

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**October 19, 2025**

**V. 39 No. 42**



*Moses on the Mountain During the Battle | James Tissot*



**ST. MARTHA**  
PARISH & SCHOOL

**1100 West Grand River  
Okemos, MI 48864**  
517-349-1763 | [www.st-martha.org](http://www.st-martha.org)



## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#### God, Our God of Distant Ages

Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997 |  
Text © 1984, WLP |  
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred  
Music, Part Second, Harrisburg,  
1813



1. God, our God of dis - tant a - ges, God, our God, now pres - ent  
2. Pres - ent in the words once spo - ken By the proph - ets, saints of  
3. Might - y Lord of all cre - a - tion, Three - fold is your pres - ence

1. here, God of proph - ets, seers, and sa - ges, Ev - er  
2. old, Lord, your tes - ta - ments un - bro - ken By our  
3. known: Bread and word and con - gre - ga - tion Are the

1. pres - ent, ev - er near. Great and might - y Lord, we  
2. lips are here re - told. O - pen, Lord, our hearts to  
3. sym - bols you have shown. Time and space can - not con -

1. greet you; All your good - ness we ac - claim. Here with -  
2. hear you; Sa - cred are the words you speak. In the  
3. fine you, Nor the earth nor heav'n a - bove. Yet our

1. in our midst we meet you As we gath - er in your name.  
2. Good News we are near you, You, the liv - ing News we seek.  
3. hum - ble hearts en - shrine you, In - fi - nite, great God of love.

### GREETING

*Priest:* In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R:** Amen.

*Priest:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

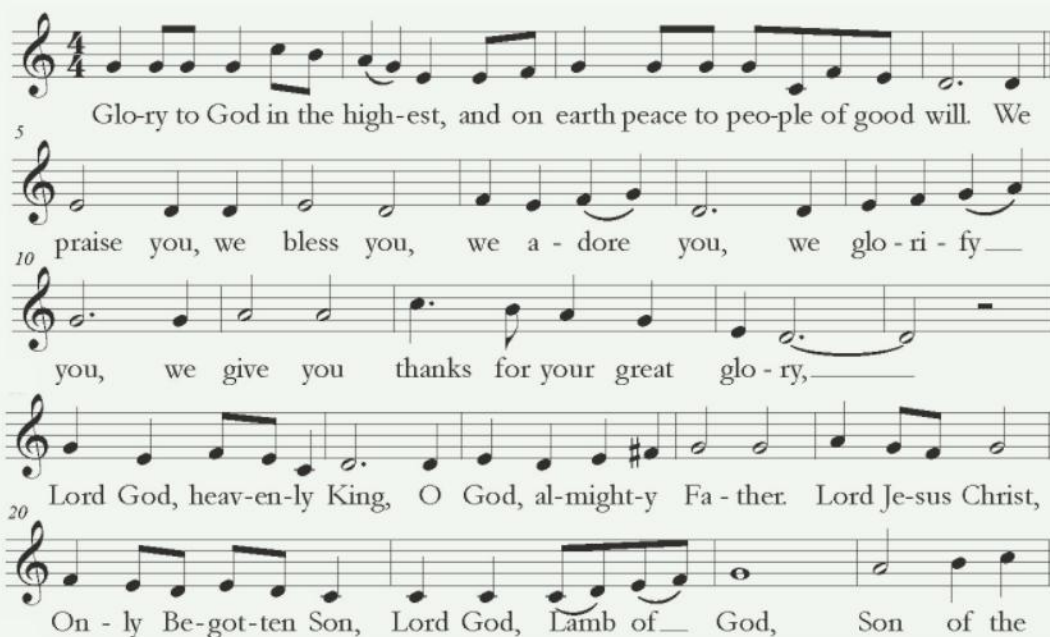
**R:** And with your spirit.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

#### GLORIA

##### Mass for Saint Martha

Tony Andorfer |  
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Music © 2025, Tony Andorfer |  
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Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo - ple of good will. We

5  
praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we glo - ri - fy —

10  
you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry, —

20  
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, O God, al - mighty Fa - ther. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
On - ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of — God, Son of the



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

*Exodus 17:8-13*

In those days, Amalek came and waged war against Israel. Moses, therefore, said to Joshua, "Pick out certain men, and tomorrow go out and engage Amalek in battle. I will be standing on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." So Joshua did as Moses told him: he engaged Amalek in battle after Moses had climbed to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur. As long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of

the fight. Moses' hands, however, grew tired; so they put a rock in place for him to sit on. Meanwhile Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other, so that his hands remained steady till sunset. And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

*Lector:* The word of the Lord.

