



SAINT FAUSTINA CATHOLIC CHURCH

15551 N. Boggy Marsh Road, Clermont, FL 34714
352-515-9297 // E-Mail: office@stfaustina.org

Web Site: www.stfaustina.org

Facebook: facebook.com/St.Faustina Catholic Church

December 21-22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, I Trust in You

Mass Schedule / Horario de Misas

Daily Mass / Misa Diaria

Monday through Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Weekend Masses / Misas de fin de semana

Saturdays @ 4:00 p.m.

**Sundays @ 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.,
5:00 p.m. en Español**

Wednesday Holy Hour / Miércoles Hora Santa

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*First Friday Adoration /
Adoración del Primer Viernes*

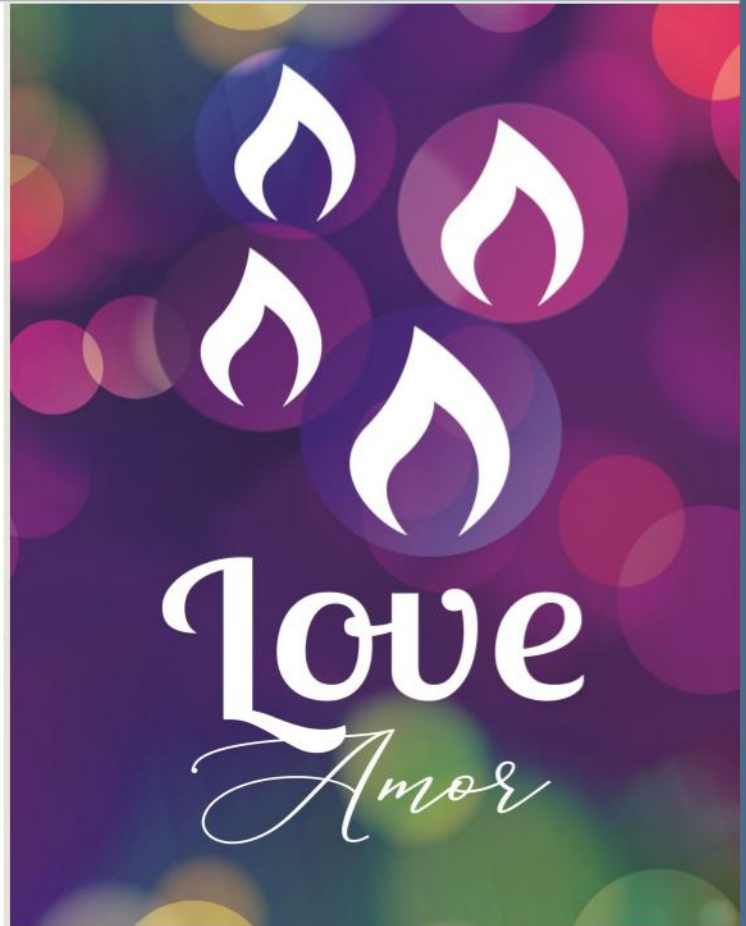
8:30 a.m to 10:30 a.m.

Confessions / Confesiones

**Saturday / Sábado 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
or appointment / o con cita previa**

*The Church is Open for Personal Prayer
Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to
4:00 p.m., and on Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

*La Iglesia está abierta para la oración personal
De lunes a jueves, de 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
y los viernes, de 9:00 a.m. a 1:00 p.m.*



Parish Office Hours / Horario de Oficina Parroquial

Monday thru Thursday / Lunes a Jueves 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday / Viernes 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Pastoral Team / Equipo pastoral

