

Saint Martha Catholic Church

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Infant Jesus of Prague Mission

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Rev. Lich Van Nguyen, *Pastor*

Deacon Tyrell "Terry" Manieri, Deacon Brian P. Soileau, Deacon Scott Reason

Louise Frederick, Parish Catechetical Leader

September 21, 2025

With your fatherly blessing, Lord, strengthen these servants of yours in their resolve to dedicate themselves as catechists. Grant that they will share with others what they themselves have learned and studying the church's teaching. And let them gladly join those they teach in praising your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Blessings

Catechetical Sunday

SUNDAY MASSES:

SAINT MARTHA

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.

Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

SAINT MARTHA

Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday, Friday

8:00 a.m.

INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

Weekday Services are

Suspended until further

notice

ADORATION HOURS

SAINT MARTHA

First Friday of month,

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Before Weekend Masses Anytime
by Appointment

SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, ANointing OF THE SICK, OCIA

Please call the office

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST. MARTHA PARISH

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

RESUMED SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

WESTBANK HIGH SCHOOL OF

RELIGION

See St Martha Website

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

8:30 & 10:30 MASS

Parents are truly
the primary catechists of their children.

They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation.

**Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

When the Roman Empire turned a favorable eye toward the once-persecuted Christians, among the effects was a population explosion in the baptismal font, as Christian sympathizers stepped from the shadows. With more and more people becoming Christians, laws were passed to protect Sunday as a work-free day. Soon, it became possible to celebrate Mass later in the morning, rather than the older custom of gathering before dawn to celebrate Eucharist. Amazingly, despite the increasing numbers of Christians, there was great resistance to adding to the number of worship events; the Eucharist that began as a few friends around a table soon was transformed into a more formal event with throngs crowding a large hall. All the Christians in a city or town would gather around the bishop for the one Sunday Eucharist, and only when the crowds became unmanageable was there an impulse to divide the assembly by splitting off a new bishop and flock.

Now, sixteen hundred years later, many parishes see a need to trim or combine Mass schedules. This is often seen as tough surgery. Yet our forebears in the faith would see it as a gain: a filling up of the Eucharist with a large and vigorous assembly, a fullness of ministry, an opportunity to make the Church more fully visible and stronger for service.

Being Prepared

My study Bible says the parable in today's Gospel is about urgency and being prepared. The steward is about to be fired so he feels a pressing need to fix his situation. He is praised for this foresight but not for how he did it.

I think a sense of urgency and preparedness are important for us as well. We do not know when our life on earth will end so it is wise for us to always be spiritually prepared. I believe there is a human tendency to recoil from the idea of our own death. We only know this life and while we may believe in eternity with our loving Father and have great hope in it, we don't know exactly what it is. We may desire it, but not yet. Even so, we should still be prepared. There's a saying that goes something like, "Live every day as if it were your last," and there is merit in that sentiment.

We should feel urgency. We should feel a little pressured. We don't know when the end will come so we should feel a sense of wanting to be in right relationship with God and others so that when it does come, we are prepared. We don't want to end up like the steward who realized he hadn't used his time wisely and, as a result, was looking at a not so great future.

Happily, our loving Father will assist us if we ask him. He is a gentle teacher who will show us how to be ready and give us the grace we need to prepare. He wants us to be with Him for eternity even more than we want to be with Him.

By Merridith Frediani

**Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
The Clever Crook**

The parable in today's Gospel is another one with a surprise ending. The crooked steward is commended by his master for being prudent, or clever, trying to protect himself. Jesus did not condone dishonesty. He just wanted us to be just as clever in serving the Lord. Let's look at the first two readings and how they challenge us to do more.

The reading from Amos talks about those "who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor" (Amos 8:4). The challenge here is to ask yourself, "What do I do for the poor?" If all you can think of is to throw some change in the monthly collection for the poor, you're not being very clever. Most parishes have organizations to help the needy and are happy to get volunteers. Imagine what you would do to help someone you loved who was laid off or on disability leave. Do you love Jesus enough to help the poor in his name? Do you ever think of praying for the poor? Not just a quick response to one of the Prayers of the Faithful for the homeless, but actually taking time to pray for those who are unemployed or with jobs that don't pay enough to support a family.

Speaking of prayer, our second reading also challenges us to do more. Paul recommends prayers for "kings and for all in authority" (1 Timothy 2:2). It's easy to pray for friends and family; how much time do we give to prayers for government leaders and executives? Even the leaders with whom we disagree could use more guidance from the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds us that God wants everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), sinners as well as saints, terrorists and embezzlers, atheists and agnostics. I'll bet you don't spend much time praying for the "bad guys." Yet Jesus said, "Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you" (Matthew 5:44). I can't say I've ever heard anyone say that was their favorite Bible passage. But if Jesus expects more from those who love him, who are we to let him down?