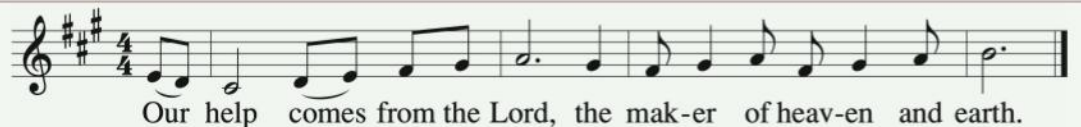
**R:** Thanks be to God.

### RESPONSORIAL

#### PSALM

**Psalm 121**

*Text: Psalm 121;  
© 1963, 1993, The Grail |  
GLA Publications, Inc, agent |  
refrain by Michael Joncas,  
© 1979, GLA Publications, Inc |  
Music: Michael Joncas,  
© 1979 | GLA Publications, Inc.*



1. I lift up my eyes toward the mountains; from where shall come my help?  
My help shall come from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
2. May God never allow you to stumble! Let God sleep not, your guard.  
Neither sleeping nor slumbering, God, Israel's guard.
3. The LORD is your guard and your shade: and at your right side stands,  
By day the sun shall not smite you nor the moon in the night.
4. The LORD will guard you from evil: God will guard your soul.  
The LORD will guard your going and your coming, both now and for ever.

## SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Beloved: Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

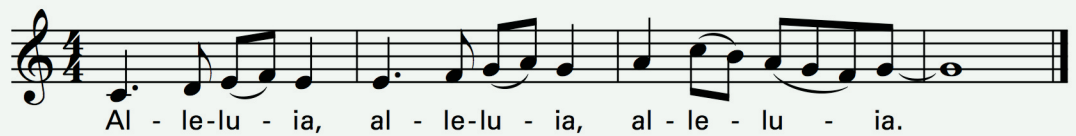
I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

*Lector:* The word of the Lord.

**✠ Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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The word of God is living and effective,  
discerning reflections and thoughts of the heart.

## GOSPEL

Luke 18:1-8

*Deacon/Priest:* The Lord be with you.

**✠ And with your spirit.**

*Deacon/Priest:* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**✠ Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally

come and strike me.'" The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

*Deacon/Priest:* The Gospel of the Lord.

**✠ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through

Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven,

[ *at the words that follow, all bow until 'and became man'* ]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and



rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son is

adored and glorified, Who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sin, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER (PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL)

To each petition, all respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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### OFFERTORY HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

© 1993, Bernadette Farrell |  
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Verses



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3. Long-ing for food, — man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for  
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5. Man-y the gifts, — man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —  
2. hope, — man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone —  
3. wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread, —  
4. warmth, — man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,  
5. hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

1. your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.  
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.  
3. bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.  
4. shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.  
5. to one an-oth-er, mak-ing your king-dom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark-ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

*Priest:* Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**℟** May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy church.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

*At the end of the prayer, all respond:* Amen.

### PREFACE DIALOGUE & PREFACE

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

**℟** And with your spirit.

*Priest:* Lift up your hearts.

**℟** We lift them up to the Lord.

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**℟** It is right and just.

### SANCTUS

#### Mass for Saint Martha

*Tony Andorfer |*  
*Text © 2010, ICEL |*  
*All rights reserved |*  
*Music © 2025, Tony Andorfer |*  
*All rights reserved*

5 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.  
9 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
13 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
17 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

#### Mass for Saint Martha

4 We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your  
Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.

### AMEN

#### Mass for Saint Martha

A - men, A - men, A - men.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### THE SIGN OF PEACE

### AGNUS DEI

#### Mass for Saint Martha

*Tony Andorfer |*  
*Text © 2010, ICEL |*  
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5 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have  
1. 2.  
mer - cy on us. us.





*Priest:*

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R** **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION HYMN Make Us True Servants

*Text: Susan G Wentz |  
Text © 1978, WLP |  
Irish folk song*



## COMMUNION HYMN You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

*Text: Omer Westendorf,  
1916-1998 | Tune:  
BICENTENNIAL, CM  
with refrain; Robert E. Kreutz,  
1922-1996 | © 1977,  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia*



*Continued on next page*

# Verses



1. As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They  
 2. With joy - ful lips we sing to you Our  
 3. Is not the cup we bless and share The  
 4. The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, No  
 5. You give your - self to us, O Lord; Then



know and heed his voice; So when you call your  
 praise and grat - i - tude, That you should count us  
 blood of Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one  
 mor - tal tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -  
 self - less let us be, To serve each oth - er D.C.



fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.  
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.  
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?  
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.  
 in your name In truth and char - i - ty.

