

August 17, 2025

ALREADY BLAZING!

— LUKE 12:49 —

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST. MARTHA
CATHOLIC CHURCH



©LPi

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

August 17, 2025 - The 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Today's Sermon from Father George

Some statements in today's gospel reading seem to be radically different from the usual, positive and merciful Good News, in which Jesus reveals love and goodness. There are at least three radical statements in today's Gospel passage.

The first one is: *I have come to bring fire to the earth.* Jesus brings fire? What fire? The Holy Spirit? Burning fire of purification from sin? Fire of destruction? Is it possible that Jesus would say something opposite to His usual message of love, peace and forgiveness? Surely, that would stand against His Good News message: *love one another as I have loved you.*

“ He wants to bring fire
to the earth because
people become lukewarm
and indifferent, and
He tells us to wake up ... ”

—Father George

Then he said, *There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!* It sounds like Jesus is impatient and cannot wait to do what is before Him. His inner peace is disturbed. Yet, He said many times that He came to do God's will, not His own. He said that He loves the Father in heaven who wants to save the world. He also said that He came to build the kingdom of

God, which will give salvation to sinners. So why is He distressed and what baptism is He talking about?

The third, which sounds like a contradiction to His general message of peace, Jesus says: *Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.* How is that comparing to His other statement saying: *Father I pray that they will be one, as You are one in Me and I am in You.* On the one hand He seems to want division, and yet on the other hand He prays for unity.

I think that what Jesus is doing, is in fact exposing our human weaknesses and showing how disturbing or even destructive they can be.

He wants *to bring fire to the earth* because people become lukewarm and indifferent, and He tells us to wake up from our spiritual sleep and to revive our faith and love to God.

A baptism He must receive, and how He is distressed till it is over refers to sin and sinners. When we fall into sin, Jesus is impatient to see us freed from it. He reminds us that He dies for our sins, and He wants sin to be defeated and destroyed. He does not want to give sin any time to disrupt a harmonious life or destroy anybody's soul.

When He says that He brings rather division than peace on earth, He teaches us about the radicalism of believing. He gives us confidence by telling us how powerful the faith in God is, yet it will divide families and societies. When we truly believe in God and follow God's ways, others may turn against us because they will

continued ➔



Our Pastor, Father George

From Father George:

The Last Supper wall hanging - which used to hang in the *Eucharistic Chapel* and which depicts the faithfulness of the Church in celebrating the Eucharist from the Last Supper until the present age, was painted by Fr. Anthony Pastucci in 1988, while he was parochial vicar at St. Martha Parish. It went through a thorough cleaning and renovation recently and since the Tabernacle was moved

to a different place, it makes sense to hang it almost above the Tabernacle in full view and for the benefit of the whole congregation. The left side of the sanctuary draws attention to the Blessed Sacrament stored in the Tabernacle and additionally marked by this *Last Supper* wall hanging.

Stations of the Cross - are now being cleaned and treated. They will be back soon in their places.

Next Sunday, August 24, 2025, is the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV



Prayer Intention for August 2025 - For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

☞ Sunday Sermon continued from previous column

notice how different we become. Evil cannot be reconciled with love, lies cannot exist together with truth.

Jesus provokes certain urgency. The words: *fire to the earth, I am in distress until this is all over, I bring division*, are to motivate in us an energetic and radical decision to follow Christ and to love His cross. His baptism, which He speaks about, is His saving cross, which He tells us to love as something very precious but something that will cost us.

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Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world,
hear the humble voices of your children.
The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order
and returned to its former quietude.

You are still the Master of land and sea.
We live in the shadow of a danger over which
we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked
and angry giant, can awake from its seeming
lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries,
invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You,
O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies
whose memories are still so vivid and whose
wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing
of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother,
we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf,
so that spared from the calamities common to
this area and animated with a true spirit of
gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your
Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem,
where a stormless eternity awaits us.

Amen.

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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.


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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 or
Samantha McDonald,
Parish Hall 941.366.4210
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



Location: Conference Room of Shelby Library, downtown Sarasota

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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
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Carlos Sierra Napoles, Maintenance
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Rev. Jan Rykala, S.A.C.
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Weekly Mass Intentions



**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

Mon, Aug 18 . . . Jgs 2:11-19; Mt 19:16-22

7:30am.....[GR] . . (L) Anaya Singh by Sandra Morales
8:30am.....[JR] . . R D and Ceceilia Kelly & Fams. by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly
12:00pm.....[JV] . . Dick Bykowski by Helene and Larry

Tue, Aug 19 . . . Jgs 6:11-24a; Mt 19:23-30

7:30am.....[GR] . . Mary V. by Tim Downey
8:30am.....[GR] . . For a Greater Respect for all Human Life
12:00pm.....[JV] . . Irene Carrulo by Ralph Carrulo

Wed, Aug 20 . . . Jgs 9:6-15; Mt 20:1-16

7:30am.....[JR] . . Stephen Auditore by John
8:30am.....[GR] . . Rado and Bosko by Ljubica Plisic
12:00pm.....[JR] . . William Persico by Nancy Drauden

Thu, Aug 21 . . . Jgs 11:29-39a; Mt 22:1-14

7:30am.....[GR] . . Salvatore Iacopelli by John and Stephanie Iacopelli
8:30am.....[JR] . . Richard Moran by the Family
12:00pm.....[FS] . . Honey Gfroerer by Jackie Halstead

Fri, Aug 22 . . . Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Mt 22:34-40

7:30am.....[JR] . . (L) Dr. John Sullivan by Joshua and Tabitha Cascio
8:30am.....[FS] . . Joe Spino by Terry
12:00pm.....[GR] . . (L) Rob Archangel by Jennifer Archangel

Sat, Aug 23 . . . Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Mt 23:1-12

7:30am.....[JV] . . L & D Mbrs of the Furman Family by Melissa Furman
8:30am.....[FS] . . Rose Mary Bond by Elizabeth Moreland
4:00pm.....[GR] . . (L) Aldo C. Zucaro by Cathy Giblin
5:30pm.....[JR] . . Joseph K. Zawasky by Elizabeth

Sun, Aug 24 . . . Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

7:30am.....[JV] . . Tim Simenson by the Rutkowski Family
9:00am.....[GR] . . John Knoll by Mike Hargarter
10:30am.....[FS] . . For All Parishioners
12:00pm.....[JR] . . Laura Gargour by Aldo Massara
12:00pm.....[JV] . . (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm.....[JR] . . 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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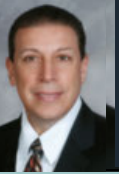
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