



## **SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH**

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

## **7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



"Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." - Lk 6:38

**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, FEBRUARY 24**

8:15am †**PAMELA LAAKE BRIGG**  
by John and Sharon Laake  
*Reading: Sirach 1:1-10*  
*Gospel: Mark 9:14-29*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

8:15am †**DAYLE TEDESCHI**  
by John and Martha Mingel  
*Reading: Sirach 2:1-11*  
*Gospel: Mark 9:30-37*

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

†**LEE RESER** by John and Martha Mingel  
*Reading: Sirach 4:11-19*  
*Gospel: Mark 9:38-40*

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

8:15am †**DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CALDERON VALVERDE FAMILY** by Zayra  
*Reading: Sirach 5:1-8*  
*Gospel: Mark 9:41-50*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

8:15am **HAPPY BIRTHDAY LINDA KOENNEMANN** by Beth Hammond  
*Reading: Sirach 6:5-17*  
*Gospel: Mark 10:1-12*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1**

**SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)**  
3:00pm †**NICOLE LEWIS** by Mom  
**AND †LOIS CASTRUCCI**  
4:30pm †**WILLIAM T KELLY**  
by Christine Schmidt and Family

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2**

7:30am **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**  
9:00am **HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANNA POPIELARZ** by Beth Hammond  
10:30am †**VITTORIO RUSSO**  
by Rosa and Alberto Grossi  
*Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Reading 1: Sirach 27:4-7*  
*Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58*  
*Gospel: Luke 6:39-45*





**Gospel Reflection**  
**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C**  
**Luke 6:39-45**

One of the images used in today's Gospel is that of a tree, which requires time to bear good fruit. We all have a lifetime, however long or short, to be like trees planted by flowing waters, and hopefully grow over time, learn from our mistakes, and be strengthened by pruning and setbacks. Through it all, we are encouraged to never give up, but to persevere and remain responsible in our calling, whatever it may be.

Perseverance and responsibility are hallmarks of any follower of Jesus Christ. Compassion and love are also virtues. With these virtues, we can more easily follow the Lord and encourage others on the same path.

To make his points, Jesus drew on the realities of his time. For example, eye disease was widespread in ancient Israel before the advancements in medicine that we enjoy today. In Jesus's time, people with eye disease were often shunned and tended to band together to assist one another and protect themselves. As such, it was common for blind people to lead other blind people.

Jesus referred to the familiar saying, "the blind leading the blind," to illustrate that it is best for someone who can see to lead someone who cannot. Similarly, teachers and leaders must be prepared and knowledgeable to serve as effective guides. We should reflect: Am I properly formed in the faith and the Church? A great way to deepen our Christian lives is by acquiring and reading the "Catechism of the Catholic Church." It serves as a goldmine for growth in our understanding and practice of the faith.

The Gospel challenges us to have a clear vision, bear good fruit, deepen our adherence to Christ, and be sound "teachers," even if in small and hidden ways. Jesus indicated that good people produce goodness, which flows from the heart. We speak from what is in our deepest self. In another place in the Gospels, Jesus says that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also (see Gospel According to Saint Matthew 6:21).

The words of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, the second reading for this Sunday, summarize well what we are called to do: "Be steadfast and persevering, fully engaged in the work of the Lord. You know that your toil is not in vain when it is done in the Lord."

As the years go by, hopefully we can recognize progress not in terms of "greatness"—which would be a form of vainglory—but in bearing wholesome fruit through our growth in patience, compassion, forgiveness, commitment, honesty, and in letting go and letting God. This includes sharing what we have with the less fortunate, giving our time and talents to worthwhile causes, showing generosity in assisting others, and choosing to respond rather than react in difficult circumstances. It also means choosing life, asking for forgiveness, and listening more while speaking less.

We can also say that good teaching comes more from actions than from words. It has been said that when we pass on, people may not remember any of the words we spoke to them, but they will remember how we made them feel: accepted or rejected. True and lasting teaching flows from a good and loving heart, acting in accordance with Christ's teachings and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

*Brought to you by Penny Fleming, Communications Coordinator. Abbot Christian Leisy, OSB, Monastery of Christ in the Desert dated February 21, 2022.*



# Catholic Faith Appeal 2025

**2025 CFA Goal: \$227,000**

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.**

## *A Message from Bishop Dewane*



**DIocese OF VENICE IN FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

January 2025



*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*This year the Diocese of Venice in Florida celebrates 40 Years of Service. Throughout this time, those who have come before us, as well as today's faithful, have supported the good works we are called to do as the People of God. In scripture we are taught, "Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord...". This reminds all that kindness and generosity toward our brothers and sisters is a blessing to Our Lord and will be returned.*

