



December 14, 2025





3

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH
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

ST. MARTHA

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



December 14, 2025 - Third Sunday of Advent by Father Gennadi

Today is the third Sunday of Advent—the Sunday of Joy. Joy begins in our hearts through the Truth—the complete Truth about God. Let's be honest: life is not easy. We experience all kinds of difficulties, one after another. When we deal with one, others come right away, no matter who we are, what social position we hold or how much we have. However, our joy cannot come from a thoughtless approach to reality or carelessness. Its source should be a deep union with God flowing from prayer and living in Truth. We are to be those who do not give in to discouragement but seek answers to our problems in the Word of God and find solutions there.

Truth is always clear and simple, though sometimes hard to accept. People lost in the winding paths of their lives sought John the Baptist because they knew that he spoke the Truth—about God, the world, and mankind. More than that, they knew he proclaimed the joyful Truth that leads to salvation. They reached out their hands to this beautiful and liberating Truth.

Where can we find true joy? Lasting joy comes only from God. We have His promises and the words of the prophets. These words will never pass away. They call us to readiness for the coming of Christ. This readiness is not only vigilance but also a willingness to receive Him worthily. Deep within every human heart is a cry for consolation, for the One who is our Joy. Often lonely, sad, and longing for Truth, we yearn for Him. To encounter this Joy, we need nothing more than a watchful heart and open eyes.

God chooses what is simple and sincere for great things. He chose the prayerful, Spirit-filled John the Baptist, the prophets, and ordinary yet authentic people to be His messengers. John the Baptist was such a messenger: concrete, clear, decisive and demanding. His faithfulness cost him dearly. Instead of human joy, he received imprisonment and ultimately death at the hands of Herodias, an enemy of Truth. Yet John immersed his human joy in love for Christ—and Christ gave him divine joy in return.

God is coming as a guest—He is very nearby. What should we do? We must love. Whoever loves will never be indifferent. Whoever loves is joyful. Let us love God as best we can, as best we know how. Let us pray: God, Mary, help us to change. John from the Jordan, we come to you—teach us what we should do! Courageous messenger of God, show us what we need to improve in our lives to regain the joy of our hearts.

Everyone is happy that Christmas is coming, but not everyone knows where this joy comes from. Some say it's the colorful tree and gifts. Others point to snow, frost, reindeer and Santa Claus. Still others think it's simply about rest and good food. But true joy comes from the Lord Jesus Himself, whose birth we celebrate. A little boy once asked his grandmother: "Why do we put lights on the Christmas tree?" She smiled and said: "Because the world can be dark, and we need reminders of the Light." The boy thought for a moment and replied: "But the lights go out when we unplug them." His grandmother hugged him and whispered: "That's why we need Jesus—His light never goes out." This simple truth is what Advent teaches us: joy and light come from Christ, not from decorations or gifts.

So let us rejoice—Christmas is near! Let us prepare our hearts for Christ, the source of everlasting joy.



Our Pastor, Father George

Notes From Fr George:

Welcome Fr. John Sharuk in
St. Martha's Parish! - Fr. John, born in
Belarus, belongs to the Polish Province
in Poznan of the Pallottine Fathers and
Brothers. He has worked in the Pallottine
parish in Poland for the last five years.
We hope that he will settle well here in
Sarasota and will help us in St. Martha's
parish, fulfilling his priestly ministry.

Blessed Mary - Patron Saint of the Third Sunday of Advent - With Mary we anticipate in Christmas joyful celebrations, and we prepare for the Solemnity of the Nativity of Christ. She brought us pure joy and saving hope when she gave birth to Jesus, may the Blessed Virgin pray for us and for our families.

Called by Name vocation campaign - If you know a young man (age 16-30) who demonstrates virtue, a life of faith, and a heart for service, you can encourage him to consider the priesthood by sharing his name and contact information with the Vocation Office. These men will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Dewane, an invitation to a special dinner, and ongoing support from our Vocation Office. You can either fill out the card in your pew and drop it in the basket today during the collection or scan the QR code to submit the information online.

Christmas special Confessions - The St. Martha priests will take turns to hear confessions from 9am to 5pm on Monday, December 22 and on Tuesday, December 23 as well as from 9am to 12pm on Wednesday, December 24, 2025.

Christmas Mass schedule - Dec. 24 Christmas Vigil Masses at 4pm in the hall, 4pm in the church, 5:30pm, 8pm (Vietnamese Mass), 11:30pm -Carol Service, 12am midnight Mass.

Christmas Day (Dec. 25) Masses: 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12pm (Vietnamese Mass), 12pm.

