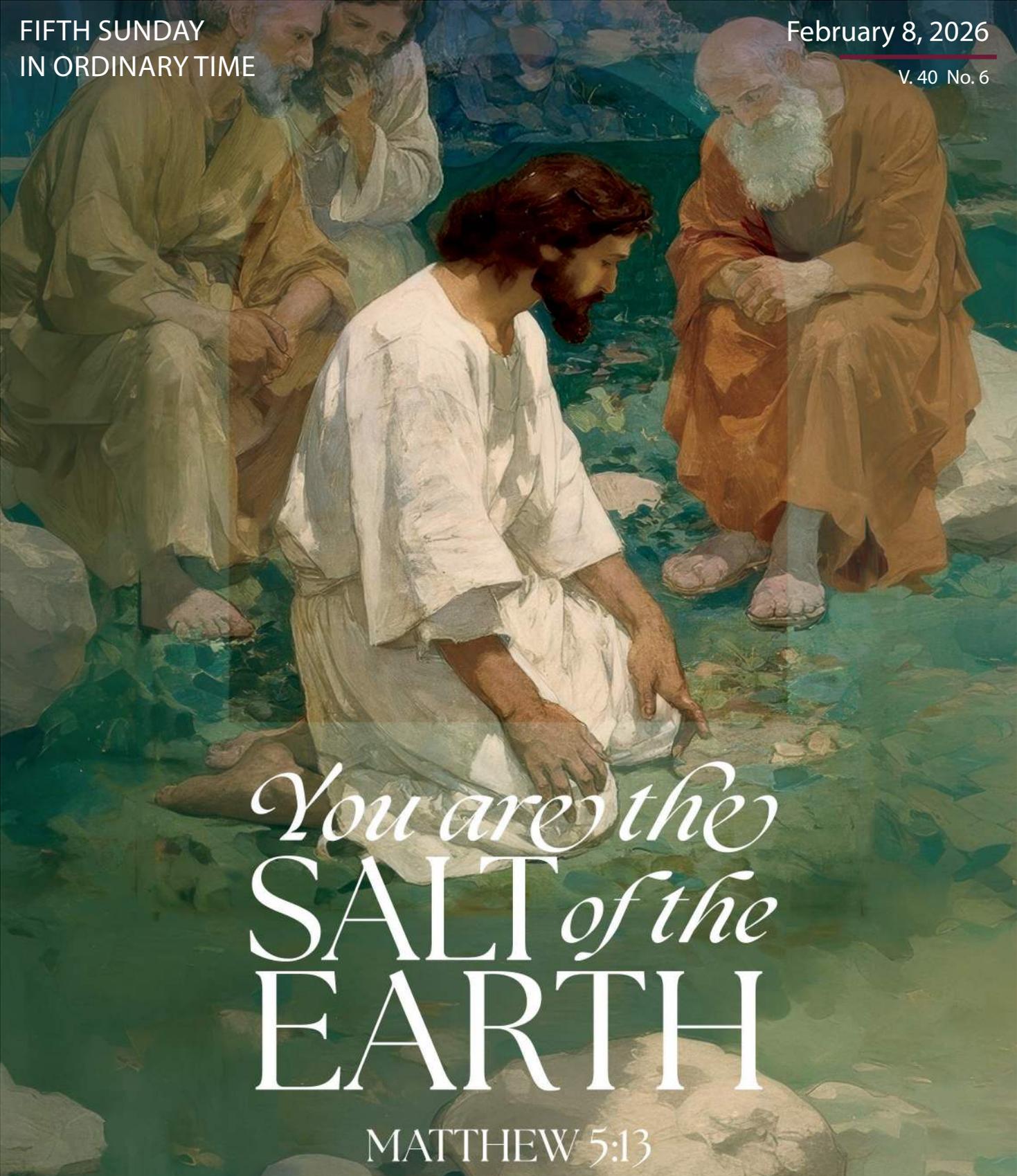


FIFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

February 8, 2026

V. 40 No. 6



You are the
SALT *of the*
EARTH

MATTHEW 5:13



ST. MARTHA
PARISH & SCHOOL

1100 West Grand River
Okemos, MI 48864

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

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

You Are the Light of the World

Paul A Tate |
Text and music © 1997, WLP

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with 'You are the light of the world!'. The second staff continues with 'You are the light of the world!'. The third staff has 'world! Let your light shine for all to see!'. The fourth staff has 'You are the light of the world!'. The fifth staff has three numbered options for lyrics: '1. Share your bread with the hun-gry; shel-ter the lost and the', '2. Hear the cries of the need-y; lis-ten with love and com-', and '3. Je - sus tells his dis - ci - ples: "You are salt of the'. The sixth staff has three numbered options: '1. home-less. Your wounds shall quick-ly be healed; your', '2. pas-sion. Our God will an-swer their call and', and '3. earth! Your light must shine be-fore all! Give'. The final staff is marked 'To Refrain' and has three numbered options: '1. light shall break forth like the dawn!', '2. fill them with un - end - ing joy!', and '3. glo - ry to God's ho - ly name!'

GREETING

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

✠ **Amen.**

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

✠ **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

GLORIA

Mass for Saint Martha

Tony Andorfer |
Text © 2010, ICEL |
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Music © 2025, Tony Andorfer |
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The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will. We'. The second staff has '5 praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we glo - ri - fy'. The third staff has '10 you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry,'. The fourth staff has 'Lord God, heav-en-ly King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther. Lord Je-sus Christ,'.

24 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 mer-cy 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 mer-cy 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

Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the LORD: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer, you shall cry for

help, and he will say: Here I am! If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

℟: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL

PSALM

Psalm 112

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: Tony Andorfer | All rights reserved |



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 The Lord Is My Light (Psalm 27)

Christopher Walker |
Text: Based on Psalm 27 |
Text and music © 1996,
Christopher Walker |
Published by OCP |
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Verses

1. The Lord is my light, my help, my sal-
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord that I
3. I know I will live to see the Lord's

1. va - tion. Why should I fear? With God I fear
2. long for: all of my days with God to be
