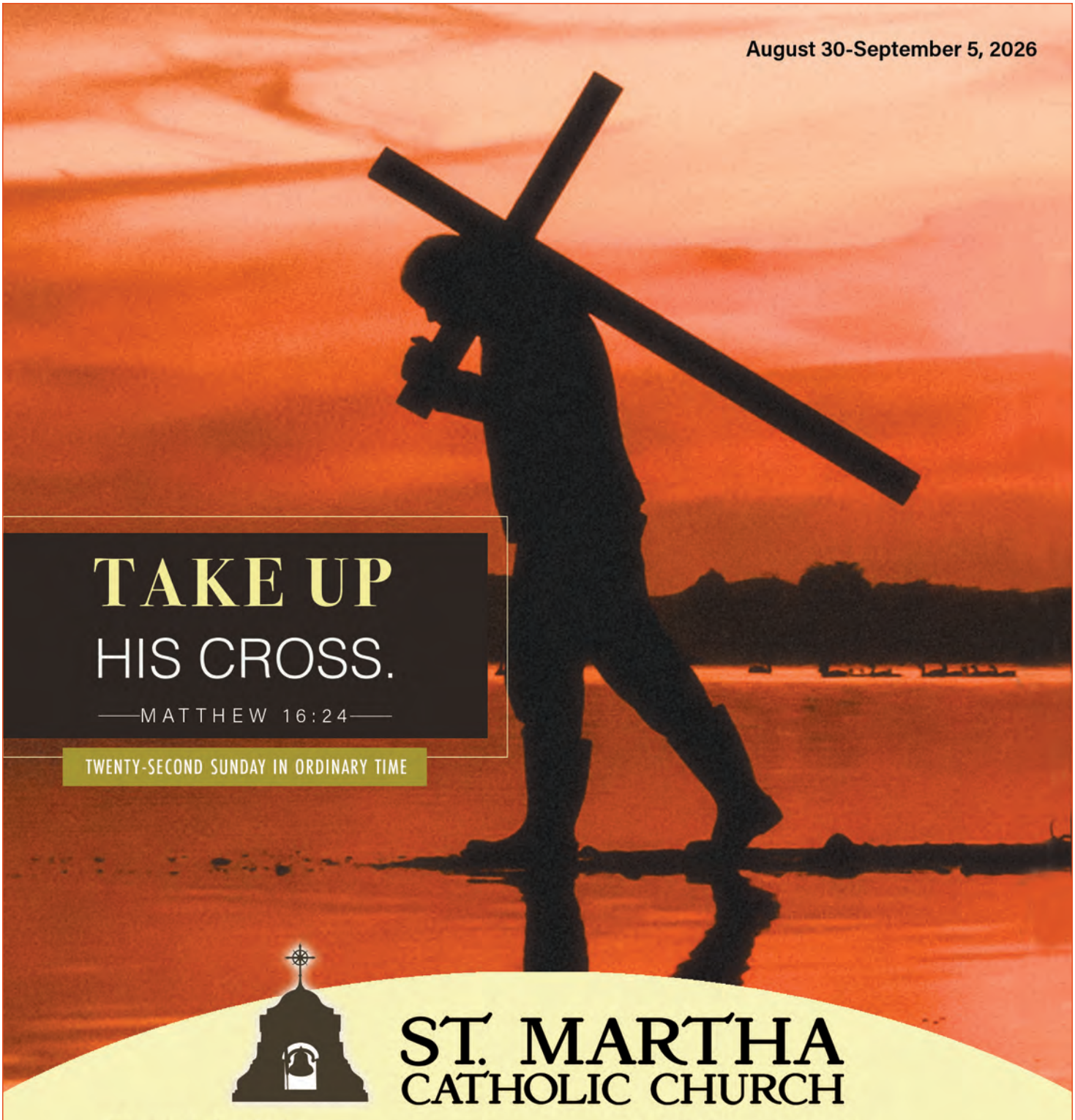
August 30-September 5, 2026



TAKE UP HIS CROSS.

MATTHEW 16:24

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 • **YouTube** St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

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

August 30, 2026
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
by Father George

When the weather reporters predict storms or hurricanes, we know that they do it based on good, trustworthy scientific data research. Many people are involved in observing the weather patterns, causes, and the weather developments long before these events come to our shores. The predictions they make are quite accurate. That is why we watch weather reports.

Similarly, Jesus' predictions of His own passion made sense and had reason. They were preparing His followers for it and explaining the source, the sense, and purpose of the cross.

