

PALM SUNDAY

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!”

Mark 11:9

Saint Cecilia CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

5632 Sunrise Drive • Fort Myers, FL 33919

Phone: 936-3635 • Fax: 936-2108

Website • www.saintcecilias.org Mar 24, 2024

“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, 2:30 - 3:30 PM

or by appointment

Holy Day and Holiday Schedule: Schedule will vary. Check the previous weekend’s bulletin for information. (Bulletin available at saintcecilias.org).

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.

Adoration: Fridays at 8:00 AM with Benediction at 11:50AM. First Friday Adoration 8:00 AM with Benediction at 8:50PM. Family Adoration the Thursday night preceding First Friday from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Reconciliation is offered during Family Adoration.

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.

Daily Masses Easter Tuesday through October

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7:30 AM

Tuesday and Thursday 12:10 PM

Chapel open for Prayer when the Parish Office is open

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

© Diocesan

Christ's Entrance Into Jerusalem
- Bernhard Plockhorst

SATURDAY, MAR 23	9:00 AM	Faith Formation	104
	9:00-12:00 PM	Reconciliation	C
	All Day	Confirmation Prep Retreat	PH
	2:30-3:30 PM	Reconciliation	C
	4:00 PM	Confirmandi Mass	C
SUNDAY, MAR 24	9:30 AM	FFF & Youth Group	PH
	9:30 AM	1st Communion Prep	103/104
	12:00-2:00 PM	Faith Formation	101
MONDAY, MAR 25	1:00 PM	SVDP Meeting	103/104
	5:30-7:30 PM	OCIA	101/102
	12:45 PM	Rosary	CH
	7:00 PM	Taize Service	C
	7:00 PM	Boy Scout Troop 316	A/B
TUESDAY, MAR 26	8:30 AM	Men's Gospel Group	L
	12:45 PM	Rosary	CH
	1:00 PM	Walking with Purpose	A/B
	7:00 PM	Cursillo	104
	7:00 PM	Tenebrae Service	C
WEDNESDAY, MAR 27	7:00 PM	Seven Last Words Svce	C
THURSDAY, MAR 28	OFFICE CLOSED AT 12:00 PM		
	7:00 PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper	C
FRIDAY, MAR 29	GOOD FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED		
	10:00 AM	Scripture Sharing	L
	2:00 PM	Veneration of the Cross	C
SATURDAY, MAR 30	12:00 PM	Blessing of Food	C
	8:30 PM	Easter Vigil	C
SUNDAY, MAR 31	EASTER SUNDAY		
	7:30 AM	Mass	C
	9:00 AM	Mass	C
	9:30 AM	Children's Mass in Marian Hall	MH
		Easter Egg hunt to follow behind Marian Hall.	
	11:00 AM	Mass	C



Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. As we read about the climax of Christ's mission here on earth, we are reminded that He is the Perfect Steward, a model for us all on our stewardship journey.

Our First Reading, from the prophet Isaiah, portrays a suffering servant. The suffering servant, in many ways, foreshadows what Jesus endured during His passion. Even though He didn't deserve such tortures, He humbly submitted to them. His mission as a steward was to fulfill His Father's mission. We, too, play a unique role in our Father's mission by bringing souls to Christ. It simply begins with the witness of our lives.

Today's Gospel shares the account of Jesus' last days on earth, and how He lives them says a great deal about how we should be living ours as faithful stewards. Jesus does many things in these last days, and they all revolve around prayer and service — two trademark actions of a good and faithful Catholic. He hosts a Passover meal in which He gives us His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. He intensely prays to His Father. Lastly, He submits to humiliation, torture and death for our sake, calling out to God the Father in His weakest moments. We might not be called to the same type of prayer and service, but we are all called to commit time in daily prayer with our Lord, and to serve our families, churches and neighbors.

As we embark on this Holy week, let us take some time to reflect on the life of Christ as He is our model Steward, and may we strive to imitate Him daily.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Sponsored by St. Cecilia's Youth Group

Our 9:30 Easter Sunday Mass is held in Marian Hall and is our Children's Mass. Remember to bring your basket to the Field behind Marian Hall after Mass for an Easter Egg Hunt!

Donations of non-Chocolate candy would be appreciated. Please drop off at the Church office by Wednesday, March 27.



The Sanctuary Lamp

The Light that Symbolizes the Eternal Sacrifice



This Week's Sanctuary Lamp

Healing Prayers for Fr. Stan Dombrowski



As Lent winds down and we approach Easter, please make the time to join in the worship services that will be celebrated at Saint Cecilia during Holy Week.

