved | Music: Tony Andorfer | All rights reserved



1. Blessed are you who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.
2. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home;
your children like olive plants around your table.
3. Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD, who fears the Lord.
The LORD will bless you from Zion: may you see prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-21

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts

to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

ACCLAMATION

Festival Alleluia

*James Chepponis |
© 1999 MorningStar Music
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Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

GOSPEL

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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.**

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, *Out of Egypt I called my son.*

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those

who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, *He shall be called a Nazorean.*

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

Unto Us

*Text: Adapt from Is 9:5 by
PAT |
Paul A Tate |
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1. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone!

REFRAIN

Un-to us — a child is born, un-to us a Son is
giv - en: Might-y God — and Prince of Peace,
Sav - ior of the world! —————

2. He comes with abundant joy, with everlasting peace.
Upon his shoulders dominion rests forevermore!
3. We await the blessed hope, the glory of our God,
who gives himself to deliver us from sin and death!
4. Announce his salvation day after day; bless God's holy name,
for today is born our Savior: Christ the Lord!

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

℟: **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.

℟: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

℟: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

℟: **It is right and just.**

SANCTUS

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!
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

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

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.

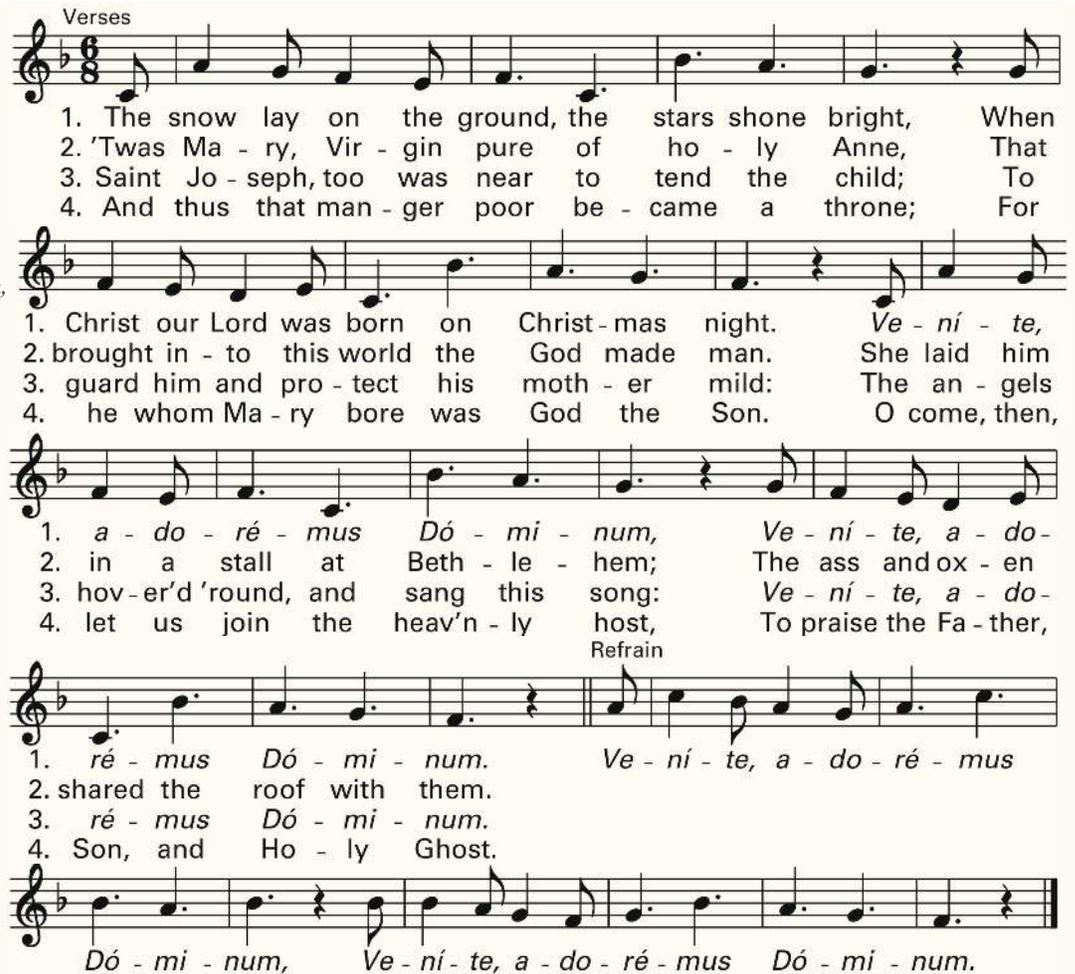
COMMUNION HYMN

The Snow Lay on the Ground

VENITE ADOREMUS |
Text: 10 10 10 10 with refrain;
based on Isaiah 7:14; 19th cent;
anon | Music: Trad melody;
adapt in

