

August 31, 2025

## 22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Rather, when you hold a banquet,  
invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind;  
blessed indeed will you be because of  
their inability to repay you. For you will be  
repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.*  
- Lk 14:13-14



# 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](http://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 31, 2025 - The 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**
*Today's Sermon from Father Jan*

**Though we are poor, crippled, lame, and blind** God invites us to His banquet table. Jews of Jesus' days were much more careful about whom they invited around their tables. For them the crippled, the lame, and the blind were considered unclean, so they were not even allowed to worship at the temple. They were not supposed to be invited to the tables because the people who invited them or touched them might become unclean themselves.

Usually, we only share meals with the people like us: family members or friends from our own *circle*. When people from the *outside* come in, it upsets the balance.

The readings for this Lord's Day are going to conclude with Jesus calling His followers to invite people from *outside* – the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind – to dine with us. This takes humility, for it requires us to recognize that we are in a certain sense also poor, crippled, and blind; maybe not physically, but spiritually or emotionally. Jesus ben Sira from the first reading, like the Jesus of Nazareth to come, highly prizes humility, and in today's passage stresses this virtue as one key to entering God's favor. In his exhortation *Humble yourself the more, the greater you are*, we hear a *pre-echo* of Jesus' words: *Whoever would be first among, you must be slave of all* (Mk 10:44), and *let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves* (Lk 22:26).

The psalm picks up on the theme of kindness to the poor. The psalm asserts that God Himself is the primary benefactor of the orphan, the widow, and other disadvantaged persons. Therefore, when we show kindness to the poor, it is an *imitatio Dei*, an act that makes us resemble God. What is the connection between humility and almsgiving? It lies in seeing the poor person as like us, as sharing in our humanity, as being our brother or sister. Pride involves placing ourselves above the level of other human beings so that their need has no claim on us. But through almsgiving we recognize the poor as our family, as fellow children of God who have a claim on our love.

In the Gospel, the words of Jesus operate at two different levels. On the basic level, it is just sound advice about social etiquette. Everyone dislikes a person who is always putting themselves forward, the kind the comedian Brian Regan describes as *me-monsters*. So don't put yourself forward in social situations. Give way to others. Ironically, in the long run, this attitude wins friends, and eventually others will come and invite you *forward*. On the other hand, this banquet table may be seen as symbol of the Church, which is gathered around the Eucharistic table of the Lord. In that case, Our Lord is condemning an attitude of *climbing the ecclesiastical ladder*, that is, seeking to acquire honor and authority within the Church, perhaps by obtaining *cherry* positions within the hierarchical structure or institutions (schools, hospitals, etc.). The Gospel calls us to practice a form of almsgiving: inviting the poor to share our food. Those who show love to the outcasts and disadvantaged in this life may be assured that God will be *in their debt* and will repay that debt in the next life.

In inviting the poor, lame, and crippled to our table, we are carrying on a Davidic tradition. In 2 Samuel 9, we see that David invited to his royal table the last remaining son of his predecessor King Saul – Mephibosheth, who was crippled, to dine with him. Jesus – the King in the line of David invites us – spiritually lame though we are – to dine at His royal table, the

*continued ➔*

*Our Pastor, Father George*
**From Father George:**

**Greetings to all in St. Martha!** - Hello from Poland, which has a bit cooler temperature right now (around 68 F) and much lower humidity. I enjoy my free time, resting and family visits. See you soon in Sarasota. Fr. George.

**Labor Day** - (Mon, Sep 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 only have two Masses in the morning: 7:30am & 8:30am. There will not be any other masses or confessions on that day.

**World Day of Prayer for Creation** - On September 1, all Catholics *thank God for creation, His handiwork entrusted to our care, and to implore His help for the protection of creation as well as His pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live* (Pope Francis, August 6, 2015).

**Prayerful support of our Schools** - In September it is customary to pray to the Holy Spirit to mark the opening of the academic year. Let's pray for students, parents and teachers and staff working in St. Martha Primary School, St. Mary's Academy and Cardinal Mooney High School for academic successes and good Christian formation.

**Next Sunday**, September 7, 2025, is the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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



**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.

Composed by Most Rev. Maurice Schexnayder (1895-1981), Second Bishop of Lafayette (1956-1973), following Hurricane Audrey in 1957

*✓ Sunday Sermon continued from previous column*

Eucharistic table. The Church carries on the traditions of David because the Church is the fulfillment of the kingdom of David.

