



# 5th Sunday of Easter

# Saint Cecilia CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

5632 Sunrise Drive • Fort Myers, FL 33919

Phone: 936-3635 • Fax: 936-2108

Website • [www.saintcecilias.org](http://www.saintcecilias.org) May 2, 2021

**"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."**



## Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil Mass ..... 4:00 PM

Sunday 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

**Reconciliation**.....Saturday, 3:00 - 3:30 PM  
.....or by appointment

## Daily Masses

### Easter Tuesday through October

Monday Wednesday and Friday ..... 7:30 AM

Tuesday and Thursday ..... 12:10 PM

**Holy Day Schedule:** Schedule may vary according to Holy Day. Check the previous weekend's bulletin for information.

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.. The Parish Office is closed daily from Noon to 1:00 PM for lunch.

## Our Mission Statement

The mission of Saint Cecilia Catholic Community is to "Live Jesus" and to see His image in all people. With the Eucharist at the center of our lives and inspired by Scripture, Tradition and Community, we give honor and glory to God through education, example, prayer, service, social justice and worship.

## The Week Ahead

### MONDAY MAY 3

6:00 PM	Boy Scout Committee Mtg	102
7:00 PM	Troop 316	A,B
7:00 PM	AA	101
7:00 PM	RCIA Faith Team	204
7:00 PM	RCIA Prep & Mystagoggy	203
7:00 PM	Divorce Survival	104

### TUESDAY

8:00 AM	Men's Gospel Forum	Zoom
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### WEDNESDAY

5:30 PM	Handbell Choir	C & CR
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### THURSDAY

5:30 PM	Chamber Ensemble Child Choir	CR
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### FRIDAY

8:00 AM	Adoration	C
8:00 AM	Brothers in Christ	PH
10:00 AM	Scripture Sharing	L
10:00 AM	Divine Mercy Cenacle	101
1:00 PM	Memorial Mass Martha Wortman	
5:30 PM	Rosary	C

### SATURDAY

3:00 PM	Confessions until 3:30 PM	C
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### SUNDAY MAY 9

11:00 AM	Children's Liturgy of the Word	C
12:00 PM	Faith Rediscovered	101

## Welcome to our Parish

Whether you are just passing through the area or looking for a spiritual home, we welcome you to St. Cecilia Catholic Community. We hope you find our worship environment hospitable and prayerful.

People often attend Mass at a parish for months or years without officially registering. Registration here at St. Cecilia is an expression of your commitment to being an active member of our community. Parish registration also simplifies the process with regard to religious education; sponsoring a sacramental candidate; and for the planning and preparation of baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Registration is easy and can be completed at the Parish Office during regular office hours.

*If you are not as close to God  
as you used to be, guess who moved?*

## The Sanctuary Lamp

### This Week's Sanctuary Lamp

Is In Memory of  
William McNew

Requested by his wife, Pat



Our readings today teach us what it means to bear fruit as disciples of Christ. We hear in each of our readings that it is from the Lord that good effects will be produced in our lives.

In our first reading, we hear about disciples that were preaching the Good News and defending the faith. The work they were doing was "with the consolation of the Holy Spirit." It was not their work alone, but the work of God.

We must ask ourselves, 'how is God bearing fruit in my life?' and 'have I invited the Holy Spirit to work in me?' The more we try to produce good effects in our lives, the more we will become disappointed if all we are relying on is our own efforts. It is only by inviting the Holy Spirit into our everyday moments that we will see goodness poured out.

Jesus clearly tells us how to do this in our Gospel. He says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit." We can remain in Christ by staying faithful to His commandments and frequently receiving the sacraments. And our day to day moments should be a reflection of those commitments.

That could mean opening our day with a prayer of thanksgiving, smiling at those we see on the street, asking God for help as we begin our workday, praising God in moments of trial, taking time to listen to our spouse after a long day. To remain in Christ means, in all that we do, we do it with the Lord.

When we live a life like that — as a branch never separated from its vine — God will produce bountiful fruit in our lives.