Pastor	Father Carlos Caban	Ext. 101	ccaban@stfaustina.org
Retired	Father John McNalis		johnmcnalis@att.net
Deacon	Cris Stout		cstout@stfaustina.org
Deacon	Tom Baca		tbaca@stfaustina.org
Operations Manager	Christian Rivera	Ext. 104	crivera@stfaustina.org
Director of Music & Liturgy	Kelly Mucci	Ext. 102	kmucci@stfaustina.org
Director of Faith Formation	Marylu Mariniello	Ext. 103	mmariniello@stfaustina.org
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Duane Hyland	Ext. 107	dhyland@stfaustina.org
Receptionist	Carmen Pagan	Ext. 106	cpagan@stfaustina.org

A Message From Father Carlos / Un Mensaje de Padre Carlos

Mi querida familia de Santa Faustina,

Nuestro corto tiempo de Adviento ha llegado casi a su término, ya estamos en el cuarto Domingo de Adviento. El gozo del tiempo de la Navidad está a la vuelta de la esquina. Aún tenemos tiempo para prepararnos como debe ser para estas fiestas navideñas. Tenemos hasta el martes, no dejes que las compras de último minuto o envolver regalos nos desconecten o nos quiten la oportunidad de una buena preparación. Recordemos que se trata de Jesús, esa es la verdadera razón de la Navidad: ¡El regalo de Emmanuel! ¡Dios con nosotros!

La palabra de Dios de este fin de semana en el Evangelio nos recuerda en boca de Isabel que María es: **“Bendita eres entre las mujeres, y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre”** (Lucas 1:42) María, nos enseña a esperar, María nos enseña a ponernos al servicio de Dios, María nos enseña que, aunque las situaciones puedan ser complicadas, con Dios todo se puede. Ojalá que como fruto del adviento podamos ser un poco más como María.

Hermanos y hermanas recordemos verificar el calendario de actividades para estos días, que está en la página [https:// tinyurl.com/4bk6vvh9](https://tinyurl.com/4bk6vvh9). Ahí encontrarán el horario de las celebraciones de las Misas de Navidad. En nombre del Padre John, de nuestros Diáconos Chris y Tom, y de todo nuestro equipo parroquial quiero expresar palabras de agradecimiento a todos aquellos que con su tiempo, talento y tesoro nos ayudan a llevar adelante la misión. Quiero mencionar de manera especial los niños de la Catequesis que prepararon hermosamente la escenificación del Nacimiento y las comunidades filipinas e hispanas que aún están celebrando con tanto amor la Novena de Navidad. Cada Celebración ha sido signo de nuestra Fe y de la diversidad cultural de nuestra parroquia. ¡Que lindo es ser católico! Pidamos a Dios y al Divino Niño que esta por nacer en nuestros corazones que el fruto de nuestra preparación en este Adviento podamos disfrutarlo en la Navidad. A todos ustedes les deseo una Navidad llena de paz y felicidad. ¡Ánimo!

Santa Faustina... Ruega por nosotros.



My dear family of St. Faustina,

Our short Advent season has almost come to an end, and we are now on the fourth Sunday of Advent. The joy of the Christmas season is just around the corner. We still have time to prepare as we should for this Christmas season. We have until Tuesday, so don't let last-minute shopping or gift wrapping turn us off or take away the opportunity for good preparation. Let's remember it's all about Jesus; that's the real reason for Christmas: the gift of Emmanuel! God with us!

The word of God this weekend in the Gospel reminds us in the mouth of Elizabeth that Mary is: **“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb”** (Luke 1:42). Mary teaches us to wait, Mary teaches us to put ourselves at God's service, Mary teaches us that, although situations may be complicated, with God everything is possible. Hopefully, as a fruit of Advent, we can be a little more like Mary.

Brothers and sisters, let us remember to check the calendar of activities for these days, which can be found at [https:// tinyurl.com/4bk6vvh9](https://tinyurl.com/4bk6vvh9). There you will find the schedule of the Christmas Mass celebrations. On behalf of Father John, our Deacons Chris and Tom, and our entire parish team, I want to thank all those who, with their time, talent, and treasure, help us carry on the mission. I want to mention the children of the Catechesis who beautifully prepared the Nativity Scene and the Filipino and Hispanic communities still celebrating Christmas Novena with so much love. Each Celebration has been a sign of our Faith and the cultural diversity of our parish. How beautiful it is to be Catholic! Let us ask God and the Divine Child about to be born in our hearts that we all enjoy the fruit of our Advent preparation at Christmas. To all of you, I wish you a Christmas full of peace and happiness. Cheer up!