Next Sunday, December 21, 2025, is Fourth Sunday of Advent. With prayers for God's blessing to you and your family, Father George

The St Martha & St Mary School 8th Grade Retreat - Catholic Social Teachings in Action Our students spent the day helping area Ministries. For Hope Seeds our students made 1,000 family packs that will be sent to third world countries to plant and will provide one years' worth of vegetables for each family. They provided 56 Blessing Bags filled with Food & Hygiene products for Resurrection House. They made 136 Christmas Door Hangers for all the residents of Casa Santa Marta. They made 100 Get Well Christmas Cards for the patients at Sarasota Memorial Hospital and 140 St. Nick gift bags for St Martha parish Religious Education (R.E.) students and they donated gift cards that will be given to clients of Family Promise Sarasota-Manatee and Resurrection House. All and all an AMAZING day!





Join Us for Christmas Masses

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Vigil Masses

4pm - Church

4pm - Hall

5:30pm - Church

8pm - Church (Vietnamese Mass)

11:30pm - Church - Carol Service

12:00am - Church - Midnight Mass

Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day Masses

7:30am - Church

9am - Church

10:30am - Church

12pm - Church

12pm - Hall (Vietnamese Mass)





Support for Separated or Divorced Catholics

12 Sessions Video-based Peer Support Group Begins January 15, 2026 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Venice

For details or to register bobandchrissmialek@icloud.com

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, you will ensure the future of our beautiful historic church in downtown Sarasota. Through your efforts, we will be able to minister to present and future generations. 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.

The nice perks are having your name added to the donor tree in the church courtyard, and being 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.



Now accepting applications for the 2025-26 Academic Year



Mary Fran Carroll Scholarship

The Catholic Community Foundation is proud to offer multiple \$3,500 renewable Mary Fran Carroll Scholarships to residents of Sarasota County, Florida worth up to \$17,500 for tuition, books and fees. These scholarships may be renewed annually for up to

5 years for students maintaining a 3.2 GPA as they pursue their undergraduate degree.

The Traditional Scholarships are open to graduating seniors and recent high school graduates (within the last 2 years) who wish to pursue an undergraduate degree in any accredited college or university.

The Non-traditional Scholarships are open to adult learners who are returning to school to obtain a college degree or vocational certification after being out of high school for three or more years.



James & Margaret Schwarz Scholarship

The Catholic Community Foundation is proud to offer the Schwarz scholarship valued at approximately \$7,700 to a graduating senior from Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School in Sarasota, Florida who will be pursuing a career in education.

This one-year scholarship is non-renewable and can be used for tuition, books, fees and housing expenses.



Frank & Florence Coseglia Scholarship

The Catholic Community Foundation is proud to offer the Frank & Florence Coseglia Scholarship to one financially needy graduating senior from each of the four Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Venice. This one-year, nonrenewable scholarship is valued at approximately \$1,100 and is intended

for students that provided significant service to their Catholic Schools and Parishes.

Apply For All Scholarships ccfdioceseofvenice.org/scholarships

Deadline: All applications and supporting documents due by March 2, 2026 at 11:59pm



1000 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34285 | 941.441.1124 | ccf@dioceseofvenice.org



All St Martha's youth are invited to join in the singing with the ST MARTHA MELODY MAKERS YOUTH CHOIR



For more information, Fall schedule, and to join, contact Joy at 941.587.3584 or mjoylfl@comcast.net

ENDOWMENT FUNDS



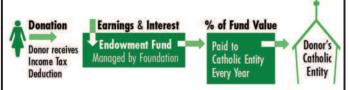
Make a Forever Gift

An Endowment Fund provides a permanent source of income to the Catholic organization of your choice. This fund is designed to function in perpetuity, making it possible for you to ensure long-term financial support and sustainability to your Parish, School, Diocese or other Catholic program or ministry about which you care most. Once established, anyone can make additional contributions to the fund in any dollar amount. You can choose to support an existing endowment fund, start your own named fund, or establish a fund to honor or memorialize friends, family or other loved ones.



