

# St. Sylvester Catholic Church

6464 Gulf Breeze Pkwy, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563  
850-939-3020

January 16, 2022  
Year C

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“As the family goes,  
so goes the nation,  
and so goes the  
whole world  
in which  
we live.”  
ST. JOHN PAUL II

Fr. John F. Kelly,  
Pastor

## Weekly Mass Schedule

Mon — Tue — Thu — Fri: 8:30am

Wed: 6pm

Saturday: 4pm

Sunday: 9am & 11am

Spanish: 5pm

Fr. Alvaro Pio  
Gonzalez,  
Parochial Vicar



## Welcome!

### New Parishioners:

Please register at the Welcome Table in the vestibule after Mass or stop by the office.

#### Active Membership is determined by:

- Registration in the parish
- Faithful attendance at Sunday Mass and on Holy Days
- Support of the parish through **time, talent and treasure**

## Sacraments and Services

**Anointing of the Sick** — Call the parish office 939-3020

### Baptism

- Must have Baptism Preparation Class; email [englishbaptism@stsyly.org](mailto:englishbaptism@stsyly.org) or call Office 939-3020
- Spanish classes call Spanish Office 939-3020

### Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

**First Fridays - 6:00pm - 9:00pm**

- 6pm Exposition and Silent Adoration
- 7pm Communal Prayer of the Office of the Blessed Sacrament
- 8:15pm Hispanic Holy Hour and Benediction

### Marriage Arrangements

- Six months in advance; please call the office, ask to speak to Mark.

### Reconciliation

- Saturday **3:00pm—3:30pm**
- Sunday Spanish & English **4:00pm—4:30pm**
- By appointment call Office 850-939-3020

## Religious Education Classes

**Weds. R.O.C.K.** Grades 1st-5th **6:00p-7:00p**

**Sun. Middle School Youth** Grades 6th-7th **12:30-2:00p**

**Sun. High School Youth** Grades 8th-12th **6:30-8:00p**

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION (AFF)

**Ignite your Faith Tuesdays, 5:30-7p**

**RCIC** (4th-8th Grade) **Wednesday 6:00p-7:00p**

**RCIT** (9th-12th Grade) **Call Youth Office**

**RCIA** (Adult) **Tuesdays, 5:30-7p**

### Children's Liturgy of the Word (4-6 yrs. only)

**Sundays during the 9:00am Mass**

No registration is required. The teacher will call the children to the front of the sanctuary before Mass begins, and they will return during the offertory.



Please join  
in  
**PRAYING the ROSARY**  
FOR  
**OUR COUNTRY**  
**Thursday Mornings**

**8am Before 8:30 Mass & 9am After**

### St. Sylvester Parish Office

Phone: 850-939-3020—FAX: 850-677-8860

Website: [www.stsyly.org](http://www.stsyly.org)

Email: [saintsyly@stsyly.org](mailto:saintsyly@stsyly.org)

Bulletin Items: [bulletin@stsyly.org](mailto:bulletin@stsyly.org)

Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00am to 2:00pm

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

	9:00a	Sunday Mass
	11:00a	Sunday Mass
	12:30p	Middle School RE
	3:00p	English Baptism Class
	4:00p	Confession
	5:00p	Spanish Mass
	6:30p	High School RE

Sun  
Jan 16

### OFFICE CLOSED

**Martin Luther King Day**

**St. Anthony, Abbot**

**Daily Mass**

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting



Mon  
Jan 17

8:30a

6:30p

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Daily Mass**

Women's Bible Study

R.C.I.A.

Tue  
Jan 18

8:30a

9:15a

5:30p

Wed  
Jan 19

6:00p

6:00p

6:30p

6:30p

**Daily Mass**

R.O.C.K.

