

March 23, 2025

Third Sunday of

LENT

Fast + Pray + Give



**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 23, 2025 - Sermon for the Third Sunday of Lent by Deacon Vern

Each year the first two Sundays of Lent are linked with specific events in the life of Christ: the temptations he endured in the Judean desert and the Transfiguration on the mountain as recorded in the Gospels. The third Sunday of Lent, though, is not so much centered on an event in Christ's life, but is concerned with Jesus' teaching on the patience, mercy and love of our God. The three readings assigned for this Sunday all touch on the importance to place hope in God, the All-Merciful and Giver-of-life, who is always ready to forgive transgressors.

The first lesson for Mass today recounts the memorable event of Moses before the burning bush at Horeb, the mountain of God. This profound experience of God's presence elicits such immense awe and even fear, that Moses hid his face. This confirms the notion that God's majesty is so great that no human being can gaze at it and live. But God is likewise near enough to tell Moses that the time has come for the Israelites to be freed from slavery in Egypt and that Moses would be the chosen instrument for bringing it about.

God assures Moses that he will not be alone, but under God's provident care, and thus should proceed with confidence in God's saving help. The prophetic vocation of Moses shows clearly God's love and compassion, especially for the oppressed and downtrodden.

Continuing along the same line of thinking, Jesus uses in his preaching an image for God as a gardener and the challenge of growing plants and trees, which includes weeding out what is not productive or dead. In the case of the fig tree being described in the Gospel, the chief gardener or owner of the vineyard notices a fruitless tree and orders it to be cut down.

The vinedresser, though, pleads for another year, a further chance for the tree, in the hope that it may indeed bear fruit. The point being made by Jesus is that God is truly patient and merciful, more than willing to give innumerable chances for a change of heart, a deeper union, a fuller communion, with the living God. There comes a point, though, when in fact the human heart may be so far from God that nothing less than God's all-powerful grace can redirect it. The reality of free will always has to be taken into account, of course, with the reminder that God never forces us to act against our will but lovingly invites us to share in God's life.

In this Sunday's Gospel passage Jesus is teaching his disciples never to let their lives be so out of control or far from God that the turning to God becomes more and more difficult, though never impossible. Our free will is just that: not being forced to choose for God and the ways of the Gospel, but truly free, leaving us with the ability to choose for God and life or seek the way of error and separation from God. That we want to avoid at all costs. It is never too late to turn to God.

Someone has said that we Christians speak much about God but in fact very little to God. In Lent we are being called to speak to God, to be people of prayer, striving for union with our Maker, at all times and everywhere. Our annual observance of Lent, forty days of special prayer, fasting and almsgiving or doing good, is a golden opportunity to meet our God and belong more fully to the One who ultimately satisfies the longings of the human heart.

Today is the acceptable time to return to God and to produce fruit in our lives, the time to experience God's loving mercy and to offer our forgiveness to those who have offended us in the past or are offending us now. This is the acceptable time to be kind-hearted and give others another chance. Christ can more freely enter our lives under such conditions, when we leave ourselves open to true life and love.

[Message Continued](#) ↗



Our Pastor, Father George

From Father George:

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.

24 Hours Confessions - In this special Jubilee Year have been recommended by the Holy Father, Pope Francis. In the Northern Deanery of the Diocese of Venice three parishes have been assigned: St. Martha in Sarasota, in Our Lady of the Angels in Lakewood Ranch and in San Pedro in North Port to hold this event on **Friday, March 28** from **9am** until **Saturday 29** at **9am**. I invite you to come and use this opportunity to renew the gift of God's grace for this

special Jubilee Year. Come and use the extra help from various priests from our Northern Deanery who will hear our confessions all day and night!

The Blessed Sacrament will also be exposed - During the full 24 hours on **Friday March 28** and then through the night until **9am** on Saturday morning. Please come and pray, come and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, come as individual, come as family or in a group. We have a chance for our extra Lenten prayer and vigil with Jesus who fasted, prayed, took the cross, went through his passion and resurrection for our salvation.

No Adoration on last Thursday of the month (March 27) - Since we are holding 24 Hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday day and through the night, we cancel the one on Thursday.

Parish Assembly – to reassess the project of the Expansion of our church - Come and join the parish open meeting on **Saturday, April 5** at **10am** in the parish hall. I will present my opinion about the project, and I will answer any question about my observations.

