

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

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, SEPTEMBER 9

8:15am †DONALD BUCZYNSKI
by John and Gail Kovach
Saint Peter Claver, Priest
Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8
Gospel: Luke 6:6-11

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

8:15am †FRANCES BLAIR
by Pat Brooks
Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Gospel: Luke 6:12-19

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

8:15am **PACHECO AND SABINO FAMILIES** by Family
Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31
Gospel: Luke 6:20-26

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

8:15am †MARY CARDEN by Pat Brooks
Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13
Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:15am †FRANK GUZZI
by Bob and Liz Barrett
Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27
Gospel: Luke 6:39-42


SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

4:00pm †JIMMIE WALRAVEN
by The Vasher Family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:00am **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**
10:00am †KIP AND ANN POWERS
by Dave and Jeaninne Kulon
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Reading 1: Isaiah 50:4c-9a
Reading 2: James 2:14-18
Gospel: Mark 8:27-35



*He even makes the deaf hear
and the mute speak.*

Mark 7:37

Gospel Reflection

Mark 7:31-37

Again, Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!" And

immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were astonished and said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Our hearts always get excited when miracles happen. There are stories about one or two people or a group of people who are saved in every large-scale disaster, and such stories always hold our interest. That anyone survives today's terrorist attacks is always a miracle. The atmosphere in Jesus's time was also fascinated with miracles. The miracle in today's Gospel is one recorded in Mark's Gospel.

We who do not regularly read the Hebrew Scriptures in Greek can easily miss the connection between the first reading and today's Gospel. The first reading is about the soon-to-happen return of Israel from exile to its land. That was to be an incredible miracle. But the great return from exile would have signs and wonders accompanying it: "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Streams will burst forth in the desert and rivers in the steppe. The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water."

When we read this description, our own hearts should be delighted and filled with joy! We must try to imagine blind people seeing again, deaf people hearing again, lame people walking with energy and without problems and those who have been unable to speak now singing!! Not only will the return from exile include all of these physical healing, but it will include the desert turning into fertile land and water being in abundance.

The Greek word for the mute person in this passage from Isaiah, the man with a speech impediment, is Mogollon. That word occurs only once in Scripture, and that is in the passage that we have today from Mark's Gospel.

Jesus is seen as the return from exile to the kingdom of God, to faithfulness to the word of God. Jesus is seen as the Messiah, the one sent by God for the salvation of His people.

Of course, we must ask ourselves whether we today see anything pointing to the kingdom of God. Many of us are so well educated that we have a difficult time accepting miracles. On the other hand, many of us know really credible people who have experienced miracles in their lives after praying for them. For our ancestors in the faith, both Hebrew and Christian, miracles always point to the work of God.

The second reading reminds us of daily realities in any community: show no partiality! That is incredibly difficult! All of us are prone to be more comfortable with other people similar to ourselves rather than with those very different. But at a human level of community building, that is not a healthy way to live. How much less so when we strive to follow Jesus as our Lord. We have to become comfortable with the poor and the rich, with the sick and the healthy, with those who dress well and those whose dress repels us, with those who are clean and those who are dirty, etc. Christ's love does not have these kinds of boundaries. But we generally do have such boundaries, and we must become aware of them and seek to live beyond them.

Perhaps today, we can think of our spirituality of following Jesus as a call to rejoice in His presence and His miracles, a call to continue growing in love so that we can go past our own limitations, and a call to recognize the divine presence at work in our daily lives. Let us ask our Lord to open our eyes of faith, unblock our ears, and allow our hearts to sing.

*Homily for 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B on September 3, 2009, by the Monastery of Christ in the Desert.
Brought to you by Penny Fleming, SFOA Communications Coordinator.*



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.

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**.

**LECTIO DIVINA - GOSPEL PRAYER
EVERY MONDAY 11:45AM - 12:30PM - IN CHURCH
STARTING SEPTEMBER 16**

Please join us for "divine reading" of the Bible in which we let go and open ourselves to what God is trying to say to us. We listen to the Lord's Gospel for the next Sunday's Mass and it prepares us to be more open to Jesus' teachings at Sunday Mass. Lectio Divina begins on Monday, September 16.

Lectio Divina was developed by Benedict of Nursia in the 6th Century. In Benedict's famous Rule for monks (480 - 547) he urges us to listen to God's word "with the ear of our hearts." Six centuries later Guigo, a Carthusian monk (known for being contemplative and ascetic), elaborated on St. Benedict's practice of Lectio Divina. He systematized the process of Lectio with the four steps that form a spiritual ladder of intimacy with God.

