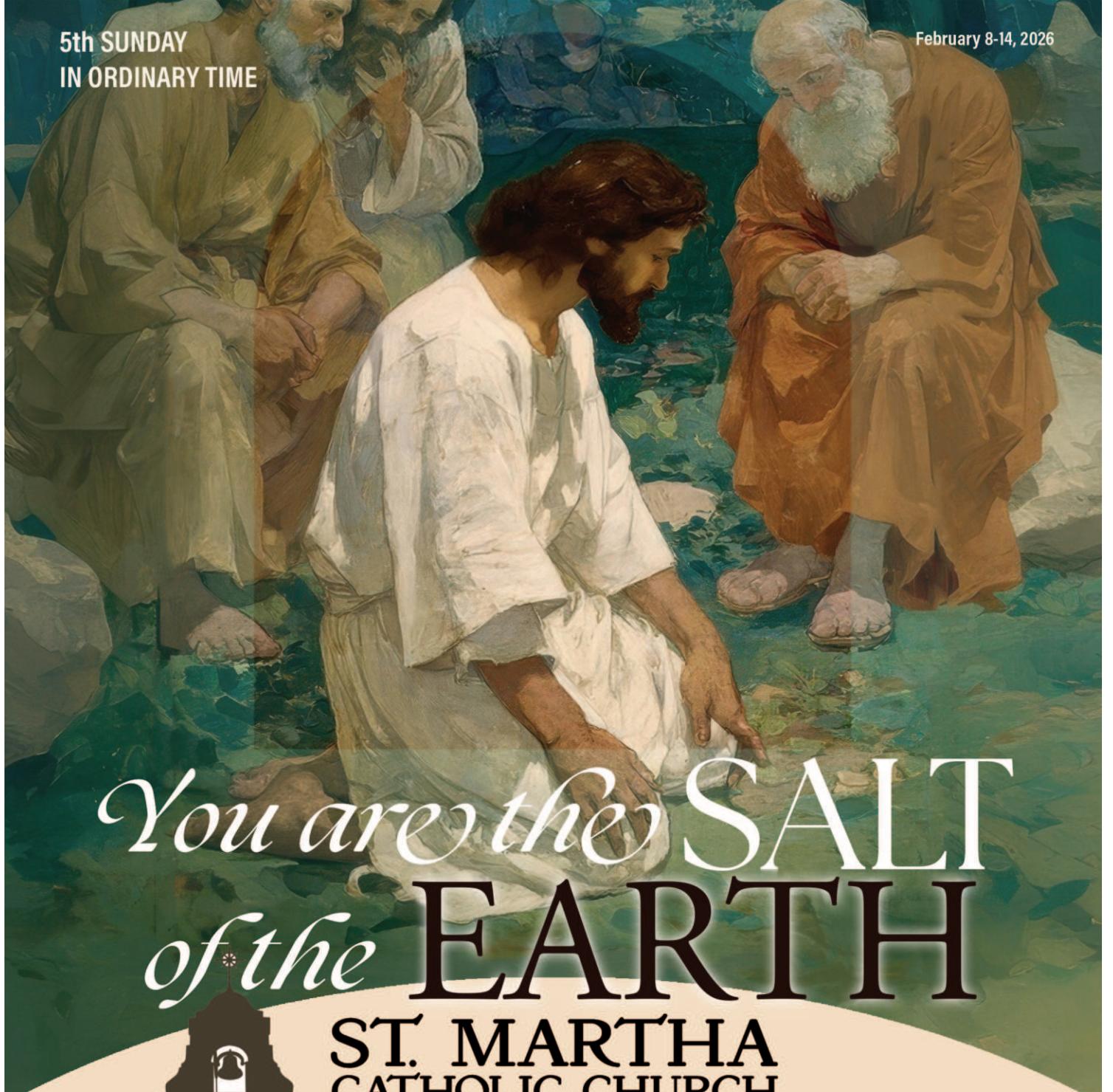


5th SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

February 8-14, 2026



You are the SALT of the EARTH



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 smarthalchurch_in_srq • YouTube St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

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

February 8, 2026 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

by Deacon Vern

Take the compliments while you can! You just heard Jesus say to you in this Gospel reading: *You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world.* Nice compliments. Not deserved? That's okay; take them anyway as ideals to live up to, as goals to be sought out in the months and years ahead.