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## Sanctuary Lamp



The Church prescribes that at least one lamp should continually burn before the Tabernacle, not only as an ornament of the altar, but for the purpose of worship. It is also a mark of honor. *It is to remind the faithful of the eternal presence of Christ, who is the "true light which enlighteneth every man" (John 1:9), and is a profession of their love and affection.* If you would like to dedicate the Sanctuary Lamp for one or more weeks, call Elaine at 239-936-3635 Ext. 110.

We have Eucharistic Adoration every Friday from 8:00 AM until Noon. In order for this to continue, we need people committed to being here in Adoration. Please sign up in the Narthex (name and phone number). For more information contact Peg Mengle at 239-826-7475. Please come and spend some time with our Eucharistic Lord. Thank you

**A Thought From St. Francis De Sales**

As the day breaks we see more clearly in a mirror the spots and stains of our faces. In the same way, as the inward light of the Holy Spirit enlightens our consciences, we see more clearly and distinctly the sins, inclinations and imperfections that keep us from reaching true devotion. The same light that enables us to see such defects and imperfections inflames us with a desire to cleanse and purify ourselves of them.

**MAY UNIVERSAL INTENTION****FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



**Communion Hosts  
Are in Memory of  
Silvestre and Beatriz Brillante  
Requested by, Ernie and Lilian Arao.**

**The Chapel Doors are opened!!!**

The chapel doors will be unlocked M-F from 8 AM to 4 PM for people who would like to stop by the church and pray.

**Act of Spiritual Communion**

With the lifting of the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass by our Bishop Frank Dewane, we have ceased saying the act of spiritual communion during Mass. People who continue to participate via livestreaming the Mass may make the act of spiritual communion on their own at home while the gathered assembly is receiving communion in church.

**Prayer Intentions (Prayers for the Sick)**

"Prayers for Sick" has changed, to "**Prayer Intentions**" please go on line (see link below) and submit your prayer request and choose what type of intentions you are requesting such as a deceased loved one, an upcoming surgery, birthday, anniversary, etc. You can also go to our [website](#), hover over the **Info** tab and you will see a drop down list. Click on **Submit Prayer Intentions** and add your prayer intention. You may also view the prayer intentions, to view the list hover over the **Info** tab on our website and go to **Current Prayer Intentions** (see link below)

[Click here for link to Prayer Intentions](#)



[Current Prayer Intentions](#)

**Mass Intentions****SATURDAY, MAY 1**

4:00 PM † James and Rose Connelly  
By Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Gramitt

**SUNDAY, MAY 2**

7:30 AM † John Benedict By wife, Pat  
9:00 AM St. Cecilia's Parishioners  
11:00 AM † Karen Wells By Gulian Meehan

**MONDAY**

7:30 AM Happy Birthday  
Bertha Alicia Lezama By her sister

**TUESDAY**

12:10 PM † Jack McNally By Judi Brown

**WEDNESDAY**

7:30 AM † Sharon Davies  
By Debbie Laughlin

**THURSDAY**

12:10 PM † Stanley Dombrowski By Fr. Stan

**FRIDAY**

7:30 AM Priest's Intention

**SATURDAY, MAY 8**

4:00 PM Stanley Moeschl By Kathleen

**SUNDAY, MAY 9**

7:30 AM † Perry Ashman  
By Fran and Marion Jeko  
9:00 AM † Donna Lynch  
By Frank and Julie Richards  
11:00 AM St. Cecilia's Parishioners

**Scripture Readings For the Week**

**Monday** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14

**Tuesday** Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31a

**Wednesday** Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8

**Thursday** Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11

**Friday** Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17

**Saturday** Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

**Sunday** 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

1 John 4:11-16, John 17:11b-19



**Rest in Peace**

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** the deceased members of our parish families.

† Paul Himes



## 2021 Catholic Faith Appeal

Our 2021 assessment is \$215,000.00

Pledges.....\$170,367.21

% of Goal.....79%

% of Households .....25%

Total Payments.....\$141,852.21

Your generosity is greatly appreciated

**Thank you!**



You may scan the QR code to take you to the diocese of Venice CFA donation webpage.

### Our Parish Blood Drive

will be held **today May 2** from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the parish parking lot.



Donating blood improves your overall cardiovascular health. Increased levels of iron in the blood raises the chance of heart disease. Regularly donating blood helps men in particular to reduce the amount of iron in the blood. This can reduce the chance of heart attack by 88%. Additionally, regular blood donation can lower the risk of severe cardiovascular events such as stroke by 33%.