## ST. MICHAEL PRAYER

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN Praise the Lord, Lift Up Your Voice

Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847 |  
 Alt by Alan J. Hommerding |  
 Text (alt.) © 1994, WLP |  
 Attr to Robert Williams,  
 1781-1821 |  
 Joseph Parry's Peroriaeth Hyfryd,  
 Chester, 1837

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1. Praise the Lord, lift up your voice,  
 2. Earth to heav'n and heav'n to earth, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Praise the Lord in ev - 'ry place,  
 4. Strings and voic - es, hands and hearts,



1. Saints in heav'n and earth re - joice,  
 2. Tell God's won - ders, might and worth, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Praise God's prov - i - dence and grace,  
 4. In the con - cert bear your parts,



1. An - gels round the throne of love,  
 2. Age to age and shore to shore, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Life and light, sal - va - tion won,  
 4. All that breathe, your Lord a - dore,



1. All that see and share God's love.  
 2. Sing in praise for - ev - er - more. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Through the Spir - it and the Son.  
 4. Bless - ing, prais - ing ev - er - more.



# From the Pastor's Desk

## Fall Fundraiser

As mentioned in the Mass announcements the last couple of weeks, we are in the midst of our annual fall fundraiser. I beg your generosity to help us keep Catholic education available, accessible, and affordable both in our school and religious education program. Invitations to the celebratory party have been mailed and are in the pews this week. You can also give online via our website. November 8 we will all celebrate together yet another successful annual parish appeal. As Fr. Solanus Casey reminds us and to follow-up last week's homily about gratitude - thank you! We cannot do what we do without you and your support!

## Parish Breakfast

Please join us next weekend after the 8 am and 10 am Masses for breakfast in the parish hall. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and the Council of Catholic Women! They are two amazing groups and I encourage you to get involved with them. They do so much for the parish and remain grateful for their presence, their work, their dedication, and their faith.

## Gospel Reflection

This weekend's readings focus our attention on the importance of prayer, particularly the call to pray *always* and *persistently*. But if we're not careful, we may draw the wrong conclusions from these readings. Specifically, we might wrongly infer:

1. That we should pray only when we need something; or
2. That God will always answer our prayers exactly as we desire.

In our first reading, we hear of Israel's battle with Amalek. Moses instructs Joshua to choose men for battle while he ascends a hilltop. As long as Moses keeps his arms raised, Israel prevails. When he grows weary and lowers them, Amalek gains the upper hand. Eventually, Aaron and Hur support his arms, allowing Israel to triumph.

Moses' posture - with arms outstretched - is profoundly symbolic. It's the same posture Christ took on the Cross, where He interceded for all humanity with the most perfect prayer ever offered - the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. It's also the same posture used by priests during the liturgy, known as the orans position (Latin for "the one who is praying" or "pleading"). In each case, we see an image of intercession and prayer offered not just for oneself, but on behalf of others.

But here's where the misunderstanding can creep in: We might assume that if we simply pray hard enough, or long enough, we will automatically receive what we ask for. This isn't what Jesus is teaching.

In our Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the unjust judge and the persistent widow. The widow relentlessly pleads for justice, and the judge finally relents - not out of virtue, but to be rid of her persistence. She's bothering him! Jesus uses this comparison not to liken God to the unjust judge, but to show how persistence has power. Then Jesus says something interesting:

"I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily."

It's easy to misinterpret this, assuming that persistence guarantees a speedy answer to prayer in the way we expect. But this isn't quite

what Jesus is saying.

First, Jesus is emphasizing the *necessity* of regular, ongoing prayer. Why? Because prayer is about relationship. No relationship can exist without communication. Deep relationships are built through mutual self-disclosure which is the heart of prayer: opening ourselves to God and allowing Him to reveal Himself to us.

