

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday of

LENT

FASTING

PRAYING

ALMSGIVING



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 16, 2025 - Sermon for the Second Sunday of Lent by Fr Jan
Through Darkness to Light

We have beautiful stories in the readings of the second Sunday of Lent. In this homily I will concentrate on the first one, from the first reading, the beautiful and very deep encounter of Abram with God.

It is him whom God takes in the night and asks him to look up to at the sky and to count the stars if he could, promising him such a multitude of his descendants. Abram, delighted with the promise and generosity of God, put his faith in Him. To prove to Abram that His promise would be realized in the future, God makes a covenant with Abram. As it was an ancient custom of making the covenants, clean animals and birds were prepared. Both sides who make the covenant go among the split animals' carcasses promising that if one side breaks the covenant their bodies should split like the animals. The making of the covenant took place at sunset and among the growing darkness of early night. No wonder that Abram was terrified, a trance fell upon him, and he was enveloped in deep darkness. He didn't make the covenant with another human being like himself, but with God, whose light was appearing in the darkness and passed between the slaughtered animals. And in his trance Abram heard the voice of God saying to him: *Your descendants I give this land.... God said also: Know that of surety that your descendants will be sojourners in the land that is not theirs, and will be slaves there, and will be oppressed for four hundred years; but I will bring judgment on the nation which they serve, and afterwards they shall come out with great possessions.*

In Genesis 15 and at Sinai (Exodus. 19–20), God's presence is manifested by darkness, cloud, smoke, fire, and torches. In both cases a covenant is made, and the animals are sacrificed to solemnize the covenant. This reading provides us with the backstory for understanding Exodus and the Passover. These were events that God foresaw hundreds of years before they came to pass. The Passover and Exodus were, in fact, fulfillments of the promises of the covenant God had made to Abram, the ancestor of the Israelites, long before they cried out to God in their suffering as slaves in Egypt.

We can apply the words of the Psalmist to Abram's experience in the first reading. Abram was engulfed in fearful darkness, but into that darkness God's presence made itself known as a flaming torch – a beacon of light revealing to Abram a future full of hope for himself and his descendants. The long weeks of Lent sometimes seem to drag by, and in many places in these times Abraham's life has been seen as a model of the spiritual life and the experiences of the soul who wishes to grow close to God.

Sometimes we also must experience the *divine darkness* – times of mysterious testing where we cannot see our way forward, and every path seems to be only a dead end. In this situation, the Psalmist boldly proclaims, *The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear?* This is the act of courageous faith, a total abandonment into the arms of God. There is no seeking for an easier, alternative salvation apart from The Lord. The manner of God's deliverance may not be seen and may not come quickly, but the Psalmist remains resolute: *wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted and wait for the Lord.* Abraham had to wait till nearly the end of his life to receive his heir, Isaac. We may have to wait a long time, as well.

Lent is a *practice drill* in holy waiting for *the bounty of the Lord.* Yet we know that the joy of Easter – a foretaste of our own resurrection – is coming, and we continue to focus on the Lord as our *light* during the *dark* weeks of Lent. By mortification, we learn not to seek after any cheap and easy *salvation* in physical or psychological pleasures, but only in the Lord.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



Our Pastor, Father George

From Father George:

Last Sunday you read the Bulletin Sermon from **Deacon**. Apologies for this printing mistake in the Bulletin. The Sermon was produced by Fr. Gennadi Romachko, thanks Fr. Gennadi!

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.

St. Patrick (March 17) - God's blessing to all who come from Irish roots and to all those who wish that they were Irish! This Irish joke gives us all the chance to receive special

God's favors on the feast of St. Patrick.

St. Joseph (March 19) - We commend all working people, fathers and foster fathers, and all parents on the feast day of St. Joseph. St. Joseph experienced an intervention of an angel in his life; may he now pray for all of us who need that kind of special heavenly help.

24 Hours for the Lord - Confessions in the Diocese of Venice, St. Martha in Sarasota, Our Lady of the Angels in Lakewood Ranch and San Pedro in North Port have been designated to hold this event on Friday, March 28 from 9am until Saturday 29 at 9am. The Blessed Sacrament will also be exposed during the full 24 hours.

Next Sunday, March 23, 2025, is the Third Sunday of Lent.

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

Father George


Pregnancy Solutions

WALK FOR LIFE

2025

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

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www.pregnancysolutions.org/walk | 941-408-7100

Congratulations to our Sophomore Confirmation Class



Carmella Antonio
Jack Army
Natalia Blanco
Hayden BySura
Ivan Camarillo-Garcia
Richard Csiszar
Elena D'Alconzo
Isabela D'Alconzo

Derek Dau
Jordan Do
Julia Esposito
Laine Garner
Reese Gibson
Roman Haugh
Andrew Hopper

Eliana Horning
Olivia Kavanshansky
Jack Keenan
Lilly Keenan
Braden Kerewich
Addison Lawandus
Liam McKay

Emma McDowell
Devin Mignery
Madeline Mignery
Ethan Nguyen
Ha-Giang Nguyen
Trinity Nguyen
Aidan O'Keefe-Price

Isabella Onan
Brooke Peterson
Colleen Putnam
Thomas Roberts
Emily Scarbrough
Megan Scarbrough
Gavin Tovar
Matthew Vu

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 sileo@stmartha.org or 941.366.4210 ext 3236

Rite of Election





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://diocesofvenice.regfox.com/eucharistic-conference>
For information contact Jim Gontis at:
gontis@diocesofvenice.org
941-486-4754



Annual Lenten Fish Fry

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
MARCH 7 TO APRIL 11, 2025
4:30 to 7pm

** There will be no Fish Fry on March 28, 2025**

\$14 ADULTS


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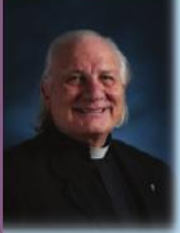
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Finding God at the Intersection of
Heaven and Earth

VIVIENDO LOS SACRAMENTOS
Encontrar a Dios en la Intersección
del Cielo y la Tierra

MARCH 30 – APRIL 3
5:30 to 6:45 p.m. ENGLISH
7:30 to 8:45 p.m. ESPAÑOL

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

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!

