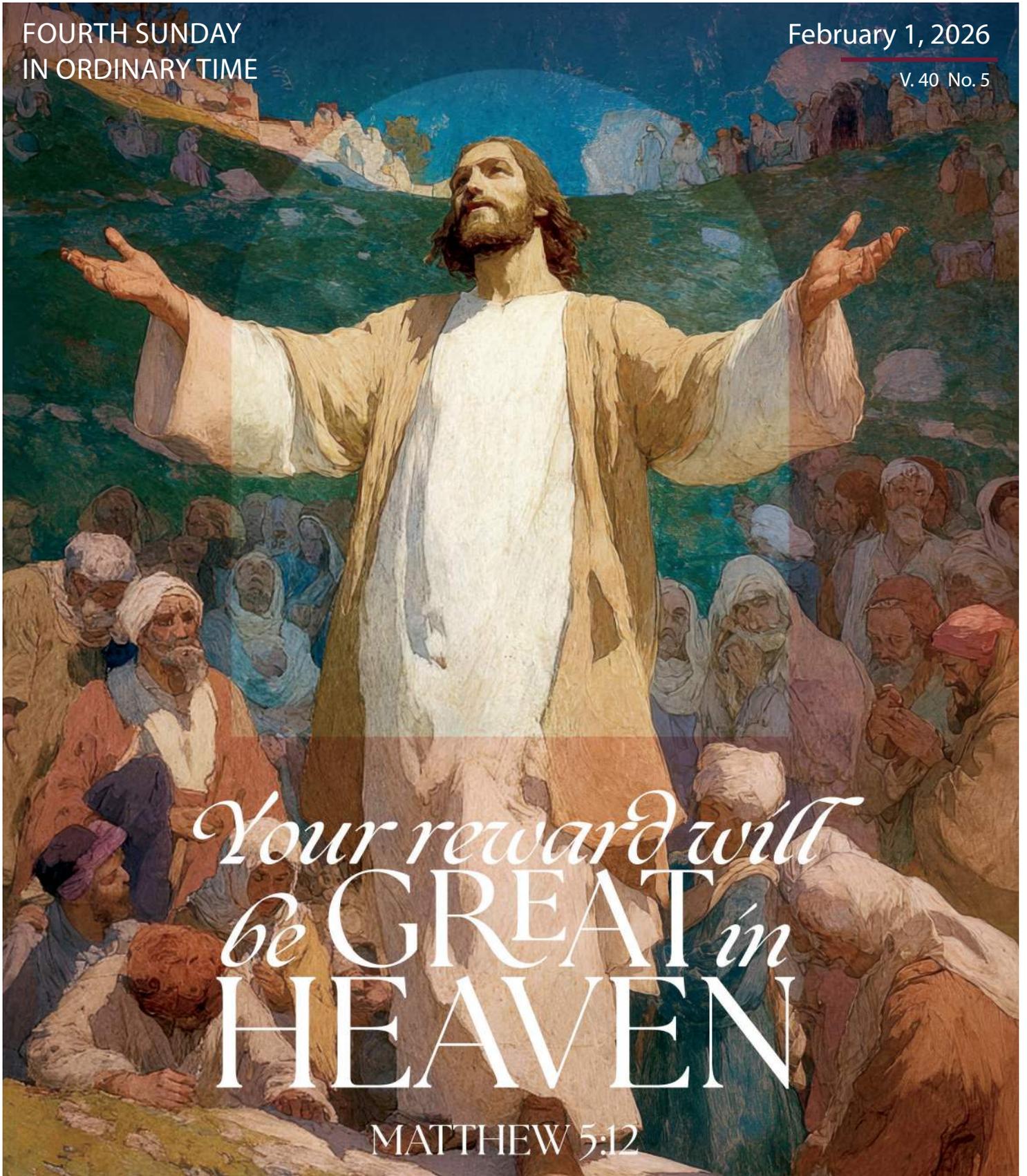


FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

February 1, 2026

V. 40 No. 5



Your reward will
be GREAT in
HEAVEN

MATTHEW 5:12



ST. MARTHA
PARISH & SCHOOL

1100 West Grand River
Okemos, MI 48864

517-349-1763 | www.st-martha.org

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Seek Ye First

*Text: Matthew 6:33, 7:7;
adapt. by Karen Lafferty,
b.1948 |*

*Tune: SEEK YE FIRST,
Irregular,*

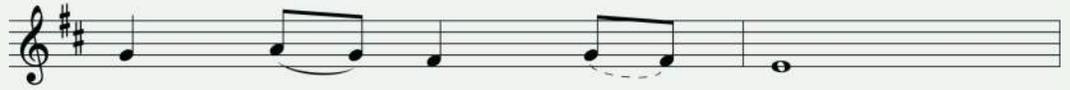
Karen Lafferty, b.1948 |

© 1972, CCM Music/

*Universal Music-Brentwood Benson
Publishing*



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,
3. You do not live by bread a - lone,
4. Where two or three are gath - ered in my name,



and his right - eous - ness,
seek, and you shall find,
but by ev - 'ry word
there am I in their midst;



and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you;
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you;
that comes forth from the mouth of God;
and what - so - ev - er you ask I will do;



Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

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 —



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



20 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther. Lord Je-sus Christ,



On - ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of — God, Son of the

28 Fa-ther, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mercy on
 32 us; you take a-way the sins of the world, re - ceive our
 36 prayer; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther,
 40 have mercy on us. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 44 you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 48 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law; seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD: the remnant of

Israel. They shall do no wrong and speak no lies; nor shall there be found in their mouths a deceitful tongue; they shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL

PSALM

Psalm 146

Text: The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc | Verse text from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition | © 1998, 1997, 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc, Washington DC | Music: antiphon Michael Giszczak, b.1951; verses Donald Fisbel, b.1950 | © 2008, International Liturgy Publications | All rights reserved

5 Bless-ed are the poor in spir - it; the
 king - dom of heav - en is theirs!

1. The LORD keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets captives free.
2. The LORD gives sight to the blind; the LORD raises up those who were bowed down. The LORD loves the just; the LORD protects strangers.
3. The fatherless and the widow the LORD sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts. The LORD shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so

that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Music © 2014,
Scot Crandal (ASCAP) |
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Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward will be great in heaven.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12a