I often use the acronym A.R.R.R. to explain this dynamic:

- Acknowledge – Recognize what's truly going on in your heart - your thoughts, feelings, and desires. This requires silence and attentiveness.
- Relate – Bring those thoughts and feelings to God. Speak to Him honestly and directly as if speaking to a close friend or family member.
- Receive – Listen for God's response. Maybe it's a word, a Scripture verse, a sense of peace or challenge. Be open.
- Respond – Act on what you've received. Maybe it's a word of gratitude. Maybe it's a call to change or a leap of faith.

This rhythm of prayer draws us into deeper intimacy with God.

Back to that word "speedily." In Greek, it's *en tachei*, which can mean "quickly," "soon," or "without delay." But more often, it refers to *suddenness* rather than *immediacy*. Think of a dam that suddenly bursts: the flood happens in an instant, but the pressure has been building for years. Likewise, our prayers may seem unanswered for a long time, but when God acts, it is often swift and decisive.

Also, keep in mind: God exists outside of time. As Scripture reminds us:

"With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." (2 Peter 3:8)

God's justice unfolds in His perfect timing not ours.

Jesus ends the Gospel with a striking question:

"But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

This could be understood in two ways:

1. When Christ returns, will He find us faithful in prayer - persistent, consistent, even when answers seem delayed?
2. Will He find us trusting in *Him*, rather than in the outcomes we hoped for?

Prayer is not about getting what we want. Rather, prayer is about remaining in relationship with the One who loves us most. Our persistence in prayer is itself an act of faith and a sign that we trust in God's goodness, even when we don't see immediate results.

One of my favorite definitions of prayer comes from St. Theophan the Recluse (a saint recognized in the Eastern Orthodox Churches):

"To pray is to stand before God with the mind in the heart, and to do so until the end of one's life."

So let us remain steadfast in prayer, standing before the Lord with hearts open, until the day we meet Him face to face.

Know of my prayers for you all!

Fr. Ryan



# Mass Intentions

## Monday, October 20

8:20 am + Intentions of Joao Ricardo Rossi Neto  
by P. Oricchio

## Tuesday, October 21

8:20 am + Connie Platte  
by D. and J. Bengel

## Wednesday, October 22

6:00 pm + Ted Beekman  
by CCW

## Thursday, October 23

8:20 am + Pat Lipsey  
by T. and G. Granger

## Friday, October 24

8:20 am + Tim Long  
by the Whaley Family

## Saturday, October 25

5:00 pm + Deceased members of the  
Matuszak Family  
by J. and K. Matuszak

## Sunday, October 26

8:00 am +Debbie Platte  
by D. and J. Bengel  
10:00 am + Lilyan Bois  
by J. Asmann  
5:00 pm People of the Parish

## Congrats to Our Newly Baptized

Shiloh Abramowski  
Magdalene Buckwalter  
Juliana Fletcher  
Hannah Kurth  
Zain Nashef  
Charlevoix Piner  
Jack Spry

# Scripture Readings

*For the Week of October 20, 2025*

**Monday** Rom 4:20-25; Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75; Lk 12:13-21

**Tuesday** Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17;  
Lk 12:35-38

**Wednesday** Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8; Lk 12:39-48

**Thursday** Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 12:49-53

**Friday** Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94; Lk 12:54-59

**Saturday** Rom 8:1-11; Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 13:1-9

**Sunday** **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Sir 35:12-14; 16-18; Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23;  
2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14

## Intercessory Prayers

**St. Martha Parish  
prays for our  
brothers and sisters  
who need physical  
or spiritual healing,  
especially:**

Kimberly Owens  
Cindy Pendergast  
Al Kearney  
Bill Nowland  
Joy Streeter  
Donna Erhard  
Phoebe Searl  
Maria Pflieger  
David Martell  
Donald Trentel  
Brad Krohn  
Laura Olivia Thole  
David Shinn  
Rex Kolar  
Terri Campbell  
Autumn Michels  
Ken Hafner  
Tony Isbell  
Melinda Roznowski  
John McCloud  
Craig Crowe  
Dcn. Stephen Hilker  
Gabrielle Meece  
Bruce Eggleston

Rose McManaman  
John Paul Erford

**For those serving in  
our Armed Forces,  
especially:**

Albert Gillison,  
U.S. Space Force  
Joseph Irvin Gross,  
U.S. Navy  
Peter Harrison,  
U.S. Air Force  
Andrew Huff,  
U.S. Air Force  
Christian Menor,  
U.S. Army  
Stasu Reisner,  
U.S. Marines  
Louis Thole,  
U.S. Air Force

