

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2025

“Give, and gifts will be given to you;  
a good measure, packed together,  
shaken down, and overflowing,  
will be poured into your lap.

For the measure with  
which you measure  
will in return be  
measured out  
to you.”

Luke 6:38



## 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 23, 2025**
**Sermon for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time by Deacon Bob**

I rewatched a movie last week called Father Stu. This movie was produced by, and starred Mark Wahlberg. While the movie obviously takes *artistic privilege*, it is based on the real life of Father Stuart Long. As I read today's Gospel, my mind kept going back to both the movie and real life of Fr. Stuart.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus' teachings may be the hardest of us to hear, and the most difficult to follow. He is telling us to love our enemies. He tells us not to give of our surplus, but from our need. Jesus calls us on the carpet and reminds us, that even the worst of the worst do good things for those they love. Doing for them, does not differentiate us from worshipping God or the devil. Rather it is what we do to all that differentiates who we are really following. That is a pretty difficult message for all of us to hear. And that same message resounds in both the movie version of Father Stu and the real life version of Father Stuart Long.

If you know anything about Father Stu's story, you know he was a very secular person prior to his conversion. There was a dark side in his past, was extremely tough, athletic, and smart. Some truly loved Stuart Long, but he had enemies as well. After a near death motorcycle accident, he had his come to Jesus moment: literally. That moment changed the trajectory of his life and almost all who encountered him. While in seminary, this very handsome, smart, athletic, funny man was diagnosed with inclusion body myositis. It is a disease very similar to Lou Gehrig's disease, that would progressively take away all his body functions till he died.

In the movie, Father Stu's biggest antagonist was a fellow seminarian. This seminarian felt Stu did not belong in seminary and was not worthy of the priesthood because of his past faults. The former golden gloves boxer in Stu, wanted to pummel his fellow seminarian, but instead lived today's Gospel. For Stu had accepted Jesus' forgiveness and understood what that meant. Jesus tells us today to *forgive and you will be forgiven*.

Stu because of his personality had plenty of friends, this seminarian did not. Yet Stu consistently reached out to help or offer help to his antagonist. Stuart Long's real life was similar. He constantly forgave his enemies and gave of all he had. He gave his time, he gave his things (even though he did not have many), as he once said to his dad, they need it more than I do. Most importantly he gave us an example of today's Gospel.

Father Stuart Long *carried the disease for Christ*. He never gave up on today's Gospel ministering as a priest up until about two weeks prior to his death. His body had pretty much shut down months before he stopped priestly ministry. But with the help of others moving his hands and raising his arms, he presided at Mass and ministered at confession right up till the very last moments of his life.

The bishop (Bishop Thomas), who agreed to ordain the fragile Stuart Long, who physically could even at that time barely do the physical requirements of a priest at Mass, prayed over whether to ordain Stuart. Bishop Thomas every time he asked God for guidance heard the Lord tell him, *there is power in suffering, move him forward*.

That is EXACTLY what Jesus is telling us in today's Gospel. There is power in suffering. Sure it is no fun to be nice to those who are attacking us. Sure it stinks to give to those who are abusing us. And yes, it is extremely hard to forgive those who are beating us. But there IS power in suffering. We need to trust Him who suffered for us on the cross. Fr. Stu brought thousands of people to Jesus' Church by doing just that. Think if we could bring one person to our Lord! Our lives will have been successful. Because life is just a pilgrimage to God. If we can help get one other person over the finish line to be with His Father our mission will have been successful. The example we set by living today's Gospel's words are the way to set the example for others like Fr. Stu did. Jesus closes today's Gospel out with: *For the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you*. If we listen to Him, He too will get us over the finish line.

View this bulletin online at [www.DiscoverMass.com](http://www.DiscoverMass.com)



Our Pastor, Father George

**From Father George:**

**St. Martha Parish Mission in St. Martha - We welcome Fr. Peter Hill** who is preaching at each Mass this weekend and 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 Jesus

Christ. The next Jubilee Year mission like this may be too long to wait.

**Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites in the Diocese of Venice - Epiphany**

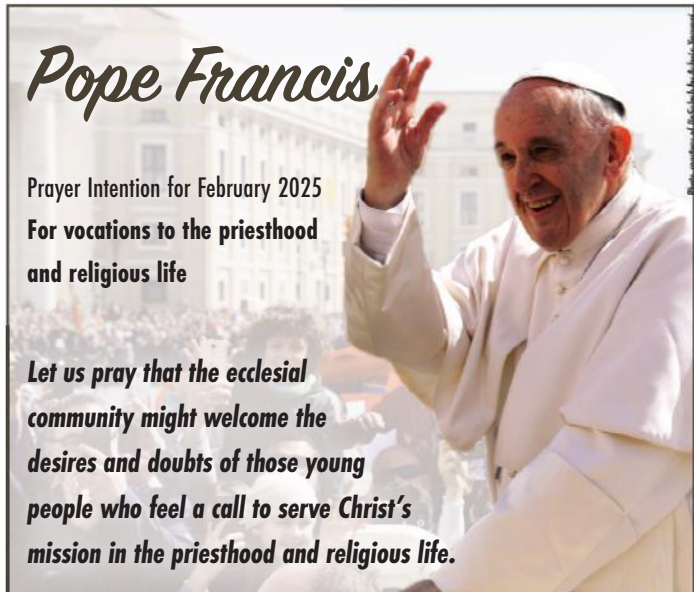
**Cathedral**, 350 Tampa Avenue West, Venice, **St. John XXIII Parish Church**, 13060 Palomino Land, Ft. Myers, **St. John the Evangelist Parish Church** – 625 111th Avenue North Naples, **St. Paul Parish Church**, 1330 East Oak Street, Arcadia, **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center**, 3989 South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

**Last Thursday of the month Adoration** - Come and join us in silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Thursday, February 27** at 6pm.

**Grade 10 Students are going to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation** - in St. Martha's parish from Bishop Frank J. Dewane on **Monday, March 3**. Let's support them in prayerful preparation for it.

**Next Sunday, March 2, 2025**, is the Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time.

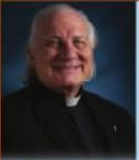
With prayers for God's blessing to you and your family,  
 Father George



*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.*

## 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](mailto: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

## 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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## Knights of Columbus #3358

### 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.



2025

ORIOLES SPRING TRAINING SCHEDULE

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FEBRUARY							
MARCH							
APRIL							
MAY							
JUNE							
JULY							
AUGUST							
SEPTEMBER							
OCTOBER							
NOVEMBER							
DECEMBER							

Legend: HOME AWAY

## 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](mailto:smcdonald@stmartha.org)

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

**Stream Heart & Soul Retreat Day!**

Learning is fun at St. Mary Academy! It is so fitting that all of our activities had to do with hearts on St. Valentine's Day! We had Divine Mercy Sundaes, Lungs and Luke, St. Valentine, Athletics and Agatha, and God's Never Ending Love rotations. While our students enjoyed all of the activities, we believe that the *Divine Sundaes* rotation was the most popular!



A Message from  
**BISHOP DEWANE**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the Holy Season of Lent, all are invited to renew and deepen their relationship with God and with one another. This can be done in an intentional way through the Catholic tradition of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the pillars of Lent. CRS Rice Bowl-Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action Program invites us to encounter God and our global family by practicing these Lenten pillars.

This year, CRS Rice Bowl celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 120 different countries each year. Seventy-five percent of alms collected through CRS Rice Bowl supports CRS Programs around the world. Twenty-five percent stay here in our diocese to help fight hunger and poverty.

At this very moment, millions of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers are facing life-threatening levels of food insecurity, disease and malnutrition. There is no one solution to breaking the cycle of hunger, but we can do our part through CRS Rice Bowl by answering Jesus' invitation to share bread for life with our sisters and brothers during Lent.

Please consider picking up a Rice Bowl packet at your Parish on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, or the following Sunday, and join in this simple, yet powerful Lenten practice. On behalf of those who benefit from your participation, I express their appreciation.

This opportunity is taken to thank you for your participation, especially during this Jubilee Year 2025, to be Pilgrims of Hope and offer help to those in need.