Deacon/Priest: The Lord be with you.

Deacon/Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **✠ And with your spirit.**

✠ Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the

peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

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.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN

Unwavering

*Matt Maber | © 2006,
Thankyou Music (PRS)/
Spirit & Song, a division of
OCP.
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Verses



1. Bless-ed are the poor, the king-dom is theirs,
2. Bless-ed are the right-teous on bend - ed knee,



1. a - live in the prom - ise to be dead to the world.
2. 7 bound in this free - dom, com - mit-ted to you.



1. Bless-ed are the meek, in awe of you, Fa-ther;
2. Blest are those who see the heights - of glo-ry



1. the Word at your right hand, the Spir - it of truth.
2. 7 found in the val - ley, in suf-f'ring for you.

Refrain



Un-wav-er-ing is your voice, un-wav-er-ing is your



hand; un-wav-er-ing is the heart that bled for the sins of man.



Un-wav-er-ing is your will, un-wav-er-ing is your



plan; the fount of sal - va - tion on which we will stand.

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

R **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.

R **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

R **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

R **It is right and just.**

SANCTUS

Mass for Saint Martha

*Tony Andorfer |
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Music © 2025, Tony Andorfer |
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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 |
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5 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy on us. us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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.

℟ 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
Lord of All Hopefulness

*Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953, © 1931, Oxford University Press |
 Tune: SLANE, 10 11 11 12; Irish melody*

1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
 Your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
 Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

COMMUNION

HYMN

Be Strong in the Lord

*The Breastplate of St Patrick |
adapted and extracted) |
Paul A Tate |
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Refrain

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases ending in a fermata. The lyrics are printed below the staff.

Be strong in the Lord and put on the ar-mor of
God. Stand firm in the truth; hold
fast to the shield of your faith.
For Christ is be - fore us, be - low and a -
bove, to guide and pro - tect, to for - give and to
love, so be strong in the Lord.

1. Shelter the homeless. Give food to the hungry.
Stand firm in the truth with Christ, our hope and our light.
2. Lift up the lowly. Be hope for the hopeless.
Stand firm in the truth with Christ, our hope and our light.
3. Gather the lost ones. Be light in the darkness.
Stand firm in the truth with Christ, our hope and our light.