The Four Steps of Lectio Divina

- 1. Reading**
- 2. Meditation**
- 3. Prayer**
- 4. Contemplation**



**Religious Education Begins Soon!
Registration for Religious Education for 2024 - 2025
Kindergarten - 8th Grade
and Confirmation & High School**

**Register in the Parish Center
on September 7/8 & September 14/15 after all Masses**

Fee is \$20 for one child; \$35 per family. Bring a copy of child's Baptism certificate. The Diocese of Venice has designed the Safe Environment Program for all parishes. It is our commitment to provide an environment which is safe & nurturing, & to ensure that all members, catechists, students & families remain healthy & safe while attending classes & activities.

Religious Education is for all children attending public schools. Families need to be registered Parishioners, register at sfoachurch.com. Preparation for Baptism, First Confession and First Holy Communion (First Holy Communion and Confirmation require two years of attendance and preparation).

Kindergarten through 8th Grade Classes begin on Tuesday, September 17, 5:30-6:45pm in the Parish Center with Parent and Guardian Orientation while children are in class.

Confirmation and High School begins Sunday, September 8, 10am Mass-1:30pm.

Father Mayer will commission & bless all the Catechists on Sunday, September 15 at the 10am Mass.



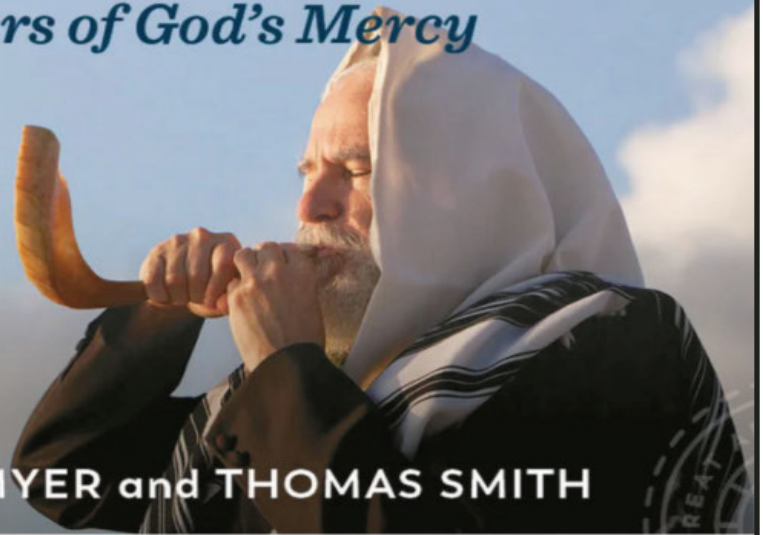
The Prophets

Messengers of God's Mercy

*Parish Women's
Bible Study
Join us!*

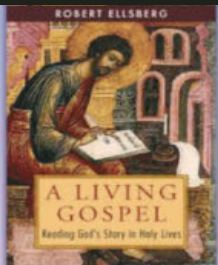
REVISED DATE:
Sept 10 at 1pm

SARAH CHRISTMYER and THOMAS SMITH



*Parish Women's Bible Study
is studying The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy*

First Meeting, Tuesday September 10 at 1pm - The Prophets is a 10 week study
All women of the Parish are welcome to join!



Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Book Club

Begins Thursday, September 12, 2023

6:00pm-8:00pm In the Parish Conference Room

We will be starting *A Living Gospel* by Robert Ellsberg

Please read the introduction and chapters 1-8

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

Catechetical Sunday

Sunday, September 15

Catechetical Sunday 2024 will be observed on September 15, 2024, at the 10am Mass. On this day, Father Mayer will commission & bless catechists/aides at Mass who nurture faith in others and share their faith commitment through word, experience, prayer, and liturgy. It is a day for parishes across the nation to recognize and thank those who contribute to catechesis.



The theme this year is “Stay With Us.”

The celebration of Catechetical Sunday draws each person to reflect on their role, by virtue of their baptism, the mission that Jesus sets forth in the Gospel of Matthew, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Mt 28:19-20)

According to Bishop Robert Barron, Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith, and those whom parishes have designated to serve as catechists will be called forth at Mass to be commissioned for the special ministry of education and support.

YOUTH GROUP

St. Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church

ALL YOUTH 14-17 ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

FOOD, GAMES, & DISCUSSION.

WE WILL BE PLANNING OUT EVENTS, TOPICS, & ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR.

