

**AS FOR ME AND
MY HOUSEHOLD**

we will serve the Lord



Saint Cecilia CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

December 28, 2025

CONGRATULATIONS
To Chris and Taylor
On the Baptism of their Son
Shea Anthony
December 13, 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.

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, January 2nd is 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,	DECEMBER 27	
SUNDAY,	DECEMBER 28	
MONDAY,	DECEMBER 29	
12:45 pm	Rosary	CH
TUESDAY,	DECEMBER 30	
8:30 am	Men's Gospel Forum	101
12:45 pm	Rosary	CH
WEDNESDAY,	DECEMBER 31- Office Closed	
THURSDAY,	JANUARY 1- Office Closed	
7:00—8:00pm	Family Adoration	CH
FRIDAY,	JANUARY 2- Office Closed	
8:00am- 8:50pm	First Friday Adoration	CH
5:30 pm	Rosary	CH
SATURDAY,	JANUARY 3	
SUNDAY,	JANUARY 4	
9:00- 11:00 am	Faith Formation	PH



BULLETIN INSERTS FOR THE
LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

Eucharistic Prayer I

The first Eucharistic Prayer is lengthy and ponderous. Its repetitive structure so differs from the other prayers that it can be hard to follow. Yet throughout our history as a Church, the Roman Rite has used no other Eucharistic Prayer more frequently. Inspired by St. Ambrose in the fourth century, it became the only Eucharistic Prayer permissible in the Roman liturgy until the Second Vatican Council. Having no Preface of its own, it accepted one chosen for the feast, season, or occasion. The rest of the prayer remained unchanged since about the seventh century and assumed the title "canon" because it was the only one. Now because we have so many Eucharistic Prayers, it is less accurate to call any of them a "canon."

December 31
Morning Mass will be at
9:00 AM



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

Mass Times

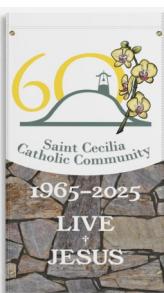
Wednesday, Dec 31 (VIGIL) 7:00 pm

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

The prayer balances across the account of the Last Supper. We pray for the living in the first half, for the dead in the second. We ask intercession from some saints in the first half and from others in the second. The prayer never included an explicit appeal to the Holy Spirit, which caused some controversy among the Eastern Churches noted for their devotion to the third person of the Trinity. Consequently, every single Eucharistic Prayer approved since Vatican II includes an explicit "epiclesis"—a request for the Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Although fixed in form, Prayer I offers internal options. The Prefaces change. The lists of the saints may be abbreviated. Many subsections conclude with an optional formula: "Through Christ our Lord. Amen." The first Eucharistic Prayer also permits a special acknowledgment of some feasts such as Christmas, Holy Thursday and Easter.

Before Vatican II, Pope John XXIII authorized one last change to the Roman Canon: he included St. Joseph among the list of saints. A few years after the council, the Memorial Acclamation was added as well. Eucharistic Prayer I is admittedly hard to follow, but its endurance gives testimony to the timelessness of the Catholic faith.



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.

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.org

NEXT WEEK IS OUR MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

Your donations are shared with Catholic Charities and are collected on the first Sunday of each month. Requested items are Peanut Butter (**especially Peanut Butter**) rice, beans, canned meats, vegetables and disposable adult briefs (L and XL) for our senior services.

**Please, NO GLASS CONTAINERS
or OPENED / EXPIRED ITEMS.**

Thank You !



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Share with the Lord's people who are in need.

(Romans 12:13)



Our 2025 assessment is \$243,000

% of Goal	112.5%
% of Households	31.76%
Total Payments	\$266,256.65

Thanks to your generosity we have made our goal for 2025

*Out of Egypt
I called my son.*



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 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. 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



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.



What was it like to live with Jesus as he "grew in size and strength, filled with wisdom and grace?" We don't know much about how the Holy Family lived, and yet the Church encourages us to live as they did. It would be easy to say, "I'm not able to be Jesus, or Mary, or Joseph." The truth is: we are able to be like Jesus. We are baptized and we share the life of Jesus by grace. If we remember each day who we are by our baptism and ask God for the grace we need for the day and accept it, then we can live like the Holy Family.

Today's scripture readings can help us to understand what that will mean. In today's second reading, St. Paul offers us a model for good family relationships.

