



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

5265 PLACIDA RD. GROVE CITY, FL 34224 | 941-697-4899 | OFFICE@SFOACHURCH.COM

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:23-24

Saint Francis of Assisi Church

5265 Placida Road
Grove City, FL 34224
941-697-4899

Fax 941-697-0602

www.sfoachurch.com

email: office@sfoachurch.com

Father Cory Mayer, Pastor
Father Tony Chermeil, Parochial Vicar
Father Edwin Mathias, Part Time
Deacon Robert Godlewsky

PARISH STAFF

Robert Clark, Business Manager
Aina Olonade, Director for Music and Cantors
James Brantner, Director for Religious Education
Gerry Chesney, Director, Parish Women's Guild
Matt Egan, Director, Parish Outreach
Martha Mingel, Coordinator, Homebound/Healthcare
Janette Ash, Administrative Assistant
Jeanette Lindish, Receptionist (Part-Time)
Jim Parent, Maintenance & Facilities
Chris Lewis, Bookkeeper
Beth Hammond, Head Sacristan
Penny Fleming, Ministry Scheduler/Communications

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

After Easter to December 30th ... 4:00 pm
January 6 to March 23rd ... 3:00 pm & 4:30 pm

SUNDAY

After Easter to December 31st - 8:00 am & 10:00 am
January 7 through Easter Sunday
7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am

WEEKDAYS

Monday - Friday 8:15 am
Holy Days 8:15 am & 6:00 pm

CHURCH OPEN HOURS

Monday - Friday 7am-4pm
Saturday 2pm - 5pm
Sunday 7am - 11am

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Winter - September 4 through June 2
Mon - Thurs 9:00 am-12:30 pm, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Summer - June 5 through September 1
Monday through Thursday 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday after Mass 9:00 am - 9:15 am
Saturdays: 2:00pm - 2:30pm

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Call Parish Office at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact Parish Office

Mass Intentions and Scripture Readings for the Week

MONDAY, MARCH 18

8:15am **DALESSIO FAMILY**

by Carol, Mike, and Anthony

*Reading: Deuteronomy 13:1-9, 15-17,
19-30, 33-62*

Gospel: John 8:1-11

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

8:15am **LAVECCHIA FAMILY** by Connie

*Saint Joseph, Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

Reading: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

Gospel: Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

8:15am **PETER AND JUNE**

SCHUMACHER

by Tom and Robin Schumacher

Reading: Deuteronomy 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

Gospel: John 8:31-42

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

8:15am **JACKIE AND EV WINDAHL**

by Tom and Robin Schumacher

Reading: Genesis 17:3-9

Gospel: John 8:51-59

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

8:15am **PACHECO AND SABINO FAMILY**

by Family

Reading: Jeremiah 20:10-13

Gospel: John 10:31-42

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

3:00pm **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**

4:30pm †**ROBERT KIEDROWSKI SR.**

by Robert Kiedrowski Jr.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

7:30am †**BONITA FOX**

by Lee and Ann Reser

9:00am †**MARY CABELA** by Kim and
The High Noon Group of Englewood

10:30am †**BARBARA LEE**

by Randy and Judy Wojcik

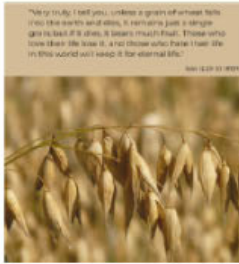
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Gospel: Mark 11:1-10

Reading 1: Isaiah 50:4-7

Reading 2: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 15:1-39



Gospel Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

“...a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies...” John 12:20-33

Have you ever heard someone ask, “Why do I have to go to church when I can pray at home?”

It is certainly true that we should be praying at home. However, prayer is not enough. God also commands us to worship. And worship is not something we can offer to God alone at home. To worship God, we need two things - a sacrifice and a community to offer it. By its nature, worship is the act of a community offering sacrifice. So, just as I cannot play baseball by myself at home, I cannot worship at home alone. To worship God as He desires, I must come to church.

Now, at Sunday Mass, it is clear that there is a community present. That community is you and I who have gathered here. The Risen Jesus is present in our midst in a real way because of His promise, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Mt 18:20 RSV). Because of that, Jesus is present here in a more intense, real, and personal way than I can ever experience it at home by myself.

We are all made in the image and likeness of God, and through our baptism, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. So, we reflect God’s glory to one another. To experience this presence of Jesus in my neighbor, I have to leave my house. And while I can certainly encounter Jesus in everyone I meet on the street, it is in this place that we meet Him in an intentional way because we are “gathered in His name.”