His death was not an accident caused by circumstances or by accidental people. The prophecies of the Old Testament and Jesus' own predictions show that Jesus knew that His passion and cross was going to happen. This knowledge and awareness of the passion before it happened shows that it was all planned, and it all made sense and served a purpose. This made the passion of Christ even more significant and the cross an important sign of salvation. We do come to believe that God is behind it; this could not have happened without a great plan of the Divine mind.

> *"Try to gain the love of God."*
>
> *- Father George*

Peter did not fully understand God's plan for Jesus. First, inspired by God himself he had told Jesus that he was the Christ, the Son of God. But he did not know that the cross and passion of Christ was necessary for the salvation of humanity. Peter said to Jesus: *God forbid, Lord! That You would suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed. No such thing shall ever happen to You.* Peter thought that this was unacceptable for the Son of God, he was saving Jesus from harm. Then he heard the words: *Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up the cross, and follow Me.* This was something new for Peter and for all disciples of the Lord. They were learning that the saving passion and cross of Christ is the necessary way, the best way and the only way, through which Satan will be conquered.

The lesson of the Gospel teaches us: Not to try to gain the world,

continued to ↗

Our Pastor, Father George

Notes From Father George:

Bishop Emilio Biosca announced some new appointments in the Diocese of Venice - He appointed Fr. David M. Vidal (Pastor of Ave Maria Parish) as Vicar General, Fr. Robert Dziedziak (Pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish) as Judicial Vicar, Fr. Robert Kantor (Pastor of St. Agnes Parish) as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, Dr. Volodymyr Smeryk as Chancellor of the Diocese of Venice.

September 1st is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - which *offers us a fitting opportunity to reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which He has entrusted to our care, and to implore His help for the protection of creation as well as His pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.* (Pope Francis, August 6, 2015).

Next Sunday, September 6, 2026, is the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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

↙ Sermon continued from previous column

because you may lose your life while doing it. Try to gain the love of God. Open your eyes of faith and see the plan of God for your life. If you don't see it yet ask God to help you to discover it.

Secondly, there is nothing that you have which would buy your life; only God can grant it to you. Keep praying to God for your salvation.

In the same way as Jesus predicted His passion and cross, He is predicting His coming with His angels in His Father's glory.

Be ready for it.

A Biblical Walk Through The Mass

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**

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**

2026-27 Religious Education/ Faith Formation Classes

Registration Available Online Now!

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

Events from the Diocese of Venice

Volunteers Needed - **The Diocese Jail Ministry** needs volunteers to bring communion to the inmates at the Sarasota County jail. Men and women volunteers visit the jail on Main Street in Sarasota on Sunday afternoons. We need a few more men and women, so we can schedule volunteers roughly one Sunday per month. This is an incredibly rewarding ministry that is greatly appreciated by the inmates. If you'd like to discuss the ministry please call or email **John Ledek,** a parishioner at St. Thomas More. He manages the volunteers at the jail. **801.493.5328** or **johnledek@gmail.com**.

Surrender! ***Young Adult Conference*** - All young **adults 18–35**, please join us on **Saturday, September 5** from **7am-7pm** at **St. Peter the Apostle Parish** in Naples for a day of faith, fellowship, and spiritual growth featuring inspiring talks, interactive activities, games, Holy Mass at 6pm, and much more. More info or to register, email **ea.youngadultgroup@gmail.com.**

Save the Date! - ***Together in Holiness Marriage Conference*** for married and engaged couples **October 24** from 9am–4:30pm at **Our Lady of Light Parish in Fort Myers**. Registration: $64/couple and $5/child for on-site childcare. Early Bird discount through September 14. To register: **togetherinholiness.org/venice.**

Virtues, *Explained!*

Virtuous zeal refers to an all-consuming love, which has for its obiect the Lord Himself. Closeness with God is impeded by anything contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ, so no person can be *zealous* for God if they are violent or hateful.

Prayer for Vocations

Dear God,
Give us the courage and strength to answer when You call!
Give us clarity and trust to hear Your soft invitations.
Give us the love to respond, and the bravery to take the steps that will bring us ever closer to You.
Amen.

Live The Liturgy - Inspiration of the Week

Plenty of people are drawn to Jesus. Curious about him. Inspired by him. But can they carry the cross? Today, Jesus tells us that we cannot have one without the other - it is Christ and the cross, or nothing at all. Which will we choose?

