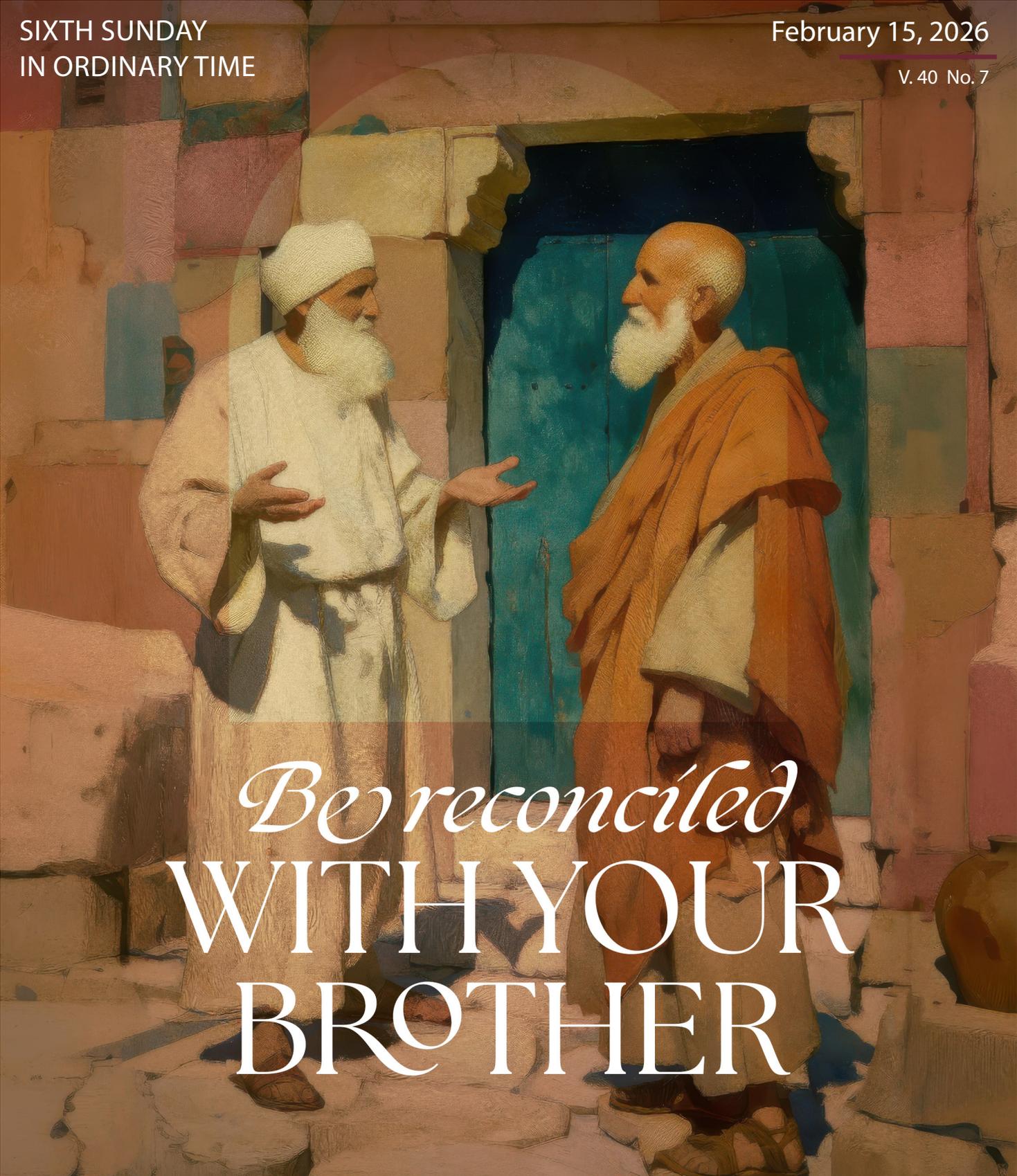


SIXTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

February 15, 2026

V. 40 No. 7



*Be reconciled*  
**WITH YOUR  
BROTHER**



**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

#### Eye Has Not Seen

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Marty  
Haugen, b.1950 | Tune: Marty  
Haugen, b.1950 |  
© 1982, GLA Publications, Inc.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has read-y for  
those who love him; Spir - it of love, come, give us the  
mind of Je - sus, teach us the wis-dom of God.