Because God has chosen us and loved us, we are called to live in His love. God's love in us will take many forms in our living together:

- living what St. Francis de Sales calls the "little virtues" gives a flavor to how we live with one another; showing heartfelt mercy, kindness, humility and meekness never grows old-fashioned.
- at other times, when our own idiosyncrasies, or those of others, show themselves, patience can lead us to "bear with one another lovingly."
- even with the best of intentions, we can offend others or others can offend us. Remembering that the Lord has forgiven us often can help us to forgive one another from the heart.

Paul encourage us to wear love as an encompassing garment that perfects all the other virtues we try to practice. When we have learned to accept Jesus' gift of peace in our own hearts, then we will want to share that peace with each other in any way we can. Thankfulness will lead us to live peacefully. Everything we say and do can be marked by our thankfulness. In this way, Jesus comes alive in us and through us He can touch everyone we live with.

All of us have lived long enough to know the personal effort it takes each day to let Jesus live in us. That's why it's important for us to come and be fed often at Eucharist and rededicate ourselves to living Jesus each day.

May our celebration of the Holy Family today be a gentle reminder that we too grow each day. We can grow in wisdom, knowledge and grace, as Jesus did. May our conscious efforts to grow today fill us with wisdom and grace. May we bring the love and peace of Jesus to all we meet, especially at home.



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:

Gina M. Dillon

Scripture Readings For the Week

Monday 1 John 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-6 Luke 2:22-35

Tuesday 1 John 2:12-17 Ps 96: 7-10 Luke 2:36-40

Wednesday 1 John 2:18-21 Ps 96: 1-2,11-13 John 1:1-18

Thursday Num. 6:22-27 Ps 67: 2-3, 5-8 Gal 4: 4-7 Luke 2:16-21

Friday 1 John 2: 22-28 Ps 98:1-4 John 1:19-28

Saturday 1 John 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 3-6 John 1:29-34

Sunday Isaiah 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-13

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 Matt 2:1-12



These days everyone is thinking about resolutions for this New Year. Here is a paraphrase of the Prayer of St. Francis that in this parish family we might grow as the instruments of the Lord's presence as part of our New Year's resolutions.

"Lord, make our parish the instrument of your presence. Help us to depend not on collections and committees but on a lively faith. Keep us open to build bridges between

people, and not isolate into factions. Guide us to find words that encourage and affirm rather than criticize or belittle. Give us the sensitivity to listen to the needs and hurts of others and not to react with cynicism or selfishness. For we believe that it is ours to build community where there is isolation, To proclaim gospel wholeness where there is brokenness, And to replace the shallow promises made by our world with the promise and the presence of the Risen Lord."

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 27

† Mario Patrizi
by Dave & Jane Herrington

Sunday

7:30 AM

DEC 28

†Chris Hall by Kearney & Barb Hall
† Marie Boutwell
by Frank and Julie Richards
† Paul Hobbs by Mary Jo Hobbs

Monday,

7:30 AM

DEC 29

† Fr. Stan Dombrowski
by Sunday Social Friends
Dargan Family by Rita Dargan

Tuesday,

7:30 AM

DEC 30

† Fr. Stan Dombrowski
By Barb Radziewicz
Jason Fry (For Healing)
by Ginger McHale

Wednesday,

9:00 AM

DEC 31

† Mary Matusz
by Fr. Mike Matusz
† Rosemary Noel
by Toni & Lori Petrucci

Thursday,

7:00 AM

JAN 1

† Marilyn Bannon
by Susan Sardinha
St. Cecilia's Parishioners

Friday,

7:30 AM

JAN 2

Priest's Intentions
† Dorothy "Peg" Miles
by Lois Mader

Saturday

4:00 PM

JAN 3

† Marion Moore
by Dave & Jane Herrington

Sunday

7:30 AM

JAN 4

St. Cecilia's Parishioners
† Peter & Barbara D'Agostino
by Rosalie Decker
† Mike Garcia by Jeanne

[Scan QR code](#)
for Daily Readings from USCCB



The Sanctuary Lamp

The Light that Symbolizes the Eternal Sacrifice



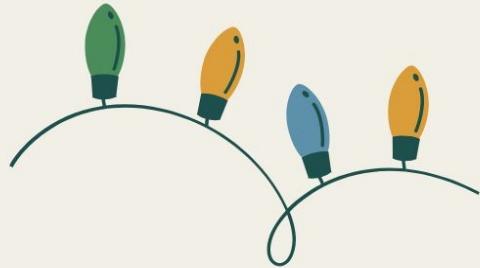
In Memory of

Pedro Morales Serrano

By Juan Luis Laboy

Living Stewardship Through Prayer

Faith Formation Christmas Break



Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation

Classes will be on Christmas break.

