“Stewardship is the Grateful Response of a Christian Disciple Who Recognizes and Receives God’s Gifts and Shares These Gifts in Love of God and Neighbor.”

June 28, 2015

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
5990 Sunrise Drive
Fort Myers, Florida

Sunday Schedule
Masses: Sundays 7:00, 8:30, 11:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.
Dinners: 5:00 P.M. Sundays through Saturdays.

Confessions:
Saturday: 1:00-3:00 and 5:00-7:00 P.M.
Years: 9:30 A.M. before Mass.
Sundays: 3:00-5:00 P.M. before Mass.

Religious Instruction Classes: for students attending the public schools
Grades 1-8: Sundays 9:00-10:30 A.M.

Baptism:
By appointment.

Marriage:
Notify the pastor at least one month in advance.

The Bible is a New Book

In Christ’s poignant and comforting last discourse with his Apostles before his Passion he said: “I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth...” Where will the Spirit of truth lead biblical scholars in their search for the exact measure of truth revealed in the inspired word of God?

More and more, we see the new principles of textual criticism found in the intense study of the Old Testament applied to the New Testament texts. Christ will emerge more fully understood than ever before. The mass media of communication will permit the essential widespread dissemination of our new insights. The broadened liturgical cycle of scriptural readings in the liturgy will open up new areas for popular Bible study. Teachers of religion will return to a living knowledge of the Bible as the best sources for a sound and solid apologetics.

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A Priest of the Diocese of Trenton

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Pastoral Staff

Jill Bitterman
Coordinator of Worship
Kelli Bonner
Director of Faith Formation and Sacramental Prep
Eva Christian
Youth Director
Jeanne Conklin
Business Administrator
Sherry Cross
Coordinator of Music
Jenny Grinsell
Office Assistant
Pam Klaas
Coordinator of Ministry to Elderly, Sick and Homebound
Peg Mengle
Administrative Assistant
Linda Sigl
Faith Formation Secretary

Staffed by the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales
Fr. Stanley J. Dombrowski, OSFS
Pastor
Fr. Francis J. Hanlon, OSFS
Parochial Vicar
Anthony F. Di Lorenzo
Deacon

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The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JUNE 29
7:00 PM RCIA/Faith Team 204
7:00 PM AA Meeting 101-102
7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting A

TUESDAY
7:00 AM Gospel Forum 204

WEDNESDAY
7:00 PM Adult Faith Formation A, B

THURSDAY
Nothing Scheduled

FRIDAY
8:00 AM Brothers in Christ A
10:00 AM Scripture Sharing L

SATURDAY
3:00 PM Confessions until 3:30 PM C

SUNDAY, JULY 5
9:00 AM Children’s Liturgy of the Word CR
10:00 AM Coffee and Donuts A, B, K

In today’s Second Reading, St. Paul quotes Exodus 16:18: “Whoever had much did not have more, and whoever had little did not have less.” On the surface this may seem confusing, but it bears a strong stewardship message for us.

One of the challenges of our society is the tendency to gather, to keep, and to measure our success by possessions. Jesus told us over and over in a variety of ways that ‘possessions’ are a major stumbling block in our journey toward holiness. Stewardship was once defined by a bishop as:

1. Following faithfully
2. Living responsibly
3. Sharing gratefully
4. Possessing loosely

This, in a nutshell, is what it means to be a good steward.

That is the message from St. Paul, as well. As difficult as it may be for us, we need to focus on others in service, more than we should try to glorify ourselves through what we may seem to have. In particular we need to focus on the ‘possess loosely’ aspect. That is more than material items, of course. We have a tendency to ‘hang on’ to traditions, people, and other things that we view as ‘ours’. Pope Francis cautions us, “A heart occupied with the desire to possess is a heart full of this desire, but without God.”

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Catholic dioceses and Parishes across the United States, are once again encouraged to raise awareness for domestic and international religious freedom concerns during the Fourth Annual Fortnight for Freedom, Sunday, June 21 to Saturday, July 4. The theme of this two week focus is "Freedom to Bear Witness," and emphasizes the link between religious liberty and service to the poor and vulnerable.

Go to www.dioceseofvenice.org/conscience/fortnight-for-freedom or www.fortnight4freedom.org for information.