When you listen to the Gospels you can believe that Jesus speaks through his disciples to you, who are his contemporary disciples, the only ones he has alive and kicking on his corner of the earth, in this moment in time. There he is and here you are. He is speaking to you. Try to listen. There is, of course, a gap between you; there is a significant spread of years. You are literally centuries apart. There may even be something of a cultural gap between you. He was quite literally a man of another age. You have to be careful that you understand what he says, and that you really are hearing his words.

So it might be worth taking a few moments to settle on the meaning of

"...Jesus is urging you to show forth - not show off but show forth - your good works. No grandstanding here, just pure straightforward good example. No false humility, just stand-up, let the whole world see some good example - your good example."

- Deacon Vern

the time of Jesus, the word was used metaphorically in reference to loyalty, durability, and fidelity. So to be called *salt of the earth* was a tribute to your integrity as a person. Salt was also used as a unit of exchange. You may have heard the expression (he's worth his salt) meaning worthy of his pay. In any case, to be thought of as *the salt of the earth* is to be held in very high regard.

But what if *salt goes flat*? as Jesus asks in this Gospel story; what if the salt *loses its flavor?* Then it is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. This is a warning against infidelity, against abandoning the good news. If the disciple loses the message, then discipleship itself will be lost. So, in accepting the compliment that Jesus offers you today when he says, *you are the salt of the earth*, renew your commitment to him and to his message. Make sure you preserve that message. And, as is so often the case with religious realities, you keep good things by giving them away. So in recommitting yourself today to Christ and his message, recommit yourself to the evangelical task of spreading that word, of sharing the good news with others.

continued to ↗



Our Pastor, Father George

Notes From Father George:

Thank you, Fr. Peter, for the parish retreat! - Thank you for preaching to us during this year's parish retreat, February 1-4. Thanks for traveling to us, for the Holy Masses you celebrated for us, your mission talks and prayers and for your time spent hearing confessions and speaking to some of us individually. We thank you for your reverend respect to the word of God, your clear and enjoyable sermons and homilies and for the richness of experiences with the people of God, which you generously shared with us. God bless you in your work!

February 11 is the World Day of the Sick - designated by St. John Paul II who said, in 1992, that this day is: *a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding us to see in our sick brothers and sisters the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying, and rising, achieved the salvation of humankind.* God, in his own way, answers all prayers so let us pray to God through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, whom we remember on February 11, for our sick, for ourselves, for medics and for all carers and helpers..

Next Sunday, February 15, 2026, is the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

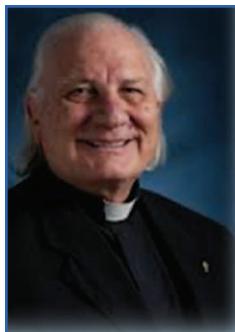
With prayers for God's blessing to you and your family,
Father George

↙ Deacon Vern's Sermon continued from previous column

As you do, you quite literally become *the light of the world*, the second compliment paid to you in today's Gospel. *You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden*, says Jesus. *Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly father.*

These are dark days and Jesus is asking you to brighten them up. He is urging you to show forth - not show off but show forth - your good works. No grandstanding here, just pure straightforward good example. No false humility, just stand-up, let the whole world see some good example - your good example. These are indeed dark days in the suffering and poverty of many. There is darkness in the deceit and hypocrisy of many who should be leaders. There is darkness in scandal and crime. There is darkness in terrorist threats. There is darkness in the fears that envelop so many people. What they need to see is the light and they can see the light in the good works that you do, in your generous deeds, in your standing up and speaking out, in your open hands and warm embrace.

