

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

5265 PLACIDA RD. GROVE CITY, FL 34224 | 941-697-4899 | OFFICE@SFOACHURCH.COM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a

Saint Francis of Assisi Church

**5265 Placida Road
Grove City, FL 34224
941-697-4899**

Fax 941-697-0602

www.sfoachurch.com

email: office@sfoachurch.com

Father Cory Mayer, Pastor
Father Tony Chermeil, Parochial Vicar
Father Edwin Mathias, Part Time
Deacon Robert Godlewsky

PARISH STAFF

Robert Clark, Business Manager
Aina Olonade, Director for Music and Cantors
James Brantner, Director for Religious Education
Gerry Chesney, Director, Parish Women’s Guild
Matt Egan, Director, Parish Outreach
Martha Mingel, Coordinator, Homebound/Healthcare
Janette Ash, Administrative Assistant & Accountant
Kelly Kroll, Administrative Assistant (Part-Time)
Jim Parent, Maintenance & Facilities
Beth Hammond, Head Sacristan
Penny Fleming, Ministry Scheduler/Communications

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

After Easter to December 28 ... 4:00pm
January 4 to April 12, 2025 ... 3:00pm & 4:30pm

SUNDAY

After Easter to December 29 - 8:00am & 10:00am
January 5 through Easter Sunday
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am

WEEKDAYS

Monday - Friday.....8:15 am
Holy Days.....8:15 am & 6:00 pm

CHURCH OPEN HOURS

Monday - Friday 7am-4pm
Saturday 2pm - 5pm
Sunday 7am -11am

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Winter - September 4 through May 31
Mon - Fri 9:00am -12:30pm, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Summer - June 3 through Aug 31
Monday through Friday 9:00am - 2:30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday after Mass 9:00am - 9:15am
After Easter to Dec 29 - Saturdays 3:00pm - 3:30pm
Jan 4 to April 13 - Saturdays: 2:00pm - 2:30pm

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Call Parish Office at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact Parish Office

Mass Intentions and Scripture Readings for the Week

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

8:15am †**OLIVE GRENIER**
by Beth Hammond

Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

8:15am †**JOHN IBURG** by Marie Grant
Reading: Hebrews 2:5-12

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

8:15am †**ROGER STAR**
by George and Kathy Wise

Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18
Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

8:15am †**DAVID PRESCOTT BROOKS**
by Pat Brooks

Reading: Hebrews 3:7-14
Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

8:15am †**WILLIAM “KIP” POWERS**
by Matt and Debbie Egan

Saint Anthony, Abbott
Reading: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11
Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

SATURDAY, JANUARY

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

3:00pm †**DAVID CIVELLO**
by JJ and Virginia McLaughlin
4:30pm †**PAT OWENS, †DONNA HEYER,**
AND †RAYMOND COLLINS
by Vick and Colette Switski

SUNDAY, JANUARY

7:30am **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**
9:00am †**MAUREEN WHELAN**

by Her Sister Sarah Williams
10:30am †**ARLINE HATTON**

by Beth Hammond

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Reading 1: Isaiah 62:1-5
Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel: John 2:1-11



Gospel Reflection

The Baptism of the Lord

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Our Gospel readings for this liturgical year are taken from Luke. It is important to understand that Luke is talking to Gentiles (non-Jews) who don't have the same religious background as the Jewish people. Luke tries to make his writings relate to the experience of the Gentiles. This particular Gospel depicts the baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist. Luke writes "The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all,

saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Luke is telling us that through baptism, our sins will be washed away through Jesus' death and resurrection. It shows God's love for us and that, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are given the promise of eternal life. On Pentecost we received the gift of the Holy Spirit. What a special gift it is to know that Jesus will walk with us on our journey of life through the good and bad times.