Join us at 6:00 PM for one hour of Adoration and Benediction on Thursday, July 2.

Undie Sunday

Many children begin the school year in need of new undies and socks. This is a way to help them start school with a sense of pride and self-esteem. For the Summer months, we will be collecting NEW children’s undies and socks to help needy children, in grades K-8. These items can be placed in collection boxes at the doors of the church, or bring them to Peg in the Parish Office. The underwear and socks will be distributed by Catholic Charities to children in our area. Thank you for your support!
A Thought From St. Francis De Sales

“If the heart wanders or is distracted, bring it back to the point quite gently and replace it tenderly in its Master’s presence. And even if you did nothing during the whole of your hour but bring your heart back and place it again in Our Lord’s presence, though it went away every time you brought it back, your hour would be very well employed.”

Stewardship Saint for June

St. Anthony of Padua is one of the most beloved and admired saints in the church. Because he was a prolific preacher and witness to the Gospel in his personal life, he is known as a great stewardship saint.

St. Anthony was born on the Feast of the Assumption in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195 to a wealthy and educated family of the Portuguese nobility. He entered the Augustinian religious community at an early age where he devoted himself to the study of sacred scripture and Latin classics.

He joined the Franciscan Order when he was 26 years old and traveled tirelessly to preach what it meant to live according to the Gospel. He is believed to have made as many as 400 trips to towns in both northern Italy and southern France.

St. Anthony knew that preaching was not enough to help people understand how to live according to the Gospel. He believed he had to give witness to the Gospel by the way he lived his personal life. He adopted and maintained a simple lifestyle consistent with what he believed the Gospel was calling him to.

St. Anthony died in Padua, Italy, on June 13, 1231 at the age of 36. He was proclaimed a saint less than one year after his death. So simple, yet compelling and inspiring was St. Anthony’s teaching of the Catholic faith that he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1946.

Best known for his patronage of seekers of lost items, St. Anthony is commonly referred to today as the “finder of lost articles.” Few people know that he is the patron of many other causes including the poor and those who travel. His feast day is June 13.

Liturgical Intentions

For the Week

MONDAY, JUNE 29
7:30 AM Thanksgiving By Cherubin Family

TUESDAY
12:10 PM † John Connell
By Sister, Bernadette

WEDNESDAY
7:30 AM † Darrin Frederick
By Pat and Eileen Malloy

THURSDAY
12:10 PM † Peggy Grinda
By Dave and Jane Herrington

FRIDAY
7:30 AM † Stanley Dombrowski By Fr. Stan

SATURDAY
4:00 PM † Clyde Winn By Don

SUNDAY, JULY 5
7:30 AM St. Cecilia’s Parishioners
9:00 AM † Stephanie Henning
By Jill Bitterman
11:00 AM † Julia Pasden
By Phyllis Lewandowski

July 5 Scripture Readings

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ezekiel 2:2-5
2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Mark 6:1-6

Pray For Our Sick

Tom Allain, Larry Atkinson, Janice Austin, Paul Ballard, Black Family, Cheryl Bratton, Carl Calabrese, Lynette and Traci Carwana, Lisa Cichesi, Diana Crawford, Joan Cross, Nicasio David, Christopher Diraimo, Mike Duffy, Mike Genaro, Sara Girard, Regina Haas, Curtis Hackett, Ramona Hallock, Carolyn Helm, Gary Hubert, Marie Keller, Robert Kreutzer, Henry La Rose, Jeff Lampila, Dory Lane, Mary Leland, Florence Lerum, Lauren Lombardi, Lauren Major, June Mc Garity, Betsy Mc Gillicuddy, Charlene Mc Ilrtot, Jack Mc Nally, Eduardo Moas, John Morgan, Joan Murphy, Clarence and Terry Murray, Carmel Nastepniak, Noel Family, Brianna Palughi, Gene Piccirillo, Mary Ann Ritter, Hedy Theo, Diana Rose, Lorraine Ryan, Janice Smith, Sherry Snyder, Ann and John Thompson, Steve Vinelli, Donna Vilardi, Pat Willhueft, Linda Wisinski

Stewardship Through Prayer

Do You Respect Life? Is God calling you to do something about it? St. Cecilia is looking for two volunteer Respect Life Co-Reps to help promote a greater respect for all human life in our parish. Issues include beginning of life, end of life, death penalty and legislative advocacy. Guidance is available from the Diocesan Respect Life Office. Contact the Parish Office for details.