Men of St. Joseph

Choir

Thu  
Jan 20

8:30a

**St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr**

**St. Sebastian, Martyr**

**Daily Mass**

Fri  
Jan 21

8:30a

12:00p

**St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr**

**Daily Mass**

Youth

Sat  
Jan 22

9:00a

3:00p

4:00p

Day of

**Prayer for the Legal Protection of**

**Unborn Children**

Pastoral Council Meeting

**Reconciliation**

**Mass**

Sun  
Jan 23

9:00a

11:00a

12:30p

4:00p

5:00p

6:30p

**St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr**

**St. Marianne Cope, Virgin**

**Sunday Mass**

**Sunday Mass**

Middle School RE

**Confession**

**Spanish Mass**

High School RE

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23—Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 & 23  
Mk 2:18-22

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13—Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28  
Mk 2:23-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51—Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10  
Mk 3:1-6

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7  
Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13—Mk 3:7-12

**Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21—Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 & 11—Mk 3:13-19

**Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27—Ps 80:2-3, 5-7  
Mk 3:20-21

**Next Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10—Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15  
1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 2—Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21





## Mass Intentions



### Sunday, January 16

9:00am For the Parish

11:00am † Nancy Scandone by Frank Scandone

5:00pm † Zoroida Lobo by The Dale Family

### Monday, January 17

8:30am † Carroll Hicks by Stephanie Mussi

### Tuesday, January 18

8:30am † Gail Brousseau by Louise Tolbert

### Wednesday, January 19

6:00pm † Maggie Hensley by Glenda Doherty

### Thursday, January 20

8:30am Kathleen Ann Shafer by Paul Shafer

### Friday, January 21

8:30am Samantha & Tinsley by Grandma & Grandpa

### Saturday, January 22

4:00pm † Phillip Dale Curtis by Lita Curtis

### Sunday, January 23

9:00am † Joanne Thomas by Tommy & Edie Garcia by Mary Ann

11:00am † Ed Carron by Loving Wife

5:00pm For the Parish

This week the Sanctuary Lamp  
above the Tabernacle burns in

Memory of:

**Nancy Scandone**



Each week we highlight one of our bulletin sponsors.  
Because of these ads we are able to get our **bulletins**

**FREE. Please support these businesses!**

“Our sponsor of the week” is:



Providing a comprehensive range of family dental services since 1975

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Day of Prayer for the

**LEGAL PROTECTION  
OF UNBORN CHILDREN**



## Prayer Requests

For the grace to turn away from violence,

**For World Peace,**

For the Evangelization Group & their needs,

**For All God's Children;**

for Protection of the Unborn, the Sick, the

**Spread of Covid-19,**

**For Christians Around the World, and**

**All Medical Personnel who protect life,**

**Also for:**

Tracey Acevedo, Patricia Aguon, George Back, Pete Bayona, Matthew Birke, Peggy Bonno, Carli Boyko, Brad Briggs, Mamie Bruno, Ly Bui, Regina Burghart, Joe Checkley, Adeline Cleasby & Joan, Len Contarino, Quyen Crauswell, Bob Cushing, Renee D'Amico, Bob & Irene Dasho, Emily Decker, Barbara Donahue, Earl Dubin Jr., Audrey Engels, Emily Estrada, Tom Eubank, Shane Foley, Wynell Fontaine, Fr. Paul, Michael Fry, Kateri Gamberger, John Gibson & Family, SK Jim Gschwind, Dot Grimes, Dot Guerrero, Rebecca Hall, David & Dan Herda, Thim Hern, Sharon Hopkins, Kylie Hosey, SK Jose Jaime, Larry Juntras, SK Dick & Martha Justice, Stephan King, The Kirk Family, Anthony Konosky, Gloria Lamoureux, James & Marianne LaRussa, Dennis Leahy, Van Lejeune, Roger Martin, Shirley Matioda, The Miller's, Todd Milleson, Maria Morales, Anna Moran, Kathy Naranjo, Nell Nelson, Paul Nguyen, Fr. Phi Nguyen, Tom Nicoletti, Tiffany Nguyen, Lynlee Nicholas, Jean Niven, Sharon O'Neil, Stacey Paradise, Jeff Parker, Holly Parmenter Family, Donna Parr, Paula, Rick Pitts, Karen Priddy, Dan Ramsey, Ranger Trainees @ Ft. Benning, Denise Rebauno, Bob Rettinger, Austin Riley, Marcy Ritchie, Rose, Eva Sanchez, Braylen Sanders, SK Frank Scandone, Patty & SK Bob Sears, Oliver & Julianne Semmes, Larry Sieg, Jerry Snyder, Marvin Spellings, Christina Sears Starr, Jim Stephan, Yvonne Strouse, Christian; Eric & Landon Suarez, Bill Teegarden, Janet Threlkeld, Nancy Tobin, Betsy Traynor, Robert Traynor, Rita Turner, Rita Van Fleet, Larry Walker, and Aaron Zeikle.

