

St. Martha's Church

2595 PAWTUCKET AVENUE, EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02914

PARISH PRIESTS & DEACON

Rev. David E. Green ~ Pastor

Rev. Albert P. Marcello JCL ~ Chaplain, RI Hospital – In Residence

Rev. Mr. Dominic P. DiOrio ~ Deacon Assistant

PARISH STAFF

Director of Music, Organist ~ Mrs. Sheila Zuccarello

Mr. Matthew J. Burns ~ Director of Religious Education

Mr. Anthony Prattico ~ Secretary – Bookkeeper

Mrs. Patricia Dowling - Administrator

Mr. Arthur Sousa ~ Buildings and Grounds

CELEBRATIONS OF THE SACRAMENTS

The Holy Eucharist

Daily Masses:

Monday – Thursday ~ 9:00 am

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil ~ 4:00 pm

Sundays – 8:30 am, 11:00 am

(5:00 pm September - May)

Confessions:

Saturday 3:00 – 3:40 pm (or by appointment)

Rosary:

8:35 am (before each daily Mass)

Holy Day Schedule:

6:00 Vigil Mass on the Eve of the Holy Day

9:00 am & 6:00 pm on the Day of the Holy Day

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Baptisms:

The 2nd Sunday of each month @ 12:30 pm

Baptism Instruction:

On the Wed. before the 2nd Sunday @ 6:00 pm

Marriage:

Call the pastor to book your wedding at least 6 months in advance.

(No weddings will be booked over the phone or by the parents of the bride or groom.)

RCIA:

These adult class sessions are for those who wish to convert to Catholicism, for those who have never been baptized and wish to become Catholic or for any Catholic adult who missed the Sacraments of Eucharist & Confirmation. The Sacraments of Initiation will be conferred at the Easter Vigil, 2019.



Parish Phone: 401-434-4060 -

Parish & Rel. Ed. Fax: 401-434-4849

Rel. Education Office Phone: 401-434-4060, Ex. 6

Parish E-mail: secretary@stmarthaschurchepri.org

Parish Website: stmarthaschurchepri.org



~Mass Intentions~

Saturday, December 19, 2020

4:00 pm ~ Pasquale & Martha Checchia +Memorial Mass
Flaminio & Alda Xavier +Memorial Mass
Kevin Robinson +Birthday Remembrance

Sunday, December 20 2020

4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 am ~ Albert & Mary Currier +Christmas Remembrance
Brian Ward +Memorial Mass

11:00 am ~ Helen Norman +Christmas Remembrance
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Roderick & John Wm.
Harboldt Auber +Christmas Remembrance
Lucy Fonseca +Birthday Remembrance

5:00 pm ~ Connie King +1st Anniversary
Casta Velasco +2nd Anniversary

Monday, December 21, 2020

9:00 am ~ Antonio Pinheiro +Christmas Remembrance
Ilda Dos Santos +27th Anniversary
Maria DeMoura +1st Anniversary

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

9:00 am ~

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

9:00 am ~ Maria & Antoni T. Silva +Christmas Remembr.
Francis E. Burns +Birthday Remembrance

Thursday, December 24, 2020

9:00 am ~ John Marshal Sr. +Birthday Remembrance
Christmas Eve

4:00 pm ~

Friday, December 25, 2020
Christmas Day

8:30 am ~

11:00 am ~

(There will not be a 5:00 pm on Christmas Day)

Saturday, November 26, 2020

St. Steven, the First Martyr

4:00 pm ~

Sunday, November 27, 2020

Feast of the Holy Family

8:30 am ~ William T. Walsh +32nd Anniversary

11:00 am ~ Raymond & Dorothy Marcoullier +Birthday R
Flamio & Alda Xavier +Memorial Mass

~ Youth & Adult Religious Education ~

All in-classroom classes have been suspended until after the New Year due to the rapid spread of the Corona Virus.