*Won't you be part of this call to "lend to the Lord" by donating to this year's Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA)? Your continued generous support is much needed and genuinely valued. Your kindness allows essential programs, ministries and works of mercy to be extended to individuals and families in every stage of life. From disaster relief to caring for the poor, from resources for the underserved to faith formation and education; individuals, families and communities receive compassion and care.*

*Many of the Diocesan programs and ministries funded through the CFA are highlighted in this brochure. As here presented, the CFA furthers the Mission of the Church given by Christ and impacts those in need throughout Southwest Florida.*

*May the Lord abundantly bless you in this Jubilee Year 2025, declared by Our Holy Father, for your desire to help those among us in need. Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family.*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

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



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA  
*OFFICE OF THE BISHOP*

February 21, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Diocese of Venice, as well as other dioceses throughout the United States, participate in the Ash Wednesday Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Funds raised for this Collection support programs and ministries in countries which endured years of communist oppression and occupation and help renew aspects of Church life.

One such outreach has provided aid to Catholics in the Republic of Georgia, who kept their faith during years of persecution. Now, since their independence from the Soviet Union, and with assistance from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Catholics in Georgia are able to rebuild churches, provide medical care for the poor, and pass on the faith to the next generation so that the Church can once again thrive.

You can participate in their success, as well as support other Catholics who strive to learn and live their faith, by donating to this special collection on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Thank you for your generosity in sharing your blessings with the Faithful of Central and Eastern Europe. May God continue to bless you for your goodness.

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers as we begin our Lenten Journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

FJD/cg



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# DONUTS & COFFEE

MEET THE  
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FEBRUARY 23, 2025

IN THE PARISH CENTER AT 11:30 AM  
IMMEDIATLEY AFTER THE 10:30 AM MASS





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## PRESENTATIONS

**The Implications of Catholic Social Doctrine for Health Care**  
Rev. Peter Fonseca, MA, MS, MDiv

**The Origins, Challenges, and Ethics of Transhumanism**  
Deacon Michael J. Deem, PhD

**Human Dignity at the End of Life**  
Andrew S. Kubick, PhD, MA

**Advance Directives: How Should a Catholic Prepare?**  
Rev. Peter Fonseca, MA, MS, MDiv, D. Brian Scarnecchia, MDiv, JD,  
and more!

**The Mental Health Crisis for Children and Adolescents**  
Sister Maria Amata Rossi, RSM

**The Science and Ethics of In Vitro Fertilization**  
Daniel Kuebler, PhD

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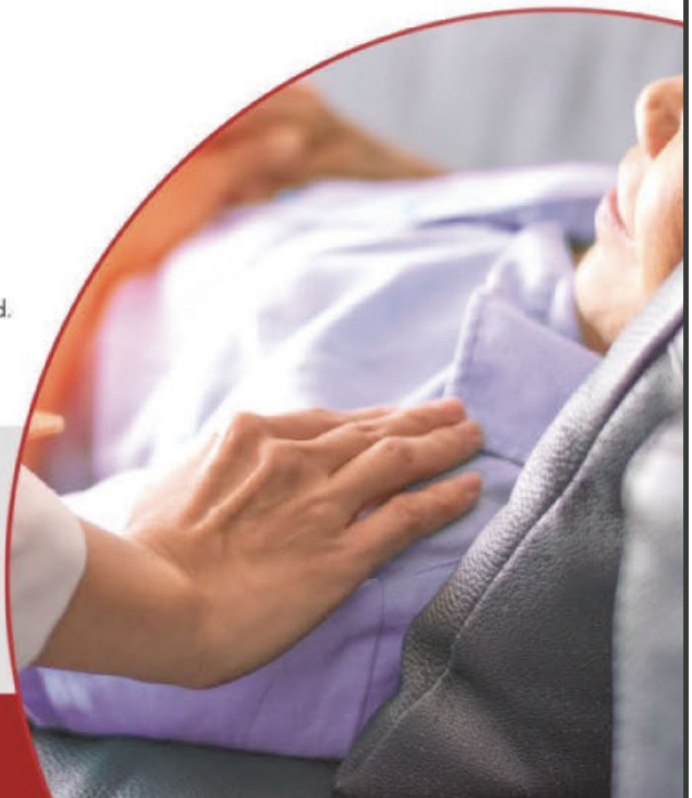
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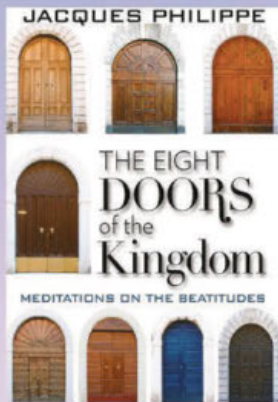
Drop food donations at Mass or at the Parish Office during the week. Thank you!



# Parish Outreach Food Pantry

**The Parish Outreach Food Pantry is in need of Tuna and Canned Fruit.**

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](http://sfoachurch.com) and click **Giving** and then click **Online Giving**.



## Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Book Club

**Thursday, March 6, 2025**

**6:00pm-8:00pm**

**In the Parish Conference Room**

We are reading *The Eight Doors of the Kingdom* by Jacques Philippe  
**Order online on Catholic store websites or wherever books are sold.**

The Gospel of St. Matthew Shares with us astonishing words of a promise of everlasting happiness, far removed from the usual recipes for gratification. Blessed are the poor in spirit! Blessed are those who mourn! Happy are the meek!... Fr. Jacques shares with us a profound clarity to the full scope of meaning behind Christ's eight beatitudes, and in turn, outlines for us a way in which we can live them in our daily lives. We learn how each beatitude gives insight into how we can situate ourselves in an honest and fulfilling relationship with God, with oneself, and with others, and how to confront head-on the difficult realities of life.

[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=the+eight+doors+of+the+kingdom&i=stripbooks&hvadid=713541665218&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9012295&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=9995565095273706790&hvtargid=kwd-420070434683&hydadcr=22591\\_13730658&tag=googhydr-20&ref=pd\\_sl\\_5owqxiqt7\\_e](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=the+eight+doors+of+the+kingdom&i=stripbooks&hvadid=713541665218&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9012295&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=9995565095273706790&hvtargid=kwd-420070434683&hydadcr=22591_13730658&tag=googhydr-20&ref=pd_sl_5owqxiqt7_e)

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



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# Saint Francis Parish Women's Guild **SPRING FASHION SHOW**



**MARCH 16, 2025**  
**1:00PM - 4:30PM**



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in the Parish Office.

No tickets sold at the door.

Lunch will be prepared by  
Chefs Patrick and Jason





# **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.

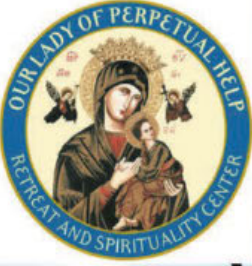
The Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in two locations:

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





# Parish Lenten Retreat

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center**

**Time: 9am - 3:15pm Cost: \$45 per person**

**The day consists of a hot breakfast, first conference, prayer time, confession, lunch, second conference, adoration and Mass.**

**Register at [sfoachurch.com](http://sfoachurch.com) click *Parish Forms* scroll down and click *Lenten Retreat Registration Form* or fill out the attached form and drop in offering basket with cash or a check made payable to Saint Francis of Assisi Church. Car pooling available. Cars will leave the church parking lot at 8:00am Wednesday morning.**

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## Retreat Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Car Pooling? Yes No If yes, Will you drive? Yes No

Cash or Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_





DIOCESE OF  
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— IN FLORIDA —

# *Eucharistic Conference*

Becoming Missionary Disciples  
March 29, 2025



Bishop  
Frank Dewane



Dr. Scott Hahn



Mrs. Kimberly Hahn



Mrs. Mary Ann  
Wiesinger-Puig



Mr. Andrés Arango



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To Register: <https://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/eucharistic-conference>

For information contact Jim Gontis at:

[gontis@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:gontis@dioceseofvenice.org)

941-486-4754

# Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
<b>Mon Feb 24</b>	7:50am	9:00am	<b>Rosary/Mass/Anointing/Chaplet - Church</b>
	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
<b>Tues Feb 25</b>	7:50am	8:45am	<b>Rosary/Mass - Church</b>
	8:50am	9:50am	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration - Church</b>
	9:50am	10:00am	<b>Benediction - Church</b>
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Women's Bible Study - Parish Conference Room
	5:30pm	6:45pm	Religious Education K-8 - Parish Center
<b>Wed Feb 26</b>	7:50am	8:45am	<b>Rosary/Mass - Church</b>
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	7:00pm	8:00pm	AA - Parish Hall
<b>Thurs Feb 27</b>			TMIY - Parish Center
	7:50am	8:45am	<b>Rosary/Mass - Church</b>
	9:00am	9:15am	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church</b>
	5:30pm	6:30pm	OCIA - Church
<b>Fri Feb 28</b>	7:50am	8:45am	<b>Rosary/Mass - Church</b>
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
<b>Sat March 1</b>	2:00pm	2:30pm	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church</b>
	3:00pm	4:00pm	<b>Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church</b>
	4:30pm	5:30pm	<b>Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church</b>
<b>Sun March 2</b>	7:30am	8:30am	<b>Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church</b>
	9:00am	10:00am	<b>Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church</b>
	10:30am	11:30am	<b>Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church</b>



# Interested in joining the Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Choir?

Please contact our  
Director of Music, Dr. Aina Olonade  
for an audition

Phone: 941-697-4899

Email: [aolonade@sfoachurch.com](mailto:aolonade@sfoachurch.com)



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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.