**For † those who  
have gone before us,  
especially:**

† Patricia Erhardt  
† Delora Carlson  
† Patty McPhee  
† Art Irish  
† Lucy Zekas  
† Nira Persico  
† Jim Heymes

† Dora Long  
† Maria Isabell Setti  
† Lisa LaGoe  
† Joe Stevens  
† Fr. Joseph  
Manapuram  
† Gregg Borchelt

**For † those innocent  
souls lost to the  
tragedy of abortion**

**For the Pope's  
October Intention:  
for collaboration  
between different  
religious traditions**

**We offer these  
prayers in the name  
of Your Son, our Lord,  
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Contact the office  
517-349-1763 or  
office@st-martha.org  
to add an individual  
to the prayer list.*





# DONUT SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

AFTER 8 & 10 AM MASSES | PARISH HALL



HOSTED BY UPPER ROOM MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

## Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, October 25 | 5:00 pm

S. D. Bartkowski; M. Kisting  
L. 1 - M. Siminski W/2 - J. Rosalez

Sunday, October 26 | 8:00 am

S. G. and J. Ianni  
L. 1 - A. Kearney W/2 - S. Zayko

Sunday, October 26 | 10:00 am

S. M. and N. Bobinski  
L. 1 - S. Grillo W/2 - W. Otlewski

Sunday, October 26 | 5:00 pm

S. L. and S. Elias  
L. 1 - R. Matias W/2 - C. Patton

Altar Servers Volunteers at each Mass



## Ministry Scheduler Pro

Log in to [Ministry Scheduler Pro](https://st-martha.org/liturgicalministries) to volunteer for open positions or for full schedules. Visit [st-martha.org/liturgicalministries](https://st-martha.org/liturgicalministries) or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



Please contact the parish office if you need assistance.

## Eucharist to Care Homes

October 26, 2025

Willows of Okemos	R. Salyers
Bickford of Okemos	C Leece; L Leece
Brookdale, Medilodge	M. Ferrigan
ICMCF	K. Frost; D. Stevens

## Get Connected

Be a part of our digital congregation! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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## Easy Giving Electronically

Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, visit [st-martha.org/giving](https://st-martha.org/giving) or text "Give" to 517-200-3560

## This Week at St. Martha

### Monday, October 20

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Ryan*  
3:00 pm Chapel Open for Personal Rosary

### Tuesday, October 21

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*  
9:00 am Women's Bible Study - Bl. Solanus Casey Room  
3:00 pm Chapel Open for Personal Rosary  
6:30 pm GriefShare - Bl. Solanus Casey Room  
7:30 pm Men's Pick Up Basketball

### Wednesday, October 22

3:00 pm Chapel Open for Personal Rosary  
6:00 pm Whole Family Faith Formation, Grades 1-6  
6:30 pm Confessions *Fr. Ryan*  
6:30 pm Adoration until 7:20 pm Benediction

### Thursday, October 23

9:00 am Confessions *Fr. Ryan*  
10:00 am Prayer Quilt Ministry - Bl. Solanus Casey Room  
3:00 pm Chapel Open for Personal Rosary  
7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal - Choir Loft

### Friday, October 24

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*  
9:00 am Adoration/Rosary Congress until 9 pm Reposition - Chapel  
3:00 pm Chapel Open for Personal Rosary

### Saturday, October 25

7:30 am Upper Room Men's Prayer Group - Bl. Solanus Casey Room  
8:30 am Catholicism Men's Study - Bl. Solanus Casey Room  
3:00 pm Confessions *Fr. Mike*

### Sunday, October 26

9:00 am Family Faith Formation, Grades 1-6  
9:00 am Parish Breakfast - Parish Hall  
10:00 am CGS Level 1 - Atrium  
11:00 am Parish Breakfast - Parish Hall  
11:00 am CGS Level 2 - Atrium  
11:00 am OCIA - Bl. Solanus Casey Room  
11:00 am St. Vincent de Paul Open Meeting - Room 207



In a loving, nurturing, Christ-like environment, **Saint Martha School** guides each student to develop his or her unique ability and potential through prayer, study, and service.

Andrea Patton | Principal  
apatton@st-martha.org  
Cynthia Farnsworth | Secretary  
cfarnsworth@st-martha.org

## Miracles Join Schools Throughout Lansing for Cougar Commotion

On October 3, St. Martha students headed to Lansing Catholic High School for the annual Cougar Commotion. Our 4th-8th grade Miracles joined in the fun with other Lansing area Catholic schools.