So, while it is important that we be praying at home, it is also crucial that we be worshiping in church. Otherwise, we will not have that encounter with the living, risen Christ that can transform us.

None of us were alive when Jesus died. However, every time we come to Mass, the saving offering that Jesus made of Himself becomes present to us again as if we were there. Every Sunday, at every Eucharist, we are given access to Calvary, where our Lord died for us.

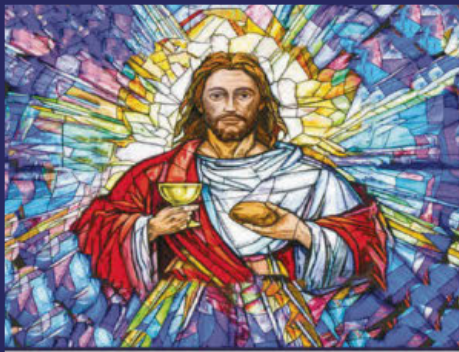
As a worshipping community, then, we unite the sacrifices we make in living our Christian life to the sacrifice of Jesus. The bread and wine that we offer represent the gift of our very selves that we offer to God through Jesus.

Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross was an act of perfect love and obedience to God the Father. Our sacrifices, however, are not perfect. Sometimes, what we do for others is half-hearted. We can be distracted when we pray and we can complain about how hard the good works we perform are or gripe that no one notices or appreciates what we do. To be honest, so much of what we try to do for God is full of selfish motivations. However, when we come to Mass and attach them to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, they are washed clean and become pleasing to God.

Coming to church and worshiping at Mass does something else for us that praying at home could never do. It teaches us to look at our lives through the lens of sacrifice. We are invited at every Mass to join our sacrifices to that of Jesus. To do that, we have to be making sacrifices. We have to be denying ourselves to serve others. We have to be giving of our times and talents for the benefit of God and His people. The Eucharist challenges us to imitate Jesus by dying to our sinful habits and selfishness so that we can live for Him and others.

Jesus says this quite clearly in today’s gospel: “Very truly, I tell you; unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” Our lives as Christians require that we pick up our cross daily and follow Jesus. By inviting us to unite those daily pains and difficulties to Jesus’ own suffering, we learn to view our whole lives as a sacrifice offered to God.

We certainly can and must pray at home. But to worship, we have to come to church, to join this community where the Risen Lord is present to offer His perfect sacrifice to the Father. Like the Greeks in today’s gospel, we have come here because we want to see Jesus. Look around. He is here in our midst. In a wonderful way, He will be present to us in bread and wine that will be transformed into His Body and Blood. By joining our sacrifices to His eternal sacrifice, that salvation becomes a reality in our lives. We could never get that by just staying at home.



Catholic Faith Appeal
2024

Catholic Faith Appeal Kick off at the Masses February 24 and 25, 2024 CFA Collection at the Masses March 2 and 3, 2024

"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest." (Gal 6:9)

A Message from Bishop Dewane



January 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

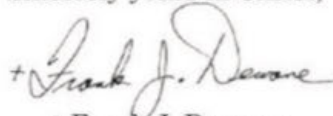
In Scripture it is written, "...faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (Jm 2:17), affirming that true faith is one of love and generosity. Living according to our faith means doing the good works the Lord calls forth from us - work that glorifies God, demonstrates love for our neighbor, and fulfills our call to serve.

Your contribution towards the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) is a witness of living the Gospel more intentionally by supporting works of Mercy and Charity. Among the programs sustained by the CFA are evangelization initiatives, education for both children and adults in Faith, formation of future priests, and aid for religious sisters who serve those most in need. The CFA also includes funding housing for the homeless, seniors, as well as mothers and their children.

Diocesan ministries and programs funded by the CFA are highlighted in this brochure. It is my hope that you will put your "faith in action" through a generous gift to this year's Catholic Faith Appeal. Your on-going support is needed and deeply appreciated.

May the Lord bless you abundantly for your desire to help those among us in need. I assure you of my continued prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida





Catholic Faith Appeal

2024

*"...faith of itself,
if it does not have works,
is dead." (Im 2:17)*



Diocese of Venice
1000 Pinebrook Road
Venice, FL 34285

What is the Catholic Faith Appeal and for what are its proceeds used?

