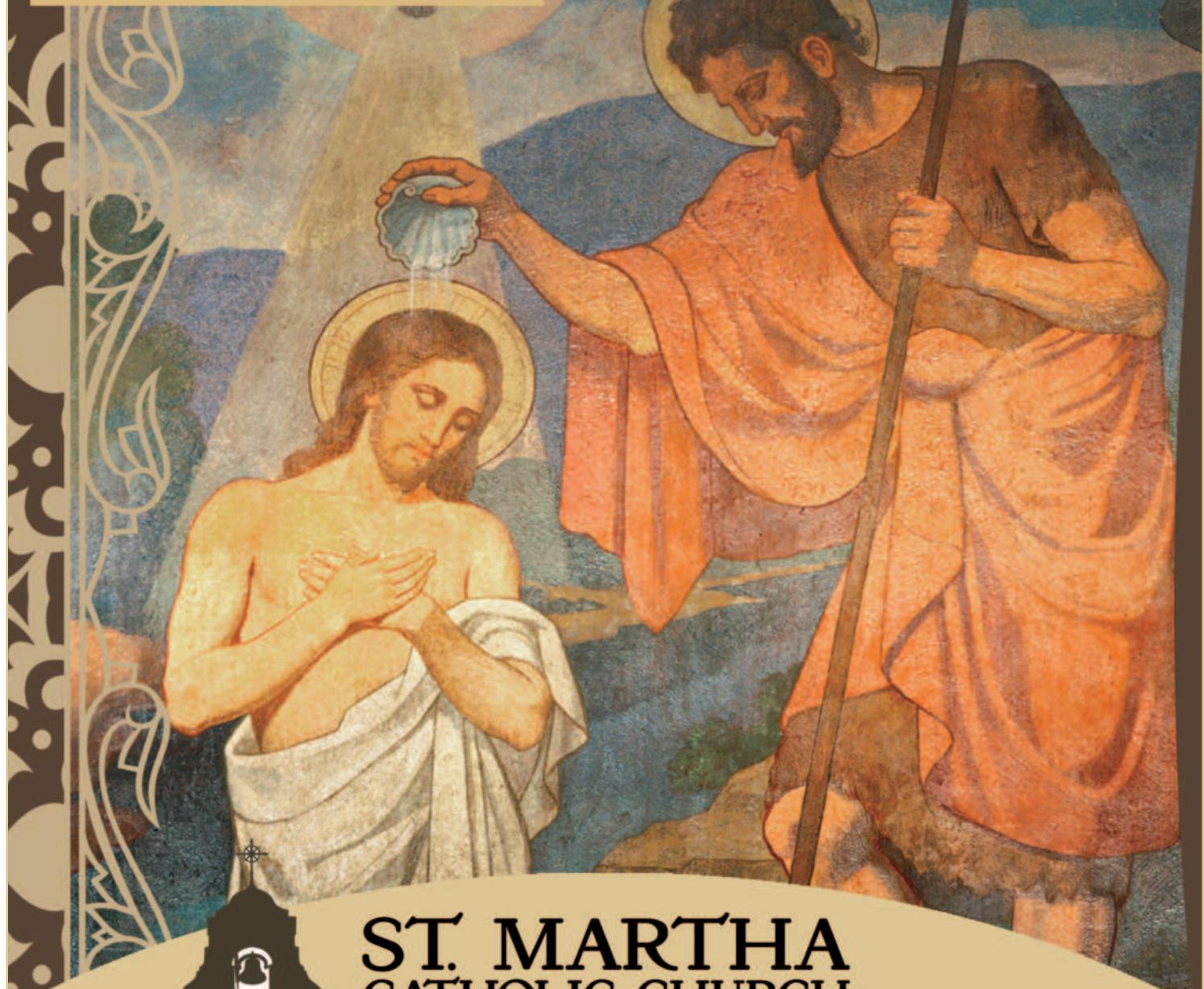


THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**"This is my beloved Son" - Mt 3:17**

ST. MARTHA

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass Schedule**Saturday** 7:30am • 8:30am • 4pm Vigil

4:00 (Hall) 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 smarthachurch_in_srq • YouTube St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

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

January 11, 2026 - The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
by Father George

The word baptism is not reserved to one thing. I was baptized in my teens as a scout. I went through baptism entering the first year of my high school and few other life initiations, which we call baptisms. Even the New Testament speaks about at least three kinds of baptisms:

- In water for the forgiveness of sins,
- In the Spirit and fire,
- Baptism, which Jesus wished was already completed.

