



# SHE WILL BEAR A SON & YOU ARE TO NAME HIM JESUS

**MATTHEW 1:21**

# *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 21, 2025

Join with us in welcoming  
Audrey Marie and Avery Emma  
to our Faith Family.

Congratulations to Eric & Leslie  
on the Baptism of their  
daughters, December 7, 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. 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> 5:00 pm	<b>DECEMBER 20</b> Carol in Carillon Woods	PH
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 - 10:30 am	<b>DECEMBER 21</b> Sunday Social	LOT
8:00am - 1:00pm	Lee Health Bloodmobile	
<b>MONDAY,</b> 12:45 pm	<b>DECEMBER 22</b> Rosary	CH
<b>TUESDAY,</b> 8:30 am	<b>DECEMBER 23</b> Men's Gospel Forum	101
12:45 pm	Rosary	CH
7:00 pm	Cursillo	104
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>DECEMBER 24</b>	
12:45 pm	Rosary	CH
<b>THURSDAY,</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>DECEMBER 25</b>	
<b>FRIDAY,</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>DECEMBER 26</b>	
8:00 – 11:50am	Adoration	CH
5:30 pm	Rosary	CH
<b>SATURDAY,</b> <b>SUNDAY,</b>	<b>DECEMBER 27</b> <b>DECEMBER 28</b>	



## ADVENT SCHEDULE 2025

### 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.



Enjoy coffee, tea, doughnuts, bagels, fresh fruit, yogurts, eggs & muffins for a donation

Our volunteers will also have a free raffle to register for drawing at 10:30

We will be off until January 4, 2026

## BULLETIN INSERTS FOR THE LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

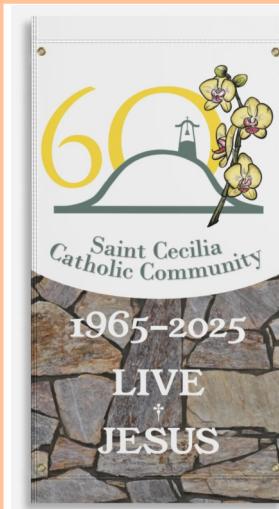
### PREFACE

The Preface is the part of the Eucharistic Prayer that comes between the opening dialogue and the Holy. The priest speaks or sings the text alone. It begins the great prayer of thanksgiving by mentioning some reasons why the community gives thanks on this particular day. It is called the "Preface" because of its introductory function.

From the earliest days of worship, all the Eucharistic Prayers enumerated reasons for giving thanks, but not all had a discernible separate Preface. The Preface evolved as an expansion of the praise given to God, tailored to a specific occasion, and concluding in a way that led to the Holy. From its beginnings, the Preface has been a soft place in the Mass where the words may change from day to day. For many centuries the Roman Catholic Church used only one Eucharistic Prayer; even though its basic content never changed, the Preface was flexible. The priest had dozens of options from which to choose. Today there are even more.

During Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, the Preface acknowledges the reasons why the community gives thanks and praise to God during that season of the year. Some special feast days have their own Preface. For example, the Prefaces for St. Joseph's Day and Transfiguration are used only on those occasions. On most saints' days, the priest uses a Preface appropriately associated with apostles, martyrs, pastors, religious, or others who led an exemplary life.

Whether the celebration is for Christian unity or the dedication of a new church, for a wedding, or a funeral, a special Preface names the reasons why, in the midst of triumph or tragedy, the Church still gives thanks to God today.



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)



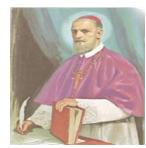
**Our 2025 assessment is \$243,000**

<b>% of Goal</b>	<b>110.44%</b>
<b>% of Households</b>	<b>31.67%</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$261,242.49</b>

Thanks to your generosity we have made our goal for 2025



**OBLATES OF  
ST FRANCIS DE SALES**



Today's Gospel reminds us that like St. Joseph, we must have confidence in God's plan for us. God has a plan for us that is greater than our own. St. Francis de Sales notes:

In today's Gospel, Joseph sees that Mary is with child. Knowing that it was not his child, he was ready to divorce her. But the angel revealed to Joseph that the Holy Child was to be Our Savior. With great peace and serenity of mind, Joseph accepted the unexpected event that befell him. Our confidence in God ought to be like St. Joseph's.

The foundation of our trust is not in our own self, but in God. While we may change, God remains always gentle and merciful when we are weak and imperfect, as well as when we are strong and perfect. When we have absolute trust in Our Lord, we are like an infant on the breast of its mother. The child just lets itself be carried and led wherever the mother wants to take it. Similarly, we ought to have such confidence in letting ourselves be carried when we love God's will in all that happens to us.

