

Weekly Update

November 8, 2023

Please join us on Sunday for Holy Eucharist.

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023

8 am & 10 am*

Celebrant: Reverend Victoria Pretti

If you are unable to worship in person, please join us on YouTube.

*To view the livestream service please click the link below.



This week at

St. Martha's



Wednesday, November 8th:

- Men's Discipleship Group at 8 am in the conference room. (meets weekly)
- Finance Committee Meeting at 4 pm (Zoom)

Thursday, November 9th:

- Healing Ministry Meeting at 1pm
- Hospitality Committee Meeting at 2 pm

Sunday, November 12th:

- Book Study between services, 9-9:45 am in the parish hall. Continued discussion on "Learning to Pray", by James Martin.

Monday, November 13th:

- Yoga at 9:30 am in the parish hall. \$8 drop in. Bring your own mat, blanket, block and/or strap. Some will be available.

Tuesday, November 14th:

- Bible Study at 1 pm in the parish hall. They will resume study of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.
- Yoga at 5:30 pm in the parish hall. This is a beginner's class starting with the basics for anyone new to yoga or just looking for a gentle practice. \$8 drop in.

Upcoming Events

It's Convention time! Let's participate online!

Diocesan convention is in Newark on **Friday, November 17 and Saturday November 18.**

Rev. Ria and Carl and Sue Mantegna are our delegates this year.

Everyone is welcome to attend the dinner speaker Friday night and the convention business session on Saturday online at <https://delaware.church/annual-convention-239/> . The Diocesan website is Delaware.church. The tabs will lead you there also.

St. Martha's has had a close connection to the Diocese—first as a Bishop's chapel (1940's-1983), then as a mission (1983-2005) and now as a full parish. From its beginning as year-round in 1979, St. Martha's has provided many members to serve on Diocesan organizations and committees at every level. Most recently, we had representatives on the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and the Trustees. Diocesan Advance & Development loans and grants have helped us expand the facilities from 1979 through 2012. Let's tune in and get a greater understanding of the plans and budget of the Diocese for the next year and beyond!

ANNUAL MEETING



NOVEMBER 19

SINGLE SERVICE

9:00 AM

MEETING TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HALL.
A CATERED LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED AT
THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING.

If you would like to attend the meeting but have not signed up yet, please contact the office by tomorrow (November 9th). This is the deadline for providing a final head count to the caterer. Thank you.



Calling All New Comers

Sunday, November 19th we will have a single service at 9 am. During the service we are inviting anyone new to St. Martha's to come forward for a very special blessing. We would love the opportunity to welcome you more intentionally into our church family. If you would like to participate but have not signed up, please contact the office before Friday at noon.



HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Sat, Nov 18 • 9 AM - 2 PM

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA CLAUS

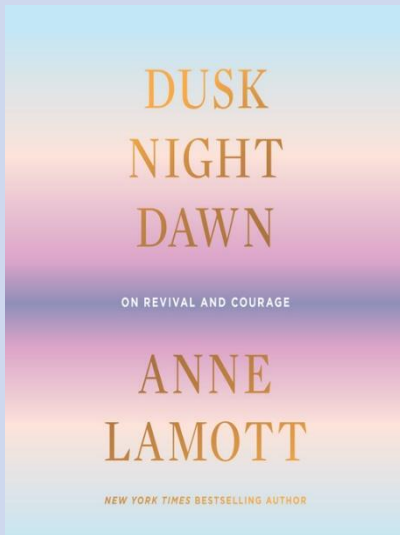
Sat, Dec 2 & Sun, Dec 3 • 9 - 11 AM

A VERY MERRY TEA LUNCHEON WITH SANTA

Wed, Dec 13 • 12 - 3 PM



35268 Homestead Way, Lewes, DE • camparrowhead.net



Please join us on **November 30th** from 3 to 4 pm in the church hall when the St. Martha's Hybrid Book Group meets to discuss Anne Lamott's "Dusk, Night, Dawn." This book grapples with the tough question of how to cope as we stumble through our own personal as well as our country's dark times. Contact Rick Legeer at rlegeer@gmail.com if you would like to join the discussion remotely.

Your help is needed. If you plan to participate in the St. Martha's Hybrid Book Club, please email [Rick Legeer](mailto:rlegeer@gmail.com) and provide your contact information. Due to technical issues, his previous list was lost. Thank you.



The Southern Delaware Chorale will be performing, "**A Candlelight Concert: Midnight Mass,**" featuring such pieces as Messe de Minuit by Charpentier, Wilmington, a Christmas Anthem on the text "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!", O Nata Lux by Thomas Tallis, Go Tell it on the Mountain arranged by John Rutter, Christmas Day by Gustav Holst, audience sing-alongs and more! Our two Lee Mitchell Scholarship winners, Gina Garcia Perez and Caliana Velasquez will perform solos as well.

