

# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

THE STONE  
REMOVED FROM  
**THE TOMB.**

JOHN 20:1

**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, APRIL 1**

8:15am †GERI WHITELEY  
by Helen and Jerry Anderson  
*Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33*  
*Gospel: Matthew 28:8-15*

**TUESDAY, APRIL 2**

8:15am †ROLLIE JOHNSON  
by Beth Hammond  
*Reading: Acts 2:36-41*  
*Gospel: John 20:11-18*

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**

8:15am †DAVID PRESCOTT BROOKS  
by Wednesday Parish  
Outreach Volunteers  
*Reading: Acts 3:1-10*  
*Gospel: Luke 24:13-35*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4**

8:15am JOHNNY BENSON  
*Reading: Acts 3:11-26*  
*Gospel: Luke 24:35-48*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5**

8:15am †EDWARD ROUSSEL III  
by Larry and Karen Mangold  
*Reading: Acts 4:1-12*  
*Gospel: John 21:1-14*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6**

**SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)**  
4:00pm **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

8:00am †JOHN DILLON  
10:00am †ANTONIO AND  
DELFINA SOITO  
by Son  
*Divine Mercy Sunday*  
*Reading 1: Acts 4:32-35*  
*Reading 2: 1 John 5:1-6*  
*Gospel: John 20:19-31*



## *Saint Francis of Assisi*

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*Catholic Church*

March 31, 2024

Dear Parishioners,

With great joy in my heart, I announce to you: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" This ancient greeting sums up what we celebrate this Easter Sunday: the joy of Christ risen and alive in our midst.

"This is the day the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad". This, then, is the joyful Good News: Christ has conquered sin by his death and resurrection so we may live. The Resurrection is the foundation and cornerstone of our faith. As St. Paul says, if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is useless, and our faith too is in vain. On Easter Vigil we recall God's story – in our story of salvation. The liturgy of the Word re-enacts that story, and we joyfully celebrate the risen Lord in our midst as He offers Himself anew in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We do this in a spirit of thanksgiving to God who gives His own Son to die in order to rescue us from the slavery of sin.

May we live as people deeply touched by the resurrection and proclaim: Christ is risen, Alleluia! May our encounter with the risen Lord on our journey of faith touch us deeply and transform us as He did for His Disciples. May the resurrection lead us to be the best version of ourselves, committed to living out our baptismal covenant.

When we live the new life of the resurrection, we become the best version of ourselves. We become what St Augustine referred to as an "Easter People", a people transformed into disciples and stewards who commit to giving their time, talent, and treasure in witness.

My prayer for you this Easter is that you live as people deeply touched by the resurrection and proclaim:

Christ is risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Sincerely yours in the Lord,  
Rev. Cory A. Mayer  
Pastor

5265 Placida Road, Grove City, Florida 34224  
Phone (941)-697-4899 Fax (941)-697-0602 Website: [www.sfoachurch.com](http://www.sfoachurch.com)

# **Mass Schedule After Easter**

**Sunday Vigil (Saturday)**

**4:00 pm**

**Sunday Masses**

**8:00 am and 10:00 am**

**Weekday Daily Masses**

**Monday through Friday 8:15 am**

**Church "Open" Hours**

**Monday - Friday, 7 am-4 pm**

**Saturday, 2 pm-5 pm**

**Sunday, 7 am-11 am**

## Gospel Reflection for Easter Sunday



Before Jesus, we could have expected a life after death, but it would have been a sad, dark existence far removed from the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father. However, now that Jesus has died for us and risen in glory, the gates of Paradise that had been closed to us because of Adam and Eve's sin have been opened up again. Not only do we have hope of living beyond this life, we have the hope that it will be a glorious, joyful existence. We won't just be souls drifting along aimlessly in a gray mist. But we hope to be resurrected - both body and soul - to rejoice in the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit for all eternity.

The sad thing is that even though it has been almost two thousand years since Jesus rose from the dead, most people still live as if this world is all that there is. They are not even thinking about life after death. In their minds, earth is the only Paradise we can ever know. The only thing that makes sense to them is to live for today.

However, as Christians, the resurrection of Jesus Christ has opened up a new horizon for us. There is more to our existence than just our earthly life. Our eyes are fixed on more than what this world can offer. Rather, our goal is eternal life with Jesus. That is what we strive for. That is where our hope lies.

Saint Paul tells us in today's second reading, "So, if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col 3:1-2 RSV).

This is the wonderful truth that we proclaim. Our resurrection from the dead and the eternal life that Jesus has won for us is not just a future event. It is not like a ticket we cash in on only after we die. It is a reality that we are already living because of our baptism. That is why Saint Paul can say, "SINCE you have been raised." He doesn't say WHEN you are raised or UNTIL you are raised. He talks about it as a reality that has already happened. Jesus' resurrection from the dead opened up a new possibility of life, which is ours, through baptism and faith.

Saint Paul puts this in his letter to the Galatians: "...I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I

live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2: 19b-20 RSV).