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
Sent Forth by God's
Blessing

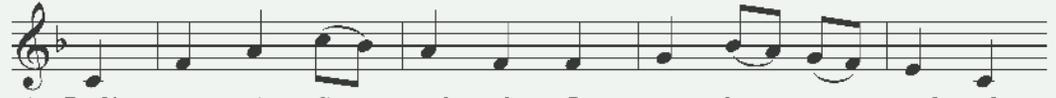
Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997 |
Text © 1964 WLP |
Traditional Welsh folk melody



1. Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing,
2. With praise and thanks-giv - ing To God who is liv - ing,



1. The peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave.
2. The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we em - brace.



1. God's sac - ri - fice end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed
2. Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,



1. The fruits of this Mass in all hearts who be - lieve.
2. We claim as our fam - 'ly all those of each race.



1. The seed of Christ's teach-ing, Our in - ner souls reach-ing,
2. One bread that has fed us, One light that has led us



1. Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
2. U - nite us as one in the life that we share.



1. God's grace shall in - cite us, In love shall u - nite us
2. Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks-giv - ing



1. To fur - ther God's king - dom and an - swer the call.
2. Give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

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Mass Intentions

Monday, February 2

8:20 am + Jenne Kaminski
by S. Kostaroff

Tuesday, February 3

8:20 am + Dick Schneider
by S. and T. O'Dea

Wednesday, February 4

6:00 pm + Jenny, + Lee, and + Michael Cvangros
by R. Cvangros

Thursday, February 5

8:20 am + William Westwood
by A. Readett

Friday, February 6

8:20 am + Lillian "Betty" Williams
by S. and T. O'Dea

Saturday, February 7

5:00 pm + Amilia Rivas
by V. Moore

Sunday, February 8

8:00 am + Peter Luea by J. and L. Collom
10:00 am + Robert Wetzel by B. Wojtkowiak
5:00 pm Intentions of the People of the Parish

Rest in Peace

Eternal rest grant unto Matthew, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Matthew Boersma



Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Masses with Ashes at
6:30 am, 8:20 am, Noon, and 6:30 pm



St. Blaise Throat Blessings

February 3 is the Memorial of St. Blaise, a 4th Century Bishop who was martyred for his faith in Jesus Christ. According to tradition, St. Blaise is most well-known for the miraculous healing of a boy who was choking to death from a fish bone that had become lodged in his throat. St. Blaise prayed over the boy, and he was healed. Over the centuries, a tradition developed within the Church for the faithful to have their throats blessed on this day in which we celebrate St. Blaise.



Throat blessings will be offered after all Masses on the following dates:

- This weekend (January 31 and February 1)
- Tuesday, February 3
- Thursday, February 5

Intercessory Prayers

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

Ron Grove
Kathy Makar
Marian Kay Spagnolo
Sijo George
Brad Krohn
Sister Pat Newhouse
James "Jim" Lounsbury
Katie Foster
Paul Loconto
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
Will Kordenbrock,
U.S. Army
Christian Menor,
U.S. Army
Stasu Reisner,
U.S. Marines
Louis Thole,
U.S. Air Force

For † those who have gone before us, especially:

† Rex Kolar
† Matt Boersma

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

For the Pope's February Intention: For children with incurable diseases.

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.

Names are listed on the healing list for 6 weeks, armed forces until requested, and deceased for 3 weeks.



Scripture Readings

For the Week of February 1, 2026

- Monday** **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**
Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
- Tuesday** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30; 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43
- Wednesday** 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mk 6:1-6
- Thursday** **Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**
1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13
- Friday** **Memorial of St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs**
Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29
- Saturday** 1 Kings 3:4-13; Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Mk 6:30-34
- Sunday** **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

Liturgical Ministers

- Saturday, February 7 | 5:00 pm**
S. J. and T. Kaczmarczyk
L. 1 -B. Martell W/2 - J. Matuszak
- Sunday, February 8 | 8:00 am**
S. G. and J. Ianni
L. 1 - S. Zayko W/2 - M. Finelli
- Sunday, February 8 | 10:00 am**
S. K. and N. Leemon
L. 1 -W. Otlewski W/2 - S. Grillo
- Sunday, February 8 | 5:00 pm**
S. J. and P. Riley
L. 1 - R. Matias W/2 - J. Pirich

