SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Lk 6:43, 45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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, MARCH 3 8:15am †EDWARD F. GANGEMI by Phil and Kathy Gangemi *Reading: Sirach 17:20-24 Gospel: Mark 10:17-27*

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

8:15am **†ANTONIA BASSI** by Connie and Nino *Reading: Sirach 35:1-12 Gospel: Mark 10:28-31*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 8:15am **†KEN REILE**

10:00am **†RAQUEL AND AGUINALDO VEIGA** by Joseph and Luisa Gravlin 6:00pm **†LUCY SCOTTI** by James and Villa Scotti *Ash Wednesday Reading: Joel 2:12-18 Reading 2: 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2 Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18*

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

8:15am **†LEE RESER** by Jackie Williams *Thursday After Ash Wednesday Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Gospel: Luke 9:22-25*

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

8:15am **†LEE RESER** by Millie Luciano Friday After Ash Wednesday Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a Gospel: Matthew 9:14-15

SATURDAY, MARCH 8 SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY) 3:00pm †BRIAN KELLY by Matt and Deb Egan 4:30pm FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

7:30am **†LEE RESER** by Bob and Liz Barrett 9:00am **†HELEN AND EDWARD BARRETT** by Bob and Liz Barrett 10:30am **†RYAN PHILLIPS** by Barbara *First Sunday of Lent Reading 1: Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Reading 2: Romans 10:8-13 Gospel: Luke 4:1-13*



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.



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

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.

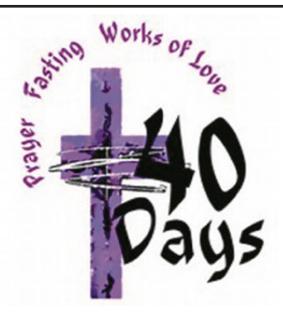
Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

FJD/cg

1000 Pinebrook Road • Venice, FL 34285 • 941-484-9543 • www.dioceseofvenice.org • Fax 941-488-2561



Dear Families,

February 25, 2025

What is Lent? The time has now come in the Church year for the observance of Lent and remembering, praising, thanking & adoring our Lord Jesus for his awesome merciful love for us – in his passion, death and resurrection. Lent is a 40-day season during which we consecrate ourselves & our families to the Lord in prayer, fasting & almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Holy Triduum & Lord's Resurrection during Easter season. The word "Lent" comes from an old English word which means "springtime" & it reminds us of our spiritual spring cleaning. The season of Lent is a time we can receive special graces, a time we can clean up our lives, leave sin behind and grow closer to our triune God in a new better life of faith & love. Parents should encourage their children & each other to choose a personal penance (sacrifice) & good acts of love to do during Lent (go to Mass every Sunday, go to Confession, extra prayers, charitable work, help the needy, etc.), & fast from TV some days a week, or dessert, etc.) All the Religious Education children will go to the Sacrament of Confession on Tuesday, March 25 during class time. Parents & Catechists are welcome to go, we will have 4 priests.

Have a good & blessed Lent,

Jim Brantner Director of Religious Education

<u>Catholic Faith Appeal 2025</u> 2025 CFA Goal: \$227,000

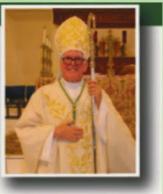
CFA Kickoff Weekend: March 1 & 2 Collection Weekend: March 8 & 9

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.



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

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





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.

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



Membership Invitation

The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend Catholic values in a busy changing world. Our local council #7672 will be holding a membership drive at all Masses the weekend of March 8, and 9. Whether you become an individual member or a member of our council you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way to serve our Lord, parish, and community. If you are a Catholic man 18 or older and would like to join us, simply go to kofc.org/joinus and enter our council #7672 for local information or speak with a member following Masses on Saturday, March 8 or Sunday March 9.

Knights of Columbus Council 7672 Pancake Breakfast

<u>Sunday</u> March 9, 2025 8:30am - Noon in the Parish Center All are Welcome!

\$10 includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee. Kids eat free!

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSIST

PARISH WOMEN'S GUILD March Card Party 5265 Placida Rd. Grove City, FL 34224 March 12, 2025 11:00am - 2:30pm

Reserve your table by March 10th 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!

Saint Francis Parish Women's Guild FASHION SHOW

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day MARCH 16, 2025

1:00PM - 4:30PM

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH 5265 PLACIDA ROAD GROVE CITY, FL 34224 Ph: 941-697-4899

Our models will be displaying the beautiful and unique women's apparel from: Sisters Unique Boutique Owned and operated by Arlene Bechtold at 40° West Dearborn St. Englewood Tickets are \$25 and are available in the Parish Office. No tickets sold at the door. Lunch will be served by our favorite chefs Patrick and Jason



Saint Joseph's Feast Day Mass in Italian and Saint Joseph's Table with Father Mayer Wednesday, March 19, 2025 8:15am Mass

While Saint Joseph and Father's Day are celebrated all over Italy, the celebration
of Saint Joseph is more prominent in Southern Italy, particularly Sicily.
Considered by Sicilians as the Patron Saint of their region, Saint Joseph is
credited to have saved Sicily's residents during one of their many devastating
droughts. Tradition has it that residents prayed to Saint Joseph for rain. The rain
came, and as such, their spring crops were spared from being destroyed,
preventing a widespread famine for Sicily. It is widely believed that this is the
reason the celebration is held in March.

