

The Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025

*You are my beloved Son;
with you I am well pleased.*



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass Schedule

Saturday 7:30am • 8:30am • 4pm Vigil • 5:30pm Vigil

Sunday 7:30am • 9am • 9am (Hall) • 10:30am
12pm • 5:30pm • 12pm Vietnamese (Parish Hall)

Weekday 7:30am • 8:30am • 12pm • 5:30pm

Confession - Reconciliation Room

Saturday 9-10am & 3-4pm • Monday-Friday 11:30am

Eucharistic Adoration - Carosella Chapel

Tuesday-Thursday 9am-12pm

Rosary - Rosary prayed after 7:30am Mass

St. Martha Catholic Church

200 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236 • Tel 941.366.4210 • Fax 941.954.8434 • StMartha.org

Facebook St. Martha Roman Catholic Church • **Instagram** stmarthachurch_in_srq • **YouTube** St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

Parish Office Hours Monday-Friday 8am-12pm and 12:30-4pm

From Our Pastor, Father George

January 12, 2025

Sermon for Sunday, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord by Deacon Bob

Why was Jesus baptized? He is part of the Trinity, He is God. Why would the third part of the Trinity (the Holy Spirit) need to descend on Him? At first glance, it may seem quite confusing and non-sensical, but upon deeper review, the answer is very clear.

We all know that Jesus was both man and God. But the answer does not rest that it was because He was man, but rather why He became man. Jesus' mission on Earth was to unite us into His Church. It was to redeem us. As we understand from the Gospel John: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....and the Word became flesh.* If the Word on its own was enough for salvation, there would have been no need to become flesh, and no need for a New Testament, as the Old Testament would have been sufficient.

This is not to say the Old Testament is lacking. Not at all! It is of God, from God, and the Word of God! So why was there a need for the Word to become flesh? Because we were and are lacking! Everything in the New Testament, is in the Old, its just we kept and keep on misunderstanding it, or missing the point. It has been posited numerous times by scholars, That the New is hidden in the Old and the Old is revealed in the New.

Jesus, came to clarify, or it could be said to offer us an epiphany (with a small e). As big as the Bible is, there are only really three subjects in it: Faith Hope and Love. If we read anything else into the Word of God, we miss God's point. Our human nature requires almost all of us to be able to relate to concepts to understand them. Our God loves us so much that the Father sent His Son to us so we could better understand God, and to relate to God. So the Word was made flesh. This let us know the way to stay with God is in Faith, Hope and Love. He came to show us that through our life's journey, God Himself is in solidarity with us. He is 100% by our side.

To prove that point, He is even baptized into His own mystical body with us. He is that committed to our salvation. On the surface it again seems silly, as in Baptism we are anointed into His Body of the Church. Pope Benedict XVI (writing as Joseph Ratzinger) explained that in Jesus' Baptism, He loaded the burden of all our sin upon His shoulders. He would wash them away in the Jordan in Baptism and eventually carry them to the Cross for us.

We hear the question all the time, who is the Church? And we all together respond, *we are the Church.* And the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ! St. Paul, in First Corinthians, uses the metaphor of a body for Christ's Church: with Jesus as the head. He can do that precisely because Jesus by example was baptized into the Church as well!

Jesus in His baptism shows He is all in for us even in simple ways. Obviously, the greatest testimony of His solidarity will be at the Cross. But by the example of His Baptism, He is calling us to be mindful of our Baptism. He calls us to be reminded that in Baptism we died to ourselves to be born into Him in that same *mystical body.* And that Jesus is with us always, united even in our Baptism till the end of the age!



Thank you for Christmas gifts and presents! -

Thank you so much for beautiful cards, Christmas wishes and prayers as well as gifts and presents given to us individually or given to all clergy. You are very kind and generous to us and we all appreciate your respect and care for your priests and deacons. May God almighty bless you with his abundant goodness!

