

IN THE BEGINNING

Church of the Redeemer
Sarasota, Florida

DECEMBER 2023



Dear Redeemer family,

Martha Stewart canceled Thanksgiving, y'all! This is pretty much "the end of the world as we know it" (REM, 1987). After all, Martha made twelve turkeys in one episode last year for her Thanksgiving party (and posed for the cover of the swimsuit edition of *Sports Illustrated* magazine at 81 years old!). But this year, there was no Thanksgiving meal at Martha's!

Appearing on "The Kelly Clarkson Show," Martha revealed she was canceling her annual Thanksgiving feast, saying she was "turkeyed out" by all she's got going on around her. She's not alone. Ina Garten's Thanksgiving advice was to go "simpler" than last year so it would be less stressful. This all comes as a welcome shock to me that Ina and Martha — who've collectively made billions showing us how to do more — now claim less is more! Thank you, Martha, for finally revealing that you secretly want to be a Mary in your Martha world!

In many ways, the whole buildup to Advent and Christmas feels like we are perennially trapped in that familiar and tense story of Mary and Martha of Bethany that is found in St. Luke, Chapter 10. You remember the two sisters — Martha scurries to make the party Williams-Sonoma perfect, and Mary soaks up the time with Jesus. We are told that Mary "chose the better portion," and she experienced contentment and peace. Martha, by contrast, wanted Mary to help her and became bitter and "anxious about many things." Two sisters. Two different focuses.

So, let me ask you this: What is your focus on this Advent? What we focus on most makes all the difference in our lives. Anything we focus on more intently than spending time building our relationship with Jesus Christ will ultimately lead to frustration and bitterness, just like it did for Martha of Bethany. Of course, other things aren't unimportant. Someone has to cook, for example. But these things just aren't *as* important as what *is* most important — Jesus.

I encourage you to intentionally sit at the feet of Jesus this Advent and discover the peace which the world cannot give (John 14:27).

Your servant,

The Rev. Charleston D. Wilson, Rector, Church of the Redeemer

Pictured above:
*Father David Svihel
blesses the crèche
during the 5 p.m.
Christmas Eve mass
at Redeemer on
December 24, 2022.*

Adult Faith Formation Classes in December

Redeemer Forum: Name Your Storm

Sundays, December 3, 10, and 17, 10:10-10:40 a.m., Goewey Hall

By looking at storms in Holy Scripture, this class will help you cling to God through the “swift and varied changes of this world.” We will study storms in the Psalter, the book of Exodus, and Jesus’ calming of the storm in Matthew’s Gospel and what they teach us about God’s faithfulness amid suffering.

Apocalypse Now and Later: Rediscovering the Book of Revelation

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20, 6:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

Far from being “the end of the world as we know it” or a predictor of the rise and fall of nations, the book of Revelation is really the unveiling of Jesus Christ. This class is for those who are confused by, afraid of, and/or preoccupied with the book of Revelation.

Vestry Elections at Annual Parish Meeting

The Redeemer Vestry is the elected 12-member body that ensures effective organization, planning, and management of parish resources. **Four Vestry members will be elected at the Annual Parish Meeting and Celebration on Sunday, January 28, 2024.** One Vestry member will be elected from the 7:30 a.m. mass, two from the 9 a.m. mass, and one from the 11 a.m. mass. Candidates must be givers of record to the annual operating fund and at least 18 years old. A Nominating Committee of outgoing Vestry members will consider names. To nominate someone for the Vestry, please contact Senior Warden Steve Long at mslongjr@yahoo.com.

JANUARY

28

Milestones

Baptisms

Mila Penelope Ames
Lucy Bain
Lottie Marcela Darling
Charlotte Grace DeYoung
Timothy DeYoung
Colby Gabriel Gneiting
Matthew McFarland Melton
Kristina Sparacino

Deaths

Henrietta “Alma” Bennett
Hamilton “Ham” Jones
Jean Short

Marriage

Michaela Behrndt &
Zachary Burczak

Joining

Patricia Gneiting
Sarah, Joseph, RJ, Kelsey
& Taylor Lodge

Transfers

Jane & Marty Faust
from St. Boniface, Siesta Key

Special Gifts

A gift in memory of
Henrietta “Alma” Bennett
from Ronald Rose,
Diana & Juan Antezana,
and Nichole Hines
for the Memorial Fund

A gift in memory of
Andy Dorr
from Anne & Mason Ayres,
Melanie & Tim Hensey,
Susie & Charlie Shugg,
and Liz & Joe Reuth
for a playground in the
Dominican Republic

A gift in memory of
Valerie & Andy Dorr
from Beverly & Brigham Clegg
for the Memorial Fund

A Music-Filled Advent at Redeemer

Advent Recitals: Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m., Free



DECEMBER 6
Sam Nelson, Organ
Redeemer Organist-Choirmaster



DECEMBER 13
Ann Stephenson-Moe, Organ
Redeemer Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus



DECEMBER 20
Julane Rogers, Harpsichord

Advent Lessons & Carols Sunday, December 3, 5:15 p.m. Free

Enjoy scripture readings
by clergy and youth
paired with festive music
by the Redeemer choirs.