Saint Faustina... Pray for us.

Father Carlos

Welcome to
St. Faustina
Catholic Church!

¡Bienvenidos a
la Iglesia
Católica de
Santa Faustina!

Join the Respect Life Ministry to Pray for Life on Saturday, December 28, The Feast of the Holy Innocents, at the 8:00 a.m. Mass.
Únase al Ministerio Respetemos la Vida para Orar por la Vida el sábado 28 de diciembre, Fiesta de los Santos Inocentes,
en la Misa de las 8:00 a.m.

**The Clergy and Staff
of
St. Faustina Catholic Church
Wish you a
Blessed and Merry Christmas!**

**El Clero y el Personal
de
Iglesia Católica de Santa Faustina
¡Les deseamos una Feliz Navidad!**





Regular Mass Schedule / Horario de Misas Regular
Sunday, December 21 - Monday, December 23

Daily Mass / Misa Diaria
 Monday - Saturday, 8:00 a.m.
 Saturday (Vigil), 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday, 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., & 11:30 a.m.
 5:00 p.m. en Español

Simbang Gabi (Christmas Filipino Novena)

December 21, 6:00 p.m.
 December 22, 7:00 p.m.
 December 23, 6:00 p.m.

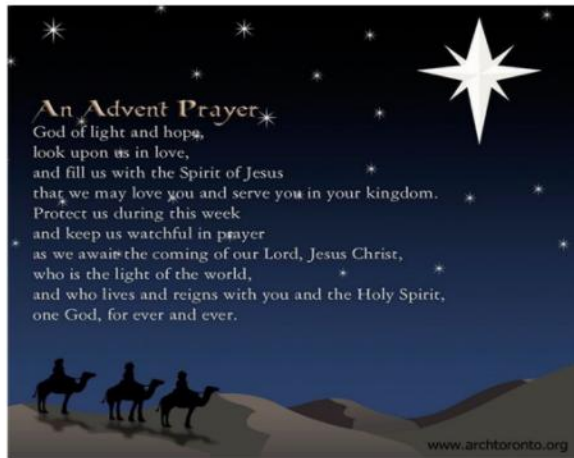
Novena de Navidad

21- 23 de diciembre, 7:30 p.m.

El 22 de diciembre la Novena se celebrará antes de la Misa en Español.

Christmas Bake Sale / Venta de dulces de Navidad

December 21 & 22, after all Masses



Celebrate Christmas with us!

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God. / *Toda la tierra ha visto al Salvador.*

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

martes, 24 de diciembre del 2024

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Vigilia de la Natividad del Señor

4:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m. (Bilingual/*Bilingüe*)

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

miércoles, 25 diciembre del 2024

The Nativity of the Lord

La Natividad del Señor

8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. en Español

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

martes, 31 de diciembre del 2024

Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary,

Holy Mother of God

4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

miércoles, 1 de enero del 2025

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Solemnidad de María, la Santísima Madre de Dios

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. en Español

January 4 & 5

4 y 5 de enero del 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord

La Epifanía del Señor

Regular Mass Schedule

Horario de Misas Regular

January 11 & 12, 2025

11 y 12 de enero del 2025

The Baptism of the Lord

El Bautismo del Señor

Regular Mass Schedule

Horario de Misas Regular

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius

8:00 a.m. Memorial Mass Association
For the Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. + T. A. E. Mosely

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. SI Birthday Carmelita Flores

9:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. Faustina

11:30 a.m. SI Birthday Blessings Fr. Ramone Botatete

5:00 p.m. + Antoinette Kokotovich and
+ Elsie Kokotovich

Monday, December 23, 2024

St. John of Kanty

8:00 a.m. + Clifford O'Dell

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Vigil for the Nativity of the Lord

4:00 p.m. For the Parishioners of St. Faustina

10:00 p.m. For the Parishioners of St. Faustina

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Faustina

9:30 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Faustina

11:30 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Faustina

Thursday, December 26, 2024

St. Stephen

8:00 a.m. + Thomas A. Joyce

Friday, December 27, 2024

St. John

8:00 a.m. + Richard Surmick

Saturday, December 28, 2024

The Holy Innocents

8:00 a.m. Memorial Mass Association

For The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

4:00 p.m. + Tarnowski Family

Sunday, December 29, 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

7:30 a.m. + Stephen Reyes

9:30 a.m. + Thomas Van Nossdall

11:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. Faustina

5:00 p.m. + Francisca Iglesia-Vargas

Readings for the Week *Lecturas de la semana*

Monday / Lunes: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24;
Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday / Martes:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;

Ps (Sal) 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79

*For the Nativity of the Lord—For all Masses
for the Nativity of the Lord, see the box on page
five.*

Thursday / Jueves: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;

Ps (Sal) 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17;

Mt 10:17-22

Friday / Viernes: 1 Jn 1:1-4;

Ps (Sal) 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Saturday / Sabado: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2;

Ps (Sal) 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

**Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses / Vigilia
del Sabado y Misas Dominicales:**

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps (Sal) 128:1-2, 3, 4-5;

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Lk 2:41-52

**Next Sunday's Readings / Lecturas
del próximo domingo**

First Reading / Primera Lectura:

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 — “The child
(Samuel) mediates between God and Israel’s
first kings.” / — “The child (Samuel) mediates
between God and Israel’s first kings.”

Psalm / Salmo: 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a) —
“Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O
Lord.” / «Benditos los que habitan en tu casa,
Señor».

Second Reading / Segundo Lectura:

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 — “...believers receive the
gift of divine adoption. Through the Father’s
love, they are called children of God.” / «...los
creyentes reciben el don de la adopción divina.
Por el amor del Padre, son llamados hijos de
Dios».

Gospel / Evangelio: Luke 2:41-52 — “...Jesus’
actions reflect his deference to God’s will.” /
«...Las acciones de Jesús reflejan su deferencia a
la voluntad de Dios».

In Our Thoughts and Prayers / En Nuestros Pensamientos y Oraciones

"The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful."

James 5:16

"La oración ferviente de una persona justa es muy poderosa".

Santiago 5:16



Jason Armstrong
David Bache
David Bartkus
Katie y Bebe sin nacer
Dolores Beltrani
Zachary Birkholz
Michael Daniel Boglino
Angela & Exevior Bojda
Anita Boyd
Madelyn Brito
Brenda Brubaker
Larry Brunke Sr.
Kay Bucci
Jeannie Burns
Mary O. Callaghan
Helen Capozzi
Jean Conn
Carlos Corrales
Baby Jimmy Costello
Judith Crogman
Mary Ann Cunningham
Daniel Cuttita
Patrick J Cyr
Tina Cyr
Frances Cavone, Sr.
George Dana
Roger Darnell
Sandy Darnell

Ed David
Bill Dean
Patricia Dick
David Egan
Hadley Epps
Jim Flanagan
Joseph Foster
Christine Gallagher
Carmine Gallo
Elsa Gomez
Dcn. Raphael Gonzalez
David Guerino
Julie Haley
Nancy Harrigan
Lilian Hawkinson
Ron Henefer
Jessica Hiles
Jeff Hollingsworth
Roberta Hyland
Robert Kasper
Jim Kenny
Phillip Kilinski
Robert Kolenc
Joseph Krajc
Timothy Leonard
John Magnotti
Pasquale Maiellano
Jack Marchewka