Observances August 30-September 6

Sun, Aug 30	22nd Sunday in *Ordinary Time*
Thu, Sept 3	St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Sun, Sept 6	23rd Sunday in *Ordinary Time*

Weekly Mass Intentions

Sun, Aug 30 ..... Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27
7:30am .... [WG] ... (L) Aldo C. Zucaro by Cathy Giblin
9:00am .... [FS] .... Hank Salerno by Ann Crowley
10:30am ... [WG] ... For All Parishioners
12:00pm ... [FS] ... (L) Natalia Caceres by Aunt
12:00pm ... [JV] .... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm .... [GR] ... L & D Mbrs of the Cummins Family by Bob and Virginia Forget

Mon, Aug 31 ..... 1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30
7:30am .... [WG] ... Annette Barth by Lucy and Albert Suarez
8:30am .... [JV] .... Brian Kneafsey by Marilyn
12:00pm ... [JV] .... Joan T. Frazer by Claire Meade

Tue, Sep 1 ..... 1 Cor 2:10b-16; Lk 4:31-37
7:30am .... [JV] .... John and Ann Begley and Family by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly
8:30am .... [GR] ... (L) Monica Lingen by Sister
12:00pm ... [WG] ... Madelyn Heibel by the Heibel Family

Wed, Sep 2 ..... 1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44
7:30am .... [GR] ... L & D Mbrs of the Polson Family by Melissa Furman
8:30am .... [WG] ... (L) Jenny Lynn Dunn by Mom
12:00pm ... [WG] ... (L) Eric Helms by John and Mary McGruder

Thu, Sep 3 ..... 1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11
7:30am .... [JV] .... Carol Comery by Claire Collins
8:30am .... [WG] ... Ruth Donahue by Terry and Lindy Donahue
12:00pm ... [FS] ... Richard Deary by John

Fri, Sep 4 ..... 1 Cor 4:1-5; Lk 5:33-39
7:30am .... [WG] ... Maria Massara by Aldo Massara
8:30am .... [GR] ... Nayla Larkham by Joe and Nora Stephan
12:00pm ... [GR] ... (L) Kathleen Gardy by Maureen Devine
7:30pm .... [JV] .... (Vietnamese) Special Intentions

Sat, Sep 5 ..... 1 Cor 4:6b-15; Lk 6:1-5
7:30am .... [JV] .... Richard Moran by the Moran Family
8:30am .... [FS] ... Edward Joseph Shoffstall by Kathleen Vigeland
4:00pm .... [WG] ... Jim Gallo by Hank and Jan Castonguay
5:30pm .... [GR] ... (L) Cashel Helms by John and Mary McGruder

Sun, Sep 6 ..... Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20
7:30am .... [GR] ... Mary Elizabeth Connor by the Family
9:00am .... [WG] ... L & D Mbrs of the Ragan Family by Dr. Richard & Melissa Furman
10:30am ... [FS] ... For All Parishioners
12:00pm ... [GR] ... Kevin O'Sullivan by Martina O'Sullivan
12:00pm ... [JV] .... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
5:30pm .... [WG] ... L & D Mbrs of the Plouffe Family by Betty and Joe Plouffe

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

Volunteer Usher Needed

▪ Friendly, personable usher to serve liturgies, 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 all the Sunday usher teams.
No experience required. Training provided.

Contact Stuart Love:
941-780.7834 ▪ volunteer@stmartha.org

CATHOLIC FAITH *Appeal*

2026 Catholic Faith Appeal GOAL $450,000

Given to Date $232,122
Pledged $277,697
% of Goal 61.71%

$450,000
$425,000
$400,000
$375,000
$350,000
$325,000
$300,000
$275,000
$250,000
$225,000
$200,000
$175,000
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$125,000
$100,000
$75,000
$50,000
$25,000
$232,122

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dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa

SCAN HERE

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– St. Vincent dePaul • That is the Vincentian Mission.
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.

It is said that no form of charity is foreign to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

Prayer Intention for August 2026
For Evangelization in the City
Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

We Need Your Help to Feed Local Families in Sarasota and Manatee Counties

- Shelf Stable Items Preferable
- Canned Vegetable / Fruit / Chicken / Tuna
- Pasta • Jar Sauce • Cereal
- Peanut Butter

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Although Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice does not operate food pantries in Sarasota or Manatee counties, we regularly receive requests for help from local families experiencing hardship. To ensure no one goes hungry while seeking longer-term support, we provide temporary food assistance and help connect individuals and families with resources in their community.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS
5055 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
1219 16th Street, West Bradenton

Questions or Can't Drop Off?
Claudia Iacona **ciacono@ccdov.org**

Monetary Donations Accepted Scan →
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Kids Corner