Each year, the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) extends a heartfelt invitation for our Diocese to unite and extend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in need. It is one of the most effective ways to carry out the work of the Church, and it is a testament to our Catholic Faith in action. Contributions to the CFA play a crucial role in supporting a diverse array of programs and services, including Vocations and Seminarians, Religious Education, aid for financially challenged Parishes and Missions, Evangelization, Catholic Education, Catholic Charities, and more. On an annual basis, Parishes in the Diocese of Venice make a required contribution to financially support these efforts. The Catholic Faith Appeal empowers every parishioner to actively contribute to their Parish's financial commitment, with goals tailored to each Parish's income rather than the number of registered families. This approach accommodates the seasonal influx of northern visitors during the winter months, significantly enhancing the Appeal's success.

How does the CFA benefit my Parish and me?

The Catholic Faith Appeal helps to sustain many diverse programs in our Parishes. Some examples are preparing couples for marriage, providing the curriculum to educate both children and adults in our Faith, forming future priests, educating children in Catholic schools, and supporting religious sisters who serve in various roles. The CFA over the past three years has provided \$5 million to Parishes through donations raised above and beyond their goal. Parishes use the additional funds for a wide variety of purposes as agreed upon by Parish leadership and the Pastor. Some examples are capital improvements, building an endowment for maintenance, tuition assistance or emergency purposes, and expanding community outreach.

Why does Catholic Charities do additional fundraising?

Approximately 13% of the Diocesan budget is given to Catholic Charities to help support its very worthwhile presence in our Diocese. However, this amount is only a percentage of the money needed to carry out its work. In addition to what the Diocese is able to provide, further fundraising is required.

Why are the administrative services included?

The mission of the Church is to continue the work of Christ. To do so requires overseeing and supporting more than 1,000 employees in our schools, Parishes and agencies throughout the ten counties within the Diocese. These shared services help streamline operations and reduce the overall cost for everyone.

Why are there so many mailings?

More than 3.5 million dollars of the appeal comes to the Diocese through the mailings. Once you have responded to a CFA mailing or made a gift through your Parish, mailings to you will stop with the exception of a thank you letter and yearly tax receipt. Tax receipts are sent to anyone who gives a gift of \$250 or more, which is required by the IRS. It is always wise to keep receipts of your charitable giving for audit purposes.

How much should I give?

In prayerful thanks for the many blessings from God, we as Stewards should reflect an attitude of gratitude by sharing those blessings with our brothers and sisters in need through contributions to our Parish or the CFA. Although we are not all able to make an equal gift, all are invited by Our Lord to make an equal sacrifice. Therefore, your gift is a personal decision between you and God, and should be made after prayerful consideration.

Should I make a pledge or a one-time gift?

Making a pledge allows you to spread your gift throughout the year, which may make it easier for you to pay, and may also allow you to give a larger gift. Pledge statements are sent out monthly unless otherwise requested. These are simply reminders and not bills. You can pay your pledge anytime before the end of the year. If your situation changes, you may also adjust your pledge.

How can I make my gift?

We try to make your giving as easy as possible! You can make a gift through checks, credit cards, stocks, direct debit, IRA transfer, on-line giving at www.dioceseofvenice.org, as well as approved gifts of real estate. Give us a call and we will happily answer your questions (941-486-4719).

Will any funds from the CFA be used to settle lawsuits or for legal expenses?

No, the Catholic Faith Appeal funds are restricted for the funding of the ministries and programs outlined in promotional materials and are not used to settle claims or pay claim related expenses.

If I contribute to my Parish's capital campaign, does the Diocese get a portion of my gift?

Funds from approved Parish capital campaigns are not assessable. Therefore, the fully donated amount is available for use by the Parish for capital campaign purposes.

Thank you for your support!

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

PASTA DINNER

5265 Placida Rd. Grove City, FL 34224

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

4PM-6:30PM

IN THE PARISH CENTER

The price of our Parish Pasta Dinner will increase to \$14 per person at the door. We are offering a price cut to those who pre-register monthly. Those who pre-register will pay \$12 at the door. Register by Monday March 18.

To pre-register go to sfoachurch.com, click Parish Forms, click Pasta Dinner Reservation Form. Call with any questions: 941-697-4899

**INCLUDES PENNE PASTA,
MEATBALLS, SAUSAGE, BREAD, SALAD,
DESSERT AND BEVERAGE. KIDS EAT FREE!**

Carry out available! All are welcome!



**Popular musician and
longtime Assistant Manager
of Fletcher Music Centers,
Carey Price, will be playing
during the Pasta Dinner!**

Come and join us!

**Thank you Volunteers! To volunteer for the Pasta Dinner
call the Parish Office 941-697-4899.**



Saint Joseph's Feast Day
Mass in Italian and Saint Joseph's Table
with Father Mayer
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
8:15am Mass

While Saint Joseph and Father's Day are celebrated all over Italy, the celebration of Saint Joseph is more prominent in Southern Italy, particularly Sicily.