3. good-ness; now, in this life, I'm sure I will

1. no one. God pro - tects me all my
2. dwell-ing, gaz - ing with awe at the beau - ty of
3. see it. Trust in the Lord, be strong and be

1. life. With the Lord what should I dread?
2. God, and in won - der look on God's house.
3. brave; wait in hope for God, our sal - va - tion.

Refrain

The Lord is my light, the Lord is my
help, the Lord is my sal - va - tion.

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 |
Text © 2010, ICEL |
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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

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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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

*Text: CMD; Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889, alt. |
Music: trad. English melody, adapt. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958*

1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's

1. rest; Lay down, thou wea - ry one, lay down Thy head up -
2. give The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, Stoop down, and
3. light; Look un - to me, thy morn shall rise, And all thy

1. on my breast." I came to Je - sus as I was, So
2. drink, and live." I came to Je - sus, and I drank Of
3. day be bright." I looked to Je - sus, and I found In

1. wea - ry, worn and sad; I found in him a
2. that life - giv - ing stream; My thirst was quenched, my
3. him my star, my sun; And in that light of

1. rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.
2. soul re - vived, And now I live in him.
3. life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

COMMUNION HYMN

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

*Text: based on Matthew 11:28-30;
Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993, alt. | Music: Paul A. Tate | ©
2017 by GIA Publications, Inc. |
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1. Come to me, O weary trav'ler; come to me with your distress;
come to me, you heavy burdened; come to me and find your rest,
come to me and find your rest.

Continued on next page

Refrain

Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
fore you; do not run from me in fright, do not
run from me in fright.

2. Take my yoke and leave your troubles; take my yoke and come with me.
Take my yoke, I am beside you; take and learn humility, take and learn humility.
3. Rest in me, O weary trav'ler; rest in me and do not fear.
Rest in me, my heart is gentle; rest and cast away your care, rest and cast away your care

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 Crown Him with Many Crowns

Diademata | Text: SMD;
verses 1, 3, Matthew Bridges,
1800-1894, and Compilers, 1978,
© 1978, OCP Publications |
All rights reserved |
Verse 2, Godfrey Thring,
1823-1903, alt
Music: George J Elvey, 1816-1893

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne;
2. Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
3. Crown him the Lord of heav'n, Where an - gels sing a - bove;

1. All king - doms of the earth re - sound In praise of him a - lone.
2. Who on the third day did a - rise And hope to sin - ners gave.
3. Crown him the King, to whom is giv'n The won - drous name of Love.