Robert Marsh
Paul Mayo
Susan Mayo
Tramel McCrea
Mike McGee
Jeremiah Meadows
Frank T. Montiagnino
Felix Narvaez
Megan Naughton
Barb Nelson
Kristey Nelson
Jan Nilsen
Marlene Nordby
Al Novak
Ann O'Neil
Mark O'Neil
Patty Odell
Becky Oosterveen
Angel Pagan
Anthony Parker
David Parker
Felisa Parker-Gibson
Lee Patrick
Linda Patrick
Michael Patrick
Lorgia Pazmino
Pablo Pazmino
Sue Plante

Gene Plante
Denise Pruneski
John Pruneski
Michelle Rigney
Antonia Sanchez
Adeline Serignese
Marcelo Serrano
Lenise Shope
Adam Sparacio
Paulette Sparlik
Steven Syrkin
Marge Tagler
Mark Thomas
Catherine Tyner
David Venditti
Freddie Vieau
Trish Villeneuve
Theresa Wentling
Larry Wilson
Josephine Woulfe
Ligia Zamora
Maria Zaragoza
Arabella Zeglovskis

Updates to
office@stfaustina.org.



We Challenge You to Pray a Decade of the Rosary Each Day in the New Year — Join the Decade A Day Ministry and be part of a group that prays one decade a day of the rosary every day at your convenience. Your intentions are your own, and our intentions are remembered in several churches around the country. Mary has asked that we pray the rosary in each of her appearances. We know you have five minutes daily to do something powerful and positive in your life, so why not join us? For more information, email Rosemary Satterlee: resres517@yahoo.com, or call her at 315-527-5381.

Te Desafío a Rezar una Década del Rosario Cada Día en el Año Nuevo — Únete al Ministerio Década Al Día y sé parte de un grupo que reza una década al día del rosario cada día a tu conveniencia. Tus intenciones son tuyas, y nuestras intenciones se recuerdan en varias iglesias de todo el país. María nos ha pedido que recemos el rosario en cada una

de sus apariciones. Sabemos que tienes cinco minutos diarios para hacer algo poderoso y positivo en tu vida, así que ¿por qué no te unes a nosotros? Para más información, envía un correo electrónico a Rosemary Satterlee: resres517@yahoo.com, o llámala al 315-527-5381.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Daily Mass Monday thru Saturday at 8:00 a.m. followed the Holy Rosary
 Misa diaria de lunes a sábado a las 8:00 a.m. seguida del Santo Rosario

Saturday, December 21	Christmas Bake Sale Weekend Simbang Gabi Mass, 6:00 p.m., Church Simbang Gabi Refreshments, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Classrooms 1 and 2 Misa de la Novena en Español , 7:30 p.m., Iglesia
Sunday, December 22	Christmas Bake Sale Weekend Misa de la Novena en Español, 4:00 p.m., Iglesia Simbang Gabi Mass, 7:00 p.m., Church Simbang Gabi Refreshments, 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Classrooms 1 and 2
Monday, December 23	Simbang Gabi Mass, 5:00 p.m., Church Simbang Gabi Refreshments, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Classrooms 1 and 2 Misa de la Novena en Español, 7:00 p.m., Iglesia
Tuesday, December 24	Mass for the Nativity of the Lord (English / Inglés), 4:00 p.m., Church Christmas Carols and Music, 9:00 p.m., Church Mass for the Nativity of the Lord (Bilingual / Bilingüe), 10:00 p.m., Church / Iglesia
Wednesday, December 25	Mass for the Nativity of the Lord (English), 8:00 a.m., Church Mass for the Nativity of the Lord (English), 9:30 a.m., Church Misa de la Natividad del Señor (Español), 11:30 a.m., Iglesia
Thursday, December 26	Noche de Adoración, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Iglesia
Friday, December 27	Rosario en español, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Iglesia
Saturday, December 28	No scheduled events
Sunday, December 29	No scheduled events