Considered by Sicilians as the Patron Saint of their region, Saint Joseph is credited to have saved Sicily's residents during one of their many devastating droughts. Tradition has it that residents prayed to Saint Joseph for rain. The rain came, and as such, their spring crops were spared from being destroyed, preventing a widespread famine for Sicily. It is widely believed that this is the reason the celebration is held in March.

We will start our Saint Joseph Day celebration on Tuesday, March 19 with Mass in Italian at 8:15am. We will also have a traditional Saint Joseph Table.

What is a Saint Joseph's Table

Generally, a statue of St. Joseph is placed at the head of the table and is surrounded by gifts of various foods, citrus fruits, and of course, breads. On the feast day, an open house is held, inviting friends and family to join in the celebration of eating the gifts left on the table. Fava beans, one of the spared crops, represent good luck and abundance, so be sure to add them to your table.

As with anything in Italy, the menu for a Saint Joseph celebration is rooted in tradition. Because the holiday falls during lent and this year on Friday, meat is not eaten on the feast day. Foods containing breadcrumbs, or the "poor man's parmigiano" are enjoyed. Joseph, as you might know, was a carpenter, so breadcrumbs are eaten to resemble the sawdust left behind after a day's work in the carpenter's shop. Lemons, like fava beans, are said to bring good luck.

While fava beans, lemons, breads and seafood are frequently eaten on the feast day of San Giuseppe, and are certainly delicious; we will begin our Saint Joseph's Table tradition this year by bringing BREAD.

Bring in your bread, clearly labeled, for Father Mayer to bless.

✦ pregnancy Solutions ✦

WALK FOR LIFE 2024

March 23, 2024

Venice

April 6, 2024

Port Charlotte & Arcadia

Register for the 2024 Walk for Life events – two dates and three locations! Check-in begins at 8:00 am, and the Walk will start at 9:00 am.

March 23, 2024

Maxine Barritt Park | Venice, FL

[1800 Harbor Drive S, Venice, FL 34285](#)

April 6, 2024

Bayshore Live Oak Park | Port Charlotte, FL

[23157 Bayshore Rd, Port Charlotte, FL 33980](#)

April 6, 2024

Morgan Park | Arcadia, FL

[1100 W Hickory St, Arcadia, FL 34266](#)

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
PARISH OUTREACH
FOOD PANTRY



*Saint Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church*

**LENTEN FOOD
DRIVE FOR THE
HUNGRY**

WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOOD DONATIONS
EACH WEEK THRU LENT
SEE WEEKLY LIST OF FOODS BELOW

*DROP OFF DONATIONS BEFORE OR
AFTER WEEKEND MASSES
OR AT THE PARISH OFFICE
FROM 9AM-2PM*

**WEEK 5 DROP-OFF
MARCH 16 THRU 22**

**FOOD LIST FOR WEEK 5: BARS OF SOAP, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT,
BABY WIPES, AND BABY DIAPERS**



Lenten Soup & Stations

MONDAYS DURING LENT
SOUP SUPPER - 4:00-5:15 PM
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 6:00-6:30 PM



Mark your calendars! Monday, February 19th we will begin our Lenten Soup & Stations. Followed by each Monday in February and March.

We will have soup, bread, finger desserts and fellowship from 4:00-5:15 pm in the Parish Center, followed by Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm in the Church. The Parish Women's Guild hosts the Lenten Soup Suppers with help from many of the Saint Francis Ministry groups. This year, we are asking all parishioners to participate in the Lenten Soup & Stations. You can decide what is best for you and your family. We have three ways for you to participate this year:

1. Volunteer to bring soup or a finger dessert on any Monday(s) during Lent. Call the Parish Office to sign up to bring soup or desserts. 941-697-4899
2. Come and participate. Bring your family, neighbors, and friends and enjoy a bowl of homemade soup and dessert. Support this event each Monday during Lent.
3. We invite you to Walk with Jesus after soup, join us in the Church for Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:00 pm with Deacon Bob. The Church encourages us to participate in the Stations of the Cross, especially during Lent. The Stations of the Cross, which exist in most Catholic churches today, began as a practice of pious pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary. Over time, a practice developed for pilgrims, who could not travel to the Holy Land, so they could do so in a devotional, spiritual way in their hearts. Since this practice is rooted in a pilgrimage, it is ideal for participants to move from station to station just like those leading it (or at least turn to face each station). This movement reminds us to ask God for the grace and courage to follow Christ in carrying our daily crosses so as to share in the light of the resurrection of the Lord.

