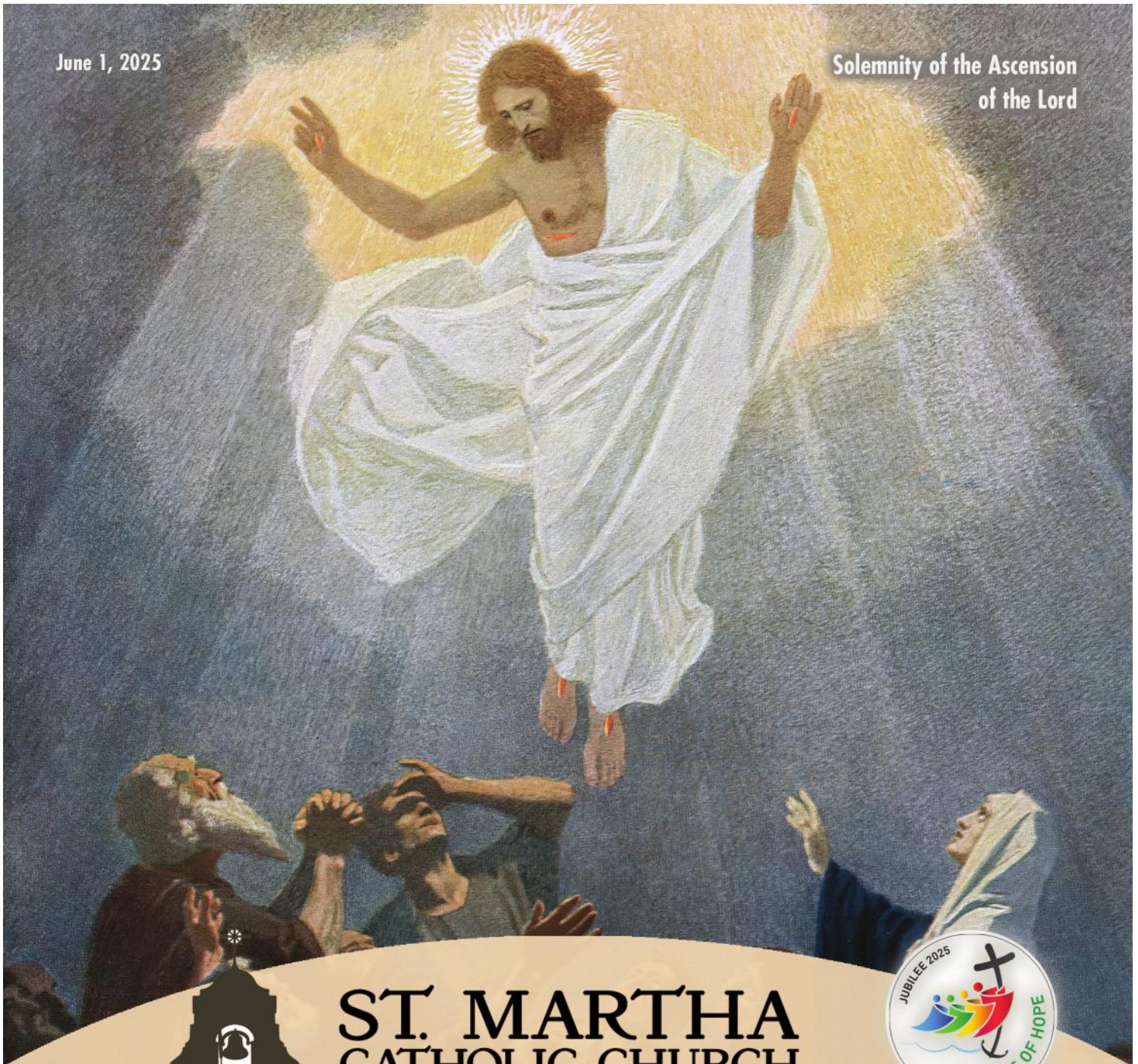


June 1, 2025

Solemnity of the Ascension
of the Lord



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH



Mass Schedule

Saturday 7:30am • 8:30am

4pm Vigil • 5:30pm Vigil

Sunday 7:30am • 9am • 10:30am

12pm • 5:30pm • 12pm Vietnamese (Hall)

Weekday 7:30am • 8:30am • 12pm

Confession - Reconciliation Room

Saturday 3-4pm • Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30am

Eucharistic Adoration - Carosella Chapel

Tuesday-Thursday 9am-12pm

Rosary - Rosary prayed after 7:30am Mass

St. Martha Catholic Church

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Parish Office Hours Monday-Friday 8am-12pm and 12:30-4pm

June 1, 2025 - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Today's Sermon from Father Jan

Ascension Day, unfortunately, is not observed in uniform manner across The United States. Catholics in Nebraska, Pennsylvania, New York, and New England will observe it on Thursday; the rest of the country observes it the following Sunday. This is an unusual Lord's Day in that the *action* of the feast day takes place in the First Reading and the Gospel, but not only in the Gospel.