Altar Servers Volunteers at each Mass



Ministry Scheduler Pro

Log in to **Ministry Scheduler Pro** to volunteer for open positions or for full schedules. Visit 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

February 8, 2026

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Willows of Okemos | R. Salyers |
| Bickford of Okemos | C Leece; L Leece |
| Haslett Pointe, Medilodge | K. Mills |
| Dobie Road-ICMCF | V. and M. Mankowski |

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[Instagram.com/st.martha.okemos](https://www.instagram.com/st.martha.okemos)



Easy Giving Electronically
Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, visit st-martha.org/giving or text "Give" to 517-200-3560

This Week at St. Martha

Monday, February 2

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Ryan*

Tuesday, February 3

8:50 am Throat Blessings and Confessions *Fr. Mike*

9:00am Women's Bible Study

7:30 pm Men's Pick Up Basketball

Wednesday, February 4

6:00 pm Whole Family Faith Formation, Grades 1-6

6:30 pm Confessions *Fr. Ryan*

6:30 pm Adoration until 7:20pm Benediction

6:30 pm CCW February Meeting - Bl. Solanus Casey Room

Thursday, February 5

8:50 am Throat Blessings and Confessions *Fr. Mike*

5:30 pm Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - Bl. Solanus Casey Room

7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 6

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Ryan*

9:00 am Adoration until 9:00 pm Benediction

Saturday, February 7

7:30 am Upper Room Men's Prayer Group - Bl. Solanus Casey Room

3:00 pm Confessions *Fr. Mike*

Sunday, February 8

9:00 am Whole Family Faith Formation, Grades 1-6

10:00 am Faith Formation CGS Level I (Ages 3-5)

11:00 am OCIA - Bl. Solanus Casey Room

11:00 am St. Vincent de Paul Open Meeting - Room 207

11:00 am Faith Formation CGS Level II (Grades 1 & 2)



From the Pastor's Desk



Ice-Melting Salt

We received a notification from our snow removal contractor that, due to the unforeseen early and harsh winter, they are out of salt. In fact, the Detroit salt mines have temporarily shut down, halting production and supply. This seems to be a regional issue. They are prioritizing hospitals, nursing homes,

and municipalities. Therefore, it could very well be that the only service we will have is snow removal. That means the sidewalks and parking lot will not be salted when our supply runs out. Please be aware of this and please be very careful, particularly if you have difficulty walking or standing. I apologize for all of this, but this is out of our control.

Ash Wednesday

Lent is right around the corner! Our Ash Wednesday (February 18) Mass times can be found in the bulletin and below as follows:

- 6:30am (no music)
- 8:20am (with the school)
- 12:00 noon
- 6:30pm

A Reminder on Fasting and Abstinence as We Near Lent

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Members of the Eastern Catholic Churches are to observe the particular law of their own sui iuris Church.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus

For the five weeks of Lent we will continue our tradition of not having a hymn during the recessional. Rather, during the recessional the priest and ministers will process out in silence. We will also continue singing (with musical accompaniment) the Agnus Dei in Latin as we have during the Lenten, Advent, and Christmas seasons.

Additionally, and only for the five weeks of Lent, we will be chanting the Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) in Latin. I want to stress that this is only for the five weeks of Lent. This is not indicative of additional changes coming down the pipeline. We will continue singing in English the rest of the liturgical seasons.

The reasons behind this are:

- To maintain some liturgical unity across the global Church - Latin is our common liturgical language and it doesn't hurt us to sing/chant it a little bit once in a while.
- This honors the historical roots of the Catholic Church.
- It helps foster a sense of sacred mystery in the context of our worship and liturgy.

Lent is also meant to be a season of penance. Another way to look at it is, Lent is a season of absence. We fast and abstain from certain foods. We refrain from singing or saying the word Alleluia until Easter. In fact, there is a tradition that has kind of been forgotten of literally burying the Alleluia until it is resurrected at Easter. Even the sanctuary itself is laid bare with the absence of decorations. In fact, this year the six candlesticks will be removed from the sanctuary during Lent and replaced by two candles on the corners of the altar. And, in a very real sense, the absence of singing or chanting some aspects of the liturgy in English will help us communally look forward to Easter all the more.