*Please notify the Parish Office or Prayer Chain below if someone is in need of prayer. Names will remain on the list for four weeks unless the Office is notified.*

**PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE** If you have a Prayer Request you may always call or text 850-816-4851 (Ellen Stanley's new number) or send an email to

[PrayerRequest@stsylv.org](mailto:PrayerRequest@stsylv.org) *When two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them. —Matthew 18:20. (You may still call the office 850-939-3020 or email to [bulletin@stsylv.org](mailto:bulletin@stsylv.org).)*

**PLEASE NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS**





## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.

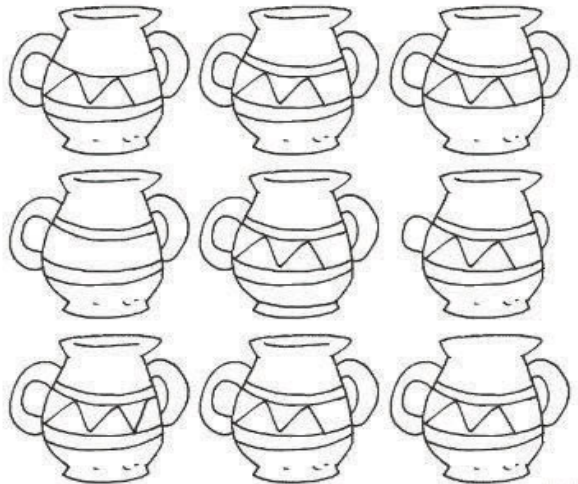


2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • John 2:1-11



## PUZZLE

Find the two identical jars.



ARCHE KEMETZ FÜR NO EBT



## MISSION

What does Jesus tell you to do in his word, the Bible? Find out by reading the Bible for 15 minutes a day with your family. You could start by reading Luke.



## GOSPEL

Mary had great faith in God. She also knew that God could do anything. So when the wedding servers ran out of wine, she knew Jesus could help. She said, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do." That's the smartest thing any of us can do.



## PRAYER

Dear God, help me to do everything you say. I know you can do anything.



## PUZZLE

Try to create a special design for God on this jar! Have fun!



## MISSION

I will put all of my toys away neatly after I finish playing.



We have our new Breaking Bread Missalettes. **PLEASE HELP** keep these in good shape by placing them in the pews the proper way before you leave. You can help by simply putting them back like the Picture shows. Please also

take any tissues you brought/used out with you. Thank you so very much for your help!

*Little things do mean a lot!*

### Faithful Departed

#### Question:

How can we pray for the dead throughout the year?

#### Answer:

We commemorate the faithful departed on November 2<sup>nd</sup> each year. However, we can and should continue to pray for the dead. Our growth in Christian perfection takes a long time. At the time of our death, many of us might not be saints yet. But God, in His mercy, allows for those who love Him to experience purification after death. Our word for that state is Purgatory. It's the antechamber of heaven, so to speak. We know we're getting in the house, but we're not quite ready to go all the way in. There's rain to shake off our coats and dirt that's clogging our shoes.

Here on earth, we can pray for the souls in Purgatory. One way is to request that your parish offer a Mass for the intention of a specific loved one. We can also remember the departed in our daily prayers. Just as we have special intentions for family and friends here on earth, we can pray for those who have died. It's also a good act of Christian charity to pray for the forgotten, those who have no one else to pray for them.

**God knows who they are!**



### Women of Our Parish...

are you looking for a way to get involved in Parish events? Enjoy social activities?

Want to enrich your Catholic Faith?

