

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 16 2025



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH



Mass Schedule

Saturday 7:30am • 8:30am • 4pm Vigil
4pm Vigil (Hall) • 5:30pm Vigil

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

February 16, 2025

Sermon for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time by Deacon Vern

It is nice, isn't it, when you sneeze, to hear someone say, *God bless you!* Well, although there might not be any sneezes in the congregation today before the Gospel was read, the words from St Luke's Gospel, that everyone heard proclaimed, are the words of Jesus saying *Blessed are you*. Blessed are you poor, blessed are you who are hungry, blessed are you who are weeping... . Blessed are you!

You recognize these as the *beatitudes*, the blessings, the happiness sayings that are central to the good news proclaimed by Jesus when He walked the earth. Let them come alive again for you today. Hear Jesus proclaiming the beatitudes. Hear Him saying, in effect, God has blessed you.

Notice that the version you heard today from the Gospel of Luke says *blessed are you who are poor*, not, as Matthew's Gospel puts it, *blessed are the poor in spirit*. Reflection on Matthew's version typically leads us to conclude that we should be detached from material things, that we should not permit ourselves

“ ... we should just not permit ourselves to be prisoners of our possessions.”
– Deacon Vern

to be possessed by our possessions. We can still have money and possessions, perhaps even become rich, we should just not permit ourselves to be prisoners of our possessions. Thus free, we will be happy—

men and women of the beatitudes, as Matthew presents them. Here we are. We still show up on Sunday to give thanks!

It is a slightly different story when you listen to the version you have in today's Gospel reading of the beatitudes according to St Luke. Luke is straightforward, demanding, tough. He has Jesus put it to you directly: *Blessed are you who are poor*, not poor in spirit, but the genuinely poor. They're the special ones, the favored ones, they are really blessed.

That makes all of us who live on the positive side of the poverty line a bit uneasy and uncomfortable, to say the least. If I'm not poor—really poor—am I not blessed? Is this what this Gospel is saying? Am I not worthy of God's special care and love if I happen to possess a nice share of this world's goods? Don't we consider ourselves blessed by God if we enjoy a good job, a good home, and a nice level of comfort and security? Yes, we do, and we should, but Luke's rather stark presentation of the beatitudes should serve to remind that there are genuinely poor people in our midst, and they are not only not forgotten by God, they are favorites in God's eye. God loves them and cares for them and is expecting us—those who are better off, those who are in positions of power and influence—to have special regard for the poor. Our Church, in its great tradition of Catholic social teaching, calls for a preferential option—or preferential love of the poor.

This is not to say that God has no interest in or love for those who are well off. It is not to say that those who have material wealth are not the constant objects

Sunday Sermon from Deacon Vern continued on page 4 ↘



Our Pastor, Father George

From Father George:

Parish Mission in St. Martha, February 23-26, 2025 - We will host Fr. Peter Hill, who will preach at our **Sunday Masses on February 22-23** and then he will lead us through the Mission sessions on **Monday 24, Tuesday 25, and Wednesday 26 at 9am** and the same at **6:15pm**. He will preach on: *Anchoring our Hope, Anchoring & pray, Anchoring & love, Anchoring on Mary.*

Come and join the Mission, you will be inspired to renew your hope in the special year, you will remember it for the rest of your life. The next Jubilee Year retreat may be too long to wait.

Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites in the Diocese of Venice - Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue West, Venice, St. John XXIII Parish Church, 13060 Palomino Land, Ft. Myers, St. John the Evangelist Parish Church – 625 111th Avenue North Naples, St. Paul Parish Church, 1330 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center, 3989 South Moon Drive, Venice.

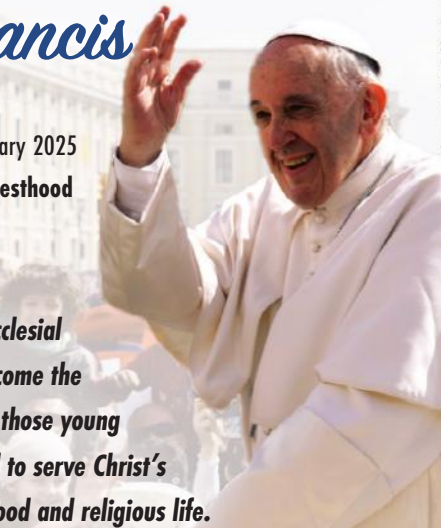
Next Sunday, February 23, 2025, is the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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

Pope Francis


Prayer Intention for February 2025
For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.