Just be a genuinely good person - the salt of the earth - and don't succumb to a false humility that would have you hide your goodness under a bushel basket. The world needs a few more smiles, a few more pats on the back, a few more acts of generosity, a few more thoughtful notes and unexpected telephone calls. The world needs more virtue, of course, more truth telling and caregiving. You've got plenty to give so go ahead and give. And please don't worry about people noticing what you do. Let them notice. Not so that they can admire you, but so as Jesus said, *they may glorify your heavenly father.*



Join Father Fausto for Bible Study

The Gospel According to Luke

Fr. Fausto will conduct a seven-week program discussing *The Gospel According to Luke*. Evening or morning sessions available in Brother Geenen Hall:

Evening Session 6-7:30pm • Thursdays February 12 to March 26
Morning Session 9:30-11am • Fridays February 13 to March 27

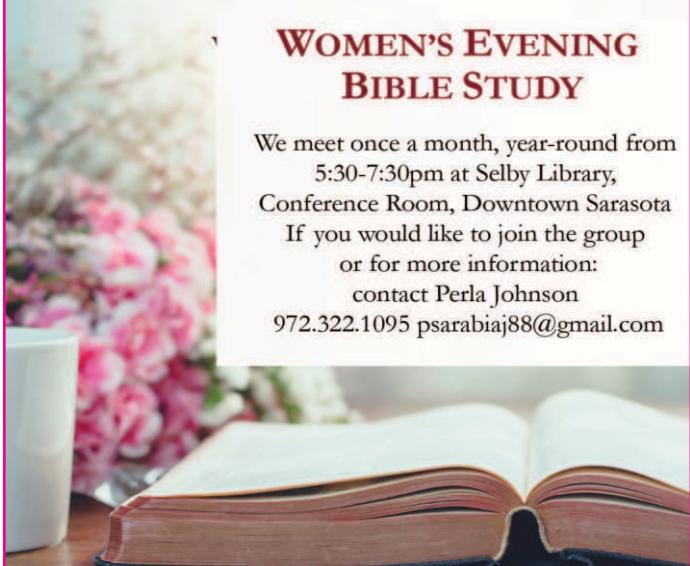
Bibles provided upon request. Participants are encouraged to read the *The Gospel According to Luke* prior to the program and bring a Catholic Bible to the sessions. Refreshments served.

Reserve a seat 941.366.4210 ext 0 - email mbrand@stmartha.org

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



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



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

Wedding Bans
Noah Aaron & Rebekah Stegmayer(2)

JOIN US!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
AFTER ALL THE WEEKEND
MASSES IN THE COURTYARD

February 7-8

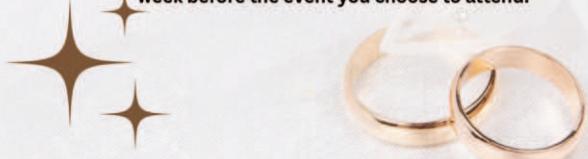
for more information, contact: <https://KofC3358.org>

COPLES 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.



**Fun Fact about the
ART in St MARTHA Catholic Church**

The Story of Visitation, Our Stained Glass Window

Each stained glass window along the North and South wall inside St Martha Church is a hand-painted, crafted piece of art created in 1941 by the KJ Mueller Studio of Zephyrhills, Florida. Intended to lead the parishioners and visitors through events in the life of Christ, Mary, and the early Church, *Visitation*, is a colorful example. The biblical scene, from Luke 1:39-45 is on the North Wall and depicts, the Virgin Mary in blue, newly pregnant with Jesus, visiting her cousin Elizabeth, kneeling on the right, who is also pregnant. This symbolizes the private recognition of Jesus and John the Baptist before their births. Mary is calm and composed as she and Elizabeth look at each other, while Elizabeth recognizes Mary as Mother of my Lord. *Visitation* reflects private *recognition of holiness*.

