



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF SAINT MARTHA

September 6, 2026 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Mass:

Saturday Vigil 4:30 pm
Sunday 7:30 am
10:00 am
12:00 noon

Daily Mass:

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am

SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

Baptisms: Please call the parish office to make arrangements. 732-295-3630. *Parents' Preparation Sessions* are currently on-line.

Confessions: Saturday, 3:00 - 4:00 pm.

Marriages: Please call the parish office to make arrangements at least one year in advance. Please confirm with the parish before setting your date at your venue. Weddings are currently booked through the end of 2027.

DEVOTIONS

Novenas: Wednesday- Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Novena.

Thursday - St Therese of the Child Jesus

Rosary: Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 am

CLERGY & PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Rev. David Swantek

Assisting Retired Priests: Rev. Msgr. Bill Stober

Deacons: John E. Barrett
Bob Golden

Staff:

Director of Religious Education: Georgina Kotz
Rel Ed Admin Assistant: Barbara Rowe
Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Bob Morris
Director of Liturgical Music: Jessica Kortenhaus
Parish Business Manager: Sherri Lynn Baker
Marriage Minister: Marie Mastronardi
Parish Secretary: Paddy Morris
Parish Receptionists: Fran Olson
Mary Siringo

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tuesday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Contact Us

3800 Herbertsville Road
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
Phone: 732-295-3630
Fax: 732-295-9315
admin@saintmartha.net
www.saintmartha.net

We welcome all who seek to grow in faith and love just as St. Martha welcomed Jesus into her home.
If you'd like to join our parish, please call 732-295-3630



September 6, 2026, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Collection: Weekly

2nd Collection: Catholic University

Saturday, September 5, 2026

4:30 pm The Constantino Family

Sunday, September 6, 2026

7:30 am Elizabeth & Anthony Caruso

10:00 am The DeLucia Family

12 noon People of the Parish

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

9:00 am Raymond & AnnMarie Barnes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

9:00 am Walter Olga & Gregory Guzik

Thursday, September 10, 2026

9:00 am Josephine Italia

Friday, September 11, 2026

9:00 am Ralph Ristaino

Saturday, September 12, 2026

4:30 pm People of the Parish

Sunday, September 13, 2026

7:30 am Lorraine & Robert Kehoe

10:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Petrick Bucino

12 noon The Boedart Family

Memorial Gifts – Sept. 5th to Sept. 11, 2026

Tabernacle Candle: The Criscuolo Family

Flowers to the Holy Family: Ken Genalo

St. Vincent de Paul Thanks to the conference of Saint Martha, many neighbors have received assistance with housing, utilities, food and with resources to help move forward. If you need assistance, call us at 732-295- 3630, ext. 33, and leave a message.

Gospel Reading

Sun	Matthew	18:8-10
Mon	Luke	6:6-11
Tues	Matthew	1:1-16,18-23
Wed	Luke	6:20-26
Thurs	Luke	6:27-38
Friday	Luke	6:39-42
Sat	Luke	6:43-49

Our Dearly Departed

Please remember in your prayers the deceased members of our parish, especially Helen Grant.

Sharing Our Treasure

Weekend of August 29th & 30th.

Collection in Pew	\$ 22,999.65
Collection in Office	2,065.00
Charitable Donations/In memory of	2,500.00
Donation - Mthly Food Program	200.00
Religious Education Tuition	1,150.00
Religious Education Tuition online	650.00
Online Giving Summary	\$8,100.00

*www.Saintmartha.net/Donate/via/OSV or PayPal

Annual Catholic Appeal 2026

For 2026 our goal is \$87,000.00.

To date we have received:

Pledged: \$93,433.60 (108%)

Paid: 90,433.60 (104%)

Total Donors: 384(99% towards participation incentive)

Please prayerfully consider giving to the ACA for the first time, after not giving for a few years, or consider increasing your annual donation.

Check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program for the ACA and/or for the donation you make to our parish.



MAN INSISTS HE ADOPTED BLACK LAB FOR COMPANIONSHIP NOT BECAUSE HIS WIFE'S FEET ARE 32 DEGREES

SHORE POINTS – Detailing the choice as “simply giving a retired Seeing Eye dog a good home,” local husband and deacon at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Taylor Ham, 57, confirmed Wednesday that he adopted a 60 lb. black lab for reasons having nothing to do with his wife’s feet.

“The pastor, Fr. Ambrose, has a beautiful black lab in the office. She convinced me first. Labs are great family dogs. Loyal, patient, kind. Great with kids and grandkids,” said Ham, who reportedly spent nine months researching the breed across a dozen legal pads filed under the words, “THERMAL OPTIONS” according to someone familiar with the deacon’s office. “It’s true that a black lab will sit on someone’s feet. They do it to show they love them, they want to be close to them, and that they consider them part of their pack.”

Asked when Deacon Ham adopted his new family member, he confirmed that it was in the middle of February, which was particularly cold. “That’s when the Seeing Eye had him up for adoption. He’s nine. It had nothing to do with the cold. Don’t believe that.”

