



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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 6

8:15am †LOSSIGGIO DOMENICO
by Mico Foti

Reading: 1 John 3:22—4:6
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

8:15am †JEROME GALLOW by Family
Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: Mark 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

8:15am †PAUL DELUCA
by Ernest Panza

Reading: 1 John 4:11-18
Gospel: Mark 6:45-52

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

8:15am †JOHN B. KLAUS JR.
by Irene Shewchuk

Reading: 1 John 4:19—5:4
Gospel: Luke 4:14-22

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

8:15am †JEAN NETHERS
†STARLENE GONYEA
by Terry Spada, Anita Sweetman
and Pat Brooks

Reading: 1 John 5:5-13
Gospel: Luke 5:12-16

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)**

3:00pm †GLENN BARBATO
by JJ and Virginia McLaughlin
4:30pm †JEROME GALLOW by Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

7:30am **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**
9:00am †FRANK AND BETTY GUZZI
AND †FRANCIS GUZZI

by Bob and Liz Barrett
10:30am †RICHARD BELLIZZI
by Lee Bork and Mary Anne Burke

Baptism of the Lord
Reading 1: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Reading 2: Acts 10:34-38
Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



Gospel Reflection

Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-12

From Advent until now, the readings and themes of our liturgies have all centered on God's coming to us. The underlying movement has been God seeking us out and offering Himself to us in His Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. He is the Messiah first promised to the descendants of Adam and Eve after their Fall.

In today's Liturgy, the fundamental movement shifts. Now, it focuses on our seeking, specifically our search for God in His Christ. When we say "our," we mean all of humanity. It's important to note that the Magi were not Jews; they represented the gentile nations and peoples. They were

kings who were sages, wise men, and visionaries—individuals who looked beyond the obvious, delving into the mysterious, non-scientific realm in which we exist, distinguishing it from what is merely technical and material.

The word "question" contains the word "quest," an idea presented to us in today's gospel account by St. Matthew. Epiphany invites us to join in the quest of the Wise Men, as well as the journey of all Christian believers seeking to enter the mystery of God, especially the mystery of God becoming incarnate in our humanity.

We live in a world filled with problems to solve. However, a mystery isn't just a problem; it's a quest to experience. A famous sports figure was once asked about his chief ambition in life. He replied, "My chief ambition is to go to heaven." The sportswriter conducting the interview thought it was a joke. The athlete responded, "My friend, I don't find that funny. I know you don't intend to be sarcastic, but there's something amiss when someone is flippant about the great mysteries of the universe." And the man who spoke these words was a professional baseball player.

We, too, can be superficial when we miss the point in the account we've just heard in today's gospel. We can become absorbed in solving the mystery of where the star came from, its location in heaven, the identities of the Wise Men, their origins, and how a heavenly star could lead them. Similarly, when people attempt to analyze Christ's miracles, they often try to explain them away by identifying natural causes, completely overlooking the revelation from God that is evident in those miracles.

God has a message for you. He has something to share with you. God has a vision for you, a revelation to offer. Are you willing to be a seeker and journey with those Wise Men from the East? The wise continue to seek Him.

Epiphany is not a one-time event; it represents a context in which we live. How, then, can we seek the Lord in these days, in these difficult times?

If Christmas is all about God coming to us to seek us out, then Epiphany is all about our seeking the God who has come among us. The Wise Men offer us great wisdom and give us a priceless gift. After finding Christ, they returned home by another route. We should do the same.

With the Wise Men, may you make that journey.

Gospel Reflection by Fr. Charles Irvin, a Catholic priest in the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan, dated January 5, 2025. Brought to you by Penny Fleming, SFOA Communications Coordinator.



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 27, 2024

TO: Pastors/Administrators/Priests

FROM: Bishop Frank J. Dewane



The Diocese of Venice is saddened to inform you of the death of Reverend Marcel George Dubé, O.Carm., who passed away this morning, December 27, 2024, at the age of 95. Father Dubé was ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1954, as a member of the Order of Carmelites.

Father served as Parochial Vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grove City, Florida from June 2001 until his retirement on July 1, 2012. After his retirement, Father Dubé resided at the Carmel at Mission Valley in Nokomis and assisted at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Osprey and St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Siesta Key.