So, my thought behind this is to double-down on the sense of absence and penance during the Lenten season as we worship together. Then, come Easter, we will all be even more excited to worship together in our common vernacular language. I realize this will be a stretch and likely uncomfortable for some. But, please bear with me and let's give this a chance by singing and chanting together. The words and notation will be included in the weekly worship aids.

Gospel Reflection

St. Ignatius of Loyola is one of my most favorite saints. Consider this also an advertisement for the series I will be leading on the discernment of spirits and St. Ignatius' fourteen rules of discernment. The series begins after Ash Wednesdays with separate tracks offered on either Thursday evenings OR Saturday mornings. If you show up Thursday evening and again Saturday morning, you will hear the same thing! I wanted to offer a couple of options so as to engage more people. Participants will need to purchase the book *Discernment of Spirits: An Ignatian Guide for Everyday Living* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher. You will find having the book and reading along with us will be most helpful. It is best to purchase the book via Amazon because it is significantly less expensive. And, I would recommend reading the introduction, chapter one, and chapter two prior to the first time we meet.

continued on page 13.





St. Ignatius was a fascinating man. He was born in 1491 in the Basque region of Spain in the western Pyrenees on the border of France. He was of middle class and a courtier on the royal court. He was of minor nobility and thus more or less middle class and dreamed of grandeur. He dreamt of being a military general leading thousands into battle and glorying in victory. He did, in fact, enlist in the Spanish Army in service of the King. At the battle of Pamplona in 1521, where he was serving in the military, the Spanish forces were vastly outnumbered by the French and losing considerably. Ignatius, being the brash young man that he was, convinced the commander to continue fighting - to give it one last stand. In the midst of that, a cannonball ricocheted off a wall in the Spanish fortress severely injuring his leg.

The French, impressed by his bravery, carried him back to his home where he convalesced. During his time of recovery, he had a deeply spiritual experience (Cliff hanger...there is much more to this account that I am leaving out. But, you have to come either Thursday February 19 or Saturday, February 21 to get the rest. Ignatius' time of convalescence is vitally important to his conversion and thus his fourteen rules of discernment). After this spiritual conversion, Ignatius gave up on his dreams of grandeur and glory to pursue holiness and living like the saints. In so doing, he would go on to become one of the spiritual giants in Christianity and ultimately founded the Society of Jesus (otherwise known as the Jesuits). He was canonized a saint on March 12, 1622 by Pope Gregory XV.

I think St. Ignatius is a great example of both humility and magnanimity - two virtues that seem opposed to one another. That opposition, however, is a grave misunderstanding of what humility and magnanimity each mean.

Our readings today take up the virtue of humility. Zephaniah explicitly exhorts the people of 7th century B.C. Israel toward humility. Jesus, in his Sermon on the Mount, gives us the eight Beatitudes - or blessings. And, connected to each blessing is a particular disposition of soul (e.g. poor in spirit, mourning, meekness, etc.) all of which have as their foundation the virtue of humility. Closely tied to humility, however, is magnanimity or greatness of soul. How can one be both humble but, at the same time, strive for greatness?

St. Thomas Aquinas helps us in his great theological and philosophical work, *Summa Theologiae*. (As an aside, most philosophy departments in universities completely skip over medieval philosophy and therefore St. Thomas Aquinas and the *Summa Theologiae* is not studied. This is a great disservice to students and to the academy in general. And, it's quite bad philosophy not to study Aquinas who himself used Aristotelian philosophy in his own thought).



In *Summa Theologiae II-II* (second part of the second part), particularly Question 161, St. Thomas Aquinas takes up humility as a virtue. In his reply to Objection 3 (the objection that states humility cannot be properly called a virtue because a virtue cannot be opposed to another virtue, in this case the virtue of magnanimity), he writes, "Humility restrains the appetite from aiming too high; magnanimity urges the mind to great things in accord with right reason."

