

# Weekly Update

## December 27, 2023

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**Please join us on Sunday for Holy Eucharist**

**The First Sunday After Christmas Day**

**December 31, 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.



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### **This week at**

St. Martha's



#### **Thursday, December 28th:**

- St. Martha's Hybrid Book Club will have an administrative meeting from 3-4 pm in the parish hall. The goal is to review the new format and select titles for the first part of the year.

#### **Sunday, December 31st:**

- Book Study will return to the fall book: "Learning to Pray" by James Martin. They will meet in the parish hall in between services from 9 to 9:45 am.

#### **Monday, January 1st**

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

### **Tuesday, January 2nd**

- Yoga at 5:30 pm. 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, January 3rd**

- Men's Discipleship Group will meet from 8 - 9 am in the conference room.

## Upcoming Events



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... 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

### Christmas Flowers

This Sunday, December 31st is the last day for Christmas Flowers. You are encouraged to take home a plant after the 10 o'clock service.

We will also be taking down the wreaths and decorations to put in storage. Any help we can get to assist with this process would be greatly appreciated.



**DEADLINE EXTENDED:**

## Support the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Your gift will be matched through Dec. 31.

GIVE TODAY

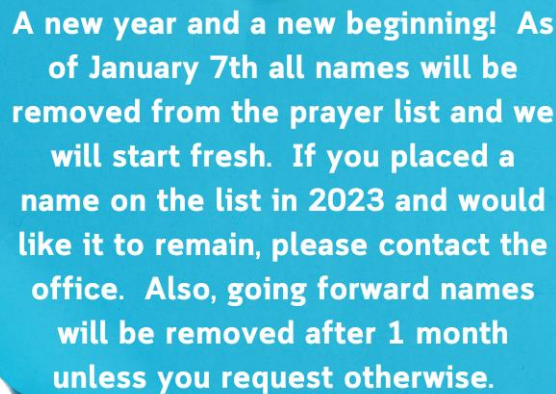
The United Thank Offering—in partnership with the Good Friday Offering—will match up to \$100,000 of donations given through Dec. 31 to help sustain outreach ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, [which operates across several countries or territories](#) and includes churches, schools, medical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

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# 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!

**Beatrice Anne Hemenway Parler**  
**July 15, 1931- December 3, 2023**

Click [HERE](#) for the obituary



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