Funeral arrangements for Father Dubé have not been confirmed at this time. A notification will be provided once arrangements have been finalized.

Please pray for the repose of his soul and the consolation of his family. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in eternal peace.



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 Canned Vegetables,
Canned Pork and Bean, and Canned Soup.**

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
drive and the praying hands
drive! Your generosity
helped brighten the Advent
Christmas season for those
in our community.**

Thank you!

Seasonal Mass Times

Begin: January 4/5, 2025

Saturday Confessions:

2:00pm

Saturday Vigil Mass Times:

3:00pm and 4:30pm

Sunday Mass Times:

7:30am

9:00am

10:30am

**SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
PARISH WOMEN'S GUILD**

January Card Party

5265 Placida Rd.

Grove City, FL 34224

January 8, 2025 11:00am - 2:30pm

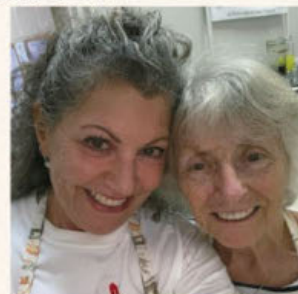
Reserve your table by January 6th

Reserve your tables at sfoachurch.com

**Click Parish Forms, scroll down and click
Parish Women's Guild Card Party Registration
or by calling 941-697-4899 and Press 6 to
leave a message with your name, phone
number, and number of people at your table.**

**\$12 per person includes lunch,
card play, and door prizes.**

All are welcome!





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

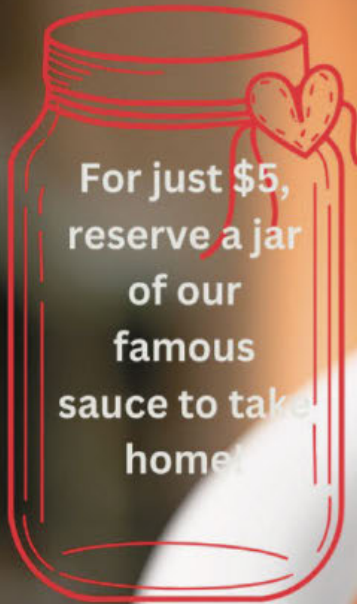
4:00 to 6:30 PM

**\$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**



For just \$5,
reserve a jar
of our
famous
sauce to take
home!





St Francis of Assisi Youth Group

**Everyone 14 -17
is invited to join-
We'd love to have you!**



**Youth Group Meets
1st & 3rd Sundays until June
in the Parish Center
5 pm - 6:30 pm**



**Dinner
Discussions
Fun**

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO CATHOLIC SCHOOL **\$100,000 DRAWING** **2025**

We're kicking off our annual \$100,000 Drawing!
With your help, \$100,000 will go toward supporting our
mission, and up to 10 lucky winners will share \$100,000!

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

Best of all, after each ticket is drawn, it's re-entered,
giving you multiple chances to win—even the full \$100,000!

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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

Baby Bottle Campaign - Thank You!

Thank you to all who generously supported the Baby Bottle Campaign. \$4450.00 was raised for EmpowHer WRC Inc., whose mission is to protect the unborn and educate women and men about morally acceptable decisions. They offer material, emotional, and educational services free of charge to women and men in our local area.

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 6	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
	6:00pm	7:00pm	Knights of Columbus Officer's Meeting - Parish Conference Room
Tues Jan 7	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
	10:00am	11:00am	Bereavement Ministry - Parish Conference Room
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Women's Bible Study - Parish Conference Room
	5:30pm	6:45pm	Religious Education K-8 - Parish Center
Wed Jan 8	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	11:00am	2:30pm	Card Party - Parish Center
	7:00pm	8:00pm	AA - Parish Hall
Thurs Jan 9	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
	5:30pm	6:30pm	OCIA - Church
Fri Jan 10	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
Sat Jan 11	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
Sun Jan 12	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
	10:30am	1:30pm	Confirmation Prep - Church and Parish Conference Room

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



Join the Knights of Columbus Council 7672 at kofc.org/join and use code: **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY** and get the first year FREE.

"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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