

# Third Sunday of Advent



## ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

*U.S.A. National Circus Church  
The Pallottines (Society of Catholic Apostolate)*

**December 11, 2022**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

### Mass Schedule

#### **Saturday**

7:30 a.m. & 8:30 a.m.  
4 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. - *Vigil*

#### **Sunday**

7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m., & 5:30 p.m.  
8 a.m. Spanish - *Parish Hall*  
12 p.m. Vietnamese - *Parish Hall*

#### **Weekday**

7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

### Confessions - Reconciliation Room

**Saturday** 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. & 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Sunday thru Friday** 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### Eucharistic Adoration - Carosella Chapel

**Tuesday thru Thursday** 9 a.m. - Noon

### Rosary & Morning Prayer Devotions

Rosary is prayed daily after the 7:30 a.m. Mass  
followed by Morning Prayer

### Baptism Class

2nd Sunday of each month from 9 - 10 a.m.  
in the Parish Hall. No need to **RSVP**

**200 N. Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236**

**Telephone 941-366-4210 Fax 941-954-8434**

**Website** [www.stmartha.org](http://www.stmartha.org) **Facebook** St. Martha Roman Catholic Church

**YouTube** St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL **Instagram** [stmarthachurch\\_in\\_srq](https://www.instagram.com/stmarthachurch_in_srq)

**Parish Office Hours** Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to Noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

*From our Pastor, Fr. George...*

**Dear Parishioners of St. Martha,**

**Sunday Sermon** – Third Sunday of Advent in the Year “A”  
Last Sunday we heard from the Gospel reading about John the Baptist baptizing people at the Jordan river and preparing them for the coming of Christ. He preached to hundreds of people about the Anointed One, who was coming to baptize people with the Spirit and fire. His preaching and witness to Jesus were confident and powerful, many people were happy to hear it and they believed in John’s message.

But today’s Gospel reading is different. It reports to us that John is in prison, and it tells us that he became uncertain about Jesus, and he needed assurance and direction.

He was imprisoned by king Herod the tetrarch because John reproached him about taking his brother’s wife as his own wife. John courageously defended the commandments of God. He probably knew that he will not be allowed to walk free from king’s chains, and he knew that this was a last chapter of his life, and he was getting impatient to see the Messiah’s ministry. Preparing for the coming of the Messiah was his life vocation, his prophetic role and he wanted to see the beginning of the messianic time before he died.

This explains sending of his disciples to Jesus with the question: Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another? He wasn’t doubting in Jesus, he was rather saying: please let me see my dreams come true. Tell me that I have fulfilled my duty.

The answer Jesus gave him was the biblical description of the messianic times prophesied by the prophet Isaiah long before Christ: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. By comparing himself to the prophecy about the Messiah, Jesus assured John that he is the one and that John did his job well. Moreover, Jesus praised John and said that he was more than a prophet.

God’s plan is sometimes different from what we think it should be. There are things happening that we don’t understand. Like John who wanted to see Jesus in action, didn’t receive the whole message of redemption of Christ at the time when he needed it. That message was fully revealed only after the Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit taught the apostles all about Jesus. It wasn’t given to John, to see everything about Jesus and in consequence he asked questions. The Gospel doesn’t tell us whether John was satisfied with the response he received from Jesus or not. We can presume that he did, because he knew the Scriptures and he knew the prophesy of Isaiah so he would have understood the response correctly.

But then he was suddenly and brutally beheaded while in the king’s custody. Could he have been saved by Jesus, the Messiah, who healed the sick and raised the dead? Of course, he could have been saved. But when Jesus said that John was more than a prophet, didn’t he mean to prophesy the martyr’s death of the Baptist, who would also precede Jesus himself in death as he did in his birth and in his ministry? More than a prophet, meant: my brother, my help and support, my predecessor, the man who persevered in obedience to God to the end, my inspiration.

There is a lesson of a holy impatience for us today. Together with St. John the Baptist we learn to look forward to see Jesus coming to us. We learn to be impatient in expecting the Lord’s coming. We also ask questions, like: Are you the one who is coming? We do it, not because we have doubts but because we want to meet Jesus and see his kingdom. We believe in it, and we want to be part of it.