Catholic Hymns, Albany, New York,
1860

Verses



1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright, When
2. 'Twas Ma - ry, Vir - gin pure of ho - ly Anne, That
3. Saint Jo - seph, too was near to tend the child; To
4. And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne; For

1. Christ our Lord was born on Christ - mas night. *Ve - ní - te,*
2. brought in - to this world the God made man. She laid him
3. guard him and pro - tect his moth - er mild: The an - gels
4. he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O come, then,

1. a - do - ré - mus Dó - mi - num, *Ve - ní - te, a - do -*
2. in a stall at Beth - le - hem; The ass and ox - en
3. hov - er'd 'round, and sang this song: *Ve - ní - te, a - do -*
4. let us join the heav'n - ly host, To praise the Fa - ther,

Refrain

1. ré - mus Dó - mi - num. *Ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus*
2. shared the roof with them.
3. ré - mus Dó - mi - num.
4. Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Dó - mi - num, Ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus Dó - mi - num.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let It Be Done

Chris Muglia |
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1. When she heard the voice of God calling her to be the instrument he needed to bring our world the King of Kings, she could not understand the wisdom of God's plan, but still she answered: "Let it be. Let it be done unto me."
2. When he heard the voice of God calling him to stand and take the virgin as his wife and teach her child to be a man, he could not understand the wisdom of God's plan, but still he answered: "Let it be. Let it be done unto me."

Refrain



And we say: "Yes, Lord, we're read-y to re-ceive.
Yes, Lord, we're read-y to be-lieve. Let it be.
Let it be done un-to me."

3. When we hear the voice of God calling out our names, Lord, we pray you give us faith to answer you in anything, And we may not understand the wisdom of your plan, but we will answer: "Let it be. Let it be done unto me."

**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
Hark! The Herald
Angels Sing**

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788,
alt |
Tune: MENDELSSOHN, 77 77
D with refrain;
Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847*



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er -
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of
new - born King! Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
last - ing Lord! Late in time be - hold him come,
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his
na - tions, rise; Join the tri - umph of the skies;
God - head see; Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,
With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

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Mass Intentions

Monday, December 29

8:20 am Lisa Maier
by A. Lang

Tuesday, December 30

8:20 am + Jean Frye
by D. & J. Bengel

Wednesday, December 31

6:00 pm Intentions of the People of the Parish

Thursday, January 1

10:00 am + Bryan Smith
by I. Stines

Friday, January 2

8:20 am + Julianna Melo
by P. Oricchio

Saturday, January 3

5:00 pm + Fr. David Hudgins by T. & I. Schwab

Sunday, January 4

8:00 am Intentions of the People of the Parish
10:00 am + Judith Martell by A. & S. Readett
5:00 pm + Steve W. Beck by J. & J. Persico



Mass Intentions

Masses are being scheduled on a first come, first serve basis up to one calendar year in advance. For example, on December 28, 2026, Masses through December 28, 2026 are open. Masses are stipended at \$10 per Mass.

Altar Flowers

Two floral arrangements are available each weekend with many openings throughout 2026 for \$90 per floral arrangement.

To schedule Mass Intentions or Altar Flowers, please contact the Parish Office.

Intercessory Prayers

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

Katie Foster
Paul Loconto
Richard Hollowood
Frank Baldwin
Richard Searl
Jack George
Finn O'Meara
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:

† Ginny Bower
† Fran Sorber
† William Romsek

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
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.

**Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God**
Holy Day of Obligation Mass Times
December 31 ~ 6:00pm
January 1 ~ 10:00am



Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 28, 2025

- Monday** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
- Tuesday** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a; 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40
- Wednesday** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18
- Thursday** **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
Num 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
- Friday** **Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**
1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28
- Saturday** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
- Sunday** **The Epiphany of the Lord**
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 2:1-12

This Week at St. Martha

Monday, December 29

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*

Tuesday, December 30

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*

Wednesday, December 31

Parish Offices closed.