As we read Luke's Gospel, it makes one wonder why Jesus needed to be baptized because He is without sin. We are baptized to free us from the original sin we are born with. This allows us to have a new beginning in life. While reflecting on this, we realize that Jesus was baptized to show us His humanity at the beginning of His ministry. Baptism is a new beginning: we are freed of the original sin that resulted from Adam and Eve disobeying God. The Sacrament of Baptism starts our life out with God being a central part of our life and gives us the opportunity to live the life God wants for us. The Baptism of Jesus is God's way of allowing His son to start his ministry on earth. Through a dove, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus which signifies God's approval for Jesus and what He will do for us. Remember that God had to send His son to earth because the people were not listening to Him and doing his will.

Jesus' ministry asks us to emphasize repentance, renewal, and the calling to live a life dedicated to God's will. Jesus is on earth to help people to see and learn of God's love and to turn away from sin. When I taught confirmation, we asked the kids "Why did God make you?" The answer then and now is: to know Him, love Him and to serve Him and Jesus' ministry on earth helps us to understand this.

As we conclude the Christmas season, let's remember that "Jesus is the reason for the season", as many times we attribute too much importance to the materialism of the season and tend to forget that. We should all take some time to reflect and ask ourselves, have we done our best to be God's voice on earth? We are all human and make mistakes, but we need to strive to follow God's call each and every day. It is empowering to know that God is with us and will walk with us each and every day. Use the gifts that God has given you to be a force for good. Use Luke's Gospel on the Baptism of the Lord to reflect on the meaning of your Baptism.

Gospel Reflection by Reverend Stanley Barron a Catholic priest in the Diocese of Patterson (NJ) dated January 12, 2025. Brought to you by Penny Fleming, SFOA Communications Coordinator.



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 10, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Collection for the Church in Latin America provides the opportunity to show unity with our brothers and sisters in Central & South America, as well as the Caribbean Islands. For decades, this collection has helped meet the many challenges and needs of the Church and the faithful in Latin America.

Gifts to this collection provide grants to dioceses in Latin America, which help sustain important ministries such as evangelization, vocations and seminary training, marriage support, and the promotion of human life and dignity. In the capital of Venezuela, the Church is now equipped to become a leader in the fight against human trafficking. And in the Amazonian region of Peru, the love and sacraments of Christ are able to reach remote Indigenous villages.

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Venice will take up the annual Collection for the Church in Latin America during the weekend of January 18 & 19, 2025. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your donations to this collection support life, faith & hope to our brothers and sisters in Central & South America and the Caribbean.

I take this opportunity to extend to each of you my blessings in this New Year. Thank you and may God bless you and your family for your support of the Church in Latin America.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

FJD/cg



Bishop Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation to our high school youth at our parish on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at the 4:30pm Vigil Mass.

Congratulations 2nd year students! **Sofia Barreto, Elijah Bates, Olivia Cizmar, Jeremy Donhauser, Bladimir Galvan, Vallerie Kappelmann, Aaliyah Knotts, Nico Remmers, Michael Schack, Aiden Silva, Analina Silva, Sophia Siligato, Ava Trullinger, Lily Trullinger, Luke Trullinger, Sarah Trullinger.**

We have a two-year Confirmation program and at the end of Year 2 students receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are privileged to journey with the students & their families during this prep time, to encourage & support our youth to continue to grow, & strengthen them in their Catholic faith & spiritual lives. There are 3 sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist enable us to experience & grow in the full Christian life. For us, as Catholics, Confirmation is really the completion of Baptism. Most of us were baptized as infants. Our parents made the decision of Catholic faith for us. In Confirmation, these youth will affirm their “yes” to that decision of Catholic faith. “Yes” means we want to live our Catholic faith & want/need the Holy Spirit of the risen Lord to help us make Christ to be the center of our lives. Baptism & Confirmation, all the sacraments, prepare us for fullest loving union with Him in the Eucharist. The Eucharist completes all the sacraments. Participating in the holy sacrifice of the Mass, empowers us to grow in God’s Great Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul & mind. This is the greatest & first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

We encourage our parishioners to be ‘**prayer partners**’ for our youth receiving Confirmation. Pray for our youth & their families & see them be confirmed. Thank you for your willingness to participate as prayer partners in our parish family.