Parents/Guardians are asked to continue to oversee the home schooling lessons. This includes Confirmation and 1st Communion students . Please refer to the Rel. Ed. section of our parish website for guidance.

*Confirmation class news:
All candidates for Confirmation should have submitted their sponsor certificates by now. They were due October 25



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24 - 4:00 pm

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25 - 8:30 am + 11:00 am

There will be no 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Day



Sanctuary Lamp and
Altar Breads
In Memory of
Ilda DosSantos
Lucy Fonseca





~ Cub Scout News ~

Pack 5 - E.P. Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts meet on Wednesday evenings in St. Martha's church hall at 6:00 pm. Come join or to learn more about scouting, contact Erin Bielecki at 508-243-0132.



Many of the Knights of Columbus have joined in parish programs to help our parish. One of these is the Outreach Program. We welcome you and thank you.



~ Knights of Columbus News ~

Holy Hour



The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a monthly

Holy Hour at St. Martha's.

A Holy Hour consists of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Scriptural Rosary, Adoration, and Benediction.

The next Holy Hour will take place on

December 21 from 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm.

Holy Hours will take place every third Monday of the month.

Christmas Poster Contest

The Knights of Columbus is holding a Christmas Poster Contest. School children draw/color/paint a poster of what "Keep Christ In Christmas" means to them. The poster must be on 11" x 17" paper and include the child's name, age, and church. This will be a fun event to get the kids engaged in the true meaning of Christmas. Posters are judged in age groups from across the state and winners are chosen.



~ Hey Father! ~



"Why do you think people get so depressed at this time of year?"

I suppose there are many reasons for people to get depressed at this time of year. When you add up all the possible contributing factors you can see how they might be overwhelming. Just the fact that an old year is ending and a new one is beginning makes everyone pause to take a look at how 2020 went. I don't know how many people I hear say each year that they are "glad that that year is over" and they hope for a better new one. When we look back we seem to naturally remember all the stresses, strains and pains of the past and overlook the good and positive things. Every day of last year couldn't have been that bad. Some people may be upset by the demands that have been put upon them to provide a good Christmas for their families. This would include everything from Christmas shopping to decorating; from the Christmas meal to too many parties and gatherings. People can get depressed because of over-indulgences. The holidays find us over-spending, over-eating, over-drinking, over-stressed, over-excited and over-extended. Certainly maxed out credit cards, tighter waist bands, tangled lights and hangovers all contribute to the problem of depression. People also get depressed because their high expectations are not met at Christmas. Perhaps we are expecting the same excitement of our youth and it just never seems to come back to us with all the adult things we have to worry about and take care of during this season. Perhaps people get depressed because they cannot be with the ones they want to be with for Christmas. Separations due to war, distance, misunderstanding and even death make us long for and miss those who can't be with us. Christmas can also make us have a nostalgic longing for the past which can never be recreated. Living in the past can only help to make us miss the present and all the new Christmas joy and happiness that may be waiting for us. And we may also need to take into consideration the effect that lesser sunlight can have on us. Christmas happens to fall a few days after the day we experience the least amount of possible sunlight. Whatever the case may be, one sure way of combating depression is to remember and truly take to heart what God has done for us in sending us the gift of Son, Jesus. It is all due to His unbounded love for us that we can have hope that lifts us above our depression. If we could but let this gift sink into our hearts and minds this season we can and will be lifted up and beyond whatever may try to bring us down. By admitting we need Jesus and His Church this season, 2021 can be a very, very different and more uplifting year. As we stand on the threshold of a new year let us agree to pray for one another

Fr. Green!

~ Parish Financial Life ~

December 13 Offerings
Weekly \$2296.07
Religious Retirement \$411.18

The Annual Collection
To date we have collected
\$16,575

We thank all those who gave to this collection. It is a much needed help to the parish

>Please remember to continue to support the parish during these troubled times. You may also put your envelopes in the mail slot or send them in the mail.

