



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



The devil said to him, "All this will be yours, if you worship me."
Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written:
You shall worship the Lord, your God,
and him alone shall you serve."
- Lk 4:6a, 7-8

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 & Accountant
Kelly Kroll, Administrative Assistant (Part-Time)
Jim Parent, Maintenance & Facilities
Beth Hammond, Head Sacristan
Penny Fleming, Ministry Scheduler/Communications

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

After Easter to December 28 ... 4:00pm
January 4 to April 12, 2025 ... 3:00pm & 4:30pm

SUNDAY

After Easter to December 29 - 8:00am & 10:00am
January 5 through Easter Sunday
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am

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 May 31
Mon - Fri 9:00am - 12:30pm, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Summer - June 3 through Aug 31
Monday through Friday 9:00am - 2:30pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday after Mass 9:00am - 9:15am
After Easter to Dec 29 - Saturdays 3:00pm - 3:30pm
Jan 4 to April 13 - 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 10

8:15am †**MARGURITE ORTMULLER**
by Betty Peloso

Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

8:15am †**JAMES RINGLER**
by Barbara McKane

Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Gospel: Matthew 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

8:15am †**LEE RESER**
by John and Gail Kovach

Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

Gospel: Luke 11:29-32

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

8:15am †**RICHARD RHODES**
by John and Gail Kovach

Reading: Ester C:12, 14-16, 23-25

Gospel: Matthew 7:7-12

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

8:15am †**MICHELLE RENEE BROWN**
by John and Gail Kovach

Reading: Ezekiel 18:21-28

Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

3:00pm †**DAVID LINTON**
by Matt and Debbie Egan
4:30pm †**NANCY DETERMAN**
by The Beavan's

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

7:30am **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**
9:00am †**JACK WALSH** by Meg Brady
10:30am †**LEE RESER** by Beth Hammond
Second Sunday of Lent
Reading 1: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Reading 2: Philippians 3:17—4:1
Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36



GOSPEL REFLECTION

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 9, 2025

Every year, we follow Jesus' example and go into the desert for forty days during Lent. What is the desert? It is a place that is empty, where life is almost impossible to sustain. It is a place where there are no distractions, where we are away from everything that we are accustomed to and familiar with. Most of us will not go into a literal desert this Lent. But, if we are going to live these forty days well, we will have to break with our routine, go out of our comfort zone, and do something that makes us uneasy.

For each of us, that desert will be a different place. It could be volunteering at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen. Even though there is a lot of activity in those places, it might bring us into contact with people we would normally try to avoid. It might bring up prejudices and fears that we wouldn't otherwise see in ourselves.

Another "desert" might be somewhere quiet, away from all the noise around us. Sitting in the quiet -whether it's in a church or outside somewhere - can force us to face some uncomfortable and painful feelings. Often, when we settle ourselves down, emotions like anger or resentment come bursting to the surface. Without anything to distract our attention away from them, we have no choice but to recognize them and deal with them.

For some people, a desert could be picking up a spiritual book and reading it carefully. Reading can be one of the most dangerous things we can do. It can challenge us to look at ourselves differently and to make some real changes. That is certainly true about reading the Bible. If reading the Bible is something you haven't done much of, this Lent might be a good time to dive into it and see where the pages take you. There are also many books by the saints and other Catholic authors that can enrich our prayer and challenge us to look at our attitudes and behaviors in new ways.

For each of us, the desert will be a different place. But we must allow God's Holy Spirit to lead us there, as He did Jesus. Because it is there, in a place that seems to be lifeless, that we discover what is really important. It is there, where nothing can distract us, that we can focus on the deepest longing of our heart - friendship with God.

When we go into our own personal desert, we have to do it with the same attitude Jesus had. He had total, unconditional trust in His Father's goodness and love. We see it right at the beginning of today's gospel when Jesus allows the Holy Spirit to lead Him to a place where He would be hungry, alone, and susceptible to the devil's temptations. Jesus doesn't complain about it or try to put it off. Rather, He is totally obedient to His Father's will. He goes where the Spirit leads Him, even though it will require sacrifice and pain.

