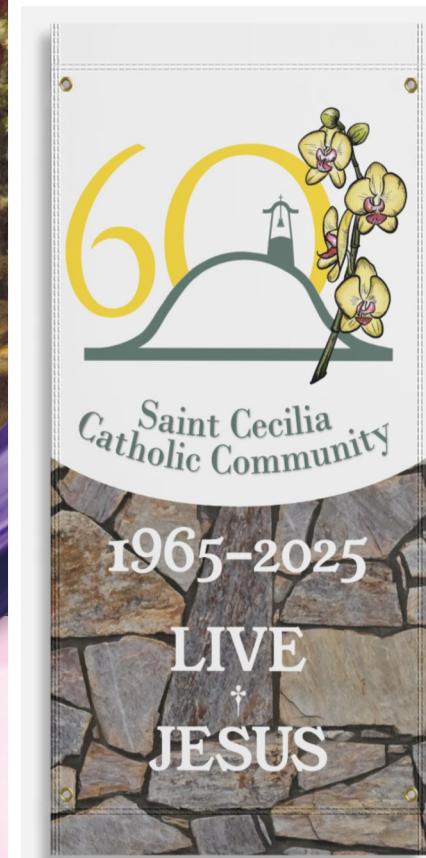




# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent



**Behold,**  
I am sending  
my messenger  
ahead of you;  
he will prepare  
your way  
before you.  
Matthew 11:10

*Saint Cecilia*  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

5632 Sunrise Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33919

phone 239 936 3635 fax 239 936 2108 website [www.saintcecilias.org](http://www.saintcecilias.org)

December 14, 2025

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS !

1965 -2025

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



### 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. Reconciliation is also  
available during Family Adoration, Thursday prior  
to First Friday from 7:00 to 8:00 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.

### 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**

<b>SATURDAY,</b> 8:30 - 11:00 am	<b>DECEMBER 13</b>	PH
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 12:45 pm	<b>DECEMBER 14</b>	
<b>MONDAY,</b> 12:45 pm	Advent Event	CH
<b>TUESDAY,</b> 8:30 am	Rosary	101
10:30am	Men's Gospel Forum	PH
12:45 pm	Walking with Purpose	CH
7:00 pm	Rosary	CH
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b> 12:45 pm	Advent Penance Service	CH
7:00 pm	<b>DECEMBER 17</b>	PH
<b>THURSDAY,</b> 10:00 am	Rosary	CH
12:45 pm	Walking with Purpose	PH
4:00 pm	<b>DECEMBER 18</b>	CH
6:30 pm	Prayer Shawl Group	CH
<b>FRIDAY,</b> 8:00 – 11:50am	Rosary	CR
10:00 am	Organ Practice	CH
5:30 pm	Choir Practice	CH
<b>SATURDAY,</b> 5:00 pm	<b>DECEMBER 19</b>	CH
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 - 10:30 am	Adoration	PH
8:00am - 1:00pm	Divine Mercy Cenacle	PH
	Rosary	CH
	<b>DECEMBER 20</b>	
	Caroling in Carillon Woods	
	<b>DECEMBER 21</b>	
	Sunday Social	PH
	Lee Health Bloodmobile	LOT



## ADVENT SCHEDULE 2025

**Tuesday, December 16 7:00 PM**

### Advent Penance Service

There will be five Priest's in the Church available for Reconciliation.

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Dec. 24 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm.

Thursday, Dec. 25 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

Friday, Dec. 26 9:00 am

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (Holy day of Obligation)

Wednesday, Dec 31 (VIGIL) 7:00 pm

Thursday, Jan 1 7:00 am and 12:10 pm.



Next week is our monthly

St Vincent de Paul Society collection.

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

## BULLETIN INSERTS FOR THE LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

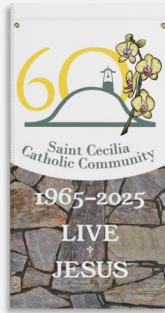
### I BELIEVE

Every Catholic shares a belief with every other Catholic. We believe in one God. We believe in three divine persons. We believe in forgiveness. We believe in eternal life. We each hold this belief. When we were baptized, we spoke it for the first time, or our parents and godparents spoke it for us. Now, every Sunday at Mass, we recite the Creed. We may disagree with other Catholics on less important matters, but the Creed holds us together on what counts the most.

The first word of the Creed in Latin is *Credo*, and it means, "I believe." When the Mass first went into English after the Second Vatican Council, the translation used the words "We believe." This helped our sense of participation at Mass. We come not just by ourselves but also as a community, expressing together our common faith. Other vernacular languages did not make the same choice, so it has been common to hear the equivalent of "I believe" in Catholic churches in other nations around the world.