And you burn 650 Calories!

### Lost and Found

We have many items in our "Lost & Found" closet in the Sacristy. Most of these items have been here for many months. There are reading glasses, sun glasses , house keys, earrings, rings necklaces, sweaters and etc. If you think any of these items may be yours, please check with the Sacristan before Mass or the Worship Coordinator, Dave to take a look at them. We will need to dispose of them at some point. *Thank you.*

**WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR  
"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK" WHOSE SUPPORT  
HELPS TO PUBLISH THIS BULLETIN!**

### WE NEED YOU!!



We are in need of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to Nursing Homes. Are you available to volunteer a couple of hours once a month? If so, volunteers are needed Sunday or Wednesday or Thursday mornings.

What could be a more fulfilling spiritual experience than bringing the Lord to others?

**Come join in His works!**

For more information contact Pam at 239-936-3635 EXT 116

### Divine Mercy Cenacle

Join us for Divine Mercy Cenacle on Friday's at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall.

For more information please contact Esperanza Liszewski at 239-822-8655.

### Bulletin Advertisers Needed!

Jenny Lusk from Diocesan (our bulletin publishing partner) is working to secure NEW ads for our bulletin. The bulletin is available in print and online. We are grateful that this crucial communication piece is provided to our parish at no cost THANKS to the generous advertising support of our parishioners and community-minded businesses. Please let us know if you can help by advertising in the bulletin. Bulletin advertisers and sponsors recognize the tremendous value of connecting with our church family, and we ask our parishioners and guests to patronize our supporters when using a local service. If you'd like to advertise in the weekly bulletin, please contact Jenny at 913-205-6387 or [JLusk@Diocesan.com](mailto:JLusk@Diocesan.com). Thank you!

### Safe Environment Training Is Mandatory For New Volunteers

The Diocese of Venice is committed to provide a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults. To that end, persons working with children or visiting vulnerable adults are required to be fingerprinted (this process includes a background check) and to receive training in recognizing potential signs of abuse.



For further information, visit the Diocesan website at [www.dioceseofvenice.org/safeenvironment](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/safeenvironment). Report any abuse against minors to the Florida Department of Children and Families at 800-962-2873. To report abuse by Diocesan personnel or volunteers also notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114.

## Family Faith Formation and Youth Ministry



**Our May Crowning** will take place at our statue of the Holy Family located at the south side of the church after each Mass this weekend May 1 and May 2.



# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



### Help Us Remain

Father,  
you are the vine grower, who cultivates  
the true vine,  
nourishing it and pruning it  
and keeping it in good health.  
You graft us onto the vine  
on the day of our baptism,  
and you sustain us.

Help us to keep the commandment to remain  
in your love.  
Bring about much fruit in us.  
And united by the divine love we receive,  
bring us more deeply into relationship with  
you and one another.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### May 2, 2021 Bearing Fruit

*Today's readings: Acts 9:26–31; Psalm 22:26–27, 28, 30, 31–32; 1 John 3:18–24; John 15:1–8.* "Remain in me as I remain in you." These words from the Gospel relay that the same life that flows through the vine is also in the branches.

Through the sacraments we receive the gift of God's own life. The image of the branches, sustained by the life of the vine, enables us to meditate more deeply on what that life means. Nourished by grace, we bear fruit. The healthier the vine, the more fruit it will bear. Yet none of us is in isolation. Each of us is intimately close to Jesus and to one another. What happens to one affects all.

When we build up the vine, the Body of Christ, we are doing what Jesus has asked: we are remaining in his love. The key question is how to do so.

When one part of the vine is suffering, all parts suffer. When one person among us is without food or medical care or companionship, all are affected. When one person rejects participation in the life of the vine, the vine itself is lacking. When we love, we create space for the other person to grow. When we love self-sacrificially, as Jesus does, we are like the grain of wheat that dies to itself so as to bear fruit.

Meditate on the image of the vine and the branches. Consider what it means to be so closely connected to one another as a vine is to its branches. Does that change your image of your relationship with Christ and other members of the Body of Christ? Perhaps you might choose to copy the Scripture or to draw the vine. This may help you consider what it might mean for your life to bear fruit.



