

Jesus  
YOU ARE MY HELP  
IN THE DESERTS  
OF LIFE



# Saint Cecilia CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

**CELEBRATING 60 YEARS ! 1965 -2025**

**Looking back with gratitude,  
ahead with hope,  
Living Jesus now and forever.**

5632 Sunrise Dr Fort Myers, FL 33919  
phone 239 936 3635 fax 239 936 2108 website [www.saintcecilias.org](http://www.saintcecilias.org)  
March 9, 2025



### 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.

### Daily Masses

#### November through Wednesday of Holy Week

Monday—Friday ..... 7:30 AM & 12:10 PM

**Chapel open for Prayer when the Parish Office is open**  
Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

**Holy Day and Holiday Schedule:** Schedule will vary. Check the previous weekend's bulletin for information.  
(Bulletin available at [saintcecilias.org](http://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:** Friday, 8:00 am in the Chapel. Benediction is at 11:50 am. First Friday Adoration begins at 8:00 am with the Benediction at 8:50 pm. Family Adoration is held the Thursday prior to First Friday from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. 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.

<b>SATURDAY,</b> <b>SUNDAY,</b> 10:00—10:50 12:00— 1:00	<b>MARCH 8</b> <b>MARCH 9</b> Faith Formation Pre K to 5th Faith Formation 6th - 12th	PH PH
<b>MONDAY,</b> 1:00 pm 5:30 pm	<b>MARCH 10</b> Svdp Meeting Adult Confirmation Class	PH PH
<b>TUESDAY,</b> 8:30 am 10:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	<b>MARCH 11</b> Men's Gospel Forum Walking with Purpose "Bridges" Support Group KoC Meeting	101 PH PH PH
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b> 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	<b>MARCH 12</b> Walking with Purpose Adult Choir Practice	PH CR
<b>THURSDAY,</b> 10:00 am 7:00 pm	<b>MARCH 13</b> No Greater Love Bible Study No Greater Love Bible Study	PH PH
<b>FRIDAY,</b> 8:00 am 11:50 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	<b>MARCH 14</b> Adoration Benediction Scripture Sharing Divine Mercy Cenacle	CH  103 104
<b>SATURDAY,</b> 4:00 pm	<b>MARCH 15</b> Confirmation Class Retreat	PH
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 10:00—10:50 12:00— 1:00	<b>MARCH 16</b> Faith Formation Pre K to 5th Faith Formation 6th - 12th	PH PH



## BULLETIN INSERTS FOR THE LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

### The Parts of the Mass HELL IN THE CREED

In the Apostle's Creed, we say that Jesus descended into hell. After he died and was buried, and before he rose again from the dead, he entered hell. How is this possible? We generally understand "hell" to mean the place of the damned, the lake of fire described in Revelation 20:14-15. How could Jesus go there?

The word has another meaning. It also refers to the Old Testament realm of the dead, where both the condemned and the saved awaited judgment. In Jesus's parable of the beggar Lazarus and the rich man, both characters die and end up in a place called Hades, or the netherworld—a place the Creed calls "hell". One rests in the bosom of Abraham, but the other suffers torment (Luke 16:22-23). Christians believe that the souls of both good and evil people who died before Jesus rose from the dead dwelled in this place. The reason Jesus descended there was to rescue the good. The Apostles' Creed calls this place "hell."

Ephesians 4:9-10 says that Jesus descended to the lower parts of the earth. It is this passage that the Creed quotes. When the Creed says that Jesus "Rose again from the dead," it means literally "from among those who were dead." We believe not just that Jesus died and rose, but that he visited the dead at the time.

Some icons depict Jesus trampling down the gate of this hell, grasping the arm of the first person in a line of those formerly held captive and bringing them out to freedom. Traditionally, that first person is Adam, and he is followed by all the righteous people of the Old Testament who could not enjoy the Resurrection until Jesus himself rose from the dead.

*Come as you are.*

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women | Learn more about God

Join us for **Fearless and Free**, based on the book of Ephesians. With an emphasis on healing and wholeness, this study provides a firm foundation to stand on no matter what life throws our way.



Tuesday mornings from April 1 to May 6 10:30 am  
or Wednesday evenings from April 2 to May 14  
7:00 pm (no session on May 7) Cost is \$25.

Questions? Please contact Lois Ann Mader at 239-218-8233 or Vivian Uchdorf at 305-972-9130



### SUNDAY SOCIAL INVITES YOU TO JOIN US IN THE PARISH HALL FROM 8:30-10:30AM

We will offer for a donation: coffee, tea, juices, milk, filtered water, bagels, doughnuts, muffins, hard boiled eggs, Greek yogurt, high protein yogurt, fresh fruit, Linda's cookies, free animal crackers for the youngest and lots of holiday spirit. Monthly raffle, no purchase necessary.