#### **A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers**

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your S on, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

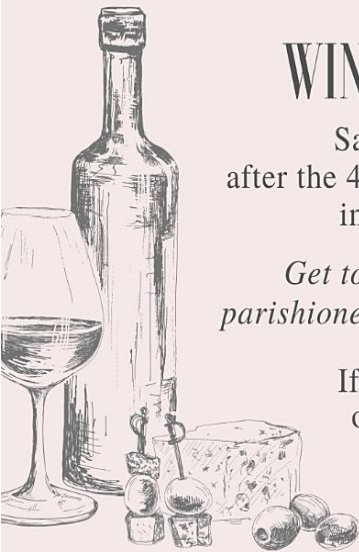
Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God’s love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

#### **Thank you for Advent/Christmas decorations!**

We notice the Advent Wreath in the church, symbolizing our readiness for the Lord’s coming, other wreaths and chains of evergreens, we have the Christmas Tree with colorful decorative items including doves of peace, which to me symbolize Jesus the Prince of peace, whose help we ask for at this time of war in Ukraine. In a harsh Ukrainian winter millions of people are without heat, water and electricity apart from the fact that they are regularly bombarded by the Russian army. God bless them with peace! Amen.

**With prayers for God’s blessing to you  
and your family,  
Fr. George**



**WINE & CHEESE**




Saturday, Dec 17  
after the 4 pm & 5:30 pm Masses  
in the Courtyard

*Get to know your fellow  
parishioners, guests and priests!*

If you have any questions,  
or would like to join the  
Hospitality Ministry,  
call Beth Cannata at  
941-321-2953



**You are invited to join Bishop Dewane for World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, with 2 nights in Fatima!**






*"Mary arose and went with haste" Lk 1:39*

**11-Day Pilgrimage: July 29 – August 8, 2023**

**Peter's Way Tours**  
www.petersway.com

**Space is Limited!**  
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**2022 CFA CAMPAIGN**

**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK**

- Ministry Outreach & Services
- Catholic Education
- Catholic Charities
- Support of Parishes, Missions & Convents
- Vocations and Clergy Support

St Martha is blessed with our wonderful parishioners. Your past generosity has provided the financial means to support the parish operations and our outreach programs. As we enter the last quarter of our calendar year we have one significant shortfall in our obligations, our commitment to the Catholic Faith Appeal.

Goal: \$398,000  
Collected: \$307,924

**STILL NEED TO COLLECT**  
**\$90,076**

- Drop your donation in the Offertory Basket
- Bring your donation into the Parish Office
- Donate online at [www.stmartha.org](http://www.stmartha.org) under the *Ways to Give* tab.

**SHARE WITH THE LORD'S PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED.**  
(Romans 12:13)

### Clergy

**Rev. George Suszko, S.A.C. Pastor**  
Rev. Jan Rykala, S.A.C.  
Rev. Krzysztof "Chris" Frost, S.A.C.  
Rev. Joseph Vu, C.R.M., *Hospital Chaplain*  
Very Rev. Fausto Stampiglia, S.A.C. (*Retired*)  
Rev. R. Patrick Wilson, S.A.C. (*Retired*)  
Rev. Deacon William Ladroga  
Rev. Deacon C. Patrick Macaulay  
Rev. Deacon Robert Gaitens  
Rev. Deacon Vern Smith  
Sr. Cathy Bonfield, S.S.N.D.  
Br. Lawrence Skitzki, C.S.C.  
Br. William Dygert, C.S.C.

### Parish Staff

Sara Brinn, Office Manager  
Virginia Bray, Music Director  
Patricia Sileo, Director of Religious Education  
Teresa McCoy, Accountant  
Pamela Paulson, Reception/Data Entry  
Carole Roberts, Reception  
Rose Ann Runnells, Sacristan  
Janet Cocco, Sacristan  
Joseph Angelicola, Sacristan  
Miguel Jimenez, Facilities Manager  
Eris Nunez, Maintenance  
Blanca Goetz, Rectory Housekeeper  
Claudia Moschini, Rectory Chef

