



**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
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).

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

SATURDAY, 5:00 pm	DECEMBER 20 Caroling in Carillon Woods	
SUNDAY, 8:30 - 10:30 am	DECEMBER 21 Sunday Social	PH
8:00am - 1:00pm	Lee Health Bloodmobile	LOT
MONDAY, 12:45 pm	DECEMBER 22 Rosary	CH
TUESDAY, 8:30 am	DECEMBER 23 Men's Gospel Forum	101
12:45 pm	Rosary	CH
7:00 pm	Cursillo	104
WEDNESDAY, OFFICE CLOSED	DECEMBER 24 Rosary	CH
12:45 pm		
THURSDAY, OFFICE CLOSED	DECEMBER 25	
FRIDAY, OFFICE CLOSED	DECEMBER 26	
8:00 - 11:50am	Adoration	CH
5:30 pm	Rosary	CH
SATURDAY, SUNDAY,	DECEMBER 27 DECEMBER 28	



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.



Welcome to
Sunday Social

December 21
8:30-10:30
Parish Hall

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

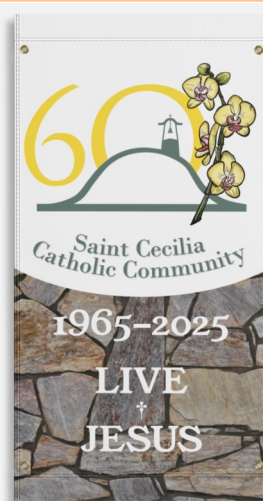
We will be off until January 4, 2026



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. Its 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.

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



Our 2025 assessment is \$243,000

% of Goal 110.44%

% of Households 31.67%

Total Payments \$261,242.49

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

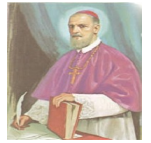
Our other two events are scheduled for

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



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!

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@saintceciliast.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 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://Registration form (saintcecilias.org))

Welcome our New Parishioners

Scripture Readings For the Week

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



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

DEC 20

† Ann Forester by Jeanne & Claire

Sunday

7:30 AM

DEC 21

Christmas Blessings for Fr Paul, Fr Frank and Fr Mike by Claire St Cecilia Parishioners

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

Chris Smolder by Mary Jo Hobbs

Monday,

7:30 AM

DEC 22

Priest's Intention

12:10 PM

†Margaret Stringer by Ginger McHale

Tuesday,

7:30 AM

DEC 23

†Chris Hall by Kearney & Barb Hall

12:10 PM

† Jacks & Hanlon Family by Rosemary Hanlon

Wednesday,

4:00 PM

DEC 24

St Cecilia Parishioners

8:00 PM

St Cecilia Parishioners

Thursday,

9:00 AM

DEC 25

St Cecilia Parishioners

11:00 PM

St Cecilia Parishioners

Friday,

9:00 AM

DEC 26

† Paul Lambert by Barbara Lambert

Saturday

4:00 PM

DEC 27

† Mario Patrizi by Dave & Jane Herrington

Sunday

7:30 AM

DEC 28

†Chris Hall by Kearney & Barb Hall

9:00 AM

† Marie Boutwell

by Frank and Julie Richards

11:00 AM

† Paul Hobbs by Mary Jo Hobbs

[Scan QR code](#)

for Daily Readings from USCCB



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Jerry Olin

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**WE WILL BE DISTRIBUTING COMPLIMENTARY COPIES OF
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 Cecílias, would like to wish everyone in our Saint Cecilia Community a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Our Council here at Saint Cecílias 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



52 STORIES Bill & Sarah Vosney

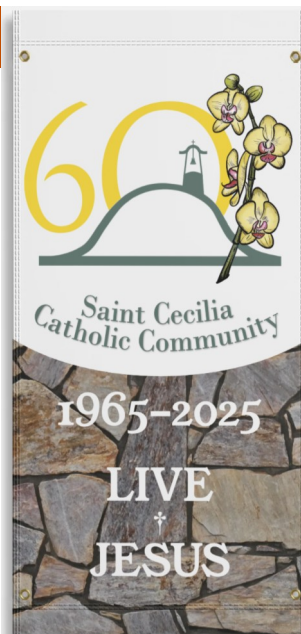
Bill, Heather and myself came to St Cecilia's Catholic Community in 1975. Here we became a part of the warmth that only a church shows when it truly "Lives Jesus". From the time the Cantor says to welcome one another to that final handshake with Father as we leave Mass a true feeling of warmth that no 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.



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

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Coordinator of Pastoral Ministry

Denise Devine
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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
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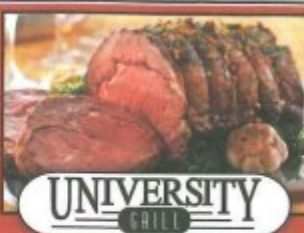
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