

July 12-18, 2026

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“A SOWER WENT OUT TO SOW.”

MATTHEW 13:3



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass Schedule

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

Sunday 7:30am • 9am • 10:30am
12pm • 12pm Vietnamese (Hall) • 5:30pm

Weekday 7:30am • 8:30am • 12pm

Confession - Reconciliation Room

Saturday 3-4pm • Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11am

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](https://www.instagram.com/stmarthachurch_in_srq) • **YouTube** St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

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

July 12, 2026 - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

by Father Gennadi

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the Parable of the Sower. Let us recall the meaning of the word *parable*. It comes from a Greek word that means *to throw down beside* or *to place alongside*. A parable is not only a story we listen to from a distance; it is placed beside our own life so that we can compare ourselves with its people and situations. We are invited to see where we stand, whom we resemble, and what needs to change in us.

In today's parable a Sower goes out to sow seed. Some seeds fell on the path, some on rocky ground, some among thorns, and some on good soil. At first, it sounds like a simple story from everyday life, but Jesus is speaking about something much deeper: the human heart

"Lord Jesus, place your Word beside my life and help me see where I stand. Soften what is hard in me, remove the stones, pull out the thorns, and make my heart good soil, so that your Word may grow in me and bear fruit for you and for others."

- Father Gennadi

my heart may be like a hard path. I hear the Gospel, but it does not enter deeply. I may be present at Mass, but my mind is elsewhere. The words stay on the surface because my heart has become closed through distraction, pride or an unwillingness to change.

At other times, my heart may be like rocky ground. I receive God's Word with joy, but it has no deep roots. I may make a good promise after Confession or a sermon, but when difficulty, temptation, or suffering comes, I quickly return to old habits. The Word begins to grow, but shallow roots cannot endure.

Sometimes my heart is full of thorns. Jesus names them clearly: the worries of life and the attraction of riches. Worry, anger, too much noise, and attachment to material things can choke the Word of God. But Jesus also speaks about good soil. It is the heart of someone who listens, understands, and allows God to work. Good soil says, *Lord, I want your Word to change me*. It is humble, open to correction, ready to forgive, and willing to begin again.

In truth, all four kinds of soil can be found within us. In one part of my life, I may be open to God; in another, I may be closed. That is why

continued to ➔



Our Pastor, Father George

Notes From Father George:

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha - Died in 1680 in Quebec at the age of twenty-four, led a life of great austerity and love despite ridicule and abuse. She was called *Lily of the Mohawks*, she was first native American to be declared *Blessed* (1980), canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on 21 October 2012.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Prophet Elijah defended the faith of Israel in the living God on the Mount Carmel in Galilee. There at the beginning of the 13th century under the title of *St. Mary of Mount Carmel* the Order of Carmelites had its formal beginning.

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.

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

Next Sunday, July 19, 2026, is the 16th Sunday in ordinary Time.

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

↩ continued: Father Gennadi's Sermon

this parable becomes a spiritual checkup of the heart. It is placed beside my life and asks me: Where is my heart hard? What thorns are growing in me? Just as we care for our physical heart, Jesus asks us to care for our spiritual heart. A farmer prepares the soil by removing stones and weeds. We prepare our heart through prayer, repentance, forgiveness, and time spent with the Word of God. Even one small step can make the soil better. Jesus does not tell us this parable to discourage us. He tells it because He loves us and knows that our hearts can become good soil. His Word can still take root and bear fruit: thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold. So let us ask Him today: Lord Jesus, place your Word beside my life and help me see where I stand. Soften what is hard in me, remove the stones, pull out the thorns, and make my heart good soil, so that your Word may grow in me and bear fruit for you and for others.

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 contact **Patricia Sileo DRE** sileo@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

2026-27 Religious Education/ Faith Formation Classes



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stmartha.org

Emmaus Journey Bible Study

- **Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am** • St. Martha Conference Room
 - **All are Welcome!**
 - Bring your Bible, a desire to share and learn with participants, a facilitator, and parishioner Lindy Donahue.
- Call Lindy 724.263.8285 • lindydonahue@mac.com

Information for Families with Students in Catholic School

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that parents receive the responsibility of evangelizing their children and calls them the first heralds of the faith. The family is also called domestic church — the church of the home. It is so important for parents to be strong role models as active Catholics, becoming the primary catechists in the faith development of their children.

In keeping with this important role of parents, there will be two requirements to qualify for the Practicing Catholic Tuition Discount when submitting the Parish Affiliation Form.

The first requirement is 50% attendance at Sunday Mass for the year. To confirm your attendance, please place your offertory envelope in the basket during the offertory collection (No contribution is needed inside the envelope).

The second requirement is participation in at least one parish ministry.

Please see the list (right) of qualifying ministries for parents, children, and families. ➔

Ministries for Children

Altar Server Assigned to serve at a Saturday Vigil Mass or Sunday Mass (training program provided)
Frequency at least once a month.

Ministries for Families

Greeters & Offertory Gift Bearers Before Mass, greet and welcome parishioners/visitors at the main entrance of the church, and during Mass bring offertory gifts to the altar. Frequency once a month.