Our Stained Glass Windows are historically significant and included in the 1994 *State of Florida Historical Stained Glass Survey*. They were recently restored by the nephew of the original artist.



Read much more about our Parish at StMartha.org.

Weekly Mass Intentions



Sun, Feb 8 Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

7:30am.....[GS].. Larry Corsaro by the Corsaro Family
9:00am.....[GR].. Marge Lortie by the Clergy
9:00am.....[FS].. (Hall) Michael Houlihan by Michael and Margaret
10:30am.....[GR].. For All Parishioners
12:00pm.....[GS].. Richard LaPointe by Marna O'Sullivan
12:00pm.....[JV].. (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm.....[GR].. John and Delores Starandwicz by Jeff and Debbie Stern

Mon, Feb 9 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Mk 6:53-56

7:30am.....[JV].. In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony by Angelica
8:30am.....[GS].. Carol Ann Salmon by the Salmon Family
12:00pm.....[GS].. (L) Monica Lingen by her Sister

Tue, Feb 10 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Mk 7:1-13

7:30am.....[GS].. Joseph Sirianni by the Weir Family
8:30am.....[JV].. Roseann Rivera by Raymond and Susan Lahey
12:00pm.....[GR].. (L) Marcella Levin by Dolores and Ann

Wed, Feb 11 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23

7:30am.....[GS].. (L) Natalia and Michael Sabina by Wieslawa Chmieloniec
8:30am.....[GS].. Lena Spero by Ann Crowley
12:00pm.....[GR].. (L) Patricia Devine by Maureen Devine

Thu, Feb 12 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30

7:30am.....[GR].. Peter Keninsky by John Iacopelli
8:30am.....[JV].. L & D Mbrs of the Forget Family by Bob & Virginia Forget
12:00pm.....[FS].. Carole Ann Salmon by the Salmon Family

Fri, Feb 13 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Mk 7:31-37

7:30am.....[JV].. Poor Souls in Purgatory by John Iacopelli
8:30am.....[GR].. Dr. Antoan Batri by Magda Kovacik and Family
12:00pm.....[FS].. Jerry Reddy by Bunny

Sat, Feb 14 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10

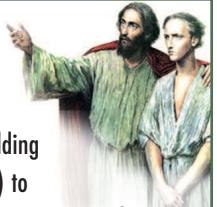
7:30am.....[GS].. Anne Mathilda Law by Scott and Rebecca Winter
8:30am.....[JV].. Ken Ryan by Maureen Devine
4:00pm.....[GS].. Roland Kruse by his Wife
4:00pm.....[GR].. (Hall) Special Intentions
5:30pm.....[GS].. Christopher David Furlong by Dotti and Bob Cory

Sun, Feb 15 Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

7:30am.....[GR].. L & D Mbrs of the Plouffe Family by Betty and Joe Plouffe
9:00am.....[GS].. (L) Al Spero by Ann Crowley
9:00am.....[GR].. (Hall) Michael J. & Michael F. Gately by Teresa Squires
10:30am.....[FS].. For All Parishioners
12:00pm.....[GS].. All Souls in Purgatory by Martina O'Sullivan
12:00pm.....[JV].. (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm.....[GS].. Gerald J. Boryszewski, Jr. by Mom and Dad

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

Events & Announcements



Milestone Wedding Anniversary Masses - An

invitation to all couples celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary (25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or more years) to join **Bishop Frank J. Dewane** for an Anniversary Mass in your honor. The Diocese of Venice hosts two Wedding Anniversary Masses each year: **Saturday, February 14 at 11am**, at **St. Leo the Great Parish**, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs; and **Saturday, March 14, at 11am**, at **St. Thomas More Parish**, 2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota. A luncheon follows the Mass. Photos with Bishop Dewane are provided for each couple. To register contact your local Parish office no later than one week before the Mass you wish to attend. Contact **Jim Gontis, 941.484.4754** for additional information.