The concert will take place at Epworth United Methodist Church , 19285 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach on **Friday, December 1, 2023** at 7:30 P.M. and **Saturday, December 2, 2023** at 3:00 P.M. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.southerndelawarechorale.org, Children under 18 are free. Tickets will be available at the door! Credit cards, checks and cash are accepted. Hope to see you there!



Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 12th at Noon
Cripple Creek Golf & Country Club

\$28/person, \$23/Bell Choir Members

*Let's celebrate this festive season with food, fellowship,
and a special performance by the Seashell Ringers!*

Please pick up a form from the parish hall to complete with your meal
selection and return with payment by Sunday, December 3.

Click [here](#) for form. Copies are available in the parish hall as well.

Outreach



With such a tremendous response last Sunday for Thanksgiving food donations and \$30 gift cards for our schools, we only have 4 grocery donations remaining. If you weren't able to participate in the Thanksgiving donations, don't worry, our Angel Tree project is coming up in a few weeks and we will need your help for it.

The Ministerium's recent Crop Hunger Walk exceeded it's goal of \$8,000 for a total of \$15, 042.30. \$3,760.58 will be donated to our local food pantries.

Announcements

Want to Make Your Own Advent Wreath?

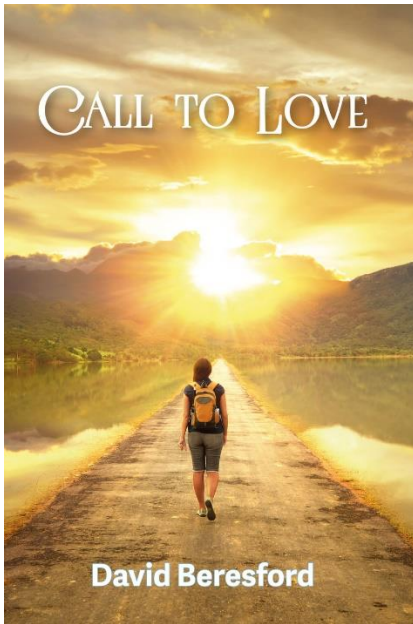
Stop by and check out the Advent wreath display during the Annual Meeting to get some ideas for adorning your wreaths. Wreath rings and candle holders will be available for sale (\$15). You can take them home and personalize your wreath any way you choose. The 4 candles for the wreath will be provided at no cost. There will also be handouts available for advent candle lighting readings.



We hope you are inspired to participate in this memorable way to celebrate advent in your own home. There will be a sign up sheet in the parish hall for those wishing to participate. This way we will be sure to have enough supplies for everyone.

Brick Blessing

On Sunday, December 3rd there will be a brick blessing at both services. If you would like to purchase a brick to be included in this blessing please submit your form by November 12th. The forms can be found at the entrance to the church, as well as in front of the office. You can also contact the office and we will be happy to email you one.



Call to Love explores the ways in which we are called to live in loving and fruitful relationship with God and one another. Taking examples from the Bible and contemporary life, *Call to Love* is for those who are listening for God's call and wondering how to respond. For the spiritual traveler, or even the hesitant convert, the book offers gentle but clear direction on faith, prayer, and the discernment of God's will.

Books can be purchased [HERE](#) or at the book signing at The Rectory, 507 E Buck Rd, Wilmington DE 19807, Sunday November 19 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

RSVP davidberesford@gmail.com

Off Season Specials

Don't feel like cooking tonight? Browse this [list](#) of off season specials at all your favorite local establishments. There is something every day of the week should you desire. Show these businesses your support during this slower time of year and get a great meal for a good deal!



Are you 72 or older? Have you lost the ability to fully deduct charitable contributions because you no longer itemize federal income tax deductions? Do you make donations to St. Martha's regularly? If you answered yes to these questions, you may want to consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD is generally a non-taxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA to St. Martha's or other qualified charities. A QCD reduces your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) and thereby reduces taxes. If you are receiving a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, a QCD can be used to satisfy the RMD. Please consult your tax advisor or tax return preparer to determine if a QCD could benefit you.

Stewardship Update

As of date	Amount Pledged for 2024
9/17/2023	\$25,300
9/26/2023	\$72,820
10/7/2023	\$87,660
10/12/2023	\$102,000
10/17/2023	\$147,120
10/24/2023	\$162,160
10/31/2023	\$172,090
11/5/2023	\$186,370

Pledgers who:	Number
Increased their pledge	23
Pledged the same	41
Decreased their pledge	7
New pledgers	11
Totals	82

A big thank you to all those who have submitted their pledge cards thus far. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!