Special mass for the First Communicants.



Join Father Fausto

for a Bible Study on the Book of Genesis

Fr. Fausto will conduct a seven-week program discussing the Book of Genesis. Participants can attend an evening or morning session:

Evening session 6-7:30pm • Thursdays from February 27 to April 10
Morning session 10-11:30am • Fridays February 28 to April 11

Held in Brother Geenen Hall • Refreshments served • Bibles provided upon request
 Participants are encouraged to read the Book of Genesis prior to the program and bring a Catholic Bible to the sessions.

Reserve a seat 941.366.4210 ext 0 • email mbrand@stmartha.org

About our speaker: Fr. Fausto Stampiglia PhD, MA, MS, our retired Pastor of St. Martha, serving from 1991 to 2022, is a Pallottine member of the Society of Catholic Apostolate since 1953. Fr. Fausto is a member of the Pontifical Academy of Liturgy in Rome since 1961. Upon the gracious presentation of our Bishop Dewane, Pope Benedict conferred in 2010 to Fr. Fausto the Papal Medal for Meritorious Service to the Pope and to the Church. Fr. Fausto has been named Theologian to the Bishop from 1987 to 2022 by the Bishop of Venice

Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

*Real simplicity will restore us.
 But it will require swimming upstream.*

Lisa Breminkmeyer, Founder and Chief Purpose Officer, *Walking with Purpose*


God doesn't want to simplify our lives so they are boring and empty. He wants us to clear space so that we can get to know Him more. Clear space? In your already busy schedule? Come as you are and join the women of **Walking with Purpose** for the Keeping in Balance video, *Getting a Grip Through Simplicity*. Over coffee and great discussion, we are going to take a deep dive into simplicity, learning how to transform our hearts while embracing a life with less noise.

If you've been considering joining us but haven't yet, now is the time! We can't wait to meet you!

Wednesday, February 19 in St. Martha's Parish Hall 9:30-11:30am
 Fee for the year is \$45 and includes the study guide

Questions? Contact Kelly Rizzo
stmarthawp@yahoo.com • 410.905.1090

walkingwithpurpose.com

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

Save The Date

Friday, March 14th from 9am-3:30pm

Join us for a Women's Lenten retreat based on the life and works of St. Therese of Lisieux

More details to follow soon!

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Concession Help Needed at Orioles Games




The Knights of Columbus need 18 individuals for 16 home games to help run the concession stand. Duties include filling orders, cooking hot dogs and running the cash registers.

All proceeds collected are 100% donated to different Charities.

You don't need to be a Knight to help. If interested, call the church parish office at 941.366.4210 or Tom Gillis at 941.400.6991.





Morning Sessions
9am after mass

Evening Session
6:15pm after Mass

Confessions -
Monday & Tuesdays
4:30-5:15pm

ST MARTHA MISSION
FEBRUARY 24-26, 2025

Father Peter Hill
will lead the mission

Mission Theme:
Pilgrims of Hope
Incurring Our Hope,
Our Prayer,
Our Love and Our Mother

LIGHT UP THE KNIGHT

Casino NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OUT FOR DINNER, DRINKS, CASINO GAMES, SILENT AUCTION, DJ AND DANCING, PHOTO BOOTH & MORE!

Saturday, March 8, 2025
GROVE, 10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch
6:00 PM

Individual Event Tickets: \$150.00 Per Person



Scan the QR code to purchase tickets & sponsorships. All proceeds directly benefit the students at St. Martha Catholic School.



HELP WANTED at St Martha Welcome Ministry Volunteer

- Reaching out to new residents
- Insure a safe environment for all worshippers
- Providing tours
- Orienting new parishioners
- Staffing the Welcome Table

Contact: Stuart Love, *Volunteer Coordinator*
941.780.7834 • volunteer@stmartha.org

Sunday Sermon from Deacon Vern continued from page 2

of God's unfailing love. It is simply to say that God's love for the poor is special, but not exclusive, and those of us who are not poor are also loved by a God who expects us to join Him in His preferential love for the poor and vulnerable.

