

SAINT CECILIA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

5632 SUNRISE DRIVE FORT MYERS FL 33919

PHONE 239-936-3635 FAX 239-936-2108

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SAINTCECILIAS.ORG

MAY 17, 2026

ASCENSION OF THE LORD



UNTIL THE
end of the age.
MATTHEW 28:20

Mass Summer Schedule

Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 7:30 am

Tuesday & Thursday - 12:10 pm

Weekend: Saturday 4:00 pm Sunday: 7:30 am,
9:00 am & 11:30 am

Chapel open for Prayer (*when the Parish Office is open*)

Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Reconciliation - Saturday 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Thursday Family Adoration prior to First

Friday from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the Chapel - or
by appointment.

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.

Holy Day and Holiday Schedule:

Schedule will vary. Check the previous weekend's bulletin for information.

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 Adoration begins at 8:00 am with Benediction at 11:50 am. Family Adoration is the Thursday before First Friday Adoration at 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available during Family Adoration (Bulletin available at saintcecilias.org)

Follow Us on our Social Media Platforms



Saint Cecilia Catholic Community



[saintceciliasomething](https://www.instagram.com/saintceciliasomething)

WELCOME

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 allows for you to receive timely and essential communications through mail and our weekly Parish Email Update. Registrations also simplifies the process with regard to religious education; sponsoring a sacramental candidate; and for the planning and preparation of baptisms, weddings and funerals *and the reception of Sacraments for homebounds such as Eucharist and Anointing*. Seasonal Parishioners are also welcomed to Register and have dual membership.

Registration is easy and can be completed at the Parish Office during regular office hours or on our website: Registration form (saintcecilias.org)

THE SANCTUARY LAMP
In Honor of
Jose Manuel Cruz
 By Juan Luis Laboy



LET'S HAVE FUN AND EXERCISE!!!

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Tuesday, May 26th at 10am at the
 *****Marian Hall*****

Followed by a delicious snack

Please RSVP 239-936-3635

Bring your friends

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 16

4:00 pm † Harley Young
 by Mary Zalud

Sunday, May 17

7:30 AM Saint Cecilia's Parishioners
 9:00 AM † Fred Burchuck
 by Lisa Decker
 11:30 AM † Gloria Gearon
 by Joe & Marteen Longo

Monday, May 18

7:30 AM Fr. Mike Matusz
 by Claire Johnson

Tuesday, May 19

12:10 PM † Miyoko & Donald Burr
 by Maria & Jack Milazzo

Wednesday, May 20

7:30 AM † J.R.L Hambel
 by George Hambel

Thursday, May 21

12:10 pm † Fr. Stanley Dombrowski, OSFS
 by Joe & Teresa Mitchell & Family

Friday, May 22

7:30 am † Sr. Marcia Madigan, OSU &
 † Sr. Angela Nihil, OSU
 by Fr. Mike Matusz

Saturday, May 23

4:00 pm † Theresa Bolton
 by Buddy & Donna Strickland

Sunday, May 24

7:30 AM Saint Cecilia's Parishioners
 9:00 AM † Steve Charney
 by Valerie Charney
 11:30 AM Mary Jo Hobbs

Scan QR Code For Daily Readings from USCCB



TEACHINGS FROM THE MAGISTERIUM

"People sometimes say: "We are in a society that is all rotten, all dishonest." That is not true. There are still so many good people, so many honest people. Rather, what can be done to improve society? I would say: let each of us try to be good and to infect others with a goodness imbued with the meekness and love taught by Christ."

Pope John Paul I - Angelus - September 24, 1978





SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday Acts 19:1-8 Ps. 68:2-7 John 16:29-33
Tuesday Acts 20:17-27 Ps. 68:10,11,20,21 John 17:1-11
Wednesday Acts 20:28-38 Ps. 68:29,30,33-36 John 17:11-19
Thursday Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Ps. 16:1,2,5,7-11 John 17:20-26
Friday Acts 25:13-21 Ps. 103:1,2,11,12,19,20 John 21:15-19
Saturday Acts 28:16-20,30,31 Ps. 11:4,5,7 John 21:20-25
Sunday Acts 2:1-11 Ps. 104:1,24,29-31,34
 1 Cor. 12:3-7,12,13 John 20:19-23