Most probably The Ascension of The Lord took place after the meal together because the Greek text says: *while taking salt with them*, which is a Greek idiom meaning *sharing meal*. In Luke 22:16,18 Jesus suggests that He will not eat and drink again until His eternal kingdom comes. The fact that He is eating and drinking with the apostles indicates the arrival of that kingdom.

The disciples ask, *are you at this time going to restore the kingdom of Israel?* Jesus' response is sometimes taken as a rebuff of the Apostles or a ducking of their question, implying perhaps that what they ask for will only take place at the end of time. Scott Hahn, the famous convert to the Catholic Church, has pointed out that it is possible to take the Lord's response as answering not when but how the kingdom would come. It would come by *martyria* which is the witness of the apostles from *Jerusalem*, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The Church, established in The Holy Land first and expanding later to the ends of the earth, is the universal Church (the universal in Greek meaning Catholic), and in it lives the Eternal Kingdom of God already present in it through The Holy Spirit.

In much of American Christianity – mostly Protestant – there is the view that we are to expect Jesus to come back and reign over a Jewish kingdom in Israel in the end times – even perhaps to rebuild the stone Temple and restore animal sacrifice. For this reason, some American Christians treat the modern State of Israel as a quasi-sacred entity that deserves our *carte blanche* political support.

The Catholic tradition has not and does not endorse this view, and it would seem to represent a retrograde action in salvation history. Why would we want to return to a Temple of stone when we have The Temple of Christ's body, which has now transformed our bodies into His Temple? How would the political State of Israel satisfy that, now that the Spirit has been poured into our hearts and reigns in us throughout the world, now that we who are made meek in the Spirit have inherited the earth? The story in the Acts of the Apostles is the story about The Kingdom of God present in the universal Church!

The Psalm 47 is about the mystical enthronement of YHWH, God The Most High in heaven. The Catholic Church sees this psalm fulfilled, of course, in the Ascension of the Christ and His session *at the right hand of God* (Acts 2:33).

The feast of the Ascension of the Lord to heaven is also showing us that our human nature, received by Jesus Christ in His Incarnation, is being glorified and placed at the Right Hand of God Almighty in heaven, and that our true place is now in heaven. This is our true homeland: not America, Europe, Asia, Australia and so on, but heaven. When Jesus, who is our Head – meaning The Church, has entered, we who are His Body are invited to be with Him one day if our Catholic faith endures to the end of our lives and our love of God and our neighbor grows deeper and truer. Amen

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



Our Pastor, Father George

From Father George:

Farewell to Br. William Dygert and Br. Lawrence Skitzki - The Congregation of the Holy Cross (C.S.C.) are leaving Sarasota on June 26 and moving to their mother house in Notre Dame, IN. They have been here since the 70-ties when Br. William Geenen came and made a huge mark of the Holy Cross Brothers ministry in St.

Martha's parish and in Sarasota and in other places. Thank you, Br. Lawrence for your 13 years among us and Br. William for your 6 years! Your ministry in the parish like reading during Masses, membership in the Parish Finance Council, Collection Counting Team and others are appreciated. May God reward you for it and bless you in your travels!

Summertime suspension of Mass and Confession - The 5:30pm daily Mass and 11:30am Confession on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning 9am-10am will be suspended from June through September. This summertime schedule will begin on Monday, June 2.

Conclusions of the Second Parish Assembly about the expansion of the church - The summary of the Second Parish Assembly on April 26, 2025, about the project of expansion of St. Martha's church building is to be found on the parish Website. Together with Diane Bray and Karen Trautman we analyzed the different opinions presented at the meeting and composed the text of the summary. Thanks Diane and Karen!

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus - We will be praying the Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus after our weekday Masses, and we invite parishioners or visitors to join us. Jesus's heart was pierced on.

Next Sunday, June 8, 2025, is the Pentecost Sunday (Descend of the Holy Spirit).

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

Helping the Homeless Making a Real Difference

Placing a few dollars in the Homeless Outreach Donation Box, combined with the contributions by other parishioners, can really add up. We are pleased to report that **Fr. George** met with **Tara Maffei**, Director of Family Promise Sarasota-Manatee this week to present a check from St. Martha. Your generous help for the homeless is making a real difference!

Please remember giving cash to a homeless person enables the continuation of their substance abuse. Place your cash in the **Homeless Outreach Donation Box** and we make sure your contributions make a real difference in helping those in need.

God bless you for your continued generosity.

The Homeless Outreach donation box is the way to truly help. Placing your donations in the box will make a real difference.



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Family Promise Restock Room

Come learn about our new Restock Room and the many volunteer opportunities at Family Promise Sarasota-Manatee. Please RSVP to SRQ4families@gmail.com for one of the times below.