Messiah Sing-Along Sunday, December 17, 7 p.m. \$25

World-class soloists perform
arias & the audience sings
choruses. Featuring Sarasota
Orchestra members.

December Highlights at Redeemer

Women of Redeemer Christmas Tea: Saturday, December 2, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Gillespie Hall (*Please note: Registration for this event is full.*)

First Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 3 (*Regular service times*)

Redeemer Forum: Name Your Storm: Sundays, December 3, 10, and 17, 10:10-10:40 a.m., Gillespie Hall

Advent Lessons & Carols: Sunday, December 3, 5:15 p.m., Church

Coffee Talk Women's Book Group: Monday, December 4, 9-11 a.m., Goewey Hall (*The Maid* by Nita Prose)

Women's Prayer Group in Spanish: Monday, December 4, 6:30 p.m., Gillespie Hall

Advent Recital with Redeemer Organist-Choirmaster Sam Nelson: Wednesday, December 6, 12:15 p.m. (*Free*)

Christmas Lights Trolley Tour: Wednesday, December 6, 5:45 p.m., meet in front of Redeemer (*Sign up for \$15 at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.*)

Apocalypse Now and Later: Rediscovering the Book of Revelation Adult Class: Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20, 6:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

Grace Gang Women's Bible Study with Father Charleston Wilson: Thursdays, December 7 and 21, noon-1 p.m., Goewey Hall

Second Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 10 (*Regular service times*)

Advent Recital with Redeemer Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus Ann Stephenson-Moe: Wednesday, December 13, 12:15 p.m. (*Free*)

Books and Beyond Men's Book Club: Wednesday, December 13, 6-8 p.m., Room 220 (*Rising Tide* by John M. Barry)

Third Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 17 (*Regular service times*)

Parents vs. Kids Ugly Sweater Bowling Night: Sunday December 17, 6-8 p.m., AMF Lanes Southgate (*\$10, sign up at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register*)

Messiah Sing-Along: Sunday, December 17, 7 p.m., Church. (*Purchase tickets for \$25 at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.*)

Advent Recital with Harpsichordist Julane Rogers: Wednesday, December 20, 12:15 p.m. (*Free*)

Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass: Sunday, December 24, 10 a.m. (*Our Sunday service times are adjusted today because of Christmas Eve.*)

Christmas Eve Masses: Sunday, December 24, 3 p.m. (Family Mass); 5 p.m. (with 4:30 p.m. pre-service carols); 10:30 p.m. (with 10 p.m. pre-service music)

Christmas Day Masses: Monday, December 25, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. (*1 p.m. in Spanish*)

Visit RedeemerSarasota.org/Calendar for more information about upcoming events and RedeemerSarasota.org/Register to sign up for programs and events.

Ring the Bell!

Redeemer is volunteering for The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign at the Publix at 3825 S. Osprey Ave now through December 23. Sign up for a bell-ringing shift at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register. Questions? Contact parishioner Sharon Coleman at 404-590-9109. Thanks for volunteering!



Watch a Video of Nik Wallenda at Redeemer

Tightrope legend Nik Wallenda recently spoke at Redeemer for Men's Steak Night. Nik, a committed Christian, has walked a tightrope over Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon, and Times Square. Scan this QR code or visit tinyurl.com/NikAtRedeemer to watch a recording of Nik's inspiring talk!



Application Open for Redeemer's St. Scholastica Grants for Teachers



In January, Redeemer will again award several \$250 grants for classroom enhancements to kindergarten through 12th grade public school teachers in Sarasota and Manatee counties. To be considered for a grant, teachers must apply online between now and Friday, December 8. For more information and the link to apply, visit RedeemerSarasota.org/StScholasticaGrants2023.

Parishioners, please share this information with any teachers you know!



Church of the Redeemer
222 S. Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

RedeemerSarasota.org | 941-955-4263

Making new Christians and making all Christians new



Christmas at Redeemer

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
3 p.m., 5 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Childcare will be available for children ages 6 weeks to 4 years old at the 3 p.m. & 5 p.m. masses.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES
10 a.m. & 1 p.m. (1 p.m. in Spanish)

Daily Mass

Monday-Saturday at 10 a.m.

Morning Prayer

Monday-Saturday at 9 a.m.

Evening Prayer

Monday-Friday at 5:15 p.m.

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Contemporary Mass*

A service with contemporary music

Sunday at 7:30 a.m.

Rite One Mass

A service without music for early risers

Sunday at 9 a.m.

Rite Two Choral Mass*

A service for all ages with traditional music

(Children's Chapel during mass)

Sunday at 11 a.m.

Rite One Choral Mass*

A service with traditional music

Sunday at 1 p.m.

Rite Two Mass*

A service in Spanish with contemporary music

*in person and livestreamed

Nursery care at the 9 and 11 a.m. masses.