*Everyone is Welcome!*




**ST. CECILIA**  
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Presents:  
**Planning for Tomorrow**

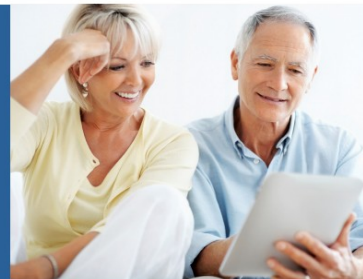
Wednesday, March 19, 2025  
11:00 AM—1:00 PM  
At the Parish Hall (Building A)

A COMPLIMENTARY LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOP

St. Cecilia Parish has partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida and local estate planning experts to host a complimentary workshop, which will provide participants with the knowledge they need to make critical health, legal and financial decisions for themselves and/or a loved one.

Attendees will obtain important information on:

Avoiding Guardianship, Wills vs. Trusts, Probate, Durable Power of Attorney, Beneficiary Designations, Healthcare Surrogates, Advanced Directives, Financial Planning, Smarter Ways to Give and more.



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CALL: 941-486-4722



# 2025 Catholic Faith Appeal

Our 2025 assessment is \$243,000.00

An increase of \$13,000

Your participation and generosity are needed and appreciated. Thank you!



Isn't it good to be reminded again that Jesus was tempted by Satan?

The Scriptures tell us: Jesus is like us in all things, but sin. We can be tempted to say: "Of course, he didn't sin; Jesus is God." But that thinking denies the truth that the Scriptures take such care to present to us: Jesus is Son of Man, as well as Son of God. Jesus' temptations remind us that Jesus is human like us. They also help us to understand how Jesus dealt with temptation. That gives us a model for our own experiences of Satan.

As we take time to reflect on today's Gospel account, it becomes obvious that Jesus learned to keep his attention focused on his Father's love for him. His great desire was to respond to that love by doing his Father's will.

After his long fast in the desert, Jesus is hungry. Satan encourages him to use his power – change stones into bread. Jesus responds: "bread is temporarily filling, but there's more to my life than eating." Doesn't Satan present us with the same temptation at times? Something we need would make us feel good right now. Jesus is reminding us to ask a question: is there more to my life than this need? Is this immediate desire calling me to be more dependent on God's loving care for me?

Then Satan tempts Jesus with power and glory if he's willing to compromise his Father as God. Jesus responds: "I have one desire in life -- to serve my Father's love." Often enough Satan presents us with opportunities for some kind of power and glory if we're willing to compromise our values. Jesus reminds us to look into the eyes of God when we're trying to make decisions in our daily living.

Finally, Satan tempts Jesus to test God's care for him. And Jesus tells Satan: "My Father's word is enough." How easy it is for us to try and control God's care for us: "If you'll just give me this sign, I'll know you're looking out for me." Jesus tells us: trust in God's providence for you; God doesn't lie.

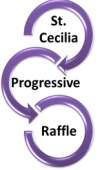
As we continue our Lenten journey, preparing ourselves to celebrate the great events of our salvation, we could benefit greatly by some prayerful reflection on Jesus' responses to Satan's tempting.

Jesus shows us where we can find the source of strength we need when we are tempted: our God's abiding presence and care for us.



## BRIDGES MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Bridges is a men's support group that meets the second Tuesday of every month. Our next meeting will be at 5:30 Tuesday, March 11 in the Parish Hall. All men are welcome to join us for fellowship, sharing, and prayer as we support men who have experienced a recent loss.



### 2025 Progressive Raffle

Join us on March 9 at 10:15 am for the LIVE drawing of the FIRST WINNER in the 2025 Progressive Raffle. The drawing can be viewed on Facebook. Prizes will be drawn every Sunday morning through April 13. Tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100, and can also be purchased in the Parish Office. All proceeds go to the Catholic Faith Appeal to offset St Cecilia's Assessment




**Next week is our monthly St Vincent de Paul collection.**

**Please use the envelope in today's bulletin to help the Society feed the poor in our community.**

### ATTENTION PARISHIONERS

Have you moved ? Gotten Married ??  
 Changed your phone number or email ?  
 If so, or if you have made any other changes that will affect how we communicate with you and your family, please let us know. Just call the office at 239 936 3635 x 110 or email : rgarcia@saintcecilias.net

**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, 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](http://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, Susan Benton, at 941 416 6114.



