

TO ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE

LUKE 13:24

TWENTY-FIRST 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

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



August 24, 2025 - The 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Today's Sermon from Fr. Gennadi

Jesus traveled through cities and villages, teaching and making his journey to Jerusalem. Someone once asked Him: Lord, will only a few people be saved? This question from today's Gospel is as relevant today as it was when it was first asked: Will only a few be saved?" And then behind that question is another question: Will I be saved? Jesus says that many will try to enter through the door of heaven but they won't succeed. Yet a lot of people will come from the four corners of the earth and take their places at the banquet in heaven. Jesus' message is that salvation is meant for everyone.

But there is a warning in today's Gospel that we cannot presume that we are saved. When we reach the gates of heaven, the Master of the house can say to us: I do not know you. And it may turn out that we will explain that we are good persons and we have done everything that Jesus tells us to do, and yet the Master may say: I do not know you. It's easy to think that we deserve our place in heaven because we followed the rules. We know that salvation is a gift from God. We can never earn it. But, how to understand words: I do not know you. It is about our relationship with God. He knows us and loves us. Jesus' life and death prove that this is the case. But God also wants us to know and love Him freely. Unfortunately, we are easily deceived. We can convince ourselves that we are doing everything right. We can convince ourselves that the hours we spend in prayer and doing good to others have brought us great recognition in heaven and that our place in heaven is already secured. We completely forget that compared to the love that God has for us, everything we do is nothing. What God wants from us is love, and for that we need hearts. We need hearts to praise His holy name. Hearts full of compassion for others. Hearts that are filled with sorrow because of the many sins we have committed. We know that this greatest of all gifts, the gift of salvation, carries with it a great responsibility. We know that we must maintain our faith in Christ and follow the teachings of the Church. We know that we have a responsibility to bear witness of His name in the world. But being the recipient of these blessings does not guarantee us anything with regard to heaven. Regardless of who we are, we have no built-in advantage over anyone else. This entrance into heaven is found only in Christ: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and in Him we will be saved. And He wants us to be saved. He gave His life for us, and it is an invitation to us to give our lives for Him and for our brothers and sisters in the human family. From Jesus' words and actions, we learn how to speak and act. We put His words on our lips, we follow in His footsteps, we touch with His hands. We are conformed to Him to such an extent that when, at this most important moment of our lives, the Master opens the door to us, He does not see us, but sees His Son. But by doing what He does, we have become like Him.

Although we cannot merit salvation, although we cannot presume it, we certainly can, and indeed ought to, hope and pray for salvation. We should pray for salvation every day of our lives, for ourselves and for those around us. We have already received so many wonderful gifts from God, and let us pray that He will give us this one, last, and best of all possible gifts—the gift of salvation.



Our Pastor, Father George

From Father George:

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

Saints of the Week:

St. Monica - (Aug. 27) After thirty years of prayer, she obtained the conversion of her dissolute pagan husband; under the guidance of St. Ambrose she won the conversion of her eldest son, Augustine. She is a patroness of

mothers. She died in 387 at Ostia (Italy).

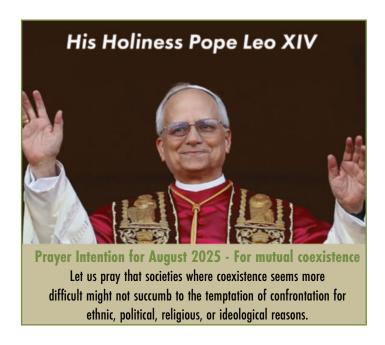
St. Augustine - (Aug. 28), born in Tagaste, north Africa (now Souk Abras, Algeria). After a dissolute life, he received baptism at age thirty-three from St. Ambrose. He was elected bishop of Hippo; he combated Manichees, the Donatists, and Pelagius; most noted for his Confessions and City of God; considered a founder of monastic life in the West. His Rule is observed by some 100 religious communities today. He is considered the founder of the Order of Augustinians (0.S.A.), Doctor of the Church, called *Doctor of grace*. He died in 430 in Hippo (now modern day Annaba, Algeria).

