



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. - Jn 2:13b-15a

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 4

8:15am †**DELIZIA CUCCIA DONAHUE**
by Phil and Kathy Gangemi
Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-15ab
Gospel: Luke 4:24-30

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

8:15am †**DAVID DEMPSEY**
by John and Jeanette Dempsey
Reading: Deuteronomy 3:25, 34-43
Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

8:15am †**JOHN DILLON**
Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

8:15am **POK AND MAX FORTUNA**
by Ann Berthold
Reading: Jeremiah 7:23-28
Gospel: Luke 11:14-23

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

8:15am **GRANIA WHELAN**
EDWARD WELD
MADELINE IVEY
Reading: Hosea 14:2-10
Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)
3:00pm †**TIMOTHY COSTELLO**
by Barbara Presner-McKane
4:30pm **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

7:30am †**JOHN DILLON**
9:00am †**DAVID BROOKS**
by Vern and Carol Spiker
10:30am †**DAVID BROOKS**
by Helen and Jerry Anderson
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Reading 1: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Reading 2: Ephesians 2:4-10
Gospel: John 3:14-21



The Cleansing of the Temple

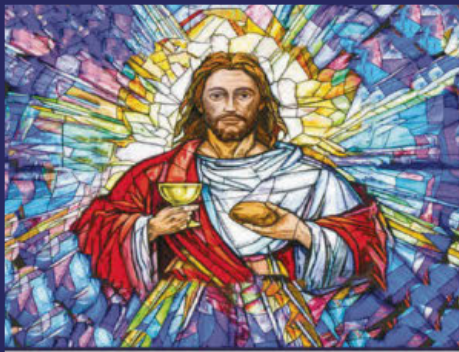
**Third Sunday of Lent
Jesus Clears the Temple Courts
John 2:13-25**

“The Jews asked for signs, and the Greeks looked for wisdom.” Paul replied that Jesus is the Power of God and the Wisdom of God, so both will find what they seek. However, the expectations of power and wisdom will be overturned because God's power and wisdom will manifest in weakness and folly. With these words from the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminds us of some lessons we need to learn to understand the discipleship of Christ crucified.

Paul seems to say that our preconceived ideas about God must be re-examined. Lent is a good

time for some spiritual evaluation and revision. The Gospel of today and the first reading concern our right relationship to God. This Gospel story is about a protest. Jesus responds to the scene before him in an instinctive manner. He sees he acts. When a situation is judged to be out of kilter, we are driven to act immediately. Sometimes, we pause too long, the moment passes, or we lose our nerve. The action shows Jesus, in the heat of anger, rushing forward, grabbing some of the flax from the floor and using it as a kind of whip or broom to sweep all before him. The shock would have made the event seem larger than life for the disciples and traders. What triggered such an explosion from Jesus? The sights, sounds, and smells of the scene before him. Jesus had come to the temple to pray and could be forgiven for thinking he'd come to the wrong place. He was in a bustling market. The building, not only erected to the glory of God but also the home of God's real and abiding presence, was being debased. Animals to be sold for sacrifice were present, giving the temple keepers an economic advantage. The rules also required that money used in the temple could not carry a pagan ruler's head and inscription. This was exploited as another money-making venture. What an introduction to the house of God! All this crass materialism offended Jesus, and he acted. In such a concrete response, Jesus resembled the great prophets who often made a theological point in a very visible action. This was not lost on the participants and observers. Jesus' challenge is picked up by a counter-challenge to his right to act in such a prophetic role. “Give us a sign to show you have authority to act as a prophet.” Jesus could have answered by quoting the Commandments or citing any of the regulations concerning the holiness of the temple, but his questioners prevented that by their demand. Jesus offers a sign. “Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up.” This is a typical Semitic riddle answer. At one level, Jesus is offering them a simple way to test him. Let them destroy the temple, and he will rebuild it. Of course, they couldn't take up the challenge, so they replied by arguing logistics. “It's taken forty-six years so far.” The evangelist writing after the death and resurrection of Jesus gives a theological overlay. He says that Jesus was referring to himself and his death. Such a dramatic challenge would have been remembered, so it was easy for the disciples to make such a connection. The shift in Christian tradition away from the temple as a religious focus, forced by the deterioration in relationships between the Jewish and early Christian communities, may have led the communities to reflect on another aspect of God's presence. Later in the Gospel, John will have Jesus describing the presence of God as the indwelling. The house of God is the heart of the disciple. As with the temple, it was a visible sign of God's presence, so we are challenged to retain the glory of God visible in our daily lives as our primary focus.

Patricia Stevenson, Religious of Saint Joseph. Penny Fleming, SFOA Communications Coordinator



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

+ 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." (James 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
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.**



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.