John's Baptism, which Jesus received, had a bit different meaning from our Baptism, which comes from Jesus. When Jesus came to the Jordan River from Galilee, John himself told Him that he needed to be baptized by Jesus, and yet Jesus came to him. John already knew the difference between his Baptism and the Baptism that Jesus was to give. He spoke about it even before Jesus came to him when he said: *I baptize you in the water for the forgiveness of sins; there is one coming after me who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.* And there was the Lord's Passion, His cross, which He called His baptism which He was anxious to go through.

Obviously, we need to be baptized with the Baptism that Jesus established, and His Baptism leads to other sacraments and to salvation. His Baptism is the Baptism in water and in the name of the Holy Trinity. We believe that it is the Baptism in the Spirit and fire. It reveals the redeeming powers of Jesus, who, through His death and

resurrection, makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and the children of God. Faith in this is essential; when we believe in the death and the resurrection of Christ, we begin to turn away from our sins. Jesus was very anxious that His baptism of the cross would take place as soon as possible so that people will be saved from the power of evil. He wanted His forgiveness to be known across the world and received by everyone. We accept that our sins die with His death and

“... when we believe in the death and the resurrection of Christ, we begin to turn away from our sins. ... He rises back to live, so we rise to purity of our nature .”

- Father George

we are purified from them together with His resurrection. He rises back to life, so we rise to purity of our nature.

John's baptism was a preparation for this. His baptism, which Jesus described as a righteous thing, was an act of purification, washing of sins in the water, which was to become the form of a new baptism in the Spirit.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes the Christmas Time in the Catholic Church. It symbolizes the completeness and fullness of the revelation of Jesus, the Son of God. His extraordinary birth, His mysterious epiphany, and now the witness of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the Father from heaven speak to us this wonderful message. We learn its importance, we appreciate its benefits, we love to celebrate it, now we need to live it.



Our Pastor, Father George

Notes From Father George:

Circus Mass - Our Bishop Frank J. Dewane will be celebrating the 10:30am Mass this Sunday, January 11, for the intention of the Circus community. Come join our parish, which is the national **Shrine for the Circus**, for this special prayer for the artists involved in the Circus. May God bless them!

Apologies for the confusion about

5:30pm Mass on New Year's Eve! - On the one hand I placed a note in *The Bulletin* that the 5:30pm Mass on Wednesday, December 31 was the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Mother of God, which was my mistake. But, at the same time, we announced at every Mass on Sunday, December 28, that our Masses on New Year's Day will be: 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12pm and 5:30pm (no mention of the 5:30pm Vigil Mass).

Funeral Mass for Marge Lortie - I would like to inform you we will hold the Funeral Mass for her on Monday, January 12 at 10am after which we will bury her Cremains in the Garden of Remembrance. Rest in peace Marge!

Next Sunday, January 18, 2026, is the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

Prayer Intention for January 2026
For Prayer With The Word Of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Classes Resumed for Religious Ed



 **2026**
Butterfly
Ball

**Our lady of
Perpetual Help
Retreat and
Spirituality Center**
has been offering
Retreats and Events
for 30 years.

- Saturday, January 24
6-10pm
- Guest Speaker:
Fr Shawn Monahan, OMV
- St Thomas More's
Chelsea Center Sarasota
- Dinner, Drinks, Dancing
- Sponsor a Table
- Advertise
- Make a Donation

To Learn More Visit
olp-retreat.org/olp-2026-butterfly-ball

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.