Family Ministry

Parents and children serve coffee and donuts to parishioners on Sunday morning for a ninety-minute shift between 7am & 1pm.
Frequency once a month.

To enroll in a ministry, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator
Stuart Love at volunteer@stmartha.org or **941.780.7834**

Matthew Mangin, St. Martha Altar Server, takes First Place in National CAT Engineering Competition



Matthew Mangin went to Washington, DC to compete in the **National CAT Engineering Competition** on June 22 and capped off an unforgettable week by earning first place on June 26. He also celebrated his 18th birthday while in DC. A dedicated member of the St. Martha parish community and an altar server since the third grade, Matthew serves alongside his sister, Sabrina, at the 5:30pm Sunday Mass. Matthew graduated from St. Martha Catholic School in 2023 and is currently a senior at Braden High School, where he is on track to graduate in May 2027. He looks forward to attending college and pursuing a bright future in the field of engineering.

Observances for the week of July 12

Sun 12	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon 13	St. Henry
Tue 14	St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Wed 15	St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thu 16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Sat 18	St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Sun 19	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

We invite you to be part of a community of Vincentians who go to the poor.

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.

Events & Info from the Diocese of Venice



Totus Tuus Parish Catechetical Summer Camps!

For Grades 1-12 - July 19-24 at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Lakewood Ranch, St. Jude Parish, Sarasota. Sign up at the Parish! More information, contact Andres Prias, 941.441.1122.

Theology on Tap, Thursday, July 16 at 7pm - Join Catholic young adults in their 20s and 30s. Featured speaker is Dr. David Tomasic, OFS, DRE of Epiphany Cathedral Catholic Church who will be leading a talk called, *The Eucharist Commits Us to the Poor: A Reflection of Secular Franciscan Spirituality*. Oak & Stone, 5405 University Parkway, University Park. No need to register in advance. To learn more, contact Andres Prias, 941.441.1122.

Catholic Charities Mental Health Counseling and Tele-Health Counseling - For adults and children provided by licensed mental health therapists for those feeling stressed, anxious, depressed, helpless, or overwhelmed, Catholic Charities can help. Call 239.455.2655 or visit Catholic Charities catholiccharitiesdov.org/behavioral-health-center.

Pray for Safety, Hurricane Season Is Here - The 2026 Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. With a history of these storms producing destruction in the region, Bishop Frank J. Dewane reminds us that we must pray for safety: *Let us all ask God for protection and safety and also pray for the people who continue to recover from previous disasters.*

Volunteer Usher Needed

A friendly, personable person is needed to serve as an usher at weekend liturgies. As a member of a four-person team, duties include: welcoming, assisting with seating, collecting the offertory, distributing bulletins, and insuring a safe environment.

Shifts last 1 ½ hours.

Volunteers are needed to join the Sunday 7:30am, 9am, 12pm, 5:30pm usher teams.

No experience required. Training provided.

Contact: Stuart Love, Volunteer Coordinator
941-780.7834 • volunteer@stmartha.org

Weekly Mass Intentions

Sun, Jul 12 **Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23**

7:30am ... [GR] ... Ryan Halstead by Mom
9:00am ... [GS] ... Ernest Vodarsik by the Clergy
10:30am ... [WG] ... For All Parishioners
12:00pm ... [FS] ... Helen Lorenzo by Carol and Dan McLoughlin
12:00pm ... [JV] ... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm ... [WG] ... L & D Mbrs of the Plouffe Family
 by Betty & Joe Plouffe

Mon, Jul 13 **Is 1:10-17; Mt 10:34-11:1**

7:30am ... [GS] ... Robert Rutkowski by the Rutkowski Family
8:30am ... [JV] ... John C. Reil by Lynn and Otto
12:00pm ... [WG] ... Ferd Thompson by Maryann Thompson

Tue, Jul 14 **Is 7:1-9; Mt 11:20-24**

7:30am ... [WG] ... Richard Blake by Vivian Blake
8:30am ... [GR] ... Mary Gilbran by Pauline Groetelaars
12:00pm ... [GS] ... Marge Carter by Paul Lortie and Family

Wed, Jul 15 **Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Mt 11:25-27**

7:30am ... [GR] ... Frances Rutkowski by Tony and Janet Cocco
8:30am ... [WG] ... (L) Fiorella Duarte by Mom
12:00pm ... [GS] ... Letty Maher by Ann Crowley

Thu, Jul 16 **Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Mt 11:28-30**

7:30am ... [JV] ... Frances Rutkowski
 by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly
8:30am ... [GR] ... (L) Joseph Weir by Mother
12:00pm ... [WG] ... Gary Sankey by Paul Lortie and Family

Fri, Jul 17 **Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Mt 12:1-8**

7:30am ... [GR] ... Al Donohoe by the Lortie Family
8:30am ... [GS] ... Edward J. Fitzwilliam
 by Christopher & Beth Sullivan
12:00pm ... [FS] ... Robert Hulvat by the VanDoorn Family