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://saintcecilias.org)

**Scripture Readings For the Week**

- Monday** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8-15 Matt 25:31-46
- Tuesday** Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-19 Matt 6:7-15
- Wednesday** Jnh 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-19 Luke 11:29-32
- Thursday** Esth C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-8 Matt 7:7-12
- Friday** Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130: 1-8 Matt 5:20-26
- Saturday** Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-8 Matt 5:43-48
- Sunday** Gen 15:5-12, 17-18 Ps 27:1-14 Phil 3:17—4:1 Luke 9:28b-36

**The Sanctuary Lamp**

*The Light that Symbolizes the Eternal Sacrifice*



In Memory of  
**Joe & Margaret Troyan**  
by Ellen Troyan

JOIN US FOR AN INSPIRING PRESENTATION

# Lent as the Model for the Spiritual Life

**Dr. Tim Gray**  
President of The Augustine Institute

This is our joint event with Faith & Wine! It will sell out!  
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JOIN US AT ST. JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC CHURCH, MARCH 20TH AT 6PM! REGISTER FOR OUR NEXT EVENT AS WE JOIN FAITH & WINE LEE COUNTY FOR OUR ANNUAL JOINT GATHERING. REGISTER ASAP AS THIS EVENT SELLS OUT EVERY YEAR!

**Prayer Intentions**

Please go on line (Click on Link or 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](#)



- Saturday** **MARCH 8**  
4:00 PM † Thomas & Margaret Power  
By Elsie McElligot & Family
- Sunday** **MARCH 9**  
7:30 AM †Francisca Sosa by Nancy & Maria  
9:00 AM St Cecilia Parishioners  
11:00 AM † Carlos Fernandez  
by Frank & Julie Richards
- Monday,** **MARCH 10**  
7:30 AM † Robert Hotchkiss, Sr.  
by Mimi Edwards  
12:10 PM † Marianne, Rita & Leo Kretsch  
by Rosalie Decker
- Tuesday,** **MARCH 11**  
7:30 AM Jerry Manning  
by John & Pam Klaas  
12:10 PM † Luz Osborn by Debbie Bretton
- Wednesday,** **MARCH 12**  
7:30 AM † Brian Weis by Momt  
12:10 PM † Robert Hemenway by Mary Zalud
- Thursday,** **MARCH 13**  
7:30 AM Priest's Intention  
12:10 PM † Donna Vilardi by Rich & Shari
- Friday,** **MARCH 14**  
7:30 AM † Joe Hanlon  
by Bob & Jeanne Conklin  
12:10 PM † Jeanne Walczak  
by Wendy Brockmann
- Saturday** **MARCH 15**  
4:00 PM † Thomas & Margaret Power  
By Elsie McElligot & Family
- Sunday** **MARCH 16**  
7:30 AM † Gerri Sogluizzo  
by Rosalie Decker & Joanne Fuciu  
9:00 AM St Cecilia Parishioners  
11:00 AM † James Kropain  
by Buddy & Donna Strickland

Scan QR code for  
Daily Readings from USCCB





# DO YOU LIKE TO BAKE?

**Saint Cecilia's Youth  
Group is looking for  
parishioners to donate  
baked goods for the Lent  
Fish Fry Friday's  
Desserts.**

*Please leave your name  
and phone # at the  
front office*

**OR**

*contact Maggie at  
[mremek@saintcecilias](mailto:mremek@saintcecilias)  
239-936-3635 ext. 118*

**THANK YOU!**



## The Knight's Corner

Here is a fascinating question to ponder: What was our founder Father McGivney like in person? Although he lived long ago, we do have some clues to the character and demeanor of this blessed priest.

His was "a priest face and that explains everything" wrote a fellow Connecticut priest whose one meeting with Father McGivney made a deep impression. "It was a face of wonderful repose; there was nothing harsh in that countenance, although there was everything that was strong."

We see those qualities of compassion and strength in the few photos we have of Father McGivney. He was a man on a mission who walked quickly, but he spoke slowly and always had time for his parishioners who needed a kind word or a sympathetic ear.

He is still on that priestly mission today, as shown by the favors reported from those who call upon him in prayer. If you could, what would you like to ask Father McGivney? Blessed Michael McGivney, pray for our priests as we all pray for your canonization!