### This Week in Our Parish

**Sunday, Dec 11 - Third Sunday of Advent**

7:00 a.m. SOLVE Poinsettia Sale - Courtyard

8:00 a.m. Sunday Coffee - Geenen Hall

9:00 a.m. Baptism Class - Upstairs Library

10:30 a.m. Religious Ed Classes - Upstairs Classrooms

**Monday, Dec 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**Tuesday, Dec 13 - St. Lucy**

10:30 a.m. Emmaus Bible Study - Geenen Hall

**Wednesday, Dec 14 - St. John of the Cross**

**Thursday, Dec 15**

**Friday, Dec 16**

**Saturday, Dec 17**

10:00 a.m. CCW Meeting - Geenen Hall

4:00 p.m. Wine & Cheese Event - Courtyard



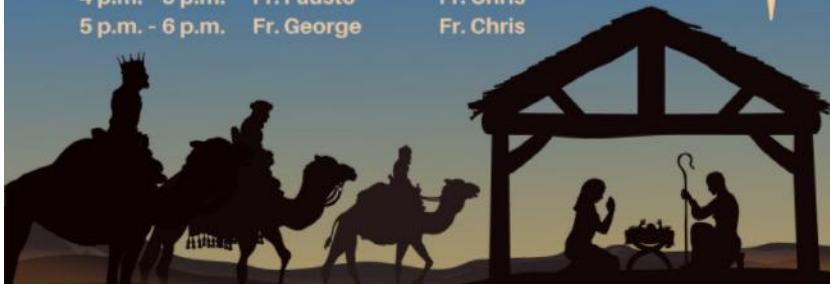
# CHRISTMAS 2022

## MASS SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday, December 24</b>	<b>Sunday, December 25</b>
4:00 p.m. (Church)	7:30 a.m. (Church)
4:00 p.m. (Hall)	8:00 a.m. Spanish (Hall)
5:30 p.m. (Church)	9:00 a.m. (Church)
5:30 p.m. (Hall)	9:00 a.m. (Hall)
8:00 p.m. Vietnamese (Church)	10:30 a.m. (Church)
Midnight (Church)	10:30 a.m. (Hall)
	Noon (Church)
	Noon Vietnamese (Hall)
	5:30 p.m. (Church)

## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

	Thurs., Dec. 22	Fri., Dec. 23	Sat., Dec. 24
9 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Fr. Chris	Fr. George	Fr. Joseph
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Fr. Chris	Fr. Fausto	Fr. Jan
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Fr. Jan	Fr. Fausto	Fr. Chris
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Fr. Jan	Fr. Joseph	Fr. George
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.	Fr. Joseph	Fr. Jan	Fr. Chris
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Fr. George	Fr. Jan	Fr. Fausto
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Fr. Fausto	Fr. George	
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Fr. Fausto	Fr. Chris	
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Fr. George	Fr. Chris	



## CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING



Holy Lord, We come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## RESPECT LIFE

*respect · love · protect*

*“O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.”*

USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Carosella Chapel is open for Eucharistic Adoration

**Tuesday - Thursday**  
from 9 a.m. to Noon

*All are welcome!*



## Caritas Food Pantry

First Baptist Church  
1661 Main St, Sarasota, FL 34236  
(Food pantry located on Adelia Ave)  
**Monday through Friday,**  
**10:00 a.m. - Noon**

If your family is in need of food, please visit the Caritas Food Pantry. The food pantry window is located on Adelia Ave. The volunteers will distribute the packages of non-perishable food items through the window.

**November**

**886 Adults and 247 Children**

*A total of 1133 of our brothers & sisters receiving food.*



*Thank you for all your good works!*

## POINSETTIAS FOR A CAUSE! SUPPORT THE MOTHERS OF SOLVE

**December 10 & 11**

SOLVE will be selling poinsettia plants after all Masses in the Courtyard (*until they are gone*). Manasota SOLVE's poinsettias support the wonderful cause of life and well-being for mothers and babies.

**Cost is \$7.50**  
**Cash or check payable to SOLVE**



**DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA**

*OFFICE OF THE BISHOP*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Parishes of the Diocese of Venice will soon be conducting the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits nearly 25,000 elderly members of religious orders. Elderly Religious men and women often worked for years in support of the Church and her ministries, receiving only a limited income. Now, with so many retired, their Communities face the challenge of caring for aging and infirm members.

At the same time, the number of vocations to the religious life has decreased while lifespans have increased, leaving hundreds of Religious Communities with fewer younger members to support the retirement and eldercare needs of senior members. The Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care and other health care costs. It also helps religious congregations plan for future retirement needs.

The Retirement Fund for Religious Collection will take place the weekend of December 10 and 11, 2022, in the Diocese of Venice. You may recall a religious who had a positive influence in your life, either in school, your parish, a hospital or volunteering in your community. Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Thank you for your generosity.

I take this opportunity to extend to each of you the assurances of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers for you and your family.