This leads us to see the evangelistic thrust of this Gospel. If the banquet table represents the Eucharistic fellowship of the Church, *the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind*, are those broken with sins committed against them and sins they have committed themselves, people who need the good news. Jesus is calling us to go out and invite those outside the Church to come to His banquet. Our evangelistic effort should be motivated by humility, realizing that we ourselves are *the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind* in God's eyes; (see Rev 3:17), at least we were until He brought us into His banqueting hall.



## 2025-2026 Religious Education / Faith Formation



## Religious Education Classes

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FOR INQUIRIES OR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT KRISTYN LUBRANO AT  
[KLUBRANO@STMARTHASCHOOL.NET](mailto:KLUBRANO@STMARTHASCHOOL.NET) OR  
CALL 941-953-4181.

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If being part of that community of Vincentians who go to the poor interests you, we invite you to join us.

Call the Incarnation parish office **941.921.6631**

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.**

## More back to School!



Make a  
**Joyful noise**  
Unto the Lord  
Psalm 100



St Martha  
Melody Makers

## Calling all St Martha Youth!

**Sept 7 & 14 at 9am**

In preparation for Family Masses resuming on Sun, Sep 21 at 9am in the Parrish Hall, **all St Martha Kids** are invited to special sessions to make a joyful noise!

We will learn responses, parts of the Mass and fun songs as we learn our special part in the Mass celebration.

Let us know your child will attend, email **Joy MJOYLFL@comcast.net**





## A Message from BISHOP DEWANE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., is the national University of the Catholic Church in the United States. The University community works tirelessly to educate over 5,700 students in more than 250 academic programs throughout the year which will prepare them to serve as Catholic leaders of the Church and nation.

The research and training initiatives of the University support dioceses and parishes in addressing the most pressing needs of future Catholic leaders, both religious and lay, who are being formed by an exceptional, faith-rooted education. The Catholic Project initiative brings together clergy and laity to address the challenges that the Catholic Church faces in the U.S.

The Diocese of Venice will take up a collection for the Catholic University of America the weekend of September 6 and 7, 2025. Your contribution helps the University to educate thousands of young people in both faith and reason, while upholding the highest standards of education. May God Bless you for your generosity!

This opportunity is taken to extend to you the assurances of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

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in Congratulations as we  
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Friday, November 14, 2025 at 6pm  
Michaels On East, 1212 East Avenue  
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Saturday, November 15, 2025 from 5-8pm  
Reception at Fr Fausto Parish Hall Center

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**OCTOBER 4, 2025**  
8:00am Start Time  
Cardinal Mooney High School - Sarasota, FL

**PASTA NIGHT** FRIDAY OCTOBER 3, 2025  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
\$10 PER PERSON

Our Lady of Victory Council 3358 4880 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232

**\$45** REGISTRATION FEE



## Events & Announcements



**Theology on Tap** — Join us for a night of fellowship, faith, and fun with fellow Catholic young adults from across the Diocese. Don't miss this chance to grow in faith, connect with others, and enjoy a great evening together. Theology on Tap meets on the **third Thursday of every month** at **Oak & Stone**, 5405 University Parkway, University Park. Next meeting is Thursday, **September 18!** No cost to attend, and no registration required. Bring a friend!

**Fifth Annual Together in Holiness Marriage Enrichment Conference - October 18** at **Our Lady of Light**, 19680 Cypress View Drive, **Fort Myers** in Fort Myers. The Conference: *Family, A School of Love*, presents an opportunity to share a day dedicated to prayer, conversation, and reflection on the sacred vocation of marriage together with your spouse. Grow together in holiness and receive guidance and tips for how to strengthen your marriage and form your children in the Catholic faith. Learn more/register, [togetherinholiness.org/venice](http://togetherinholiness.org/venice) or contact Jim Gontis, [gontis@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:gontis@dioceseofvenice.org) / 941.486.4754.

**Canonization Event in Sarasota** — **St. Patrick Parish**, 7900 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, is hosting an event for the Canonization of Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati on Sunday, **September 7** from 8am-2pm after the Masses. In the Parish Hall, there will be informative panels about *God's Army: 25 Saints Under 25*. Each panel will have an image of the saint, information about each of their lives and a prayer that participants can say to the saint as they view each panel. All are welcome!

## 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**

## Important Contact Information

### 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 . . . . .	ede24@usa.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

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



## Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for a way to serve our community?

Herrig Caritas is seeking volunteers for:

**Tuesday and/or Friday 9-10:30am**

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Tony Cocco at 941.504.6960.