If you are well off and not grateful enough to remember and share with the poor, you are not grateful enough! You cannot claim to be grateful for your blessings if you don't share your blessings with the poor, if you don't use your position of power and influence to help the poor.

Poverty is sustained deprivation. The poor are deprived of income, employment, education, food, housing, healthcare, and other necessities of life. You have to ask to what extent what you do, or fail to do, is helping to sustain that deprivation. Why do the poor seem always to be with us? That is a question that looks to the sustaining social structures that keep poverty in place; that is a question that looks to the negligent indifference of those who have, relative to the needs of those who have not.

And serious reflection on the beatitudes demands of us a level of honesty that refuses to put the blame on the poor for their own poverty. Can anyone seriously blame poor infants and children for their poverty? Can anyone blame those unjustly deprived of education and economic opportunity for the poverty that comes to them as a consequence of those deprivations? The casualties are out there. The human need is pressing and real. The Gospel invites us all to open our eyes and see the need, and then we should open our minds to search for long-term solutions as we open our hearts (and wallets) to offer direct help.

Today's Gospel puts a bit of a wake-up call, a gentle prodding—you might even call it a threat—in front of you. Listen again to the woes that Luke delivers for your attention: *But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. But woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep.*

Step outside yourself and look around. You've often heard the exhortation that you should "wake up and smell the coffee." Well, Luke's Gospel is saying to you today that you should be mindful of your great blessings and let your gratitude for them prompt you to do something to bring those blessings to the less fortunate.

You can do something personally and professionally—you know what you can do, I don't. You can do something through political participation, through volunteer activity, through entrepreneurial initiatives, through charitable contributions—you know what you might do, I don't. Those of you who are young should be thinking of vocational choices that relate to these challenges. Will what you do with your life make any difference at all relative to the problems of poverty, hunger, and injustice in the world? You know what you might do with your life, I don't.

All I can say to all of you is: Don't permit yourself to become distracted from the real problems in your world. Don't let the pursuit of pleasure derail you from the tough work of preparing yourself intellectually and spiritually to make the pursuit of happiness—beatitude kind of happiness—a visible reality in your world today.

Diocese of Venice

1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285 941.484.9543

Outreach Ministries

- Altar Servers Dn. Vern Smith davern@stmartha.org
- Catholic Charities Joan Pierce 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

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4380 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232
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 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
Mon, Feb 17 • Presidents' Day - Parish office Closed
Tue, Feb 18 • 10:30am Emmaus Bible Study - Conference Room
Wed, Feb 19 • 9:30-11:30am - Walking with Purpose - Parish Hall
Thu, Feb 20 • 10am - Lectio Divina - Geenen Hall

St Martha Finance Update

	<u>Jul-Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jul-Dec 2023</u>
Sunday Offertory & Unrestricted Donations	\$1,162,196	\$1,017,704
Operating Expenses	\$988,154	\$930,146
Operating Excess	<u>\$174,042</u>	<u>\$87,558</u>

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	St. Martha Parish Staff
Rev. George Suszko, S.A.C. Pastor	Samantha McDonald, Business Manager
Rev. Jan Rykala, S.A.C.	Patricia Sileo, Director of Religious Education
Rev. Gennadi Romachko, S.A.C.	Blanca Goetz, Event Coordinator
Rev. Joseph Vu, C.R.M., Hospital Chaplain	Pamela Paulson, Reception/Data Entry
Very Rev. Fausto Stampiglia, S.A.C. (Retired)	Maxine Brand, Reception
Rev. Deacon Robert Gaitens	Thomas Varas, Music Director
Rev. Deacon C. Patrick Macaulay	Susie Runnells, Sacristan
Rev. Deacon Vern Smith	Janet Cocco, Sacristan
Sr. Cathy Bonfield, S.S.N.D.	Joe Angelicola, Sacristan
Br. Lawrence Skitzki, C.S.C.	Miguel Jimenez, Facilities Manager
Br. William Dygert, C.S.C.	Eris Nunez, Maintenance
	Carlos Sierra Napoles, Maintenance
	Claudia Moschini, Rectory Chef



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 participants,
 a facilitator, and parishioner **Lindy Donahue**.
Call Lindy 724.263.8285 lindydonahue@mac.com

Save the Date



The St. Martha Legacy Society Finance Seminar

Come attend a one hour complimentary workshop, free of charge, on Financial Planning, a topic that is important to your life.