1. A - wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
2. His glo - ry now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
3. Crown him with man - y crowns, As thrones be - fore him fall.

1. And hail him as thy ris - en King For all e - ter - ni - ty.
2. Who came e - ter - nal life to bring, Who lives, no more to die.
3. Through - out the earth his praise re - sounds For he is Lord of all.

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From the Pastor's Desk



Gospel Reflection

Our Gospel today begins near the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount immediately following the Beatitudes (blessings) that we heard last week. Jesus calls us to be salt and light. What is up with these metaphors? What do they

mean? Both have significant meaning.

Obviously salt is used for preservation and flavoring. We Christians are to resist moral and spiritual decay in the world around us thereby preserving what is good, true, and beautiful. Our faith in Jesus Christ gives meaning and depth to human life thus giving flavor to our lives and the lives around us. But, salt is also indicative of a covenant relationship with God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Salt would have been used in various Old Testament sacrifices. In fact, salt was required in all grain and animal offerings (Leviticus 2:13). Salt, therefore, also signifies the covenant we share with God. It signifies its permanence and our fidelity to the covenant relationship.

Light also carries significant meaning. Obviously light illuminates the unseen. Jesus Christ is the light of the world illuminating all truth. We Christians share this light by virtue of our baptism. In the baptismal rite, the godparents receive the child's baptismal candle lit from the Paschal candle which itself was blessed by the Easter fire. Upon receiving the lit candle, the priest says, "Receive the light of Christ. Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly, so that your child, enlightened by Christ, may walk always as a child of the light and, persevering in the faith, may run to meet the Lord when he comes with all the saints in the heavenly court." As Christians, we are called to reflect the light of Christ - to be mirrors of Christ's light in the darkness and ugliness of the world around us.

Our first reading, taken from the fifty-eighth chapter of the prophet Isaiah, expounds on these metaphors of salt and light. How can we, as Christians, be salt and light for the world? Sharing bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless, clothing the naked when we see them, and by not turning our backs on our brothers and sisters.

We live in strange times. One of the important issues of the day is immigration. That word, 'immigration,' has become a loaded word taking on various meanings, perhaps depending upon what side of the issue we fall on politically. I hate that word "issue." I hate calling people issues because people are not issues and they are not problems to be fixed or solved. Rather, they are human beings who, like all of us, long to be seen, known, heard, and loved. *Continued on page 12.*

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 9

8:20 am + Elvera Paul by A. Readett

Tuesday, February 10

8:20 am + Patty Armstrong Bolle by *The Women's Bible Study*

Wednesday, February 11

6:00 pm + Herve and Philo Defever by *I. and T. Schwab*

Thursday, February 12

8:20 am + Lawrence and Cecelia Blatnik by *L. and C. Blatink*

Friday, February 13

8:20 am + Bob Robke by *T. and M. Finelli*

Saturday, February 14

5:00 pm Betty Flood by *M.J. Flood*

Sunday, February 15

8:00 am + David O'Leary by *D. and A. O'Leary*

10:00 am + Don Brieschke by *The Brieschke Family*

5:00 pm Intentions of the People of the Parish

Intercessory Prayers

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

Adrienne (Moore) Haughton
Bob Blackburn
Cindy Pendergast
Kathleen Wolff
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
† Shirley Ennis
† Raul Sanchez

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 8, 2026

Monday	1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday	Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11; Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday	1 Kings 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23
Thursday	1 Kings 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40; Mk 7:24-30
Friday	1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-15; Mk 7:31-37
Saturday	Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop 1 Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-22; Mk 8:1-10
Sunday	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37



Altar Flowers

February 8-9
In Honor Of

+ David Martell
by Brigit Martell

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, February 14 | 5:00 pm

S. D. and L. McAlvey
L. 1 - K. Draths W/2 - G. Styka

Sunday, February 15 | 8:00 am

S. T. and S. O'Dea
L. 1 - S. Kostaroff W/2 - C. DeKoninck

Sunday, February 15 | 10:00 am

S. F. Herring, **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
L. 1 - B. Forney W/2 - I. Olson

Sunday, February 15 | 5:00 pm

S. M. Werner, **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
L. 1 - C. Patton W/2 - N. Vozzo

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.