Jubilee Year 2025 - These are the things to do in the Jubilee Year: Go to Reconciliation,

Read the Jubilee Document *Spes Non Confudit*, Make a pilgrimage, Visit your Cathedral, Pray the Jubilee Prayer, Perform works of mercy, Review the resources, Practice Hope.

Parish Mission - We will host Fr. Peter Hill in St. Martha's parish for few days in February. Please make your plan for this Parish Mission in the Jubilee Year of 2025 as a step towards reconciliation with God Almighty and your neighbors so you can receive a special pardon of sins and the gift of Jubilee Indulgence, which could be offered for the eternal salvation of our Deceased.

The Jubilee Prayer - *Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen*

Parish Hall, Rectory, Office Building roof change works are on - in our St. Martha Campus. Beware of the construction traffic of tracks and workers presence.

Next Sunday, January 19, 2025, is Second Sunday in Ordinary time.

With prayers for God's blessing to you and your family,
 Father George

Pope Francis

Prayer Intention for January 2025

For pilgrims of hope

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



St Martha Church
Attention Youth Grades 6-12



ROCK THE UNIVERSE

At Universal Studios Orlando

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Depart 2:00 p.m. — Return 2:00 a.m.

Cost is \$75.00

Bus transportation from
St Martha Church included.
(food/meals not included)

Questions contact:
sileo@stmartha.org

Register: <https://permission.click/1XleJ/int>

Space is limited

St Martha's Caritas Pantry

Caritas Outreach Ministry provides assistance with utility payments, transportation, food, prescriptions, and work attire for thousands in Sarasota in acute financial need. Thank you all for your donations and help in serving our community when we are in such a great need.

Caritas Food Ministry for December 2024

Serving 889 households and 1,410 individuals



Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

We are deeply loved by God. Not by what we produce, but for who we are.

Lisa Brenninkmeyer, Founder and Chief Purpose Officer, Walking with Purpose

We live in a world in which people are valued for what they do and what they produce. Unless we stop and rest, we will continue to run on empty and believe this lie.

If you long to find a rhythm between work and rest, join the women of Walking with Purpose as we view the *Keeping in Balance* video, *Getting a Grip Through Rest*. There is always a full cup of coffee and an empty chair waiting for you!

Start off the new year with this amazing study that will help you find a beautiful balance and rhythm to your life!

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30am

St Martha's Parish Hall

Fee is \$45 and includes the study guide

Questions? Contact Kelly Rizzo

stmarthawwp@yahoo.com • 410.905.1090

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Our mission is to help every Catholic woman and girl in America encounter Jesus Christ through our Bible studies.

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Emmaus Journey Bible Study • Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am

St. Martha Catholic Church, Conference Room — All are welcome!

Bring your Bible and a desire to share and learn with

Lindy Donahue. Call Lindy 724.263.8285 lindydonahue@mac.com

Help Wanted



Welcome Ministry Volunteer

We created a ministry to welcome visitors and new parishioners to St. Martha.

The duties include reaching out to new residents, providing tours, orienting new parishioners, and staffing the Welcome Table after Mass.

If you are a caring and welcoming person, we need you!

No experience required. Training and mentoring provided.

Interested persons should contact: Stuart Love, Volunteer Coordinator

941.780.7834 • volunteer@stmartha.org

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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For information, contact Catholic Charities Sarasota County
941-376-7854 | CCBall@ccdov.org



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for the 2025-26 Academic Year • Applications due March 2



Mary Fran Carroll Scholarship

We offer multiple \$3,500 Scholarships to Sarasota County residents worth up to \$17,500 for tuition, books and fees. These scholarships may be renewed annually, up to 5 years, for students maintaining a 3.2 GPA as they pursue their undergraduate degree. The Traditional

Scholarships are open to graduating seniors and recent high school graduates (within 2 years) who wish to pursue an undergraduate degree in any accredited college or university. The Non-traditional Scholarships are open to adult learners returning to school to obtain a college degree or vocational certification after being out of high school for three or more years.



