

Weekly Update

December 20, 2023



The Brass Quartet from Cape Henlopen High School will play the prelude beginning at 4:40 pm.

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



Thursday, December 21st:

- Monthly Movie at 1 pm. The featured film for this month is "The Shop Around the Corner". Against the backdrop of the holiday season, this classic movie is a heartwarming tale of love, connection and the magic of finding happiness in unexpected places. Join us as we take a short break from holiday preparations to relax and unwind!

Friday, December 22nd:

- Bob Poestch's funeral service at 11 am.

Upcoming Events



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



All of the Angel tree gifts have been delivered to Phillip Showell Elementary, John Clayton Elementary, and Selbyville Middle School. The students at these schools will be able to have gifts they need and wish for because of your kindness. Outreach thanks everyone for taking the time to shop, wrap gifts and make Christmas brighter for these families.

Announcements



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

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

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.

**For more information:
Email: bdupont@yahoo.com
Facebook: Maggie's Coat Drive**

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

A donation container is located in front of the office. Donations will be accepted until December 24th.

Christmas Flowers

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.

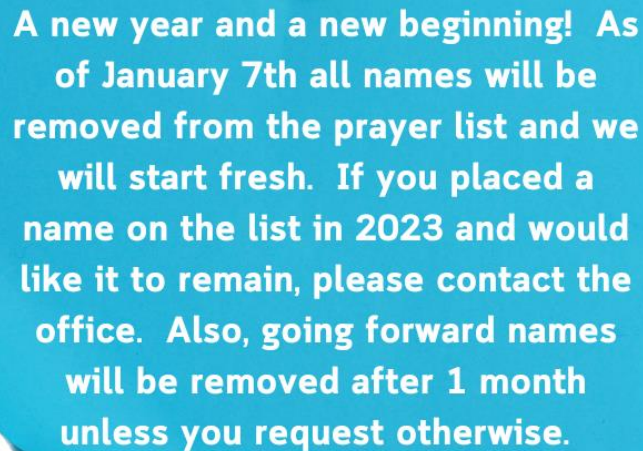
GIVE TODAY

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.



The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is in desperate need of relief aid at this time. If you would like to join the Vestry in giving a contribution for humanitarian relief aid to the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, please make your check out to St. Martha's with "ERD-Jerusalem" in the memo line. Contributions will be accepted through **Sunday, January 7, 2024**.

Prayer List Notice



A new year and a new beginning! As of January 7th all names will be removed from the prayer list and we will start fresh. If you placed a name on the list in 2023 and would like it to remain, please contact the office. Also, going forward names will be removed after 1 month unless you request otherwise.

Thank you!



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
12/19/2023	\$204,640

Pledgers who:	Number
Increased their pledge	26
Pledged the same	47
Decreased their pledge	11

New pledgers	14
Totals	98

**Thank you to everyone who has submitted a pledge card so far.
Your thoughtful consideration and generosity is very much
appreciated.**