The Passion of St. John the Baptist - (Aug. 29). This Memorial originates in the celebration of the dedication, perhaps on this day, of the church of St. John at Sabaste (Samaria) where, according to tradition, John the Baptist was buried by his disciples.

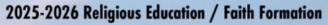
Next Sunday, August 31, 2025, is the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Labor Day - (Monday Sept. 1) marks the end of summer vacation and the beginning of regular parish and school activities. We are all encouraged to participate in the spiritual and temporal works of our faith community. We will have two Masses in the morning: 7:30am & 8:30am.

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









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or come to one of our meetings on the last

Monday of each month at 6:30pm.

The harvest is indeed great, but more laborers are needed.















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



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 Pierse 941.366.4210 Community Pregnancy Clinics 941.260.5427 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**

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Volunteer Needed

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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 visit stmartha.org





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.





DISCERNMENT RETREAT

DIOCESE OF VENICE, FLORIDA OCTOBER 10 - 12, 2025

Calling all single women, ages 18-30! You are invited to attend the upcoming Fiat Ministries Discernment Retreat at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center in Venice, FL. This retreat is led by Team Fiat, a dynamic group of lay women passionate about supporting other young women. Team Fiat partners with consecrated religious sisters from various communities who assist at the retreat by giving talks, leading small groups, giving their testimonies, and providing a joyful witness of what it means to be a consecrated religious sister. Join us in seeking God's will for your life! The cost to attend is \$50.



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| TAUGHT | |
| SAVED | |

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Pray to God with your Family, and ask God to change your hearts so that you love him more than anything else.

Weekly Mass Intentions



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

Mon, Aug 25 . . . 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Mt 23:13-22

7:30am......[JV] . . Poor Souls in Purgatory by John and Stephanie Iacopelli

8:30am......[JR] . . John and Vera Kelly & Fams. by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly

12:00pm.....[JR]. . Margaret Filic by Ljubica Plisic

Tue, Aug 26 1 Thes 2:1-8; Mt 23:23-26

7:30am......[GR]. . Rashida Stayrook by Larry and Margaret Garfalo

8:30am......[JV] . . L & D Mbrs of the Maria Jara Huaman Family by Linda

12:00pm.....[GR]. . Essebauer & Fleishmann Fams. by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly

Wed, Aug 27 ... 1 Thes 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32

7:30am......[JR]..Fr. Patrick Wilson by Allie Freedman

8:30am...... [GR]. . Grace Borsky by Walter Serwatka

12:00pm.....[GR]. . Ricardo Urdaneta by his Parents

Thu, Aug 28 1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51

7:30am......[GR]. . Salvatore Iacopelli by John and Stephanie Iacopelli

8:30am......[JR].. Kimberly Viets by Hank and Jack

12:00pm [FS] . . Jacinto Monet by Evelyn

Fri, Aug 29..... 1 Thes 4:1-8; Mk 6:17-29

7:30am......[JR] . . Missing and Exploited Children by Joe and Betty Plouffe

8:30am......[FS].. Anthony LoConte by the Family

12:00pm.....[GR]. . (L) Jennifer Hines and Sons by Mom

Sat, Aug 30 1 Thes 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30

7:30am......[JV] . . (L) Rose Britanak by Rose

8:30am......[FS].. Marguerite Romaine by Gail and Fr. Bob Romaine

4:00pm......[JR] . . (L) Natalia Caceres by Adriana

5:30pm...... [GR]. . (L) Aldo C. Zucaro by Cathy Giblin

Sun, Aug 31 Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

7:30am......[JV] . . Sheila Heimbuch by Judy Mass

9:00am......[JR] . . Brian Kneafsey by Marilyn Kneafsey

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

12:00pm.....[FS].. Joan Frazer by Claire Meade

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

5:30pm......[GR]. . Wenceslao Lacaba by Helen Balagatas

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



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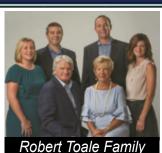
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