>We thank all those who have remembered to keep up with their weekly offerings. They help us to keep going with the daily operations of the parish. We also encourage everyone to try to make up for what they missed over the past few months.

>The Annual Collection continues. We rely very heavily on this collection to see us through the year especially as we have had to cut back on supplemental fund raisers since March. Please help us make our goal.

Electronic Funds Transfer

It is convenient, secure and easy to use. *Faith Direct* will provide you an offertory card to place in the basket during the collections. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. Sign up by visiting the website at www.faithdirect.net; parish code **RI564**.



~Parish Spiritual Life~

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

Members of the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy, which is open to anyone, meets every Tuesday at 3:00 pm (newly added time) and 6:30 pm for prayer and reflection. They also pray for the intentions that are written in the prayer intention book in the vestibule. Why not join the prayer group?

Daily Rosary before daily Mass



~Readings for the Week~

Daily Readings 4th Week of Advent

Monday, December 21

Song of Songs 2:8-14
Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Luke 1:39-45

Tuesday, December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8
Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday, December 23

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
Luke 1:57-66

Thursday, December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16
Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Luke 1:67-79

Friday, December 25

There are 4 sets of readings for Christmas
Go to the website below to see these readings

Saturday, December 26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Psalm 31:3CD-4, 6 and 8AB, 16BC and 17
Matthew 10:17-22

For easy access to the daily readings and reflections on those readings go to:

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>

~ Parish Outreach ~



ST. MARTHA'S OUTREACH

Our Next Meeting Monday, January 11, 6:30



Please continue to bring in Canned Fruit, Canned or Bottled Juice, Coffee, Tea, Dry Milk, Dry Cereal, Pancake or Muffin Mix, Flour, Cake Mix, Sugar, Maple Syrup, Frosting, Cooking Oils, Crackers, Cookies, Soups, Canned Meats, Tuna Fish, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Canned Pastas, Canned Vegetables

We can once again accept pasta + pasta sauce

Thanks to all who donated gift cards and warm articles of clothing.

Christmas Gift Cards for Kids

Once again this year, as we enter into the Advent Season, we will be accepting gift cards to be given to needy families so that they can do their Christmas shopping for the kids. Parents know what their children want and need. This is more practical than a collection of random toys. Drop the cards in a well labeled envelope in the collection.

Christmas Woolen Tree

The Woolen Tree will be located in the vestibule during Advent to take your donations of knitted or woolen gloves, hats, mittens, scarves & warm socks to be given to the homeless to help keep them warm this coming winter season. Please hang your donations on the bare tree. Let's cover the tree this year!



Reminders

- *We remind all parishioners that the bishop has still given dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on the weekend.
- *Under no circumstances may anyone who has symptoms of any illness attend the public Mass.
- *All attendees must always keep a distance of at least 6 feet between themselves and others. (This does not apply to members of the same household.)
- *The wearing of face masks is still a must for all those attending Mass or parish function.
- *There are no longer collections being taken up by the passing of the basket. Please place your offerings in the old "poor box" which is located at the end of the middle aisle.
- *While coming up for Holy Communion remember to keep your distance from the person in front.
- *There will be no receiving Communion on the tongue until further notice.
- *Please keep your nose and mouth covered by your mask while communion is placed in your hand. Then, step aside and pull down or lift your mask & consume the host.