**JOIN THE  
COLUMBIETTES!**

For more information contact: Mary Stephan-Vice President/Membership  
850-480-3816

[mbstephan1@att.net](mailto:mbstephan1@att.net)



## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

### SCHEDULE 2022 ROOM 205

JANUARY 20	The gifts of the Holy Spirit Meeting in Classroom 6:00-7:30 pm
FEBRUARY 3	Words of knowledge and Wisdom Meeting in Classroom 6:00-7:30 pm
FEBRUARY 17	Healing and Miracles Meeting in Classroom 6:00-7:30 pm
MARCH 3	Prophecy Meeting in Classroom 6:00-7:30 pm
MARCH 17	Discernment of Spirits Meeting in Classroom 6:00-7:30 pm
APRIL 7	They Might Be Saints I Meeting in Classroom 6:00-7:30 pm
APRIL 21	The Might be Saints II Meeting in Classroom 6:00-7:30 pm
MAY 5 DATE TBA	Tell us your story/End of class party Volunteer services

Yany [ywhelan@att.net](mailto:ywhelan@att.net) cell (850) 867-5642  
Carol [mcta3189@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcta3189@bellsouth.net) cell (850) 501-0744

WE PRAY, EAT, MEDITATE ON THE GOSPEL, SAINTS LIVES, AND THEN WATCH AND DISCUSS VIDEOS BY  
JOHNNETTE BENKOVIC WILLIAMS.



"The Vincentian ministry is a presence to the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized." Before we do a home visit to someone requesting help we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to make us channels for the peace and joy of Christ. And so it is true that when the neighbor in need opens the door in welcome, the Vincentians step aside to let Christ go in first, for when Jesus promised "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst." You who donate to our chapter and you who pray for us were on many visits during this Christmas season. Please continue to support us during this new year so we can expand our work in South Santa Rosa County. The needs are great among our neighbors.





**The Women's Study Group** invites you to join our next study: *The Bible and the Virgin Mary*. This is a study based on work by Dr. Scott

Hahn. Format will be a short video presentation on Formed.org, followed by discussion and faith sharing.

We will meet in Conference Room 1 of the Activities Building from 9:30-11:45am, following morning Mass on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month. Our first session will be on **TUES, Jan 18th. Please join us!**



St. Sebastian | January 20  
Not much is known about the life of St. Sebastian (256 – 287), except that he was a Roman martyr whose name has been mentioned throughout history since early 350. We see St. Sebastian many times in art, especially from iconic paintings from Guido Reni, Andrea Mantegna and Hendrick ter Brugghen. Historical scholars now agree that a spiritual story has the beloved saint entering the Roman army because only there could he assist Christian martyrs without arousing suspicion on himself. Eventually he was found

out, brought before Emperor Diocletian and delivered to Mauritanian archers to be shot to death. Pierced with arrows, he was left for dead, but managed to survive. He recovered from his wounds but still refused to leave. One day, St. Sebastian took up a position near where the emperor was to pass. He confronted the emperor, condemning him for his cruelty to Christians. This time the sentence of death was carried out, and St. Sebastian was beaten to death with clubs. Today he is the patron saint of athletes.

**Evangelization team** spreading the Gospel at



the Palafox market. We had a good time allowing the Holy Spirit to touch others. Keep the items Coming to Donate!

# RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

## It Takes All Kinds

“If every flower wanted to be a rose,” wrote St. Therese of Lisieux, “spring would lose its loveliness.”

Who is God asking you to be today? There is an obvious answer that springs to mind right out of the gate. God wants me to be a good person (a good father, a good husband) today; today, God wants me to be a saint.

But this answer fails to get to the heart of the question. We are all striving today to serve the same Spirit, but we are given different gifts to do so. The one who has the gift of knowledge may fail if today he decides he wants to be a healer. The one who has the gift of “varieties of tongues” might falter in the expression of wisdom.

Think about the wedding at Cana and the players in the scene: the servers, the guests, the bride and groom. They all have a unique role to play, and though it is to the servers that Mary gives the instruction, “Do whatever he tells you,” her words apply to all.