St Martha Church
Attention Youth Grades 6-12



ROCK THE UNIVERSE
At Universal Studios Orlando
Saturday, January 24, 2026
Depart 2:00 p.m. — Return 2:00 a.m.
Cost is \$75.00
Bus transportation from
St Martha Church included.
(food/meals not included)
Questions contact:
sileo@stmartha.org
Space is limited

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



All St Martha's youth are invited to join in the singing with the

ST MARTHA MELODY MAKERS YOUTH CHOIR

Make a
joyful noise
unto the
LORD!
Psalm 100:1

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

CULTURE OF LIFE LUNCHEON

CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT MINISTRIES THAT WALK ALONGSIDE MOTHERS, FATHERS AND FAMILIES EVERY SINGLE DAY

Pregnancy Solutions **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**
Diocese of Venice, Inc.
Our Mother's House *Save*

Community Pregnancy Clinics **SUPPORT**
»»» AFTER ABORTION

HOSTED BY: THE SAN PEDRO RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY
NORTH PORT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 7997
SAN PEDRO HOLY NAME SOCIETY

JANUARY 18, 2026 - 12:00 PM

SAN PEDRO ACTIVITIES CENTER
14380 TAMIAAMI TRAIL
NORTH PORT, FL 34287

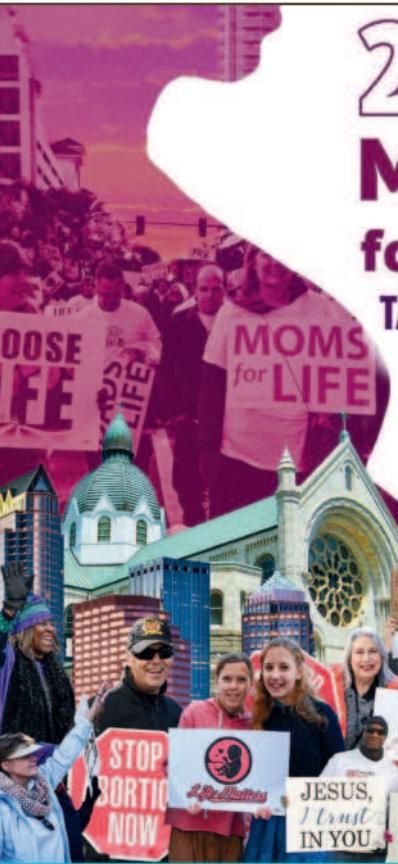
TICKETS \$25  ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DIVIDED EQUALLY AMONG THE PRESENTING CHARITIES

THE CULTURE OF LIFE IS NOT JUST A CAUSE - IT'S A CALLING

2026 MARCH for LIFE TAMPA, FLORIDA

Sat, Jan 17, 2026 9am-1pm
Sacred Heart Catholic Church to Perry Harvey Sr. Park

Join the march, beginning at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. We will celebrate the sanctity of life through prayer, music, and inspiring speeches aimed at raising awareness, inspiring others, and advocating for life in our community



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saint Petersburg www.dosp.org/2026MarchRSVP



Save The Date
Women's Emmaus Experience

March 6-8, 2026
Location Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center, Venice
Hosted by Epiphany Cathedral Parish
Come Journey with Us On The Road to Emmaus!

Contact Donna Vodraska
donnavodraska@aol.com • 941.496.4464 (home) • 630-336-0918 (cell)

Surviving Divorce
HOPE AND HEALING FOR THE CATHOLIC FAMILY

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

Join the Volunteer Team of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

We need your help:

- Reception
- Dining Room
- Dishwashing
- Gardening



Great opportunity for teens needing service hours.

941-486-0233
info@olph-retreat.org • olph-retreat.org
3989 South Moon Dr., Venice, FL 34292





Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida

College & Vocational Scholarships

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



St. Martha Catholic School Alumni...
We'd love to hear from you and keep in touch!