Over 700 students were welcomed into the football stadium with sounds of cheers and the Cougar Marching Band. Students got shirts and were then split into over 40 different teams for the day, moving around campus rotating through 6 different stations, snack and water stops, and lunch.

"The activities are really fun. Relay races were the best because we all got to work together," said Sarah Burkhardt. Other activities included trivia, dodgeball, tug-of-war, capture the flag, and a nerf battle.

The day concluded with everyone convening in the gym where Bishop Boyea celebrated Mass, concelebrated by LCHS Chaplain, Fr. Joe Campbell, and our own Fr. Mike.

Lulu Obinwanne commented that, "It was really cool to see the Bishop and to have all of the students there celebrating the Mass."

The jam-packed day is a great way to bring students together to have a good time and make memories.

"You get to interact with many new people from the different Catholic schools so that if you go to Lansing Catholic, you will have many friends," said Ginger Obenauf.

Cougar Commotion has been a fun addition to the fall for the last several years - both for the participants and the LCHS students who lead, support, and cheer the younger students throughout the day.





 **ST. MARTHA**  
PARISH & SCHOOL

# Parish Breakfast



**Sunday,  
October 26  
after 8 & 10 am  
Masses**

**Co-Sponsored by CCW and the Knights**

**We're having an  
ONLINE FUNDRAISER!**

OCTOBER 1-31, 2025



Select "St. Martha Parish & School" from the dropdown menu on the checkout page for us to receive 20% of your order as a donation at [tinysaints.com](https://tinysaints.com)

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 **St. Martha  
St. Vincent de Paul's  
Fall Recruitment**

Acts of kindness make a difference. Consider joining St. Martha St. Vincent de Paul Society. We serve neighbors in need and facing hardships through home visits, mentoring, advocacy, spiritual encouragement, and financial assistance. We also run a bread ministry and a micro loan program. We are part of a larger network of fellow Catholic churches in our diocese and we collaborate with the Lansing St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month, immediately following 10:00 Mass, in classroom 207. You are welcome to attend an upcoming meeting on 26, or contact our President, Sandy Kearney, at [sandy-kearney@hotmail.com](mailto:sandy-kearney@hotmail.com) for more information.

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## Support Local Moms in Need

Shared Pregnancy is in great need of pull-ups size 3T-4T and 4T-5T; size 5, 6 and 7 diapers; baby wipes; nasal aspirators; 2T-4T socks. Other needs are: clothes sizes 2T, 3T and 4T; baby monitors; safety gates; baby swings; highchairs; strollers; baby bottle brushes; cool mist humidifiers; infant and convertible car seats. **Some of the larger items have a waiting list.** Any donations of new or gently used items are always welcome and can be left in the Shared Pregnancy bins at both entrances of the church. Contact Liz Carls, **517.281.1451**, via phone or text, if you need assistance with any donation. Shared Pregnancy provides free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, and emotional and material support during pregnancy and beyond. You can scan the attached bar code to reach the Amazon wish list.




## Mass of Remembrance

**Sunday, November 2 | 5:00 PM**



**Submit names  
of those who  
have died in  
the last year**



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### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Scan the QR code or visit our website for full job description.




# *An Evening of Faith & Future*



# DONATE TODAY!

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

6:00 - 11:00 pm | Bl. Chiara Badano Gym

**\$40**

PER PERSON\*

\*price increases to \$50  
per person on November 1

### TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Purchase tickets or make a donation to support  
the youth of St. Martha by scanning the QR code  
or visiting [st-martha.org/faithandfuture](https://st-martha.org/faithandfuture)



LIVE BAND | HORS D'OEUVRES | CASH BAR | SILENT AUCTION | 21+

## Support our Annual Fundraiser

The Fall Fundraiser directly supports the current needs of the youth of St. Martha. Your contribution will benefit students currently enrolled in our school and those in our faith formation program by helping to provide essential academic and religious programs and materials.

Additionally, contributions help keep tuition low and affordable for families who wish to give their child(ren) the gift of a Catholic education.

We invite you to pray and discern how you can support this important investment in the future of Catholic education for the youth of St. Martha.

Scan the QR code above or fill out the card mailed to you or found in the pew to:

- Donate
- Become a sponsor
- Purchase tickets to attend our celebration event on **November 8th!**



# Event Volunteer Help Needed for Drink Ticket Sales

We are looking for volunteers to help with selling drink tickets during the event. Some shifts will have only two volunteer slots. For these specific shifts, we kindly ask that spouses and close relatives not schedule themselves together. This is to follow event policies in place. Shifts are short so everyone can enjoy the festivities, but you are welcome to sign up for more than one session! **All volunteers must purchase a ticket for the event.**

A brief training session will be announced soon for all volunteers.

