

August 10, 2025

# LIGHT YOUR LAMPS.

— LUKE 12:35 —

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## 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

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

## August 10, 2025 - The 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Today's Sermon from Deacon Vern*

There are several ways in which you can react to this Gospel message. Today, I will offer you a choice. You can view it as a promise; or you can take it as a threat, or at least as a warning.

You heard Jesus say: *You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect the Son of Man will come.* Is that a promise or a warning? To some extent your answer to that question depends on how you view Jesus. Is Jesus your friend—showing up from time to time to give you grace and encouragement? Is he there, wanting to make his presence felt, and might you be missing him—distracted, inattentive? He is promising to be there for you. Don't neglect him; don't run the risk of missing him. The Son of Man will come when you are not expecting him.

Or do you have a view of Jesus that makes him out to be an investigator and judge, perhaps even a police presence in your life. He'll nail you, if you are not careful. So be on the lookout; you might get caught! The way you react to this saying of Jesus that the Son of Man will come when you least expect him, depends in no small measure on the way you regard the Lord and the way you regard yourself. It's your choice.

You also heard in today's Gospel: *Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return.* This is a call to readiness—is it a threat or a promise? Are you confidently ready to receive more of his love and grace, or are you nervously ready to avoid being caught in an action, situation, or state of mind where you should not be? Are you driven by joy or fear, by grace or guilt?

Jesus goes on to say: *Be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.* It is, after all, his home. Why would he have to knock? Why couldn't he just walk right in? There is a suggestion here of an exquisite courtesy on the part of Jesus as he approaches each one of us. He won't just break in on you uninvited; he won't impose himself on you. No forced entry. You have to be ready and willing; you have to be open to his divine initiatives toward you. You have to want him.

Moreover, the Gospel story indicates that the master will be pleased if he finds his servants busy upon his return, so much so that he will *gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.* What an unusual picture that is! Your Lord and master is willing to be your servant. Not all that surprising, however, when you pause to think about it. He did, after all, wash his disciples' feet at the Last Supper. He is standing by, always, ready to wash yours. Don't back away with an exaggerated sense of your own unworthiness. He is your friend. He wants to help. He wants to be close to you. Just accept that fact. Enjoy his friendship, his presence.

Reflection on your own personal reaction to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel is a healthy exercise. Most of us tend to harbor an unhealthy negative estimate of our own worth. Yes, I know we are encouraged to say, *Lord I am not worthy* as we approach the Communion encounter with Christ at Mass. That is all good and true. But all too often we regard ourselves not just as unworthy, but as worthless. The others around me—to the right or left, in front or behind—they are fine; they are good and deserving of the Lord's love. But not me. I'm no good.

That is a terrible temptation. Face up to it. Confront it head on and just say, *Begone Satan. Get out of here. Stop lying to me. Stop trying to convince me that God doesn't love me. God does indeed love me; I know that by faith.*



Our Pastor, Father George

## From Father George:

**Our Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage** - on July 29, 2025 was a very fruitful experience. The 8:30am Parish Feast Day Mass started the day with our special prayers to St. Martha and we prayed for our children, school students, families, parish volunteers, people in various needs and for our dead. Travelling to Venice was a short trip but for a long moment we looked at the Cathedral when we arrived there. The Cathedral changed shape by serious works of expanding it in all directions.

Msgr. Patrich Dubois met us in the current Cathedral church, which, as we learned, used to be the church, was turned into parish center and now again serves as the church. He showed us posters with images of the new Cathedral, and he also gave us an opportunity to venerate relics of the Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Faustina. We then went to the Retreat Center on the outskirts of Venice where we were received with lunch and, then Fr. Leland gave a talk about the Jubilee Year. We stayed in the Center's chapel and adored for some time the Blessed Sacrament placed in the extraordinary Monstrance. We have seen a few things that we don't see in Sarasota, we have had a few beautiful spiritual experiences; we prayed together a lot and our hope was strengthened. We thank God for this Jubilee Pilgrimage!

**The new church Tabernacle** - the reaction to replacing our church Tabernacle has been very positive and many parishioners *like it*. This gives me confidence that we accept the change and are happy to have the new one in our church. May it serve in our church to preserve the Eucharist and to become a focus point of our prayers.

**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - (Friday, August 15) is a Holy Day of Obligation and the schedule of Masses for this Feast is: 5:30pm (Vigil), 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12pm, 5:30pm. For all the details, check the parish Bulletin.

**Next Sunday**, August 17, 2025, is the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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

[← Sunday Sermon continued from previous column](#)

So let me suggest that you listen to the opening words of the second reading in today's liturgy, the selection you heard read from the Letter to the Hebrews (11:1): *Faith is the realization of what is hoped for, and evidence of things not seen.* Have faith in yourself as well as in God. Certainly, your faith in yourself is related to your faith in God but notice how hope is tied in with your acceptance of the gift of faith.

There is much that is real in life that we cannot see, but it is real, nonetheless.