Next Sunday, March 30, 2025, is the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

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

[Message Continued](#) from ↙

When we unite to celebrate the Eucharist in our Church, we experience the presence of God in our midst, and we thank God for such goodness and patience with us. Salvation history is the story of God's redeeming mercy, expressed in faithful patience with all people past, present and to come. And "another year" is being offered to us to bear fruit.

The good fruit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (see Galatians 5:22-23). And the greatest fruit produced is love and forgiveness toward all. We are only able to do this by the grace of God. May God's grace come abundantly into our lives today and throughout these forty days of Lent.

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, says the prophet Isaiah (40:31). Hope here is to be understood as closely linked to the virtue of waiting, of being patient. In Spanish, for example, the word *esperar*, means both to wait and to hope. *Saber esperar*, means to know how to hope and to know how to wait.*

This is how God acts toward us and we are called to do likewise in our relationship to God and one another. *By waiting and by calm you shall be saved*, the prophet Isaiah also wrote (Is 30:15).

The Lord has promised to be at our side in good times and bad, in joy and in sorrow, and in this we can take great delight, for our God will never abandon us.



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

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Wednesdays in Parish Hall 9:30-11:30am
Questions? Contact Kelly Rizzo
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VIVIENDO LOS SACRAMENTOS

Encontrar a Dios en la Intersección del Cielo y la Tierra

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6:30 to 6:45 p.m. ENGLISH
7:30 to 8:45 p.m. ESPAÑOL

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Prov 19:17

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March 29, 2025



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Dr. Scott Hahn



Mrs. Kimberly Hahn




Mrs. Mary Ann Wiesinger-Puig



Mr. Andrés Arango

Charlotte Harbor
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For information contact Jim Gontis at: gontis@dioceseofvenice.org
941-486-4754



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.



Annual Lenten Fish Fry

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

THROUGH APRIL 11, 2025
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** There will be no Fish Fry on March 28, 2025**

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LINK TO SIGN UP:


Register at CatholicRetreat.Eventbrite.com

In the season of Lent, we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving which brings us closer to God and creates an opportunity for us to return to Him with our whole heart. But what more can be done? Have we truly rendered our hearts? Join us on our Lenten Retreat to dive deeper into this reflection. This is a fantastic opportunity to strengthen your faith through enriching your Lenten journey. Be prepared for engaging talks, small groups discussions, silent prayer & reflection. Adoration, Confession, Mass, and Communal Dinner.




St. Paul, Arcadia, FL

May 2, 2025 • 6:30-8:30pm

dioceseofvenice.org/youthministry

Phone 941.441.1122 • prias@dioceseofvenice.org



JUBILEE ADORATION NIGHTS

DIOCESE OF VENICE

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
Served **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	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	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
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

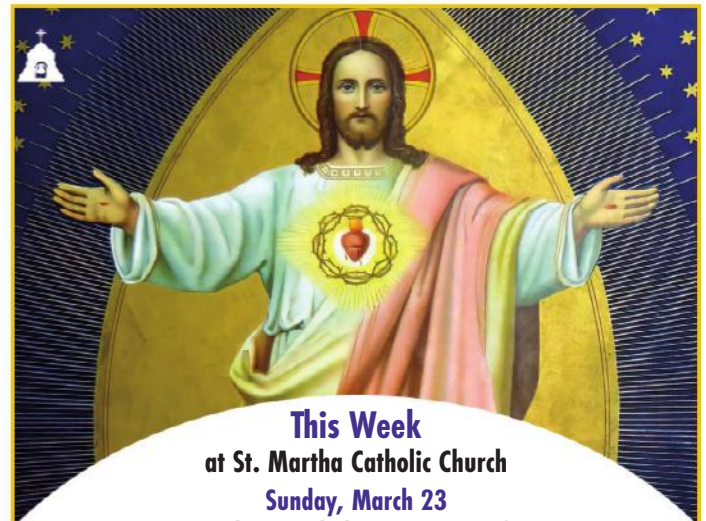
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St. Martha Catholic School . . . Principal Mrs. Mari Jo Hanson 941.953.4181

St. Mary Academy Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds 941.366.4010

Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 941.371.4917



This Week

at St. Martha Catholic Church

Sunday, March 23

10:15am **Religious Ed Classes** - *Upstairs Classrooms*

Tuesday, March 25

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

Wednesday, March 26

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

Thursday, March 27

• 10am - **Lectio Divina** - *Geenen Hall*

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

Friday, March 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

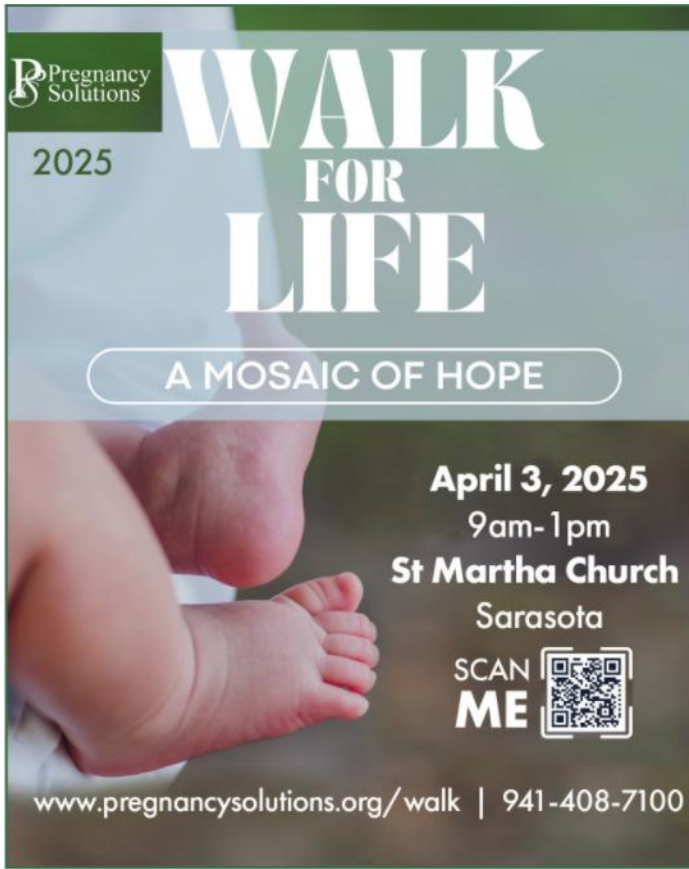


St. Martha Clergy

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




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Weekly Mass Intentions

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

Mon, Mar 24**2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30**

7:30am.....[GS]....Steve Frick by David and Paula Shigley
8:30am.....[JV]....Sharon Sheridan by Shawna Sheridan
12:00pm.....[GS]....Honey Gfroerer by Jackie Halstead
5:30pm.....[JR]Francisco Hernandez by Elena Kiang

Tue, Mar 25.....**Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38**

7:30am.....[JR]Mary Benjamin by Bill and Sue Montague
8:30am.....[GS]....John Furio by Anna Caragiulo
12:00pm.....[JR]Dr. A. Grafinger and Rev. W. Green by Magda Kovacic
5:30pm.....[GS]....James Sullivan by the Caragiulo Family

Wed, Mar 26**Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19**

7:30am.....[GR]....(L) Vivian Blake by Joann
8:30am.....[JR]C J & Verona Lambert & Families by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly
12:00pm.....[GS]....Missing and Exploited Children by Joe and Betty Plouffe
5:30pm.....[GS]....Rosa Martha Quevedo by Monica Portugal

Thu, Mar 27**Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23**

7:30am.....[JV]....(L) Robert Heheran by Marge and Paul Lortie
8:30am.....[JR](L) Leila Zschau by Joyce Schaefer
12:00pm.....[JR]Bob Corey by John Corey
5:30pm.....[FS]L & D Mbrs of the Sheridan Family by Shawna Sheridan

Fri, Mar 28.....**Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34**

7:30am.....[GS]....Herman Heibel by the Heibel Family
8:30am.....[FS]Frank Harrison by Sally Harrison
12:00pm.....[JV]....(L) Rosa Orjvela by Adriana
5:30pm.....[GR]....Kathy Feakins by Mary Fuerst

Sat, Mar 29.....**Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14**

7:30am.....[JV]....(L) Yvette Coleman by Mom
8:30am.....[GR]....Robert and Ann Corey by John
4:00pm.....[GS]....Cynthia Gallagher by Bill and Sue Montague
4:00pm.....[FS](Hall) Mark Routh by Joann
5:30pm.....[JR]Mary Serwatka by Walter Serwatka

Sun, Mar 30.....**Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32**

7:30am.....[GR]....Ryan Halstead by Mom
9:00am.....[GS]....John David Waggener by Ann Crowley
9:00am.....[JR](Hall) (L) Andres Duarte by Adriana
10:30am.....[FS]For All Parishioners
12:00pm.....[GR]....Frank Seminerio by Aldo Massara
12:00pm.....[JV]....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm.....[GS]....L & D Mbrs of the Thomas 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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