This Week at St. Martha

Monday, February 9

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*

Tuesday, February 10

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*
9:00am Women's Bible Study
7:30 pm Men's Pick Up Basketball

Wednesday, February 11

6:30 pm Confessions *Fr. Mike*
6:30 pm Adoration until 7:20pm Benediction
7:30 pm K of C General Membership Mtg - Bl. Solanus Casey Room

Thursday, February 12

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*
Prayer Quilt Ministry is cancelled.
No Adult Choir Practice.

Friday, February 13

8:50 am Confessions *Fr. Mike*
9:00 am Adoration until 9:00 pm Benediction

Saturday, February 14

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

Sunday, February 15

11:00 am OCIA - Bl. Solanus Casey Room

Eucharist to Care Homes

February 15, 2026

Willows of Okemos	R. Salyers
Bickford of Okemos	C. and L. Leece
Haslett Pointe, Medilodge	S. Kostaroff
Dobie Road-ICMCF	J. Lenz, E. VanSteel

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

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

Dear St. Martha School Community,

After much prayer, reflection, and many family conversations over the past few years, I have made the decision that I will retire at the conclusion of this school year. This is something my husband and I have been thoughtfully discerning for quite a while, and while it feels like the right time, it comes with a full heart, deep gratitude, and a mixture of emotions that are difficult to put into words.



I have been blessed to serve in Catholic education for 37 years, 29 of those years right here at St. Martha School. St. Martha has been more than a place of work. It has been my second home, my ministry, and a community that has shaped me in countless ways. Along the way, I have been gifted with countless friendships that I will forever treasure. These relationships have meant more to me than I can fully express.

I am profoundly grateful for our incredible teachers and staff, both past and present. Working alongside such dedicated, faith-filled professionals over the past 29 years has been one of the greatest joys of my career and truthfully, one of the biggest reasons it has been so hard to say goodbye. Your commitment to our students, your passion, and your love for Catholic education inspire me every single day. I have learned so much from each of you, laughed often, been humbled regularly, and am continually amazed by the work you do. It has truly been an honor to serve with you, learn from you, and cheer you on along the way.

I am especially thankful for the guidance and support of our pastors. Fr. Mike, our former pastor, played a vital role in setting a strong and faithful foundation for the future. His steady leadership, pastoral care, and commitment to Catholic education laid the groundwork upon which our school and parish continue to grow. Fr. Ryan, our current pastor, brings a dynamic and faith-filled energy that is moving St. Martha forward in powerful ways. His vision, enthusiasm, and deep love for the Lord are guiding our school and parish into a vibrant and successful future rooted firmly in faith. I am deeply grateful for how both pastors' guidance supported me personally and strengthened St. Martha School in lasting ways.



Students and families, thank you for being the heart and joy of St. Martha. Watching our students grow in faith, knowledge, and character has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I have loved every minute spent in classrooms, popping into hallways, sharing laughs at lunch, attending school events, and hearing the wonderful (and sometimes hilarious) stories our students are so eager to tell. Being with the children and witnessing their curiosity, kindness, energy, and faith has been the very best part of my days. Our families' trust, partnership, and commitment to this community are what make St. Martha such a truly special place, and I am endlessly grateful to you.



While leaving will be a huge change and is certainly bittersweet, I am filled with confidence and hope for the future of St. Martha School. This will continue to be a strong, rigorous, and faith-filled school where children are known, loved, and challenged to be their very best. I am confident that we will find an amazing new leader, and I know that St. Martha will continue to thrive.

As we enter this "next act", my husband and I are truly looking forward to what lies ahead. We are excited to spend more time together, to visit our children in Grand Rapids and Nashville, to care for our granddogs (and someday, we hope, grandkids!), and to travel. Though I am retiring from my role, I am not leaving the St. Martha community. I will remain an active member of the parish and will assist with the transition to support our new administrator in any way I can.

