

# Saint Cecilia COMMUNITY

5632 Sunrise Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33919 phone 239 936 3635 fax 239 936 2108 website www.saintcecilias.org November 16, 2025

#### **CELEBRATING 60 YEARS!**

1965 -2025

Looking back with gratitude, ahead with hope,

Living Jesus now and forever.



#### Weekend Masses

Daily Masses (Winter Schedule began Nov 1)

November through Wednesday of Holy Week

Monday - Friday ........7:30 AM and 12:10 PM

Chapel open for Prayer when the Parish Office is open

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

Adoration Friday 8:00 AM - Benediction 11:50 AM

First Friday 8:00 AM—Benediction 8:50 PM

#### 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:** 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.

SATURDAY.

#### SUNDAY, **NOVEMBER 16** 8:30 10:30 am PH Sunday Social 9:00 - 11:00 am Family Faith Formation PH MONDAY, **NOVEMBER 17** TUESDAY, **NOVEMBER 18** 101 8:30 am Men's Gospel Forum 10:30am Walking with Purpose PH CH 12:45 pm Rosary WEDNESDAY, **NOVEMBER 19** СН 12:45 pm Rosary Walking with Purpose **NOVEMBER 20** 7:00 pm PH THURSDAY, 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 104 10:00 am Bible Study PH Rosary CH 12:45 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm CR 7:00 pm Bible Study PH **NOVEMBÉR 21** FRIDAY, **OFFICE CLOSED** Divine Mercy Cenacle 10:00 am 104 CH 12:45 pm Rosary 5:30 pm СН Rosary SATURDAY, **NOVEMBER 22** 7:00 pm Volunteer Dinner MH SUNDAY, **NOVEMBER 23** 9:00 - 11:00 am Family Faith Formation PH

**NOVEMBER 15** 



### INDENTIFYING FAITHFUL YOUNG MEN



Do you know a young man who exhibits qualities of faith leadership and a heart

for service? Help encourage him in his vocational discernment by scanning the sharing his name and contact information. Please include at least one form of contact so can reach out to him.

He will receive a letter of encouragement from the bishop, resources from the Vocations Office, and invitation to discernment events. Thank you for your help as we seek to connect with and support the faithful young men in the Diocese of Venice.

### BULLETIN INSERTS FOR THE

#### INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Introductory Rites help the assembly become a worshiping community. They also prepare us to hear God's word and celebrate the Eucharist.

There are several elements to the Introductory Rites of Mass. The cantor or another minister may introduce the liturgy. We sing the Entrance Song and make the Sign of the Cross. The presider greets us. The Penitential Act or the blessing and sprinkling with holy water follow. We sing the Glory to God. Finally, the presider offers the Collect. A lot happens in just a few minutes.

The cantor's introduction may tell us about the music, the special nature of the celebration or the ministers of the day. Some communities invite members to greet one another.

The Entrance Song sets the tone of the celebration. We may sing a seasonal hymn or one that refers to the Scriptures of the day.

We sign ourselves with the Cross, and the presider greets us with a phrase such as, "The Lord be with you." Christians can trace that gesture and those words to the earliest days of the Church.

The Penitential Act or the sprinkling of water symbolizes our desire to enter this celebration in purity of heart.

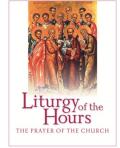
On most Sundays, we sing or recite the Glory to God in praise of the Trinity. This hymn comes immediately after the Penitential Act, causing us to shift moods rather quickly.

The Introductory Rites all lead to the Collect. When the presider says, "Let us pray," we pause in silence to pray. This prayer explains why we come for this Mass and gives God praise. It brings the Introductory Rites to a fitting close.

#### **Praying the Liturgy of the Hours**

The Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office or the Work of God (Opus Dei), is the daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer. The Hours are a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ, using scripture and prayer."

If you are interested in joining with other parishioners in praying Morning Prayer at 9 AM and/or Evening Prayer at 5 PM in the parish chapel Monday through Friday,





please contact Rich Garcia at 239 936 3635 x 110 by November 30<sup>th</sup> and also indicate if you are willing to lead the prayer.

Use the QR code to learn about the Liturgy of the Hours.





#### Our 2025 assessment is \$243,000

% of Goal

109.08%

% of Households

31.48%

**Total Payments** 

\$252,998.43



Thanks to your generosity we have made our goal for 2025



#### Announcing Our 2025—2026 Season

This season we are offering three events beginning December 4, 2025 with an inspiring, informative

> talk featuring Annie Karto, Catholic singer and songwriter.