Jim Brantner, Director of Religious Education



Drop food donations at Mass or at the Parish Office during the week. Thank you!



Parish Outreach Food Pantry

**The Parish Outreach Food Pantry
is in need of Pasta Sauce, Pasta,
Mac and Cheese, and Canned Pork and Beans.**

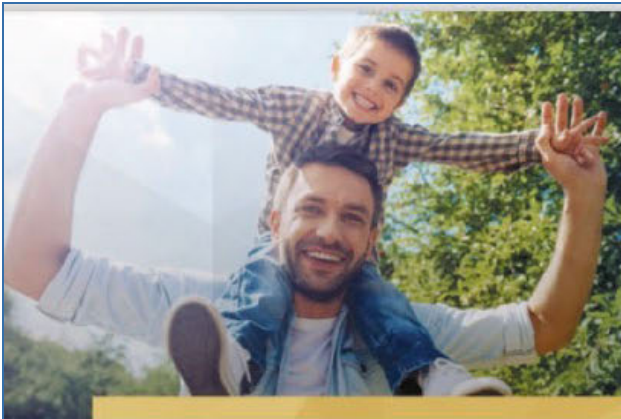
We have two poor box locations in church, we can take cash or check in the poor box at any time.

You may also donate online by going to sfoachurch.com and click **Giving** and then click **Online Giving**.



**Thank you to all who
donated to our Advent food
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helped brighten the Advent
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in our community.**

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- Renew a profound, faithful and reverent love for the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church rooted in Sacred Scripture.
- Discern what kind of men we need to save the Church and the world.
- Become the man your family, our Church, and our world desperately awaits.
- Be inspired to set out to re-evangelize the de-Christianized and secularized.
- Become a new creation in Christ!

SPEAKERS:



DR. SCOTT HAHN
FOUNDER, ST. PAUL CENTER



DR. MARK MIRAVALLE
WORLD-RENOWNED
MARIOLOGIST



DR. JOHN BERGSMA
PROTESTANT PASTOR TO
CATHOLIC PROFESSOR



MICHAEL GORMLEY
LAY EVANGELIST



MARK HARTFIEL
VICE PRESIDENT,
PARADISUS DEI



STEVE BOLLMAN
PRESIDENT,
PARADISUS DEI

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Starting January 16
Continuing each Thursday for 13 weeks
St Francis of Assisi Parish Hall

SCHEDULE:

Doors Open at 6:45/Begins 7:00am
Includes food, video and small group discussion
Concludes by 8:15am

REGISTRATION:

For more information or to register- call, email or contact the parish office

Catholic Faith Appeal 2024

We have reached our goal for 2024!

**Thank you for your continued support of
our programs and services.**

CFA Campaign 2025 will begin in February!

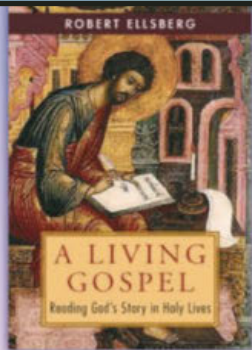
Thank you to all who have donated!

To donate, use the **blue envelopes in pew** or go to

<https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/>

in the designation box choose

St. Francis of Assisi in Grove City.



Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Book Club

Thursday, January 23, 2024

6:00pm-8:00pm

In the Parish Conference Room

We are reading chapter 8.

We are reading ***A Living Gospel* by Robert Ellsberg**

In a number of award-winning books, Robert Ellsberg has reflected on the lives of saints, prophets, and spiritual masters, drawing particular attention to models of holiness that speak to the needs of our time. The message of such figures, as he shows in this new book, is found not only in their writings but in the “text” they wrote with their lives. Among the particular figures he examines are Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, and Flannery O’Connor. He especially holds up the example of holy women, who charted their own path, and those who exemplify a “holiness of the everyday.” In learning how to read the “living gospel” in their stories, he shows how we may learn to read our own lives in the same light. <https://orbisbooks.com/products/a-living-gospel>

All are Welcome to Join! Call Martha Mingel with any questions 941-697-4899



DONATE BLOOD AND SAVE LIVES



Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Breakfast is \$10*, and children under 12 eat free! The delicious meal includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, and coffee or tea. Proceeds go to support our local charities.

