

The Good Shepherd

Saint Cecilia CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

5632 Sunrise Drive • Fort Myers, FL 33919

Phone: 936-3635 • Fax: 936-2108

Website • www.saintcecilias.org Apr 21, 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.”



A Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

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. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available 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 SUMMER SCHEDULE

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

SATURDAY, 10:00 AM 5:00 PM	APR 20 Funeral Pat Eckdahl Parish Dinner Dance w/Elvis	C MH
SUNDAY, 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 12:00—2:00 12:00 3:00 PM	APR 21 FFF & Youth Group 1st Communion Prep Faith Formation Angel Macareno Baptism Lectio Eucharist (Adult FF)	PH 103/104 PH C PH
MONDAY, 12:10 PM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	APR 22 Rosary SVDP Meeting Boy Scout Troop 316	CH 103 A/B
TUESDAY, 8:30 AM 12:45 PM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	APR 23 Men's Gospel Group Rosary Walking with Purpose Cursillo	104 CH A/B 104
WEDNESDAY, 12:10 PM 7:00 PM	APR 24 Rosary Lectio Eucharist (Adult FF)	CH PH
THURSDAY, 10:30 AM 12:45 PM 7:00 PM	APR 25 Lectio Eucharist (Adult FF) Rosary Adult Choir Practice	PH CH C/CR
FRIDAY 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:10 PM 5:30 PM 5:30—8:00PM	APR 26 Scripture Sharing Divine Mercy Rosary Rosary Preparing for the Ascension	L 101 CH C C
SATURDAY, 10:00 AM	APR 27 Funeral Sharon Occhino	C
SUNDAY, 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 12:00 PM 12:00—2:00 3:00 PM	APR 28 FFF & Youth Group 1st Communion Prep 1st Communion Practice Faith Formation Lectio Eucharist (Adult FF)	PH 103/104 C PH PH



On this fourth Sunday of Easter, we hear that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep. Our readings today call us to reflect inward — do we allow Jesus to shepherd our lives?

In our Gospel Jesus reveals His radical love for us. He says, "I will lay down my life for the sheep." Jesus tells us that we are His. We can compare this relationship to that of a loving parent to their child. The parent gives without much in return and if any evil came near the child, the parent would do anything, even lay down their life for their baby.

We are Christ's — even more so than a child is to a parent. He created us and sustains our lives each day. Evil persists in our world, so Jesus willingly laid down His life for us at Calvary for our salvation. He is our Good Shepherd, whether we remain in His flock or go astray.

But just as a baby is happiest in the arms of a parent, so too are we happiest in the flock of our Shepherd. And just as sheep go astray, we also stray from God, test our limits and even follow false shepherds.

Thankfully our Shepherd is a Good Shepherd, and He laid down His life for us knowing every sin we will ever commit. Therefore, let us examine our hearts and return to our flock. We don't even need to find the way. He is right there always waiting to guide us home.

Let us look inward this week and ask ourselves, 'who is my Shepherd?' and 'have I gone astray?' Name the areas in your life that you have neglected. Ask Jesus to bring you home. Pray for His mercy, seek His forgiveness in the sacraments and begin again.

April 11, 2025

Good afternoon

As reported in the most recent Mustard Seed (April 5), the Florida Supreme Court has ruled that the pro-abortion amendment under review, now known as Amendment 4, will appear on the ballot in November. It is urgent that all Floridians be alerted to the extreme, dangerous nature of this pro-abortion amendment, and be advised to vote no on Amendment 4!

Using the QR code, please find a joint statement from the Bishops of Florida regarding Amendment 4.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Karen Barry Schwarz
Director of Communications



The Sanctuary Lamp

The Light that Symbolizes the Eternal Sacrifice



This Week's Sanctuary Lamp

In Honor of Rita Sitka
By Claire

Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

**INDIANAPOLIS
JULY 17 - 21, 2024**

with the Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice



Participate in this pivotal moment in the Church and draw into a deeper intimacy with our Lord. Join the Diocese of Venice by registering today! Scan the QR code or click the Book Now button to attend this historic event.



BOOK NOW!



Share with the Lord's people who are in need." (Romans 12:13)



Our 2024 assessment is \$230,000.00

Pledges..... \$148,795
% of Goal..... 64.7%
% of Households25.83%
Total Payments..... \$ 116,278



Your generosity is greatly appreciated !



