

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 26, 2020

St. Steven, the First Martyr

4:00 pm ~

Sunday, December 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

5:00 pm ~

Monday, December 28, 2020

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

9:00 am ~

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

9:00 am ~

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

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

Thursday, December 31, 2020

9:00 am ~ Walter Mazika +Memorial Mass

4:00 pm ~ Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother
of God

Friday, January 1, 2021

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8:30 am ~

11:00 am ~

(There will not be a 5:00 pm this day)

Saturday, January 2, 2021

St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen

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

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 am ~

11:00 am ~ Joseph DeCastro +Memorial Mass

5:00 pm ~



Sanctuary Lamp and
Altar Breads
In Memory of
Patricia E. Jackman
Helen E. Jackman

~ Youth & Adult Religious Education ~

All in-classroom classes have been suspended until further notice 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

*"The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you; the LORD
turn his face toward you and give you peace."
Numbers 6:24-26*

New Year's Day
**The Solemnity of Mary,
the Mother of God**

New Year's Eve
Thursday, December 31 - 4:00 pm
Mass During the Day
Friday, January 1 - 8:30 am + 11:00 am





~ 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

January 18 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! ~



Christmas Thoughts

Fr. Marcello and I would like to wish all our parishioners a very merry and holy Christmas and all of God's choicest blessings for the New Year. With the celebration of Christmas only two days ago we remember the focus upon Mary and Joseph and their cooperation with God in His plan for our salvation. As we face a new year with more and more uncertainty and trepidation for our economy and world peace, and Covid 19, Mary and Joseph's steadfast faith and trust in God is an inspiration to us all. I can't imagine what must have gone through their minds with all the dangers they faced in fleeing to Egypt. What uncertainty they must have faced as they had to uproot themselves and head to a foreign country. What trepidation they must have felt for their own future as a new family, not to mention the murderous Herod who sought the death of Jesus. Yet, Mary and Joseph surrendered their own wills to the will of God the Father. As we celebrate the birth of Christ who is the Son of God who becomes one with us, perhaps we might follow the example of Mary and Joseph and surrender our lives in faith and trust to God. No matter what came Mary and Joseph's way they had the advantage of carrying Christ with them. No matter what comes our way in 2021 let us take the same courage and confidence that all will work out for the good precisely because we too carry Jesus with us. Here is the prayer of St. Charles de Foucauld of his own personal surrender to God which we want to keep in mind and recite often in 2021.

Prayer of Abandonment

"Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you; I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures – I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul: I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father."

Fr. Green

~ Parish Financial Life ~

December 20 Offerings

Weekly \$4206.00
Energy \$418.67

The Annual Collection

To date we have collected
\$17,475

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

Octave of the Nativity of Jesus

Monday, December 28

1 John 1:5-2:2
Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7-8
Matthew 2:13-18

Tuesday, December 29

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Wednesday, December 30

1 John 2:12-17
Psalm 96:7-8, 8-9, 10
Luke 2:36-40

Thursday, December 31

1 John 2:18-21
Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13
John 1:1-18

Friday, January 1

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Saturday, January 2

1 John 2:22-28
Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4
John 1:19-28

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

~ 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

We thank all those who so generously donated gift cards to the "Cards for Kids" program this year. Because of you we were able to help 38 kids from 23 families to have a little bit brighter and merrier Christmas this year. Just remember, Jesus will not be outdone in generosity. As the line from a popular Christmas Carol reminds us "those who bless the poor will themselves find blessing."

Christmas Woolen Tree

The Woolen Tree is still located in the vestibule during Christmas 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" ~

The Feast of the Holy Family Cycle B Luke 2:22-40

The word from the Word is "purification." The Hebrew Bible mentions several situations when ritual purification is required, including during menstruation, following childbirth (postpartum), sexual relations, nocturnal emission, unusual bodily fluids, skin disease, death (corpse uncleanness), and animal sacrifices. The oral law specifies other situations when ritual purification is required, such as after performing excretory functions, meals, and waking. The purification ritual is generally a form of water-based ritual washing in Judaism for removal of any ritual impurity, sometimes requiring just washing of the hands, and at other times requiring full immersion; the oral law requires the use of un-drawn water for any ritual full immersion - either a natural river/stream/spring, or a special bath (a Mikvah) which contains rain-water. These regulations were variously observed by the ancient Israelites; contemporary Orthodox Jews and (with some modifications and additional leniencies) some Conservative Jews continue to observe the regulations, except for those tied to sacrifice in the Temple in Jerusalem, as the Temple no longer fully exists. These groups continue to observe many of the hand-washing rituals. Recall how some Jews questioned Jesus, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!" The concept of personal cleanliness as both a prerequisite of holiness and an aid to physical fitness is central to Jewish tradition. Cleansing with water for physical as well as spiritual purity was commanded in the Old Testament. Since Mary had recently given birth to Jesus, she was required to present herself for purification in the temple. This practice was carried over into Christianity and was known as the "Churching of Women." In Christian tradition the "Churching of Women" was the ceremony wherein a blessing is given to mothers after recovery from childbirth. The ceremony included thanksgiving for the woman's survival of childbirth, and is performed even when the child is stillborn, or has died unbaptized. This practice was discontinued after Vatican Council II. (This article was taken from From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)



~ 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.

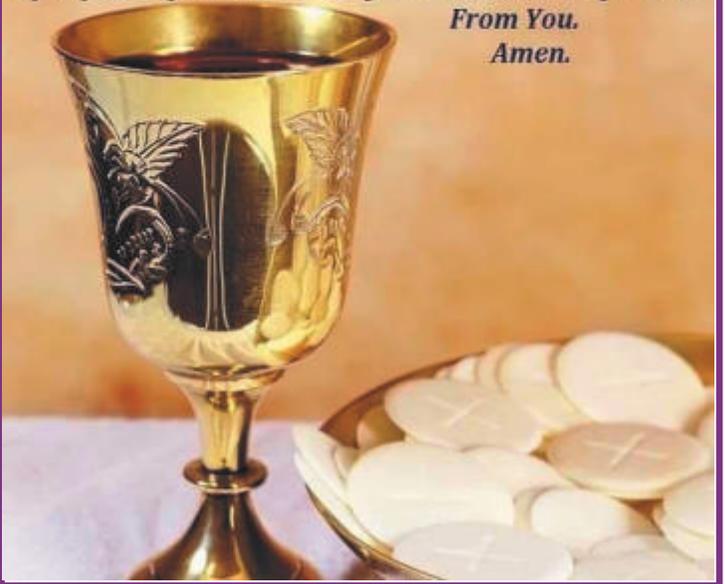


Present this coupon to your server at Lunch or Dinner, Monday thru Thursday, and Davenports will contribute 15% of your total bill to St. Martha's Church.

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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