James & Margaret Schwarz Scholarship

We offer the Schwarz scholarship valued at approximately \$7,700 to a graduating senior from Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School in Sarasota pursuing a career in education. This one-year, non-renewable scholarship can be used for tuition, books, fees and housing expenses.



Frank & Florence Coseglia Scholarship

We offer this Scholarship to one financially needy graduating senior from each of the four Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Venice. This one-year, nonrenewable scholarship is valued at approximately \$1,100 and is intended for students who provided significant service to their Catholic Schools and Parishes.

Apply For All Scholarships at

ccfdioceseofvenice.org/scholarships



Deadline All applications and supporting documents due March 2, 2025 at 11:59pm

A Message from
BISHOP DEWANE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Collection for the Church in Latin America provides the opportunity to show unity with our brothers and sisters in Central & South America, as well as the Caribbean Islands. For decades, this collection has helped meet the many challenges and needs of the Church and the faithful in Latin America.

Gifts to this collection provide grants to dioceses in Latin America, which help sustain important ministries such as evangelization, vocations and seminary training marriage support, and the promotion of human life and dignity. In the capital of Venezuela, the Church is now equipped to become a leader in the fight against human trafficking. And in the Amazonian region of Peru, the love and sacraments of Christ are able to reach remote Indigenous villages.

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Venice will take up the annual Collection for the Church in Latin America during the weekend of January 18 & 19, 2025. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your donations to this collection support life, faith & hope to our brothers and sisters in Central & South America and the Caribbean.

I take this opportunity to extend to each of you my blessings in this New Year. Thank you and may God bless you and your family for your support of the Church in Latin America.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

Angel's Attic
Volunteers & Donations Needed



We gratefully accept donations, and gratefully accept YOU!

A ministry of hope providing much needed items at no cost: shoes, baby and children's items, kitchen items, linens, and more.

Volunteers are the lifeblood that keep the heart of the Attic beating strong. Giving back to the community while lending your time and talent to Angel's Attic is rewarding and fulfilling. High school students can earn credit through the Community Service Hours program.

Love of the Blessed Mother and her Son Jesus Christ.

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Location & Material Donations
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Volunteers
941.413.3363

Hours
10am-1pm
Mon, Wed, Fri, and
2nd Sat of the month

Email
angelsattic1255@gmail.com

Diocese of Venice

1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285 941.484.9543

Outreach Ministries

- Altar Servers Dn. Vern Smith dcvern@stmartha.org
- Catholic Charities Joan Pierse 941.366.4210
- Community Pregnancy Clinics 941.260.5427
- Casa Santa Marta 941.366.4448
- Choir/Cantor Virginia Bray 941.366.4210
- Eucharist Adoration Parish Office 941.366.4210
- Extraordinary Ministers Dc. Pat Macaulay dpat@novavista.com
- Finance Council John Corey coreyjjj5@gmail.com
- Family Ministry Gary Kerschner fmosm@comcast.net
- Herrig Caritas (9-11am, M-F) Tony Cocco, Chair 941.366.5620
- Hospitality Ministry Beth Cannata 941.321.2953
- Knights of Columbus Tom Gillis 941.400.6991
- Lectors Dc. Pat Macaulay dcpatrick@stmartha.org
- O.C.I.A. Sue Thompson 941.350.9466
- Parish Council Beth Cannata 941.321.2953
- Prayer Line Parish Office 941.366.4210
- Respect Life Ministry Kate Shaver ksshaver@comcast.net
- Rosary Makers Maxine Brand 941.374.6605
- Solve Maternity Homes Peggy Kerwin 941.748.0094
- Ushers Steve Mislyan 941-993-0997
- Volunteer Coordinator Stuart Love 941.780.7834
- Witness to Love Jim & Agnes Rutushni 941.960.5128

