

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

THE HOLY FAMILY



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

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

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

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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, DECEMBER 30

8:15am †**DAVID MASSIMINO** by Family

Reading: 1 John 2:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:36-40

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:15am **LAUREN IVEY**

JACK WHELAN

KATHLEEN AND FREDDY

Reading:

Gospel:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

8:15am †**NICOLE LEWIS** by Mom

6pm †**ERIC ANGLIN** by Karen Jones

Solemnity of Mary

Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Reading 2: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

8:15am †**MARIANNA CSIZMADIA**

by John and Gail Kovach

Saints Basil the Great & Gregory

Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Reading: 1 John 22:22-28

Gospel: John 1:19-28

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

8:15am †**EDWARD F. GANGEMI**

by Phil and Kathy Gangemi

Reading: 1 John 2:29—3:6

Gospel: John 1:29-34

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

3:00pm †**WILLIAM "KIP" POWERS**

by Matt and Debbie Egan

4:30pm †**ANNE MARIE KELLEY**

by Tim and Sally Fallon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

7:30am **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**

9:00am †**JIM SHAW**

by Mike Baker

10:30am †**ARLINE HATTON**

by Sandy Heslin and Carol Moehring

Epiphany of the Lord

Reading 1: Isaiah 60:1-6

Reading 2: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



Gospel Reflection

Luke 2:41-52

We want to talk today about how the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph can be a role model for religious practice in the family home. We are all aware that many of us have grandchildren rather than just children, but hopefully, you feel these are points we all need to ponder. We are also aware that preaching to the converted can be done in many ways -- if you're here at Sunday Mass just a few days after Christmas, you probably already take your religious practice seriously. Nonetheless, looking at the Holy Family can hopefully confirm you in that practice.

Let us start by pointing out a detail in the Gospel text we heard: "When he was 12 years old, they went up for the feast as usual"(Lk 2:42). The point we want to highlight is the "as usual" -- they, as a family, had a regular religious practice of going up to the Temple in Jerusalem for the Passover.

In our own families, as we all know, children pick up most of what they learn from their parents by osmosis -- just absorbing what their parents do and becoming like them in lots of little habits and manners. This is why we must have religious influences in the home.

On another point, let's return to the Gospel text: The boy Jesus makes it clear that being "busy with my Father's affairs" (Lk 2:49) means that God is his real Father. Now, for Jesus, this was true in a unique way. But there is another sense in which it is true of the children in your home, too. They belong to God even more than they belong to you. They are loved by God even more than they are loved by you.

Our heavenly Father entrusts the raising of His spiritual children to their physical parents. He wants you to raise them in such a way that you introduce them to him, their spiritual Father.

In our first reading, while we didn't get the whole story to hear the background, Hannah gave her child to God. She did this because she recognized that her child came from God, and so she offers him back. Something of that same attitude needs to be in every mother and in every father.

So, how do you introduce your child to God, his spiritual father? You need to talk to your child about God, and teach your child about God. You need to teach your child how to pray, how to talk to God, just as you no doubt introduced your child to his grandparents and so forth. And, returning to the image of the Holy Family having the regular family tradition of going up to the Temple for the Passover, we need to have little traditions in our families that imbed God into our lives.

What traditions can this include? Most basically, the practice of attending Mass each and every Sunday. How does your child learn that God is a fixture and not just some disposable commodity? By the priority that you give to worshiping Him on his day, the Lord's Day, Sunday. When you plan the weekend, you need to plan when Sunday Mass will be. When you travel, you need to find out where the Catholic church is and what times they celebrate Mass. And when planning out-of-school activities, make those activities revolve around Mass, rather than the other way around -- these are the lessons taught before your children realize it. Another simple practice is night prayers as a family. There are many simple prayers a family can learn to say together at the foot of the bed. Learning to thank God at the end of the day. Learning to apologize to Him for the sins of the day. Asking Him for what we will need the next day.

To sum that up: the Holy Family had customs, family practices, that built God into their family life. Our families, likewise, need to have customs, little traditions, things we regularly do, so that a child grows up having his or her physical parents introducing him or her to God the heavenly Father.

