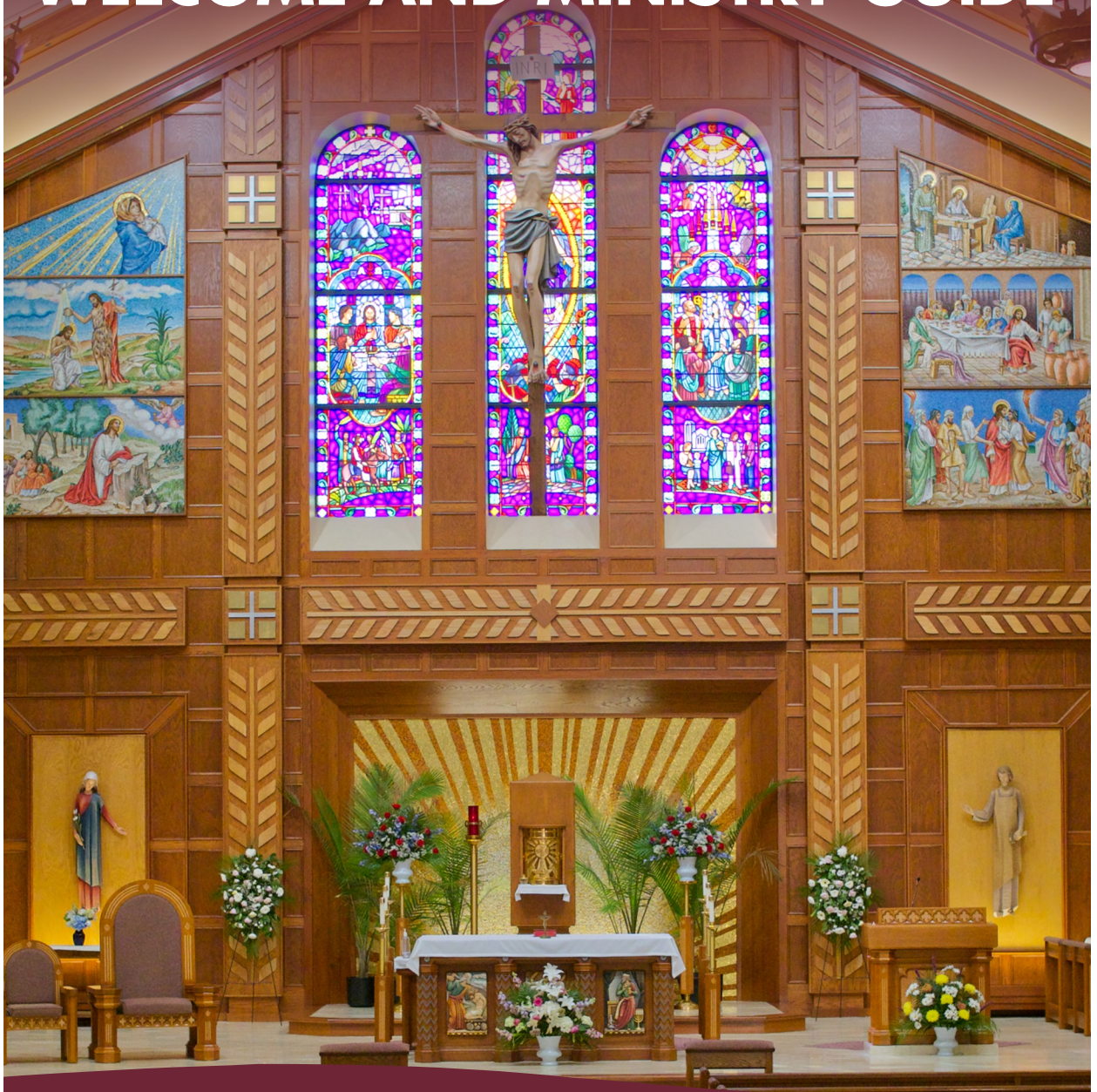


WELCOME AND MINISTRY GUIDE



ST. MARTHA
PARISH & SCHOOL

1100 West Grand River
Okemos, MI 48864

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

Welcome from the Pastor

To our Visitors: We are so pleased that you have joined us today! This guide will help you become acquainted with St. Martha Parish and School and the many opportunities for involvement and service that we offer. We invite you to become a part of life at Saint Martha! Please feel free to take the time and explore these pages, then contact our parish office with any questions and information requests you may have.