Today, are we called to be the servers — do we wait on God’s instruction and carry it out, no matter how foolish or impossible it may seem to our human ears? Are we asked to be the disciples, to bear witness to a miracle and to give our testimony? Are we called to imitate the Blessed Mother herself and give encouragement to follow God’s word?

Let us examine our gifts and listen in the silence of our hearts to the direction of the Spirit. Then and only then, let us do whatever He tells us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



**Pray without ceasing for our Unborn Babies especially on January 22.**



- Pancake breakfast: Feb 13<sup>th</sup>
- Fish fry dinners during Lent: Mar 4, 11, 18, 25 Apr 1 & 8



**Interfaith Ministries:**  
bring items to Church Office or  
leave in Vestibule of Church.

## NEEDS for January

- Jelly (no glass please)
- Pancake mix
- Syrup
- Rice (1#)

## THANK YOU!!!!

### Catholic Days at the Capitol Feb, 1-2

*Sponsored by the Office of Advocacy and Justice*

Each year, Catholics from across the state gather in Tallahassee to participate in Catholic Days at the Capitol (400 S. Monroe St, Tallahassee). This two-day event provides an opportunity for the faithful to put a call to political responsibility into action and to strengthen the presence of Catholic values in the public square. By joining together to advocate for laws that protect and defend human life and dignity, Catholic Floridians can give a voice to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in our state and help promote the common good for all Florida residents. **Activities include:**

- A legislative briefing on policy issues affecting human life and dignity
- Pre-scheduled meetings with lawmakers
- A luncheon for Catholic Days participants, Florida's bishops and legislators
- Group photos of each diocesan delegation with their bishop
- Tours of the current and historic capitol buildings
- The opportunity to view the legislative process in action
- Annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit concelebrated by the bishops of Florida to pray for those working in the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government. For additional information for the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, visit <https://www.flaccb.org/cdac>.

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Field Agent  
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[ivan.delabruere@kofc.org](mailto:ivan.delabruere@kofc.org)

From the  
Desk of

**Sister Margaret Kuntz, ASCJ**  
*Office of Faith Formation, Lay  
Formation  
Institute, Young Adult Ministry  
Delegate for Religious*

*Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee  
11 N B St, Pensacola, FL 32502  
850-435-3523*



**Adult Faith Formation** The diocese has become a partnering diocese with the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation. This means that any adult in the diocese can take one of the online courses for \$50.00. For more information: <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/> or contact Sister Margaret at [kuntzm@ptdiocese.org](mailto:kuntzm@ptdiocese.org) or 850-435-3523

**Retreat for Women: Living a Life of Love** sponsored by the Women Study Groups is February 5-6, 2022 at the Visitation Monastery, Mobile, AL. Leader is Martha Hall. Cost is \$80 for overnight and \$40 for Saturday only. For more information or to register, please contact Nanette at 850-543-0901 or Sister Margaret Kuntz at 850-435-3523 or [kuntzm@ptdiocese.org](mailto:kuntzm@ptdiocese.org).



# Learn how to get **FORMED.....**

Formed is a teaching tool, learning tool for all ages! You can learn more about the Sacraments, take Bible Studies, has info on Faith Formation, Current Topics. More on YOUTH Programs, Movies, Audio, BOOKS to read. MANY of these are in SPANISH as well: Programs; Peliculas, Audios, Libros.

## LOG ON TODAY & GET STARTED

# FORMED<sup>®</sup>

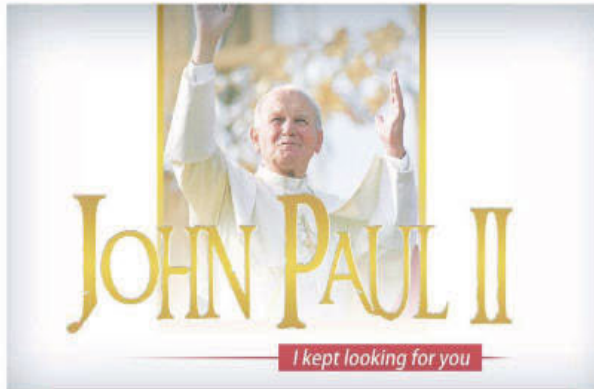
### PICK OF THE WEEK

January 16, 2022

## WATCH

### JOHN PAUL II: I KEPT LOOKING FOR YOU

This incredible documentary traces Pope St. John Paul II's impact on the Church and the world. This film is a wonderful tribute to a man who inspired millions of people to deeper faith in Jesus Christ.



