



# Our Savior is Born, Let Us Adore Him

1714 U.S. Highway 27, Suite 23  
Clermont, FL 34714

December 25, 2022

Wishing You a Blessed and Merry Christmas

Jesus, I Trust in You

## Mass Schedule / Horario de Misas

### Daily Mass

Monday to Saturday at 8:00 AM

### Weekend Masses

Saturday @ 4:00 PM

Sunday @ 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM,

11:00 AM, 5:00 PM *en Espanol*

### Wednesday Holy Hour

3:00—4:00 PM

### First Friday Exposition

8:30 AM –9:30 AM

### Confessions

Saturday 3:00-3:45 PM

or by appointment



Parish Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM

Parish Phone Number: 352-515-9297

Pastor Father Ramon Bolatete

Ext. 101

[rbolatete@stfaustina.org](mailto:rbolatete@stfaustina.org)

Deacon John Broehl

[jbroehl@stfaustina.org](mailto:jbroehl@stfaustina.org)

Actively Retired — Father John McNalis

Diocesan Administrator Father Ed Waters, VF Tel: 352-753-0989

Operations Manager

Joe Seddio

Ext. 104

[jseddio@stfaustina.org](mailto:jseddio@stfaustina.org)

Director of Music & Liturgy

Kelly Mucci

Ext. 102

[kmucci@stfaustina.org](mailto:kmucci@stfaustina.org)

Director of Faith Formation

Marylú Mariniello

Ext. 103

[mmariniello@stfaustina.org](mailto:mmariniello@stfaustina.org)

Database Administrator Coordinator Donna Cuttita

Ext. 100

[dcuttita@stfaustina.org](mailto:dcuttita@stfaustina.org)

Website: [www.stfaustina.org](http://www.stfaustina.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/St.FaustinaCatholicChurch](https://www.facebook.com/St.FaustinaCatholicChurch)

# Pastor's Message / Mensaje del Pastor

*...And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*

Merry Christmas! We now truly are in a season of joy, a season of giving. A time of family gatherings, a season of love. On behalf of the parish family of St. Faustina's, I give you my love, blessings, and the promise to serve you the best possible way I can, as your pastor. But this is a moment to celebrate you and your being a gift to the parish. We likewise thank the Lord for all those that have gone before us, leaving us a legacy of faith and commitment to love God and serve the Lord in this great parish!



Jesus became flesh, one with us in all things, but sin. The Word of God, Jesus Christ, becomes for us a model to emulate and imitate for the rest of our lives. He is the epitome of self-giving, of forgiveness, and of pure love. We gather with family and friends this season to remind ourselves of the ultimate gift and meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ himself.

I thank you all for being Jesus to me and to the rest of the parish family and the world around us! You are my most precious Christmas gift! May the blessings of peace, love and joy be forever in your hearts and in the hearts of everyone you love. I can only think of greater things in store for us at our new place of worship at 15551 N. Boggy Marsh Road in the coming year!

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" (Is. 52:7)*

\* \* \* \* \*

*...Y el Verbo se hizo carne y habitó entre nosotros, y vimos su gloria, gloria como del Hijo unigénito del Padre, lleno de gracia y de verdad. (Juan 1:14)*

¡Feliz navidad! Ahora verdaderamente estamos en una temporada de alegría, una temporada de dar. Un tiempo de reuniones familiares, una temporada de amor. En nombre de la familia parroquial de St. Faustina, les doy mi amor, mis bendiciones y la promesa de servirles de la mejor manera posible, como su párroco. Pero este es un momento para celebrarlo a usted y su ser un regalo para la parroquia. De igual manera agradecemos al Señor por todos los que nos han precedido, dejándonos un legado de fe y compromiso de amar a Dios y servir al Señor en esta gran parroquia!

Jesús se hizo carne, uno con nosotros en todas las cosas, excepto en el pecado. La Palabra de Dios, Jesucristo, se convierte para nosotros en un modelo a emular e imitar por el resto de nuestra vida. Él es el epítome de la entrega, del perdón y del amor puro. Nos reunimos con familiares y amigos en esta temporada para recordarnos el regalo y el significado supremo de la Navidad: Jesucristo mismo.

¡Les agradezco a todos por ser Jesús para mí y para el resto de la familia parroquial y el mundo que nos rodea! ¡Eres mi regalo de Navidad máspreciado! Que las bendiciones de paz, amor y alegría estén para siempre en sus corazones y en los corazones de todos los que aman. ¡Solo puedo pensar en grandes cosas que nos esperan en nuestro nuevo lugar de culto en 15551 N. Boggy Marsh Road el próximo año!