7 You Can ...

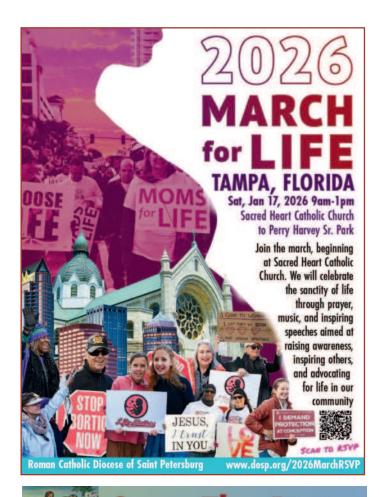
- Open an Endowment Fund with a minimum of \$10,000
- Designate any Catholic organization, or leave unrestricted to serve the greatest need
- Open with cash, marketable securities or other assets
- Avoid capital gains taxes on long-term, highly appreciated assets
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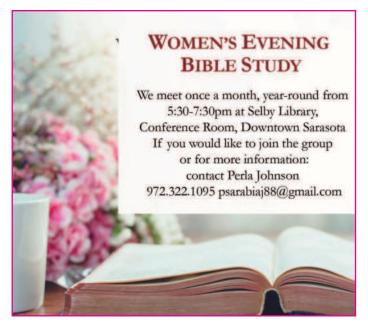


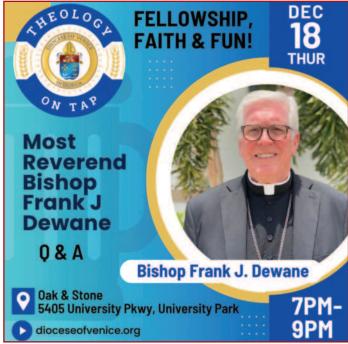
- Provide a perpetual annual source of revenue for the Catholic entity of your choice
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- Donations invested in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops guidelines for Socially Responsible Investments
- You can receive a reduction in income taxes

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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**

Weekly Mass Intentions Sun, Dec 14 Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11 7:30am......[JV] . . (L) Fr. Jan by David and Paula Shigley 9:00am......[GR]. . Nelly Youngn by Joe and Norg Stephan 9:00am......[FS] . . (Hall) (L) Fiorella Duarte by Adriana 10:30am.....[GS]. . For All Parishioners 12:00pm.....[GR]. . Jim Norris by his Wife 12:00pm.....[JV] . . (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions 5:30pm......[GR]. . L & D Mbrs of the Burch Family by Joe & Betty Plouffe Mon, Dec 15.... Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27 7:30am......[JV] . . Mary Martha Meade by Claire Meade 8:30am.......[GS]. . Dec'd Mbrs of the Zucara Family by Cathy Giblin 12:00pm [JV] . . Margaret Spero by Allyson and David Corchado & Family 5:30pm......[PM] . Service of the Word of God with Communion Tue, Dec 16. Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32 7:30am......[GR]. . Sergio Massara by Marcela Levin 8:30am......[JV] . . Robert and Ann Corey by John Corey 12:00pm.....[GS]. . Erwin Horwitz by Ann Crowley 5:30pm......[PM] . Service of the Word of God with Communion Wed, Dec 17.... Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17 7:30am......[GS]. . (L) Al Donohoe by Paul and Marge Lortie 8:30am......[GR]. . (L) Mary & (D) Robert Testin by Mary 12:00pm.....[GS]. . John Meyers by Ann Crowley 5:30pm......[PM]. . Service of the Word of God with Holy Communion Thu, Dec 18 Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25 7:30am......[GR]. . L & D Mbrs of the Polson Family by Melissa Furman 8:30am......[JV] . . Mary E. Newan by Cedric and Paula Dendy 12:00pm.....[FS].. Sergio Massara by Claire Collins 5:30pm......[PM] . Service of the Word of God with Holy Communion Fri, Dec 19 Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25 7:30am......[JV] . . Brendan McAninch by Tom and Jacqueline Kelly 8:30am......[FS] . . Missing and Exploited Children by Joe and Betty Plouffe 12:00pm.....[GR]. . Brian Wilson by John Iacopelli 5:30pm......[PM] . Service of the Word of God with Holy Communion Sat, Dec 20. Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38 7:30am......[GR]. . (L) Aldo Massara by his 7:30 Mass Friends 8:30am......[JV] . . Patricia Drumsta Prado by Marcelina Cunha 4:00pm......[FS] . . Sheila Heimbuch by Judi and Josh Reynolds 5:30pm......[GS]. . (L) Kathleen Gardy by Maureen Sun, Dec 21 Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24 7:30am......[JV] . . Ryan Halstead by Mom 9:00am......[GS]. . Margaret Spero by Al Spero 9:00am......[GR]. . (Hall) Janet Drygas by Jeff and Debbie Stern 10:30am.....[FS] . . For All Parishioners 12:00pm.....[GS]. . Robert, Susan, Michael Brabazon by Kathleen Brabazon 12:00pm.....[JV] . . (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions 5:30pm......[GS]. . L & D Mbrs of the Thomas Famioy by Joe & Betty Plouffe

Fr. George (GS), Fr. Joseph (JV), Fr. Fausto (FS), Fr. Gennadi (GR), Dn. Pat Macaulay (PM)



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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.