40daysforlife.com/sarasota

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 February 2025

Serving **887 households** and **1,525 individuals**

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!

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

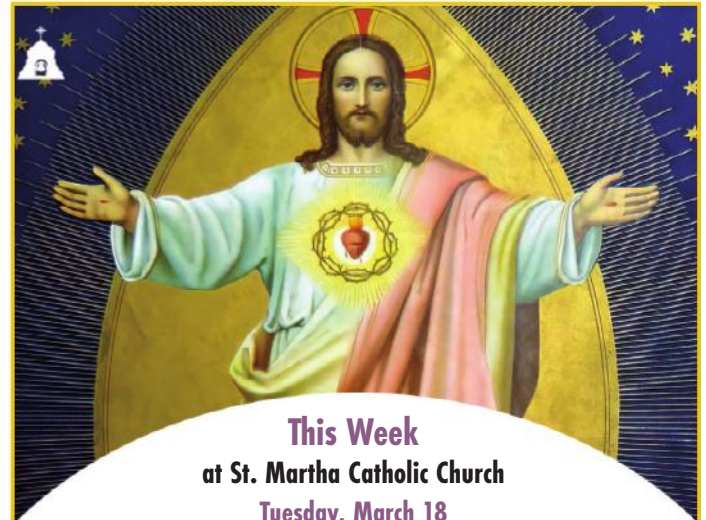
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St. Martha Catholic School . . Principal Mrs. Mari Jo Hanson 941.953.4181

St. Mary Academy Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds 941.366.4010

Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

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This Week

at St. Martha Catholic Church

Tuesday, March 18

- 10:30am **Emmaus Bible Study** - Conference Room

Wednesday, March 19

- 9:30-11:30am - **Walking with Purpose** - Parish Hall

Thursday, March 20

- 10am - **Lectio Divina** - Geenen Hall
- 6-7:30pm - **Bible Study - Book of Genesis** - Geenen Hall

Friday, March 21

- 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



JUBILEE ADORATION NIGHTS

DIOCESE OF VENICE

St. Patrick, Sarasota, FL
March 22, 2025 6:30-8:30pm

St. Paul, Arcadia, FL
May 2, 2025 6:30-8:30pm



dioceseofvenice.org/youthministry
Phone 941.441.1122
prias@dioceseofvenice.org

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,
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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 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

Mon, Mar 17 Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
7:30am.....[JR]....Jim Hallman by Bill and Sue Montague
8:30am.....[GS]....Claire Elmasri by Joe and Nora Stephan
12:00pm.....[JV]....Debbie Dunlap by John and Mary McGruder
5:30pm.....[JR]....Fr. Patrick Wilson by the Boryszewski Family

Tue, Mar 18.....Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
7:30am.....[GR]....Fr. Patrick Wilson by Allie Freeman
8:30am.....[JR]....Zacharia Weria Kiwale by John Schaefer
12:00pm.....[JR]....(L) Agnieszka Corsara by the Corsara Family
5:30pm.....[GS]....(L) Elena Kiang by Elena

Wed, Mar 19..... 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22;
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
7:30am.....[GR]....William Wilkens by Marge and Paul Lortie
8:30am.....[JR]....Linda Dicianni by Carmela Scarongella
12:00pm.....[GS]....For a Greater Respect for All Human Life
5:30pm.....[GR]....The Efthimides Family by Emil and Diane

Thu, Mar 20.....Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
7:30am.....[JR]....William Polson by Melissa Furman
8:30am.....[JV]....Hugh Bradshaw by Bridget and Scott Hakes
12:00pm.....[GR]....Sharon Sheridan by Shawna Sheridan
5:30pm.....[FS]....Daniel Rogers by Elena Kiang

Fri, Mar 21..... Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
7:30am.....[JV]....Vladimir Scerbo by John Iacopelli
8:30am.....[GR]....Eleanor Russo by Terry
12:00pm.....[FS]....All Priests in Sarasota by Adriana
5:30pm.....[GS]....Wyatt McBain by Mary Fuerst

Sat, Mar 22..... Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
7:30am.....[JR]....Audrey Schmitt by Jennifer Bauer
8:30am.....[JV]....Bailey Hutchings by the Duarte Family
4:00pm.....[FS]....Charles Koenig by Sharon Koenig
4:00pm.....[GS]....(Hall) Helena Janet Richards by Daphne and Family
5:30pm.....[GR]....Donald Lee Bullock by Aedan and Noreen Dowling

Sun, Mar 23..... Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9
7:30am.....[JR]....Dec'd Mbrs of Congregation of Holy Cross by Friend
9:00am.....[FS]....Frank Seminerio by Spencer and Patty Romer
9:00am.....[GS]....(Hall) Patricia Null by Claire Collins
10:30am.....[GR]....For All Parishioners
12:00pm.....[JR]....Sr. Maryann O'Mara, S.S.J. by Anne and Peter Grant
12:00pm.....[JV]....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm.....[GR]....Gerald J. Boryszewski, Jr. by the Family

Fr. George (GS), Fr. Jan (JR), Fr. Joseph (JV),
Fr. Fausto (FS), Fr Gennadi (GR)

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