I want to point out a couple of things that St. Thomas Aquinas means: first, both humility and magnanimity as virtues are concerned with truth, particularly the truth about oneself in light of right reason. Every person has unique gifts and talents but also weaknesses and shortcomings. Humility, properly understood, means that we know ourselves and understand ourselves in light of both our gifts/talents and our weaknesses/shortcomings. Humility then reins us in, so to speak, so that we act in accord with the gifts and talents that the Lord has given us and guards us against pridefully reaching too far. Secondly and at the same time, the Lord wants us to be magnanimous - to strive for great things. Magnanimity then, like humility, is concerned with the truth about oneself and the use of one's gifts and talents to strive for greatness. Not out of pride but rather for the glory of God and service of our neighbor.

St. Ignatius in his younger years was not strong in the virtue of humility. He was quite prideful and thought very fondly of himself. It was his pride that ended up getting him injured and nearly killed. It was his pride that likely got some of the men he fought alongside killed. When he had the time to think, pray, and reason with himself while he convalesced he began to understand himself and his relationship to God all the better. He grew in both the virtue of humility and magnanimity. He humbled himself and left behind his foolish and vain pursuits. He gave his life to God and went on to use his gifts and talents to found what is now the largest religious order in the Catholic Church. Not only that, he left behind a treasure in the spiritual life of the Church in his *Spiritual Exercises* in which his fourteen rules of discernment are found.

As we pray today, brothers and sisters, let us pray first to know thyself - to know thyself soberly and honestly taking into consideration our gifts, talents, weaknesses, and shortcomings. Let us then pray for an increase in both humility and magnanimity. Let us be humble in who we are and in what it is we intend to achieve and let us also strive for great things out of service for God and neighbor.

Know of my prayers for you all!

Fr. Ryan



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Learn from the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Each week of this 7-week group, Fr. Ryan will walk through two Ignatian Rules of Discernment that will help you grow in awareness of God's action in your daily spiritual life.

The purchase of a book is required. Estimated cost is between \$16.96 and \$26.95. Links to purchase can be found in the registration.

LED BY FR. RYAN RILEY



TWO SESSIONS

THURSDAYS 6:30 PM

Feb. 19
Feb. 26
Mar. 5
Mar. 12
Mar. 19
Mar. 26
Apr. 16

OR

SATURDAYS 8:00 AM

Feb. 21
Feb. 28
Mar. 7
Mar. 14
Mar. 21
Mar. 28
Apr. 18

REGISTER



or visit the parish website



Lenten Fish Fry

Every Friday February 20 - March 27
5:00 - 7:00 pm



The Fish Fry Is Coming!

It's almost time for Lent! That means the Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry is coming soon. They begin February 20 and run each Friday through March 27. Please consider if you are able to make a commitment to assist with cooking, serving, set up, and take down on Thursdays and Fridays. A sign up link for volunteering will be coming soon.

For more information about volunteering, please contact Lloyd Kendall at lkendall62@gmail.com or 248-534-9617.

Become a Committed Adorer

One hour slots available
between 9am and 9pm
on Fridays

Can't commit? All are welcome
to come when you can.



<https://bit.ly/FridayAdorers>



St. Martha School

MSVMA State Honors Choir 2026

I am excited to share that St. Martha students Olesia Mankowski, Alexandria Chesney, Ginger Obenauf, Chisom Obinwanne, and Lucia Rivet performed with the 6-7-8 SA (soprano/alto) MSVMA State Honors Choir in Grand Rapids at the DeVos Performance Hall on Thursday, January 22, 2026. The students had a wonderful experience and enjoyed performing under director Andrea Gay. They learned many new musical skills during the process and memorized six choir pieces in various languages: Spanish, Swahili, Latin, and English.



The Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) State

Honors Choir program is a competitive, skill-based journey from regional recognition to state-level advanced ensembles, recognizing the top vocal talent across Michigan. I am so happy

for our students to have been able to be part of this experience.



Mrs. Joey DiMenno
Director of Children's Choirs



Enrollment Is Now Open for the 2026-2027 School Year

Enrollment for registered St. Martha Parishioners,
is now open.

Families wishing to apply should email Mrs. Cynthia Farnsworth at cfarnsworth@st-martha.org to receive the application link and instructions.

Enrollment for the general public will open on February 16.



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**Saturday, March 7
10am-3:45pm**



Walk-ins welcome or sign up online
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Disciple Maker Index

St. Martha Parish is on a journey to know, love, and serve Christ in our parish community. Together we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.