Catholic Women's Program Offered at Four Diocesan Parishes -

She Shall Be Called Woman (SHE) is a free, Parish-based Catholic women's program, open to all Catholic women. SHE is a place for Catholic women who want to be truly known and loved on their journey with the Lord. It features different topics of study each season, designed to educate and foster deep sisterhood and spiritual growth through talks, discussion, and prayer. **A new session has begun and continues through April**. Parishes in the Diocese of Venice currently hosting the program include **Epiphany Cathedral Parish, Venice**, contact **Elise Filbrandt, 616.446.5902**; **St. Frances Cabrini Parish**, contact **Mary Jo Chronis, 941.776.9097**, ext. 209; **San Pedro Parish**, North Port, contact **Kristin McCombie, 941.204.0660**; **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**, Grove City, contact **Shauna Haggerty, 210.857.8833**. For more information or to join, contact one of the participating Parishes, or **Jim Gontis at gontis@dioceseofvenice.org**.

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**.

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

Called by Name Campaign - Is God calling you, or someone you know, to the priesthood? If someone you know is a young man of faith and service, offer support and encouragement by submitting his name to the **Called by Name** campaign! The campaign is an effort by the Diocese of Venice in Florida to offer support to men whom God may be calling to the priesthood. For more information about the program, or to submit the name(s) of someone who could be one of our future priests, venicevocations.net/called or pince@dioceseofvenice.org.

Kids Corner COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Kids Corner PUZZLE

Unscramble the words from today's Gospel.

satl	s _ a _ l t
lpam	_____
hlil	_____
lithg	_____
godo	_____
erhat	_____
perasi	_____
cyti	_____
sihen	_____

salt
earth
light
city
hill
lamp
shine
good
praise

MISSION God loves peacemakers. The next time you are tempted to argue with someone, think of ways to get along instead.

Events & Activities

A Message *from*

BISHOP DEWANE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each Lenten Season, Catholics embark on a forty-day journey, beginning on Ash Wednesday. During this Holy Season, Catholics are called to focus in an intentional way on prayer, fasting and almsgiving so as to grow in loving God and neighbor.

Each of these three Lenten pillars presents unique challenges for us. Through prayer, we consider the challenges faced by the world's most vulnerable people and how God is calling us to respond. By fasting, one is to let go of desires for material things, making room to understand more the needs of others. When alms are given, we do so with compassion toward our sisters and brothers who are in most immediate need.

Lenten alms, collected through the CRS Rice Bowl, go to alleviate hunger and poverty in communities around the world and in the United States. Seventy-five percent of gifts support CRS' international humanitarian programs, such as agriculture projects to improve crops, sanitation projects to bring clean water to communities, and education projects to provide resources and training. The other 25% of gifts remain here in the Diocese of Venice, supporting families through food pantries and soup kitchens.

Please consider picking up a Rice Bowl packet at your Parish on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026, or the following Sunday, and join in this simple, yet powerful Lenten practice. On behalf of those who benefit from your participation, I seek your generosity and express their gratitude, as well as my appreciation for your support and kindness.

This opportunity is taken to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers throughout this Lenten Season.

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

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



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)



Planning for Tomorrow

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM—noon
Parish Hall Conference Room

A COMPLIMENTARY LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOP

The Saint Martha Catholic Church has partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida and local estate planning experts to host a complimentary workshop, which will provide participants with the knowledge they need to make critical health, legal and financial decisions for themselves and/or a loved one.

Attendees will obtain important information on:
Avoiding Guardianship, Wills vs. Trusts, Probate, Durable Power of Attorney, Beneficiary Designations, Healthcare Surrogates, Advanced Directives, Financial Planning, Smarter Ways to Give and more.

RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY
CALL: 941-486-4722



PLEASE JOIN US FOR
DINNER & DANCE

Join us for dinner & dance filled with laughter, good food, and unforgettable moments with wonderful company.

\$35/person includes dinner, wine, beer, and band.

March 7, 2026



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.