If you would like to donate Sanctuary Flowers in celebration of a special occasion, or remembrance of a loved one, please contact Jill at Ext. 29. The person’s name as well as the name of the donor, if requested, will be printed in the bulletin.

Phone: 936-3635 • Fax: 936-2108
IF YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL, PLEASE PRAYFULLY CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH.

MARY BANKHARD CHILDREN’S EDUCATION FUND
INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN
Help us to meet our goal of $20,000 in matching funds for our Elementary School Scholarship Fund to help those in need. If anyone is able to match our goal, dollar for dollar, or if anyone would like to make a donation towards this education fund, contact Fr. Stan.

EVERYDAY CAFÉ AND MARKET
ST. CECILIA’S OUTREACH MINISTRY
Our next date is Saturday, July 4 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. To volunteer call Peg at Ext. 10.
The Meals On Wheels program at Community Cooperative provides our community the ability to efficiently and compassionately care for our aging homebound neighbors through the delivery of a nutritious meal each day. Kitchen volunteers are needed to prepare and package meals, and/or as a driver for one of the many Meals On Wheels delivery routes. You can also volunteer to be a back-up or seasonal fill-in driver.
If you are interested in helping Meals On Wheels make a difference in the lives of individuals who are medically homebound, contact Maggie Pirelli at 332-0441.

SUMMER ENVELOPES - We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail or deliver their weekly offering envelopes to the Parish Office while they are out-of-town or on vacation this summer. As many of you understand, our parish expenses and obligations do not take a vacation when you do, so it is very helpful to be able to rely on your continued support, even when you cannot personally attend Mass here.

DO YOU HAVE A GREEN THUMB?
If you like gardening and would like to help us with the upkeep in our Memorial Garden, from July 1 to October 1, we need your help.
For more information, call Jeanne at Ext. 12.

LOOKING FOR A FEW MORE EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Can you help with Nursing Home visitation for about two hours on Sundays, once a month? Please contact Pam at Ext. 16.

HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLES
Why not give yourselves a break this Summer and take some private time together? Make a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and experience the peace and joy God calls you to! The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is July 31- August 2 at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Tampa. Contact 813-270-7832 to apply or for more information about the weekend (and don’t forget to ask about our reduced application rate). You may apply on-line at www.wwmetampabay.org.

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR “ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK” WHOSE SUPPORT HELPS TO PUBLISH THIS BULLETIN!
Men’s Gospel Forum Forum
Join the men of our Parish to reflect on the Gospel for the coming Sunday. Gospel Forum is an extension of Faith and Ale, Fort Myers. We meet every Tuesday from 7:00 to 7:45 AM in the Parish Hall, room 204. The coffee will be hot!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Our Lady of Light Catholic Community is seeking an Administrative Assistant for the Office of Faith Formation. The position is part time, 25 hours per week, Monday through Friday. Candidates should possess excellent computer skills and be proficient in all Microsoft programs, including Publisher. Excellent communication and organizational skills are required as well as the ability to multi-task and work in a fast paced environment. Spanish a plus. Applications are available on our website and should be submitted via email to info@ourladyoflight.com. No phone calls please. All employees of the Diocese of Venice are subject to a fingerprinting and background check prior to employment.

“A good vocation is simply a firm and constant will in which the person who is called must serve God in the way and in the places to which almighty God has called him.”
Saint Francis de Sales

Family Faith Formation
Thanks, parishioners, for helping us gather the gear to scale Everest!
J. Cullen, P. Cullen, The Carter Family, Helen Byrnes, Grace Anderson, Marguerite Bosman, The Rafacz Family, Ken & Liz Weaver, Mary Jo Nardello, Paul Harris, Claire Johnson, Margaret Adams, Regina Reid, Donna Hughes, Ernie Terrazas, and to all those who donated anonymously. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the summit of Everest!