Verses 1-3

4. We sing a myst'ry  
from the past  
in halls where  
saints have trod,  
yet ever new the  
music rings  
to Jesus, Living  
Song of God.

1. When pain and sor - row weigh us down, be near to us, O  
2. Our lives are but a sin - gle breath, we flow-er and we  
3. To those who see with eyes of faith, the Lord is ev - er  
Lord, for - give the weak - ness of our faith, and  
fade, yet all our days are in your hands, so  
near, re - flect - ed in the fac - es of  
D.C.  
bear us up with - in your peace-ful word.  
we re - turn in love what love has made.  
all the poor and low - ly of the world.

### 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 |  
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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, —  
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

*Sirach 15:15-20*

If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him. Immense is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power, and all-seeing.

The eyes of God are on those who fear him; he understands man's every deed. No one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin.

*Lector:* The word of the Lord.

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL

### PSALM

#### Psalm 119

*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 and Joe Cochran | All rights reserved*



kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.* But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, *You shall not commit adultery.* But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one

of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.

"It was also said, *Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.* But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife - unless the marriage is unlawful - causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.* But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one."

*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

#### We Bring Our Gifts

*Text: Brian Flynn |  
Tune: Brian Flynn;  
acc. by Ed Bolduc, b.1969 |  
© 2011, 2013, World Library  
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GLA Publications, Inc.*



1. We bring our gifts to your al - tar, O Lord God of  
2. We bring our hearts to your al - tar, O Lord God of  
3. Pre - pare our hearts to re - ceive you, O Lord God of



hosts; We lay them at the foot of your throne.  
hosts; U - nite them with the heart of your Son.  
hosts; ☩ Cleanse us and wash a - way our sins.



We bring our gifts to your al - tar, O Lord God of  
☩ For he of - fered his life as a ran - som for  
We sing your praise with the an - gels and saints at your



hosts; We of - fer them to praise you a - lone.  
sin; ☩ By his death the vic - t'ry is won.  
throne, For this is where heav'n en - ters in.



We bring our gifts to your al - tar, O Lord.  
We bring our hearts to your al - tar, O Lord.  
Pre - pare our hearts to re - ceive you, O

### VERSE 4:

We bring our gifts to your altar, O Lord God of hosts;  
May our sacrifice be pleasing in your sight.  
Fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
Which will become for us the Bread of Life.  
We bring our gifts to your altar, O Lord.  
We bring our gifts to your altar, O Lord.

*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 |  
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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.  
9 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
12 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

### Draw Near

Text: *Sancti venite, Christi corpus sumite, 7th C; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt* |

Tune: NEALE, 10 10 10 10 with refrain;

Steven R. Janco, b.1961,

© 1992, World Library Publications, a division of GLA Publications, Inc

Draw near, draw near! Take the bod - y  
of your Lord. Draw near, draw near!  
Drink the blood for you out - poured.

1. Draw near and take the bod - y of your Lord,
2. Christ our re - deem - er, God's e - ter - nal Son,
3. Let us ap - proach with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,
4. With heav'n - ly bread makes those who hun - ger whole,

And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured:  
Has by his cross and blood the vic - t'ry won:  
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here:  
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul:

Saved by his bod - y and his ho - ly blood, With  
He gave his life for great - est and for least, Him -  
Christ who in this life all the saints de - fends, Gives  
Judge of the na - tions, to whom all must bow, In

D.C.  
souls re - freshed we give our thanks to God.  
self the of - 'fring and Him - self the Priest.  
all be - liev - ers life that nev - er ends.  
this great feast of love is with us now.