*¡Cuán hermosos sobre los montes son los pies del que trae buenas nuevas, anuncia la paz, lleva la buena nueva, anuncia la salvación y dice a Sion: "Tu Dios es Rey!" (Is 52, 7)*

## *Financial Stewardship*

Weekly Collection Weekend of December 11, 2022

Offertory / Ofertorio: \$11,318.00 Construction / Contruccion: \$6,670.00

"Thank You" for your ongoing support / "Muchas Gracias" por su continuo apoyo

Mass Attendance for the Weekend of December 11: 1,202

# Mass Intentions

## CHRISTMAS EVE

### Saturday, December 24, 2022

- 4:00 pm Parishioners of St. Faustina  
5:30 pm Parishioners of St. Faustina  
9:00 pm Please Join us for Christmas Carols  
10:00 pm Parishioners of St. Faustina

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Sunday, December 25, 2022

- 8:00 am Parishioners of St. Faustina  
9:30 am Parishioners of St. Faustina  
11:00 am Parishioners of St. Faustina  
5:00 pm Parishioners of St. Faustina

### Monday, December 26, 2022

- 8:00 am + Carl Werner  
Requested by: Family

### Tuesday, December 27, 2022

- 8:00 am + Rene Guerra  
Requested by: Alba Guerra

### Wednesday, December 28, 2022

- 8:00 am + Alicia Vega (20<sup>th</sup> Ann)  
Requested by: Family

### Thursday, December 29, 2022

- 8:00 am + Stephen Reyes  
Requested by: Wil & Lina Green

### Friday, December 30, 2022

- 8:00 am + Ana Longo  
Requested by: Alejandro Flores

### Saturday, December 31, 2022

- 8:00 am Parishioners of St. Faustina  
4:00 pm + Pat Mauschiano  
Requested by: Judy Coutu

### Sunday, January 1, 2023

- 8:00 am + Luciana Flores  
Requested by: Carmelita Flores  
9:30 am + Carlos Hernandez  
Requested by: Mom  
11:00 am + Luis Ramos  
Requested by: Miriam Ramos  
5:00 pm Parishioners of St. Faustina

# Prayer Requests

## *Dear Parishioners and Friends,*

In order to properly update our parish "Prayer Request" section of the bulletin, we are asking you to **resubmit names** that you would like on our list by emailing: [office@stfaustina.org](mailto:office@stfaustina.org).



Dolores Bojda, Mary Lou Maiellano, Lee Patrick, Carol Walker, Allen Bishop, Matthew Thompson, Florence Tyree, Lilah Smith, Dakota Smith, Becky Oosterveen, Deacon Dennis Gillan, Steve Albrecht, Brown Stegall, Tommy White, Angel Pagan, Yolanda Inumerable, Robert Kasper, Arturo Alejandro, Marie Flom, Marilyn Moseley, The Langan Family, Dick Schondel, Colby Feazell, Mike McGee, Evelisse Bookhout, Russell Perine, Gloria Nestel, Sandra Mueller, Manuel Bazon, Michele Middleton, Albie Hahn, Tina Audino, Jo Ellen Foti,

Frank Montagnino, Bill Consiglio, Debbie Consiglio, Joan Banahan, Kim Banks, Karen Clark, Judith Crogman, Daniel Cuttita, Patricia Dick, Linda Dugan, Don Logan, Brydon Neary, Ed Robinson, John Ryan, Cynthia Santulli, Lenise Shope, Amanda Solmonoff, Marge Tagler, Nicole Urbon, Theresa Wentling, Eric Whittingham, Mary Garl, Sue & Gene Plante, Donald & Trish Villeneuve, the People of Ukraine and their country, and all those in need.



**OUR MISSION** — St. Faustina is a Community inspired by the Holy Spirit and called to reflect God's Divine Mercy, to foster spiritual growth, and to attend the temporal and social needs of all.

**NUESTRA MISION** — Santa Faustina es una comunidad inspirada por el Espiritu Santo, y llamada a reflejar la Divina Misericordia de Dios, a fomentar el crecimiento espiritual, y atender las necesidades temporales y sociales de todos.



# Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 11, was quite a day of fun, fellowship, and festivities at our parish as we held both the Children's Christmas pageant and the Bake Sale / Food Festival.

The Faith Formation and Music ministries came together to put on a beautiful, and very special Children's Christmas Pageant, "The Christmas Story". The kids and teens did a wonderful job bringing to life the Nativity.