And it is because of that total trust in His Father's goodness and love that Jesus can withstand the devil's temptations. The devil is always trying to convince us that God has forgotten about us. He wants us to believe that God is distant and that He doesn't care. That is how He got our first parents - Adam and Eve - to fall. And He tries to do the same with Jesus. That is why He takes Him to the roof of the Temple in Jerusalem and tells Him to throw Himself off. In a sense, He is saying to Jesus, "Prove that God really loves you. Prove that God will really save you." But Jesus doesn't need to prove God's loving care for Him, either to Himself or to the devil. He is convinced of it, even when He is hungry and alone.

Whatever desert we choose to enter this Lent, we must go into it with the same love and trust that Jesus had. God is good. He loves us and will never abandon us. So, when we go to a shelter and a homeless person insults us or a fellow volunteer treats us rudely, we don't give up because we know God is with us. When we go to a quiet place and painful emotions start welling up within us and we can't focus on prayer, we stay put and do our best because we are convinced that God hears us. Or when we read the Bible and can't make any sense of it or if it is calling us to a change that we don't believe we can make, we accept the confusion knowing that God will use that to transform our hearts.

Brought to you by Penny Fleming, Communications Coordinator. Douglas Sousa, Catholic Homilies – Roman Catholic Online Resources.

Catholic Faith Appeal 2025

2025 CFA Goal: \$227,000

CFA Kickoff Weekend: March 1 & 2

Collection Weekend: March 8 & 9

To donate, use the **blue envelopes in pew** or go to
<https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/>
in the designation box choose **St. Francis of Assisi in Grove City.**



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 2025



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year the Diocese of Venice in Florida celebrates 40 Years of Service. Throughout this time, those who have come before us, as well as today's faithful, have supported the good works we are called to do as the People of God. In scripture we are taught, "Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord...". This reminds all that kindness and generosity toward our brothers and sisters is a blessing to Our Lord and will be returned.

Won't you be part of this call to "lend to the Lord" by donating to this year's Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA)? Your continued generous support is much needed and genuinely valued. Your kindness allows essential programs, ministries and works of mercy to be extended to individuals and families in every stage of life. From disaster relief to caring for the poor, from resources for the underserved to faith formation and education; individuals, families and communities receive compassion and care.

Many of the Diocesan programs and ministries funded through the CFA are highlighted in this brochure. As here presented, the CFA furthers the Mission of the Church given by Christ and impacts those in need throughout Southwest Florida.

May the Lord abundantly bless you in this Jubilee Year 2025, declared by Our Holy Father, for your desire to help those among us in need. Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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



Lent & the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, OCIA

OCIA classes are not simply for people taking a course on the truths of the Catholic Church. It's a journey of discovering Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God with us, it's a call to new life & personal conversion to Jesus Christ in faith & love, & it's welcoming participants to experience & grow closer to our Triune God in the full Christian sacramental life of the Catholic Church. It's preparing people for receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & First Holy Communion celebrated at the Easter Vigil Mass, April 19. The OCIA participants are completing their period of preparation & are entering into Lent on Ash Wednesday, proclaiming the death & resurrection of the Lord, the Savior of the world. Lent is an intense 6-week spiritual retreat, called the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. In this period, they will pray more, hear the Gospel, fast, do scrutiny prayers, do penance for sins, & do charitable works. The Rite of Election of Catechumens (unbaptized) & Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates (baptized Catholics or in another Christian denomination but who have not been confirmed or received the Eucharist) takes place each year on the First Sunday of Lent. The celebration of the rite has two parts: First, the Rite of Sending at each parish; in the ceremony the catechumens, candidates, publicly express to their parish that they believe God has called them to the Catholic faith & desire the Sacraments of Initiation. We, the Church, the family of God, accept the responsibility to pray for & support our brothers & sisters along their Lenten faith journey, to pray, fast & do works of charity with them. We are called to welcome them & to witness to them our faith & prepare ourselves for the renewal of our own Baptismal grace at Easter. Father Mayer & our parish family pray for, recommend & send the OCIA candidates to Bishop Frank J. Dewane, Shepherd of the Diocese of Venice. In the 2nd part, is the Rite of Election, the candidates, their sponsors & families go to Our Lady of Light Catholic Church. In the Rite of Election, the Bishop speaks for the Church in the name of Christ & acknowledges that they have been chosen (elected) by God & called by Christ. Bishop Dewane accepts them as candidates for the Easter Sacraments & assures the candidates of his & the Church's loving support.

