

GREAT ONES.

-LUKE 16:10

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH



Mass Schedule

Saturday 7:30am · 8:30am · 4pm Vigil · 5:30pm Vigil

Sunday 7:30am • 9am • 9am (Hall) • 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



September 21, 2025 25th Sunday Ordinary Time

by Deacon Vern

Today's readings challenge us to examine our priorities, especially in how we use our resources and where we place our trust. The Gospel presents the parable of the dishonest steward, a story that at first seems puzzling but ultimately reveals deep truths about discipleship, integrity, and spiritual wisdom.

Jesus tells of a steward who, upon learning he will be dismissed for mismanagement, shrewdly reduces the debts of his master's clients to secure future favors. Surprisingly, the master commends him – not for dishonesty, but for his cleverness in preparing for what comes next.

This parable is not an endorsement of deceit, but a call to spiritual prudence. Just as the steward acted decisively to secure his future, we are called to use our time, talents, and resources wisely for the Kingdom of God.

Jesus concludes with a powerful statement:

You cannot serve both God and mammon. (Luke 16:13)

This is the heart of the message. Wealth is not inherently evil, but when it becomes our master, it distorts our spiritual values and relationships. We must choose whom we serve – God or mammon.

The first reading from Amos 8:4–7 condemns those who exploit the poor. God sees injustice and promises to hold the guilty accountable. The Psalm (113) reminds us that God lifts the lowly and cares for the needy.

These readings echo the Gospel's call to live with integrity, to be faithful stewards, and to care for the vulnerable.

We have opportunities all the time to do wrong by others, have guilt and seek forgiveness. Reading a story about a boy who accidentally killed his grandmother's duck and was blackmailed by his sister. Eventually, he confesses, and his grandmother forgave him, saying that she saw everything but waited for him to come forward.

This story mirrors our spiritual journey. God sees our faults, but His mercy awaits our repentance. We are not meant to live in guilt or fear, but in freedom through forgiveness.

Luke's Gospel consistently emphasizes God's concern for the poor and the dangers of wealth. The Magnificat proclaims that God *has lifted up the lowly* and *sent the rich away empty*. We are called to live not as children of this world, but as children of light, using our resources to reflect God's justice and mercy.

The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C invites us to:

- Examine our loyalties: Are we serving God or wealth?
- Use our resources wisely: Are we building relationships and helping others?
- Live with integrity and compassion: Are we faithful in small things?
- Trust in God's mercy: Are we willing to confess and be forgiven?

Let us pray for the grace to be faithful stewards, placing God first in all things.



Our Pastor, Father George

Notes From Fr George:

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

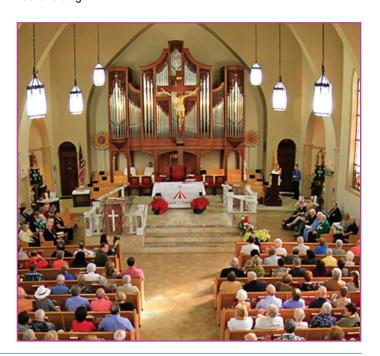
move out from our Rectory in March 2022, he went to stay in Incarnation Parish where he still resides and from which he commutes daily to St. Martha. On my behalf and on behalf of the parish I thank Fr. Jan for his hard work in preaching the word of God, in celebrating the sacraments of the Church in 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.

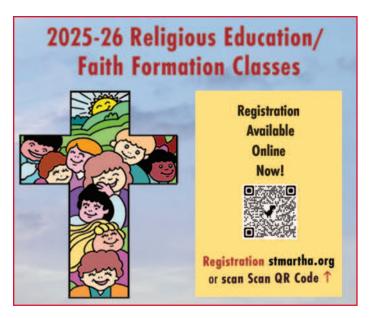
The Farewell Reception – In honor of Fr. Jan, the Farewell Reception will be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 6pm.