We will start our Saint Joseph Day celebration on Wednesday, March 19 with Mass in Italian at 8:15am. We will also have a traditional Saint Joseph's Table.

What is a Saint Joseph's Table?

Generally, a statue of St. Joseph is placed at the head of the table and is surrounded by gifts of various foods, citrus fruits, and of course, breads. On the feast day, an open house is held, inviting friends and family to join in the celebration of eating the gifts left on the table. Fava beans, one of the spared crops, represent good luck and abundance, so be sure to add them to your table.

As with anything in Italy, the menu for a Saint Joseph celebration is rooted in tradition. Because the holiday falls during lent and this year on Friday, meat is not eaten on the feast day. Foods containing breadcrumbs, or the "poor man's parmigiano" are enjoyed. Joseph, as you might know, was a carpenter, so breadcrumbs are eaten to resemble the sawdust left behind after a day's work in the carpenter's shop. Lemons, like fava beans, are said to bring good luck.

While fava beans, lemons, breads and seafood are frequently eaten on the feast day of San Giuseppe, and are certainly delicious; we will begin our Saint Joseph's Table tradition this year by bringing BREAD. Bring in your bread, clearly labeled, for Father Mayer to bless.



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.

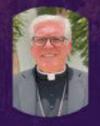
Register at sfoachurch.com click *Parish Forms* scroll down and click *Lenten Retreat Registration Form* or fill out the attached form and drop in offering basket with cash or a check made payable to Saint Francis of Assisi Church. Car pooling available. Cars will leave the church parking lot at 8:00am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

Retreat Registration

Name:
Phone Number:
Email:
Car Pooling? Yes No If yes, Will you drive? Yes No
Cash or Check #:
Total amount paid:



Eucharistic Conference Becoming Missionary Disciples March 29, 2025

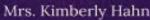


Bishop Frank Dewane



Dr. Scott Hahn







Mrs. Mary Ann Wiesinger-Puig



Mr. Andrés Arango



To Register: https://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/eucharistic-conference For information contact Jim Gontis at: gontis@dioceseofvenice.org 941-486-4754

	Start	End	Event - Location
Mon March 3	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 Center
Tues March 4	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
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Women's Bible Study - Parish Conference Room
	5:30pm	6:45pm	Religious Education K-8 - Parish Center
Wed March 5	7:50am	8:45am	Ash Wednesday Mass - Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	10:00am	11:00am	Ash Wednesday Mass - Church
	6:00pm	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Mass - Church
	7:00pm	8:00pm	AA - Parish Hall
Thurs March 6	7:00am	8:00am	TMIY - Parish Center
	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:00am	9:15am	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	5:30pm	6:30pm	OCIA - Church
Fri March 7	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
Sat March 8	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 March 9	7:30am	8:30am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	8:30am	12:00pm	Pancake Breakfast - Parish Center
	9:00am	10:00am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	10:30am	11:30am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church

For the most updated Calendar please go to www.sfoachurch.com

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.



For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com



AN WALK BA RF 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 heightened sensitivity to touch targets specific nerves in the of shooting, stabbing pain that making it almost impossible for 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 That is until he found Lauren with my wife. I was living on gabapentin and antidepressants and everywhere I went; my doctor, the specialists, the edge, medical solution to

pain institute, told me there was no cure. How are greatly reduce its symptoms 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.

to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow.

Most peripheral neuropathy sufferers experience a 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.

Milligan of Sage Point Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine. Dr. Milligan and her staff have pioneered a cutting Success stories like David's are treat neuropathy, eliminate or and give people their lives back. Best of all, they're doing neuropathy," shares Dr. it without the use of prescription medications and invasive surgeries.

"Acupuncture is incredible at restoring blood flow and stimulating damaged

This causes the nerves to begin nerves, preventing them from dying off," tells Dr. Milligan.

further by integrating ATP **Resonance BioTherapy which** body using microcurrent. ATP While David's peripheral therapy is like watering a plant. neuropathy was idiopathic, This treatment will stimulate the blood vessels to grow back unknown, Dr. Milligan's 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!"

not atypical for the staff at Sage Point AIM. "We have a 87% success rate in treating 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 "We take our treatments a step have not sustained more than 90% nerve damage Sage Point AIM offers hope where there once was none.

> meaning the cause is 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.