Readings for the Nativity of the Lord / Lecturas para la Natividad del Señor

<p>The Nativity of the Lord / La navidad del señor Vigil Mass in the Night / Vigilia nocturna</p> <p>First Reading / Primera lectura: Isaiah 9:1-6 — Isaiah expresses his strong hope for the future. / Isaías expresa su gran esperanza en el futuro. /</p> <p>Psalm / Salmo: Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13 — “Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord” / «Hoy ha nacido nuestro Salvador, Cristo el Señor»</p> <p>Second Reading / Segundo Lectura: Titus:2:11-14 — “The community’s ability to live devoutly comes from Jesus’ teaching, and, even more importantly, from his saving death.” / «La capacidad de la comunidad para vivir devotamente proviene de la enseñanza de Jesús y, lo que es aún más importante, de su muerte salvadora».</p> <p>Gospel / Evangelio: Luke 2:1-14 — “...the angel in Luke declares the identity of this child: savior, Christ, and Lord.” / «...el ángel en Lucas declara la identidad de este niño: salvador, Cristo y Señor».</p>	<p>The Nativity of the Lord / La Navidad del Señor (Mass during the day) / (Misa durante el día)</p> <p>First Reading/Primera Lectura: Isaiah 52:7-10 — “This text inspired early Christians to see the good news in both the birth of the Child-King and his universal salvation.” / «Este texto inspiró a los primeros cristianos a ver la buena nueva tanto en el nacimiento del Niño-Rey como en su salvación universal».</p> <p>Psalm / Salmo 98:1-6 — “All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.” / «Todos los confines de la tierra han visto el poder salvador de Dios».</p> <p>Second Reading / Segundo Lectura: Hebrews 1:1-6 — “The author uses a set of scriptural texts to prove the Son’s superiority in being and name over the angels.” / «El autor utiliza un conjunto de textos bíblicos para probar la superioridad del Hijo in signo y nombre sobre los ángeles».</p> <p>Gospel / Evangelio: John 1:1-18 — “The author clarifies that Jesus (the Word) ranks ahead of John (The Baptist) because Jesus existed first.” / «El autor aclara que Jesús (el Verbo) se sitúa por delante de Juan (El Bautista) porque Jesús existió primero.» /</p>
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STEWARDSHIP / ADMINISTRACION

Offertory / Ofertorio	\$10,360.75
Poor Box / Caja pobre	\$207.00
Mass Intentions / Intenciones de Misa	\$130.00
Religious Education / Educación religiosa	\$4.54
Votive Candles / Velas votivas	\$101.00
Gift Shop / Tienda de regalos	\$539.00
Diocesan Collections / Colectas diocesanas	\$908.00
Immaculate Conception / Inmaculada Concepción	\$2,010.00
Baptism Donations / Donaciones para Bautizos	\$270.00
Simbang Gabi Collection / Colección Simbang Gabi	\$135.00
Total	\$14,665.29
Construction / Construcción	\$4,446.17
Fund Raising Food Sales / Venta de alimentos	\$114.00
Total	\$4,560.17

**Financial Stewardship
Administración
Financiera
December 14-15
14-15 de Diciembre**

**Mass Attendance
Asistencia a misa
1,655**

Thank you for your continued generosity to St. Faustina Parish!

¡Gracias por su continua generosidad con la parroquia de Santa Faustina!

Parish Christmas Pageant / Pagaente Parroquial de Navidad

On Sunday, December 8, the St. Faustina Faith Formation Department celebrated Christmas with its annual Christmas Pageant. Marylu Mariniello thanks The cast & choir, Kelly Mucci, first & second-grade teachers, the music team, the security team, the wardrobe team, and the Pingalore family for their help. She also thanks all the Confirmation students for setting up setting up, serving, and cleaning up for refreshments.