Create your free **FORMED** account online by going to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)

Click on, "Sign Up"— Click on, "I belong to a Parish or Organization"—

type "St. Sylvester" in search box on left—

Choose St. Sylvester Gulf Breeze— Click "Next"

**SHARE WITH FAMILY and ENJOY!!!**

## LEARN

### FORMED NOW! MISERY MEETS MERCY: SAINT FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

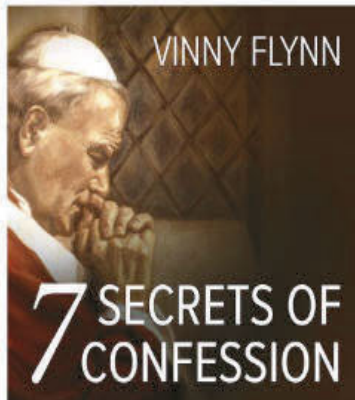
St. Faustina is known as the "secretary of Divine Mercy" because of the revelations of the Lord to her about His incredible mercy. Join Dr. Ben Akers and Fr. Mateusz as they discuss her proclamation of the message of Divine Mercy.



## LISTEN

### 7 SECRETS OF CONFESSION BY VINNY FLYNN

The Sacrament of Confession is the place where we get to encounter the Lord's mercy in a tangible way. In this talk, best selling author and Catholic speaker Vinny Flynn explores the incredible gift of mercy we encounter in Confession.



### Enjoy Award Winning Series



Our parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.



Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat presents the

# Annual Women's Retreat



Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat  
Peace in the Pines

107 Holy Trinity Road, Fort Mitchell, AL 36856  
334-855-4474

*How are the Joyful Mysteries  
of Miryam of Nazareth Reflected  
in Your Life's Journey?*

## January 21-23, 2022

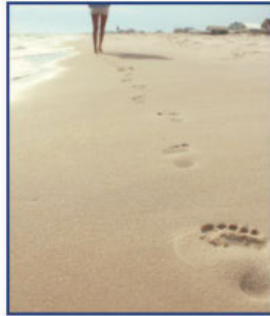
This retreat connects Miryam of Nazareth's life events with our own annunciations, friendships, new life, suffering and seeking.

**Start Time:** Friday, January 21st at 7:00pm Eastern

**End Time:** Sunday, January 23rd after lunch

**Fee:** \$180 per person  
(includes \$40.00 non-refundable deposit)

**Presenter:** Sr. Chris Wiltrakis, MSBT is a member of Trinity Ministries, serving in the Diocese of Savannah in the formation of Missionary Disciples. She formerly served at BTSR for many years.



Follow us on: [www.msbt.org/btsr](http://www.msbt.org/btsr)

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### REGISTRATION FORM

Please reserve a place for me on the following retreat:

Name of Retreat: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle One) M F

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Medically Necessary Diet Needs: \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: MSBT | 107 Holy Trinity Road | Ft. Mitchell, AL 36856

## SHARING THE GIFT



# 2022 Jubilee Marriage Mass

TALLAHASSEE | FEBRUARY 13

12:00 PM Eastern | Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More

*\*\*Feb 13 Mass will be livestreamed on  
YouTube.com/dioceceofpensacolatalahassee\*\**

PENSACOLA | FEBRUARY 20

2:30 PM Central | Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

Come celebrate your marriage with Bishop Wack if you celebrate the 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, or any anniversary after your 50th during 2020.



Please register and find more information at:  
[ptdiocese.org/events](http://ptdiocese.org/events) (850) 435-3553

## Retreat for Women: Living a Life of Love Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m. - Feb. 6, 11:30 a.m. CT

*Sponsored by Women Study Groups*

This weekend retreat for women at the Visitation Monastery (2300 Springhill Ave., Mobile, AL) will include talks, Stations of the Cross, praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, reconciliation and quiet time for additional prayer.