And the point to be stressed today is the reality of God's love for you, God's presence to you, God's care for you. You will be tempted not to believe this. You will be tempted to think that God does not really care about you, or you will be tricked into thinking that God is all threat and no promise, that God sees you only so that he can condemn you, not because he delights in seeing you, and loving you, and sustaining you by his always available forgiveness and healing grace.

Satan is at work in the world. He is the enemy of human nature. His

Sunday Sermon continued from page 2

demons are scattered around the globe, and their aim is to substitute hate for love, evil for good, and to separate the human race from God. Not one of us is overlooked. Each one of us can expect to be tempted. And for many of us that temptation will come in the form of self-hatred, self-distrust, an erosion of self-confidence and a deafness to the knock of Christ on our doors as well as a blindness to the presence of Christ in our daily lives.

*You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.* He is there right now. Recognize him, welcome him. Accept his forgiveness and grace. Follow him wherever he leads.

## 2025-26 Religious Education/ Faith Formation Classes



Registration  
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Registration [stmartha.org](http://stmartha.org)  
or scan Scan QR Code ↑

## St Martha's Caritas Donations

**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.

**July 2025 Clients Served by the Caritas Food Ministry:**  
Households 748 • Individuals 1,039

## St. Martha Feast Day/Pilgrimage to Epiphany Cathedral and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center



## Are you thinking about becoming Catholic or are you Baptized and want to complete your Sacraments?





### Interested in the Catholic Faith and want to know more?

If you have questions and want to be serious about converting to Christ and learn the *next* steps to take or maybe you are Catholic but would like to learn more about your Faith, Prayers, and the Bible ... pray and listen to God calling your heart!

### We are here to help ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

To make an **appointment with Fr. George** please contact our parish office at **941.366.4210 x0**  
Any questions please contact **Patricia Sileo DRE** [sileo@stmartha.org](mailto:sileo@stmartha.org)

# CATHOLIC FAITH Appeal

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YEARS

## 2025 Catholic Faith Appeal

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>
<b>Given to Date</b>	<b>\$162,929</b>
<b>Pledged</b>	<b>\$204,032</b>
<b>Percentage of Goal</b>	<b>45.34%</b>

## WAYS TO GIVE

### CHECK: PAYABLE TO CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

**IRA:** Although a required minimum distribution (RMD) starts at age 73, you may donate up to \$105,000 per year from your individual Retirement Account, tax free to a charitable cause, as early as 70 1/2. Spouses may also participate to the same level if they have a separate IRA, giving married couples the opportunity to donate up to \$210,000. The funds must be paid directly to CFA from your wealth advisor in order to qualify.

**Credit or Debit Card:** Send us the information via the pledge card or visit [www.dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa)

**Gift of Securities:** Federal law allows a charitable deduction for the full market value of the appreciated securities on the date of your gift.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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OLPH is also a Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage site. You are welcome to explore our peaceful site throughout the year Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

## St Martha Legacy Society



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 of the Legacy Society, you will ensure the future of our beautiful historic church in downtown Sarasota. Through your efforts St Martha will be able to minister to present and future generations in Sarasota.

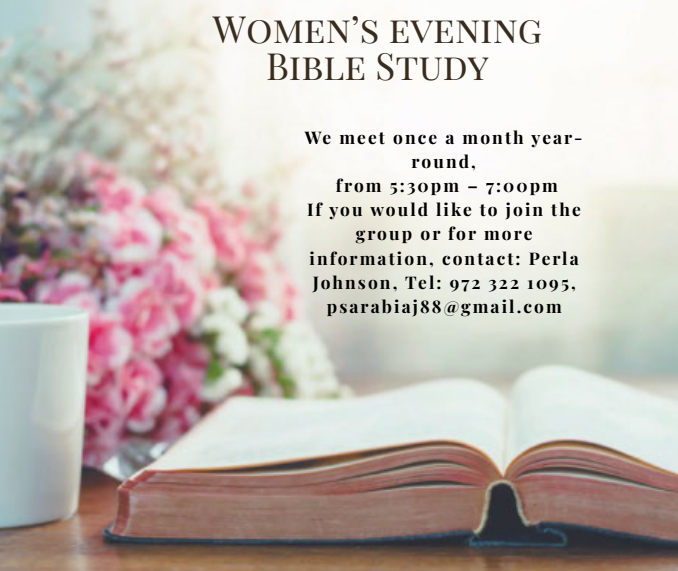
To become a member, you only need to get in touch with us and express your interest in leaving something to the church in your estate. We will never ask how much, and we will not ask for verification.

There are some nice perks, like having your name added to the donor tree in the church courtyard. And you will be 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.