The very first step in this process involves assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities, and that is where the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) comes in! The DMI is an important survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at St. Martha. The Disciple Maker Index is designed to:

- Invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.
- Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.
- Help parishioners grow in their faith.

The 10–15-minute survey can be accessed through an online link starting **February 17** and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish's efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. We will share the link with you a bit closer to the launch of the survey. Paper surveys will also be available for those who do not have the ability to complete the survey online.

Together we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

Thank you for helping with this important project and please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.



ALL ARE WELCOME

Please consider attending a St. Martha St. Vincent de Paul meeting and giving your time to an organization committed to serving our neighbors in need of spiritual and material support. Meetings are every second and fourth Sunday of the month immediately

following 10:00 am Mass in classroom 207. Join us for a meeting and/or contact Kelly at kvan46@gmail.com for more information.

CCW February Meeting

Wednesday, February 4 | 6:30pm | BL. Solanus Casey Rm



All the women of the parish are cordially invited to join us at the next Council of Catholic Women (CCW) meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4 in the Bl. Solanus Casey Room. We'll be looking at ways to be at our best in this new year, with lots of health and wellness tips. Please come to meet new and old friends. Any questions,

please contact us at stmarthaccw@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

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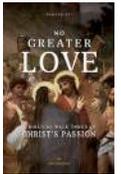
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Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to join our Women's Bible Study. We meet Tuesday mornings from 9:00-10:30 am throughout the school year. We will be starting a new study on **Tuesday, February 3**, so that would be a great time to join us. This one will be a Lenten study called, No Greater Love. Please contact Jackie Rosalez at jrosalez@st-martha.org for information on how to purchase the book. This is a wonderful group of women; we hope you can join us.



Vacation Bible School

Save the date for VBS from Monday, June 15, through Friday, June 19. We meet from 9 am until noon each day. Registration is coming soon.

The cost is only \$20 per child, and VBS is geared toward children ages 4-10. We are always looking for junior and teen leaders, so if your child is 11 or older and would like to help out, watch for information on that as well.

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Ralph Martin is the president of Renewal Ministries and the host of the weekly Catholic television program *The Choices We Face*. He holds a doctorate in theology and has just completed twenty-three years as the director of Graduate Theology Programs in the New Evangelization at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Ralph is the author of *A Life in the Spirit: A Memoir*, as well as the widely read *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward* and *The Fulfillment of All Desire: A Guidebook for the Journey to God Based on the Wisdom of the Saints*. Ralph and his wife, Anne, reside in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and have six children and nineteen grandchildren.

Join us as we draw into hearing God's voice, knowing our Father's love, and calling upon our Mother Mary.

There will be times for Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, and Prayer Teams.

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." James 4:8

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St. Gerard EUCHRE Championship

8th Grade Washington DC Trip Fundraiser

Date: Friday, February 20, 2026

Time: Doors open at 6:15 - Games begin sharply at 7:00 p.m.

Where: St. Gerard Church Parish Hall, 4433 W. Willow Highway

Players: Ages 16+, Individual scores/competition

Cost: \$20 signed up by 2/15/26; \$25 after 2/15/26. Cash only, pay at tournament

Prizes: 1st: \$100, 2nd: \$50, 3rd: \$25, Most "loners": \$20 (Remaining proceeds go directly to fundraiser)

Food & Beverages for sale (pizza, non-alcoholic drinks, & desserts)
Feel free to bring your own non-alcoholic drinks

Sign Up: Space is *limited to 100 players*
Reserve your spot.

Sign up at St. Gerard or using SignUp Genius
Scan this QR Code.



Questions: Contact Kyle Melinn at melinky@gmail.com



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

Cheryl Olsen
Administrative Assistant
colsen@st-martha.org

Gregg Alchin
Facilities Manager
galchin@st-martha.org

Jackie Rosalez
Director of Faith Formation
jrosalez@st-martha.org

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

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

Monica Amoroso
Communications Assistant
mamoroso@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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Gigi Matias, Chair

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

Evangelization Committee

Beth Buiocchi and Mary Jo Hirt, Chairs

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smarthaccw@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus

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gk10006@mikofc.org

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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 by Monday at noon ahead of the weekend requested.

Mass Announcements Must be emailed to 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 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.

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 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.



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