Tom Schmidt

Scripture Readings

For the Week of September 21, 2025

Sunday	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13
Monday	Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday	Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday	Ezr 9:5-9; Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday	Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Lk 9:7-9
Friday	Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday	Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

You are INVITED!

Join us! We'll be hosting...

Our Lady of Fatima's Pilgrim Virgin Statue



When: Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 6 PM.

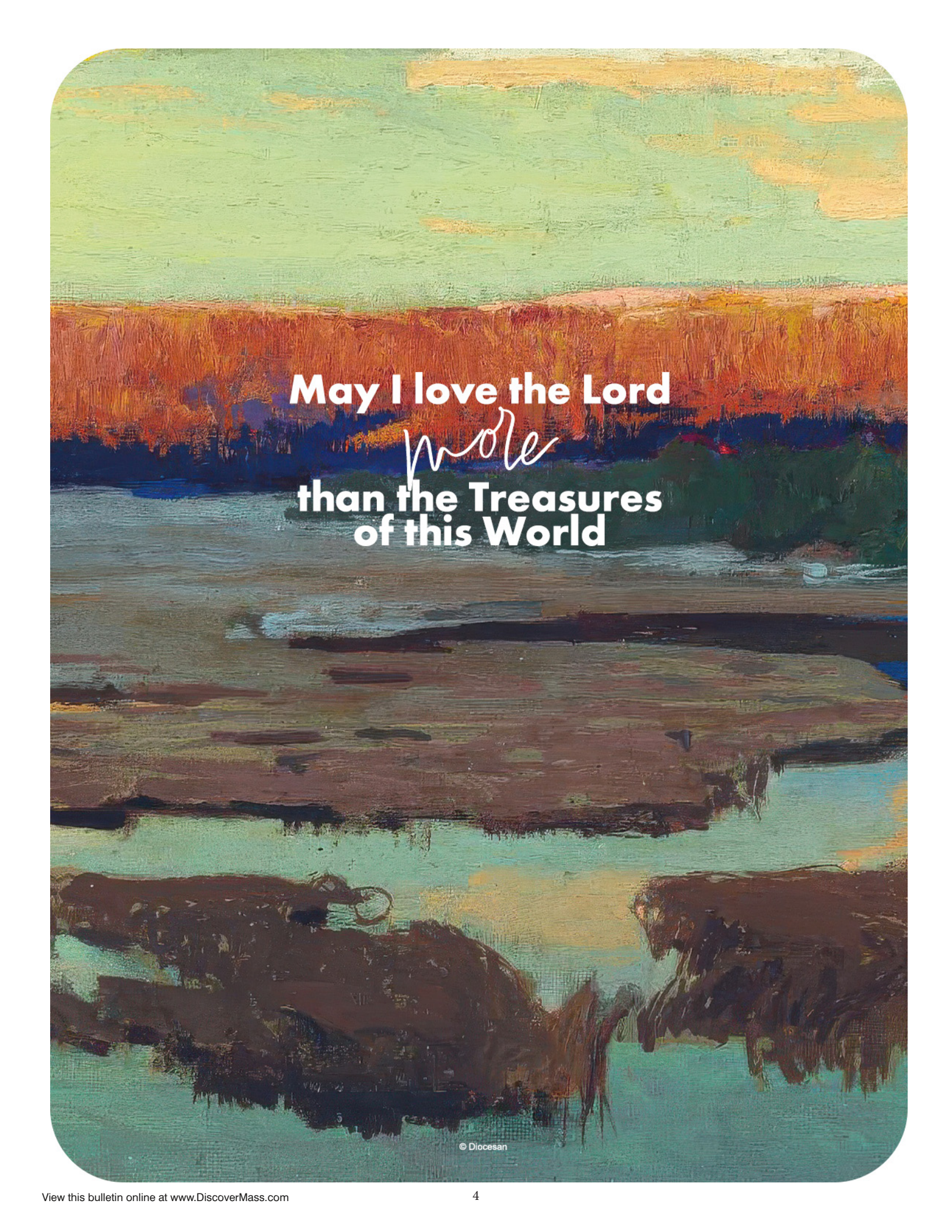
Where: St. Martha Parish Hall
2555 Apollo Dr.
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America Needs Fatima's life-like statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be displayed in our home for all to venerate. This beautiful image of the Blessed Mother and Her message will surely stir your soul.

The Marian program features an inspiring audio-visual presentation on the 1917 miraculous Fatima apparitions, followed by a group Rosary. *America Needs Fatima* custodians will be displaying a wide selection of fine religious articles, such as hand-crafted crucifixes, statues, rosaries, medals, and books.

For more information, call: (504) 366 - 1604

Don't miss this unique opportunity!