To our New Members: Your registration with us signifies that you want to be a participating, contributing member of our faith community. Worship is the core of our parish life, and we need your faith to help us grow into God's people. It is our hope that our shared love for God will call us to work together in fellowship throughout the year. Please contact the parish office to connect with any of the opportunities listed in this guide that you are interested in or with any questions you may have.

To our Current Members: St. Martha is your parish and is supported by your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. It is through your generosity that we can continue to offer the programs in this guide that serve our faith community. When our parishioners become involved in our different activities and ministries, our entire Church thrives. Please prayerfully consider exploring new ways to build your faith through participation in one or more of our many offerings.

To ALL of You: We understand what a blessing it is to have you with us this weekend to celebrate the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In this busy and ever changing world, we know it is not always an easy commitment to make and keep. If there is anything that you have questions about, need assistance with, or want to discuss on a personal level, we encourage you to contact the office and make an appointment to speak with one of our staff members or myself.

Know of my prayers for you all!

Fr. Ryan



Fr. Ryan Riley
Pastor
frryan@st-martha.org

Liturgy and Worship

Masses

Saturday: 5 pm

Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 5 pm

Monday: 8:30 am

Tuesday (Sept - June): 8:30 am

Wednesday: 6 pm

Thursday: 8:30 am

Friday: 8:30 am

Holy Days as advertised

Reconciliation

Monday, Tuesday:

after Mass until all are heard

Wednesday: 6:45 to 7:15 pm

Thursday, Friday:

after Mass until all are heard

Saturday: 3:30 to 4:30 pm

Adoration

Wednesday:

following Mass until 7:30 pm Benediction

First Friday:

following Mass until 3 pm Benediction

Prayer Intentions

Bulletin Prayer List

Every bulletin includes a list of names of living and deceased individuals for people to pray for during each week.

Prayer Chain

For more confidential prayer requests, intentions can be sent to our email prayer chain list.

Names can be added to bulletin prayer list or prayer chain by calling the office **517-349-1763** or sending an email to cboomer@st-martha.org

Book of Petitions

In the back of church is an intention book that can be written in any time that the doors are open. The intentions in this book are lifted in prayer each weekend:

That the Lord who calls us to follow Him will answer all of the prayers written in our Book of Petitions as well as those we offer up now in silence. We pray to the Lord.

The Sacraments

Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated during Mass on the 2nd full weekend of every month. Parents who are baptizing their first child will need to attend a baptism preparation class. Complete the request form found at st-martha.org/baptism to get started.

First Communion and First Reconciliation

School students complete most preparation during the school day. For those not at a Catholic school, please contact Jackie Rosalez via email at jrosalez@st-martha.org.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes meet twice a month on Sunday evenings. School students complete most preparation during the school day. For those not at a Catholic school, please contact Jackie Rosalez via email at jrosalez@st-martha.org.

Marriage

If you are planning to marry in the Catholic Church, contact Fr. Ryan frryan@st-martha.org at least nine months prior to the date you are considering to begin your preparation process and to determine the final date for your wedding.

Holy Orders

For those discerning religious life, priestly vocations, or the permanent diaconate, please contact one of the following:

Director of Seminarians

Fr. Michael Cassar

mcassar@dioceseoflansing.org

Director of Consecrated Vocations

Dawn Hausmann

dhausmann@dioceseoflansing.org

Director of Diaconate Formation

Dcn. Randy Desrochers

rdesrochers@dioceseoflansing.org

Or visit dioceseoflansing.org/vocations

Anointing of the Sick

Contact the parish office to arrange an Anointing of the Sick for yourself or for a member of your family who is homebound or in the hospital.

Joining the Catholic Church

Those 18 and older who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith are welcome to join us for OCIA classes on Sunday mornings after 10 am Mass.

Liturgical Ministries

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers assist with distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ during Mass, as well as to those in nursing homes, hospitals, and the homebound. This ministry is open to those who are already confirmed.

Lectors

Lectors proclaim the Word of God to the assembly during weekend and weekday Masses. Training is offered for anyone who would like to serve our family of faith in this capacity.

Altar Servers

Boys and girls in 4th grade and above are invited to serve at weekend and school Masses as well as Holy Days and funerals. Training is offered in the fall and spring and by special appointment.

Sacristans

A team of Sacristans assist the priest at each Mass by getting the Lectionary and Book of Gospels ready, setting up the altar, preparing the credence table, securing enough Eucharistic Ministers, helping the priest in the Sacristy before and after Mass, and with cleaning the communion vessels. Teams usually consist of married couples (but they don't have to) and is a great way to give back to the church together.