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



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

**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

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**Diocese of Venice**

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**Outreach Ministries**

- Altar Servers . . . . . Dn. Vern Smith . . . . . dcvern@stmartha.org
- Catholic Charities . . . . . Joan Pierce . . . . . 941.366.4210
- Community Pregnancy Clinics . . . . . 941.260.5427
- Casa Santa Marta . . . . . 941.366.4448
- Choir/Cantor . . . . . Thomas Varas . . . . . 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. Mari Jo 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**

**Sunday, February 23**

- 10:15am Religious Ed Classes - Upstairs Classrooms

**Monday, February 24**

- Pilgrims of Hope Mission with Fr Peter Hill

**Tuesday, February 25**

- Pilgrims of Hope Mission with Fr Peter Hill

**Wednesday, February 26**

- Pilgrims of Hope Mission with Fr Peter Hill

**Thursday, February 27** • 10am - Lectio Divina - Geenen Hall

- 6-7:30pm - Bible Study - Book of Genesis - Geenen Hall

**Friday, February 28**

- 10-11:30am - Bible Study - Book of Genesis - Geenen Hall

*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
- Thomas Varas, 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




**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**

Incarnation Women's Club Welcomes You to



**THE GREATEST FASHION SHOW ON EARTH & LUNCHEON**


Saturday, March 1, 2025 - 11:30 am to 2:30 pm - Finegan Center  
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Vicki Rollo  
Moderator/Owner

Tickets \$45 - Send Registration Form to Eileen Parkinson  
7631 Pesaro Drive, Sarasota, FL 34238

Proceeds Benefit Incarnation Catholic School

*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.

*Wedding Banns*

Zach Zientarski & Taylor Kraynak (3)  
Christian Ocasio & Mary Romero (3)  
Andrew Washko & Berkley Blanc (3)  
Alfred Burnett & Janet Burnett (3)



**Weekly Mass Intentions**

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

Mon, Feb 24 .....Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29

7:30am..... [GS]....Lew Smith by Theresa Gilbertson  
8:30am..... [JV] ....James Theil by Joe and Nora Stephan  
12:00pm..... [JV]....John and Vera Kelly Family by Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly  
5:30pm..... [GS]....Furman Brown by Lucy Nicandri and Richard Davis

Tue, Feb 25 .....Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37

7:30am..... [GR]....Susan and John Gravila by Marge and Paul Lortie  
8:30am..... [GS].... Sharon Sheridan by Shawna Sheridan  
12:00pm..... [GS]....David Valcich by Edda Brimble  
5:30pm..... [GR]....(L) Kathleen Devine by Maureen Devine

Wed, Feb 26 .....Sir 4:11-19; Mk 9:38-40

7:30am..... [GS]....William Wilkens by David and Paula Shigley  
8:30am..... [JV]....L & D Mbrs of the Sheridan Family by Shawna Sheridan  
12:00pm..... [GR]....Bill Desrosiers by Family  
5:30pm..... [GS]....John Nicandri by Lucy

Thu, Feb 27 .....Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50

7:30am..... [JV]....William Wilkens by Claire Collins  
8:30am..... [JR] ....William L'Heureux by Family  
12:00pm..... [GR]....Paul Rosario by Kelly Rosenberg  
5:30pm..... [FS] ....Nicholas Davella by Carol Davella

Fri, Feb 28 .....Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12

7:30am..... [JV]....Doug Bulna by John Iacopelli  
8:30am..... [FS] ....Famiglia Campanale by Carmela Scarongella  
12:00pm..... [GR]....Dr. Joseph Iacopelli by John Iacopelli  
5:30pm..... [JR]....Tristan Barth by Family

Sat, Mar 1 .....Sir 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16

7:30am..... [GR]....Mark Vessins by Friend  
8:30am..... [JV]....Armando Angeles by the Corsaro Family  
4:00pm..... [GS]....To the Blessed Virgin Mary by Carolyn  
4:00pm..... [FS] ....(Hall) William Casey, Sr. by the Casey Family  
5:30pm..... [JR] ....Thomas George Zeeb by Kelly Rosenberg

Sun, Mar 2 .....Sir 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

7:30am..... [JR] ....Donald Lee Bullock by Aeden and Noreen Dowling  
9:00am..... [GR]....Charles Eschmann by Ann Crowley  
9:00am..... [FS] ....(Hall) (L) Joshua Duarte by Adriana  
10:30am..... [GS]....For All Parishioners  
12:00pm..... [JR] ....Greg Schalk by Bridget and Scott Hekes  
12:00pm..... [JV]....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
5:30pm..... [GR]....L & D Mbrs of the Plouffe Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe

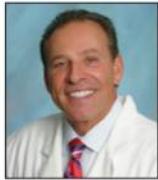
Fr. George (GS), Fr. Jan (JR), Fr. Joseph (JV), Fr. Fausto (FS),  
Fr Gennadi (GR), Fr. Notter (RN), Father Peter Hill (PH)



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Sunday: Closed

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