[Taize Prayer Service](#) Monday March 25 7 :00 PM

[Tenebrae Service](#) Tuesday March 26 7 :00 PM

[Seven Last Words](#) Wednesday March 27 7 :00 PM

[Holy Thursday](#), March 28 at 7:00 PM: Mass of the Lord's Supper

After Mass the Blessed Sacrament will be placed on the Altar of Repose until Midnight in Marian Hall. You are asked to set aside a time to watch and pray on this night - a night that Jesus, Himself, asks us to watch and pray with Him.

[Good Friday](#), March 29 at 2:00 PM: Solemn Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross

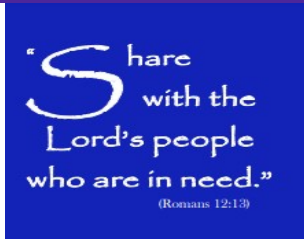
[Holy Saturday](#), March 30 at 12:00 PM: Blessing of Food

[Holy Saturday](#), March 30 at 8:30PM: Easter Vigil


Everyone is encouraged to bring any manner of hand bell to the Easter Vigil. The dissonance of bells, joined with our joyous, singing, will express in a special way the delight we experience as the ALLELUIA is sung once again!

[Easter Sunday](#), March 31 Mass at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM

[Children's Mass](#) 9:30 AM in Marian Hall Easter Egg Hunt to follow.



Our 2024 assessment is \$230,000.00

Pledges.....	\$107,132
% of Goal.....	46.6%
% of Households	16.77%
 Total Payments.....	\$ 76,855
Your generosity is greatly appreciated !	
Totals through March 4, 2024	



HELP WANTED

The following employment positions are available at St Cecilia Catholic Community.

Youth Coordinator : Part time

Faith Formation Assistant : Part time

Marian Hall Rental Coordinator : Full/Part time

If viewing on line, [Click here for details and to apply](#). Otherwise visit dioceseofvenice.org and click on EMPLOYMENT at the bottom of the page and follow the prompts. If you have further questions, contact Jeanne Conklin in the Parish office at 239 936 3635 x 112.

Prayer Intentions

Please go on line (Click on Link scan QR code below) and submit your prayer requests. Enter the Person receiving the intentions first name, then last. Choose what type of intentions you are requesting, i.e., a birth or birthday, anniversary, prayers answered or blessing received, physical or spiritual healing, etc. After your choice is entered, enter your name and your phone number, (your name and number are not published).

You may also view the prayer intentions. To view the list, hold Control & click on the Link or scan the QR code.

[Click here to submit Prayer Intentions](#)



[Current Prayer Intentions](#)



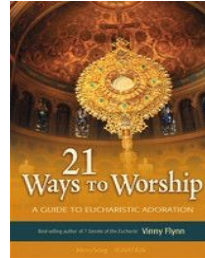
A Thought From St. Francis De Sales



Live totally united to God and in Him alone, because life separated from Him is nothing but death! You do well not to influence your daughter's will; it is solely the work of the Holy Spirit to send good inspirations according to His own pleasure. On my part, I still have some hope and good indications that He will make her totally and perfectly His own. I do not doubt that she will obtain sufficient help to discover the truth, seeing that she seems marked for divine favor.

21 Ways to Worship

A Guide to Eucharistic Adoration -a book review



Afterword. "Improve Your Image!"

You may think that this Afterword is the end of the book. But it's not supposed to be an ending; the whole book is supposed to be a beginning. There is no magic to the number 21; I just like the sound when it's combined

with Ways and Worship. And obviously there are more than 21 ways.

That's where you come in. I've given you 21 ways to "prime the pump, so to speak, to "kick start your engine." Each chapter is meant to give you a starting place, to let you experiment with an idea, a technique, a prayer, so that you can see what works best for you--and then, hopefully, be inspired to move on from there, adding your own variations, your own prayers.

The whole purpose of the Eucharist, and thus, of Eucharistic Adoration is union with God. That's the "end" that we should keep in mind right from the beginning. The goal of our worship is to come to know God so personally and completely that we become one with him.

But why? Why do we do this? Why does God want us to do this? Why would He want us to praise Him, thank Him, adore Him, worship Him? Does He need a

We don't worship God because He needs it; we worship Him because we need it. But He is so generous, so loving, that He uses even our worship of Him to help us. When we worship Him, we grow. How do we grow? Through the same principle we can see at work even in our secular culture: "We become what we worship." "Improve Your Image" and likeness of God, by Son-bathing often with Jesus.