Don’t forget to join us for our SUMMER ENRICHMENT SERIES!
Wednesday Nights in the Parish Hall at 7:00 PM
JULY 1 – AUGUST 12
Lively Discussion On Presentations By Our Favorites:
Matthew Kelly, Tim Staples, Vinny Flynn
Christopher West, Larry Richards, Donald Calloway
For Sacraments and Formation info contact:
Kelli at Ext. 20 or kbonner@saintcecilias.net
Linda at Ext. 19 or lsigl@saintcecilias.net
Eva at Ext. 18 or echrstian@saintcecilias.net

Seek and you will find; knock and the door shall open. ~Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:9
The church building, including the chapel, is open:
Monday through Friday - 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Saturday - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday - 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Stop in to say Hello.
Whenever I go by a church, I always stop in for a visit, So when at last I’m carried in, the Lord won’t say ‘who is it’?
My wife’s brother is more like my second brother. I have known him for more than 50 years. He has no brother and considers me a brother as well. He asked me to be his best man at his wedding, when he could have selected a myriad of ‘best friends’ he had at the time. He calls me regularly just to see how things are going, and to discuss things his sister would not be interested in. He calls his sister separately for a different type of conversation. We are close and I admire him in many ways. But, like all human beings, he is not perfect. He eats too much and his body is not in the best shape possible. But, he is one of the most generous people I know and, for this and other reasons, I love him. He is also a very religious and committed thinking Catholic. He keeps up on what Pope Francis and the Church Magisterium are saying. He attends Mass every day which, from time to time, gets him into some trouble. For some reason, he arrives late more often than not. But, he makes sure he always receives the Eucharist. (The trouble? He was denied the reception of Communion one day by his parish priest for arriving late.) He loves the Eucharist and it has become a center of his faith belief.

Why do I bring up his story? Because he has always been too busy to volunteer for any church ministries in his parish. So when he announced to me that he became an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, just so that he can bring Communion to hospital patients, I was both surprised and excited. (The icing on the cake was that the hospital chaplain was also the parish priest who denied him the Eucharist one day.) The Holy Spirit works in such marvelous ways! So, I asked him why he decided to volunteer for such a specific ministry. He said it was because he felt it was a perfect ministry for him to bring the Eucharist to people who are in a vulnerable position, such as patients in a hospital for whatever reason they are there. He does this one Sunday a month for three to four hours, and he loves doing it and finds it very gratifying.

Do you know St. Cecilia has 59 Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who bring Communion to an average of 291 Catholics in nine area nursing homes each week? This is in addition to the nursing homes Frs. Stan and Frank visit every week. Not that numbers count but that converts to distributing the Eucharist 2,154 times in the last three months. In addition, our Ministers have prayed with people approximately 800 times in these last three months. I mention these numbers only to impress upon you the impact our Extraordinary Ministers have on area Catholics who rely on their visits.

Here are some quotes from residents of the nursing homes:

“The weekly visits give me a connection to my Catholic faith. Everyone is so good to me.” - a resident of The Palms.

“I have been a Catholic all my life and have never felt such friendliness, graciousness, or concern for me. I was hospitalized a few weeks ago and the Priest came to see me in the hospital. I could not believe it.” - a resident of The Palms.


“Bless all of you, you bring me Jesus.” – a resident of Heartland.

“I wait for you to come each week. It is so important to me to receive the Eucharist.” – a resident of Heartland.

As far as what it means to our Extraordinary Ministers, here are a few quotes:

Bette Baxter says: “It is such an honor to be an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. It is the most satisfying thing I have ever done besides having my three children.”

Pat Szekely says: “I am so honored and blessed to take the Holy Eucharist to both the home bound and the nursing home. The patients fill my heart with joy. Thanks for giving me the privilege and honor to serve them.”

Jane McWeeny said, “The Communion Ministry is a sacred and joyful experience. The presence of Jesus beside me and within me refreshes my soul.”

It is so obvious that our Ministers of the Eucharist get as much, if not more, than the time that they give. We are blessed to have them. If any parishioner wants to consider this ministry, please call Pam Klaas, our wonderful Coordinator of Ministry to the Elderly, Sick and Homebound. She is always looking for help. Meanwhile, God bless and have a great week.