6:00 pm Mass

Thursday, January 1 - Mary, Mother of God

Parish Offices are closed.

10:00 am Mass

Friday, January 2

Parish Offices are closed.

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Ryan*

Saturday, January 3

7:30 am Upper Room Men's Prayer Group - Bl. Solanus Casey Room

3:00 pm Confessions *Fr. Ryan*

Sunday, January 4

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)

Liturgical Ministers

Schedule unavailable at print deadline.

Please login to Ministry Scheduler Pro for current schedule.



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

January 4, 2025

Willows of Okemos	R. Salyers
Bickford of Okemos	C Leece; L Leece
Haslett Pointe, Medilodge	S. Kostaroff
Dobie Road-ICMCF	M. Fletcher, D. Ianni

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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



Gospel Reflection

In our second reading, from the third chapter of St. Paul's letter to the Colossians, we hear that sentence in verse eighteen that trips us up a little bit: "Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper to the Lord" (Colossians 3:18). Upon reading this one sentence some folks get upset with

St. Paul and accuse him of misogyny. I do not think for a minute that St. Paul was misogynistic.

In order to fully understand St. Paul's point, we also have to read the next sentence - verse nineteen: "Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them (Colossians 3:19). St. Paul's point is that man and woman - particularly in marriage - complement each other which has always been the Church's teaching. But, because of human weakness and sin, those differences and complementarities can be seen as obstacles and barriers leading to dysfunction, poor communication, and misunderstanding.

Genesis 1:27 states, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Furthermore, in Matthew's Gospel, replying to Pharisees' question about divorce, Jesus himself says, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'" (Matthew 19:4-5).

The point is, in God's great design and plan for creation (and more precisely marriage and family life), he created the sexes differently. Men are different from women and women are different from men - physically and psychologically. Both are equal in dignity and respect, to be sure, but each brings their uniqueness and gifts to the marriage covenant. And, as each grows in their sacramental marriage vows and in their relationship to Christ, the closer they become to the other until the two are one flesh just as Jesus said, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30).

Rather than get upset or accuse St. Paul of misogyny, I think we must pay particular attention to St. Paul's teaching today more than ever. I think St. Paul's teaching is a call to reclaim a truly Catholic masculinity, particularly in a culture that pushes to blur or deny any differences between man and woman. In the beginning, when God created man, he created Adam to be a caretaker and protector. His sin was that he failed to keep the serpent out of the garden - he didn't even know the serpent was in the garden! He did not live up to his masculinity and his role of protecting his wife Eve.

Vital to understanding masculinity is first understanding our own sonship - our being beloved sons of God the Father. I see this as one of the downfalls of our modern culture - men not leaning into their relationship with God the Father and thereby not leading the family into that deep relationship. Some fathers check the box by, at least, bringing their families to Mass. Some fathers have given up on right worship altogether. Some fathers subcontract the religious formation of their children to schools or catechists without any formation in the home. That doesn't say much for leading the family - the domestic Church - into an ever deepening relationship with the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

In ancient Judaism, the father was the family's priest - leading religious rituals in the home and teaching the family in matters of the faith. Similarly, the Church sees the father and husband as a type of priest for the family. What is a priest? Someone who offers sacrifice. Someone who empties himself for another. Someone who leads religious ritual and prayer. Someone who teaches the faith, encouraging a growing relationship with God. As men, are we truly living up to who we are called to be particularly in the context of family life?

As a former high school chaplain, I can promise you that children (girls and boys alike) look up to their fathers immensely and watch them very closely. If you - as husband and father - take your relationship with God seriously, so also will your children. But, if your relationship with God is unimportant, so will it be for your children. A 1994 study in Switzerland about the connection between the habits of fathers and mothers and the effect each had on their children shows that "...if a father does not go to church, no matter how faithful his wife's devotions, only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper. If a father does go regularly, regardless of the practice of the mother, between two-thirds and three-quarters of their children will become churchgoers (regular and irregular). If a father goes but irregularly to church, regardless of his wife's devotion, between a half and two-thirds of their offspring will find themselves coming to church regularly or occasionally" (A Father's Role in His Children Going to Church When They Are Adults, Justin Taylor, December 16, 2010). It's easy to disregard this study as being some 30 years old, but those numbers still hold and are still cited today.

Like Adam, men have a particularly sacred duty to help their families get to heaven. If we aren't striving for that then we have failed as men.

Know of my prayers for you all!