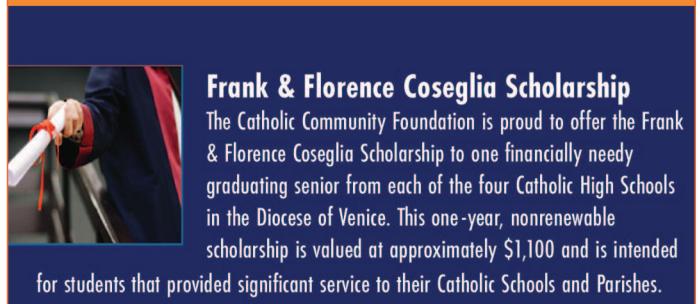
The Non-traditional Scholarships are open to adult learners who are returning to school to obtain a college degree or vocational certification after being out of high school for three or more years.



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 that 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. MARY ACADEMY

EST. 2000

4380 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, Florida 34232

FAITHFUL

INSPIRED

RESPONSIBLE

ENGAGED

Drawing on Thursday, April 16 at 8:15am

WIN \$5,000

DRAWING ORDER FORM

Ticket sales benefit St Mary Academy

- One Drawing - \$5,000
- Great Odds - Only 1,000 tickets sold
- Need not be present to win
- Split a ticket with family, friends, or give as a gift
- Drawing takes place at St Mary Academy on Thursday, April, 16 at 8:15am
- No mechanically reproduced entries accepted
- No purchase necessary. Minimum donation \$50
- Drawing completed in accordance with the requirements of Section 849.0935, FL Statues
- Because of Diocesan regulations, we are required to deduct taxes from winnings

Thank You for helping St. Mary Academy. You are making a difference!

Fill out the coupon below.

Make check payable to St. Mary Academy. Mail it with your \$50 donation/payment to:

Attention Drawing Committee, 4380 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, Florida 34232

We will then mail you a ticket receipt.

Please include two address labels per ticket for our use in returning your receipt.

ORDER FORM

AMOUNT PD. _____

CHECK #: _____

OF TICKETS: _____

BUYER'S NAME: _____

LOCAL ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

VISA MASTERCARD

CARD NUMBER: _____

AMEX DISCOVER

EXPIRATION DATE: _____

ZIP CODE (CARD): _____

SECURITY CODE: _____

Buyer's Parish Affiliation: _____



Catholic Schools Week

Buddy Day: students enjoyed wearing matching colors with their *Buddy Class* and creating cards for the homebound and hospitalized parishioners from St. Martha Parish. **Celebrating the Nation Day** included a very special Guest Speaker, Israel DT Del Toro, Jr., who shared his story and experience and his important message of never giving up, finding your individual spark, and asking *who am I? Who am I going to be?* **Primary students** enjoyed a funny Wacky Science Show and Intermediate and Middle School Students attended the Parker "Basketball" Jones show, which combines tricks and games along with a message of patience and kindness.



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

FOLLOW US ON : St Martha Catholic School
4380 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL 34236
941.953.4181 • StMarthaSchool.net

SCAN ME

A Note From The Principal...

To Our St. Martha Parish Family,

Catholic School Week was a meaningful time of faith and perseverance for our school community. We were honored to welcome Senior Master Sergeant Israel Del Toro, Jr., who challenged students to reflect on the power of attitude, resilience, and faith in overcoming life's obstacles, and Parker Jones, who encouraged students to lead with kindness and compassion toward others. Both speakers shared how their Catholic school experiences helped shape their values and life paths. It was also a joy to connect with members of our parish community and share the mission and impact of Catholic education. Throughout the week, we were reminded, when we root our lives in faith, God gives us the strength to persevere and to serve others with love.

God Bless, Mari Jo Hanson, Principal



100 Days of School

Primary students had so much fun celebrating 100 Days of School!



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 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.

A Message from BISHOP DEWANE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year on Ash Wednesday, Dioceses throughout the United States take up a Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Funds raised for this Collection support ministry programs in countries which have endured years of communist oppression, occupation, or war, and help renew aspects of Church life.