## COMMUNION HYMN

### How Beautiful

Twila Paris | copyright 1990

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CMG Publishing |

Mountain Spring Music admin. by

Capitol CMG Publishing

1. How Beau - ti - ful the hands that served the  
2. How Beau - ti - tul the heart that bled, that  
3. How Beau - ti - ful the ra - diant Bride who  
4. How Beau - ti - ful the feet that bring the  
5  
wine and the bread and the child - ren of the earth. How Beau - ti -  
took all my sin and bore it in - stead. How Beau - ti -  
waits for her Groom with His light in her eyes. How Beau - ti -  
sound of good news and the love of the King. How Beau - ti -  
10  
ful the feet that walked the long dust - y roads and the  
ful the ten - der eyes that choose to for - give and  
ful when humble hearts give the fruit of pure lives so that  
ful the hands that serve the wine and the bread and the

15  
hill to the cross.  
nev - er de - spise. How beau - ti - ful,  
oth - ers may live.  
child - ren of the earth.

20  
how beau - ti - ful, how

25  
beau - ti - ful, is the bod - y of Christ. [ to Bridge after verse 2 ]

**BRIDGE:**

And as he laid down his life, we offer this sacrifice that we will live just as he died; willing to pay the price, willing to pay the price. [ to verse 3 ]

**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**  
**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

*Text: HYFRYDOL 87 87 D; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. | Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887*

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er; Let us all your  
3. Fin - ish then your new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less,

1. earth come down! Fix in us your hum - ble dwell - ing; All your  
2. life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, Nev - er -  
3. gra - cious Lord; Let us see your great sal - va - tion Per - fect -

1. faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, source of all com - pas - sion,  
2. more your tem - ples leave. Lord, we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
3. ly in you re - stored. Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

1. Love un - bound - ed, love all pure; Vis - it us with  
2. Serve you as your hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise you  
3. Till in heav'n we take our place, Till we sing be -

1. your sal - va - tion, Let your love in us en - dure.  
2. with - out - ceas - ing, Glo - ry in your pre - cious love.  
3. fore the al - might - y, Lost in won - der, love and praise.

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# From the Pastor's Desk



## Mrs. Patton

In last week's bulletin you read a letter from Mrs. Patton announcing her retirement. 37 years in education, 29 of which have been spent forming young hearts and minds here at St. Martha! I am incredibly grateful to her. Her

wisdom, care, kindness, collegiality, leadership (I could go on and on) have helped shape not only our students and families but also the school itself. Fr. Mike often references "the renewal" meaning the turning point of this parish and school beginning in 2017. At the time there were approximately 80 children enrolled in the school. Today we are very close to capacity (and interest in St. Martha School has increased dramatically!) and are building six additional classrooms to meet the need. "The renewal" has taken place, in large part, because of Mrs. Patton's leadership in the school. I am grateful and am very proud of her and her accomplishments. Mrs. Patton has placed her trust entirely in the Lord and through her the Lord has accomplished great things.

We will have a celebration to properly thank Mrs. Patton. More information on that will follow in the weeks to come.

The Lord will continue to accomplish great things here at St. Martha. We will hire an excellent principal to lead the next chapter of St. Martha as we continue to form the hearts and minds of our youth drawing them into an ever deepening relationship with Jesus Christ. The position description has been made public and we are accepting resumes and cover letters. If you know anyone who might be interested, please have them send their resume and cover letter to my attention.

