



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT



Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

- Mk 9:7-8

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
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, FEBRUARY 26

8:15am †**DEBBIE ROBINSON**
by Chris Lewis

Reading: Deuteronomy 9:4b-10
Gospel: Luke 6:36-38

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

8:15am †**LINDA CRICKET** by Ronald Falbo
Reading: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20
Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:15am **HAPPY BIRTHDAY LINDA KOENNEMANN** by Beth Hamond
Reading: Jeremiah 18:18-20
Gospel: Matthew 20:17-28

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

8:15am **CARL VASTA**
by Greg and Fern Stasiuk
Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

8:15am †**DAVID BROOKS**
by Linda McCready
Reading: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2
SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)**

3:00pm **FOR OUR PARISHIONERS**
4:30pm **KAITLYN WHELAN
MEGAN WHELAN**

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

7:30am †**LUCY SCOTTI**
by James and Villa Scotti
9:00am †**ANTONIO AND DELFINA SOITO**
by Son
10:30am †**PATRICIA GIANINNI** by Cousin
Third Sunday of Lent
Reading 1: Exodus 20:1-17
Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Gospel: John 2:13-25



**Second Sunday of Lent
The Transfiguration of Jesus
Mark 9:2-10**

This Second Sunday of Lent invites us to contemplate *the transfiguration* of Jesus on the mountain before three of his disciples. Just before, Jesus had announced that in Jerusalem, he would suffer greatly, be rejected, and be put to death. We can imagine what must have happened in the hearts of his friends, of those close friends, his disciples: the image of a strong and triumphant Messiah is put into crisis, their dreams are shattered, and they are beset by anguish at the thought that the Teacher in whom they had

believed would be killed like the worst of wrongdoers. And in that moment, with that anguish of soul, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John and takes them up the mountain with him.

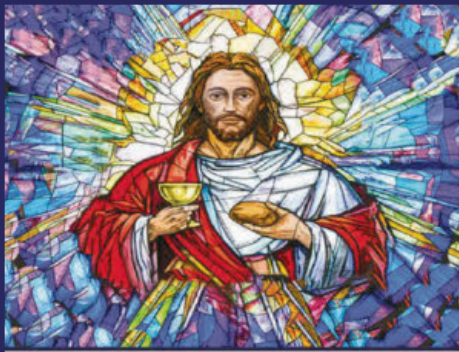
The Gospel says: He “led them up a high mountain.” In the Bible, the mountain always has a special significance: it is the elevated place where heaven and earth touch each other, where Moses and the prophets had the extraordinary experience of encountering God. Climbing the mountain is drawing somewhat close to God. Jesus climbed up with the three disciples, stopping at the top of the mountain. Here, he is transfigured before them. His face is radiant, and his garments glisten, providing a preview of the image as the Risen One, offering to those frightened men *the light*, the light of hope, the light *to pass through the shadows*: death will not be the end of everything, because it will open to the glory of the Resurrection. Thus, Jesus announces his death; he takes them up the mountain and shows them what will happen after the Resurrection.

As the Apostle Peter exclaimed (cf. v. 5), it is good to pause with the Lord on the mountain, to live this “preview” of light in the heart of Lent. It is a call to remember, especially when we pass through a difficult trial – and so many of you know what it means to pass through a difficult trial – that the Lord is Risen and does not permit darkness to have the last word.

Sometimes, we go through moments of darkness in our personal, family, or social lives and fear that there is no way out. We feel frightened before great enigmas such as illness, innocent pain, or the mystery of death. In the same journey of faith, we often stumble, encountering the scandal of the cross and the demands of the Gospel, which calls us to spend our life in service and to lose it in love rather than preserve it for ourselves and protect it. Thus, we need a different outlook of a light that illuminates the mystery of life in depth and helps us to move beyond our paradigms and the criteria of this world. We, too, are called to climb up the mountain, to contemplate the beauty of the Risen One who enkindles glimmers of light in every fragment of our life and helps us to interpret history beginning with his paschal victory.

However, be careful: Peter's feeling that “it is well that we are here” must not become *spiritual laziness*. We cannot remain on the mountain and enjoy the beauty of this encounter by ourselves. Jesus brings us back to the valley, amid our brothers and sisters, and into daily life. We must beware of spiritual laziness: we are fine with our prayers and liturgies, which is enough for us. No! Going up the mountain does not mean forgetting reality; praying never means avoiding life's difficulties; the light of faith is not meant to provide beautiful spiritual feelings. No, this is not Jesus' message. We are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere. Igniting little lights in people's hearts, being little lamps of the Gospel that bear a bit of love and hope: this is the mission of a Christian.

Let us pray to Mary Most Holy that she may help us welcome the light of Christ with wonder, safeguard it, and share it.