Fr. Ryan





Open Enrollment Coming Soon for the 2026-2027 School Year

Learn more about our preschool through 8th grade for the 2026-2027 school year!

To schedule a private tour, call 517-349-3322 or email Principal Andrea Patton at apatton@st-martha.org

GIVE BLOOD

 American Red Cross *You can make a difference.*

Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, January 10 | 10 am - 3:45 pm | Parish Hall

Register online at www.redcrossblood.org/give (Sponsor code: StMarthasOkemos) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk-in donors are also welcome.

SEEKING MEANING, TRUTH, AND COMMUNITY?

You're not alone. Join others to explore Catholicism through OCIA.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Don. Jim Collom at dcnjim@st-martha.org



The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

Around the Diocese

Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s): Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on Jan 30-Feb 1, 2026. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$240 for meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.michigan@gmail.com, or call (586) 770-1772 for details.



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Weber Center Offers Days of Mindfulness All are invited to join the mindfulness community at Weber Retreat and Conference Center to deepen their understanding of and commitment to daily meditation practices.

Days of Mindfulness –10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. monthly on Saturdays – are as follows: February 7, 2026, Attentiveness; March 14, 2026, We are Needed!; April 11, 2026, Sitting with Feelings and Emotions. Days of Mindfulness are facilitated by Sister Esther Kennedy, OP, a Dominican Sister of Adrian, a retreat leader, and a spiritual director.

The cost of \$35 per session includes lunch. Each session is limited to 30 participants.

Registration is required: visit www.webercenter.org and click on "programs," call 517-266-4000, or email webercenter@adriandominicans.org. Limited scholarships are available.



History Highlights

In our Social Studies classes here at St. Martha, we look at the world and our country through a creative lens. Through various projects throughout the year students discover the history of various civilizations and their own country. In sixth grade so far this year we have completed three different STEM challenges to engage with the ancient world.

In October, students participated in a Cuneiform Coding Challenge. They had to create a pictographic code similar to the ancient Mesopotamian writing known as Cuneiform. The message had to be about the Mesopotamian Civilization we had been studying. Then the other groups in the class tried their hand at deciphering the code, with only the vowels revealed.

In November students were studying ancient Egypt. We spent a few days mummifying apples, experimenting with what combinations of salt, vinegar, sugar, and baking soda within the canopic jars would preserve a slice of apple the best. There were some very smelly discoveries made after checking back in on the apples at the end of this fun challenge.

In December we moved on to ancient China and our study of the Great Wall. Students worked in groups of three to build their own Great Wall with a working zip line to transport messages (a single bead) from one guard tower to another. Through trial and error all groups were able to complete the challenge, demonstrating how the messages could be sent back and forth.



Miss Flint looks forward to quite a few projects with all of her Social Studies classes in the second half of the school year.



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



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

Save time at the door and pre-register by scanning the QR code or visit lansingcatholic.org/visit



**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

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MEN'S RETREAT DATES

JANUARY 16-18, 2026	MARCH 13-15, 2026
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St. Francis Retreat Center | 703 E. Main Street DeWitt, MI 48820 | www.stfrancis.ws

Exercises in Ignatian Discernment
College Upperclassmen & Young Adult Retreat



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EVENT DETAILS

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WHAT

College Juniors & Seniors and Young Adults aged 19-26 are invited to join us for a weekend retreat focused on habits of Ignatian Discernment and spend time inviting God into your post-graduation life decisions.

- 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



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
Director of Operations
kkeefe@st-martha.org

Cheryl Olsen
Administrative Assistant
colsen@st-martha.org

Gregg Alchin
Facilities Manager
galchin@st-martha.org

Jackie Rosalez
Director of Faith Formation
jrosalez@st-martha.org

Tony Andorfer
Director of Music and Liturgy
tandorfer@st-martha.org

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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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

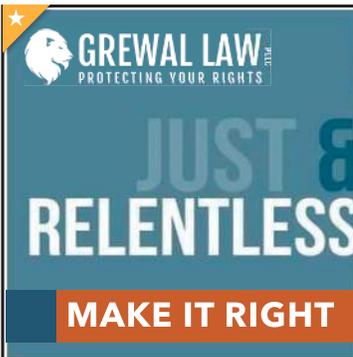
Baptisms take place the 2nd Sunday of each month. Parents who are baptizing their first child will need to attend a class. Visit st-martha.org/baptism to get started.

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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