

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

Weekday 7:30am • 8:30am • 12pm

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



## September 14, 2025 The Exhaltation of the Cross

by Deacon Pat

On Good Friday, the veiled cross is processed into the Church with three stops. At each of these stops, when the veil is proportionately removed, the Deacon intones *Behold, behold the wood of the Cross on which is hung our Salvation*. In St. Martha, we respond: *Come let us adore*!

In this feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, we are called to remember the importance of Jesus' Cross in our spiritual lives. Pope Benedict XVI, in his homily in Lourdes on September 14, 2008, describes the Cross' vital essence with these words:

On this day when the Church's liturgy celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Gospel you have just heard reminds us of the meaning of this great mystery: God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that men might be saved. The Son of God became vulnerable, assuming the condition of a slave, obedient even to death, death on a cross. By His Cross we are saved. The instrument of torture which, on Good Friday, manifested God's judgment on the world, has become a source of life, pardon, mercy, a sign of reconciliation and peace. 'In order to be healed from sin, gaze upon Christ crucified!' said Saint Augustine. 'By raising our eyes

towards the Crucified one, we adore Him who came to take upon Himself the sin of the world and to give us eternal life. And the Church invites us proudly to lift up

"Come let us adore!"

this glorious Cross so that the world can see the full extent of the love of the Crucified one for mankind, for every man and woman. She invites us to give thanks to God because from a tree which brought death, life has burst out anew. On this wood Jesus reveals to us His sovereign majesty, He reveals to us that He is exalted in glory. Yes, Come, let us adore Him!' In our midst is He who loved us even to giving His life for us, He who invites every human being to draw near to Him with trust.

We joyfully and reverently accept Jesus' invitation!

Behold, behold the wood of the Cross on which is hung our Salvation.

And we say:

COME, LET US ADORE!



Our Pastor, Father George

#### **Notes From Fr George:**

Exaltation of the Cross - This Feast celebrates a double anniversary. In Jerusalem, Constantine erected a round church, the Anastasis, above the empty grave of Jesus, and a basilica, the Martyrium. In the square between the two churches was a shrine, Calvarium, marking the place of the crucifixion.

Dedicated in 335, they were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The two churches were rebuilt by Patriarch Modestus of Jerusalem but were later destroyed by the Muslims in 1009. The present Church of the Holy Sepulcher, rebuilt by the Crusaders, was dedicated in 1149. Today also commemorates the discovery of the Lord's cross by the empress, St. Helena in 320.

Our Lady of Sorrows (Memorial on September 15) – By the 14th century the sorrows of Mary numbered seven: The presentation of Jesus in the Temple; the flight into Egypt; Jesus being lost in Jerusalem; the meeting of Mary and Jesus on the way to Calvary; the crucifixion; the taking down of Jesus' body from the cross; and his burial.

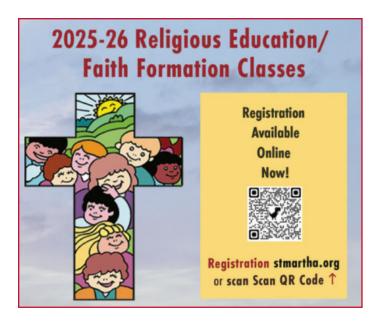
St Carlo Acutis & St. Pier Georgio Frassati (Canonized on September 7, 2025) - Pray for us and for our families.

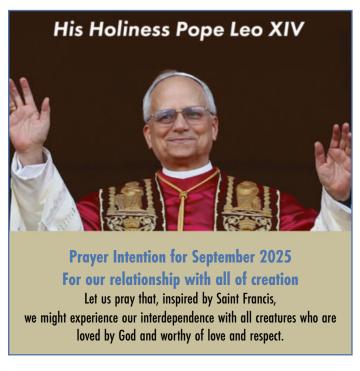
Fr. Jan Rykala is leaving St. Martha parish - Fr. Jan came to St. Martha in 2017 after Fr. Sebastian Szczawinski left the parish. When Fr. Jan came here, he initially worked with Frs. Fausto, Patrick, Wojciech and John. Through different personnel changes he continued his priestly ministry for the last 8 years. When we were told to move out from our Rectory in March 2022, he went to stay in Incarnation Parish where he still resides and from which he commutes daily to St. Martha. On my behalf and on behalf of the parish I thank Fr. Jan for his hard work in preaching the word of God, in celebrating the sacraments of the Church in School, in Hospital and Jail ministry as well as his Biblical apostolate. May God bless him in his new assignment. He will be leaving St. Martha at the end of this month.

