

September 13-19, 2026

MOVED

WITH COMPASSION.

— MATTHEW 18:27 —

TWENTY-FOURTH 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_sq](#) • **YouTube** St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

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

September 13, 2026
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 by Deacon Vern

The number Peter offers, *seven times*, sounds generous. It's more than most of us manage on a good day. But Jesus answers with something that feels impossible: *not seven times, but seventy times seven*. He isn't giving a math problem. He's revealing the heart of God.

The parable that follows is intentionally uncomfortable. A servant forgiven an impossible debt, millions of dollars in today's terms, turns around and throttles a fellow servant over pocket change. We hear it and think, *how could he?* But Jesus wants us to recognize ourselves in that servant. Not to shame us, but to wake us up.

Because the truth is simple and sharp: We forgive others only to the extent that we remember how deeply we have been forgiven.

*“Forgiveness
 doesn't mean
 pretending the hurt
 didn't happen.
 It doesn't mean
 trusting someone
 who has broken trust.
 It doesn't mean
 excusing injustice.
 But, it does mean
 refusing to let
 resentment become
 our master.
 It means
 choosing to release
 the grip of anger,
 so that
 God can heal
 what we cannot.”*
 - Deacon Vern

Every time we come before the Lord, whether in prayer, in confession, or simply in the quiet honesty of our hearts, we stand as people whose debts have been wiped clean. Not because we earned it. Not because God was obligated. But because mercy is who God is.

And Jesus is clear: that mercy is meant to flow through us, not just to us.

Forgiveness doesn't mean pretending the hurt didn't happen. It doesn't mean trusting someone who has broken trust. It doesn't mean excusing injustice. But it does mean refusing to let resentment become our master. It means choosing to release

continued to ➔



Our Pastor, Father George

Notes From Father George:

Feast of the Exultation of the Cross September 14th – This Feast celebrates a double anniversary. In Jerusalem, Constantine erected a round church, the Anastasis, above the empty grave of Jesus, and a basilica, the Martirium; in the square between the two churches, a shrine, Calvarium, marking the place of the crucifixion. Dedicated in 335, they were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The two churches were rebuilt by Patriarch

Modestus of Jerusalem c. 626 but were later destroyed by the Muslims in 1009. The present church of the Holy Sepulcher, rebuilt by the Crusaders, was dedicated in 1149. Today also commemorates the discovery of the Lord's cross by the empress St. Helen in 320.

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrow September 15th - By the 14th century the sorrows of Mary numbered seven: the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, the flight into Egypt, Jesus being lost in Jerusalem, the meeting of Mary and Jesus on the way to Calvary, the crucifixion, the taking down of Jesus' body from the cross, and his burial. In Christian art Our Lady of Sorrows is portrayed as Mary whose heart is pierced with seven swords.

Next Sunday, September 20, 2026, is the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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

✓ Sermon continued from previous column

the grip of anger so that God can heal what we cannot.

Sometimes forgiveness is a moment. Often, it's a long, slow journey. But every step toward forgiveness is a step toward freedom.

This Sunday, Jesus invites us to remember the size of the debt God has forgiven in us, and to let that memory soften our hearts toward those who have wounded us. Not because they deserve it, but because we have been shown mercy beyond deserving.

And when forgiveness feels impossible, Jesus doesn't say, *Try harder*. He says, *Come to Me*. Because only grace can make the heart capable of mercy. The *human* in us may be vengeful, but God whom we should follow, is different: *The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion* (Responsorial Psalm).

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Missed the last session? Now's your chance to join us!

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

Discover the biblical roots and meaning of the Catholic Mass.

Tuesdays from 6-7:30pm

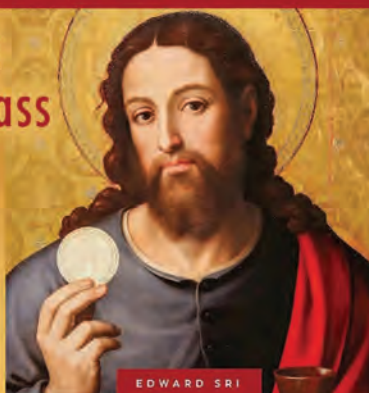
• October 6, 13, 20, and 27

**St. Martha Parish Hall
Conference Room**

To register, please email

sileo@stmartha.org

Book and Workbook Materials are given however, participants need to purchase the \$5.95 access to videos on the Ascension Press website.