Wednesday, March 12

Financial Planning Michael Morse, Executive Director of the Catholic Community Foundation at the Diocese of Venice, will provide you with the knowledge you need to make critical health, legal and financial decisions for yourself and loved ones.

Register Contact Samantha McDonald, Parish Hall
941.366.4210 or smcdonald@stmartha.org

- Seminar from 11am-12pm in the St Martha Parish Hall Conference Room
- No Charge
- Refreshment served

Anniversary Masses in 2025

March 8 at 11am at St. Thomas More Parish, 2506 Gulf Gate Dr. For married couples celebrating milestone anniversaries: 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, and 50 plus years. Mass celebrated by **Bishop Frank J. Dewane**, 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 Currier on Unsplash

Wedding Banns

Zach Zientarski & Taylor Kraynak (2)
Christian Ocasio & Mary Romero (2)
Andrew Washko & Berkley Blanc (2)
Alfred Burnett & Janet Burnett (2)



Vietnamese New Year Mass and Celebration



View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Weekly Mass Intentions

Sun, Feb 16 Jer 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

7:30am [GS] Ryan Halstead by Mom
9:00am [RN] Phil Rence
9:00am [GS] (Hall) (L) Fiorella Duarte by Adriana
10:30am [FS] For All Parishioners
12:00pm [GR] Joe Spino by Terry
12:00pm [JV] (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm [GR] L & D Mbrs of the Thomas Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe

Mon, Feb 17 Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13

7:30am [GS] Joseph Badessa by David and Paula Shigley
8:30am [JV] Filippo Saglinbevi by Gary and Antonela Hopkins
10:30am [GS] Sharon Sheridan by Shawna Sheridan

Tue, Feb 18 Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21

7:30am [GR] Lew and Betty Smith by Theresa Gilbertson
8:30am [GS] Nicola Caragiulo by the Caragiulo Family
12:00pm [GR] Barbara Maggio by James Maggio
5:30pm [GS] Zofia Barnach by John Kopczyk

Wed, Feb 19 Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk 8:22-26

7:30am [GS] The Tony Caragiulo Family by the Caragiulo Family
8:30am [GR] Joseph Esterman by Janet and Tony Cocco
12:00pm [GS] David L. Wulfsohn by Joann
5:30pm [GR] (L) Patricia Devine by Maureen

Thu, Feb 20 Gn 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33

7:30am [GR] Frank and Bonnie Mouro by John Iacopelli
8:30am [JV] Marian Ross by The Sweet Sixteen
12:00pm [GR] Missing and Exploited Children by Joe and Betty Plouffe
5:30pm [FS] (L) Quinn McGruder by Mary and John McGruder

Fri, Feb 21 Gn 11:1-9; Mk 8:34—9:1

7:30am [JV] Bro. Joseph LeBon, C.S.C. by Brothers of Holy Cross
8:30am [FS] Famiglia Scarongella by Carmela Scarongella
12:00pm [GR] Vladimir Scerbo by John Iacopelli
5:30pm [GS] (L) Matka Zaworski by Monica Roberts

Sat, Feb 22 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

7:30am [GS] RD and Cecelia Kelly Families by Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly
8:30am [JV] Nick Dicianni by Carmela Scarongella
4:00pm [FS] Dec. Mbrs of the Sagnella and Russo Families by Barbara
4:00pm [GR] (Hall) (L) Timothy Muessle by Maureen Devine
5:30pm [PH] William S. Haraf by Steven Haraf

Sun, Feb 23 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

7:30am [GR] Eugenie Leary by Madonna Weir
9:00am [FS] Regina Johandes by Ann Mongillo
9:00am [GS] (Hall) Regina Johandes by Rita Giovanucci
10:30am [PH] For All Parishioners
12:00pm [FS] Ann Sawicki 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

Fr. George (GS), Fr. Jan (JR), Fr. Joseph (JV), Fr. Fausto (FS),
Fr Gennadi (GR), Fr. Notter (RN), Father Peter Hill (PH)



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