Thank you for the prayers, kindness, and love you have shown me throughout the years. Serving this community and the Catholic Church has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. St. Martha School will forever hold a special place in my heart.

With deep gratitude,
Andrea Patton



From the Pastor's Desk Continued. Jesus calls us to be salt and light for everyone, not just those close to us. Perhaps, right now, there are two ways in which we can be salt and light to the world around us. First, I think we can begin by seeing people as people - immigrants, our law enforcement officers, Renee Good, Alex Pretti, our President and Vice President, those on the left, and those on the right...everyone! It has become far too common, I think, for us to view everything and everyone through the lenses of our politics rather than with the mind of Christ and His Church. It is so easy for us to put people into camps or categories - liberal, conservative, democrat, republican, immigrant, native, agitator, racist, murderer, criminal. We've heard these words a lot lately. God sees us all only as his sons and daughters. Can we see everyone as our brothers and sisters?

Second, to be salt and light for the world around us means that we are people of hope! We just concluded a great Jubilee Year with the theme Pilgrims of Hope. Are we those pilgrims of hope? Or, when we watch the news, listen to our favorite pundits, or hear our elected officials speak, do we fall into fear, anger, anxiety, and despair? Jesus Christ has conquered this world. He is not only the victor but our victor. When I was working at Father Gabriel Richard High School, Sr. Sarah Burdick was one of the theology teachers. She was always so positive, upbeat, and funny - even in the midst of tragedy and suffering. She reminded me constantly, "God always wins." That's the truth and that is our hope - God always wins! Jesus is victorious over sin and suffering. People of hope are not burdened by the news of the day. Rather, they are uplifted because of the faithfulness of God. Can we be those Pilgrims of Hope to those around us? Or, do we drag those around us down by our fear, anxiety, anger, and despair?

In light of the readings today, I thought it prudent to reprint here, with permission, an article that was first published in the spring 2025 issue of Focus - the publication of the Michigan Catholic Conference:

The Catholic approach to immigration flows directly from Our Lord, who identifies Himself among the "least brothers of mine." Jesus includes "welcoming the stranger" as a work of mercy He asks us to perform for the poor and the vulnerable — and in turn, for Him.

"It's a basic thing about solidarity," said Susana Chapa Vargas, coordinator for Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Lansing and an immigrant from Mexico herself. "When we don't show solidarity towards our brothers and sisters, that shows ... the moral values that we really have. Are we really embracing the Catholic values, or not?"

Human dignity is not conditional on a person's individual circumstances. All persons, including immigrants, possess God-given dignity regardless of their legal status within a country.

In recognizing the human dignity of the migrant, the Church is not offering support for illegal immigration. Rather, the Church calls on Catholics, and all people of goodwill, to respond to the needs of the individual person regardless of how he or she arrived. This is reflected in the Church's work through its charitable agencies — including those in Michigan — to meet the humanitarian needs of migrants.

It also is important to recognize that immigrants and refugees are among the most vulnerable members of society, and that Catholic social doctrine places emphasis on caring for the most vulnerable.

"In the case of pregnancy, who's the most vulnerable? Well, the pregnant woman is vulnerable, and her unborn child even more vulnerable," said Fr. Wayne Dziekan, vicar for Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Gaylord. "Okay, so we look at immigration, who's the vulnerable? ... The vulnerable is going to be the immigrant, the person who is seeking to come in or has come in."

In *Dignitas Infinita*, a recent Vatican document on human dignity, it is noted that migrants "are among the first victims of multiple forms of poverty," as their dignity is first "denied in their home countries." The Church teaches that individuals have a natural right to migrate when the conditions for dignified living are absent in their place of origin. For Carmen and her family, their lives were at risk. For many others, poor economic conditions make it impossible to support themselves. In either case, many migrants have no choice but to find refuge elsewhere.

"They've come to the United States, not because they thought, 'Oh, this is something I've always wanted to do.' They were forced out of the place where they lived," said Lesley Glennon, who since 1997 has led the immigration law clinic for Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties within the Diocese of Lansing. "If they had the chance — everything being equal — of course they would stay where they grew up."