June 4 – 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
June 5 – 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

WATCH FOR OUR GRAND OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT EMAIL

Faith Lutheran Church
7780 South Beneva Road, Sarasota, Florida
(park in rear parking lot and enter through the Early Learning Center doors)

Events & Announcements



Ordination to the Priesthood - Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, invites the faithful to the Ordination to the Priesthood of Transitional Deacons Joseph Doherty, Jacob Gwynn and Pat Long. The Ordination will take place at **11 am on Saturday, July 12, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1301 Center Road, Venice.** All are welcome and encouraged to attend this important event in the lives of Deacons Joseph, Jacob and Pat as well as the Diocese of Venice. A reception will follow. The Ordination will also be livestreamed: stay tuned! A link to access the livestream will be posted closer to the date.

National Eucharistic Revival - Now in its third and final year, the **Year of Mission**, the National Eucharistic Revival asks all Catholics to become *Eucharistic Missionaries*. Be sure to stay tuned to Year of Mission! - Diocese of Venice to learn more about how you can participate in the Year of Mission, including how to become an *Official Eucharistic Missionary*, sharing your Catholic faith with others. For more information, or with questions, please contact Jim Gontis, gontis@dioceseofvenice.org, 941.486.4754.

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
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

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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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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
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St Martha's Caritas Donations

Since there will be a second collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign this coming weekend, May 31-June 1, we will not stand at the doors for Caritas donations.

If anyone wishes to donate to Caritas this weekend, they may make a donation in an envelope and write Caritas on the outside and put it in the regular collection or write a check and make it out to St Martha's Caritas. Other options are donations in the Poor Box or the Out Reach Box.

St Martha Legacy Society



Interested in joining?
Contact Emil Efthimides at
ede24@usa.com or
Samantha McDonald,
Parish Hall 941.366.4210
smcdonald@stmartha.org

The Legacy Society at St Martha is open to all parishioners. There is no financial donation required to join, only the commitment to leave something – anything – to St Martha in your will.

As a member, you will ensure the future of our beautiful historic church in downtown Sarasota. Through your efforts, we will be able to minister to present and future generations.

To become a member, you only need to get in touch with us and express your interest in leaving something to the church in your estate. We will never ask how much, and we will not ask for verification.

The nice perks are having your name added to the donor tree in the church courtyard. And being hosted by Fr George at our Annual Legacy Society Dinner. This year's dinner at Michael's Wine Cellar on Tuesday, February 18 was enjoyed by over 20 members.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Sun, June 1 Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Lk 24:46-53

7:30am [GR]....Oma Handley by the Family

9:00am [GS]....Betty Sauer by Ann Crowley

10:30am [GS]....For All Parishioners

12:00pm [FS]Charles Cognato by Emil and Diane

12:00pm [JV].....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions

5:30pm [JR]L & D Mbrs of the Plouffe Fam. by Joe and Betty Plouffe

Mon, June 2 Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

7:30am [JV].....Fr. Jerry Hogan by Marcia Derck

8:30am [GS]....Santia Monet by Evelyn

12:00pm [GS]....Fr. Patrick Wilson by Allie Freedman

Tue, June 3 Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a

7:30am [GS]....Lew Smith by Theresa Gilbertson

8:30am [GR]....Gertrude Cywinski by the Heibel Family

12:00pm [GS]....Jerry Reddy by Mom

Wed, June 4 Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19

7:30am [JR]Vincent Castelli by the Castelli Family

8:30am [GR]....Phyllis Kos by Sally Harrison

12:00pm [GS]....Robert and Ann Corey by John

Thu, June 5 Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

7:30pm [GR]....(L) Fr. Jan Rykala, S.A.C. by David and Paula Shigley

8:30pm [JR]Dec'd Mbrs of the Zucaro Family by Cathy Giblin

12:00pm [FS]L & D Mbrs of the Helms Family by John & Mary McGruder

Fri, June 6 Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19

7:30am [JR]L & D Mbrs of the Szczesny Family by Maria Derck

8:30am [FS]Honey Gfroerer by Jackie Halstead

12:00pm [GR]....(L) Patrica Devine by Maureen

Sat, June 7 Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

7:30am [GR]....Jozef Szczawinski by David and Paula Shigley

8:30am [JR]Kevin Crowley by Ann

4:00pm [GS]....Rusty DiLenge by Al DiLenge

5:30pm [FS](L) Logan McGruder by John and Mary McGruder

Sun, June 8 Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

7:30am [GS]....Ryan Halstead by Mom

9:00am [GR]....Lillian Massara by Aldo

10:30am [JR]For All Parishioners

12:00pm [FS]Lillian Massara by Aldo Massara

12:00pm [].....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions

5:30pm [JR]L & D Mbrs of the Burch Fam. by Joe and Betty Plouffe

Fr. George (GS), Fr. Jan (JR), Fr. Joseph (JV)

Fr. Fausto (FS), Fr Gennadi (GR)



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