Participants can come for the day or stay overnight.

For more information or to register, contact Nanette Bell at **(850) 543-0901**.

*The deadline to register is Jan. 28.*

## 40th/41st Annual Liturgical Celebration Commemorating Black History Month Jan. 30, 2 - 4 p.m. CT,

*Sponsored by the Catholic African-American Cultural Awareness Group of Okaloosa County.*

All are invited to the 40th/41st Annual Liturgical Celebration Commemorating Black History Month at Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Church (1028 White Point Dr., Niceville). This year's theme is "Love One Another as We give God Glory and Praise". The Most Reverend Bishop Martin D. Holley is the homilist and celebrant of the Mass. Music will be provided by the Eglin Air Force Base Brotherhood Gospel Choir, St. Joseph Choir and St. Anthony Choir. A liturgical dance will be performed by the Anointed Angels of Grace Praise Dancers.

**A full course meal will be provided after the Mass.**

**For more information, contact Roland Simmons at [at71@cox.net](mailto:at71@cox.net) or (850) 729-2573.**

**"We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools."**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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## **STATEMENT ON ROE V. WADE** **DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN LIFE** *January 22, 2022*

On this tragic 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion and stripped the unborn of their fundamental right to life, we mourn the heartbreaking loss of over 62 million victims. The Catholic Church stands emphatically and unreservedly for the rights of the unborn. We look forward with the hope that God will soon bring our nation to a profound awareness of the dignity of human life and a recognition that all lives deserve protection under the law.

We are especially encouraged that the U.S. Supreme Court has heard arguments in the Mississippi abortion case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. This case addresses whether banning abortions after 15 weeks gestation is constitutional. Although difficult to predict, this could very well be the case that overturns *Roe* entirely or in part. We are steadfast in praying that there will be a monumental shift in the Court's abortion precedent in favor of protecting unborn children. We entreat the faithful to commit to daily prayer and fasting along with other believers across the country for a decision that honors the sanctity of unborn life through the Pray for Dobbs campaign ([www.prayfordobbs.com](http://www.prayfordobbs.com)).

We also remain hopeful that the Florida Supreme Court will have an opportunity to reconsider its 1989 ruling that interpreted our state constitution's privacy clause to find a right to abortion in Florida. We are closely following a case currently on appeal, *Gainesville Woman Care, LLC v. State of Florida*, addressing the constitutionality of a common-sense Florida law requiring a 24-hour reflection period prior to abortion. Though this good law is being challenged on the basis that it violates the state constitutional right to privacy, we pray for a judicial outcome that upholds the pro-life law so that women have more time to deliberate undergoing an abortion. Additionally, we urge Florida's Agency for Healthcare Administration to strengthen enforcement of existing abortion regulations.

As a Church, we are committed to accompanying all women, including those experiencing unplanned pregnancies or considering abortion. One way that we have been serving pregnant women and their families is through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' initiative *Walking with Moms in Need*, which connects parishioners with volunteer opportunities at community pregnancy resource centers. We wholeheartedly support this ministry that offers tangible, life-affirming support for vulnerable families – fathers, mothers and their babies. As Pope Francis has said, "And among the most fragile are children who do not see the light because their mothers suffer economic, social and cultural conditioning that drives them to give up that wonderful gift that is the birth of a child." (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Hospital of the Innocents Institute, May 2019)

The Church seeks to be a beacon in a dark world and desires to serve as a field hospital to all who are contemplating or have been harmed by abortion. Even while we recommit to highlighting the great good in embracing life so that abortion is unthinkable, may the Lord continually renew our collective passion to advocate for the protection of unborn children from harm. We ask that the Lord would guide and strengthen our elected and appointed officials in Florida and pray that the legislative and judicial branches at both the state and federal levels come to respect the sacredness of each human life, including the unborn. Let us continue to fight for a culture of life in all spheres so that our society may appreciate the truth that every person—no matter their size, ability, or location—is worthy and worth protecting.

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