WE HOPE YOU CAN COME!!!

Kick-Off Meeting!!

Sunday
September 15
6 - 7:30 PM

Parish Center
St. Francis of Assisi
Grove City, FL



Parish Bereavement Ministry

Next meeting:

September 17

at 10am in the

Parish Conference Room

Grief is the process by which healing takes place, but it can be hard work! Our Catholic faith can be a tremendous source of strength in helping us.

Our Parish Bereavement Ministry meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Parish Conference Room.

Join us at our next meeting September 17 at 10am in the Parish Conference Room.

Call the Parish Office with any questions: 941-697-4899 and Press 0



Fall Session Begins: Thursday, Sept 19 7:00am in the Parish Center

Are you a Catholic man looking to learn more about your faith, grow your spirituality and meet other like-minded men in the parish?

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish initiated a program in 2021 called **That Man is You**. We meet Thursday mornings at 7:00am for about an hour which begins with a hot breakfast and then a video and small group discussion. Each session lasts 13 weeks with sessions in the fall and winter. There is no cost for the program.

We have received lots of positive feedback from our participants!

All men of the parish are invited including seasonal parishioners. If you have previously registered, there is no need to register again.

Call the parish office (941-697-4899) for more info or send an email to office@sfoachurch.com to register.

Also, registration and information will be available at all Masses on September 7-8.





OCIA: Come and See

- Do you recognize a need for spirituality in your life and are looking to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.
- Are you baptized in another Christian denomination and wonder if God is calling you to the Catholic Church?
- Are you a baptized Catholic but never celebrated Confirmation and/or Holy Communion.

The OCIA (formerly known as RCIA) is the process through which adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil every year. Teaching begins October 3, and continues every Thursday, 5:30pm – 6:30pm or October 4 and continues every Friday, 9:15am – 10:15am in Room 1.

For more information, please contact
Jim Brantner in the Parish Office, 941-697-4899.

Our doors are open!
**Is God inviting you into a deeper relationship with Him
through the Catholic Faith?**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Women's Guild
5265 Placida Road, Grove City • Parish Center • 941-697-4899 ext. 6

Thrifty Treasures and Boutique Sale

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!

These are the VOLUNTEER hours that need to be filled.

TUESDAY. Oct. 22 • 10:00am to 2pm Setup

WEDNESDAY Oct 23 • 8:30am to 3pm Setup/Price

THURSDAY Oct 24 • 8:30am to 1pm Setup/Price

THURSDAY Oct 24 EARLY BIRD SALE

2:30pm to 5:30pm

FRIDAY Oct 25 • 8:30 am to 2pm SALE

SATURDAY Oct 26 BROWN BAG SALE

8:30 am to 12 noon (cleanup 12-2)

CONTACT: *women's guild 941-697-4899 ext, 6;
ckmitch1@aol.com; kathy6150@aol.com;
with days & hours available*



*Saint Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church*

CASH RAFFLE

2ND PRIZE
\$3,500

TOP PRIZE
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3RD PRIZE
\$1,000

TICKETS ARE SOLD TO BENEFIT SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH. THE WINNING TICKETS WILL BE DRAWN AT 3 PM DURING OUR PARISH PICNIC. CLICK THE BUTTON BELOW TO REVIEW THE RAFFLE RULES.



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
AT 3:00 PM**



**5265 PLACIDA ROAD,
GROVE CITY, FL**



**CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO
GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!!
(941) 697-4899**

Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
Mon Sept 9	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
	7:00pm	8:00pm	Knights Business Meeting - Parish Center
Tues Sept 10	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	8:50am	9:50am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration - Church
	9:50am	10:00am	Benediction - Church
	9:30am	11:00am	Parish Women's Guild Coordinators Meeting - Parish Conference Room
Wed Sept 11	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 Sept 12	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
	6:00pm	8:00pm	Book Club - Parish Conference Room
Friday Sept 13	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
Sat Sept 14			Blessing of the MARRIAGE Anniversary
	3:00pm	3:30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	4:00pm	5:00pm	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
Sun Sept 15	8:00am	9:00am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	10:00am	11:00am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	10:00am	11:00am	Catechist Commissioning by Father Mayer - Church
	6:00pm	8:00pm	Youth Group Meeting - Parish Center

The prayer of Saint Michael will be said at the conclusion of all Masses until election day to help ensure the defeat of Amendment 4.



Prayer to Saint Michael

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 wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen



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"I CAN WALK BAREFOOT ON THE BEACH AGAIN"

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.

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