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



ENDOWMENT FUNDS



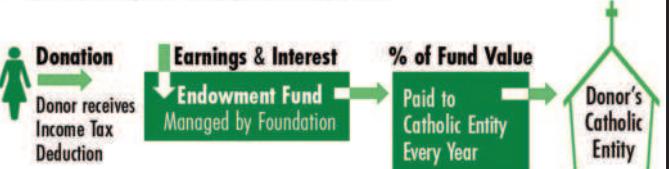
Make a Forever Gift

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.



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
- Make a bequest from your will or trust



The flowchart illustrates the process of an Endowment Fund. It starts with a 'Donation' (indicated by a person icon and an arrow) which leads to 'Earnings & Interest' (indicated by a green arrow). This is managed by the 'Endowment Fund' (indicated by a green box). The 'Endowment Fund' then provides a 'Paid to Catholic Entity Every Year' (indicated by a green arrow) to the 'Donor's Catholic Entity' (indicated by a house icon).

Key Benefits

- Provide a perpetual annual source of revenue for the Catholic entity of your choice
- Ensure your gift will always be used as you intended
- You can add to your existing Endowment Fund, or start one, with a gift or designation in your will, trust, or beneficiary designation
- 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

Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida | (941)441-1124

StMartha.org • 941.366.4210

5

A Message *from* BISHOP DEWANE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Since 1965, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has helped the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean through an annual collection. The donations received in this collection support pastoral programs throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Special priority is given to evangelization, marriage support, and catechetical programs, as well as mission related activities that promote human life and the dignity of all. By contributing to this collection, you aid ministries that train catechists in remote rural areas and build up pastoral programs that address the needs of refugees and victims of natural disasters in that part of the world.

In the Parishes throughout the Diocese of Venice, the Collection for the Church in Latin America will take place the weekend of January 17 and 18, 2026. Please be generous toward this collection and take this opportunity to share your faith with our sisters and brothers in Latin America and the Caribbean. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

I take this opportunity to extend to each of you my blessings in this New Year. Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

May God bless you for your kindness and generous response!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

COUPLES WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

February 14 and March 14, 2026

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in two locations: February 14th at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs at 11:00 a.m., and March 14th at St. Thomas More Parish in Sarasota, also at 11:00 a.m. Opportunity for a photo with Bishop Dewane will also be available both before and after Mass.

Please contact your local parish office for reservations no later than one week before the event you choose to attend.



Events & Announcements

Sunshine State Steak Cook-off - Mark your calendar for the 16th annual Sunshine State Steak Cook-off Championship, **Saturday, January 24**, in Ave Maria. Ave Maria Knights Council 14697 is hosting the event. Enjoy a day of family fun with food vendors, games and fun houses for the kids, as well as a farmer's market, and silent auction, all topped off with a championship steak dinner. The dinner includes a 16oz boneless ribeye steak, potato salad, roll and bottled water. To register a team for the cook-off, or to purchase tickets for the dinner, please visit ssco.org.

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**.

Pints with a Priest - Catholic singles in their 30s, 40s, and 50s are invited on **Saturday, January 31** from **6-8pm** to *The Vocation to Love: God's Plan for the Single Seeking Marriage*, featuring Fr. Mark Harris, St. John the Evangelist Parish at **Bone Hook Brewery**, 1514 Immokalee Rd, Unit 106 in Naples. No need to register.

WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

We meet once a month, year-round from 5:30-7:30pm at Selby Library, Conference Room, Downtown Sarasota

If you would like to join the group or for more information:
contact Perla Johnson
972.322.1095_psarabiaj88@gmail.com

Wedding Banners

Robert Giannetti & Marisa Cuva (2)
Samuel Kraus & Madison Howard (2)
Andrew Brooman & Silvia Corrie (2)

Weekly Mass Intentions



Sun, Jan 11 . . . Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17
7:30am.....[GS].. Nancy Hovsepian by Dan and Jill Veitkus
9:00am.....[GR].. Andrew Stengel by Mom and Dad
9:00am.....[FS].. (Hall) Bruce Houghton by his Wife
10:30am.....[FD].. Circus Mass - For All Parishioners
12:00pm.....[GS].. (L) Ron Hovsepian & Family by Dan and Jill Veitkus
12:00pm.....[JV].. (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm.....[GR].. L & D Mbrs of the Cummins Family by Bob & Virginia Forget