Neighboring Diocesan Parishes

- St. Jude Sarasota 941.955.3934
- Christ the King Sarasota 941.924.2777
- Incarnation Sarasota 941.921.6631
- Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Sarasota 941.755.1826
- St. Patrick Sarasota 941.378.1703
- St. Mary Star of the Sea Longboat Key 941.383.1255
- St. Thomas More Sarasota 941.923.1691
- St. Joseph Bradenton 941.756.3732
- St. Michael the Archangel Siesta Key 941.349.4174
- Our Lady of the Angels Lakewood Ranch 941.752.6770

Bishop Nevins Academy

4380 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232

- St. Martha Catholic School Principal Mrs. MariJo Hanson 941.953.4181
- St. Mary Academy Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds 941.366.4010

Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 941.371.4917



**This Week
at St. Martha Catholic Church**

- Sun, Jan 12 • 10:15am Religious Ed Classes - Upstairs Classrooms**
- Mon, Jan 13 • Saint Hilary**
- Tue, Jan 14 • 10:30am Emmaus Bible Study - Conference Room**
- Wed, Jan 15 • 9:30-11:30am - Walking with Purpose - Parish Hall**
- Thu, Jan 16 • 10am - Lectio Divina - Geenen Hall**
- Fri, Jan 17 • Saint Anthony**

Welcome New Parishioners!

We are so happy to welcome you to
St Martha Catholic Church
and are glad you have joined us!



To Register, please
scan the QR code or
visit stmartha.org



St. Martha Clergy

- Rev. George Suszko, S.A.C. Pastor
- Rev. Jan Rykala, S.A.C.
- Rev. Gennadi Romachko, S.A.C
- Rev. Joseph Vu, C.R.M.,
Hospital Chaplain
- Very Rev. Fausto Stampiglia,
S.A.C. (Retired)
- Rev. Deacon Robert Gaitens
- Rev. Deacon C. Patrick Macaulay
- Rev. Deacon Vern Smith
- Sr. Cathy Bonfield, S.S.N.D.
- Br. Lawrence Skitzki, C.S.C.
- Br. William Dygert, C.S.C.

St. Martha Parish Staff

- Samantha McDonald,
Business Manager
- Patricia Sileo,
Director of Religious Education
- Blanca Goetz, Event Coordinator
- Pamela Paulson,
Reception/Data Entry
- Maxine Brand, Reception
- Virginia Bray, Music Director
- Susie Runnells, Sacristan
- Janet Cocco, Sacristan
- Joe Angelicola, Sacristan
- Miguel Jimenez, Facilities Manager
- Eris Nunez, Maintenance
- Carlos Sierra Napoles, Maintenance
- Claudia Moschini, Rectory Chef

HELPING HOMELESS FAMILIES

Family Promise of Sarasota-Manatee (FPSM)

In partnership with multiple social service agencies and supported by 20 interfaith congregations, including St. Martha, FPSM offers families with children services and community resources to stay in or obtain safe, sustainable housing, including case management, child care referrals, negotiation strategies, emergency funds.

If you are a family in danger of eviction, call 211.



Learn More / Donate
familypromisesarasota-manatee.org

MEN'S EMMAUS WEEKEND RETREAT

Journey with men from the Diocese of Venice for an inspiring weekend of prayer, fraternity, and renewal!



March 21st – 23rd 2025

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Retreat Center – Venice FL

contact Dave Murray
davemurray405@gmail.com
419-250-6399

Anniversary Masses in 2025

Two Anniversary Masses are offered for married couples celebrating milestone anniversaries: 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50 plus years.

On **February 1** at **11am** an **Anniversary Mass** is celebrated at **St. Leo the Great Parish**, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs, and **March 8** at **11am** at **St. Thomas More Parish**, 2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota.

Both events include Mass celebrated by **Bishop Frank J. Dewane**, followed by a reception, and a photo opportunity with Bishop Dewane.

Couples must register through their Parish. Registration information is forthcoming and will be mailed to Parishes directly.