*Breakfast is free if you donate blood.

Sunday, January 12

8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Center



The Knights of Columbus of Saint Francis of Assisi Church, 5265 Placida Road, Grove City, will sponsor a blood drive during our pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 12. The Big Red Bus from OneBlood will be at the church parking lot from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All donors will receive a free pancake breakfast, a long-sleeved T-shirt, a \$20 e-gift card, and a wellness checkup, including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse, and cholesterol screening. Your donation helps save lives.



*Saint Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church*

Parish Pasta Dinner

Thursday, January 16

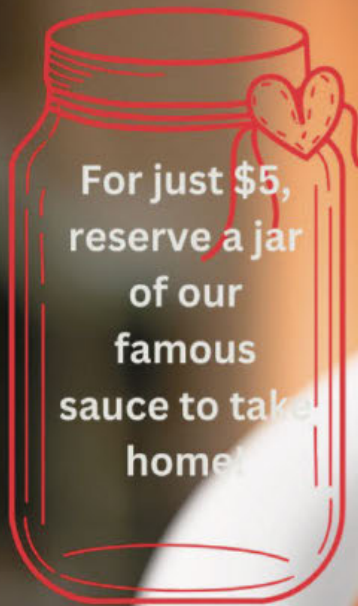
4:00 to 6:30 PM

**\$14 includes penne pasta, meatballs, sausage,
bread, salad, dessert, and beverage!**

Kids Under 12 Eat Free!

Carry Out Available! All are Welcome!

**To register for the pasta dinner, go to our website at
www.sfoachurch.com | Parish Forms | Parish Pasta Dinner
Registration Form or call the Parish Office at 941-697-4899**



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Tickets are \$100/each

**Buy your tickets in the Saint Francis of Assisi Narthex after
Mass on Feb 1/2 & Mar 8/9**

Drawing Dinner will be on April 6th, 2025

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Diocese of Venice Anniversary Mass

Location: St. Thomas More Parish, Sarasota

Date: Saturday, March 8th Time: 11am

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor.

The Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in two locations:

February 1st at St. Leo the Great Parish
in Bonita Springs at 11am,
March 8th at St. Thomas More Parish
in Sarasota, also at 11am.

Please contact your local parish office for reservations no later than one week before the event you choose to attend.

SFOA Church Office: 941-697-4899



Baby Bottle Campaign - Thank You!

Our Knights Council 7672 and Ladies Auxiliary wish to thank all of our parishioners who donated to the Baby Bottle Campaign. The Knights and Ladies collected donations for the Baby Bottle Campaign from October to November. A check for \$5,400 was presented on December 31, 2024 to Reitha Butson, Executive Director of Empowerwrc Inc.

Left to Right in the above photo are: Phil Jelenieski, Deputy Grand Knight and Life Director; Bob Bazinet Grand Knight and Program Director; Reitha Butson Executive Director of Empowerwrc Inc.; Fr. Cory Mayer Pastor Saint Francis of Assisi Church; Marita Nunes, Respect Life Chair; Linda DeGonzague, Respect Life Committee; and Tim Fallon KC Council Financial Secretary.