**Thank you for your generosity and support!**

## 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.





## *Fiat ministries* DISCERNMENT RETREAT

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OCTOBER 10 - 12, 2025

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OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

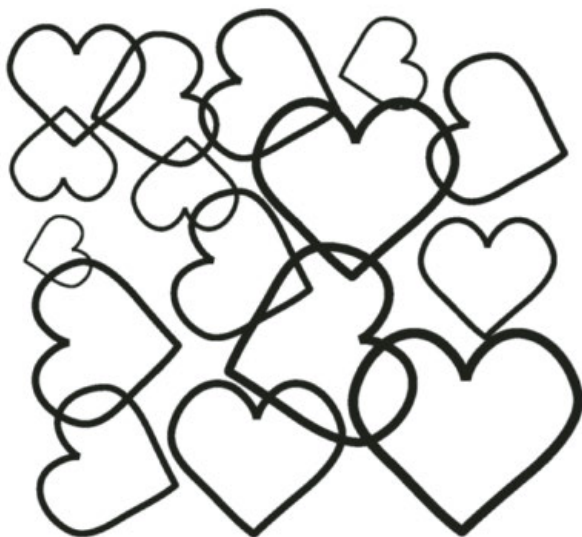


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## Kids Corner



**PUZZLE** How many hearts can you count?



The answer is sixteen



**MISSION**

When you sit down with your family for dinner tonight, ask if you can serve the food. You may surprise your parents and get some pretty big smiles from them.

## Weekly Mass Intentions



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

Mon, Sep 1 . . . . 1 Thes 4:13-18; Lk 4:16-30

7:30am.....[JV] . . (L) Rocky Milliman by Claire Collins  
8:30am.....[JR] . . John & Ann Begley & Fams. by Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly

Tue, Sep 2 . . . . 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Lk 4:31-37

7:30am.....[JV] . . Charles Mondri, Jr. by Rick and Lynn Dudek  
8:30am.....[GR] . . (L) Jenny Lynn Dunn by Rita Dunn  
12:00pm.....[JV] . . (L) Eric Helms by John and Mary McGruder

Wed, Sep 3 . . . . Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44

7:30am.....[JR] . . Ruth Donahue by Terry and Lindy Donahue  
8:30am.....[GR] . . Douglas Tuttle by Jane and Sam Norton  
12:00pm.....[JR] . . Family of Rose Ferina by Judy and Jimmy Contino

Thu, Sep 4 . . . . Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11

7:30am.....[GR] . . Betty Smith by Theresa Gilbertson  
8:30am.....[JR] . . Nayla Larkham by Joe and Nora Stephan  
12:00pm.....[FS] . . Deceased Priests by Martina O'Sullivan

Fri, Sep 5 . . . . Col 1:15-20; Lk 5:33-39

7:30am.....[JR] . . Catherine and Bill Lacey by Claire Collins  
8:30am.....[FS] . . (L) Joshua Duarte by Mom  
12:00pm.....[GR] . . Jim Gallo by Hank and Jan Castonguay  
7:30pm.....[JV] . . (Vietnamese) Special Intentions

Sat, Sep 6 . . . . Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5

7:30am.....[JV] . . Veronica and H J Lortie by Marge and Paul Lortie  
8:30am.....[JR] . . Palma Corsaro by the Corsaro Family  
4:00pm.....[FS] . . (L) Nelsi Signer by Adriana  
5:30pm.....[GR] . . (L) Cashel Helms by John and Mary McGruder

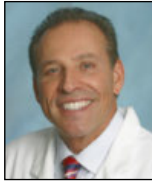
Sun, Sep 7 . . . . Wis 9:13-18b; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

7:30am.....[JV] . . George Britanek by his Sister  
9:00am.....[GR] . . (L) Tom Landers by David and Paula Shigley  
10:30am.....[FS] . . For All Parishioners  
12:00pm.....[JR] . . Edward Mongillo by the Family  
12:00pm.....[JV] . . (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
5:30pm.....[JR] . . L & D Mbrs of the Plouffe 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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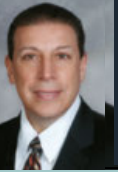
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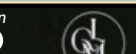


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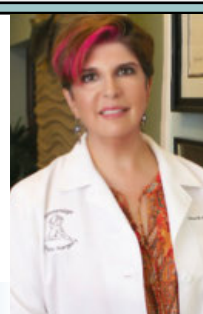


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