

March 9, 2025  
First Sunday of Lent

“You shall worship the Lord,  
your God,  
and him alone shall you serve.”

Luke 4:8



## 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

**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

**Sermon for the First Sunday of Lent by Father Gennadi :**

We are beginning the time of Lent. Ahead of us is a time of prayer, fasting, and doing good deeds. Every year, the Church gives us tips on how to experience this holy time to cleanse our souls from sins, unite with God, and prepare for the greatest Christian Solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection. This time should be a time of Christian hope. We are pilgrims of hope, and each pilgrimage ends with reaching the goal, fulfilling hope. May this time of Lent be a fruitful time of all efforts for us. May each of us find our own path of reconciliation with God and spiritual renewal.

Lent is a time of rising from sleep. Not by accident, on the first Sunday of Lent we recall the temptation of Jesus in the desert. We are tempted throughout our lives. Lent is a time when we awaken spiritual desires in ourselves, when we oppose what is associated with lust of the flesh, the desire for power, and putting God to the test. There are many beautiful tips on how to engage in the holy time. I would like to present a few suggestions that we can find in Sister Faustina's Diary. Sister Faustina experienced Lent 13 times in her religious life as a nun. Here are some of the practices that can be helpful in experiencing Lent: prayer, adoration and sharing everyday life with God; overcoming difficulties in prayer and in relationships with others; imploring the conversion of souls and helping priests to save them; bearing suffering in humility and accepting with love everything that God gives; submitting to God's will as the crown of all fasting and mortification.

Our prayer and sharing everyday life with God will ultimately help us understand ourselves better, and this understanding will allow us to discover how to resist temptations and what we need to fix in our lives. How we experience our prayer during Lent will ultimately decide whether we will be able to say more about God than before Lent. We can think about how we experience our encounter with Jesus, whether we touch Him in Communion, whether we apologize to Him in confession. During Lent, we can think more about how much we talk about God in conversations with others. Once, Sister Faustina, getting off the carriage in Krakow, said: "Everyone is in such a hurry, and I wonder if anyone is thinking about the Lord God?" We can think about God in ordinary everyday life, let us not be ashamed to take up topics about God or reduce our conversations to such topics. Lent often works on our own mortification and works on ourselves, but it is worth thinking about others. Let us remember that we, as priests, need prayer to speak with power during this time and especially during confession, to forgive mercifully. Let us not think only about ourselves, but also about those who need conversion. Let fasting serve us in understanding our own difficulties and sufferings. Many of us suffer and not only physically, but also spiritually, we experience limitations and loneliness. Before the cross of Christ, we will learn to accept our limitations with faith and trust in God. One of the sisters once said about Sister Faustina: "You could see in her a deep union with the Lord Jesus, her heart ran to Him". After all, this is about experiencing Lent in such a way as to deeply unite with Jesus. Let our hearts run to Him. It is also worth noting that Sister Faustina can become a special guide for every believer, and not only during Lent, but throughout life.



Our Pastor, Father George

**From Father George:**

**Congratulations to 39 Grade 10 students who were confirmed in St. Martha on Monday, March 3, 2025**

- We thank Bishop Frank J. Dewane for confirming the group of our young parishioners! Thanks to our Religious Education office led by Patty Sileo, to Teachers and Catechists who prepared them for it.

**Lenten Stations of the Cross** - On Fridays in Lent, we will meditate on the Passion of Christ through the Stations of the Cross, which will be held at 9am.