**Knights of Columbus Council 7672, KC Ladies Auxiliary,
and Respect Life Ministries**

Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
Mon Jan 13	7:50am	9:00am	Rosary/Mass/Anointing/Chaplet - Church
	9:00am	10:00am	Parish Stewardship Ministry - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Rosary Makers - Room 6
	11:45am	12:30pm	Lectio Divina Gospel Prayer - Church
	7:00pm	8:00pm	Knights of Columbus Business Meeting - Parish Center
Tues Jan 14	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	8:50am	9:50am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration - Church
	9:30am	11:30am	PWG Director/Coordinators Meeting - Parish Conference Room
	9:50am	10:00am	Benediction - Church
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Women's Bible Study - Parish Conference Room
	5:30pm	6:45pm	Religious Education K-8 - Parish Center
Wed Jan 15	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:00am	11:00am	Parish Women's Guild Membership Meeting - Parish Center
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	7:00pm	8:00pm	AA - Parish Hall
Thurs Jan 16	7:00am	8:00am	TMIY - Parish Center
	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:00am	9:15am	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Hooks and Needles - Parish Conference Rooms
	4:00pm	6:30pm	Parish Pasta Dinner - Parish Center
	5:30pm	6:30pm	OCIA - Church
Fri Jan 17	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
Sat Jan 18			Blessing of the MARRIAGE Anniversary
	2:00pm	2:30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	3:00pm	4:00pm	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	4:30pm	5:30pm	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	4:30pm	5:30pm	Confirmation with Bishop Dewane and Father Mayer - Church
Sun Jan 19	7:30am	8:30am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	9:00am	10:00am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	10:30am	11:30am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	5:00pm	6:30pm	Youth Group Meeting - Parish Center

St. Francis Youth Group



1st & 3rd Sundays
5 pm - 6:30 pm
Meets at the Parish Center



For All Teens 14 - 17 years old

Dinner, Discussions, & Activities

We'd Love To Have You!



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Local acupuncture clinic is treating the untreatable, peripheral neuropathy with incredible results!

Pain comes in many shapes and sizes. One of the most debilitating being the burning and tingling that comes with peripheral neuropathy. A disease that comes with years of shooting, stabbing pain that gradually ends in numbness, balance problems, and on occasion, amputations. A disease that was once classified as irreparable.

David R. of Venice, FL was facing such a fate.

"I stopped golfing. I wasn't taking walks on the beach with my wife. I was living on gabapentin and antidepressants and everywhere I went; my doctor, the specialists, the pain institute, told me there was no cure. How are you supposed to live your life knowing that everyday brings pain and suffering?"

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves, commonly caused by a lack of blood flow to the nerves in the hands and feet.

This causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow.

Most peripheral neuropathy sufferers experience a heightened sensitivity to touch making it almost impossible for those diagnosed to even wear shoes, much less enjoy life.

"It was like walking on sharp river rocks. I barely left my recliner," shares David, whose experience is not uncommon for those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy.

That is until he found Lauren Milligan of Sage Point Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine. Dr. Milligan and her staff have pioneered a cutting edge, medical solution to treat neuropathy, eliminate or greatly reduce its symptoms and give people their lives back. Best of all, they're doing it without the use of prescription medications and invasive surgeries.

"Acupuncture is incredible at restoring blood flow and stimulating damaged

nerves, preventing them from dying off," tells Dr. Milligan.

"We take our treatments a step further by integrating ATP Resonance BioTherapy which targets specific nerves in the body using microcurrent. ATP therapy is like watering a plant. This treatment will stimulate the blood vessels to grow back around the peripheral nerves and provide them with the proper nutrients to heal and repair."

Three months later David is thrilled with his progress, "I can walk barefoot on the beach again!"

Success stories like David's are not atypical for the staff at Sage Point AIM. "We have a 87% success rate in treating neuropathy," shares Dr. Milligan.

The number of treatments needed to allow the nerves to fully recover will vary from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed

neurological and vascular evaluation. So long as you have not sustained more than 90% nerve damage Sage Point AIM offers hope where there once was none.

While David's peripheral neuropathy was idiopathic, meaning the cause is unknown, Dr. Milligan's treatments can also help people whose neuropathy is caused by diabetes or chemotherapy.

"We have seen tremendous success in treating neuropathy of all types through very personalized treatments, specifically tailored to treat each individual case."

To schedule a consultation and complete evaluation call **(941) 451-8154** but do so quickly because Sage Point AIM is taking a limited number of new neuropathy patients.

For more information and to take advantage of their new patient offer visit SagePointAcu.com.