**The Farewell Reception** - in honor of Fr. Jan will be held in the parish hall on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 6pm.

Next Sunday, September 21, 2025, is the 25th Sunday in Ordinary.

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







## 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





## **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

## 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** 



## 17th Annual RED MASS

For Judges, lawyers, lawmakers their families, and staff

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 5:30pm St Martha Catholic Church

200 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota 34236

Celebrated by Most Rev. Frank J Dewane

A reception hosted by the Planning Committee of the Catholic Lawyers Guild will follow at the Fr. Fausto Parish Hall at St Martha. Please send your RSVP for the Mass and/or reception before October 11, 2025 to Tina Mroczkowski tinam@bowmangeorge.com or 941,366,5510.



For inclusion in the online Directory of Catholic Lawyers, please send your business card and \$50 membership fee payable to Catholic Lawyers Guild. Catholic Lawyers Guild, c/o Tina M. Mroczkowski, Esq. 2750 Ringling Blvd, Ste 3, Sarasota, FL 34237

For Sponsorship Opportunities, please contact Jeanne M. Bennett, Esq jeanne@obrienbennett.com or 941.316.9200

Reception sponsored by the Catholic Community Foundation



StJOHN PAULII

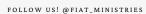


DIOCESE OF VENICE, FLORIDA OCTOBER 10 - 12, 2025

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.



REGISTER AT FIATMINISTRIES.ORG/RETREAT OR BY SCANNING THE QR CODE







#### 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.

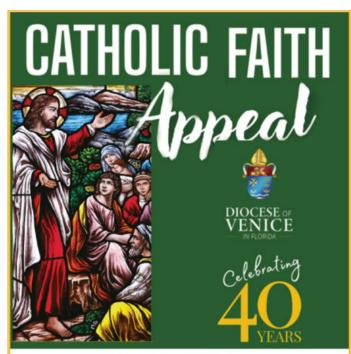
O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity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

Amen.



Audrey in 1957

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2025 Catholic Faith Appeal

GOAL \$450,000

Given to Date \$191,789.02

Pledged \$212,151.49

Percentage of Goal 47.14%

## **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 ½. 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

**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!

For additional information, please call 941.486.4719 or email cfa@dioceseofvenice.org

SCAN HERE





## **HELP WANTED**

#### Hospital Volunteer

We are looking for a caring and compassionate person to serve the Catholic patients at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

As a member of a three-person team, the duties include a weekly visit with patients to comfort, pray, and distribute the Holy Eucharist.

Visits last three hours. Volunteers are needed to join the Thursday morning team.

No experience required. Training and mentoring provided.

Interested persons should contact
Stuart Love, Volunteer Coordinator

941-780-7834 · volunteer@stmartha.org

# 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 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.



## Helping the Homeless Be Housed

Please Help Make a Real Difference

Many of us wonder how we can help. Should we give a few dollars to those suffering? 90% of our homeless suffer from addiction and/or mental illness. Giving cash enables the continuation of the homeless lifestyle.

But what about our duty as Christians to help the poor and needy?

Aren't we supposed to help? YES, absolutely! But please let your donation truly do the good you intend. The church collects money to support our local homeless charities. The Homeless Outreach donation box is located near the main doors of the church. The monies collected go to:

Caritas Food Pantry: A parish ministry at St. Martha. The food pantry is open Monday-Friday and serves hundreds of families every week.

Resurrection House: Provides many free services to the homeless including breakfast, lunch, bathrooms, showers, toiletries, laundry service ,clothing, chapel, barber, health screening, medical doctor, dentist, vaccines, and legal services.