Lenten Confessions

Friday, March 22

4pm - 6pm

In Church

Saturday, March 23

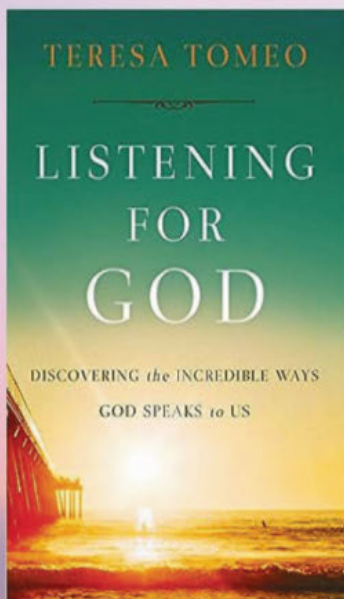
9am - Noon

In Church

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Book Club

Next Meeting: Friday, March 22

6:00pm-8:00pm In the Parish Conference Room



Continue reading chapters 16, 17, and 18
of *Listening for God* by Teresa Tomeo
Available on Amazon or any online bookseller.

All are welcome! Join us and discuss
select authors with your fellow Catholics.
Call Martha Mingel in the Parish office:
941-697-4899 with any questions.



*Saint Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church*

Parish Women's Guild Education Grant Program 2024-2025

About Our Grant

Our Parish Women's Guild offers Education Grants for the 2024-25 academic year for graduating students from Saint Francis of Assisi Parish students. To apply for the Grant, go to our Church Website, Parish Women's Guild webpage. **Please note that the deadline for applications is April 30, 2024.**



Holy Week and Easter *Mass Schedule*

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24

03:00 PM | 4:30 PM | 7:30 AM | 9:00 AM | 10:30 AM

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

06:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

03:00 PM

EASTER VIGIL MASS, MARCH 30

08:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

07:30 AM | 9:00 AM | 10:30 AM

Saint Francis of Assisi Church
5265 Placida Road
Grove City, Florida

Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
Mon March 18	7:50am	9:00am	Rosary/Mass/Anointing/Chaplet - Church
	9:00am	10:00am	Parish Stewardship Ministry - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	9:15am	11:15am	Rosary Making Ministry - Parish Center Room 6
	11:45am	12:30pm	Lectio Divina - Gospel Prayer - Church
	4:00pm	5:15pm	Lenten Soup Supper - Parish Center
	6:00pm	6:30pm	Stations of the Cross - Church
	6:00pm	8:00pm	Knights of Columbus Assembly 2782 Business Meeting - Parish Center
Tues March 19	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	8:15am	8:45am	Saint Joseph's Table Mass - Blessing of the Bread - Church
	8:45am	9:45am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration - Church
	9:50am	10:00am	Benediction - Church
	10:00am	11:00am	Bereavement Ministry - Parish Conference Room
	10:00am	11:00am	Outreach Food Pantry Admin and Coordinators Meeting - Room 1
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Bible Study - Parish Conference Room
	5:30pm	6:45pm	Religious Education K thru 8th Grade - Parish Center
	6:00pm	7:00pm	Choir Practice for Sopranos and Altos - Church
Wed March 20	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	6:00pm	8:00pm	Choir Practice - Church
	7:00pm	8:00pm	AA - Parish Hall
Thurs March 21	7:00am	8:00am	TMIY - Parish Center
	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:00am	9:15am	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Hooks and Needles - Parish Conference Rooms
	4:00pm	6:30pm	Pasta Dinner with Music by Carey Price - Parish Center
	5:30pm	6:45pm	RCIA - Parish Center Room 1
Fri March 22	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	9:15am	10:30am	RCIA - Parish Center Room 1
	6:00pm	8:00pm	Book Club - Parish Conference Room
	6:30pm	7:30pm	Choir Practice for Tenors and Basses - Church
Sat March 23			Recalling our FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
	2:00pm	2:30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	3:00pm	4:00pm	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	4:30pm	5:30pm	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
Sun March 24	7:30am	8:30am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	9:00am	10:00am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	10:30am	11:30am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church

Parish Bereavement Ministry

Grief is the process by which healing takes place, but it can be hard work! Our Catholic faith can be a tremendous source of strength in helping us.

Our Parish Bereavement Ministry meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Parish Conference Room. Join us at our next meeting March 19 at 10am in the Parish Conference Room.

Call the Parish Office with any questions:
941-697-4899 and Press 0



Join the Knights of Columbus Council 7672 at kofc.org/join and use code:

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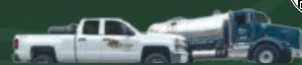
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