Thomas Curran on Unplash

Dinner Dance

Join Us!

Dinner, Wine, Beer, and Live Music by Jump Start

February 15, 2025 from 6pm

St Martha Church, Father Fausto Hall

Tickets available for purchase
after the weekend 4pm & 5:30pm vigil masses and
9am & 10:30am masses on January 18 and 25



Weekly Mass Intentions

Sun, Jan 12Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

- 7:30am.....[JR]Dec. Mbrs of the Congregation of Holy Cross by Friend
- 9:00am.....[GR]....Bette Love by the Family
- 9:00am.....[GS]....(Hall) Lelamae Slusser by Hank and Jack
- 10:30am.....[FS]For All Parishioners
- 12:00pm.....[GR]....Joseph, Steve, Dave, & Angelo by Elizabeth Trelinski
- 12:00pm.....[JV]....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
- 5:30pm.....[GS]....L & D Mbrs of the Burch Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe

Mon, Jan 13.....Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20

- 7:30am.....[JV]....Dianne Welch by Paula and David Shigley
- 8:30am.....[GS]....Fr. Patrick Wilson by Allie Freeman
- 12:00pm.....[JR]Geri Lorkowski by Delores Gast
- 5:30pm.....[JR]Manny Cruz by Felly Cruz

Tue, Jan 14.....Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28

- 7:30am.....[GS]....(L) David Owens by Marge and Paul Lortie
- 8:30am.....[JR]Rosemary Quinn Malloy by Jim and Marian Walsh
- 12:00pm.....[GR]....Anne Crowley by Jack and Hank
- 5:30pm.....[GR]....Aiden McDonald by Tina and Mark Mroczkowski

Wed, Jan 15.....Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39

- 7:30am.....[RN]....Mike Traverso by Judy Kozlowski
- 8:30am.....[GR]....Sara Alfred Thomas by the Thomas Family
- 12:00pm.....[GS]....Alicja Malecka by Janet Canfield-Long
- 5:30pm.....[JR]Jackie Papesch by Lynn and Rick Dodek

Thu, Jan 16.....Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45

- 7:30am.....[JR]Arthur Levin by Marcella
- 8:30am.....[RN]....Tuoivan Tran by Diana and Matt Buchanan
- 12:00pm.....[GR]....Kathleen Dunbar by Cathy and George Phillips
- 5:30pm.....[FS](L) Finn Stephens by John and Mary McGruder

Fri, Jan 17.....Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12

- 7:30am.....[GS]....Barb J. Marsch by John Schaefer
- 8:30am.....[JV]....Nora Ferguson by the Heibel Family
- 12:00pm.....[GR]....John Bradley by Mary Genett
- 5:30pm.....[GR]....John Carmine Deleo by Carol Deleo

Sat, Jan 18.....Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17

- 7:30am.....[JV]....Kristina Simon by Grandma
- 8:30am.....[GS]....Ann Cooper by Cindy Cooper
- 4:00pm.....[GR]....Sabah Ghali by Antoon
- 4:00pm.....[JR](Hall) Barbara Young by James and Mary McGough
- 5:30pm.....[FS]Gerald J. Boryszewski, Jr. by the Family

Sun, Jan 19Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

- 7:30am.....[JR]Ryan Halstead by Mom
 - 9:00am.....[GS]....Rosemary Salerno by Ann Crowley
 - 9:00am.....[FS](Hall) Richard Gemanani by James Bovienzo
 - 10:30am.....[RN]....For All Parishioners
 - 12:00pm.....[GS]....Kristen and Dave Hatch by Elizabeth Trelinski
 - 12:00pm.....[JV]....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
 - 5:30pm.....[GR]....L & D Mbrs of the Burch Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe
- Fr. George (GS), Fr. Jan (JR), Fr. Joseph (JV), Fr. Fausto (FS),
Fr Gennadi (GR), Fr. Notter (RN)



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