Registration begins November 4, 2025 Our other two events

are scheduled for January 22 and February 19, 2026

Registration is \$28.00 per event

Join us for a three-course dinner with wine followed by a presentation and the opportunity for community and connectivity with other faith based-women.

For more information on speakers and to register online please visit our website: www.faithandwineleecounty.com





As we approach the end of the Church year, the Scripture readings begin to call our attention to the end-times. They remind us that Jesus came among us to inaugurate the kingdom of God. Through the sacrifice he offered on the cross, our sins have been forgiven and we have been reconciled with our Father. We have been given a share in Jesus' new life and that makes us children of the kingdom of God who are journeying home to our Father's house.

This Eucharist allows us to share in the one sacrifice of Jesus. to open ourselves once again to the grace of salvation, to reconcile ourselves more deeply with our Father and with one another, and to be nourished with the bread of life for our continuing journey home.

The word and sacrament we share here today can help us to keep our minds and hearts focused on Jesus and his words to us. That focus will enable us to avoid the agitation and anxiety many people around us experience as we hear talk of the end times. We hear many claims about special revelations concerning the end of the world. The apocalyptic message of the Scriptures has always raised these kinds of claims. They disturb many good people. Jesus tells us very clearly today: "By patient endurance you will save your lives."

How should we deal with these times? First, it's a time to be thankful. God's plan of salvation is moving closer to its completion, as it does each day. It's also a time for us to rededicate ourselves to living out our faith commitment more fully each day: praying for deeper faith in God's continuing love for us and reflecting that love in the way we live with each other.

There's really no reason for us to be afraid or become anxious about endings. We believe that the grace of salvation given to us in baptism, strengthened in us by confirmation, and nourished in us by Eucharist is leading us home to be with our Father. While death is an ending to our earthly existence, we already possess the gift of eternal life by God's grace. Our only real end is to be with our God forever.

So let us take heart and patiently resolve to live each day with faith. Let us love our God with our whole being and love one another as Jesus has loved us. Our patient endurance will lead us to salvation. In this way, our journey home will be a safe and sure one.



#### 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, Susan Benton, at (941) 416 - 6114.



Mether 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)

#### **Scripture Readings For the Week**

Monday 1 Mac 1:10-63 Ps 119:53-158 Luke 18:35-43 Tuesday 2 Mac 6:18-31 Ps 3:2-7 Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday 2 Mac 7:1, 20-31 Ps 17:1-15 Luke 19:11-28 1 Mac 2:15-29 Ps 50:1-15 Luke 19:41-44 Thursday

Friday 1 Mac 4:36-37, 52-59 1 Chr 29:10-12 Luke 19:45-48

Saturday 1 Mac 6:1-13 Ps 9:2-19 Luke 20:27-40

Sunday 2 Sam 5:1-3 Ps 122:1-5 Col 1:12-20 Luke 23:35-43



#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Society of St Vincent de Paul District of Fort Myers is looking for volunteers at its store located at 2023 Del Prado Blvd S in Cape Coral.

Proceeds from this store go to help our neighbors in need throughout Lee County.

Volunteers are needed to sort goods and clothing, price items, test lamps and small appliances and to cashier. Do you have experience with collectables and designer clothing? You can help us properly price these items

We are in particular need of volunteers who speak Spanish.

If interested, please contact Jenny Borst at storemanager@svdpfortmyers.org or leave a message at 239 573 0217

Whether it's a few hours a week, or more we can use your

#### **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 pub-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 **NOV 15** 

4:00 PM † William Little by Jeanne & Claire

Sunday **NOV 16** 

> 7:30 AM † Dick Sardinha by Susan Sardinha 9:00 AM

† Joseph & Emily Kovaz

by Blaise & Karen Kovaz

11:00 AM St Cecilia Parishioners

Monday, **NOV 17** 

> 7:30 AM † Virginia Diaz Rosado

by Rebecca Lopez

12:10 PM † Robert Sammarco

by Debbie Kelly

Tuesday, **NOV 18** 

> 7:30 AM † Irene McHale by Ginger McHale 12:10 PM † Lucy Doyle by Susan Sardinha

Wednesday, **NOV 19** 

7:30 AM † John Benedict by Pat Benedict 12:10 PM † Mike Hyatt by Bob & Peg Mengle

Thursday, **NOV 20** † David Fuciu by Joanne Fuciu 7:30 AM

12:10 PM † Patricia Ann Stock by Pat Creem

Friday, **NOV 21** 

> 7:30 AM Priest's Intention 12:10 PM † Arthur C Mager

> > by Barbara Pizzolato

**NOV 22** Saturday

4:00 PM † Joe Hanlon

by Dave & Jane Herrington

Sunday **NOV 23** 

> St Cecilia Parishioners 7:30 AM 9:00 AM † Frank & Peggy Smith

by Rosalie Decker

11:00 AM † Mary Bernadette Boonstra

by Mary Jo Hobbs

Scan QR code for Daily Readings from USCCB



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The Light that Symbolizes the Eternal Sacrifice



In Memory of

Robert Sammarco

by Deborah Kelly





# Chowlate ADVENI Calendars

# ARE HERE!

Purchase one or pick up your pre-order M - F, 8am - 4pm, in the Parish Office or Sundays after Mass in the Parish Hall.