Sources confirmed that Ham’s wife, Rosie, 52, has feet that register somewhere between “freeze pack” and “the tip of an icicle.”

“Oh no, I love cold feet on me” said Ham, staring at a fixed point on the wall. “What husband doesn’t? You’re drifting off, warm, at peace, talking to God as you go to sleep and then- two ice blocks. Right on the calves. You wince and breathe in through your teeth. That’s the good stuff.”

“When I met her, I thought my wife was hot,” he continued. “Boy was I wrong. She’s cold. Well- her feet are. The rest of her is lovely. But those feet have never once been 98.6 degrees. For 35 years, I took it. That’s the vow. You take the feet.”

At 9:45pm on the day of adoption, Bartholomew, the dog, reportedly entered the couple’s bedroom, surveyed his options, and settled his full body weight across Rosie’s ankles, where he remained ever since.

Rosie Ham, for her part, said she had noticed her husband “does seem more rested lately. And he keeps calling Bartholomew ‘my beautiful boy’ and tearing up a little.”

According to family members whenever two or three of the Hams gather – at the kitchen island, around the JETS game, on the back deck- Bartholomew materializes within moments and lowers himself lovingly onto someone’s feet.

At press time, twelve members of the Ham family had gathered to watch the JETS blow their season in the opening game -a tradition they have kept since Joe Namath retired. Bartholomew rose from the hall, walked into the exact center of the room, and lay down across three sets of feet at once, fulfilling, as one of the second cousins observed, a very old promise about where two or three are gathered and someone showing up in the midst of them.

Fr. Dave



Religious Education Information

Georgina Kotz
732-295-3630 Ext 35

“From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s will in things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God ... Learn from her to be always faithful, to trust that God’s Word to you will be fulfilled, and that nothing is impossible with God.” – Pope Saint John Paul II

Children’s Religious Education

Next week we begin our religious education sessions for Levels 1 through 5. Please pray for our children and their families, that they open their minds and hearts to our blessed Lord Jesus, and become His faithful disciples. Pray also for our volunteers who give so much of their time and talent to foster the faith of our young parishioners.

Faith at Home: Only three births are celebrated in the Church’s liturgical calendar, and one is this week. Have a family celebration for the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8 with prayer, song, and a special meal or dessert. Happy Birthday, Blessed Mother!

Children with Special Needs: The Holy Innocents Society that meets at St Martha’s gives children with special needs the opportunity to participate in a unique religious formation program that is different from the classroom model and has a low child-teacher ratio. Children are prepared for sacraments through Confirmation. Call 732-295-3630 ext. 40 or email reled@saintmartha.net for information.

Inspiration Watch on Formed (43 minutes) “What Kids Teach Us about Living Life to the Fullest”
<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/4144750?cid=1439538>

Not on Formed? Go to signup.formed.org and enter the parish postal code, choose St Martha Church, then enter your name and email. You

will have free access to Bible studies, movies, books, prayers, children’s programs, audio programs and more.

“A culture in which men are raised to love Mary is a culture defined by the ideals of the Magnificat: a culture that glorifies God, defends the poor, and empowers the family to flourish. It was devotion to the Virgin that allowed the Church to overcome the diabolically inspired paganism of the ancient world, and it is by renewing that same devotion that we will triumph over the new paganism that rages around us today.” – Clement Harrold

Full Virtus Training and Recertification-

September & October

We will be holding Virtus classes here at the parish.

If you have already been Virtus trained and you are up for renewal, we will be holding recertification classes in the All Purpose Room on:

Thursday, Sept 10 at 6:00 pm

Thursday, Oct 15 at 6:00 pm

If you have never been Virtus trained or were trained over 4 years ago, we will have a Virtus training session in the All Purpose Room on:

Thursday, Sept 17 at 5:00 pm

Thursday, Oct 1 at 5:00 pm

All attendees, please go to [Virtusonline.org](https://virtusonline.org) to register. Registration is free.

Knitters and Crocheters are needed.

This ministry makes blankets for the children being Baptized here at St Martha’s. Stop by the parish office to pick up the yarn and the pattern whether it is knitting or crochet. Thank you for your time and talent.



Music Ministry

Jessica Kortenhaus
732-295-3630 Ext 34
Music1@saintmartha.net

Youth Ministry

Bob Morris
youth@saintmartha.net
732-295-3630 Ext 31
Cell 848-240-7354

"Then sings my soul, my savior, God to thee. How great thou art! How great thou art!..."

As the words of our entrance hymn this week sing praise to God, I'm singing praises as this week is a very exciting week, as our adult choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM in the church! The choir and band return next Sunday, September 13th at 12 Noon Mass. This is my 8th choir season here at St. Martha's and I'm thrilled to be with everyone here. It has been a pleasure to serve with the wonderful people of our church in the music ministry. If you have the gift of song or to play an instrument, please consider joining us. If you'd like more information about any of our groups, please come see me after Masses or email music1@saintmartha.net. Children's choir resumes Wednesday, September 16th at 4:30 PM. I look forward to a wonderful choir season with everyone!