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Saturday, May 16
 2:30-3:30 pm ReconciliationCH
Sunday, May 17
 10:00 - 11:15 am Faith FormationPH
 10:00 - 11:15 am Walking with PurposePH
Monday, May 18
 12:45 pm Rosary.....CH
Tuesday, May 19
 8:30 am Men's Gospel Forum101
 12:45 pm Rosary.....CH
 7:00 pm Men's Gospel ForumPH
Wednesday, May 20
 12:45 pm Rosary.....CH
Thursday, May 21
 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry.....PH
 12:45 pm Rosary.....CH
 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal104
Friday, May 22
 10:00 am Divine Mercy Cenacle104
 12:45 pm Rosary.....CH
 5:30 pm Rosary.....CH
Saturday, May 23
 2:30-3:30 pm ReconciliationCH
Sunday, May 24
 PH= Parish Hall CH= Chapel CR= Community Room MH=Marian Hall
 PK= Parking Lot LIB=Library *Numeric Locations indicate a Room in the Parish Hall



OUR STEWARDSHIP

Our 2026 Assessment is \$ 238,000.00
 Pledges \$141,834.00
 % of Goal 59.59 %
 % of Households 20.63 %
 Total Payments \$108,692.69

Thank You for your generosity!



A Prayer for Graduating Students

God, source of all life, you are our beginning and end. Bless our graduates as they celebrate the past and welcome the future. Guide them with hope as they embark upon paths known and unknown, comfortable and challenging.

May they stay true to your voice, which they find in their heart's desire. May they always walk in your presence, and may their knowledge and talents be a powerful means for good in the world. As they take their leave from this state in their lives, grant them the wisdom of your self-emptying love. Amen.

Entrust your works to the Lord
 and your plans will succeed.



Proverbs 16:3



Congratulations to the
 Family of
 Gabriella and Penelope
 who celebrated their Baptism.



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 by holding Control & clicking on the Link, or simply scan the QR code. Click here, to submit Prayer Intentions



[Click here to submit your Prayer Intention](#)

[Current Prayer Intentions](#)



**OBLATES OF
ST FRANCIS DE SALES**

Today we experience Jesus in His risen body ascending into the fullness of God's kingdom. St. Francis de Sales notes:

The mystery of the Ascension astounds us. If we understand the Ascension, the most abundant treasure of Jesus' gifts will be given to us. His body, no longer physical but spiritual, penetrates the heavens and is present in the Eucharist. He gives Himself to all those who wish to receive and embrace Him. In a hidden way, He is transforming all.

God's love is continually divinizing our humanity. Our life of divine love places an obligation on us to love our bodies properly. They constitute part of us as a human person, and will share in eternal happiness. We as Christians must love our bodies as living images of our incarnate Savior. We must also love this divine image in each other.

When we begin to live a life "hidden in God with Jesus Christ," we live out of our true interior self. We live a new life of divine love. Our selfish loves are in the service of divine love. How did we achieve this? Strong sunlight causes the light of the stars to disappear. Similarly, when we set up a stronger affection for imperishable, eternal things, we extinguish our inordinate love of ephemeral things. The stronger more powerful fire of God's love extinguishes our excessive love of lesser things.

Jesus' Resurrection-Ascension empowers us to live this new life of holy love that is contrary to all the opinions and rules of our materialistically oriented culture. Christ's love is the wellspring of our love. Nothing urges on a person's heart so much as love. Let us walk joyously among the difficulties of this passing life, since all is perfected and brought to perfection in the eternal beatitude of Heaven. Then Our Savior will glorify us with His splendor, for we loved all things, not for ourselves, but for the glory of God.

(Adapted from the writings of St. Francis de Sales)

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

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 finger printed (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.



3 WAYS TO FIND MEANING IN YOUR SUFFERING

BY: JEANNIE EWING

If you're Catholic, you've undoubtedly heard from someone, somewhere: "Offer it up." It's an unfortunate cliché nowadays, but it doesn't have to be.