A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS

ASCENSION

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

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

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

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 volunteers at the jail. **801.493.5328** or **johnledek@gmail.com**.

Is God calling You to consider the priesthood, or do you think it might be right for someone you know? Reach out to Father Alex Pince, Diocese's Director of Vocations, to answer your questions, provide more information, or resources to help you to discern whether the priesthood is right for you. **Father Pince 941.486.4703**.

Virtues, Explained!

The modern world we all must share seems, in some ways, to be shrinking.

For good or ill, thanks to the internet, the widespread use of social media, and the omnipresence of smartphones, we are finding ourselves interacting frequently with people who live, act, and think differently than we do.

It may well be that the virtue of friendliness, known officially as affability, is more important than ever.

In fact, being attached as it is to the virtue of justice, friendliness is a debt we owe our fellow human beings, writes St. Thomas Aquinas (Sum., III, 114, Art. 2). The fact is, we cannot evangelize without kindness. We can see this in the instructions Christ gives his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew: *As you enter a house, wish it peace. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you.* (Matthew 10:13)

Prayer Lord, help me forgive other people completely and quickly.

Live The Liturgy - Inspiration of the Week

We have all been the wicked servant. We have denied others the same forgiveness and grace shown to us. This week, let us find new ways to make the love and mercy of God manifest in the lives of those we meet.

LOVE AROUND

Bringing Couples Closer To Christ



LOVING OUT LOUD (LOL)

A COUPLE'S RETREAT & MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
BRINGING HUMOR INTO YOUR MARRIAGE

Is your marriage feeling a little too serious lately?
Join us for a day of faith, connection,
and heavy doses of clean stand-up comedy!

Event Details

When Saturday, October 17 from 8am-5pm
Where St Joseph Church Parish Center
3000 26th Street West, Bradenton 34205
Registration \$50 per couple (includes food & drinks)

What to Expect

Confession, Mass, and Faith-Centered Insights
for a joyful, resilient heart with
Hector & Angie Munoz, Rev. Fr. Jim Cogan
Live Stand-Up Comedy about marriage, kids, and
Christian life by John Branyan
A Guilt-Free Saturday Date just for you and your spouse

Join the Volunteer Team of Our Lady of Perpetual Help



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for teens needing
service hours.**

We need your help:

- Reception
- Dining Room
- Dishwashing
- Gardening

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



Weekly Mass Intentions



Sun, Sep 13 Sir 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

7:30am [WG] .. Frances Rutkowski by Judy Mass
 9:00am [FS] ... Bryan Villabert by Meredith DeCastro
 10:30am ... [GR] ... For All Parishioners
 12:00pm ... [GR] ... (L) Ann Mongillo by Loretta Haddad
 12:00pm ... [JV] ... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
 5:30pm [GR] ... L & D Mbrs of the Forget Family
 by Bob and Virginia Forget

Mon, Sep 14 Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

7:30am [WG] .. Efim Polyachenko by Aldo Massara
 8:30am [JV] ... Kris Birmingham by Anne Marie Lennox
 12:00pm ... [WG] .. Lisa Walsh by Matt Walsh

Tue, Sep 15 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Jn 19:25-27

7:30am [JV] ... Rocky Lynn Ferguson by Carolyn Ferguson
 8:30am [WG] .. Donna Rose by Peggy O'Connell
 12:00pm ... [GR] ... Missing and Exploited Children
 by Betty and Joe Plouffe

Wed, Sep 16 1 Cor 12:31—13:13; Lk 7:31-35

7:30am [GR] ... Catherine and Merti
 by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly
 8:30am [WG] .. L & D Mbrs of the Robert Pacur Family
 by Barbara Pacur
 12:00pm ... [WG] .. (L) Nate Donahue
 by Terry and Lindy Donahue