Mon, Jan 12 . . . 1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20
7:30am.....[GS].. Joana Drumsta by Marcelina Cunha
8:30am.....[JV].. Robert Scheider by Bridget Revell
12:00pm.....[GS].. Wally Pope by John

Tue, Jan 13 . . . 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
7:30am.....[JV].. (L) Fr. Joseph Vu, C.R.M. by David and Paula Shigley
8:30am.....[GS].. A Greater Respect for all Human Life
12:00pm.....[JV].. Modesda Tesorero by Romulo and Mafalda Tengco

Wed, Jan 14 . . . 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39
7:30am.....[GR].. Cheryl by the Violette Family
8:30am.....[GR].. Larry Arronis by Tina Mroczkowski
12:00pm.....[GS].. Dorothy Truffaut by Kathleen Purcell

Thu, Jan 15 . . . 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
7:30am.....[JV].. Patricia Visnosky by the Heibel Family
8:30am.....[GR].. Mary LoCicero by Helene Halpin
12:00pm.....[FS].. Ferdinand Thompson by Mary Anne Thompson

Fri, Jan 16 . . . 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
7:30am.....[GR].. Sergio Massara by Joe and Nora Stephan
8:30am.....[JV].. (L) The Wordsworth Family by Susan Prince
12:00pm.....[FS].. Shelly Clark by the Duci-Kovacik Family

Sat, Jan 17 . . . 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mk 2:13-17
7:30am.....[JV].. Fe De Leon by Rose Arellano
8:30am.....[GS].. Thomas and Elinor Norton by Gerard and Anne Norton
4:00pm.....[GS].. (L) Dan and Jill Veitkus and Fam. by Dan and Jill Veitkus
4:00pm.....[FS].. (Hall) All Souls in Purgatory
5:30pm.....[GR].. Joe Warner by Rosemarie DiLorenzo

Sun, Jan 18 . . . Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34
7:30am.....[GR].. Jesus Manuel Calvo, Jr. by Lilly Volpert
9:00am.....[FS].. Gregory Shaver by David and Kate Shaver
9:00am.....[GS].. (Hall) Adriana Banding by Maurizia and Willer Ghelfi
10:30am.....[GR].. For All Parishioners
12:00pm.....[FS].. Keith Cooney by Jackie Lynch
12:00pm.....[JV].. (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm.....[GS].. Yanti by the Boryszewski Family
Fr. George (GS), Fr. Joseph (JV), Fr. Fausto (FS), Fr. Gennadi (GR),
Bp. Frank Dewane (FD)

Giving Open Until January 2026

CATHOLIC FAITH Appeal



**2025 Catholic Faith Appeal
GOAL \$450,000**

**Given to Date \$321,827
Pledged \$323,126
Percentage of Goal 71.81%**

WAYS TO GIVE

CHECK: Payable to CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL
Credit or Debit Card, Gift of Securities, IRA:
Send us the information via the pledge card or
dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa

Info: call 941.486.4719 or email cfa@dioceseofvenice.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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.

St. Mary Academy needs your help!

As the only Catholic special needs School in the Diocese of Venice, doing great work helping students with varying exceptionalities, St Mary Academy is asking for your support for their raffle drawing. Please send in the order form or call Connie Taft at 941-685-2108. Connie will be speaking at all the masses this weekend!



St. Mary Academy



WIN \$5,000.00

Please Support Catholic Education. Get your tickets today!
The only diocesan school for students with disabilities.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026 - 8:15 a.m.

ST. MARY ACADEMY - TICKETS \$50.00 EACH

Fill out the coupon below. Make checks payable to St. Mary Academy. Mail it to St. Mary Academy:
 4380 Fruitville Rd. Sarasota, FL 34232 ATTN: Drawing Committee. A ticket receipt will be sent to your home.
 Please call Connie Taft at (941) 685-2108 with a charge card. Only 1000 tickets are sold. Great odds to win!!