*Continued on page 12.*



Shirley Ennis

## Rest in Peace

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



# Mass Intentions

## Monday, February 16

8:20 am + Laura Hamtil by *The Wolff Family*

## Tuesday, February 17

8:20 am + Jason Wilson by *T. and M. Finelli*

## Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday

6:30 am + Jerry, + Lee, and + Michael Cvengros by *R. Cvengros*

8:20 am + William Westwood by *A. Readett*

12:00 pm Intentions of the People of the Parish

6:30 pm + Helen Kraushaar by *D. and M.B. Anderson*

## Thursday, February 19

8:20 am + Cathy O'Rourke by *D. and H. Hillman*

## Friday, February 20

8:20 am + Catherine Hanley by *J. and N. Hanley*

## Saturday, February 21

5:00 pm + Robert Butts by *D. Barker*

## Sunday, February 22

8:00 am + Alyn Rynbrandt by *T. and M. Finelli*

10:00 am + Paul Rosete by *The Bohr 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:**

Autumn DeMarini  
Iris DeMarini  
Aleyah Daadar  
Bob Blackburn  
Cindy Pendergast  
Kathleen Wolff  
Ron Grove  
Kathy Makar  
Marian Kay Spagnolo  
Sijo George  
Brad Krohn  
Sister Pat Newhouse  
Rose McManaman  
John Paul Erford  
Adrienne (Moore) Haughton

**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:**

† Shirley Ennis  
† Raul Sanchez  
† Richard Hollowood

**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 15, 2026

Monday	Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday	Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Joel 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 9:22-25
Friday	Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday	Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32
Sunday	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rm 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

## This Week at St. Martha

### Monday, February 16

No School - President's Day

8:50 am Confessions Fr. Mike

### Tuesday, February 17

8:50 am Confessions Fr. Mike

No Women's Bible Study

7:30 pm Men's Pick Up Basketball

### Wednesday, February 18 - Ash Wednesday

6:30 am, 8:20 am, Noon, and 6:30 pm Mass

No Adoration or Confessions.

### Thursday, February 19

8:50 am Confessions Fr. Mike

6:30 pm Ignatius' Rules of Discernment

7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, February 20

8:50 am Confessions Fr. Ryan

9:00 am Adoration until 9:00 pm Benediction

2:30 pm Stations of the Cross

5:00 pm Fish Fry

7:15 pm Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, February 21

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

8:00 am Ignatius' Rules of Discernment

Noon Marriage Prep Retreat - Bl. Solanus Casey Room

3:00 pm Confessions Fr. Ryan

### Sunday, February 22

9:00 am Faith Formation, Grades 1-6

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

10:00 am Rite of Sending

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)

3:00 pm Regional Rite of Election with Bishop Boyea

6:00 pm Faith Formation, Grades 7-12, with Confirmation Parents

# Liturgical Ministers

## Saturday, February 21 | 5:00 pm

S. D. Hunter, M. Siminski

L. 1 - R. Kostrzewa W/2 - L. Blatnik

## Sunday, February 22 | 8:00 am

S. C. and L. Kendall

L. 1 - S. Stanley W/2 - M. Fletcher

## Sunday, February 22 | 10:00 am

S. K. Ault, M. Bobinski

L. 1 - R. Lenz W/2 - T. Muncie

## Sunday, February 22 | 5:00 pm

S. M. and T. Werner

L. 1 - I. Stines W/2 - A. Readett

**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](http://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 22, 2026

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

## Get Connected

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### ***Be Careful What You Purchase!***

Please exercise caution when purchasing religious articles - especially rosaries - online. It is important to know both the source and origin of these items. I have recently become aware that a number of counterfeit rosaries are in circulation, many of which appear to be mass-produced and commonly distributed as inexpensive handouts.

At first, I was inclined to dismiss these concerns. However, after further research and conversations with brother priests, I found the issue serious enough to bring to your attention.

These counterfeit rosaries can often be identified by certain features. The crucifix may lack the traditional "INRI" inscription and instead display unusual imagery, such as a snake coiled near the top of the cross. In some cases, the cross points feature sun-like symbols with multiple rays, or are shaped like pentagons which is inconsistent with traditional Christian iconography. The origins of these designs are often unclear, which raises legitimate concerns about their suitability for prayer and devotion. For this reason, I strongly encourage you to avoid using rosaries of uncertain origin. If you come across such items - or already have them in your possession - please bring them to the parish office so they may be properly disposed of.