HELP WANTED

The following positions is available at St Cecilia Catholic Community.

Youth Coordinator : 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.

A Thought From St. Francis De Sales



True humility does not make a show of itself and hardly ever speaks in a humble way, not only because it wants to hide the other virtues, but most of all because it wants to conceal itself. Therefore, if it were lawful to lie, dissemble or scandalize one's neighbor, humility would perform acts of arrogance and pride, so that it might conceal itself beneath them and live completely hidden and unknown. Here then is my advice: Do not utter words expressing humility unless you can say them from the bottom of your heart. Let us not lower our eyes without humbling ourselves in our hearts; let us not make a show of wanting to be the last if we do not want to be that in reality.

1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Altar Serving

is a fantastic way to show your love with action

We especially need servers for 7:30am 9:00am 4:00pm



If you have made your First Communion, you qualify.

Servers graduate high school, move to other ministries, move away, etc. so we ALWAYS need more.

FREE training. Contact Debbie at 239-936-3635 or daughlin@saintcecilias.net

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



The Music Ministry is always looking for a few good folks with a generous heart, a love for music and a grateful spirit.

If you or your child would like to be a singer, ringer, or instrumentalist at St. Cecilia's, there are plenty of opportunities to get you started.

For more information, please contact Sherry Cross, Coordinator of Music Ministries, at 239-936-3635 ext. 128.




Men's Gospel Forum

Attention all men: Please join us for the Men's Gospel Forum every Tuesday at 8:30 A.M. We gather as a group to pray and gain spiritual knowledge of the Scriptures.

Please contact George Moeggenberg, at 239-671-9789 to be provided with further information. We would enjoy your joining us.



Saturday, 4:00 PM	APRIL 20 † Margaret Shannon by Tuesday Shannon
Sunday, 7:30 AM	APRIL 21 Dave Zanone by Mr. & Mrs. Roy J Patterson St Cecilia Parishioners
9:00 AM 11:00 AM	† Bette Baxter by her Children
Monday, 7:30 AM	APRIL 22 † Alex Pieper by Keene Pieper-
Tuesday, 12:10 PM	APRIL 23 Priest's Intention
Wednesday, 7:30 AM	APRIL 24 Claudia Jones by Keene Pieper & Rob Saunders
Thursday, 12:10 PM	APRIL 25 † Mary Hopkins by Susan Sardinha
Friday, 7:30 AM	APRIL 26 Avery Roche by Tim & Cindy Malszycki
Saturday, 4:00 PM	APRIL 27 † Jack Kilmartin by his children
Sunday, 7:30 AM 9:00 AM	APRIL 28 St Cecilia Parishioners Margaret Adams by Gabriele Spangler
11:00 AM	† Jack Kilmartin by his children
Scripture Readings For the Week	
Monday	Acts 11:1-18 Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday	Acts 11:19-26 Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday	Acts :12:24-13:5a Jn 12::44-50
Thursday	1Pt 5:5b-14 Mk 16:15-20
Friday	Acts 13:26-33 Jn 14:1-6
Saturday	Acts 13:44-52 Jn 14:7-14
Sunday	Acts 9:26-31 1Jn 3:18-24 Jn 15::1-8




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
Nicholas Byers & Francesca Gesiotto, Dennis Murphy,
Gil & Paula Kaminski, Giuliana Busacco, Ismael Garcia,
Marcia Oliver, Ashley Urbanowicz
Kathleen & Anthony Gulotta




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.

Good Morning Sunday Social

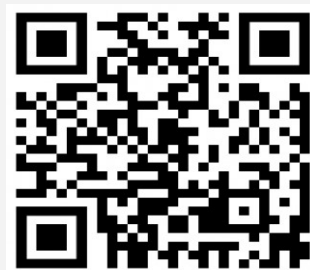
Parish Hall on Sunday from 8:30-10:30

This week we have eggs with sausage for \$3, doughnuts, bagels or muffins for \$2, and so much more. Everything is a donation. Hot coffee and lots of friendships



Last day of Sunday Social is May 7. We return after Labor Day

Scan QR code for Daily Readings from USCCB





PREPARING FOR THE ASCENSION DURING FOUR FRIDAYS OF THE EASTER SEASON

Join with your fellow Parishioners on April 26, May 3 and May 10 in prayer and fellowship in anticipation of the feast of the Ascension

5:30 pm Praying the Rosary (in the Chapel)

6:00 pm Stations of the Resurrection (in the Prayer Garden across the street from the Chapel.)