Our life here on this earth is an extension of the risen life of Jesus Christ. If we have been baptized, then Christ is living in us. It is Jesus' breath in our lungs. It is His strength in our limbs. His love beats in our hearts, and His hope runs through our veins. We have been raised with Jesus, so our faith must guide us.

Jesus is counting on us as Christians to continue His work on this earth. Just as He healed, we must heal. Just as He spoke the truth, we must speak the truth. We must treat everyone with love and mercy, just as He did. And, if need be, we must give up our lives for others. That is how Jesus lived. That is how we must live. But we do it, not with our own human effort and willpower, but with His presence at work in and through us.

This is represented beautifully in the Eucharist. Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, bread and wine can be transformed into His Body and Blood. He is truly present - not just symbolically - but really. It is the Risen Lord whom we receive in Holy Communion. If Jesus can change bread and wine into His Body and Blood and charge them with His risen life, what can He do to us? How thoroughly and completely can He transform us by His risen life to be His presence in the world?

That first Easter morning changed everything. Peter, John, and Mary Magdalene could never be the same once they saw that empty tomb and realized that Jesus had truly risen as He promised. They couldn't go back to living the way they did before. From then on, they preached to everyone who listened about the new hope God holds out to everyone who believes in Him and is baptized.

That is the challenge that is held out to us. Will we allow ourselves to be transformed by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead? Will we allow Him to live in and through us? Will we set our hopes not on what this world offers but on what God offers us through Jesus Christ? And will we bring that hope into this dark world by allowing the Risen Lord to reach others through us? That is what we are called to by our baptism - to transform this world by witnessing to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.



Drop food donations at Mass or at the Parish Office during the week. Thank you!



# Parish Outreach Food Pantry

We have two poor box locations in church, we can take cash or check in the poor box at any time.

You may also donate online by going to [sfoachurch.com](http://sfoachurch.com) and click **Giving** and then click **Online Giving**.

**The Parish Outreach Food Pantry is in need of canned fruit, canned soup, peanut butter and adult cereal.**

Thank you to all who donated to our Lenten Food Drive! With your donations, we are able to bless many families in our community. We are busier than ever and couldn't do it without your donations!



✦ Pregnancy Solutions ✦

# WALK FOR LIFE

**Saturday, April 6, 2024**

**Bayshore Live Oak Park, Port Charlotte**



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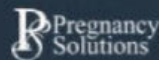
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[www.pswalkforlife.org](http://www.pswalkforlife.org) | 941-408-7100

# 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.

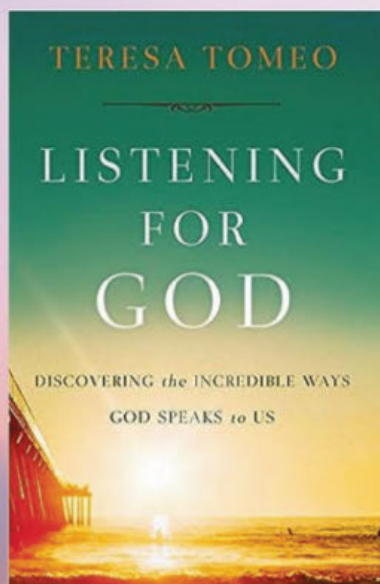
Join us at our next meeting April 2 at 10am in the Parish Conference Room.

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

## *Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Book Club*

**Next Meeting: Thursday, April 25**

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



Continue reading chapters 19, 20, and 21 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 CHURCH **PASTA DINNER**

**5265 Placida Rd. Grove City, FL 34224**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 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 Sunday, April 28. To pre-register go to [sfoachurch.com](http://sfoachurch.com), click Parish Forms, click Pasta Dinner Reservation Form. Call with any questions: 941-697-4899

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**Carry out available! All are welcome!**



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

# Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
<b>Mon April 1</b>			<b>Easter Monday - Parish Office Closed</b>
	7:50am	9:00am	<b>Rosary/Mass/Anointing/Chaplet - Church</b>
	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
	6:00pm	8:00pm	Knights of Columbus Officer's Meeting - Parish Center
<b>Tues April 2</b>	7:50am	8:45am	<b>Rosary/Mass - Church</b>
	8:50am	9:50am	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration - Church</b>
	9:50am	10:00am	<b>Benediction - Church</b>
	9:00am	10:00am	Parish Stewardship Ministry - 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
<b>Wed April 3</b>	7:50am	8:45am	<b>Rosary/Mass - Church</b>
	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
<b>Thurs April 4</b>	7:50am	8:45am	<b>Rosary/Mass - Church</b>
	9:00am	9:15am	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church</b>
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Hooks and Needles - Parish Conference Rooms
<b>Friday April 5</b>	7:50am	8:45am	<b>Rosary/Mass - Church</b>
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
<b>Sat April 6</b>			<b>Recalling and Renewing our BAPTISM our Spiritual Birthday</b>
	3:00pm	3:30pm	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church</b>
	4:00pm	5:00pm	<b>Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church</b>
<b>Sun April 7</b>	8:00am	9:00am	<b>Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church</b>
	10:00am	11:00am	<b>Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church</b>

# Knights of Columbus Council 7672



# Pancake Breakfast

Sunday

April 14, 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](http://kofc.org/join) and use code:

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