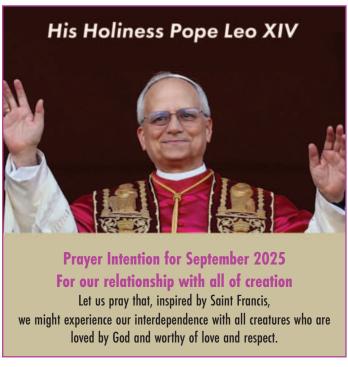
St. Martha's parish prays the Rosary – as part of the Diocesan Rosary Congress (October 4-10, 2025). We invite everyone to join the prayer of the Rosary for Pope Leo XIV...for his good health, for his holiness, and that his Pontificate bears much good fruit. This will take place during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday, October 7 at 9am, 10am, 11am and 6pm, 7pm, 8pm.

Next Sunday, September 28, 2025, is the 26th Sunday in Ordinary.

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











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?



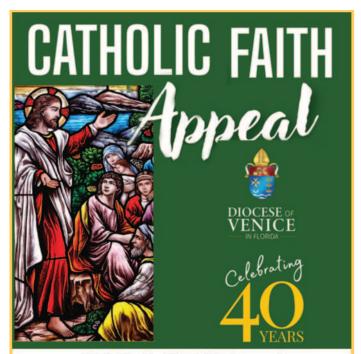
Interested in the Catholic Faith and want to know more?

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**





2025 Catholic Faith Appeal

GOAL \$450,000

Given to Date \$194,392

Pledged \$212,181

Percentage of Goal 47.15%

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





17th Annual RED MASS

For Judges, lawyers, lawmakers their families, and staff

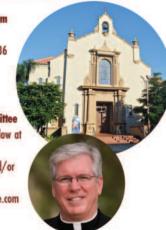
Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 5:30pm St Martha Catholic Church

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



OCTOBER 18, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM ST. JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC CHURCH FORT MYERS, FL

REGISTRATION

Couple \$64 | Childcare \$5/child Register by September 8 to grab an Early Bird discount!

For more information or to register, visit:

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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





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.

August 2025 Clients Served by the Caritas Food Ministry: Households 877 • Individuals 1,127





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 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.

Resurrection House: Provides many free services to the homeless.

Family Promise: An organization addressing the gap in local services for pregnant mothers experiencing homelessness.

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





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.



Events & Announcements

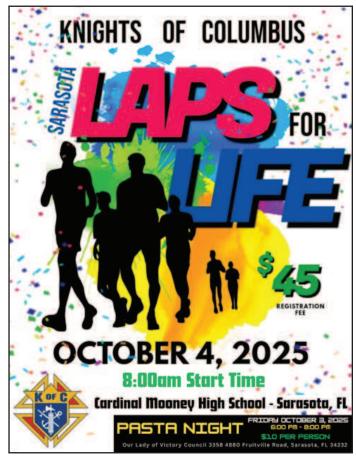
Youth Jubilee Adoration Night — All youth are invited to St. Catherine Catholic Church, 820 Hickory Street, Sebring on Friday, September 26, from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Experience an evening of prayer, music, and Eucharistic Adoration as part of the Jubilee 2025 celebrations. For more information, contact Andres Prias, 941.441.1122.

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

Save the Date: Catholic Mass on Veterans Day - A Catholic Mass on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11, will be held outdoors in the Amphitheater at Sarasota National Cemetery at 3pm. This annual Mass, now in its 16th year in the Diocese of Venice, has become a sacred tradition. Gathering as one people under God, we honor and remember our United States veterans, both living and deceased. All are welcome to attend and join in prayer for the souls of our faithfully departed veterans as well as for those currently in the military, and all who labor to protect the freedom we enjoy. If you are a member of the military, come, and wear your uniform! Opening ceremonies begin at 2:45pm.









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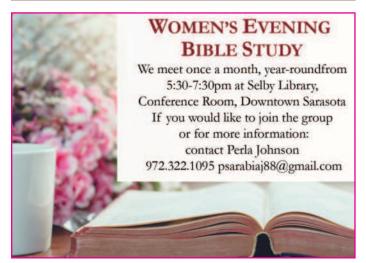
Get Involved
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Place your bid on great items
Purchase Tickets



To Learn More Visit
OLPH-Retreat.org

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





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.