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



Our Sympathy is extended to the families of all those who have recently passed. We pray for you and your loved ones, especially for:

- |                     |                  |              |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Angelina Phillips   | Gerald Walton    | JoAnn Neff   |
| Ingrid Fleischmann  | Teresa Berket    | Leo Sheridan |
| William Cuccio, Jr. | Patryk Hebda     | Lois Brown   |
| Frank Hodalski, Jr. | Warren Lynge     | Anne Bianchi |
| Madeline Anderson   | Lucille Fontaine | Ty Dang      |
| Edward Mongillo     | Kenneth Long     |              |



**St. Martha Council of  
Catholic Women**  
meeting on  
**Saturday, December 17 at 10 a.m.**  
in Bro. Geenen Hall.



**Theology on Tap Sarasota** takes place on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Mandeville Beer Garden in Sarasota, 428 N. Lemon Ave, Sarasota. All **YOUTH** are invited to the garden for food and refreshments, presentations, and discussions about the Catholic Faith. Email [evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org) with any questions.

**Sanctify Your Driving** - St. Joseph's Shelf, a website which offers a collection of articles focused on living the Catholic Faith in daily life, has published an enlightening article titled, "How to sanctify your driving". The article offers practical ways on how to sanctify your driving by making it a time to encounter opportunities to grow in virtue. The article can be found by following the link, <https://stjosephshelf.com/how-to-sanctify-your-driving/>.

**Permanent Diaconate Class** - The Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida, has approved the call for applicants to the Permanent Diaconate, Class of 2028. There are currently ten men studying in the five-year program. The new class will begin in September 2023. Further information is available from the Diaconate Office at the Catholic Center in Venice by calling Deacon Bob Gaitens, Director of Diaconate Student Formation, at 941-350-2634 or [Gaitens@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:Gaitens@dioceseofvenice.org)

**Anniversary Mass** - 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 Masses will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on February 4 at St. Leo the Great Parish, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs and at 11:00 a.m. on February 18 at Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue, Venice. Please contact your local parish office for reservations no later than a week prior to the event you choose to attend.

**Diocese of Venice Eucharistic Congress Youth Rally** - As part of the National Eucharistic Revival, The Diocese of Venice is hosting a Eucharistic Congress Youth Rally from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday, March 24, 2023, at the Conference Center and Luminary Hotel on the riverfront of downtown Fort Myers. The theme for the Eucharistic Congress is "The Word Made Flesh – John 1:14." The doors open at 4:00 p.m., and there will be opening music by the band "The Vigil Project," beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Mass at 5:30 p.m. The keynote speaker is Father Timothy Anastos. There will be both a boys and girls track, as well as English and Spanish tracks. After the breakout sessions, there will be an outdoor concert in the nearby amphitheater, as well as Eucharistic Adoration and closing Benediction. The rally includes the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, dinner, and vendors. Registration for this exciting day will be available soon. Stay tuned by visiting <https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/evangelization/eucharistic-congress-2023/> for further information.