7:00 pm Enjoying episodes 2 thru 4 of Season Four of "The Chosen" (in the Parish hall, please bring snacks to share) On May 3, we will also have First Friday benediction at 8: 50 pm in the chapel.

You can watch the first 3 seasons and the 1st episode of Season 4 to catch up of "The Chosen" at You Tube / the Angels Studio App or Angel.com.

Parish SUMMER Camp

Join us for a week of faith-filled fun!



REGISTRATION STARTS
APRIL 27TH

1st - 6th Grade

July 15 - 19, 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Bring lunch, Snacks provided

Cost: One Child - \$75

Two Children - \$125

Three Children - \$200

Four+ Children - \$250

7th - 12th Grade

July 14 - 18, 6:30PM - 8:45PM

Snacks provided

Cost: One Child - \$20

Two Children - \$40

Three+ Children - \$60

Space
is limited
register
early!



FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE
OR DOWNLOAD AT SAINTCECILIAS.ORG

Return completed forms and payment to:
Saint Cecilia Faith Formation
5632 Sunrise Drive, Fort Myers, 33919



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 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.



The Knight's Corner



Mark your calendars: The Council 13483 Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday September 28th at the Magnolia Landings Country Club. All those who played last year had a wonderful time. The proceeds from the event have been distributed by the Council to Special Olympics, St. Francis Xavier School, State seminary support, Community Pregnancy Center, and other charitable causes. We want to thank all the sponsors and players, and we will be looking forward to your continued support this year.

All Catholic men are encouraged to become Knights. This is an international organization dedicated to helping the Church, our communities, our parish, and our families. We will be meeting the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. for any men interested in how they might serve the community. We offer snacks and refreshments during our social time after our brief meetings.

Go to KofC.org to learn more and to sign up.
 Matt Andres, Grand Knight GK13483ma@gmail.com
 Steve Jansen, Deputy Grand Knight sjasen571@gmail.com



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



St Vincent de Paul Society
NEEDS YOUR HELP !

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (or Vincentians) are men and women who strive to grow spiritually by offering person to person service to individuals in need. Our Society exists and helps those in need by your donations only.

You can be a part of this vital ministry, **and your help is needed !**

The Society needs help, especially bi-lingual help, to distribute the resources that have been received through the generosity of St Cecilia's Parishioners.

Please consider becoming a Vincentian ! If interested in learning more, please contact Pat Zalone, Karol Heidbreder, or Tony Iannacone 239 936 3635 x 133



Be Blessed and Encouraged

at our next Magnificat breakfast for women, **Saturday, May 11, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM** at the Crown Plaza Fort Myers Gulf Coast, formerly Holiday Inn Airport.



Our speaker, Fernande Benjamin, was born in Canada. She lost her mother when she was only five. Her childhood was influenced by her devout Catholic father and step-mother. At age eight, Fernande immigrated to the United States, unable to speak a word of English. Although she was in third grade in Canada, when she enrolled in classes taught by the Daughters of the Holy Spirit Congregation, she was placed in first grade to learn English.

Fernande developed a powerful devotion to the Holy Spirit. Marriage followed. After being childless for six years, the couple adopted two children. Fernande and her husband Ray made a Cursillo. Both began work in prison ministry.

They moved to Florida in 1981, and were introduced to the charismatic prayer group. Life in the Spirit seminar followed. Fernande learned how forgiveness is essential for Jesus to set us free and journey on in life in freedom. She served in many ministries throughout the years, and at present, she serves as chairperson for Magnificat greeters.

Please send a \$26 check, payable to *Magnificat Fort Myers*, to Margaret Mengle, 5017 Westminster Dr., Fort Myers, FL 33919. **Your mail request must be postmarked by May 3** or make online reservations until **TUESDAY, MAY 7** at <https://magnificatfortmyers.com/order-tickets/>. For more information, contact Margaret Mengle, 239-826-7475.