Sat, Jul 18 **Mi 2:1-5; Mt 12:14-21**

7:30am ... [JV] ... Gary Sankey by the Lortie Family
8:30am ... [FS] ... Christine Herzog by Mary and Bill Brown
4:00pm ... [GS] ... James Carmola by Carol and Dan McLoughlin
5:30pm ... [GR] ... Anh Nle Doan by Matt and Diana Buchanan

Sun, Jul 19 **Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43**

7:30am ... [GS] ... (L) Susan Simenson & Kevin Rutkowski
 by the Sacristans
9:00am ... [GR] ... David Jones by Michael and Margaret
10:30am ... [FS] ... For All Parishioners
12:00pm ... [GS] ... Marian and Alessandro Ross
 by the Sweet Sixteen
12:00pm ... [JV] ... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm ... [GR] ... L & D Mbrs of the Burch Family
 by Betty & Joe Plouffe

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

CATHOLIC FAITH *Appeal*

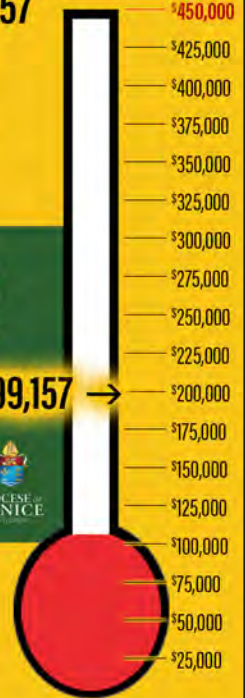
2026 Catholic Faith Appeal GOAL \$450,000



Given to Date **\$199,157**

Pledged **\$247,312**

% of Goal **54.96%**



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\$199,157 →



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

St Martha Legacy Society



Interested in joining?

Contact Greg Massarella
gmassarella@gmail.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 24 was enjoyed by over 30 members.



His Holiness Pope Leo XIV



Prayer Intention for July 2026 For Respect for Human Life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life
in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

A Message from BISHOP DEWANE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Church in Africa continues to grow. While growth of the Church is good, it presents challenges for the young Dioceses to meet the extensive pastoral needs of their people. Material resources needed are clearly lacking, as well as the priests, religious brothers and sisters, necessary to reach families in secluded rural areas and regions that are affected by violence and economic instability.

Gifts to The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa are helping the Dioceses in the poorest countries to do amazing pastoral work. This Fund helps fulfill the mission of Christ by projects designed to be replicated through a *train the trainer* model of instruction, allowing new leaders to rise up and prepare to guide others as the Church launches new initiatives for pastoral outreach. For instance, with a grant received from The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, Marianist Sisters in the Central African Republic purchased bicycles, Bibles, and rosaries and trained lay volunteers so they could travel to isolated rural areas to organize catechesis, children summer camps and Bible study groups for women and youth groups.

The Collection for The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa is scheduled in the Diocese of Venice for the weekend of July 18 & 19, 2026. When you contribute to this collection, you become a partner in Faith to your brothers and sisters in Africa. Please be generous in your response to this important and necessary appeal.

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration and my prayers!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Mission for the Week

I will plant a seed in good dirt and water it for you, Lord

Kids Corner PUZZLE

FARMER • ROOT • PATHS • CHOKED • SOIL • THORNS • BIRDS • SEEDS • ROCKY

frarme f a r m e r

sede _ _ _ _ _

ptah _ _ _ _ _

brisd _ _ _ _ _

rkyoc _ _ _ _ _

tohrsn _ _ _ _ _

rtoo _ _ _ _ _

cohekd _ _ _ _ _

silo _ _ _ _ _

Draw

Draw a picture of a seed growing in good soil.

Color

Read the Gospel of the week and then color the image.



Prayer

Lord, tell me how to grow closer to your ways of goodness.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus is standing in a boat at the edge of a large lake. He is talking to you and a crowd on the shore. You are sitting on a blanket with your mother's picnic basket beside you. Jesus talks about sowing seed. You are like God's seed. You grow in God's way because you are baptized with the water of salvation and are given the nutrients that come from obeying God's commandments.





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2026 SCHEDULE 8:30am - 4pm • \$60 per couple*

September 12
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625 111th Ave N, Naples 34108

November 14
Our Lady of Perpetual
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Questions • 941.486.4754
gontis@dioceseofvenice.org
Jim Gontis, Director, Dept of Evangelization

*The \$60.00 registration fee includes all retreat materials & lunch.

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 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. Guennadi Romachko,
S.A.C

Rev. Joseph Vu, C.R.M.,
Hospital Chaplain

Rev. Walter Grobowski

Very Rev. Fausto Stampiglia,
S.A.C. (Retired)

Deacon Robert Gaitens

Deacon Vern Smith

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 . . .	Kerschg56@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
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, Mrs. Mari Jo Hanson, *Principal* 941.953.4181

St. Mary Academy, Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds, *Principal* 941.366.4010

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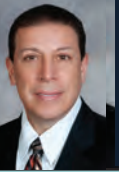
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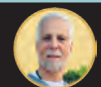
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