In the most recent revision of *The Roman Missal*, the Vatican has asked that all vernacular languages express the Creed in the first person singular, "I believe." This is consistent with the tradition going back to the sixth century, when the Creed began to appear as a regular feature of Sunday Mass, first in Spain and then throughout the rest of the Catholic world. The community recited the Creed together, but almost always in the first person singular, "I believe."

St. Thomas Aquinas said, "The confession of faith is handed down in the Creed, as it were, as coming from the person of the whole Church, united by means of the Faith." When we say, "I believe," we speak not only for ourselves—we speak for the Church.



Our celebration of the 60th year of the founding of St Cecilia Catholic Community is winding down. We will be taking down the pole banners the last week of the year.

If you would like to have one, please notify the office. If we have more interest than we have banners, we will have a drawing for them.

**S**hare with the Lord's people who are in need.

(Romans 12:13)



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

<b>% of Goal</b>	<b>109.98%</b>
<b>% of Households</b>	<b>31.57%</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$259,437.49</b>

Thanks to your generosity we have made our goal for 2025

*Join Saint Cecilia's Children's Christmas Choir!*

**Rehearsals will be held on:**



Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>: Noon-1:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: Noon-1:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>: Noon-1:00 p.m.



The choir is open to all 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Rehearsals will be held in the church immediately following the 11:00 Mass.

Parents of 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders must be present with their children at rehearsals. Please make every effort to be on time and to attend all rehearsals.

We will be singing at the Christmas Eve Mass on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. \*

\*We will sing several preludes *before* the 4:00 p.m. Mass begins, and we will also sing *after* Communion.

The choir will be directed by Teresa Mitchell. Questions?... Please contact Erin Neitzelt, Music Director, at 239-936-3635 x128.



← Sign Up Here



**OBLATES OF  
ST FRANCIS DE SALES**



We have just heard Jesus tell John that he is the One whom God is sending to save his people. The evidence can be seen in the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the mute speak. The Israelites of old came back to Jerusalem singing after their exile; so too will those who are entering the kingdom now find joy and gladness when the kingdom is completed when Jesus comes again.

You and I have entered the kingdom through our baptism. We now share the expected joy of Jesus' coming again to complete the kingdom.

But that time has not come yet; the kingdom is not complete. We have work to do to prepare for that day. St. James reminds us that there will be hardships in our working for the kingdom. He encourages us to be patient, keep our hearts firm. We heard him offer the example of the farmer who is patient, knowing that he must wait for the early and late rains – working and waiting for the seed to sprout.

We need to stay focused on our mission as we work. James reminds us that waiting could lead us to become unfocused and start complaining and grumbling. He tells us that this is a sure sign that we are not preparing for his coming. We can let petty quarrels and little inconveniences sidetrack us from working together patiently. We can forget that we are to bring Jesus' compassionate mercy to one another as we strive to work together patiently to further the kingdom.

During these final days of Advent preparing, let us resolve to claim back our awareness of the presence of Jesus among us and continue to work patiently for his kingdom. Let us pray that Jesus may work through us during these days so that the blind may see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, and the mute speak. This can happen if you and I are open to letting Jesus work in us and through us. Jesus wants us to experience more deeply the joy and gladness he brings to all who work toward his coming again in glory.

**AND WE NEED  
MORE  
VOLUNTEERS**

*Sunday Social  
Children's Liturgy  
Home Visitation*

*Our list is endless...we just need you*



**WE**



**Our Volunteers**



**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)

Welcome our New Parishioners

#### Scripture Readings For the Week

<b>Monday</b>	Num 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-9 Matt 21:23-27
<b>Tuesday</b>	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-23 Matt 21:28-32
<b>Wednesday</b>	Gen 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-17 Matt 1:1-17
<b>Thursday</b>	Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-19 Matt 1:18-25
<b>Friday</b>	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-17 Luke 1:5-25
<b>Saturday</b>	Isaiah 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Luke 1:26-38
<b>Sunday</b>	Isaiah 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Rom 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-24



#### We need your help!



**St Cecilia needs volunteers to serve at our Sunday Masses, especially 7:30 am and 9:00 am.** If you can spare some time to help out, it would be greatly appreciated. Even just one weekend a month can make a big difference.

USHERS and ALTAR SERVERS are needed.