Our Pastor, Father Mayer & our parish will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation & our Elect will become full members & receive our risen Lord & brother in Holy Communion during the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, April 19, 8:30pm, at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Congratulations in your initiation into Catholic Christian life & worship! Following Christ leads to God's generous blessings & eternal life!

Jim Brantner, DRE



Lenten Soup & Stations

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



REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, and Good Friday, April 18, 2025, are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 years and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is to continue until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection.

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday.

Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition.

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

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 1 DROP-OFF
MARCH 8 THRU MARCH 14**

**FOOD LIST FOR WEEK 1: CANNED VEGETABLES, CANNED PORK 'N
BEANS, CANNED SOUPS, CANNED TUNAFISH**



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Membership Invitation

The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend Catholic values in a busy changing world. Our local council #7672 will be holding a membership drive at all Masses the weekend of March 8, and 9. Whether you become an individual member or a member of our council you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way to serve our Lord, parish, and community. If you are a Catholic man 18 or older and would like to join us, simply go to kofc.org/joinus and enter our council #7672 for local information or speak with a member following Masses on Saturday, March 8 or Sunday March 9.

Knights of Columbus Council 7672

Pancake Breakfast 

Sunday.

March 9, 2025

8:30am - Noon

in the Parish Center

All are Welcome!

\$10 includes

pancakes, eggs,

sausage, biscuits and

gravy, juice and

coffee. Kids eat free!

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH WOMEN'S GUILD

March Card Party

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

March 12, 2025 11:00am - 2:30pm

Reserve your table by March 10th

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.**

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

All are welcome!



Saint Francis Parish Women's Guild **FASHION SHOW**

Celebrating **St. Patrick's Day**

MARCH 16, 2025

1:00PM - 4:30PM



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

5265 PLACIDA ROAD

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Ph: 941-697-4899 Press 6 to make reservations
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Lunch will be served by our
favorite chefs Patrick and Jason



Parish Pasta Dinner

Thursday, March 20


4:00 to 6:30 PM

\$14 includes penne pasta, meatballs, sausage, bread, salad, dessert and beverage!

Kids Under 12 Eat Free!

Carry Out Available! All are Welcome!

To register for the pasta dinner, go to our website at www.sfoachurch.com | Parish Forms | Parish Pasta Dinner Registration Form or call the Parish Office at 941-697-4899



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reserve a jar
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home!





Parish Lenten Retreat

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

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 Wednesday morning.

Retreat Registration

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

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

Cash or Check #: _____

Total amount paid: _____



DIOCESE OF
VENICE
— IN FLORIDA —

Eucharistic Conference

Becoming Missionary Disciples

March 29, 2025



Bishop
Frank Dewane



Dr. Scott Hahn



Mrs. Kimberly Hahn



Mrs. Mary Ann
Wiesinger-Puig



Mr. Andrés Arango



Charlotte Harbor
Event & Conference Center
Punta Gorda, FL

To Register: <https://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/eucharistic-conference>