Over the last four years, the war has profoundly affected the Church in Ukraine. You can help the Church, not only in Ukraine, but also in twenty-five other countries in Central and Eastern Europe, witness Christ's mercy in the midst of terrible hardship, by donating to this special collection on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Donations received through this collection provide crucial funds to respond to the needs of displaced families, orphaned children, and other victims of the conflict in the communities most affected by the war. Your generosity helps to provide emotional and spiritual support to those most impacted by the war. Thank you for your kindness in sharing your blessings with the Faithful of Central and Eastern Europe. May God continue to bless you for your goodness. I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers as we begin our Lenten Journey.

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

Important Contact Information

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	Kerschhg56@gmail.com
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

Diocese of Venice

1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285. 941.484.9543

Neighboring Diocesan Parishes

St. Jude	Sarasota	941.955.3934
Christ the King	Sarasota	941.924.2777
Incarnation	Sarasota	941.921.6631
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs	Sarasota	941.755.1826
St. Patrick	Sarasota	941.378.1703
St. Mary Star of the Sea	Longboat Key	941.383.1255
St. Thomas More	Sarasota	941.923.1691
St. Joseph	Bradenton	941.756.3732
St. Michael the Archangel	Siesta Key	941.349.4174
Our Lady of the Angels	Lakewood Ranch	941.752.6770

Bishop Nevins Academy

4380 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232

St. Martha Catholic School. . . Principal Mrs. Mari Jo Hanson 941.953.4181
 St. Mary Academy. Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds 941.366.4010

Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 941.371.4917



THIS DOCTOR IS AMONG THE BEST
SPINAL DECOMPRESSION PHYSICIANS
IN AMERICA

Midtown Medical Park
1215 S. East Avenue
Suite 210
Sarasota, FL 34239

NO DRUGS
NO INJECTIONS
& NO SURGERY!

SarasotaDiscCenter.com



Dr. David Cifra, DC
Parishioner

Medical Breakthrough Technology for Neck and Low Back Pain.
Call 941.358.2224 or 315.345.7390 today to schedule a FREE CONSULTATION!



Najmy
Thompson

Estate Planning | Probate | Real Estate
Corporate Planning | Community Association Law



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

1401 8th Ave. W. 6320 Venture Dr., Ste. 104
Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch,
FL 34205 FL 34202
(941) 748-2216 (941) 907-3999

WWW.NAJMYTHOMPSON.COM

PROFESSIONAL



PLUMBING DESIGN, INC.

(941) 355-5400

"Call The Professionals"

MISCH
IMPLANT & AESTHETIC
DENTISTRY

Oral Surgery, Periodontal,
Restorative, Dental Hygiene
Providing simple to complex
specialty dental care in one
convenient location



120 S Tuttle Ave
Sarasota, FL 34237
941.957.6444

Check our reviews online
www.drmisch.com



Follow us on
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

La Gran Mansión
BANQUETS & EVENTS

All Inclusive Event Venue

Ideal for: Weddings,
Quinceañera, Sweet 16,
Corporate Meetings and More
941.392.0577

LaGranMansionFL.com • Info@lagranmansionfl.com



WE DO IT ALL!
PRESSURE
WASHING

941-315-5651



Sunday Brunch!

8:30am-4:30pm

C'est La Vie!