Daris, who migrated here with her two daughters from Guatemala, listed several factors for why she had to leave. Not only did she escape from a domestic violence situation that was threatening her family, but the poor economic conditions also made it challenging to lead a stable life, exacerbated by the medical expenses incurred by one of her daughters, who suffers from Rickets disease.

Since coming to the U.S., Daris' daughter has undergone one surgery and is awaiting a second procedure. Because of that, the authorities have allowed Daris and her family to stay in Detroit, where she lives and works. Her initial request for asylum was denied and she at one point was facing deportation. "We go every year and have to sign papers with immigration so that they'll let us stay for another year," she said through a translator.

The uncertainty that Daris lives with is one reason why the Church's support of providing immigration legal services has a charitable dimension to it.

"They're here trying to survive, and one of the things that helps them to survive is to assist them to at least know that whatever else may be going on with employment [or] schooling for their kids, they don't have to worry about, 'Am I going to have to leave next month and be shipped back where I came from, where people want to kill me?'" Glennon said. While migrants attest to the better conditions they find in the U.S., the challenges they face do not end upon arrival.

continued on page 13.



Dignitas Infinita notes that in their new home, migrants' lives are "put at risk because they no longer have the means to start a family, to work, or to feed themselves."

Undocumented individuals are among the most vulnerable of society, often forced to live in the shadows because of the fear of deportation and having to return to the dangers or hardships they were trying to escape.

"We do have a lot of people coming here for safety reasons, so they'd rather live in a country with nothing, and no documents, and no way to get legal employment ... than staying in their country where they could potentially come across harm or death," said Samantha Lindberg, program director of the Immigration Assistance Program for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

This is not something most Americans can fathom, though imagine having to flee to another country to protect your family and trying to establish a new life — finding housing, a job to afford food and necessities, schooling and healthcare for children — without knowing the language or the laws. This is where the Church, through the members of the Body of Christ, has proved crucial in the lives of immigrants who needed the help of others to find their footing here.

"I think it's really important to have the Church help because we come without knowing our rights, without knowing the laws, and really without knowing where to turn," Daris said.

One example of the Church's support for migrants is through the work of Strangers No Longer, a Catholic-affiliated group in Michigan that helps immigrants through its "circles of support" that form in parishes and other communities.

For Daris, the group has connected her with legal resources, provided transportation to her daughter's medical appointments, and found her a psychologist to work through the various traumas she's faced.

Carmen attributes Strangers No Longer — named for the joint pastoral letter authored by the U.S. and Mexican bishops in 2003 — for helping her family plug into their parish and finding an apartment for them.

"It's really nice to have these circles of support, because it's people who are organized and are [helping] someone in need," she said.

Another individual who has benefited from the group's assistance is Felipe, who left Mexico to escape the violence of the cartels and to seek better healthcare after his wife suffered a miscarriage.

Felipe found work in Michigan, but was injured on the job, leaving him unable to support himself for several months. To make matters worse, his wife's tourist visa expired, forcing her return to Mexico and leaving him alone in Michigan as he awaits surgery.

"I reached a point where I hit bottom and I didn't know what to do," he said through a translator. He eventually found Strangers No Longer, which is trying to get his surgery arranged in addition to connecting him to their community of support.

"Thanks to Strangers No Longer, I've been able to survive all this," he said.

By encouraging care for migrants, the Church is not calling on Catholics to support illegal immigration or open borders. Church teaching has been clear for decades that nations have the right to regulate migration, and that migrants should obey the laws of the country they enter.

As with any other cultural or public policy issue, the call to the faithful is to form their consciences and beliefs based on the social teachings of Christ.

"Our opinions ... as Catholics should not be based on political ideology," Fr. Dziekan said. "It should be based on our faith. It should be based on finding Christ in the other."

The job of the people of faith is to lift others up, Fr. Dziekan said. Believers are called to first recognize "Christ in front of me" rather than labeling immigrants based on their status, and that starts within each individual's heart.

"If we're serious about seeing Christ in our neighbor, if we really believe that, but we find that we are angry at a person who does not have legal status ... then we don't know Jesus Christ," Fr. Dziekan said.

The experiences of migrants forced to leave their homes to find refuge here is an invitation to Catholics — particularly amidst the national dialogue around immigration — to first empathize with their migrant brothers and sisters.