Service of the Word of God

Join us us Monday - Friday at 5:30pm in our church to celebrate the daily Service of the Word of God with Holy Communion.

Deacon Pat and Deacon Bill will be leading the service through Advent Season.





Events & Announcements

Heart of Sarasota - Community Pregnancy Clinics of Sarasota hosts Heart of Sarasota event, Together Miracles Happen, on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 5pm at GROVE Event

Venue, 10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch. The evening features Melissa Ohden, Founder and Director of The Abortion Survivors Network, as the keynote speaker. Mrs. Ohden is nationally recognized for advocacy and powerful testimony. This event is free, registration is required contact sarasotaevent@community4live.com.

Mental Health Counseling Services - Health Counseling, for adults and children provided by licensed mental health therapists. If you or someone you know is feeling stressed, anxious, depressed, helpless, or overwhelmed, Catholic Charities can help. For more information, please call 239.455.2655.

Join the Volunteer Team of Our Lady of Perpetual Help



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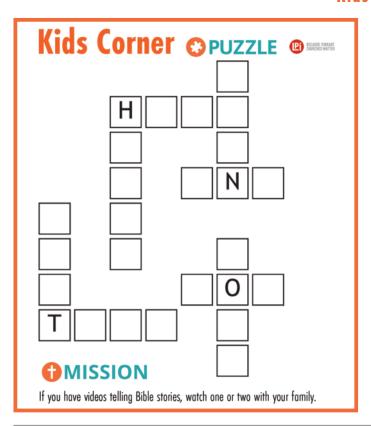
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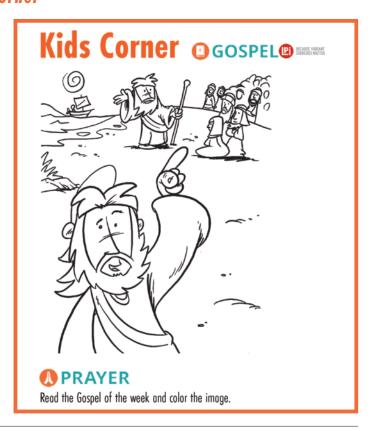
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Kids Corner -







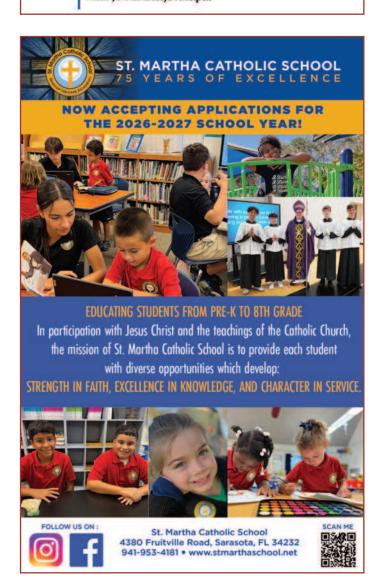


a Note From The Principal...

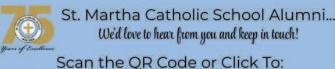
To Our St. Martha Parish Family,

Our students had a meaningful start to the season with service, learning, and faith in action. Our 2nd graders enjoyed a wonderful field trip to Historic Spanish Point, exploring archaeological features and discovering how early Floridians lived and worked. During All School Mass, Father George blessed our Advent wreath as we begin this sacred season of waiting and hope. Over Thanksgiving Break, students and families volunteered at All Faiths Food Bank and participated in an Adopt-A-Road cleanup along McIntosh Road, collecting bags of recyclables and trash as part of the Keep Sarasota County Beautiful project. We are grateful for our school community's joyful witness to God's call to serve others.

God Bless, Mari Jo Hanson, Principal







Update Your Contact Information **Share Your Milestones**

Receive School News & Event Updates

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







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. 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.

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 Diocese of Venice 941.484.9543	
Community Pregnancy Clinics 941.260.5427	
Casa Santa Marta	
Choir/Cantor Thomas Varas tvaras@stmartha.org	
Eucharist Adoration Parish Office 941.366.4210	
Extraordinary Ministers Dc Pat Macaulay dcpatrick@stmartha.org	
Finance Council Emil Efthimides ede24@usa.com	
Family Ministry Gary Kerschner Kerschg56@gmail.com	1
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 Randy Kelly 510.853.0401	
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	

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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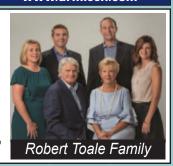


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