#### 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](#)



#### Mass Intentions for the Week

##### Saturday

4:00 PM

##### Sunday

7:30 AM

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

##### Monday

7:30 AM

12:10 PM

##### Tuesday

7:30 AM

12:10 PM

##### Wednesday

7:30 AM

12:10 PM

##### Thursday

7:30 AM

12:10 PM

##### Friday

7:30 AM

12:10 PM

##### Saturday

4:00 PM

##### Sunday

7:30 AM

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

##### DEC 13

† Jean Forester by Jeanne & Claire

##### DEC 14

St Cecilia's Parishioners

For all deceased members of St Cecilia and their families by Claire

† Lanny Zalud by Mary Zalud

##### DEC 15

Priest's Intention

Richard & Tomasina Healy  
by Tom & Jackie Gramitt

##### DEC 16

†Fr. Stan by Ron & Ann Ceuvrels

†Chris Hall by Kearney & Barb Hall

##### DEC 17

George Wellman

by Ginger McHale & Steve Satien

† Cameron Ruwe

by Eileen Ficarelli

##### DEC 18

Priest's Intention

† Lanny Zalud by Mary Zalud

##### DEC 19

† John Horvath

by Barbara M Pizzolato

† Mark Johnson & the  
Bishop Verot Class of 1981

##### DEC 20

† Ann Forester by Jeanne & Claire

##### DEC 21

Christmas Blessings for Fr Paul,

Fr Frank and Fr Mike by Claire

St Cecilia Parishioners

Chris Smolder by Mary Jo Hobbs

##### Scan QR code

for Daily Readings from USCCB



#### The Sanctuary Lamp

*The Light that Symbolizes  
the Eternal Sacrifice*



In Memory of

Chris Hall

By Kearney & Barbara Hall

Living Stewardship Through Prayer

FAITH FORMATION

ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

*Thank you*

**TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED GIFTS FROM THE GIVING TREES.  
YOU BRIGHTENED SOMEONE'S HOLIDAY AND YOUR GENEROSITY  
IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**





## The Knight's Corner

The Officers, Directors and Members of the Knights of Columbus, Council 13483, here at Saint Cecilia's, would like to wish everyone in our Saint Cecilia's Community a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year.

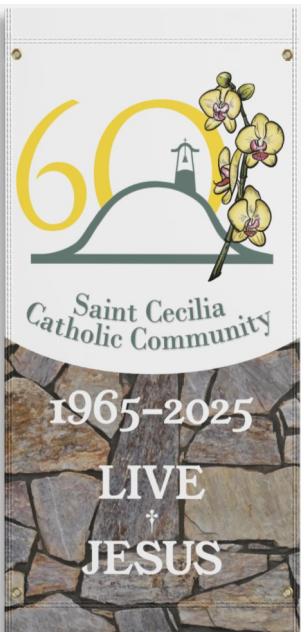
Our Council here at Saint Cecilia's meets on the second Tuesday of every month in the Parish Hall at 7:00 PM, so come join us. See what we are all about and what you have been missing as an adult Catholic Christian.

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



### The Lee Health Bloodmobile will be at St Cecilia. Sunday December 21, 2025 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Spend a few minutes of your time and save the life of another person. Your donation through the Lee Health Blood Center will stay in Lee County and benefit local residents and visitors in need.



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

**Pastoral Staff**

**Elvia Arana**  
Coordinator of Pastoral Ministry

**Denise Devine**  
Marian Hall Rentals

**Rich Garcia**  
Administrative Assistant

**Mark Goense**  
Marian Hall Maintenance

**Patty Kiernan**  
Coordinator of Religious Education

**Sotiris Kaklamanis**  
Business Administrator

**Juan Laboy**  
Administrative Assistant

**Debbie Laughlin**  
Coordinator of Worship

**Erin Neitzelt**  
Coordinator of Music

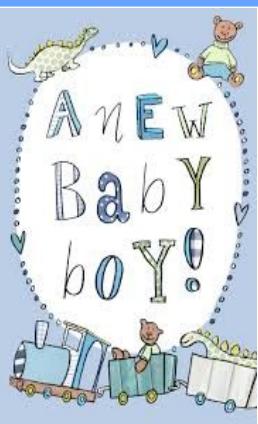
**Daxton Wellman**  
Maintenance

## 52 Stories Judith Zeterberg

Our family has been a member of Saint Cecilia's for 50 years. When we moved to Fort Myers there were very few Catholic churches. Saint Cecilia's was nearby and we wanted to be in a small parish. When we joined, Fr. John Neff was the pastor.