### ***Lenten Speaker Series***

Please mark your calendars for our Lenten Speaker Series The Lordship of Christ March 2, 3, and 4. Our speaker and present is my dear friend Mr. James (Butch) Murphy. Butch serves as a Renewal Ministries' country coordinator for Mexico, organizing and leading multiple mission trips each year to serve the impoverished in Mexico City. He is also the founder and president of Vera Cruz Communications and has been involved in youth ministry on parish, diocesan, national, and international levels; has served as a member of several parish pastoral teams; and has worked in various religious education programs. Butch also is the former chairman of the National Service Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and former president of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service. Jim and his wife, Susan, have one son and live in Western Michigan.

I have preached a couple of times about my experiences on the Mexico Mission Trip with Father Gabriel Richard High School. Butch is "the guy" who leads these regular trips and missions to the people of Mexico, particularly those living in the largest garbage dump in North America. He is an incredible man and this speaker series will prove a worthwhile endeavor for you to attend. So, I look forward to seeing you each night!

### ***Regional Rite of Election February 22***

Bishop Boyea will preside over the Rite of Election for the regional candidates and catechumens (those who will enter full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter) here at St. Martha on Sunday, February 22 at 3:00pm. Please pray for those coming into the Church at Easter as they strive to be all the more like Christ and receive him more fully within the Body of Christ and through the Sacraments.

For those attending the 5:00pm Mass that evening, please

know there might be a bit of congestion in the parking lot. When I agreed to host this, the original time was 2:00pm. It has since been pushed back to 3:00pm. Oh well! I'm happy to accommodate the Bishop and the diocesan staff.

### ***Gospel Reflection***

Our Gospel reading today continues, as it has for the last few weeks, from the Sermon on the Mount. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is presented by Matthew as the New Moses. Just as Moses received the law from God himself on Mount Sinai, Jesus now teaches from a mountain revealing the full meaning of the law originally given.

Jesus is clear, he has not come to abolish the law but rather to fulfill the law. We can look at the law as having two dimensions - moral and ceremonial. Open your bibles to the Pentateuch (first five books including Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) otherwise known as the Torah. The Torah are the books of the law, and we can also see in them two dimensions - moral and ceremonial. The ceremonial laws (washing, sacrifice, worship, dietary, festivals, etc.) have all been fulfilled in Christ. Christ is both the object of our worship and the one who was sacrificed on our behalf. The laws of purification, sacrifice, festivals of worship, etc. all point to Christ himself. He is the sacrificial lamb and, as such, he is the one we are called to worship - the one who takes away our sin and the sins of the world.

Jesus, in our passage today, is primarily concerned with the moral law. And, again, he is clear. He has not come to abolish the moral law primarily found in the Ten Commandments, but rather to explain and teach the meaning behind them - conversion of heart. Jesus reveals their deepest and fullest meaning and he reveals this meaning through both his teaching and in the way he perfectly lived the law himself.

There are 613 laws in the Torah known as the mitzvot; 365 are negative laws (abstentions) and 248 are positive (things or actions to be done or undertaken). The Jews took the law very seriously. So seriously, in fact, that Rabbinic law (Talmud) developed thousands of extra laws known as gezeirot (fences or hedges) and takanot (ordinances) in order to protect themselves from violating the original commandments. In other words, these extra laws and ordinances were developed so that they would not come close to violating one of the original Mosaic laws.

God himself takes the law very seriously because relationships are built on mutual respect, trust, and commitment. There are certain things that ought not be done within the context of relationship lest the relationship break down and be destroyed all together. As an example, within the context of marriage, the spouses are called to be exclusively faithful to each other. Anything otherwise would sow distrust, anger, and resentment.