The Parish Office will be closed at 12:00 PM on Holy Thursday through April 1, Easter Monday and will reopen at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, April 2.

Monday, April 1st Mass is at 9:00 AM ONLY.

On Tuesday, April 2, we return to our Daily Summer Mass schedule. Mass times will be:

7:30 AM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

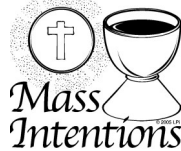
12:10 PM on Tuesday and Thursday

Lunch Bunch Luncheon

- Date & Time:** Monday, April 8, 2024 at 12:00
- Place :** Marian Hall
- Cost:** Mayonnaise (plastic jar), Oatmeal and Pasta
- RSVP:** To the Office, or Elvia at 239-936-3635 ext 116 or email: earana@saintcecilias.net

Deadline to RSVP is Thursday, April 4

The Mass Intention book for 2024 has been filled. The 2025 Mass Intention Book will be opened on April 1, 2024 for intentions from January through June of 2025. You may reserve up to 3 intentions on Sundays, and up to 6 total every six months.



Intentions from July through December of 2025 will be available on January 1, 2025. This is intended to allow a more equitable distribution of the available dates.

Please stop in the office and see Rich to place an intention.

The suggested donation is \$10.



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 or on our website:

[Registration form \(saintcecilias.org\)](http://Registration form (saintcecilias.org))

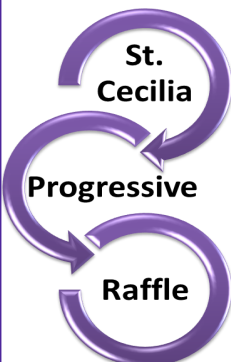
Our New Parishioners Karina Vargas

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of \$500 each in the fifth round of our Progressive Raffle.

John Shannon

Renee Devic

Thank you to ALL who have participated in helping us meet our Catholic Faith Appeal Goal !



The \$2,500 grand prize will be drawn next Sunday March 24.!

Tickets for the Grand Prize can still be purchased ! They are \$20 each or six for \$100, and are available in the Parish Office.

All proceeds go to the Catholic Faith Appeal to offset St Cecilia's Assessment.



- Saturday, MARCH 23**
4:00 PM † Jack Kilmartin by His Children
- Sunday, MARCH 24**
7:30 AM † Maureen Lemos by Pat Creem
9:00 AM † Antoinetta Bitetti by Pat Benedict
11:00 AM St Cecilia Parishioners
- Monday, MARCH 25**
7:30 AM † Elaine Taroni by Christine Gelardi
12:10 PM † Bill Kruspe
by Esperanza Liszewski
- Tuesday, MARCH 26**
7:30 AM † Kenneth Mader by Mom
12:10 PM † Jim McAndrews
by Keene Pieper & Rob Saunders
- Wednesday, MARCH 27**
7:30 AM † Helen Taylor by
Fran & Marcia Dugan
12:10 PM Priest's Intention
- Thursday, MARCH 28 HOLY THURSDAY**
7:00 PM All Engaged Couples
by John & Phyllis Lampman
- Friday, MARCH 29 GOOD FRIDAY**
- Saturday, MARCH 30 EASTER VIGIL**
8:30 PM St Cecilia Parishioners
- Sunday, MARCH 31 EASTER SUNDAY**
7:30 AM St Cecilia Parishioners
9:00 AM St Cecilia Parishioners
9:30 AM St Cecilia Parishioners
11:00 AM St Cecilia Parishioners

Scripture Readings For the Week

- Monday** Is 42:1-7 Jn 12:1-11
- Tuesday** Is 49:1-6 Jn 13:21-33,36-38
- Wednesday** Is 50:4-9a Mt 26:14-25
- Thursday** Ex 12:1-8,11-14 1Cor 11:23-26
Jn 13:1-15
- Friday** Is 52:13-53:12 Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9
Jn 18:1-19:42
- Saturday** Gn 1:1-2:2 Gn 22:1-18
Ex 14:15-15:1 Is 54:5-14
Is 55:1-11 Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4
Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 Rom 6:3-11
Mark 16:1-7
- Sunday** Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Col 3:1-4
Jn 20:1-9

Scan QR code for Daily Readings from USCCB



Welcome

Will, Kaylah, Glen, Leanne, Brad, and Sebrina
will all be receiving Sacraments of Initiation
at the Easter Vigil



Cards welcoming them to our Catholic Community can be
left in the OCIA box in the Narthex



**OBLATES OF
ST FRANCIS DE SALES**


DAILY LENTEN REFLECTIONS

As we prepare for Lent, we invite you to share the Daily Lenten Reflection Series with your friends and apostolates. Each reflection only takes five to ten minutes so it is perfect for busy schedules! You can access the online version by using this link or the QR code attached. [CLICK HERE](#)




Help! CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

We need some help with our little ones during the age-appropriate Gospel reflection at the 11:00 Mass.