If you are interested in helping out, please use the QR code to sign up!



## Last Call for Auction Donations!

We are still accepting donations for our upcoming auction, and we would love your help! If you or someone you know can donate an item or experience, please email us at **fundraiser@st-martha.org**. To help with planning, please send in your auction donations as soon as possible. Final deadline is October 30, 2025.

Suggested donations include:

- Restaurant gift cards or dinner packages
- Owners willing to host a private event (e.g. wine tasting, cooking class) with a per-person fee **benefiting the school**
- Unique experiences (fishing trips, kayaking, vacation stays, etc.)
- Tickets to concerts, sporting events, or shows

You Can Even  
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Amazon Wish List



Your generosity makes a big impact and helps support the youth of St. Martha. Thank you!

If you have any questions about our Fall Fundraiser, auction donations, or volunteer opportunities, please feel free to email us at **fundraiser@st-martha.org**



# CHOOSE LOVE.



ST. MARTHA  
PARISH & SCHOOL

# ALWAYS.



## A Discipleship Moment

*with Hallie Card, Director of Adult Discipleship and Evangelization*

If you watch any Hallmark movie or romantic comedy, you will see the two leads meet, dislike each other, be forced to spend time together against their wishes, and eventually fall in love despite their initial feelings about the other person. It is out of their control. It just happens (in every single movie) and is sealed with a kiss.

We often think of love as an emotion. It is something that develops because of mutual values, having things in common, or even just being part of a family. As a general rule, it is not really something that we have to really work for or earn from another person, it is either there or not there.\*

The reality is, however, love is far more than just an emotion. Love is a choice, an active and completely intentional way of encountering others. If love was just an emotion, or something that happens naturally in friendships, romantic relationships, and families, then why does Jesus repeatedly tell us to love one another? He does not say, "Try to love each other." He says multiple times that we are to "Love one another". He gives us this command because we control who and how we love. We can choose the way we view and treat others.

One of the hardest penances that I have ever heard was from a priest who understood this assignment. After the person who came to him for the Sacrament was done confessing their sins, the priest told them to think about the person that they dislike the most - for whatever reason that may be - and for their penance, he told them to pray for the happiness of that person every single day for a month. These were not to be prayers for a change in behavior,

for God to make them nicer or for them to stop doing whatever it was that made them so unlikable, no, these were to be prayers for their happiness. Each day provided a choice to follow through on the penance or not. Choosing the prayer is an act of love.

It is important to note that loving someone does not necessarily mean agreeing with them, supporting what they stand for, or condoning their actions. St. Thomas Aquinas writes in Summa Theologiae (a definition then quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church), that "To love is to will the good of the other." We are called to truly want what is best for all people, and, if we want what is best for them, we will work to help them achieve it.

What then is the good of the other? It is a close relationship with Christ. If we are truly working to help others achieve this good, we must start by loving them. Hate has no place in the Kingdom of God, yet our world is filled with it.

Jesus knows this is incredibly difficult for us humans to love everyone, but he tells us to do it anyways.

Someone who does not believe in the same things you do? Choose to love them.

Someone who hurts you or your family members? Choose to love them.

Someone who says awful, hateful things? Choose to love them.

Criminals, terrorists, political rivals? Choose to love them.

It is what we were made to do.

Choose Love. Always.

*\*I fully acknowledge that there are people who grew up in households where it felt like love did have to be earned and affection was only given as a reward for behaving in a way expected of them. If this was your reality, know that you are seen, validated, and loved unconditionally by your Father in heaven.*



# Parish Mission Statement

*Walking together in Word and Sacrament, the Catholic Community of Saint Martha shares the redeeming love of Christ through acts of faith, hope, and charity.*



## Daily Mass Opportunities

Saturday ..... 5:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm  
Monday, Tuesday ..... 8:20 am  
Wednesday ..... 6:00 pm  
Thursday, Friday ..... 8:20 am  
Saturday ..... 9:00 am  
at St. Mary Church, Williamston