### It is with extreme joy that we bring to you the real history of Mary Undoer of Knots.

How this devotion started?

To show us the mission granted to the Virgin Mary by Her Son, an unknown artist painted Mary Undoer of Knots with great grace. Since 1700, his painting has been venerated in the Church of St. Peter in Perlack, Germany. It was originally inspired by a meditation of Saint Irenaeus (Bishop of Lyon and martyred in 202) based on the parallel made by Saint Paul between Adam and Christ. Saint Irenaeus, in turn, made a comparison between Eve and Mary, saying:

**"Eve, by her disobedience, tied the knot of disgrace for the human race; whereas Mary, by her obedience, undid it".**

But what are these knots?

They are the problems and struggles we face for which we do not see any solution. Knots of discord in your family, lack of understanding between parents and children, disrespect, violence, the knots of deep hurts between husband and wife, the absence of peace and joy at home. They are also the knots of anguish and despair of separated couples, the dissolution of the family, the knots of a drug addict son or daughter, sick or separated from home or God, knots of alcoholism, the practice of abortion, depression, unemployment, fear, solitude...Ah, the knots of our life! How they suffocate the soul, beat us down and betray the heart's joy and separate us from God.

The devotion to Mary Undoer of Knots is not new. The devotion is more than 300 years old. However, it is not based on an apparition of the Virgin Mary to a person, or persons, as in Lourdes or Fatima, but rather it is a revered devotion as many others in the Catholic Church, despite Virgin Mary is only one.

At Mass, there is a multitude of people: the young, the elderly, rich and poor, all asking for help from Our Lady to simplify their lives.

Day after day, more and more Christians kneel to pray to Her as soon as they meet the Mother of the Fair Love. Many families have become reconciled! Many conversions have taken place! Many Catholics have been on their knees praying and giving thanks for graces received from our sweet Mother.

We are living in difficult times where the problems, the knots, the temptations, the lack of peace and the evils are all around us. Like a roaring lion your adversary, the devil, prowls around, looking for someone to devour. (1Peter 5,8)

For that reason, Mary Who undoes the knots, Who was chosen by God to crush the evil with Her feet, comes to us to reveal Herself. She comes to provide jobs, good health, to reconcile families, because she wants to undo the knots of our sins which dominate our lives, so that—as sons of the King— we can receive the promises reserved for us from eternity. She comes with promises of victory, peace, blessings and reconciliation.

Then, free from our knots—filled with happiness, we can be a testimony of the Divine Power in this world, like pieces of God's heart or small bottles of perfume exhaling mercy and love to our neighbor. Like ambassador of Jesus Christ and the Virgin of the fair love, we can rescue those who cry without any consolation, those who are lonely, tied with knots, who have no God, no Father nor Mother.

Mother of the Rising Sun, Immaculate, our Advocate, Helper in moments of affliction, Mother of God and made by Him our Mother, this is how Mary, Undoer of Knots is presented. Above all, She comes as the Queen of Mercy, the one who knows all about us, who has compassion for us and hurries to rescue us, praying for each one of us to Her beloved Jesus.

Is it possible that the Lord does not answer Her?

**May Mary Undoer of Knots bless you today and forever. Amen!**

<https://www.maryundoerofknots.com/history.htm>



**Staffed by the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales**

**Fr. Paul Dechant OSFS  
Pastor**

**Fr. Francis J. Hanlon,  
OSFS  
Parochial Vicar**

**Rev. Mr. Rick Castro  
Permanent Deacon**

**Fr. Stanley Dombrowski  
OSFS  
Priest in Residence**

**Pastoral Staff**

Kelli Bonner  
**Director of  
Faith Formation and  
Sacramental Prep**

Dave Busch  
**Coordinator of Worship**

Jeanne Conklin  
**Business Administrator**

Sherry Cross  
**Coordinator of Music**

Ruth Ahearn  
Mary Jo Nardello  
**Office Assistants**

Pam Klaas  
**Coordinator of Pastoral  
Ministry**

Elaine Long  
**Administrative Assistant**

Mary Zalud  
**Youth Coordinator**