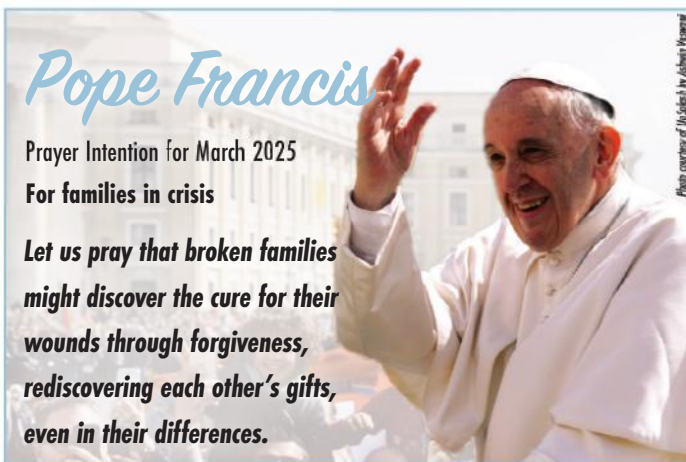
**40 Days for Life Spring Campaign, March 5 - April 13** - 40 days for Life is an international 40-day campaign

that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. Campaigns are held in the spring and in the fall. In the Diocese of Venice, 40 Days for Life campaigns are held in three locations: Sarasota, Fort Myers, and Naples. Sarasota will hold a special Spring Campaign Kick-off event on **Monday, March 3, in the parking lot of Community Pregnancy Clinic, 1419 7th Street, Sarasota.** The event will feature **Shawn Carney**, who led the first-ever 40 Days for Life campaign in Texas in 2004. To learn more about how to support or participate in 40 Days for Life in the Diocese of Venice, click on a location below, or visit [dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife](http://dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife).

**Thought for the Jubilee Year** - The very last words of the Lord's Prayer: *but deliver us from evil. Amen* lead to the prayer for hope, which the priest says at every Mass and which we can use in this year: *Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.* We hope to be delivered from evil, given peace, freed from sin through the mercy of God, granted peace of mind and heart and to see Jesus one day. There is so much offered to the Pilgrims of Hope.

**Next Sunday**, March 16, 2025, is the Second Sunday of Lent.

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



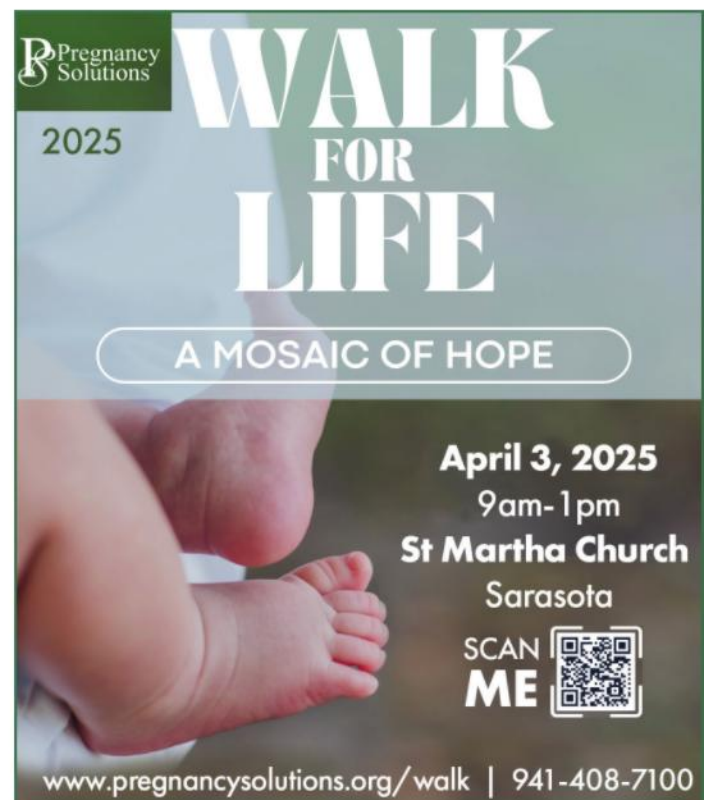
**Pope Francis**

Prayer Intention for March 2025  
**For families in crisis**

**Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.**

Photo courtesy of St. Ignace by John's Vessner

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




**Pregnancy Solutions**

**2025**

**WALK FOR LIFE**

**A MOSAIC OF HOPE**

**April 3, 2025**  
9am-1pm  
**St Martha Church**  
Sarasota

SCAN ME 

[www.pregnancysolutions.org/walk](http://www.pregnancysolutions.org/walk) | 941-408-7100

## St. Martha Service Club

# Hearty Meals Project

- During Lent, the **St. Martha Service Club** is collecting non-perishable food items for the Hearty Meals Program for the clients of Resurrection House.
- Students decorate lunch bags and fill with non-perishable food items. These lunches are given to **Resurrection House** for distribution.