Holy confidence in the goodness of God is the life of the human spirit. As we grow in love with God, we may experience the contractions and pangs of spiritual childbirth. Yet, in the midst of our troubles, Our Savior will guide us on our way no matter how difficult it may be. Let us think of the words of our gentle Savior: "When a woman gives birth she is in great distress, but after the birth she forgets the suffering of the past because a child is born to her." Our souls ought to give birth to the dearest Child that one could wish for. It is Jesus whom we must form and bring to birth in ourselves. The Child is well worth whatever we endure. How happy we would be if we devoted all our efforts to accomplishing God's will for us. We would obtain from God's goodness all that we could possibly desire and need, a new invigorating life. A holy rebirth in Christ!



### 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](http://www.faithandwineleecounty.com)

### 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 : [jlaboy@saintcecilias.net](mailto:jlaboy@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 \(saintceciliast.org\)](http://saintceciliast.org)

Welcome our New Parishioners

#### Scripture Readings For the Week

<b>Monday</b>	1 Sam 1:24-28 1 Sam 2:1-8 Luke 1:46-56
<b>Tuesday</b>	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-14 Luke 1:57-66
<b>Wednesday</b>	Isaiah 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-29
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Matt 1:1-25
<b>Friday</b>	Isaiah 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-29
<b>Saturday</b>	Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Matt 1:1-25
<b>Sunday</b>	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Ps 31:3-17 Matt 10:17-22 1 John 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-12 John 20:1a and 2-8. Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21 Matt 2:13-15, 19-23



**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

#### 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,

4:00 PM

8:00 PM

##### Thursday,

9:00 AM

11:00 PM

##### Friday,

9:00 AM

##### Saturday

4:00 PM

##### Sunday

7:30 AM

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

##### 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

##### DEC 22

Priest's Intention

† Margaret Stringer

by Ginger McHale

##### DEC 23

† Chris Hall by Kearney & Barb Hall

† Jacks & Hanlon Family

by Rosemary Hanlon

##### DEC 24

St Cecilia Parishioners

St Cecilia Parishioners

##### DEC 25

St Cecilia Parishioners

St Cecilia Parishioners

##### DEC 26

† Paul Lambert

by Barbara Lambert

##### DEC 27

† Mario Patrizi

by Dave & Jane Herrington

##### DEC 28

† Chris Hall by Kearney & Barb Hall

† Marie Boutwell

by Frank and Julie Richards

† Paul Hobbs by Mary Jo Hobbs

**Scan QR code**

**for Daily Readings from USCCB**



**Living Stewardship Through Prayer**

#### The Sanctuary Lamp

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MATTHEW KELLY'S BOOK, *THE FORGOTTEN WAY*, AFTER  
ALL THE CHRISTMAS MASSES.

*Merry  
Christmas*

FROM  
SAINT CECILIA  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



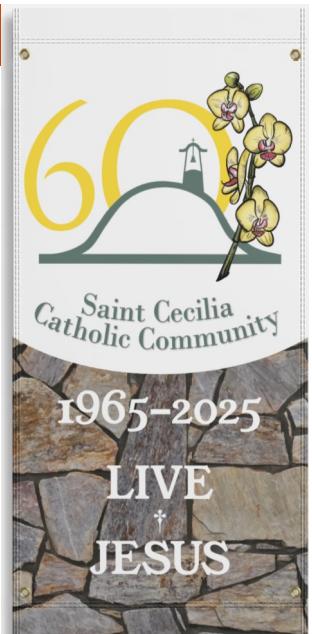


**The Knight's  
Corner**

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 Community a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Our Council here at Saint Cecilia's meets on the second Tuesday of every month in the Parish Hall at 7:00 PM. New members are always welcome so come see what you have been missing as an adult Catholic Christian.

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

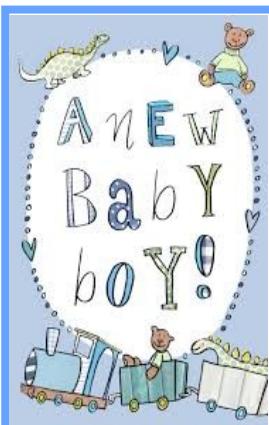


Staffed by the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales



**52 STORIES Bill & Sarah Vosney**

Bill, Heather and myself came to St Cecilia's Catholic Community in 1975. Here we became a part of the warmth that only a church shows when it truly "Lives Jesus". From the time the Cantor says to welcome one another to that final handshake with Father as we leave Mass a true feeling of warmth that no one can miss is visible. As we share the meal of the Eucharist, we as ministers see the light in your eyes and the smiles on your faces as you take the Body & Blood of Christ. Over our 50 years at St Cecilia, God has blessed us with great and caring Priests, from Father Neff to our beloved Priests Fr. Paul, Fr. Frank and Fr Stan. May we all exude the warmth of our community as a sign to others that we have spent time with our God's Goodness, Kindness & Love.



**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.

**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**

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A graduate of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church School & Bishop Verot Catholic High School  
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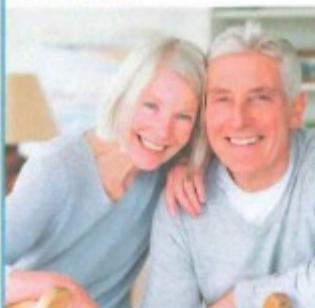


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