When he was reassigned, the Oblates of Saint Francis DeSales were sent to staff our parish and Bishop Verot High School. Father Bill Keech was our first beloved pastor. The only priests we were familiar with were diocesan priests. Having order priests was a new experience for us, and everyone in the parish embraced them. The feeling of community among the men was an example for us and they often showed their human side. We were pleased that they were pretty much on our level in many ways.

We had many different priests with many different personalities. They came and they went and we were all better because of their presence in our community. The real core of Saint Cecilia's though is the people. Our faith community is one of caring, and carrying on through change. I'm blessed and proud to tell people that I belong to St Cecilia's Faith Community.



**Joyfully, we announce that Maggie, Our Youth Ministry Coordinator, welcomed a baby boy, Roger, just after Thanksgiving!**

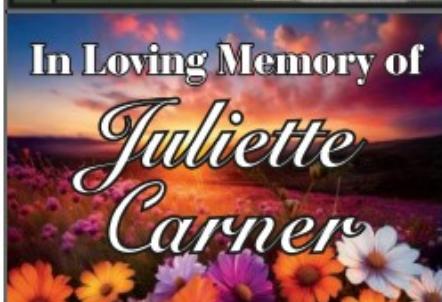
We share in her happiness and keep her family in our prayers.

At the same time, Maggie has decided not to return to her position at the parish. Therefore, we are now seeking a qualified successor to continue leading this important ministry. If you know of any individuals who may be a good fit, please encourage them to contact the parish office for more information.



*Help us ensure  
St. Cecilia will  
continue to serve.*

Donate Online at:  
[www.SaintCeciliast.org/Donate-Registration](http://www.SaintCeciliast.org/Donate-Registration)



**JOINT  
IMPLANT  
SURGEONS  
OF FLORIDA**  
"The Best Surgeons in the joint"  
**DAVID E. EICHEN, D.O.**  
Local Parishioner  
Regenerative Treatments, Robotic Surgery,  
Anterior Total hip Replacement  
Fellowship Trained Joint Replacement Orthopaedic Surgeon  
Specializing in Hips, Knees and Shoulders  
**(239) 337-2003, Ext. 9819**  
[www.jointimplant.com](http://www.jointimplant.com)  
7331 College Parkway, Suite 300, Fort Myers



1 Get this bulletin emailed to  
you every week.  
Simply go to  
[www.DM.CHURCH/4044...or scan](http://www.DM.CHURCH/4044...or scan)

DISCOVERMASS



Pre K-3 through Grade 8  
239.334.7707  
[www.StFrancisFortMyers.org](http://www.StFrancisFortMyers.org)

Compliments of:  
**The  
John Dickey  
Family**



IN LOVING  
MEMORY OF

Avery Murphy

**ADVERTISE  
HERE**

Promote your Business  
AND Support your Parish.

Give us a call! **800-292-9111**

**239-936-7275**  
  
**Home Made  
Sausage & Mozzarella**  
**Hot & Cold Catering**  
**USDA Choice Cuts**  
**Beef, Pork, Veal & Poultry**  
12326 Cleveland Ave.  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

**The App for  
Catholic Life Every Day**  
[www.myParishApp.com](http://www.myParishApp.com)  
Available on the  
App Store   
Android APP on  
Google play

**Green Schoenfeld & Kyle LLP**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Kevin A. Kyle**

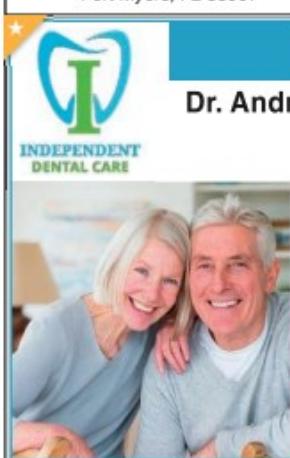


Florida Board Certified Wills, Trusts & Estates Attorney  
Florida Board Certified Tax Attorney

1380 Royal Palm Square Blvd. • Fort Myers, FL 33919

**239-936-7200** [kevinkyle@gskattorneys.com](mailto:kevinkyle@gskattorneys.com)

A graduate of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church School & Bishop Verot Catholic High School  
[www.gskattorneys.com](http://www.gskattorneys.com)



**No Dental Insurance?**

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

**Dr. Andrew Frey, D.D.S.**

License Number 22529

9131 College Parkway 150, Fort Myers, FL 33919

**(239) 437-8900**

**\$79**  
Adult Exams & X-Rays  
(D0150, D0210)

- New Patients Only -  
Excludes gum disease & patients with insurance.  
Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offers.