For more photos, please go to: [Children's Christmas Pageant 2022 - St. Faustina Catholic Church - Clermont \(stfaustina.org\)](https://www.stfaustina.org/childrens-christmas-pageant-2022)



**Are You Looking to Make a Meaningful New Year's Resolution?** Our St. Faustina parish is an active one with MANY opportunities for you to become involved with a ministry that fits your God-given talents. To learn more about all of our ministries and who to contact, please go to our website at:

[Ministries - St. Faustina Catholic Church - Clermont \(stfaustina.org\)](https://www.stfaustina.org/ministries)  
and / or: [Liturgical Ministries - St. Faustina Catholic Church - Clermont \(stfaustina.org\)](https://www.stfaustina.org/liturgical-ministries)



**Would You Help Us Move To Our New Home?** — The move-in to our new church home date should be somewhere around the first of February, give or take a couple of weeks on either side. With that in mind, a four-team plan has been developed to address various aspects in order to make the move as smooth and easy as possible. For more information on how you can help, please go to: [Construction Background - St. Faustina Catholic Church - Clermont \(stfaustina.org\)](https://www.stfaustina.org/construction-background)

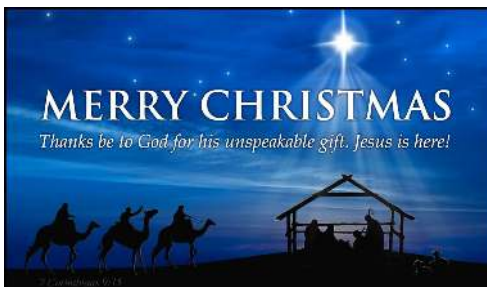
# *Bake Sale and International Food Festival*

Also on that day, many of our parishioners came together with the Bake Sale Ministry to put on an “International Food Festival” under the tent in our parking lot. Hot food, cold food, and of course, baked good (aplenty) were offered for sale with a total of \$2,265 raised in order to purchase new Liturgical supplies for our new church.

Susan Westrick won first prize in the raffle, a beautiful Gingerbread Disney Castle, that was donated, with Diane Magilone and Julius Aita winning the second and third prize gift baskets, which were also donated to the parish.

A special “thanks” to Becky Racine and Kathy Murphy, who brought this idea to our Operations Manager, Joe Seddio, and worked to bring it all together. It was also a special moment, and now, memory, for Becky as she is stepping away from the ministry after 15 years.

For more photos, please go to our parish website at:  
<https://stfaustina.org/photo-albums/international-food-festival-2022/>



Christmas is a time of reflection. It is a time to look back at the year gone by while at the same time, looking ahead to the year that is approaching and renewing our faith and our lives with the hopes and dreams that will hopefully be coming our way.

Equally important, if not more important, Christmas is a time of thanks.

First, and foremost, we give thanks to God for the great gift of His Son. We give Him thanks for the many blessings in our lives and we hold on to Jesus’ promise that, “My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may also be where I am.” (John 14:2-3)

To Jesus, we give thanks for his willingness to leave his Heavenly throne to come to this earth so that we may be saved. To Mary and Joseph, we give thanks for the example they set through the lives they led, and we pray to them that they teach us to hear when God is talking to us and to respond with the same love, obedience and willingness in which they responded.

We give thanks for our parish. The journey to the promise of our own permanent church building is almost over. As we reflect on the disappointments and the joys of our adventure, we realize that God, as He Has promised, was, and is, with us every step of the way. Our parish could not have withstood or accomplished our journey without His hand being present nor without the parishioners who have come together over the years to bring us to where we are.

The weekend of December 11 was a perfect example of who we are as a parish community. The children’s Christmas Pageant and the Bake Sale / Food Festival brought together the hard work of volunteerism and the fellowship and comradery of support through attendance.

Not only do you support the parish with your help through the many liturgical ministries that are needed for the celebration of the Holy Mass, but you also support the ministries that support those in need in our community and those in need within our own parish family. The legacy of this parish is, “when asked, our parishioners respond.”

2022 has been an awesome year and full of synergy; we so look forward to cultivating that synergy in 2023 as we share God’s Word and love throughout our community and beyond. *To all our parishioners, past and present, we give thanks.*



# Parish Ministries & Upcoming Events



## THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Following the guidelines of the Diocese of Orlando, St. Faustina is closed starting on Friday, December 23, though the week of December 26 to 30, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3. (Monday, January 2, is observed as the January 1 holiday).

Father Ramon and the entire staff at St. Faustina wish you a very Blessed, Safe, Holy, and Merry Christmas.



## Newly Expanded Office Hours

After the first of the New Year, the St. Faustina parish office will increase their hours of operation to serve you better.