### Please drop items off at the St. Martha Parish Office:

- Donations of single serve items: tuna packets, peanut butter packets, crackers, granola bars, applesauce, dried fruit, etc.
- To make a **monetary donation**, please send a check to: St. Martha Church, 200 N. Orange Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236 Attn: Patricia Sileo with memo Hearty Meals Project.
- **Questions** / more info, contact Director of Religious Education, Patricia Sileo at siloo@stmartha.org or 941.366.4210 ext 3236

# The Way Of Love

## Women's Retreat

A transformative experience designed exclusively for women to connect, recharge, and leave feeling healed and inspired. Taking St. Thérèse of Lisieux as our guide and model, we will dive into what it means to experience God's love and forgiveness, and step forward in trust.

**Dates** March 14, 2025

**Time** 9:30am-3:30pm (check in begins at 8:45)

**Location** St Martha's Parish Hall

### Retreat Overview:

Walking with Purpose welcomes all the women of the parish and their guests to a full-day retreat that will open our hearts to God's love through song and Scripture. Catholic singer/songwriter Marie Miller will lead us on a journey through St. Thérèse's *Little Way of Trust and Love*. The day includes breakfast, retreat sessions, praise and worship music, Adoration, Mass, and lunch.

### Speaker: Marie Miller

Marie Miller, a Catholic singer/songwriter, has enjoyed radio and recording success, including her #1 charting song *You're Not Alone*. She has performed throughout North America and Europe, with her most memorable performance being for Pope Francis and 750,000 attendees at the Philadelphia Festival of Families.

There is no fee for the retreat, but cash donations will be gratefully accepted. Come and experience a day filled with faith, fellowship, and inspiration!

**Sign up:** [stmarthawwp.godaddysites.com/sign-up](http://stmarthawwp.godaddysites.com/sign-up) (or use the QR code)

**More Information Contact Kelly Rizzo**  
410.905.1090 • [stmarthawwp@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarthawwp@yahoo.com)

[walkingwithpurpose.com](http://walkingwithpurpose.com)



REGISTER



# 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

# CATHOLIC FAITH Appeal

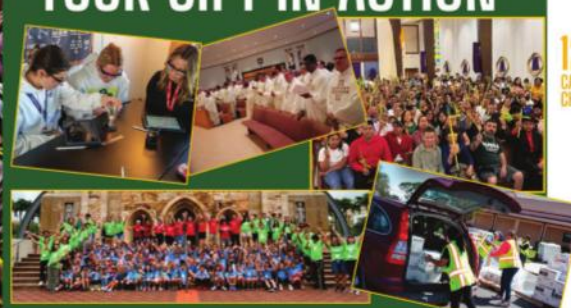
Celebrating 40 YEARS



"Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord..."

Prov 19:17

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12% CATHOLIC CHARITIES



17% PARISHES, MISSIONS & APOSTOLATES

5% VOCATIONS & CLERGY



**DIOCESE OF VENICE**  
IN FLORIDA

**Eucharistic Conference**  
Becoming Eucharistic Missionaries  
March 29, 2025


**Bishop Frank Dewane**

**Dr. Scott Hahn**   **Mrs. Kimberly Hahn**

**Mrs. Mary Ann Wiesinger-Puig**   **Mr. Andrés Arango**


**Charlotte Harbor**  
Event & Conference Center  
Punta Gorda, FL

To register: <https://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/eucharistic-conference>  
For information contact Jim Gontis at: [gontis@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:gontis@dioceseofvenice.org)  
941-486-4754

**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](mailto:lindydonahue@mac.com)**



**Join Father Fausto**  
*for a Bible Study on the Book of Genesis*

**Fr. Fausto** conducts a weekly program discussing the Book of Genesis. Participants can attend an evening or morning session:

**Evening session** 6-7:30pm • Thursdays through April 10  
**Morning session** 10-11:30am • Fridays through April 11

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 1991-2022, 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.