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,

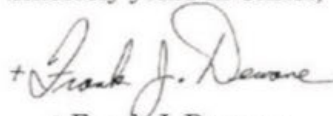
In Scripture it is written, "...faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (Jm 2:17), affirming that true faith is one of love and generosity. Living according to our faith means doing the good works the Lord calls forth from us - work that glorifies God, demonstrates love for our neighbor,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

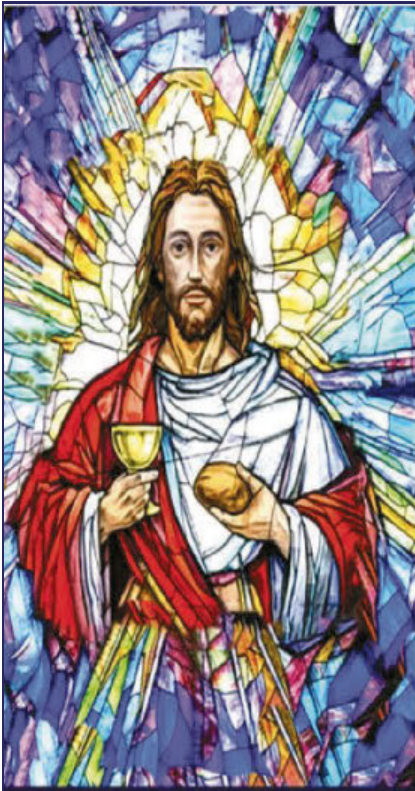
May the Lord bless you abundantly for your desire to help those among us in need. I assure you of my continued prayers for you and your family.

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
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 2 DROP-OFF
FEBRUARY 24 THRU MARCH 1**

**FOOD LIST FOR WEEK 2: PASTA SAUCE, PASTA, CANNED FRUIT,
RICE (WHITE OR BROWN) AND OATMEAL**

RCIA Candidates Become Fully Catholic at Easter Vigil

Please pray for & welcome our 8 candidates who took part in the Rite of Sending in our Parish with Father Cory Mayer & Rite of Election before Bishop Frank J. Dewane at Epiphany Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent. These candidates will fully enter the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30 at 8:30pm. -Jim Brantner, DRE

Rite of Sending with Father Mayer and Deacon Bob



Rite of Election with Bishop Dewane and Father Mayer



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.

REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and Good Friday, March 29, 2024, 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.

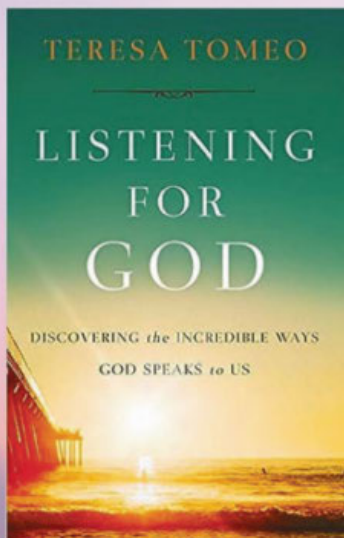
Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition.

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 Book Club

Next Meeting: Thursday February 29

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



Continue reading chapters 13, 14, and 15 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.**

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



MARCH 3, 2024
1:00PM - 4:30PM



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5265 PLACIDA ROAD
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Ph: 941-697-4899

Fashions Presented by:
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Tickets are \$25 and are available
in the Parish Office.

No tickets sold at the door.

Lunch: Asian Cuisine prepared
by Noy's Chefs Patrick and Jason



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: _____



Eucharistic Conference

March 16, 2024



Steven Ray, Keynote Speaker

English and Spanish Sessions!

Bishop Verot High School
5598 Sunrise Drive
Fort Myers, Florida

QR Code to register!

For more information contact:
Jim Gontis, 941-486-4754
gontis@dioceseofvenice.org



Bishop Frank J. Dewane

Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
Mon Feb 26			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
	6:30pm	7:30pm	Choir Practice for Sopranos - Church
Tues Feb 27	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
	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 Feb 28	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 Feb 29	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	8:00pm	Book Club - Parish Conference Room
	6:00pm	7:00pm	Choir Practice for Bass - Church
Fri March 1	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 2			Recalling and Renewing our BAPTISM - Our Spiritual Birthday
	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 3	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

SFOA Parish Rosary Makers



**Meets Mondays
9:15am - 11:30am
in Room 6.
All are welcome to join!**

We send Rosaries all over the world to those in need, such as Haiti, Costa Rica, India, Uganda, the Ukraine, Columbia, Canada and within the United States. We also sell and repair Rosaries. Join us!

If you're looking for a new Rosary, scapular, statue, or a nice gift, check our Rosary case in the Parish Center.



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

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