Interested in joining?  
Contact Emil Efthimides at [ede24@usa.com](mailto:ede24@usa.com) or Samantha McDonald, Parish Hall 941.366.4210 [smcdonald@stmartha.org](mailto:smcdonald@stmartha.org)

## WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

We meet once a month year-round,  
from 5:30pm – 7:00pm  
If you would like to join the group or for more information, contact: Perla Johnson, Tel: 972 322 1095, [psarabiaj88@gmail.com](mailto:psarabiaj88@gmail.com)



Location: Conference Room of Shelby Library, downtown Sarasota

## Emmaus Journey Bible Study

**Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am • St. Martha 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**

## Wedding Banns

Derek Natiello & Samantha Duignan (1)

### 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 . . . . .	Emil Efthimides	
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

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



## HELPING HOMELESS FAMILIES

### Family Promise of Sarasota-Manatee (FPSM)

In partnership with multiple social service agencies and supported by 20 interfaith congregations, including St. Martha, FPSM offers families with children services and community resources to stay in or obtain safe, sustainable housing, including case management, child care referrals, negotiation strategies, emergency funds.

**If you are a family in danger of eviction, call 211.**



**Learn More / Donate**  
[familypromisesarasota-manatee.org](http://familypromisesarasota-manatee.org)

## 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 visit [stmartha.org](http://stmartha.org)  
or scan the QR code ↘



### 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

### 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.

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PRESENTED BY: 



## Weekly Mass Intentions



- Sun, Aug 10** ..... Wis 18:6-9; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 12:32-48
- 7:30am ..... [JR] ....Edna Koury by Bill Koury  
 9:00am ..... [FS] ....Robert and Ann Corey by John Corey  
 10:30am ..... [GS] ....For All Parishioners  
 12:00pm ..... [JR] ....(L) Fiorella Duarte by Adriana  
 12:00pm ..... [JV] .....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
 5:30pm ..... [GS] .....L & D Mbrs of the Plouffe Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe
- Mon, Aug 11** .....Dt 10:12-22; Mt 17:22-27
- 7:30am ..... [JV] .....Catherine O'Rourke by Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly  
 8:30am ..... [JR] ....Lorraine Gabbis by Marie Flynn  
 12:00pm ..... [GS] ....John McCall by Martina O'Sullivan
- Tue, Aug 12** .....Dt 31:1-8; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
- 7:30am ..... [JV] .....Frances Murphy by Anna Caragiulo  
 8:30am ..... [GS] ....Ethel France by John Schaefer  
 12:00pm ..... [JV] .....James Goddard by John and Noel Prisco
- Wed, Aug 13** .....Dt 34:1-12; Mt 18:15-20
- 7:30am ..... [GS] ....Paul Britanek by his Sister  
 8:30am ..... [JR] ....Brenda Hoyt by Jane and Sam Norton  
 12:00pm ..... [JR] ....Fr. Patrick Wilson by Allie Freedman
- Thu, Aug 14** .....Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Mt 18:21—19:1
- 7:30am ..... [JR] ....(L) Sam Weiss by Phyllis Hall  
 8:30am ..... [JV] .....(L) Patrica Devine by Maureen  
 12:00pm ..... [FS] ....Dr. Stephen Neuschel & Dr. Roman Vadovic by Magda Kovacic  
 5:30pm ..... [GS] ....Dr. Geo Scherer by Jean Berkey
- Fri, Aug 15** .....Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
- 7:30am ..... [JV] .....Pearl Arch by Terry and Lindy Donahue  
 9:00am ..... [FS] ....Mary Jane Hall by Phyllis Hall  
 10:30am ..... [GS] ....For All Parishioners  
 12:00pm ..... [JR] ....(L) Fiorella Duarte by Adriana  
 5:30pm ..... [JR] ....Yves and Genevieve Du Cheyron by Benedict Monroe  
 7:30pm ..... [JV] .....(Vietnamese) Special Intentions
- Sat, Aug 16** .....Jos 24:14-29; Mt 19:13-15
- 7:30am ..... [GS] ....(L) Sister Lucia Hass by Friend  
 8:30am ..... [JV] .....(L) Maria Corsaro by the Corsaro Family  
 4:00pm ..... [FS] ....Ernest and Julia Vodarsik by Son and Daughter-in-Law  
 5:30pm ..... [JR] ....Kathy Feakins by her sister Mary
- Sun, Aug 17** .....Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53
- 7:30am ..... [JV] .....Ryan Halstead by Mom  
 9:00am ..... [GS] ....Fr. Patrick Wilson by John Corey  
 10:30am ..... [GS] ....For All Parishioners  
 12:00pm ..... [FS] ....Frank Coppa by Marge Coppa  
 12:00pm ..... [JV] .....(Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
 5:30pm ..... [JR] ....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)

## Kids Corner



**PUZZLE** Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

- |          |         |        |
|----------|---------|--------|
| ready    | master  | home   |
| lamps    | night   | thief  |
| servants | morning | coming |

- reday      r e a d y
- cmonig    \_\_\_\_\_
- hmeo     \_\_\_\_\_
- nithg     \_\_\_\_\_
- srevnast    \_\_\_\_\_
- thefi      \_\_\_\_\_
- mronnig    \_\_\_\_\_
- msatre     \_\_\_\_\_
- lmasp      \_\_\_\_\_

## MISSION

Every day I will read, play, and listen to things that make God happy.



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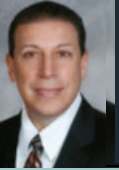
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