For information contact Jim Gontis at:

gontis@dioceseofvenice.org

941-486-4754

Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
Mon March 10	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	11:30am	Parish Rosary Makers - Room 6
	11:45am	12:30pm	Lectio Divina Gospel Prayer - Church
	4:00pm	5:15pm	Soup Supper - Parish Center
	6:00pm	6:30pm	Stations of the Cross - Church
	7:00pm	8:00pm	Knights of Columbus Officer's Meeting - Parish Center
Tues March 11	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	8:50am	9:50am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration - Church
	9:50am	10:00am	Benediction - Church
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Women's Bible Study - Parish Conference Room
	5:30pm	6:45pm	Religious Education K-8 - Parish Center
Wed March 12	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	11:00am	2:30pm	Card Party - Parish Center
	7:00pm	8:00pm	AA - Parish Hall
Thurs March 13	7:00am	8:00am	TMIY - Parish Center
	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:00am	9:15am	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	5:30pm	6:30pm	OCIA - Church
Fri March 14	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:15am	11:30am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
Sat March 15			Blessing of the Marriage Anniversary
	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 16	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
	1:00pm	4:30pm	Fashion Show - Parish Center
	5:00pm	6:30pm	Youth Group - Parish Center

For the most updated Calendar please go to www.sfoachurch.com

St. Francis Youth Group



Dinner, Discussions, & Activities

1st & 3rd Sundays
5 pm – 6:30 pm
Meets at the Parish Center



For All Teens 14 – 17 years old

We'd Love To Have You!



Join the Knights of Columbus Council 7672 at kofc.org/join and use code: **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY** and get the first year FREE.

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"I CAN WALK BAREFOOT ON THE BEACH AGAIN"

Local acupuncture clinic is treating the untreatable, peripheral neuropathy with incredible results!

Pain comes in many shapes and sizes. One of the most debilitating being the burning and tingling that comes with peripheral neuropathy. A disease that comes with years of shooting, stabbing pain that gradually ends in numbness, balance problems, and on occasion, amputations. A disease that was once classified as irreparable.

David R. of Venice, FL was facing such a fate.

"I stopped golfing. I wasn't taking walks on the beach with my wife. I was living on gabapentin and antidepressants and everywhere I went; my doctor, the specialists, the pain institute, told me there was no cure. How are you supposed to live your life knowing that everyday brings pain and suffering?"

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves, commonly caused by a lack of blood flow to the nerves in the hands and feet.

This causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow.

Most peripheral neuropathy sufferers experience a heightened sensitivity to touch making it almost impossible for those diagnosed to even wear shoes, much less enjoy life.

"It was like walking on sharp river rocks. I barely left my recliner," shares David, whose experience is not uncommon for those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy.

That is until he found Lauren Milligan of Sage Point Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine. Dr. Milligan and her staff have pioneered a cutting edge, medical solution to treat neuropathy, eliminate or greatly reduce its symptoms and give people their lives back. Best of all, they're doing it without the use of prescription medications and invasive surgeries.

"Acupuncture is incredible at restoring blood flow and stimulating damaged

nerves, preventing them from dying off," tells Dr. Milligan. "We take our treatments a step further by integrating ATP Resonance BioTherapy which targets specific nerves in the body using microcurrent. ATP therapy is like watering a plant. This treatment will stimulate the blood vessels to grow back around the peripheral nerves and provide them with the proper nutrients to heal and repair."

Three months later David is thrilled with his progress, "I can walk barefoot on the beach again!"

Success stories like David's are not atypical for the staff at Sage Point AIM. "We have a 87% success rate in treating neuropathy," shares Dr. Milligan.

The number of treatments needed to allow the nerves to fully recover will vary from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed

neurological and vascular evaluation. So long as you have not sustained more than 90% nerve damage Sage Point AIM offers hope where there once was none.

While David's peripheral neuropathy was idiopathic, meaning the cause is unknown, Dr. Milligan's treatments can also help people whose neuropathy is caused by diabetes or chemotherapy.

"We have seen tremendous success in treating neuropathy of all types through very personalized treatments, specifically tailored to treat each individual case."

To schedule a consultation and complete evaluation call **(941) 451-8154** but do so quickly because Sage Point AIM is taking a limited number of new neuropathy patients.

For more information and to take advantage of their new patient offer visit SagePointAcu.com.