Ushers

Our Ushers assist with the collection and presentation of the gifts, assisting parishioners with seating during large Masses, and being attentive to various needs of the assembly. Please contact the office to be trained.

To be trained on any of these Liturgical Ministries, please contact the parish office at **517-349-1763** or by email at **cboomer@st-martha.org**.



Claire Boomer
Administrative Assistant
cboomer@st-martha.org

Music Ministries

Adult Choir

Members of the Adult Choir provide their singing voices for a variety of 10 am Sunday Masses and various liturgical celebrations throughout the year, generally pausing through the summer. This group is open to anyone high school age through adult who can carry a tune. Basic music skills are recommended. Practices are at 7 pm on select Thursdays with additional rehearsals ahead of Easter and Christmas.

Children's Choir

All children of the parish in 3rd grade through high school are encouraged to come learn how to worship God in song! This special choir provides our vocals for the 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass and other special celebrations.

Cantors

These solo singers lead the congregation through the sung Mass parts, including the Responsorial Psalm, at weekend Masses, Holy Days, and other special liturgies.

Instrumentalists

Those who play wind, brass, or orchestral string instruments are welcome to join us for weekend Masses or for special Holy Days. Auditions are required.



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



Joey DiMenno
Director of Childrens Choirs
jdimenno@st-martha.org

Charity, Fellowship, and Prayer Groups

Catechists and Aides

The Faith Formation program relies on our amazing catechists. Teachers are needed Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. Open to all confirmed adults.

Council of Catholic Women (CCW)

All women of the parish are considered members of the CCW! Meetings are usually the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Solanus Casey Room.

First Friday Coffee & Treats

This group casually meets after 8:30 am Mass on the First Friday of each month in the Solanus Casey Room. Coffee is provided; bring a treat to share!

50-Up Club

Our “senior” parishioners meet for potlucks, meetings, restaurant outing, and other trips throughout the year.

Fruits of the Spirit - Mom's Group

Moms and their littles are welcome to join us in the Solanus Casey Room after 8:30 am Mass on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month during the school year.

Funeral Luncheon

This group provides grieving families with a meal and a place to gather together after a funeral for fellowship. Some participate by preparing side dishes and desserts while other volunteer the day of the luncheon with set up, serving, and clean up.

GriefShare Ministry

Facilitators lead grief support groups that meet at various times throughout the year to guide, support, and comfort those who have lost a loved one through one of life's most difficult times.

Knights of Columbus Council #10006 (KC)

The Knights are a group of practicing Catholic men who are actively involved in numerous spiritual, social, and service activities within the parish and the greater community. Open to men 18 and up who are practicing Catholics.

Lenten Fish Fry

Sponsored by our CCW and KC, these Friday night dinners provide fellowship and service opportunities throughout Lent. Volunteers cook, serve, and clean up these delicious meals.

Marriage Preparation - Witness To Love Mentor Couples

Each engaged couple preparing for marriage at St. Martha is paired up with a mentor couple to meet with several times throughout the Witness To Love process. As mentors, established married couples help our engaged couples prepare for and celebrate marriage.

Martha's Meals

Honoring our patroness St. Martha, volunteers provide meals to an individual or family when a request is made during a hard time.

Neighborhood Hosts

All of our parishioners have been broken down to groups based on their address, each neighborhood has a host. Neighborhood Hosts offer a simple connection to St. Martha outside of the church building. Our hosts are supported and trained by the parish. Contact the office if you are interested in being a host.

Office Volunteers

This ministry assists in the parish office with light office duties, answering phones, greeting people when they come in, taking Mass intentions, and other special projects. Please contact the office if you are interested in learning more.

Prayer Quilt Ministry

Our Prayer Quilt Ministry creates beautiful quilts through which they gift an individual with the healing power of prayer. Prayer quilts are tied with heavy thread, and each knot represents a prayer that was said for the specific person. The Prayer Quilt Group meets every 2nd Thursday of the month.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Vincentians, as they are called, work diligently to provide food, housing, utilities, and other assistance to those in the parish and local community. Those who need assistance can call the main church office 517-349-1763 and ask for the St. Vincent de Paul voicemail or select option #8 after hours. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11 am and are open to those who are interested in getting involved.

Wedding Mass Coordinators

These individuals attend the wedding rehearsal and are present throughout the day of the ceremony for their assigned couple. Their main role is to support the couple by helping with last minute needs, greeting florists and photographers, and serving as the 'it' person behind the scenes to make sure the wedding day runs smoothly for our brides, grooms, and celebrants.