### Our new office hours will be:

Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
and Friday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God New Year's Mass Schedule** — We will celebrate the start of 2023 by celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, with the following Mass schedule:



New Year's Eve Daily Mass, Saturday, December 31, 8 am  
Virgil for Solemnity of Mary, Saturday, December 31, 4 pm



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Sunday, January 1, 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am, 5 pm (Spanish)

## Town Hall Meeting

Got questions? Is there something you want to know? Well, there's a lot that we want to tell you!

### Come to our St. Faustina Town Hall Meeting

on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM to "Hear All About It"!

In addition to hearing from you, we'd love to tell you parish-wide ideas about:

Plans and timelines for the move to our new building  
Transition to our new church update  
St. Faustina ministries update

An update on St. Faustina finances  
Liturgically, what to expect at our new building  
How you can be involved in all the excitement!

*A "Question and Answer" Period in true Town-Hall Spirit!*



Make plans to attend now, we're looking forward to seeing you at our St. Faustina Town Hall Meeting!

# St. Stephen

By *Marylu Mariniello*

The name Stephen comes from the Greek language.

Stephen was a foreign-born Jew, a Hellenist, who lived in Jerusalem and spoke Greek. This is written in The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 6, but no one knows when he was born. A big complaint among the Hellenists was that their widows were neglected by most of the other Hebrews. This led the Apostles to create deacons to attend to this matter. Stephen was one of the seven deacons, who was also a great speaker and evangelist. He was the oldest and given the title of "Archdeacon," He often spoke in the synagogues, provoking the Jewish clergy, who had him summoned before the Sanhedrin. Stephen was charged with speaking against "this holy place and the law."

Stephen was very wise, detailing the history of Israel and outlining the blessings God had bestowed upon his chosen people. He also explained how disobedient Israel had become, despite the goodness and mercy of the Lord. Stephen explained that Jesus had come to fulfill the law of Moses, not destroy it. He quoted considerably from the Hebrew scriptures to prove his case. For this, he was accused of blasphemy and speaking against God and Moses. These charges inflamed the local people who demanded Stephen be tried and punished. When he was put on trial, many false witnesses were interviewed by the Sanhedrin to testify that Stephen was guilty of blasphemy. Then he was charged with predicting that Jesus would destroy the Temple and for preaching against Mosaic law.

Stephen reprimanded the Sanhedrin, saying, "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They put to death those who foretold the coming of the righteous one, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become. You received the law as transmitted by angels, but you did not observe it." (Acts 7:51-53)

As Stephen finished his defense, he looked up and saw a vision of Christ standing at the right hand of God. Stephen then said, "Look, I can see heaven thrown open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." That vision was the final proof of blasphemy for the Jews who did not believe Jesus was the Messiah or the Son of God. They couldn't understand that Jesus could be beside the Father in Heaven. The crowd rushed up to Stephen and carried him to be stoned to death.

While he was being brutally stoned, Stephen spoke his last words saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold this sin against them." Words which echoed the very words of Jesus on the Cross. Following this, Stephen died.

His forgiving words are written in the Acts of the Apostles 7:59-60, which are similar to the words Christ said at His crucifixion (Luke 23:34).

A man named Saul of Tarsus was a Rabbi who watched this murder. He was very anti-Christian, having killed many. But a short while later, he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, was thrown off of his horse and then lost his sight. Christ then asked him why he did these horrible things. This meeting convinced Saul to convert to Christianity and change his name to Paul, becoming one of the most revered saints, writing epistles, championing the faith, converting people and dying a martyr's death. This encounter is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter nine.

St. Stephen became the first Christian martyr. He died in the year 36 AD and his feast day is December 26. He is the patron saint of deacons, altar servers, bricklayers, casket makers and stonemasons. He is often depicted with a Gospel Book, a miniature church, stones and a martyr's palm frond.

In 415 a priest claimed he had a vision of a tomb and located St. Stephen's remains. A name inside the tomb confirmed this.

Deacon Keith Fournier wrote this prayer to St. Stephen:

Lord Jesus, you chose Stephen as the first deacon and martyr of your One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The heroic witness of his holy life and death reveals your continued presence among us. Through following the example of his living faith, and by his intercession, empower us by your Holy Spirit to live as witnesses to the faith in this New Missionary Age.

No matter what our state in life, career or vocation, help us to proclaim, in both word and in deed, the fullness of the Gospel to a world which is waiting to be born anew in Jesus Christ. Pour out upon your whole Church, the same Holy Spirit which animated St Stephen, Martyr, to be faithful to the end, which is a beginning of life eternal in the communion of the Trinity.

A Blessed Christmas to everyone.