## Confessions Opportunities

Monday, Tuesday ..... after 8:20 am Mass  
until all are heard  
Wednesday ..... 6:45 to 7:15 pm  
Thursday, Friday ..... after 8:20 am Mass  
until all are heard  
Saturday ..... 3:00 to 4:30 pm  
Other times by appointment

## Adoration Opportunities

Wednesday ... Adoration after 6:00 pm Mass  
until 7:20 pm Benediction  
Friday ..... Adoration after 8:20 am Mass  
until 9:00 pm Reposition

## St. Martha Parish Office

Phone ..... 517-349-1763  
Email ..... office@st-martha.org  
Website ..... www.st-martha.org  
Facebook and Instagram ..... @st.martha.okemos  
Parish Office Hours ..... Monday - Friday 8 am - 4 pm

### Father Ryan Riley

Pastor  
frryan@st-martha.org

### Father Mike Murray

In Residence  
frmike@st-martha.org

### Deacon Jim Collom

OCIA Coordinator  
dcnjim@st-martha.org

### Deacon Dave Drayton

Outreach Ministries  
dcndave@st-martha.org

### Kimberly Keefe

Director of Operations  
kkeefe@st-martha.org

### Gregg Alchin

Facilities Manager  
galchin@st-martha.org

### Jackie Rosalez

Director of Child and Family Discipleship  
jrosalez@st-martha.org

### Hallie Card

Director of Adult Discipleship  
and Evangelization  
hcard@st-martha.org

### Tony Andorfer

Director of Music and Liturgy  
tandorfer@st-martha.org

### Joey DiMenno

Director Children's Choirs  
jdimenno@st-martha.org

### Claire Boomer

Bulletin Editor  
cboomer@st-martha.org

## St. Martha Parish School (Preschool - Grade 8)

Phone ..... 517-349-3322  
School Office Hours ..... 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

### Andrea Patton

School Principal  
apatton@st-martha.org

### Cynthia Farnsworth

School Secretary  
cfarnsworth@st-martha.org

## Lansing Catholic High School (Grades 9-12)

Phone ..... 517-267-2100  
Website ..... lansingcatholic.org



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Okemos, MI 48864**



## Ministry Leaders

### Parish Pastoral Council

Anne Readett, Chair

### Finance Council

Gigi Matias, Chair

### Communication Committee

Judi Smelser and Dave Maluchnik, Chairs  
communication@st-martha.org

### Evangelization Committee

Beth Buiocchi and Mary Jo Hirt, Chairs

### Council of Catholic Women

Lauren VanSteel, President  
stmarthaccw@gmail.com

### Knights of Columbus

Johnathan Drushel-Smith, Grand Knight  
gk10006@mikofc.org

### St. Vincent de Paul

Sandy Kearney, President

### Environment Committee

Brigit Martell, Jean Morgan

### Prayer Quilt Ministry

Mary Hall, Coordinator

### Service/Outreach Ministry

Renee Salyers, Coordinator

### Upper Room Men's Prayer Group

Michael Siminski and Frank Fortier

## Bulletin & Announcement Deadlines

**Bulletin Articles** Must be emailed to [bulletin@st-martha.org](mailto:bulletin@st-martha.org) by Monday at noon ahead of the weekend requested.

**Mass Announcements** Must be emailed to [office@st-martha.org](mailto:office@st-martha.org) by Wednesday at noon ahead of the weekend requested.

**Intercessory Prayer List in the bulletin** includes sick individuals for 6 weeks (unless specified for a longer time), deceased individuals for 3 weeks, and military individuals until we are notified they are home. Please contact the parish office to add a name.

## Sacramental Information

**Baptisms** take place the 2nd Sunday of each month. Parents who are baptizing their first child will need to attend a class. Visit [st-martha.org/baptism](http://st-martha.org/baptism) to get started.

**First Reconciliation/First Communion and Confirmation** for non-school students is completed as part of our Faith Formation program. Please email Jackie Rosalez at [jrosalez@st-martha.org](mailto:jrosalez@st-martha.org).

**Marriage Preparation** begins with a meeting with the priest at least 9 months in advance of your ideal wedding date. Please visit [st-martha.org/marriage](http://st-martha.org/marriage) to complete the form to get the process started.

**Anointing of the Sick** can be arranged by contacting the parish office.

**Want to become Catholic as an adult?** The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is for older teens or adults who are considering becoming Catholic or just want to learn more about our Faith. Please email Deacon Jim Collom for more information at [dcnjim@st-martha.org](mailto:dcnjim@st-martha.org).



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Irrigation Wells