Buyer's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Parish: _____

Credit Card No: _____

Expiration Date: _____

CVV: _____

Kids Corner

Kids Corner PUZZLE

LPI BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

Unscramble the words from today's Gospel:

Jesus • Galilee • Jordan • baptized • John • water • dove • voice • heaven

esJsu J e s u s

ohJn o h J n

hevane h e v a n e

laGilee l a G i l e e

wetra w e t r a

rodJan r o d J a n

devo d e v o

batidpez b a t i d p e z

vocie v o c i e

MISSION

Ask your parents to tell you about the day you were baptized.

Kids Corner COLOR

LPI BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.





8th Grade Career Fair

8th Graders researched and presented their chosen career path at the Career Fair.



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!

EDUCATING STUDENTS FROM PRE-K TO 8TH GRADE

In participation with Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church, our mission is to provide each student with diverse opportunities which develop:

STRENGTH IN FAITH, EXCELLENCE IN KNOWLEDGE, AND CHARACTER IN SERVICE.

FOLLOW US ON :  

St. Martha Catholic School
4380 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232
941-953-4181 • www.stmarthaschool.net

SCAN ME 




A Note From The Principal...

To Our St. Martha Parish Family,

Our Students continue to live out our call to serve and learn with purpose. Our 2nd graders shared Christ's love through a meaningful service project, collecting stuffed animals and creating gift bags, ornaments, and handwritten cards. Nearly 300 bags were donated to local organizations supporting children in need, bringing comfort, joy, and compassion to those in need. Our 8th graders also showcased their hard work at the Career Fair, researching and presenting various career paths as they reflected on their God-given talents and future callings. May these experiences continue to shape our students' hearts, guiding them to use their gifts in service to others and to God.

God Bless,
Mari Jo Hanson, Principal

2nd Grade Service Project

2nd Graders collected new and gently used stuffed animals, decorated gift bags, created ornaments and made handwritten cards, donating nearly 300 bags to local organizations that support children in need, bringing comfort, joy, and a little extra love to those who may need it most. As they continue to learn about kindness, empathy and helping others, this is a wonderful opportunity for students to practice generosity and understand the impact they can have on their community.



Fun Fact about the ART in St MARTHA Catholic Church

Do you see the colorful wagon wheels to the left and right of the alter?

They are full-sized, restored, and colorfully painted real circus wagon wheels, and they commemorate the deep historic and spiritual connection between our parish and the circus community dating back to 1927 when the *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus* moved winter quarters to Sarasota. Father Charles L. Elslander, the first resident pastor of St Martha, developed a close relationship with the traveling show folk and circus community, embracing their heritage and culture, and even blessing the circus train each Spring as it left Sarasota for the touring season (depicted in the 1951 film *The Greatest Show on Earth*).



The wheels are also a symbol of gratitude and visual tribute to the circus community for their priceless support from 1935-1941 when they staged special performances on the property (now part of the parking lot) to help raise funds for the construction of the new Church we adore today.

Read more about our Parish at StMartha.org.



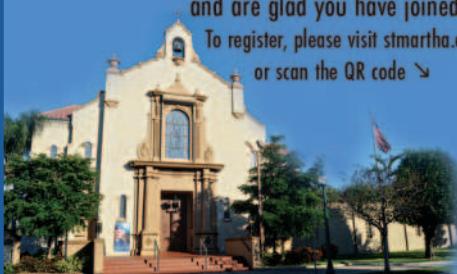
The Pallottines (Society of Catholic Apostolate)

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
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 Runnels, Sacristan

Janet Cocco, Sacristan

Joe Angelicola, Sacristan

Miguel Jimenez, Facilities Manager

Eris Nunez, Maintenance

Carlos Sierra Naples, 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		941.366.4448
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
Herrig Caritas (9-11am, M-F)	Tony Cocco, Choir	941.366.5620
Hospitality Ministry	Beth Cannata	941.321.2953
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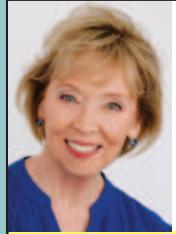
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