George J. Hambel CPA Financial Secretary, [gjhcpa@comcast.net](mailto:gjhcpa@comcast.net)

## 52 Stories

### The Schreiber Family's Memories of Growing Up At St. Cecilia

The Schreiber family members were founding parishioners and we have many fond memories of growing up at St. Cecilia's Parish. Our first masses were celebrated at Bishop Verot High School in classrooms that were converted to a chapel on Sundays. My older brother, David, remembers it was very hot and sticky because there was no air conditioning and the altar boys had to wear a double layered cassock & surplice. I (Lee) recall being jealous that both my brothers got to be alter servers, but I am a girl and they were not yet ready for me. When the church building was about to be constructed, I recall the ground-breaking ceremony where my dad, Leo, and other adult church members used shovels to toss some dirt and then everyone applauded the accomplishment. My brother, Bill's fondest memory was of when first pastor, Fr. McDonald, would shake his hand and slip him a dollar bill for his altar boy service. My sister, Susan, remembers that Jim Pavalec, one of the first ushers in the church, always handed out candy to the children leaving mass.

My dad and my mom, Shirley, were members of the first church choir. Music and singing were a big part of our family, so David and I and both sisters, Susan & Pattie, were all members of what was once known as the St. Cecilia "Folk Group." Among the six of us who participated in the music ministry through the years, I believe we sang &/or played instruments for a combined 50+ years. After all, St. Cecilia IS the patron saint of music and Fr. Neff always encouraged us to use our gifts. We all agree that Pattie is the most vocally gifted, followed closely by Bill.

My dad was also on the Building Committee when the original Parish Hall was built. Mom served as one of the early Presidents of the Women's Guild, she co-founded the "Mom's Club," and was a Eucharistic Minister for many years. Susan also served as a Eucharistic Minister and was one of the first "Liturgy of the Word for Children" leaders. All the Schreiber women were blessed to have participated in the "Christ Renews His Parish" program ("CHIRP") in the 1980s under the tutelage of Fr. Jack Doyle, when Fr. Keech was Pastor. Four of the five Schreiber children were married at St. Cecilia's Parish.

Both of our parents' funeral masses and "Celebration of Life" services were held at St. Cecilia's, with Fr. Tom Murphy and Fr. Stan Dombrowski (joined by Msgr. Steven McNamara of Church of the Resurrection, formerly a priest at St. Cecilia's), respectively, presiding.

We pray for the continued success of the St. Cecilia Catholic Community and wish our parish another 60 years of spiritual growth and services to others.

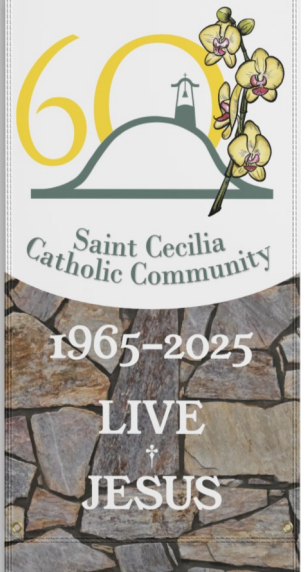
Yours in Christ,  
Lee Schreiber

**ST CECILIA IS CELEBRATING ITS 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN 2025.** As part of our 60th Anniversary Celebration, we are asking parishioners to share their memories of their time here.

**What brought you to attend St Cecilia ? And what has kept you at St Cecilia ?**

**Did your children celebrate their Sacraments over the years ? Were you married at St Cecilia ?**

**What is your most memorable experience of God and Community at St. Cecilia ?** Please take a few minutes to write a paragraph or two answering the questions above, or simply sharing a memory or two of how being a member has positively impacted your life. The responses will be published throughout 2025. You can email responses to [rgarcia@saintcecilias.net](mailto:rgarcia@saintcecilias.net), or call me at the Parish office and I will make arrangements to meet and pick up.



Staffed by the Oblates  
of Saint Francis de  
Sales

Fr. Paul Dechant  
OSFS  
Pastor

Fr. Francis J. Hanlon,  
OSFS  
Parochial Vicar

Fr. Mike Matusz  
Priest

Fr. Stanley Dombrowski  
OSFS  
Priest in Residence

### Pastoral Staff

Elvia Arana  
Coordinator of Pastoral  
Ministry

Denise Devine  
Marian Hall Rentals

Rich Garcia  
Administrative Assistant

Patty Kiernan  
Coordinator of  
Religious Education

Sotiris Kaklamanis  
Business Administrator

Debbie Laughlin  
Coordinator of Worship

Pete Lemme  
Marian Hall Maintenance

Erin Neitzelt  
Coordinator of Music

Maggie Remek  
Youth Coordinator

Daxton Wellman  
Maintenance



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