Thu, Sep 17 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 7:36-50

7:30am [WG] .. For Greater Respect for Human Life
 8:30am [GR] ... Lewis Castelli by the Castelli Family
 12:00pm ... [FS] ... Herminia Santiago by R. Arellano

Fri, Sep 18 1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 8:1-3

7:30am [JV] ... L & D Mbrs of the Barsky Family
 by Melissa Furman
 8:30am [FS] ... Shari Smith by Anne Marie Lennox
 12:00pm ... [GR] ... Maurice and Catherine DeLorenzo by Barbara

Sat, Sep 19 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Lk 8:4-15

7:30am [WG] .. Fernando Spaziani Testa
 by the Caragiulo Family
 8:30am [JV] ... Ernie Chambers by Margaret Neary
 4:00pm [GS] ... The Carrano Family by the Family
 5:30pm [GR] ... Genevieve Gizinski by Beth Cannata

Sun, Sep 20 Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

7:30am [GS] ... Ryan Halstead by Mom
 9:00am [GR] ... Richard Murphy by Ann Crowley
 9:00am [GS] ... (Hall) Dieter Rexach by Mom and Dad
 10:30am ... [WG] .. For All Parishioners
 12:00pm ... [FS] ... The Poor Souls by John and Mary McGruder
 12:00pm ... [JV] ... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
 5:30pm [WG] .. L & D Mbrs of the Cummins Family
 by Bob and Virginia Forget

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



Tuesday, September 15 from 6:30-8pm

In St Martha's Parish Hall

Cards are \$10 each, or 3 for \$20

Only for Attendees 18 Years or older

Proceeds Help Fund St Martha's CFA Commitment



Volunteer Needed Hospitality Ministry

- No experience required
- Training provided
- Friendly and caring people needed
- Duties: setup, serving, clean up at parish gatherings on Saturday afternoon wine & cheese, Sunday morning coffee & donuts, special events

**Contact Stuart Love: 941.780.7834
volunteer@stmartha.org**

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 **\$239,202**
Pledged **\$279,102**
% of Goal **62.02%**

WAYS TO GIVE

CHECK: Payable to CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

Credit or Debit Card, Gift of Securities, IRA:
Send us the info via the pledge card or
dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa



SCAN HERE

\$239,202 →

Info: call 941.486.4719 or email cfa@dioceseofvenice.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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.

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

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.

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His Holiness Pope Leo XIV



Prayer Intention for September 2026
For The Care of Water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water,
a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

INCARNATION
CATHOLIC CHURCH

4th Annual

FALL Festival

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
2:30pm - 6:30pm

FREE ENTRY | GAMES | FOOD | LIVE MUSIC
MINISTRY MARKET | VENDORS & BOOTHS
PETTING ZOO | BOUNCE HOUSES

For vendor, volunteer, sponsorship, and donation
information please scan the code:



or visit:
incarnationchurch.org/festival26

Questions? Contact Angela Molineaux 970-214-2704

Wedding Banns

Nickolas Buric & Angelica Salustri (2)
Michael Woods & Mary Margaret Armstrong (2)



St Martha Melody Makers Youth Choir



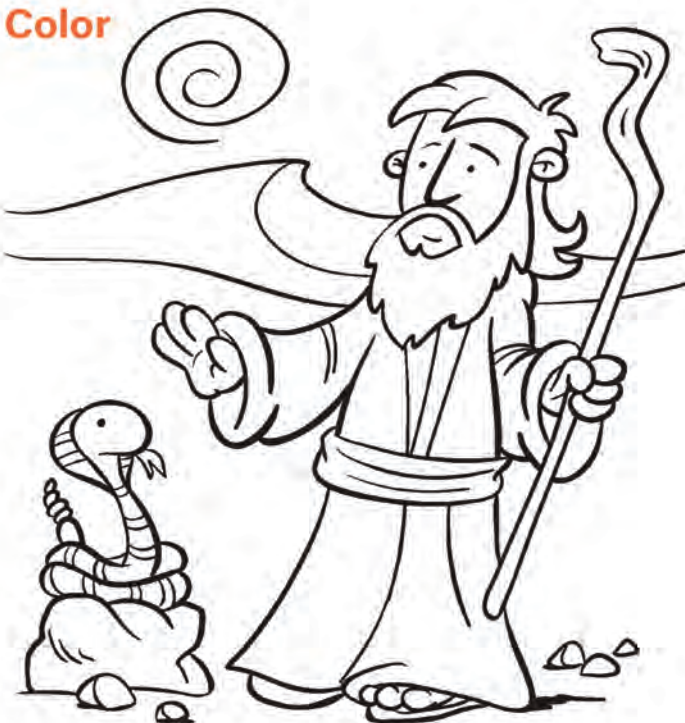
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! - Psalm 100.1
All St Martha's youth are invited to join in the singing!