Jesus seals the law, or covenant, in his own blood. That is the means through which he has chosen to show his faithfulness to us. Those of us who call ourselves Christian and profess to be in and have a relationship with Christ, respect the relationship so much that we strive not to fall into sin. That is the whole point of our first reading taken from the fifteenth chapter of the book of



Sirach. And, in our Gospel, Jesus is quite clear in that he has not come to abolish the law but rather to fulfill it. He fulfills the law by teaching us the meaning behind it - conversion of heart, mind, and soul.

The word conversion comes from the Greek word metanoia which means a fundamental change of mind or change of heart involving a radical change in one's perspective, direction, and way of life. Metanoia means going much deeper than simple regret or repentance, but rather a complete reorientation toward something new. Jesus, in both his preaching and teaching, but even more fundamentally in his Paschal Sacrifice, teaches us the deeper meaning behind the law - to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves. In the Gospel today, Jesus provides a little insight into this.

The letter of the law, for example, says that one shall not kill. But, the deeper meaning of that command is that anger itself kills.

The letter of the law says that one shall not commit adultery. But, the deeper meaning of that command is that lust and disordered sexual desire is itself destructive because it is selfish and not at all directed toward the other out of love.

The letter of law allowed for divorce if a bill of divorce was provided. But, the deeper meaning of that command is that God never intended divorce. He permitted it because of the hardness of the hearts of the people. But, Jesus, through the law, is calling each of us into something deeper. In marriage God intends a lifelong faithful covenant between a man and woman as a witness of the covenant between Christ and His Church.

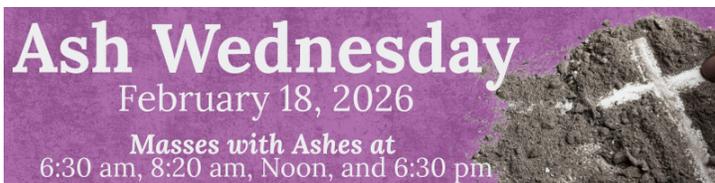
The letter of the law says that one should not make a false oath. The deeper meaning behind the law is that we should always be people of the truth regardless of whether the truth is advantageous or disadvantageous to us because the truth matters and the truth will always come out.

It would take Jesus' disciples to come to understand what Jesus meant by all this. That understanding would not come until his suffering, death, and Resurrection when law would actually be fulfilled and finally revealed to them.

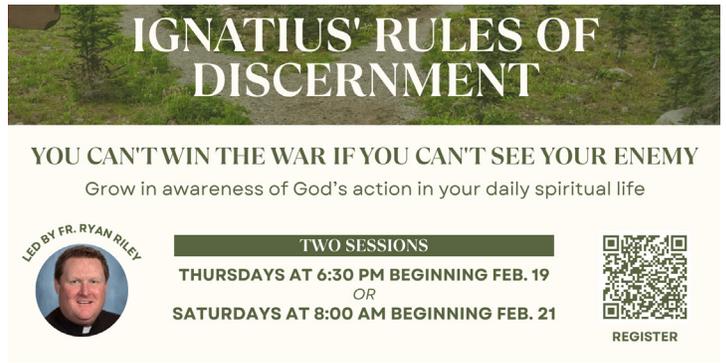
As we pray today, let us understand that law is rooted in relationship or covenant and that Jesus Christ himself is the fulfillment of both the law and the prophets. Let us pray for a metanoia to take place in our hearts as we turn all the more completely toward the Lord.

Know of my prayers for you all!

Fr. Ryan



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



**IGNATIUS' RULES OF DISCERNMENT**

**YOU CAN'T WIN THE WAR IF YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR ENEMY**  
Grow in awareness of God's action in your daily spiritual life

LED BY FR. RYAN RILEY 

**TWO SESSIONS**  
THURSDAYS AT 6:30 PM BEGINNING FEB. 19  
OR  
SATURDAYS AT 8:00 AM BEGINNING FEB. 21

  
REGISTER



Join us for a 3-part series featuring Jim "Butch" Murphy, Renewal Ministries' country coordinator for Mexico and founder of Vera Cruz Communications.