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children

If you are a Non-Catholic or a Catholic of any age and you are interested in completing your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation), please contact Bob Morris, youth@saintmartha.net or 732-295-3630 ext. 31. to set up an appointment to discuss the possibility and process of receiving the sacraments.

Bishop's Anniversary Blessing

For couples celebrating 1, 25 or 50+
Sunday, October 18th at Co-Cathedral of St Robert Bellarmine. 61 Georgia Road, Freehold
Mass begins at 3:00 PM

If you have any questions, you can email bab@dioceseoftrenton.org

Couples can sign up or find updates directly through the [Diocese of Trenton Events Page](#).

"What we do is very little, but it's like the little boy with a few loaves and fishes. Christ took that little and increased it. He will do the rest." - Dorothy Day

Happy Labor Day everyone! We usually think of Labor Day as a secular holiday, but this quote from Servant of God Dorothy Day demonstrates that when we offer our work to God, He blesses it and uses it for the benefit of His kingdom.

Some schools opened a few days ago and others will open this week. Here is a great prayer for students to pray as they begin a new school year:

"Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year. Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me. Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. May the Blessed Mother Mary protect us and help us to live as well as we can, giving thanks and glory to God as she did. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of students and universities, pray for us."

Many thanks to all who donated to our school supply collection. I was able to witness some of the happy and grateful kids and their parents as they received their new backpacks filled with supplies.

We will kick off a new year of youth ministry next Monday, September 13 from 6:30-7:50 PM. All middle school and high school students are welcome!



St. Martha's Pizza on Earth: Distribution for September will be on Sunday, September 13th & September 27th between 1:30 and 2:00 pm in the Church lobby. The deadlines for ordering are Wed., Sept. 9th and Sept. 23rd. To order, leave a message at 732-295- 3630 ext. 46 with your first name, last initial, phone number and number of pizzas, 1 or 2. **PLEASE SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY.** You will receive a call or text by Thursday, Sept. 10th or Sept. 24th with your reservation number for pick-up.

Organizations and Ministries

Annulment Ministry - Please contact the parish office for more information on annulments.

Bereavement – Meets Friday at 3:00 pm in the Dining Room. This is an 8-session program. The next session for this group is Fri., September 11th. Please call the parish office for information.

Holy Innocents - For God's special needs children. Please call the parish office for more information.

Intercessory Prayer Group – Will meet Monday, September 14th at 11:00 am in the Conference Room.

Knights of Columbus - Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. 732-295-3630, ext. 42.

St. Martha's Rosary Altar Society – Monday, September 14th at 12:00 noon, in the Church for the Rosary, followed by meeting in Dining Room.

Tuesday Night Parish Bible Study – 6:00 pm until 7:45 pm Downstair common area. Starting again on September 15th. The Bible Timeline The Study of Salvation History. Books can be ordered from Ascension Press Website- www.ascensionpress.com

St. Vincent de Paul – Next Meeting Monday, September 14th at 6:30 pm in the Dining Room.

Rosary Makers – Friday, September 11th at 10:00 am, in the Dining Room.

Prayer Shawls – Friday, September 25th at 12:00 pm in the Dining Room.

Wednesday Bible Study - Genesis: From Creation to Covenant from 6pm to 7:30pm in the all-purpose room. Meeting Dates: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28. Nov 4, 18, Dec 2.

Registration: reled@saintmartha.net or call 732-295-3630 ext 40. Study

Materials: <https://ascensionpress/genesis>

Walking with Purpose Bible Study

Spiritual Motherhood: The Transforming Power of the Feminine Genius. Discover your identity, embrace your feminine genius, & help bring our culture back to Jesus. This study is not just for mothers or those who made religious vows. It's a call to a new way of seeing, and a radical gift of self. It's the feminine genius in action and has the power to transform our world & rebuild a culture centered on human dignity. All women welcome! Starting Tuesdays starting Oct. 6th either session. Morning, 9:30-11:00 am. (Downstairs Common Area) Evening, 6:15-7:45 pm. Register online: <https://tinyurl.com/mrp25kbb>

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Jeff Cavins' course entitled, WISDOM: God's Vision for Life. This study explores the wisdom found in Scripture and how it guides us in living well. In each session we will learn how to seek, gain, and grow in wisdom, discovering that it is God's VISION for us that leads to a deeper peace and lasting joy.

Start Date: Sept. 17, 2026. Time: 10AM – 11:15AM (in the downstairs common area). Participants may purchase their "journal" [workbook] at: <https://ascensionpress.com/products/wisdom-gods-vision-for-life-journal-1> (8 sessions/17 classes).

Knights of Columbus Golf Outing: Sat. October 3rd

Quail Ridge Golf Course Wall, NJ. Registration \$40/Hole Sponsorships \$25. Forms located in back of church. Contact Tom McConnell 848-448-6582 or tmcconnell44@comcast.net for more information on this scholarship fundraiser.

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