Merry Christmas! / ¡Feliz Navidad!



Ministries and Events / Eventos y Ministerios

No Religious Education Classes This Week —There will be no Faith Formation classes from December 23 through January 2. Classes will resume on Saturday, January 4. The Staff of the Faith Formation program wishes everyone a blessed and merry Christmas and a happy and joyous New Year!



No habrá clases de Educación Religiosa esta semana — No habrá clases de Formación de Fe del 23 de diciembre al 2 de enero. Las clases se reanudarán el sábado, 4 de enero. El personal del programa de Formación de Fe les desea a todos una feliz y bendecida Navidad y un feliz y alegre Año Nuevo.

St. Faustina Offices Will be Open for Normal Business Hours on December 30 and 31, and January 2 and 3.
Las oficinas de Santa Faustina estarán abiertas en horario normal los días 30 y 31 de diciembre y 2 y 3 de enero.

Don't Be a Parking Lot Grinch

— Please ensure you don't become a "Parking Lot Grinch during this busy holiday season." Listen to the directions of our Parking Lot Ministry staff, and be courteous to other drivers in the lot, as doing so will help us get you parked and in and out of the lot safely during this busy season. Also, when leaving Mass, please refrain from turning left out of the driveway to Rte. 27 North. Thank you for your cooperation, and our Parking Ministry wishes you and yours a blessed and merry Christmas!



No sea un Grinch del Estacionamiento — Por favor asegúrese de no convertirse en un «Grinch del Estacionamiento durante esta ajetreada temporada navideña». Escuche las indicaciones de nuestro personal del Ministerio del Estacionamiento, y sea cortés con los demás conductores en el estacionamiento, ya que al hacerlo nos ayudará a que usted se estacione y entre y salga del estacionamiento de manera segura durante esta temporada tan ocupada. Además, al salir de misa, por favor absténgase de girar a la izquierda en la entrada de la Rte. 27 Norte. ¡Gracias por su cooperación, y nuestro Ministerio de Estacionamiento le desea a usted y los suyos una bendecida y feliz Navidad!

Noche de Adoración

DESPIDAMOS EL AÑO DANDO GRACIAS FRENTE A JESÚS EUCARISTÍA.

Jueves, 26 de Diciembre
Hora: 7pm
IGLESIA ST FAUSTINA

ST. FAUSTINA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Every Wednesday at 3 PM

(Please note: The 1st Wednesday of each month the chaplet will be sung followed by fellowship.)

Please join us!

The Suicide and Crisis Lifeline will help.
Call 988

La Línea de Ayuda contra el Suicidio y las Crisis le ayudará.
Llame al 988

Servant of God Leonard LaRue A High Seas Christmas Miracle! By Marylu Mariniello



Leonard LaRue was born in Philadelphia on January 14, 1914. As a young man, he trained at the Pennsylvania State Nautical School where he received his certification in 1934. He served on the Schoolship Annapolis and then began his career working on ships coming out of New York. In 1942 he joined the Moore-McCormack Line in as a second mate. Leonard was promoted to Master and given his own ship in 1944. In time he became a US Merchant Marine Captain in command of a small freighter called the S.S. Meredith Victory.

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea. North Korea was supported by China and the Soviet Union and South Korea was supported by the United States and the United Nations. As the war continued, Leonard left Norfolk, VA and was assigned the task of bringing tanks, ammunition and trucks from Japan to American troops in Hungnam, North Korea. His ship was one of the last in the Port of Hungnam. This is where the fourteen thousand refugees were standing, trying to get away from the Communist Chinese army.