Suffering has merit if we don't waste it. Our grief can become an immense gift not only to God but also to others. Through time, as we learn to manage our struggles with more patience and perseverance, we will learn that God has perhaps hidden something specific we can use from our experience with loss: mission.

Everyone wants a purpose in life, and we all were born with one. Yet unveiling it as we grow up and grow old doesn't always happen clearly or smoothly. Sometimes it doesn't happen at all.

Though God never intended for suffering, disease, sin, and death to enter into our lives, we must handle the consequences of Original Sin (thanks Adam and Eve) somehow. Jesus was the One to show us how.



Here are three ways you might come to grow as a result of whatever loss you are struggling to make sense of right now:

Discover your mission. There are enough suffering people in this world who need something that you have to offer. Maybe you understand firsthand the pain of loving someone with an addiction. You might become an addiction's counselor. Or maybe your grief relates to losing a spouse slowly to the formidable death of Alzheimer's. Your purpose might be to volunteer at a nursing home and talk with family members about what to expect or ask them questions about how they are handling the diagnosis.

Recognize that joy can exist with sorrow. In fact, you might experience both simultaneously. It's very strange to explain, but it happens. And if it has happened to you, then you know exactly what I mean. Don't settle for the falsehood that you have to pursue worldly, selfish "happiness" that only means doing what feels good in the moment. True joy is about sacrifice. It entails hard work, self-denial. It is a large part of your cross and could be particular to your grief journey. Be a witness to others who are in or near despair that a joy-filled life is possible!

Accompany others. Remember that healing does not occur in isolation. A beautiful and mysterious gift contained in your grief may be that you walk with someone who is in a very raw stage of emotional pain. Grief may be new to them right now. But you have been there for a while, and you know that the intensity of those emotions eventually dies down. Sit with them. Be with them. The gift of presence is the most powerful and transformative of anything else you could offer. In turn, you might discover greater healing for yourself, too.

In God there is no darkness. Let your life reflect His light, then. Place your lamp on a lamp stand instead of under a bushel basket. Don't hide in shame because of your loss. Be authentic and sincere to others, and they will see Jesus in you.

If you are suffering the loss of a loved one, we invite you to contact our Bereavement Ministry

*"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit".
Psalm 34:18*

**Contact: Elvia Arana
239-936-3635**

A simple line drawing of a man and a woman embracing. The man is on the right, wearing a suit and tie, and the woman is on the left, wearing a dress. They are both smiling and looking at each other.

FR. FRANK J. HANLON, OSFS
PRIESTLY ORDINATION
50th Anniversary

SUNDAY
31 MAY, 2026

A circular portrait of Fr. Frank J. Hanlon, OSFS. He is an older man with glasses, wearing a grey suit jacket over a black clerical shirt and a white collar. He is smiling slightly.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
FR. FRANK'S 50TH
PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY
A RECEPTION WILL BE HELD AFTER ALL
MASSES OF MAY 31 AT THE PARISH HALL.



ST. CECILIA

Catholic Community

5632 Sunrise Dr.
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Parochial Vicar
Fr. Frank Hanlon, OSFS

Retired Priest
Fr. Mike Matusz

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Erin Neitzelt

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Assistant
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Director of Religious
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Patty Kiernan

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Assistant
Francisca Pamplin

Liturgy Coordinator
Debbie Laughlin

Coordinator of Pastoral
Ministries
Elvia Arana

Marian Hall Rental
Denise Devine

Maintenace
Daxton Wellman

MH Maintenace
Mark Goense



Knights of Columbus

THE KNIGHT'S CORNER

PRAY FOR THE CANONIZATION OF OUR FOUNDER THE BLESSED FATHER MICHAEL McGIVNEY

"God, our father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son Jesus Christ more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body, which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (make your request here).

Through Christ our Lord, Amen."

Please report all favors received to: The Father McGivney Guild,

1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, Connecticut 06510-3326.

Our Council here at Saint Cecilia meets on the second Tuesday of the 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

gjhcpa@comcast.net



**Our Children's Liturgy Program
will be off for the summer
May 31st will be the last session**

**Starting on September 6th
we will be offering the program
at both 9:00 and 11:30 Mass for
children age 8 and under
who have not received their 1st Communion**





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