If you're free on Sunday, once a month, from 11:00 – 11:30 scan the QR code to sign up or call the parish office for more info.



All volunteers are required to have Diocese of Venice Safe Environment Training

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, as well as any volunteer for any ministry, are required to be fingerprinted (this process includes a background check) and to receive training in recognizing potential signs of abuse. The training portion can be done in your home over a PC.

For further information, visit the Diocesan website at www.dioceseofvenice.org/safeenvironment to see what is required before the parish can accept a volunteer into any ministry. Any cost a volunteer incurs to complete these requirements will be fully reimbursed on request. 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 at 941 484 9543.




Michael Zeszutek and friends working on his Eagle Scout project of Outdoor Stations of the Cross /Stations of the Resurrection which will circle the Rosary Garden.


Troop 316

Michael is part of the troop that meets at St. Cecilia on Monday evenings.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT.

I am beyond grateful for your generous donations towards my Eagle Scout project. Due to your support beyond my initial need, I have been able to enhance my project to be an even greater place to reflect than I had initially planned. Thank you to all of you who helped to make the Stations of the Cross a reality for Saint Cecilia's. I look forward to sharing the finished project with the parish upon completion.

Sincerely, Michael Zeszutek



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA





The Knight's Corner

March 24 Knights' Corner

As Catholics and as Knights, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life – in all that we do, the root of our strength. When we receive our Lord in Holy Communion, we are fed, then sent forth to be Christ's emissaries to those we encounter — in our homes and neighborhoods, at work and in our greater communities. Now, in Holy Week, is an excellent moment to become, more and more, "Knights of the Eucharist." So, let us heed this invitation to nurture a deeper love of Our Lord in the Eucharist among every member of the Church, beginning in our own hearts.

The Knights of Columbus gives the opportunity to meet other men in the parish to stand together in Christ and to help others in the community. This is a place where men can meet friends and friends can become brothers. Go to KofC.org to learn more about the Knights and how to join.

We will be meeting the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. for any men interested in how they might serve the community. Knights who are here for the winter are welcome to join us.

Matt Andres, Grand Knight GK13483ma@gmail.com
Steve Jansen, Deputy Grand Knight sjansen571@gmail.com



Living Stewardship Through Evangelization

USHERS NEEDED



The Usher Ministry is in need of volunteers. Male and Female, any age group – youth to the young at heart ; particularly at the 4:00 pm, 7:30 am and 11:00 am weekend masses.

The primary duties and responsibilities include welcoming parishioners, escorting them to seating at select masses, taking up the collection and providing a goodbye salutation and distributing bulletins at the conclusion of Mass.

This is a great opportunity to serve with very little time commitment required. Please see Debbie at any of the masses or phone 239-936-3635, ext.129, or email dlaughlin@saintcecilias.net.

THE LEE HEALTH BLOODEMOBILE

Help save a life, donate today !

OUR NEXT BLOOD DRIVE WILL BE

SUNDAY April 7, 2024

8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Learn more about the difference you can make. <https://www.leehealth.org/our-services/blood-centers>



Marian Hall

PARISH DINNER, DANCE & ELVIS SHOW

Saturday, April 20 at 5pm

\$40 Tickets available at Sunday Social

Includes one wine/beer, dinner buffet, dessert, music by DJ Stephen

Special thanks to our sponsors listed on poster



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

Patty Kiernan
Coordinator of Religious Education

Tuesday Shannon
Faith Formation Assistant
Marian Hall Rentals

Sherry Cross
Coordinator of Music

Debbie Laughlin
Coordinator of Worship

Elvia Arana
Coordinator of Pastoral Ministry

Mary Zalud
Youth Coordinator

Jeanne Conklin
Business Administrator

Mary Jo Nardello
Office Assistant

Rich Garcia
Administrative Assistant

Steve Borden
Maintenance

Daxton Wellman
Maintenance