Calendars are \$10.00 each Cash or checks accepted. To purchase and pay by credit card scan the QR code



#### 52 Stories Dave Herrington

In 2011, Our fellow parishioner, Dave Herrington, was asked to write a piece for DeSales World, a publication of the Oblates of St Francis de Sales. We have re-printed that article below.

In 2011 my wife Jane and I visited the De Sales Centre Oblate Community at Childs, Maryland to pay our respects to six of our beloved Oblate friends: Fathers Joe Beattie, John Beattie, John (Jack Doyle), Angelo Maraldo, Willard Rucinski and Richard (Rick) Wojnicki. We personally knew these men during their assignments in Ft. Myers, FL. We visited their graves, touring Annecy Hall and the total complex, stopping periodically to thank the caregivers for their love and support to those Oblates who spend their final years there.

When I joined the Catholic Church in 1993, I was an "old Christian and a new Catholic." Jane completed her RCIA process at St Cecilia Catholic Community staffed by the Oblates in Fort Myers and was welcomed into the church on the Solemnity of Christ the King in 1993.

Joining St Cecilia's was a very easy decision after our first visit. The Mass was awesome; we could feel the Holy Spirit in the assembly; the laity was involved in the Liturgy; the homily was thought provoking; the music was joyful; and the Eucharist was a beautiful, thankful celebration.

Shortly after we joined, we both were honored and grateful at the invitation to be Eucharistic Ministers. Later I was blessed to bring the Eucharist to parishioners who were in the hospital or homebound. The blessing of sharing Jesus through the Eucharist, prayers and conversation was indeed an indescribable gift from God.

All the Oblates, in their own way, have significantly helped me to strive to Live Jesus. We saw something in the Oblates and we wanted it; they introduced us to St. Francis de Sales and they have continued to be my mentors and companions since.

In 1999, when Fr Michael Murray asked me to assist in spreading Salesian Spirituality in Southwest Florida. I had the opportunity to get to know and love St. Francis through many resources including books written by him and about him. My most important resource was the friendships with the many Oblates who have ministered to parishes, a high school, college and university here in SW Florida. I am deeply indebted to them for sharing their talents and friendship. Fr. Stan Dombrowski, who was my pastor and friend for many years, was especially helpful and patient in getting me organized and was a continual resource and support for all the programs.

The Salesian Heart is defined as the deepest core of a person, one's heart-center, where intellect and will, reason and affections, "head and heart" are seen as one. Salesian Spirituality is first and foremost of the Heart. The Oblates of St Francis de Sales have stretched my heart.

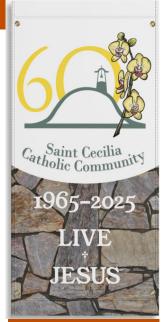
I close with an invitation. If you have an opportunity to come to Fort Myers, come join us at St Cecilia. You will be welcomed .



# ADVENT CANDLES, ADVENT WREATHS, OPLATKI CHRISTMAS WAFERS ARE FOR SALE

Advent Taper Candles, Box/4	\$ 10.00
Small Advent Wreath	10.00
Large Advent Wreath	15.00
Oplatki Christmas Wafers	5.00

You can purchase your items in the Parish Office. For more information please call Debbie at 239-936-3635 ext 129. This is a wonderful way to have a family activity as you prepare for the Birth of Jesus.



Staffed by the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales



Fr. Paul Dechant OSFS Pastor

Fr. Francis J. Hanlon, OSFS Parochial Vicar

> Fr. Mike Matusz Retired Priest

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Denise Devine

Marian Hall Rentals

Rich Garcia **Administrative Assistant** 

Patty Kiernan
Coordinator of
Religious Education

Sotiris Kaklamanis **Business Administrator** 

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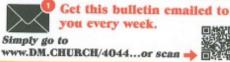
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Dr. Andrew Frey and his dental team provide affordable, comprehensive dental care exclusively to Uninsured Adults in the Fort Myers area.

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