Downtown Sarasota

1553 Main St

941.906.9575

CestLaVieSarasota.com



TINA M. MROCKOWSKI
Parishioner & Attorney at Law
Wills/Trusts and Estates
Real Estate
Tax Exempt Organizations
(941) 366-5510
tinam@bowmangeorge.com

BG BOWMAN, GEORGE,
SCHEB, KIMBROUGH,
KOACH & CHAPMAN, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
2750 Ringling Blvd, Suite 3
Sarasota, FL 34237

Brian's Auto REPAIR
EXPERT AC REPAIR GUARANTEED!
ACDelco Service Center

MR. FREEZE
941-926-2526
Full Service Import & Domestic Auto Repair



Stacey Maloney
Attorney, M.B.A.
Business Administration
& Succession Planning
Estate Planning & Administration
(Wills & Trusts)
Probate • Real Estate
FREE CONSULTATION

THE LAW OFFICE OF STACEY MALONEY, PLLC
1990 Main St., Ste 750 1201 6th Ave. W., Ste 100, Unit #A621
Sarasota, FL 34236 Bradenton, FL 34205
www.MaloneyLegalFL.com
(941) 301-8877 | Email: Stacey@MaloneyLegalFL.com

DAVID M. BRACCIANO, D.O.

Dermatology & Facial Plastic Surgery
8430 Cooper Creek Blvd., Suite 102
University Park, FL 34201
Tel **941.360.2255**
www.braccianodermatology.com



Bracciano
Dermatology
Board Certified

MOBILE DENTISTRY
WE'LL COME TO YOU!
IN HOME OR ASSISTED LIVING
• All Dental Services
866.686.4423
www.geriatrichousecalldentistry.com



DR. ANTOINE
CHIHA
Serving Sarasota &
Manatee County, FL

Wills and Trusts
Admitted in NY and FL
Robert J. Hoffman, Esquire



1330 Main Street
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 323-9547
robertjhoffmanattorneyatlaw.com



**COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY**
Marilyn Kneafsey
BROKER-ASSOCIATE &
PARISHIONER
Marilyn.K@CBRealty.com
941-373-0999

Refer to this ad and I'll donate
25% of my commission from
your transaction to St. Martha's!



RAYMOND JAMES
GFA
Gasparilla Festival of the Arts
56TH ANNUAL

FEB. 28 – MARCH 1
Bring the **whole family** for a **FREE**
weekend of creativity, activities, and art!

JULIAN B. LANE RIVERFRONT PARK • TAMPA • gasparillaarts.com

R. Craig Harrison

Attorney at Law
Board Certified
Wills • Trusts • Estates
**LYONS, BEAUDRY &
HARRISON, P.A.**
(941) 366-3282



Conveniently located near St. Martha
1605 Main St., Suite 1111 • Sarasota, FL
craig@lyonsbeaudryharrison.com

Insurance Planning Solutions



Turning 65?
Need help with annual enrollment?
Just moved?
Getting Married?
Planning For retirement?

Here to help you, your family and your
business find affordable insurance
options to meet your needs.

(941) 587-3584
MJOYLFL@COMCAST.NET

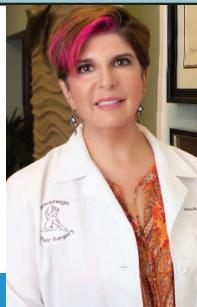
Sovereign Plastic Surgery

Cosmetic Plastic Surgeon

Dr. Alissa Shulman
941-366-5476
Board Certified Plastic Surgeon
1950 Arlington St., Suite 112
Sarasota, Florida 34239

Parishioner
Mommy Makeovers

www.SovereignPS.com



Freeman Orthodontics

for Children, Teens & Adults
Personalized Care • Convenient Hours
Affordable Monthly Payments
Custom Braces • Invisalign®
953 7500
2050 Proctor Rd., Ste. A, Sarasota
FreemanOrthodontics.com



SFORZO

DILLINGHAM • STEWART

ORTHOPEDICS + SPORTS MEDICINE

Dr. Chris Sforzo,
Orthopedic Surgeon
Parishioner



941.378.5100
SforzoDillingham.com



FINDING FINANCIAL PEACE: STEWARDSHIP AND SECURITY

Many of us share the values of faith, family, and financial security.
At Integrity Wealth Management Inc., we understand the importance
of creating your financial plan to align with your values.

941.955.2700 • www.IWMFL.com



Samuel L. Cione, Parishioner



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Martha Roman Catholic Church, Sarasota FL

16-0525