Classes will resume on January 11, 2026.



For inquiries please call the Parish office at
239-936-3635.



52 Stories

Fr. Paul Dechant

In the early 1980s the late Fr. John ("Jack") Doyle, OSFS, was here from SW Africa where he had served as a missionary and teacher for many years and was visiting his brother, a Franciscan priest, in the Tampa/St. Pete area. At a chance encounter with the bishop of St. Petersburg, when the bishop remarked he was looking for a religious order to staff a high school in the area, Fr. Jack replied: "Why don't you ask my community?" The bishop did and the Oblates said yes and so the Oblates were preparing to staff a school further north when the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY, let the bishop know they would have to be leaving their ministry at Bishop Verot High School here in Fort Myers. It seemed a good fit for the Oblates to staff both Bishop Verot High School and the adjacent parish of St. Cecilia and so in 1982 the Oblates arrived with Fr. Bill Keech becoming the first Oblate pastor at St. Cecilia.

In 2001 Fr. Tom Murphy was going to be reassigned and his parochial vicar, Fr. Stan Domrowski, was going to succeed him as pastor at St. Cecilia and I was asked to move from a parish in Vienna, VA, to come and be his parochial vicar. Since both Stan and Jack Doyle (who was a retired priest in residence at St. Cecilia at that point) were willing to welcome not only me but my black labrador, Shadow, I agreed. Shadow and I arrived one night in late June during a deluge from a tropical storm. Shadow had to make a big adjustment of not being able to leap into any nearby body of water (because of potential alligators) but learned to love swimming in the Gulf of Mexico. Four years later I was looking at going with Shadow to St. Charles Parish in Montecarlo, Monaco, as a parochial vicar and Fr. Frank Hanlon came down on a trial basis to see if he could adjust and survive the summer heat and humidity of Florida. Fr. Frank stayed and succeeded me as parochial vicar (20 year so far!) and Shadow and I left, not for Monaco, but for Greensboro, NC.

From NC I went to another parish in VA and then as pastor of a parish in Kernersville, NC, for ten years. Fr. Stan kept asking me when I was going to come back to St. Cecilia and succeed him as pastor of St. Cecilia. After 10 years as pastor in Kernersville I was granted a yearlong sabbatical and walked the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain and studied American Sign Language (ASL) and happily returned to the wonderful community here at St. Cecilia. The area certainly had grown and many of the children I had baptized were now in college but quite a few parishioners still remembered Shadow (Shadow died in 2011) and some of them me! :) Fr. Stan certainly was more active in his retirement than I hope to be, helping out here at St. Cecilia and also at Our Lady of Light in Estero, St. Ann in Naples, and St. William in Naples. His unexpected death in October has left a hole in our hearts.

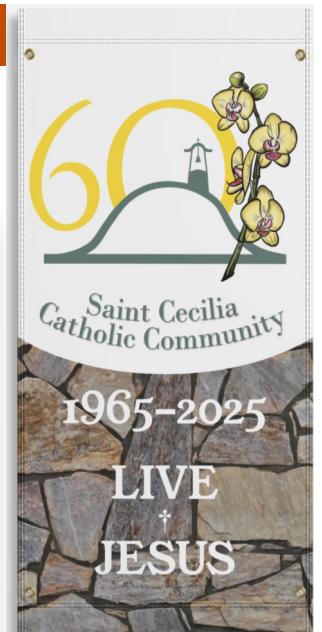
The Oblates who have served here at St. Cecilia always enjoyed being here, ministering to this vibrant community and I have been happy to have returned here and been your pastor these last five and a half years. As our 60th anniversary celebration winds down we give thanks for the blessings the parish has received and been. As we pray weekly in our parish prayer, "we ask God's continued grace and blessing as we try to 'Live Jesus' and to see more clearly His image in all people" and seek to reprint the Gospel by the way we live our lives as a Catholic Community. May God be blessed.



Thank you to the wonderful people who helped decorate our church for Christmas. Your dedication and hard work are much appreciated .

May the newborn Savior bless you and your families throughout the New Year.

Thank you!



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
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