### Weekly Mass Intentions

<b>Sun., Dec. 11</b>	<b>Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11</b>
7:30 a.m. [GS]	Ryan Halstead by Mother
8:00 a.m. [CG]	(Hall/Span) Gail Anderson by the Heibel Family
9:00 a.m. [CF]	Anthony F. Colao by Cathy Giblin
9:00 a.m. [GS]	(Hall) Juanita DeJesus by Caroline Cornelius
10:30 a.m. [FS]	For All Parishioners
12:00 p.m. [FS]	Robert, Susan, & Michael Brabazon by Kathleen
12:00 p.m. [JV]	(Hall/Viet) Special Intentions
5:30 p.m. [CF]	Liv & Dec'd Mbrs of the Burch Family by Joe Plouffe
<b>Mon., Dec. 12</b>	<b>Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38</b>
7:30 a.m. [JV]	Louis Zazarino by the St. Martha Staff
8:30 a.m. [GS]	Diana Orama by the Orama Family
12:00 p.m. [CF]	Deborah Dietz by Friend
5:30 p.m. [CF]	(L) Dcn Pat Macaulay by Terry & Maureen Aldrich
<b>Tues., Dec. 13</b>	<b>Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32</b>
7:30 a.m. [GS]	Calvin Kreider by Emily Anton
8:30 a.m. [GS]	Doris Bosselait by the Family
12:00 p.m. [JV]	Paul Neuschel by Magda Kovacik
5:30 p.m. [CF]	Marie Hoffberg
<b>Wed., Dec. 14</b>	<b>Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23</b>
7:30 a.m. [CF]	(L) Joann DesRosiers by Nick & Danielle Gladding
8:30 a.m. [CF]	Dariusz Dawidowski by Jaid and Ken Pozulp
12:00 p.m. [FS]	(L) Elaine Vonderheide by Friend
5:30 p.m. [GS]	James "Pat" Horrell by Betty and Joe Plouffe
<b>Thurs., Dec. 15</b>	<b>Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30</b>
7:30 a.m. [JV]	Arlene Milo by Evelyn Mayo
9:00 a.m. [CF]	Dec'd Mbrs of the Zucaro Family by Catherine Giblin
12:00 p.m. [CF]	(L) Georgia Lee by Friends
5:30 p.m. [FS]	(L) Macgregor Helms by Mary & John McGruder
<b>Fri., Dec. 16</b>	<b>Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36</b>
7:30 a.m. [JV]	Calvin Kreider by Emily Anton
8:30 a.m. [JV]	Robert Findaro by Noreen and Bob Mazza
12:00 p.m. [GS]	Louis Zazarino by the St. Martha Staff
5:30 p.m. [FS]	Liv & Dec'd Mbrs of the Julie Tierney Family by
<b>Sat., Dec. 17</b>	<b>Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17</b>
7:30 a.m. [CF]	Ann McKenna by Friend
8:30 a.m. [JV]	Frank Scozzie by Madonna Weir
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Confession - Fr. Jan
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Confession - Fr. George
4:00 p.m. [JR]	Calvin Kreider by Paul and Marge Lortie
5:30 p.m. [CF]	Ryan Halstead by Mother
<b>Sun., Dec. 18</b>	<b>Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24</b>
7:30 a.m. [FS]	Ryan Halstead by Mother
8:00 a.m. [CG]	(Hall/Span) Gail Anderson by the Heibel Family
9:00 a.m. [GS]	Louis Zazarino by the St. Martha Staff
9:00 a.m. [FS]	(Hall) Louis Zazarino by the St. Martha Staff
10:30 a.m. [CF]	For All Parishioners
10:30 a.m. [JR]	(Hall) For All Parishioners
12:00 p.m. [GS]	Lauren Victoria Smith by Theresa Smith Gilbertson
12:00 p.m. [JV]	(Hall/Viet) Special Intentions
5:30 p.m. [CF]	Walter & Isabel Grantski by Divina & Darrell

*Fr. George (GS), Fr. Jan (JR), Fr. Chris (CF), Fr. Joseph (JV),  
Fr. Celestino (CG), Fr. Fausto (FS), Fr. Patrick (PW)*

### DIOCESE OF VENICE

1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285

941-484-9543

### OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Altar Servers	Dn. Vern Smith	dcvern@stmartha.org
Altar Society	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Archivist	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Arimathean Ministry	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Bethesda House	Colleen McMenamin	941-366-1886
Catholic Charities	Joan Piersce	941-355-4680
Community Pregnancy Clinics		941-260-5427
Casa Santa Marta		941-366-4448
Choir/Cantor	Virginia Bray	941-366-4210
Council of Catholic Women	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Development Committee	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Eucharist Adoration	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Extraordinary Ministers	Dc. Pat Macaulay	dcpatrick@stmartha.org
Finance Council	John Corey	coreyjjj5@gmail.com
Family Ministry	Gary Kerschner	fmosm@comcast.net
Herrig Caritas (9-11 a.m., M-F)	Tony Cocco, Chair	941-366-5620
Hospitality Ministry	Beth Cannata	941-321-2953
Jail Ministry	Dc. Kevin McKenney	kmckenney55@gmail.com
Knights of Columbus	David Kiszak	941-928-8388
Lectors	Dc. Pat Macaulay	dcpatrick@stmartha.org
O.C.I.A.	Sue Thompson	suehome2@verizon.net
Parish Council	Beth Cannata	941-321-2953
Prayer Line	Parish Office	941-366-4210
Respect Life Ministry	Joseph Gina	941-702-1700
Rosary Makers	Maxine Brand	941-374-6605
Solve Maternity Homes	Peggy Kerwin	941-748-0094
Ushers	Dc. Bill Ladroga	dcbill@stmartha.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Stuart Love	941-780-7834
Witness to Love	Jim & Agnes Rutushni	941-960-5128

### 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

941-953-4181

*Principal: Mrs. Siobhan Young*

#### St. Mary Academy

941-366-4010

*Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds*

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