Family Promise: An organization addressing the gap in local services for pregnant mothers experiencing homelessness. Expectant mothers and their children can be housed at the Family Promise Francis House or Family Promise funding housing. Family Promise currently houses 39 pregnant mothers with children.

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



#### **Events & Announcements**

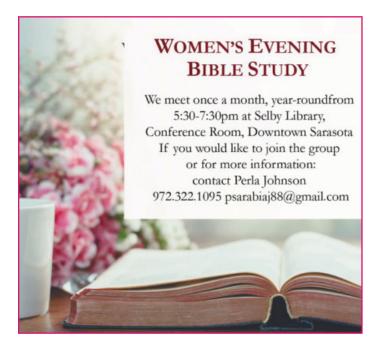
Fifth Annual Together in Holiness Marriage Enrichment Conference - October 18 at Our Lady of Light, 1 9680 Cypress View Drive, Fort Myers in Fort Myers.

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 or contact Jim Gontis, gontis@dioceseofvenice.org / 941.486.4754.

Natural Family Planning Introductory Session —Learn about Natural Family Planning with a free introductory session. The Diocese of Venice sets forth the Creighton Model Fertility Care System, and free online training sessions are being offered by the St. Gianna Center for Women's Health & Fertility Care. 2025 sessions include Saturday, September 20, and Tuesday, October 21. Choose one that fits your schedule! The sessions are free, but registration is required. Register at bit.ly/SGIntroSession. For more information, visit stgiannacenter.com, or with questions, contact Jim Gontis, gontis@dioceseofvenice.org, 941.486.4754.







## Go to the poor and you will find God.



St. Vincent dePaul • That is the Vincentian Mission.
 It is said that no form of charity is foreign to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

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.



Little Flowers is a Catholic club for girls in grades
Kindergarten through 8th grade that teaches virtues
through scripture, saint biographies and the Catechism of
the Catholic Church. We incorporate games, parties,
fellowship and fun into learning about these virtues
and amazing Saints!

Our first meeting is Saturday, September 20th 10am - 12pm in the Finegan Center REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

Please scan the code to register or visit: INCARNATIONCHURCH.ORG/LITTLEFLOWERS



Cost is \$30 per student (includes book, badges, and craft materials).

Please contact Angela Molineaux for more information: 970-214-2704

## 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 877 • Individuals 1,127

### **HELPING HOMELESS FAMILIES**

Family Promise of Sarasota-Manatee (FPSM)
takes a holistic approach to the crisis of families with children facing homelessness.
In partnership with multiple social service agencies, FPSM offers families with children a variety of services: case management, affordable child care referrals, negotiation strategies with debt agencies and landlords, emergency funds and other community resources to stay in or obtain safe, sustainable housing.

FPSM is supported by 20 interfaith congregations, including St. Martha.

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



Learn More / Donate familypromisesarasota-manatee.org



#### **Kids Corner** PI BECAUSE VIBRANT PUZZLE Unscramble words from today's Gospel: lifted Moses perish save world heaven desert loved Moses soMes havnee letfid saken dseret levod wrodl preshi seva



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
or scan the QR code





#### St. Martha Parish Staff 941.366.4210 • StMartha.org

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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15