Women's Bible Study

All women are welcome to join us every Tuesday morning after 8:30 am Mass in the Solanus Casey Room to delve into the Scriptures and reflect on the message within community.

Upper Room Men's Prayer Group

Men of the parish are welcome to gather as a group each Saturday morning at 7:30 am for prayer and reflection on the daily readings.

Councils and Committees

Education Commission

This commission is a consultative body to the Director of Faith Formation and School Principal in matter of religious formation and education. They also offer family friendly events throughout the year geared toward community, service, and education. Members serve a three-year term and open to both School and Faith Formation parents.

Environment Committee

These dedicated individuals create a beautiful worship environment for all those who enter the church. Special assistance is needed ahead of Christmas and Easter, so keep an eye out for church decorating opportunities.

Evangelization Committee

This committee is dedicated to making the mission of our patroness and Jesus's call to discipleship a relevant part of our

everyday life. Through a welcoming environment and outreach efforts, they fulfill their call to bring the lost sheep home.

Finance Council

Finance Council serves as primary consultants to the Pastor in financial matters. Members are appointed and assist in formulating policy and procedures for the effective management of Parish assets through the recommendations of short and long range financial plans.

Parish Pastoral Council

This a consultative body that shares their wisdom and discernment with the Pastor to promote the spiritual, educational, and social welfare of the parish. Agenda and minutes are public, and meetings are open for observation to all parishioners. Members serve a three-year term.



St. Martha Parish School

Preschool

Our preschool programs offers 3 and 4 years old a chance to explore, create, and express themselves while fueling curiosity and respect for God's creation. Students also participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd during the school day.

Programming for 3 year olds is half days Tuesdays and Thursdays. 4 year olds can be full or half day Monday, Wednesday, Friday or full day Monday through Friday. The preschool school year begins after Labor Day and runs through mid-June.

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

The grade school offers a rigorous and competitive academic curriculum within the context of the Gospel values and doctrines of the Catholic Faith. Lower elementary students participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Students K-8 also have the opportunity to participate in strings during the school day for an additional fee.

The school year is from mid-August through mid-June.



Andrea Patton, Principal
apatton@st-martha.org



Cynthia Farnsworth, Secretary
cfarnsworth@st-martha.org

**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.**

School Office
517-349-3322

Faith Formation

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Preschoolers through 2nd graders are welcome to join Children's Liturgy of the Word each Sunday during the 10 am Mass. Parents of littles are also welcome to join. This program is free of charge.

Preschool and Kindergarten

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd meets during 10 am Mass in the Atrium. This program is a child-centered and child-directed method of introducing children to the Mystery of God.

Grades 1-6

Using the *Spirit of Truth* series, classes are offered Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings for Grades 1-6. Whole Family Catechesis occurs approximately once a month and is a time when parents

and grandparents are invited to come together a large group.

Grades 7-9

Classes for Grades 7-9 meet twice a month on Sunday evenings. This time includes preparation for Confirmation. Parents are also included in the classes several times a year.

High School Youth Group

Our Youth Group joins with St. Thomas each Sunday evening from 6-8 pm. Meetings alternate between St. Martha and St. Thomas in East Lansing. Most nights are drop-in no registration required, however special events may require registration. All teens are always welcome!



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



Claudia Fountain
Director of Youth Ministry
cfountain@st-martha.org



Sam Matias
Youth Ministry Intern
smatias@st-martha.org



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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

www.st-martha.org

  **@st.martha.okemos**

Father Ryan Riley | Pastor *frryan@st-martha.org*

Father Mike Murray | Sacramental Assistance *frmike@st-martha.org*

Deacon Carl Boehlert | Deacon *dcncarl@st-martha.org*

Deacon Jim Collom | Deacon *dcnjim@st-martha.org*

Deacon Dave Drayton | Deacon *dcndave@st-martha.org*

**Hallie Card | Director of Discipleship
and Director of Parish Operations** *hcard@st-martha.org*

Gregg Alchin | Facilities Manager *galchin@st-martha.org*

Andrea Patton | School Principal *apatton@st-martha.org*

Cynthia Farnsworth | School Secretary *cfarnsworth@st-martha.org*

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

Claudia Fountain | Youth Ministry Director *cfountain@st-martha.org*

Sam Matias | Youth Ministry Intern *smatias@st-martha.org*

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

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

Claire Boomer | Administrative Assistant *cboomer@st-martha.org*