

Weekly Update

December 13, 2023

Please join us on Sunday for Holy Eucharist.

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 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, December 13th:

- Blue Christmas Service at 4 pm. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with scripture, music, sacrament, candlelight and a gentle prayer ritual.
- Choir practice at 7 pm

Thursday, December 14th:

- Becoming Beloved Community Meeting at 1 pm in the parish hall.
- Outreach Committee Meeting at 2 pm in the parish hall.
- Vestry Meeting at 3 pm in the parish hall.

Friday, December 15th:

- Stitch and Sketch from 10 am to 1pm in the parish hall. We have knitters, painters, quilters and many other crafters who gather to stitch, craft and socialize. All are welcome.
- Mariner's Bethel Live Nativity from 6 - 8 pm. The Story of the birth of Jesus Christ will be presented through scripture and carols, 3 times throughout the evening, at 6 pm, 6:40 pm & 7:20 pm. This event will be held indoors in inclement weather. Mariners Bethel Global Methodist Church, Ocean View.

Sunday, December 17th:

- Book Study will meet between services in the parish hall, 9 - 9:45 am. They will continue with the Advent book, "Essential Mystic Prayers", by Thomas McPherson.
- A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols featuring Choir School of Delaware. Begins at 4 pm at the Village of St. John, 2020 North Tatnall Street, Wilmington.

Monday, December 18th:

- 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, December 19th:

- 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.

Wednesday, December 20th

- Men's Discipleship Group will meet at 8 am in the conference room.

Upcoming Events

Monthly Movies

The featured film for December:



Join us on Thursday, December 21
1 - 3 pm in the parish hall.



Funeral Service



A Celebration of Life for Bob Poetsch will be held on Friday, December 22nd at 11 am.

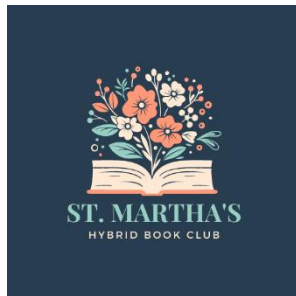


**St. Martha's
Episcopal Church**

Sunday, December 24, 2023

**9:00 am - The Fourth Sunday of Advent
5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service with
Holy Eucharist, Carols and a
Candlelight Singing of 'Silent Night'.**

117 Maplewood Street, Bethany Beach, DE
www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org



St. Martha's Hybrid Book Club will have an administrative meeting this month on Thursday, **December 28th** from 3 - 4 pm. The goal is to review the new format and select titles for the first part of the year. Stay tuned to find out the first book of 2024!



... Ending racism and its corrosive consequences

The Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice will present an inspirational musical celebration on **January 12** in honor of Martin Luther King. "MLK: From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter" will begin at 7:00 pm at Epworth United Methodist Church in Rehoboth Beach. Tickets are \$25 and children under 12 are free. Proceeds benefit SDARJ programs including scholarships, academic recognition, criminal justice reform, Black Voices Magazine, racial reconciliation workshops, and more. For additional details, click [HERE](#),

Outreach



Angel Tree gifts were delivered to Phillip Showell Elementary on Monday, December 11th. There were thirty-two bags for 9 families with 12 students who will be receiving these gifts. A big thanks to the twenty-seven shoppers who bought and wrapped these gifts. There are three unadopted John Clayton Elementary School Angels left on the tree. Gifts for John Clayton are due on Sunday, December 17 so they can be delivered on Monday, December 18 to the school. Selbyville Middle School students will receive Angel Tree gifts using Outreach donations. Thanks again for all of your support!

Announcements

ADVENT IS HERE, 2023

Flowers to decorate our beautiful church for Christmas are given each year by parishioners as a way to honor or remember a person or event. The cost varies according to the particular plant, but averages about \$25. Any donation is just fine. There are designation forms available in front of the office.

Christmas flowers will remain in the church for Christmas and for the Sunday after, December 31, 2023. You are encouraged to take home a plant on that day after the 10 o'clock service.

We will also appreciate your help on December 31st when the wreaths and decorations will be taken down and stored away.

Thanks to all for your help during this very busy Advent season.



DEADLINE EXTENDED:

Support the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Your gift will be matched through Dec. 31.

[GIVE TODAY](#)

The United Thank Offering—in partnership with the Good Friday Offering—will match up to \$100,000 of donations given through Dec. 31 to help sustain outreach ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, [which operates across several countries or territories](#) and includes churches, schools, medical facilities, and other ministries.

Maggie's 7th Annual

Winter Coat Drive

**Donation deadline:
December 31st**

Drop-off Locations:

Selbyville Public Library
11 S Main St, Selbyville, DE 19975

Frankford Town Hall
9 Main St, Frankford, DE 19945

Coldwell Banker
89 Atlantic Ave, Ocean View, DE 19970
1131 S Salisbury Blvd, Salisbury, MD 21801
12207 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842
6405 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842

Next Step Learning Center
2 Church St, Selbyville, DE 19975

Millsboro Lanes
213 Mitchell St, Millsboro, DE 19966

My goal is to collect over 300 new or unused coats, hats and gloves for the less fortunate. All given will be donated to those in need in Sussex County.



**Need us to pick up?
Call: (302) 542-1464**

**Please
Donate**

*A New or Unused Coat
to Help the Less
Fortunate to Keep
Them Warm*

For more information:

Email: bdupont@yahoo.com

Facebook: Maggie's Coat Drive

A donation container is in front of the office. If you have any further questions, you can reach out to Mimi Dupont. Maggie is Mimi's granddaughter.



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 |
| 11/13/2023 | \$196,430 |
| 11/20/2023 | \$197,930 |
| 11/28/2023 | \$200,430 |

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| 12/5/2023 | \$202,040 |
| 12/13/2023 | \$202,340 |

| Pledgers who: | Number |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Increased their pledge | 26 |
| Pledged the same | 47 |
| Decreased their pledge | 10 |
| New pledgers | 13 |
| Totals | 96 |

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a pledge card so far. They continue to trickle in, and every added pledge helps and is very much appreciated.