March 5 - April 13  
**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

**HELP SAVE LIVES IN Sarasota!**

**You can protect mothers and children** by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

**With God's help**, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over **25,000** saved babies
- More than **150** closed facilities
- More than **250** converted workers

**Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:**

- **Vigil location:** Outside Planned Parenthood, 736 Central Ave, Sarasota
- **Vigil hours:** 7 am to 7 pm daily
- **Local contact:** Rich, 941-343-0672

**Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up** for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!



**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 . . . . . Thomas Varas . . . . . tvaras@stmartha.org
- 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, March 9**
  - 10:15am **Religious Ed Classes** - *Upstairs Classrooms*
  - Tuesday, March 11**
  - 10:30am **Emmaus Bible Study** - *Conference Room*
  - Wednesday, March 12**
  - 9:30-11:30am - **Walking with Purpose** - *Parish Hall*
  - 11am - **Financial Planning Seminar** - *Conference Room*
  - Thursday, March 13**
  - 10am - **Lectio Divina** - *Geenen Hall*
  - 6-7:30pm - **Bible Study - Book of Genesis** - *Geenen Hall*
  - Friday, March 14**
  - 9:30am-3:30pm - **The Way of Love Women's Retreat** - *Parish Hall*
  - Saturday, March 15**
  - 10-11:30am - **Bible Study - Book of Genesis** - *Geenen Hall*



- |  |   |
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| <p><b>St. Martha Clergy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rev. George Suszko, S.A.C. Pastor</li> <li>Rev. Jan Rykala, S.A.C.</li> <li>Rev. Gennadi Romachko, S.A.C.</li> <li>Rev. Joseph Vu, C.R.M.,<br/>Hospital Chaplain</li> <li>Very Rev. Fausto Stampiglia,<br/>S.A.C. (Retired)</li> <li>Rev. Deacon Robert Gaitens</li> <li>Rev. Deacon C. Patrick Macaulay</li> <li>Rev. Deacon Vern Smith</li> <li>Sr. Cathy Bonfield, S.S.N.D.</li> <li>Br. Lawrence Skitzki, C.S.C.</li> <li>Br. William Dygert, C.S.C.</li> </ul> | <p><b>St. Martha Parish Staff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Samantha McDonald,<br/>Business Manager</li> <li>Patricia Sileo,<br/>Director of Religious Education</li> <li>Blanca Goetz, Event Coordinator</li> <li>Pamela Paulson,<br/>Reception/Data Entry</li> <li>Maxine Brand, Reception</li> <li>Thomas Varas, Music Director</li> <li>Susie Runnells, Sacristan</li> <li>Janet Cocco, Sacristan</li> <li>Joe Angelicola, Sacristan</li> <li>Miguel Jimenez, Facilities Manager</li> <li>Eris Nunez, Maintenance</li> <li>Carlos Sierra Napoles, Maintenance</li> <li>Claudia Moschini, Rectory Chef</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## 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 January 2025

Serving **964 households** and **1,539 individuals**

	2025	2024	2024
<b>Households</b>	964	677	528
<b>Unique Households</b>	321	259	—
<b>Clients Served</b>	1,539	1,185	855
Adults	1,315	1,016	709
Children	224	169	146

**We now serve five times a week, up from three times a week in the previous year. YOU are essential in helping fulfill our commitment to serve our unhoused population in Sarasota!**