**SCHEDULE**

- 6:30pm - Introduction and Prayer
- 6:45pm - Talk
- 7:30pm - Adoration  
*Confessions available*
- 7:50pm - Benediction
- 8:00pm - Refreshments

**SPEAKER SERIES**

**THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST**

**March 2-4**  
6:30 - 8:00 pm



**ST. MARTHA**  
PARISH & SCHOOL

**St. Martha Parish**  
1100 W Grand River Ave  
Okemos, MI



**ENCOUNTER JESUS AND EMBRACE HIS INVITATION.**

**MAR 08 2026** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

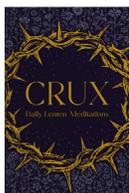
**ST. MARY PARISH**  
157 HIGH ST.  
WILLIAMSTON, MI

**EUCHARISTIC ENCOUNTER**

FOR TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS



# Meet God in Surrender this Lent



## Free Copies Available for Lent

Join Fr. Columba Jordan with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal for daily Lenten meditations that help you learn to rely on God's strength.

You will read through the entirety of the Gospel of Mark, reflecting on your identity as God's beloved child, and respond through prayer and practical action.

### Download the Ascension App

90-days full access for just

\$4.99

Get It Now >

The app is not needed to enjoy the Crux Devotional.

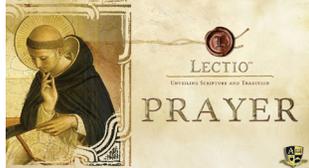
## Looking for a new way to pray?



This free study, *Lectio - Finding Intimacy with God*, by Dr. Tim Gray will teach you, in 6 short episodes, how to develop a closer, more personal relationship with God. Dr. Gray teaches us how to hear God's voice, His message for us, and how to respond.

This Lent, take some time, either on your own or with a partner, and challenge yourself to form a better prayer life.

Just go to [formed.org](http://formed.org), sign up for free under St. Martha Parish, and start praying.



## Fridays of Lent

**Eucharistic Adoration**  
9:00 am until 9:00 pm

**Stations of the Cross**  
2:30 pm and 7:00 pm



## Lenten Fish Fry

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

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

## Lenten Baby Crib

The baby crib is in the front of church near the confessional room. There are tags attached listing items needed for Shared Pregnancy. Please return the tag with your donation. The number of babies/families being cared for by Shared Pregnancy is growing by leaps and bounds especially since the opening of their second location! Please consider a donation to this loving and caring ministry.



## Blood Drive

St. Martha is hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross on **Saturday, March 7, 2026**, from **10:00am until 3:45pm**.

Please register online at: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) (Sponsor code: StMarthasOkemos) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Walk-in donors are also welcome.

## 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](mailto: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.



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

### First Grade at St. Martha School

First grade has been busy and full of exciting learning! Students are continuing to grow into stronger readers and writers each day. We have been practicing important reading skills and recently enjoyed a special writing project focused on friendly letters. The children loved learning the parts of a letter and discovering how mail is sent and delivered.

In math, we have been working on the place value of two-digit numbers and strengthening our understanding of addition and subtraction. Students are building confidence as they solve problems and explain their thinking.

In science, we had lots of fun learning about air and weather. Students used observation and graphing skills to record daily weather data and notice patterns over time. In social studies, we are beginning to learn about work and different types of jobs, discussing how people help their communities in many ways.

In religion, we have been learning all about God's love for us and practicing the virtues through kindness, patience, and respect in our classroom each day.



It is hard to believe how quickly the year is going! We are so excited to continue learning and growing together, and we cannot wait to see all that our first graders will accomplish through the rest of the school year!