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 3 DROP-OFF
MARCH 2 THRU 8**

**FOOD LIST FOR WEEK 3: PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, MAC 'N CHEESE,
AND CEREAL**



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.

**SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
PARISH WOMEN'S GUILD**

March Card Party

5265 Placida Rd.

Grove City, FL 34224

March 6, 2024 11:00am - 2:30pm

Reserve your table by February 5th

Reserve your tables at sfoachurch.com

Click Parish Forms, scroll down and click

Parish Women's Guild Card Party Registration

or by calling 941-697-4899 and Press 6 to leave

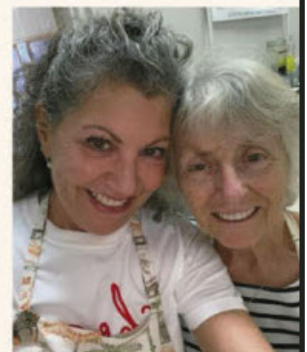
a message with your name, phone number,

and number of people at your table.

**Due to rising everyday costs,
we have had to raise our ticket price.**

**\$12 per person includes lunch,
card play, and door prizes.**

All are welcome!





Parish Lenten Retreat

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center

Time: 9am - 3:15pm Cost: \$45 per person

The day consists of a hot breakfast, first conference, prayer time, confession, lunch, second conference, adoration and Mass.

Register at sfoachurch.com click *Parish Forms* scroll down and click *Lenten Retreat Registration Form* or fill out the attached form and drop in offering basket with cash or a check made payable to Saint Francis of Assisi Church. Car pooling available. Cars will leave the church parking lot at 8:00am Thursday morning.

Retreat Registration

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Car Pooling? Yes No If yes, Will you drive? Yes No

Cash or Check #: _____

Total amount paid: _____

First Holy Communion Prayer Partners

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion is very important in our parish family. Congratulations to our First Holy Communion Children who will receive our Lord for the first of many more Holy Communions on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 10am Mass! Our parish celebrates with you and your families your love of Jesus and our Catholic Faith. May our all-loving God bless you always.

We encourage our parishioners to be prayer partners for the First Communion children and their families. Our ushers, on the weekend of March 9&10 at Mass, will give out a prayer card with a child's picture on it to anyone who wants to be a prayer partner. Post a picture of a child on your refrigerator or a place where you will see it, as a reminder to pray daily. It has been good for our parishioners to feel more connected to those children and families who will be receiving our Lord in First Holy Communion. The prayer partners are invited to see the children receive Holy Communion & pray for them & their families. Thank you for your willingness to participate as prayer partners. It is always inspirational to see your commitment to our Parish family. Jim Brantner, DRE

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINES OF FRANCE

12 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 8 - 19, 2024

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For More Information, Please Contact:

Amy Rea

Tel: (941) 625-4754 (office)

Email: amy@stcbc.org

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!



Lenten Confessions

Friday, March 22

4pm - 6pm

In Church

Saturday, March 23

9am - Noon

In Church

Brown Scapular Enrollment

Friday, March 15 after Daily Mass

Queen of the Holy Rosary Secular Discalced Carmelite community, which meets at Sacred Heart Church in Punta Gorda, is inviting people to join us at Saint Francis of Assisi Church on Friday, March 15th after the 8:15 AM Mass. The enrollment will start at 9:00, if you will not be able to be there for Mass. We will have a brief presentation about our Carmelite community and spirituality before the enrollment.

We are a community of contemplative lay men and women who form an integral part of the Carmelite family and try to live out the Carmelite way of life in the ordinary circumstances of our life.

If you have any questions please contact,
Mike Donovan retiredvenice@yahoo.com

Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
Mon March 4			President's Day - Parish Office Closed
	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 Officer's Meeting - Parish Center
	6:30pm	7:30pm	Choir Practice for Sopranos - Church
Tues March 5	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - 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
	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 Altos - Church
Wed March 6	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	11:00am	2:30pm	Parish Women's Guild Card Party - Parish Center
	6:00pm	8:00pm	Choir Practice - Church
	7:00pm	8:00pm	AA - Parish Hall
Thurs March 7	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
	5:30pm	6:45pm	RCIA - Parish Center Room 1
	6:00pm	7:00pm	Choir Practice for Bass - Church
Fri March 8	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
	6:30pm	7:30pm	Choir Practice for Tenors - Church
Sat March 9			Recalling and Renewing our CONFIRMATION
	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 10	7:30am	8:30am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	8:30am	11:30am	Pancake Breakfast - Parish Center
	9:00am	10:00am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	10:30am	11:30am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church

Knights of Columbus Council 7672



Pancake Breakfast

Sunday

March 10, 2024

8:30am - Noon

in the Parish Center

All are Welcome!

\$10 includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee. Kids eat free!



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

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