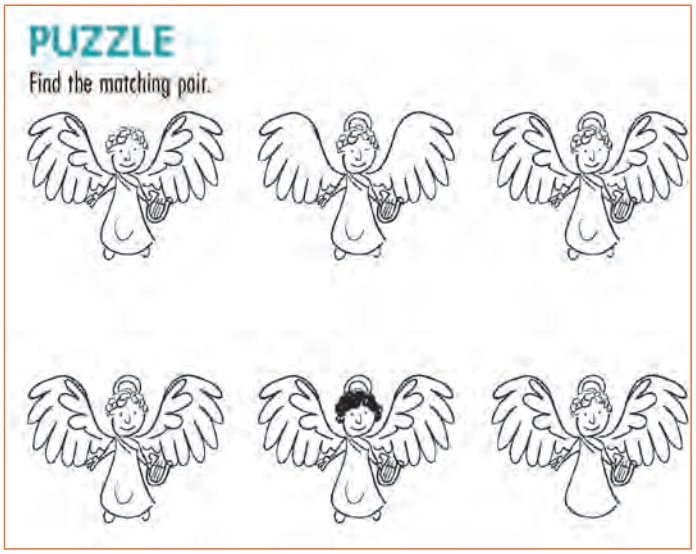
Read the Gospel and color the image.

Sharing the Gospel

Sometimes it's hard to give of your time, or your toys, or even to share your friends. Sometimes you want to be selfish and keep everything for yourself. This is not what Jesus did. He kept sharing God's love all the time. He shared so much that he even gave his life for us by dying on the cross. Jesus wants us to share like he did, to give of ourselves even when we want to be selfish.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, give me strength to share your love.



Mission for the Week

Give of your time this week to help someone who needs it.

St. Mary ACADEMY

Welcome Back to School at St. Mary Academy!

Our halls are full of smiles and energy as our K–8 students kick off a wonderful new school year!

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TO BOOK A TOUR TODAY!
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4380 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

A Note From The Principal...

To Our St. Martha Parish Family,

It was wonderful welcoming our families to Back to School Night this week! The new furniture picture was made possible through funds raised at last year's 75th Anniversary Gala. We are so grateful for the generosity of our St. Martha community as we build on 75 years of tradition and look ahead to the next 75 years. Thank you for your continued support of our students and school. ***Let all that you do be done in love.*** – 1 Corinthians 16:14

Peace and Goodness,
Mrs. Hanson Principal

Gala Dollars at Work! Mrs. Paben's Middle School Classroom has been updated with new furniture thanks to the generosity of those who contributed to, and participated in, the 75th Anniversary Gala! Support the Knights Gala in October by scanning the QR code on the Gala ad.

Save Fred STEM Challenge! 3rd grade students worked in pairs on *Save Fred* STEM challenge! Fred, the worm, fell out of his boat and teams must map out a plan and work together to rescue Fred from the sea. This hands-on activity encourages students to practice communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and teamwork while having fun!

ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Knights
GALA

JOIN US

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2026

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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Day of Reflection

For Sacramental Marriage

Pre-registration Required
Scan the QR Code or register dioceseofvenice.org

Day of Reflection for Sacramental Marriage is a day for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church. A volunteer team of married couples, and a priest, share their experiences and information, enabling couples to be more aware of the privileges and responsibilities of marriage.

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

September 12
St John the Evangelist
Pulte Hall
625 111th Ave N, Naples 34108

November 14
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center
3989 S Moon Dr, Venice 34292

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*
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 Grabowski
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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4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 . . . . 941.371.4917

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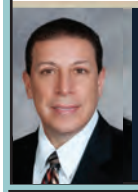

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www.wiegandbrothers.com

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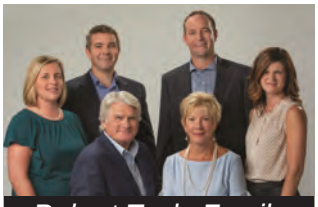

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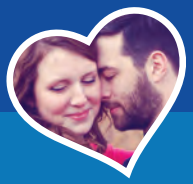

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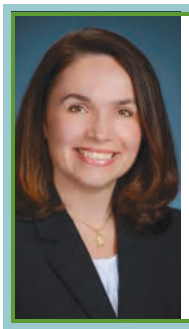

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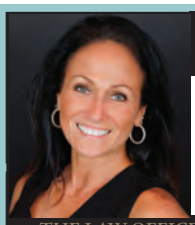

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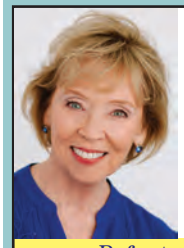

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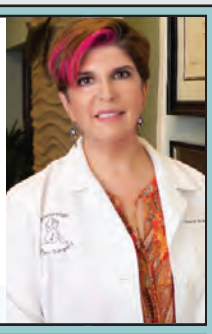

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