Weekly Mass Intentions



Sun, Sep 2	1 Am 8:4-7	; 1 Tm 2:1-8; L	k 16:1-13
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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

Mon, Sep 22.... Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18

7:30am......[GS]. . Annie Donovan Lortie by Marge and Paul Lortie

8:30am......[JV] . . William Doland by his Son

12:00pm [JR] . . Maria Neuschel & Maria Hudec by Magda Kovacik

Tue, Sep 23 Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21

7:30am......[JR]. . Bill Wilkens by Claire Collins

8:30am......[GR]. . Fr. Patrick Wilson by John Corey

12:00pm [GS]. . Norbert & Ingrid Fleischmann by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly

Wed, Sep 24. . . . Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6

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

8:30am......[JR].. Missing and Exploited Children by Joe & Betty Plouffe

12:00pm.....[JR] . . (L) Manju Pralcash by Mini George

Thu, Sep 25 Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9

7:30am......[JV] . . R D & Ceceilia Kelly & Fams. by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly

8:30am......[JR]. . Daniel Patrick by the Family

12:00pm.....[GR]. . Michael Coppa by Mary Coppa

6:00pm......[GS]. . Adoration

Fri, Sep 26 Hg 2:1-9; Lk 9:18-22

7:30am.......[GR]. . (L) Fr. Joseph Vu, C.R.M. by David and Paula Shigley

8:30am......[FS].. Catherine Warner by Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly

12:00pm.....[GS]. . Kevin Harold by Catay and George Phillips

Sat, Sep 27..... Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45

7:30am......[GR]. . (L) Paula Shigley by David Shigley

8:30am......[FS]...The Holy Souls in Purgatory by Alexander Holggard

4:00pm......[GS]. . Frank Ricciardelli by his Wife

5:30pm......[JR] . . Ester Tengco by Romulo and Mafalda Tengco

Sun, Sep 28 Am 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

7:30am......[GS]. . (L) Erick Dunn by Rita Dunn

9:00am......[FS] . . (L) Paula Shigley by Marge and Paul Lortie

9:00am......[JR]..(Hall) Claudette Wozniak by Patricia and Joe

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

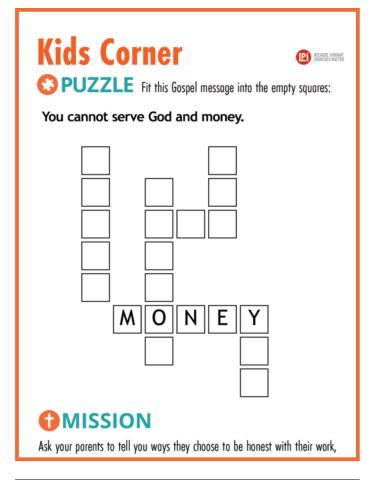
12:00pm.....[JR] . . (L) Fiorella Duarte by Adriana

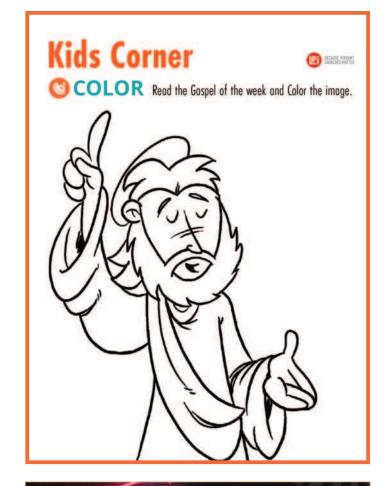
12:00pm.....[JV] . . (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions

5:30pm......[GS]. . L & D Mbrs of the Thomas Family by Joe and Betty Plouffe

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















Scan the QR Code or Click To:

Update Your Contact Information

Share Your Milestones

Receive School News & Event Updates

For More Info Contact: Kristyn Lubrano, Development Director klubrano@stmarthaschool.net



Serve Like Saints Elective - To express their gratitude for having extra patrols on campus recently, students in Mrs. Paben's Serve Like Saints Elective made digital and handwritten Thank You Cards and baked Sweet Treats with Chef Caldwell, which were delivered to the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.













Welcome New Parishioners!

We are so happy to welcome you to St Martha Catholic Church

and are glad you have joined us!





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.



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

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.

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 Pierse 941.366.4210
Community Pregnancy Clinics	
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	Dale Thompson 941-350-9010
Lectors	Dc. Pat Macaulay dcpatrick@stmartha.org
0.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

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

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Stacey Maloney Attorney, M.B.A.

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