Let's think today what those practices are in our own homes, and what more they could be. And be thankful for what we ourselves experienced over life, for good or ill, that led us to be here today with God the Father.

Gospel Reflection by Fr. Dylan James, Catholic Priest with dual American-British citizenship dated December 30, 2018. Brought to you by Penny Fleming, SFOA Communications Coordinator.

Christmas Celebration

Our Religious Education families & children prepared to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world, this Advent & Christmas. The simple children's song "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine" teaches kids about our faith, love & confidence in Jesus, who lives in us & helps us shine Jesus light & love before others, so they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father! (Matthew 5:16) Celebrating Christmas reminds us of Jesus' coming in grace, his birth within us, in our Church's sacraments: our own spiritual birthday of faith in Baptism & our growing in love in the Eucharist!

Jim Brantner, DRE





Catholic Faith Appeal
2024

We are pleased to share that our parish, Saint Francis of Assisi Church, has raised approximately \$187,000 toward our 2024 Catholic Appeal goal of \$219,000. Thank you to all who have helped make our campaign a success so far. **If you have yet to give, we need your help! Please donate to help us reach our goal by the**

end of the year. You can donate by completing a pledge form or using the blue envelopes in the pews. Please return pledge cards or blue envelopes at the December 7 and 8 Masses.

Campaign Status as of Saturday, November 9, 2024

CFA Goal	\$ 219,000.00
Total Pledges/Donations	\$ 187,660.00
Total Due	\$ 31,340.00

How do we Compare to Other Parishes in our area as of Saturday, November 9, 2024?

Local Parishes	Received	Percent of Goal
Our Lady of Lourdes, Venice	\$ 296K	63%
Sacred Heart Parish, Punta Gorda	\$ 355K	94%
Saint Borromeo, Port Charlotte	\$ 82K	38%
Saint Francis of Assisi, Grove City	\$ 188K	86%
Saint Raphael, Englewood	\$ 133K	92%
San Pedro Parish, North Port	\$ 148K	64%

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH WOMEN'S GUILD

January Card Party

5265 Placida Rd.

Grove City, FL 34224

January 8 2024 11:00am - 2:30pm

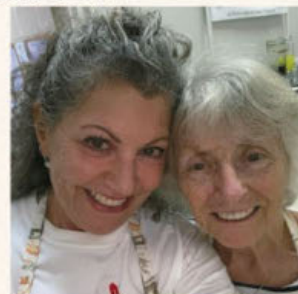
Reserve your table by January 6th

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!



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



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

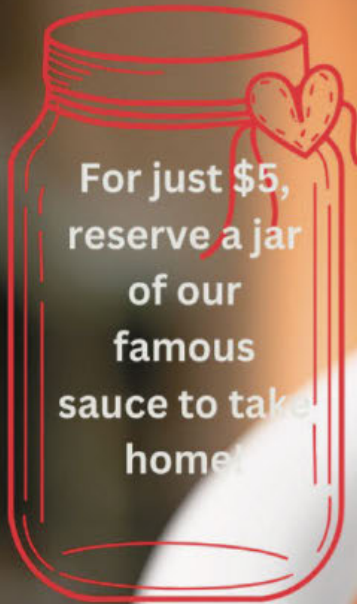
4:00 to 6:30 PM

**\$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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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



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!

Get your tickets now and support St. Charles Borromeo School!



BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW

(941) 623-9164 ☎

www.stcbs.org/drawing 🌐

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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

Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
Mon Dec 30	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
Tues Dec 31			Eve of Solemnity of Mary - Parish Office Closed
	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
Wed Jan 1	8:15am	9:15am	Solemnity of Mary Mass - Church
	6:00pm	7:00pm	Solemnity of Mary Mass - Church
	7:00pm	8:00pm	AA - Parish Hall
Thurs Jan 2	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 3	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
Sat Jan 4			Recalling and Renewing our BAPTISM - Our Spiritual Birthday
	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 5	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 - Parish Center

The Knights of Columbus Communion Breakfast, Sunday, December 29, 2023



After 10am Mass
American Legion Post 113

3436 Indiana Rd, Rotonda West, FL 33947

\$10 per person

All are Welcome!



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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