Info, schedule, join:
Joy 941.587.3584 / mjoylfl@comcast.net

Kids Corner

Mission for the Week I will forgive those
who hurt me because God has forgiven me.

Color



PUZZLE Unscramble words from today's Gospel.

MOSES • PERISH • LOVED • LIFTED

DESERT • SAVE • HEAVEN • SNAKE • WORLD

soMes M o s e s

havnee _____

letfid _____

saken _____

dseret _____

levod _____

wrodl _____

preshi _____

seva _____

Sharing the Gospel Jesus says to forgive each other seventy times seven or 490 times. That's forgiving once each day for more than a year. Put 490 jelly beans in a gallon *Forgiveness Jug*. Each time you forgive someone, eat a jelly bean. When you realize that God has forgiven you, it is easier to forgive others from your heart. God fills you with his love, which is even better than jelly beans. Then you can forgive without holding a grudge.



Is Your Child struggling at the Start of the New School Year? It's Not Too Late to Make a Switch!

Need a school that fits your child's unique learning needs? St. Mary Academy offers small K-8 classes, hands-on STREAM, and integrated therapy—it's not too late to switch!

- Immediate Availability: Limited openings in 2nd & 3rd Grade.
- Other Grades (K-1, 4-8): Call to check availability or join our waitpool.
- (Step Up for Students / FES-UA Scholarships Accepted)

Give your child the fresh start they deserve.

Contact Admissions: (941) 366-4010 ext. 314

Schedule a Tour: www.stmarysarasota.org



A Note From The Principal...

To Our St. Martha Parish Family,



Our students continue to grow in both learning and faith! Our littlest learners are busy discovering letters and building the foundation for a lifelong love of learning, while other classes are working together and learning how they can support and help one another. These moments remind us that at St. Martha, we are called to use our God-given gifts to learn, grow, and care for each other each day.

Peace and Goodness,
Mrs. Hanson Principal

P4-2 & 2-2 Class Family Mrs. Kovack's P4 and Mrs. Evans' 2nd Grade students got together to read *Our Class is a Family* and then created bead bracelets together! This book helps kids learn that their classroom is a place where it's safe to be themselves, it's okay to make mistakes, and it's important to be a friend to others.



P3 Letter A Learning is better together! P3 friends practiced cooperative learning as they worked side by side to build the letter A with popsicle sticks. Along the way, they strengthened fine-motor skills, practiced problem-solving and teamwork, and built early literacy skills through hands-on letter recognition. We love watching our littlest learners learn from—and help—one another!



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Knights GALA

JOIN US

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2026

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

MOTE SCIENCE EDUCATION AQUARIUM

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AVAILABLE



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
KRISTYN LUBRANO AT
KLUBRANO@STMARTHASCHOOL.NET

PURCHASE
ONLINE





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 7
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

Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School

4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 941.371.4917



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Large item?

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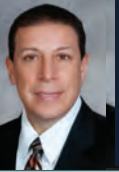
www.habitatsrq.org

Donation drop-off times for smaller items 10am-4:30pm
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Joseph L. Najmy, Esq.
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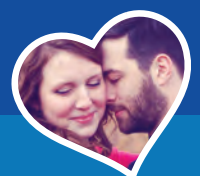
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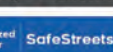


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