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100%

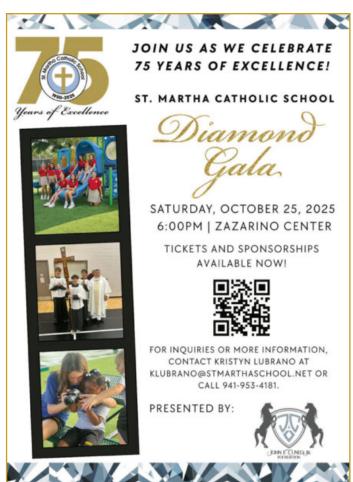
**GRADUATION RATE** 

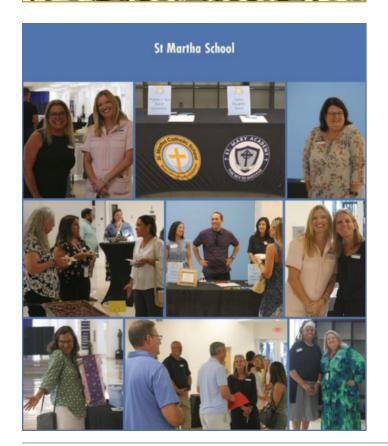
6,474

STUDENTS ENROLLED















## **Weekly Mass Intentions**



Sun, Sep 14 Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17 7:30am[JV] Ryan Halstead by Mom		
9:00am[FS] Kim Martin by the Clergy		
10:30am [JR] For All Parishioners		
12:00pm[GR] John Maylor by Michael		
12:00pm[JV] (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions		
5:30pm[GR] Gerald J. Boryszewski, Jr. by the Family		
Mon, Sep 151 Tm 2:1-8; Jn 19:25-27		
7:30am[GR] (L) Joseph Lortie by Marge and Paul Lortie		
8:30am[JR] Michael B. Quinn by Jim and Marian Walsh		
12:00pm[JR] (L) Brenda Rodriguez by James Bovienzo		
Tue, Sep 16 1 Tm 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17		
7:30am[JR] (L) Eric Levin by Mom		
8:30am[GR] L & D Mbrs of the Morrill Family by Melissa Furman		
12:00pm[JR] Catherine and Mertl by Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly		
Wed, Sep 171 Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35		
7:30am[GR] Louis Castelli by the Castelli Family		
8:30am[GR] Fr. Patrick Wilson by Allie Freedman		
12:00pm[GR] For a Greater Respect for All Human Life		
Thu, Sep 18 1 Tm 4:12-16; Lk 7:36-50		
7:30am[GR] Thomas & Marie Kelly & Fams. by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly		
8:30am[JR] The Family of Rose Ferina by Judy and Jimmy Contino		
12:00pm[FS] Willma Swan by Silvana		
Fri, Sep 19 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3		
7:30am[GR]. (L) Nelson O'Brien by Claire Collins		
8:30am[FS] (L) Adriana Holggard by Alexander Holggard 12:00pm[JR] Bill Greiner by the Mitten Family		
Sat, Sep 20 1 Tm 6:13-16; Lk 8:4-15		
7:30am[JV] Ron Russell by Hank Maier		
8:30am[FS] Augusto Quijano by Madonna Weir		
4:00pm[FS] Anthony and Theresa Vazzano by Daughter and Son-in-Law		
5:30pm[GS] The Poor Souls by John and Mary McGruder		
Sun, Sep 21 Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13		
7:30am[GR] Catherine O'Rourke by Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly		
9:00am[JR] Owen Trumbull by the Family		
9:00am[GS] (Hall) Nicole Christopher by Suzanne Urbinati		
10:30am[GR] For All Parishioners		
12:00pm[FS] Anthony Naglieri by Ida Naglieri		
12:00pm[JV] (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions		
5:30pm[JR] L & D Mbrs of the Burch Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe		

## **Important Contact Information**

#### **Diocese of Venice**

1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285. . . . . . . . . 941.484.9543

#### **Outreach Ministries**

ı	
	Altar Servers Dn. Vern Smith dcvern@stmartha.org
	Catholic Charities Joan Pierse 941.366.4210
	Community Pregnancy Clinics
	Casa Santa Marta
	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 Dale Thompson 941-350-9010
	Lectors Dc. Pat Macaulay dcpatrick@stmartha.org
	O.C.I.A Patricia Sileo 941.366.4210
	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
1	

#### **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 $\dots$	Sarasota
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

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



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Joseph L. Najmy, Esq. jnajmy@najmythompson.com

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170 Honore Avenue Sarasota, FL 34232 www.palmsmemorial.com

Wiegand Chapel is Now Celebration of Life Center 941.921.5755

7454 South Tamiami Trail Sarasota, FL 34231 www.wiegandbrothers.com

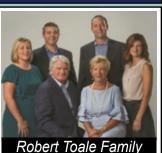


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tinam@bowmangeorge.com



2750 Ringling Blvd, Suite 3 Sarasota, FL 34237



#### Stacey Maloney Attorney, M.B.A.

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