~ "A word from the Word" ~

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cycle B

Luke 1:26-38

The word from the Word is "betrothed." Our gospel passage for today centers on the fact that Mary was "betrothed" to Joseph at the time she was found to be with child. It is somewhat important to know what is meant by the term as it is used to describe Mary and Joseph's relationship at the time of the Annunciation. There is a difference between a promise and a betrothal. A promise of marriage among the Jews of Bible times might mean an engagement without any commitment. There could be a number of reasons why an engagement could be broken off, including infidelity. It was the betrothal that was binding, rather than a mere promise of marriage. The promise marry might be set aside, but a betrothal, once entered into, was considered as final. The betrothal has the weight of a covenant. Among the ancient Hebrews the betrothal was a spoken covenant. Ezekiel pictures GOD as marrying Jerusalem, and the following words are used of her: "I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the LORD GOD, and thou becamest mine" (Ezekiel 16:8). After the exile, the betrothal included signing a written document of marriage. There was a formal ceremony of betrothal. The Jewish betrothal in CHRIST's time was conducted thus: The families of the bride and groom met, with some others present to serve as witnesses. The young man would give the young woman either a gold ring, or some article of value, or simply a document in which he promises to marry her. Then he would say to her: "See by this ring [or this token] you are set apart for me, according to the law of Moses and of Israel." There was a difference between betrothal and marriage. The betrothal was not the same as the wedding. At least a whole year elapsed between the betrothal and the actual wedding. These two events must not be confused. The Law said, "What man is there that hath betrothed a wife, and hath not taken her?" (Deuteronomy 20:7). Two events are differentiated here: betrothing a wife, and taking a wife, i.e., in actual marriage. It was during this period of about a year, between the betrothal and the wedding, that Mary was found to be with child of the HOLY SPIRIT. When Joseph found out about Mary's pregnancy, he could have proceeded to divorce Mary. Because Joseph was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose Mary to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly and break off the betrothal.



~ Pro-Life News ~



These are the cute little feet of a child who cannot yet stand on them for his/herself. Look at these feet and resolve that we will stand up for those who can't. Respect Life!!



Meetings Scheduled ~

Parish Event Planning
Committee Meeting
TBA

St. Martha's Outreach Program
Monday, January 11, 6:30 pm

Parish Finance Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 pm

~Parish Website & Office Hours~

Please visit our parish website and make it your homepage for easy access, reference and information about all that is happening at St. Martha's including times for Masses, Sacramental Preparation and important and exciting upcoming events. Visit us at...

stmarthaschurchepri.org
Parish office is now open

Monday: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Closed for Lunch 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
Closed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

~ Great Fundraiser! ~

Enjoy a delicious meal at Davenport's in East Providence and help St. Martha's at the same time.

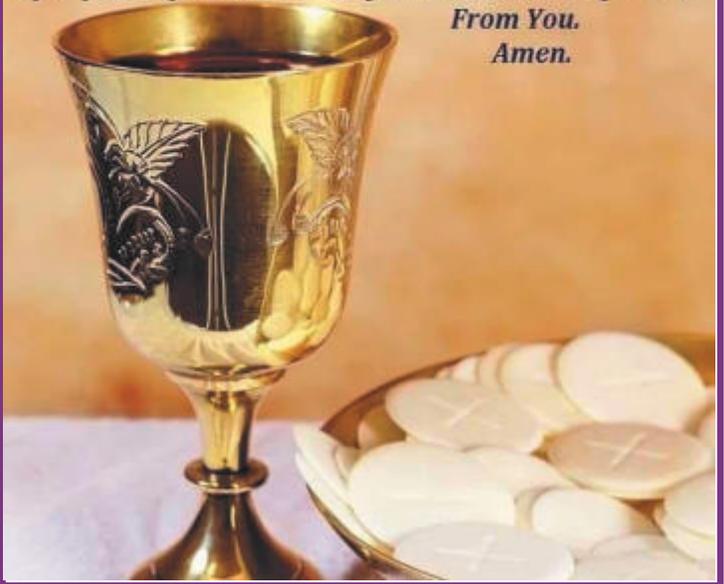


Present this coupon to your server at Lunch or Dinner, Monday thru Thursday, and Davenports will contribute 15% of your total bill to St. Martha's Church.

Davenport's Restaurant
1925 Pawtucket Ave
East Providence, RI 02914

Spiritual Communion

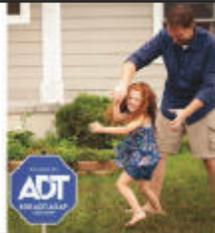
My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as If You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated From You. Amen.



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