"The people we serve, they're just like you," Glennon said of her immigrant clients. "The things that you want in your life, it's the same thing, what they want ... so it's not some 'other.' It's us."



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
Masses with Ashes at
6:30 am, 8:20 am, Noon, and 6:30 pm

The poster features a purple background with a close-up image of a person's hand applying ash to their forehead in the shape of a cross.



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Fridays of Lent

Eucharistic Adoration
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Stations of the Cross
2:30 pm and 7:00 pm

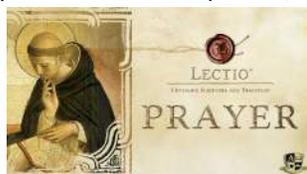


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Events



SAVE THE DATES!

March 2-4

6:30 - 8:00 pm



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THURSDAYS AT 6:30 PM BEGINNING FEB. 19

OR

SATURDAYS AT 8:00 AM BEGINNING FEB. 21



REGISTER

Lenten Fish Fry

Every Friday February 20 - March 27 | 5 - 7 pm

Adults \$17 | Seniors \$15
Kids (5-12) \$8 | Under 5 Free



Holy Week

at St. Martha

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 28

5 PM VIGIL MASS

6 PM EASTER FLOWER PICK UP

MARCH 29

8 AM, 10 AM, 5 PM MASSES

9 & 11 AM EASTER FLOWER PICK UP



WEDNESDAY

APRIL 1

EXTENDED CONFESSIONS

7-8 AM, 9-10 AM, 11 AM - NOON,

1-2 PM, 3-4 PM, 5-5:45 PM, 6:30 PM



HOLY THURSDAY

APRIL 2 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

7 PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WITH ADORATION UNTIL

11:50 PM COMPLINE IN

BL. SOLANUS CASEY ROOM



GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 3 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

3 PM LITURGY OF THE

LORD'S PASSION

7 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS



HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 4

8 AM EASTER FOOD BLESSING

10 AM DECORATING IN

THE CHURCH

8:30 PM EASTER VIGIL MASS



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5

8 AM, 10 AM, AND

NOON MASSES

NO 5 PM MASS



EASTER MONDAY

APRIL 6

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

NO MASSES OR CONFESSIONS



Our Confirmation students recently attended a retreat as a way to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to prepare to receive this powerful Sacrament on April 22.



Fish Fry Volunteers Needed

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.



Security Team

Fr. Ryan is looking to form a volunteer security team such that there is coverage during each of the four Sunday Masses and the all-school Thursday morning Mass. If you are current or former law enforcement or have military training and are interested in helping with the safety of our parishioners during worship, please reach out to Fr. Ryan directly at frryan@st-martha.org.

Communion to the Homebound

We are currently seeking volunteers who would be interested in becoming extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to our homebound parishioners in the area. If you are interested in this very important ministry, please use the QR code to provide your information. The information will then be forwarded to Renee Salyers, who coordinates this ministry to find a suitable date for training. Once training is completed, you will then be commissioned as both extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to the homebound and for week(end/day) Mass.



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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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of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton Counties

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When you become a foster parent, you can choose the age range and gender of the child placed in your home. Foster children range in age from newborns to 17 years old. In 2026, Catholic Charities has been challenged to find at least one new family from the Lansing Diocese parishes who will open their hearts and become a host family. We invite you to help us meet this important goal. To learn more, please contact Catholic Charities IEC at 517-323-4734 ext. 1612.

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Mon. MARCH 9 | 7pm
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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.

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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

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kkeefe@st-martha.org

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Gregg Alchin
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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

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Website lansingcatholic.org



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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

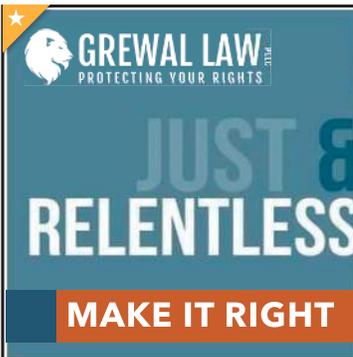
Baptisms take place the 2nd Sunday of each month. Parents who are baptizing their first child will need to attend a class. Visit st-martha.org/baptism to get started.

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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