### 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



**ST. MARY ACADEMY**  
*12th Annual*  
**CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Sunday, May 18, 2025**  
**University Park Country Club**  
**Sarasota, FL**  
**\$150.00 per player**  
**Shotgun starts at 1:00 p.m.**

**Includes:**  
Golf Cart & Green Fees, Range Balls, BBQ Dinner, Drinks, Snacks, Prizes, Awards, Principal's Auction, Silent Auction, Best Goody Bag Ever

Bang Bang Shrimp provided by 



For more information, please contact Connie Taft at (941) 366-4010 Ext. 318 or ctaft@stmarysarasota.org. St. Mary Academy is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating children with special learning needs.

## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Sun, Mar 9** .....Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

7:30am ..... [GR] .....Ryan Halstead by Mom  
9:00am ..... [GS] .....Charles Wilkens by Claire Collins  
9:00am ..... [FS] .....(Hall) Maggie Mendive by the Ordonez Family  
10:30am ..... [FS] .....For All Parishioners  
12:00pm ..... [GR] .....Margaret Mary Hughes by Susan and Michael Hunter  
12:00pm ..... [JV] .....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
5:30pm ..... [JR] .....Mary Roderick by Ellen Roderick

**Mon, Mar 10** .....Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

7:30am ..... [JV] .....Grace Emberton by the Family  
8:30am ..... [JR] .....Marianne Emberton by the Family  
12:00pm ..... [JR] .....William Primrose by the Family  
5:30pm ..... [GS] .....Kenny Fields by Tom Gillis

**Tue, Mar 11** .....Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

7:30am ..... [GR] .....John & Ann Begley & Families by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly  
8:30am ..... [GS] .....Donald Lee Bullock by Aedan and Noreen Dowling  
12:00pm ..... [JR] .....Mary Scheb by Tina Mroczkowski  
5:30pm ..... [JR] .....Paul Galante by the Family

**Wed, Mar 12** .....Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

7:30am ..... [GS] .....(L) Aldo Massara by David and Paula Shigley  
8:30am ..... [GR] .....Sharon Sheridan by Shawna Sheridan  
12:00pm ..... [JR] .....Theodore Vigeland by Susan Schussler  
5:30pm ..... [GR] .....Lydia Albamonte by the Family

**Thu, Mar 13** .....Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

7:30am ..... [JV] .....(L) Pam Khopfer and Nick by Mom  
8:30am ..... [JR] .....Lucy Cino by Maria Cino  
12:00pm ..... [GR] .....Rose Nurge by Terry  
5:30pm ..... [FS] .....David R. Hutchings by wife Marlene and Family

**Fri, Mar 14** .....Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

7:30am ..... [GR] .....(L) Anne Lortie by Marge and Paul Lortie  
8:30am ..... [GR] .....St. Anthony by the Family Scarongella  
12:00pm ..... [FS] .....Larry Arronis by Tina Mroczkowski  
5:30pm ..... [GS] .....Cody McBain by Mary Fuerst

**Sat, Mar 15** .....Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

7:30am ..... [JV] .....Lawrence Kerwin by David and Paula Shigley  
8:30am ..... [GR] .....Charles J. Macinick by Janet Macinick  
4:00pm ..... [GR] .....Connie and Frank Arndt by the Castelli Family  
4:00pm ..... [JR] .....(Hall) Dec. Mbrs. of the Zucaro Family by Cathy Giblin  
5:30pm ..... [GS] .....Grace Sheehan by Walter Serwatka

**Sun, Mar 16** .....Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17—4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

7:30am ..... [GS] .....The Wilkens Family by Claire Collins  
9:00am ..... [JR] .....St. Martha's Volunteers by the Clergy  
9:00am ..... [GR] .....(Hall) (L) Fiorella Duarte by Adriana  
10:30am ..... [JR] .....For All Parishioners  
12:00pm ..... [FS] ..... Regina Johandes by Rita Giovanucci  
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)



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