Bill Gilbert was a writer who described the situation, saying *“Captain Leonard LaRue stood on the deck of his five-year-old, ten-thousand-ton freighter, the SS Meredith Victory, in the harbor at Hungnam, North Korea, 135 miles into enemy territory, in the sixth month of the Korean War, Christmastime 1950. “I trained my binoculars on the shore and saw a pitiable scene,” he later wrote. “Korean refugees thronged the docks. With them was everything they could wheel, carry, or drag. Beside them, like frightened chicks, were their children.”*

The S.S. Meredith Victory was designed to hold forty seven people, officers and crew. Captain LaRue ordered cargo, weapons and all things taking up space to be removed. After this was done, he asked the refugees to come aboard. All of this took one full day. The ship set sail on December 23. The Captain placed the people shoulder to shoulder to evacuate as many as possible. Men, women and children were all packed together *“like sardines.”* There was no food, water, heat, lighting in the holds, translators or sanitary facilities available. Only one weapon was on board, which was Captain LaRue’s own pistol.

Then they navigated a dangerous four hundred fifty mile voyage through treacherous mine and submarine-infested waters. The people were freezing so they built fires on top of the kerosene drums in the hold, which terrified the crew who quickly extinguished the fires. Still, calm prevailed. Captain La Rue said *“I believe that God sailed with us during those three days.”*

It took them two days to sail the four hundred fifty miles. During this time five women on the ship gave birth. The ship first docked at Pusan on Christmas Eve, but the staff there told the Captain that there was no room for anyone to stay. Yet he was able to leave the injured and the five women and babies, while also getting some blankets and water to take back to the ship.

They now set sail for Kojo-Do, an island fifty miles southwest. Captain LaRue, his crew and the refugees arrived safely on Christmas Day. After one last cold night, the refugees were taken to shore by two Navy ships which normally landed tanks during beach combat. This mission has been called a *“Christmas Miracle.”* The US Maritime Administration called the feat *“the greatest rescue by a single ship in the annals of the sea.”* The S.S. Meredith Victory was decommissioned in 1952. Captain LaRue received both American and South Korean government citations for his rescue work. The Meredith Victory was designated a Gallant Ship by Congress.

Bill Gilbert was going to write a book on the Chosin Reservoir campaign where Communist Chinese soldiers routed US forces, but was encouraged to write the story about the dramatic rescue. J. Robert Lunny, a staff officer of the ship during the rescue and later an attorney in White Plains, NY told the Washington Times after the book was published - *“We think it’s a story that should be told more expansively. War is to effect a humanitarian result. It’s not just to kill people and collect real estate.”*

His experience started Captain LaRue to think about giving the rest of his life to God. Years later, Leonard said *“I think of how such a small vessel was able to hold so many persons and surmount endless perils without harm to a soul,” he said. “The clear, unmistakable message comes to me that on that Christmastide, in the bleak and bitter waters off the shores of Korea, God’s own hand was at the helm of my ship.”*

In 1954 Captain Leonard LaRue joined the Benedictine monastery called St. Paul’s Abbey in Newton, NJ, taking the name Brother Marinus, which means *“of the sea.”* He faithfully lived, worked and prayed there until his death on October 14, 2001.

Bishop Arthur Serratelli of Paterson, NJ began the cause for Brother Marinus’ canonization on March 25, 2019. In June of 2021, the US bishops voted to make Brother Marinus a Servant of God.

The US Navy posted the following statement:

“Over 70 years after this remarkable rescue operation, Capt. LaRue remains a U.S. Merchant Marine hero who lived a life of patriotism and selfless service. He demonstrated the best of American leadership in difficult circumstances and brought true honor to the country he loved.”

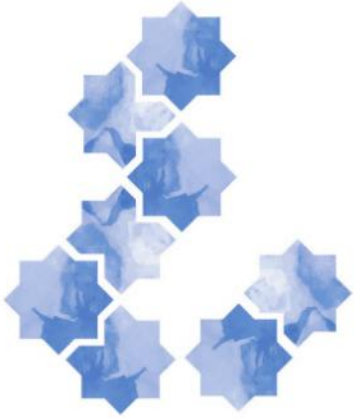


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