Karly Marth, First Grade Teacher



# WE ARE HIRING PRINCIPAL

## 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

St. Martha School is seeking a full-time principal as a servant leader under the pastor of St. Martha Parish. The principal will enthusiastically share a zeal for learning and a passion for the Gospel, while embodying the school's mission, values, and vision within the lens of the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Learn more and apply at:  
[www.dioceseoflansing.org/human-resources/careers](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/human-resources/careers)

EXCELLENCE  
LIVES  
HERE

IN JOY



## 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](mailto:cfarnsworth@st-martha.org) to receive the application link and instructions.

Enrollment for the general public will open on February 16.

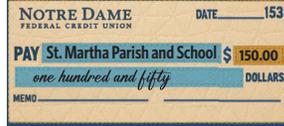




# Notre Dame FCU **ELEVATE**

Make giving easy.

When you use **Notre Dame FCU** as your financial institution, you can direct funds back to St. Martha Parish and School.



## Three Ways to **ELEVATE** St. Martha Parish and School:

- ✓ An annual 30-minute financial checkup = **\$150 donation** to St. Martha Parish and School\*
- ✓ An auto loan = up to **\$500 donation**†
- ✓ An ELEVATE debit or credit card = **1% donation** on all signature transactions‡

Get the details at

[NotreDameFCU.com/ELEVATE](http://NotreDameFCU.com/ELEVATE)



SCAN ME!

\*Financial Checkup offer is available to all current members, and those interested in learning more about Notre Dame Federal Credit Union and ELEVATE fundraising benefits. Limited to one (1) Financial Checkup per membership per 365-day period. Must be 18 years of age to be eligible to participate. Offer may change at any time. †Maximum rebate of \$500. ‡Subject to credit approval. Cardmembers may earn 1% back on any non-PIN purchase made with an ELEVATE debit or credit card. Rewards will be automatically donated to the specified nonprofit of the cardmember's choice. Cardmember will be notified if nonprofit does not qualify to receive rewards. Rewards are earned on purchases only; returns will be deducted from the calculation. If your account is closed, voluntarily or involuntarily, past due or over limit, you will forfeit all rewards.



# DIOCESE OF LANSING NEW FAMILY GRANTS



## **\$500** New Family Elementary Grant

Awarded to families enrolling a new elementary student if the family has never been enrolled in any Diocese of Lansing elementary school (K-8).

**ST. MARTHA** (517) 349-3322  
PARISH & SCHOOL [st-martha.org/school](http://st-martha.org/school)

**Now Enrolling Parishioner Families  
Open Enrollment begins February 16**

Contact [cfarnsworth@st-martha.org](mailto:cfarnsworth@st-martha.org) for more info



## **\$1,000** New Family High School Grant

Awarded to families enrolling a new high school student if the family has never been enrolled in any Diocese of Lansing high school.

Example: Oldest sibling has attended St. Gerard and will be the first in the family to enroll at Lansing Catholic High School this fall. This family is eligible for the \$1,000 New Family High School Grant.

**LANSING CATHOLIC** (517) 267-2113  
HIGH SCHOOL [lansingcatholic.org](http://lansingcatholic.org)



Families may qualify for both Elementary and High School New Family Grants at the same time if they are new to both the elementary and high school levels. The maximum award is \$1,500 per family.

To learn more about the New Family Grant or to complete a New Family Grant Application, scan the QR code or visit [dolcatholicalschools.org](http://dolcatholicalschools.org)



# DID YOU KNOW?



**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.**

St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing presents:

Deanery Lenten Mission

# Draw Near

WITH DR. RALPH MARTIN

Sun. MARCH 8 | 7pm

Mon. MARCH 9 | 7pm

Tue. MARCH 10 | 7pm

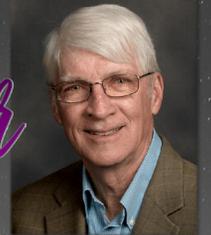
St. Mary Cathedral   
219 Seymour Ave., Lansing

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*

St. Mary Cathedral | 219 Seymour Ave. | Lansing, MI 48933 | 517-484-5331



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.



# 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



**ST. MARTHA**  
PARISH & SCHOOL

1100 West Grand River  
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).