Complimentary  
Second  
Opinion

**\$59**  
Emergency Exam & X-Ray  
(D0140, D0220)

- New Patients Only -  
Excludes patients with insurance.  
Must present coupon. Not valid with any other offers.

Thank You For  
Voting For Us As  
Best Dental Clinic!



**Construction Law | Real Estate  
Business Law | Estate Planning**

**PAVESE  
LAW FIRM**  
est.1949

Fort Myers (239) 334-2195  
Cape Coral (239) 542-3148  
PaveseLaw.com

Mary Pavese Snell Frank Pavese Jr.

**COME  
JOIN US!**  
OPEN 7 DAYS  
A WEEK AT 4PM  
Happy Hour Daily  
CARRY-OUT  
AVAILABLE  
\*Reservations  
Recommended\*

**UNIVERSITY  
GRILL**  
7790 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33907  
239.437.4377 | theugrill.net

**Rana Holz**  
Board Certified in Marital  
& Family Law  
1375 Jackson St., Ste. 304  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
(239) 332-3400 • www.FLAFAMILYLAW.com

**Hessler  
FLOOR COVERING**  
www.hesslerfloors.com  
Lee 239.936.6900 | Collier 239.597.2195  
Charlotte 941.639.2610

f X \* I H P

**MARY V. PALUMBO**  
Your Friendly and Caring Attorney  
WILLS AND TRUSTS  
30+ Years Experience  
**239-768-6898**  
6150 Diamond Centre Ct.  
Suite 1102  
Fort Myers, FL 33912  
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

**Edison Auto Service**  
Full Service - Repair  
239-939-1447  
28 Mildred Dr.  
Across From Edison Mall  
Serving Lee & Collier since 1980

**Five Star  
REAL ESTATE AGENT  
2014-2026**  
Karen Terbenche, REALTOR®  
PA, ACCRS, CDPE | Parishioner  
Cell/Text 239.691.6169 | Office 239.542.1075  
kterbenche@teamaubuchon.com

**Ford Signature Dentistry**  
General. Aesthetic. Implant.  
(239) 936-5252  
www.SmilesByDocFord.com  
7630 Cambridge Manor Pl, Fort Myers, FL 33907

**We Cater and Deliver!**  
**Jason's  
DELI**  
599-9994  
Order Online:  
www.jasonsdeli.com  
13550 Reflection Parkway  
@ Cypress Lake

**catholicmatch®  
Florida**  
CatholicMatch.com/goFL

**CPA  
THOMAS POSTON**  
Business & Individual  
Income Tax  
239-689-3082  
TOMCPA1122@HOTMAIL.COM

**GIGLIOLI  
ROOFING**  
**239-201-7575**  
St. John XIII Parishioners  
OCBC531772 / CCC1333698  
A+ rating

**State Farm**  
**Larry D. Snider**  
Agent | Parishioner  
Get a discount up to 50%  
Call Me Today  
**239-561-8599**  
larry.snider.szy5@statefarm.com

12995 S. Cleveland Ave. • Suite 103B | Fort Myers, FL 33907  
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL

**Big Savings for Safe Drivers**

**DIFILIPPO & PICA  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW**  
Personal | Criminal | Civil  
Injury | Defense | Litigation  
239-420-5472 | www.DPLawFL.com  
Because Bad Things  
Happen to Good People Too

**6843 Porto Fino Circle  
Fort Myers, FL 33912**  


**THE WARNOCK LAW GROUP**  
(239) 437-1197  
www.WarnockLawGroup.com  
Wills • Trusts • Power of Attorney • Probate • Guardianship  
Special Needs • Pre/Post Nuptials • Corporate Formation  
**FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION**  
TASHA A. WARNOCK, ESQ., LL.M.  
in Estate Planning & Elder Law  
SCOTT A. CUMMINGS, ESQ.  
The friendly attorneys you can talk to...

**Consider  
Remembering  
Your Parish in  
Your Will**  
  
For further information,  
please call the parish office.

**Coralwood  
DERMATOLOGY**  
2125 S.E. 16th Pl. • Cape Coral, FL 33990  
**Dr. Janet F. Cheng**  
Medical/Surgical Dermatologist  
239.458.1131 • Fax: 239.458.7789

**Mitchell Dentistry**  
General Dentistry  
James A Mitchell, DDS  
Yolanda F Mitchell, DDS  
Joseph P Mitchell, DDS  
Parishioners  
**(239) 939-5556 | www.MitchellDentist.com**  
Cosmetic • Implant • Restorative • Family  
32 Barkley Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33907