May I love the Lord
more
**than the Treasures
of this World**

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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Catechetical Sunday)

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. Sept. 20	4:00	<u>Infant Jesus</u> B. J. LeBlanc, Doris Corcoran, Roy Allain, Tony Granier, Henry Ball, M. J. Perkins, Millard L. Perkins, Jr., Dr. Earl Madere, Bob & Rose Mire, Ray & Jules Vegas, Glenn Morvant, Rita & Mack Landry, Bonnie Parker, Gerald & Theresa Causin, Harris Lester, Charles Waguespack & Our Bulletin Sponsor, Divers Supply
Sat. Sept. 20	5:30	<u>St. Martha</u> Evelyn Manuel on the 10th Anniversary of her death, Ann Bairnsfather, Joseph Tuan Tran, Joseph Sinh Van Vu, Rose Sanzone, & Our Bulletin Sponsor, Divers Supply
Sun. Sept. 21	8:30	<u>St. Martha</u> Mary Greathouse, Mark Middleton, Barbara Lauland, Hiliare Keller, Maria Soi La, Maria Nheim Tran, Joseph Dong Nguyen, & Our Bulletin Sponsor, Divers Supply
Sun. Sept. 21	10:00	<u>Infant Jesus</u> All Parishioners & Our Bulletin Sponsor, Divers Supply
Sun. Sept. 21	10:30	<u>St. Martha</u> Joseph Le Van Lac, Martha Fau Thi Nguyen, & Our Bulletin Sponsor, Divers Supply
Tues. Sept. 23	8:00	<u>St. Martha</u> Joseph Sinh Van Vu
Wed. Sept. 24	8:00	<u>St. Martha</u> All Parishioners
Thurs. Sept. 25	8:00	<u>St. Martha</u> Joseph Sinh Van Vu
Fri. Sept. 26	8:00	<u>St. Martha</u> World Peace
Sat. Sept. 27	4:00	<u>Infant Jesus</u> B.J. LeBlanc, Doris Corcoran, Roy Allain, Tony Granier, Glenn Morvant, Ray & Jules Vegas, Millard L. Perkins, Jr., Dr. Earl Madere, Bob & Rose Mire, Henry Ball, M. J. Perkins, Earl J. Gelling, Jr. Harris Lester, & Our Bulletin Sponsor, Divers Supply
Sat. Sept. 27	5:30	<u>St. Martha</u> Ann Bairnsfather, Joseph Tuan Tran, Joseph Sinh Van Vu, Rose Sanzone, & Our Bulletin Sponsor, Divers Supply
Sun. Sept. 28	8:30	<u>St. Martha</u> All Parishioners, Mark Middleton, Pearl Hart, Maria Nheim Tran, Joseph Dong Nguyen, Maria Soi La, Hilaire Keller, & Our Bulletin Sponsor, Divers Supply
Sun. Sept. 28	10:00	<u>Infant Jesus</u> All Parishioners, Marie Hernandez, & Our Bulletin Sponsor, Divers Supply
Sun. Sept. 28	10:30	<u>St. Martha</u> Joseph Le Van Lac, Martha Fau Thi Nguyen, Ralph Cambre, Arthur Sarrazin, & Our Bulletin Sponsor, Divers Supply
Tues. Sept. 30	8:00	<u>St. Martha</u> Joseph Sinh Van Vu
Wed. Oct. 1	8:00	<u>St. Martha</u> All Parishioners
Thurs. Oct. 2	8:00	<u>St. Martha</u> Joseph Sinh Van Vu
Fri. Oct. 3	8:00	<u>St. Martha</u> Holy Souls in Purgatory

SANCTUARY LIGHT

St. Martha

The Sanctuary Light will burn the week of September 21st in memory of **Mary Greathouse** & the week of September 28th in memory of **Floreine Saunders**.

What is Catechetical Sunday?

As part of a 1935 initiative to recognize and celebrate the gift that catechists give to their parish communities by volunteering their time for the education of children, the Church began what we know today as Catechetical Sunday. On Catechetical Sunday, we come together as both a parish and Church community to acknowledge the dedication of those who serve as catechists in our parish family. On Catechetical Sunday, parents and guardians are also honored because they are the true first catechists, sharing the Catholic faith with their families. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all Catholics to rededicate themselves to the mission of handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel as a community of faith. The day also provides an opportunity for us to consider ways we are disciples of and witnesses for Jesus Christ ourselves.

When is Catechetical Sunday?

Catechetical Sunday is always the third Sunday in September, this year Catechetical Sunday is September 21, 2025

Prayer for Protection During Hurricane Season

*Our Father in Heaven,
through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, spare us during this hurricane season
from all harm. Protect us and our homes
from all disasters of nature.
Our Lady of Prompt Succor,
hasten to help us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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Richard Gutknecht
"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart."
Hebrews 10:22 