

St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Church

4280 Gulf of Mexico Drive

Longboat Key, FL 34228

941-383-1255

August 29, 2021

Reverend Robert Dziedziak, J.C.L., Pastor

Office Hours:

8:30 AM–3:30 PM

Phone:

941-383-1255

Website:

www.stmarylbk.org

Email:

parishoffice@stmarylbk.org

**OFFICES CLOSED ON:
SEPTEMBER 6, 2021**

MASS SCHEDULE

Mass Times:

Monday –Friday 9:00 AM

*Adoration on
Wednesday's after Mass
until noon*

Saturday Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday Mass:
8:30 AM and 10:30 AM



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile."
- Mk 7:14-15



Monday, August 30, 2021

9:00 a.m. +Jack Reardon
(Fr. Michael) Requested by Jack & Betty Keelin
Reading I: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday, August 31, 2021

9:00 a.m. +Paul Skier Kowski
(Fr. Robert) Requested by Sandy & Family
Reading I: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11
Gospel: Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

9:00 a.m. +Carol Regan
(Fr. Robert) Requested by Douglas Regan
Reading I: Colossians 1:1-8
Gospel: Luke 4:38-44

Thursday, September 2, 2021

9:00 a.m. +George Thelen
(Fr. Michael) Requested by Judy & Family
Reading I: Colossians 1:9-14
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

First Friday, September 3, 2021

9:00 a.m. Intentions of the Women's Guild
(Fr. Phillip)
Reading I: Colossians 1:15-20
Gospel: Luke 5:33-39

First Saturday, September 4, 2021

9:00 a.m. Mass for Life-A Greater Respect for all
(Fr. Phillip) Human Life
+Phil Schneider
Requested by The Meizzkowski Family
+Edythe Seas
Requested by Amy Renninger
+Viktoras Garbonkus
Requested by Kristina & Henry Admonis
5:00 p.m. +Dimitar Georgiev
Requested by Maria Georgiev

(Fr. Michael)
Reading I: Isaiah 35:4-7a
Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Sunday, September 5, 2021

8:30 a.m. +Ingrid Wisniewski
Requested by Carol Hammar
(Fr.)
10:30 a.m. For the People
(Fr.)
Reading I: Isaiah 35:4-7a
Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

TV Mass: Sunday 9:30 a.m.

on:

CW Network	44
Comcast	9
Frontier	4
EWTN Comcast	243
EWTN Verizon	285



Baptism, Marriages, Communion Calls and
Visitation of the sick call the Parish office at
941-383-1255



**Please pray for the
sick and all those who
have gone before us
especially Margaret
Winner. Please keep
in your prayers all the
brave men and women**

**serving our country throughout
the world, and their families who
await their safe return. May
they be blessed with well-being
and safety from harm.**



**Arrangements on
the Altar this
weekend are In
Memory of Phil.
Love, Bonnie**



ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are a special way
to remember anniversaries,
birthdays, memorials, etc. If you wish to place
an order for a lovely floral arrangement,
please email Deirdre Schueppert at
deirdrevsch@gmail.com or call 941-807-7858.



The Sign

August 28-29, 2021

By Bill Roche

New York—10 years ago. She didn't want to be there.

She was 18. She was distressed, alone, no strong family support. She hesitated about an abortion but she made the appointment at Planned Parenthood (PP) anyway. Two friends accompanied her for support. But before she left for PP she prayed: "God, if you don't want me to do this, please send me a sign." Sitting in the waiting room at PP she was restless. She went over to look at the pamphlet rack. She was drawn to a particular brochure. It was an informational brochure from the Sisters of Life, a pro-life ministry founded 30 years ago in NY by the late Cardinal John O'Connor. She read it and started to cry. She knew it was the answer to her prayer. She immediately left PP with her friends and took a bus to the Sisters of Life in the Bronx. Sister Mariae Agnus Dei remembers their first meeting. Over lemonade and cookies, they visited. The young woman just needed someone to listen and offer support. She chose life for her unborn baby. Sister reports that a few years later the young woman graduated from college with honors and later married a "super awesome guy." But how did the Sisters' informational brochure make it into PP's waiting room and save the young woman and her child—Sister Mariae Agnus Dei says it was by some miracle of God but how the miracle happened, sister has no idea.

(Sources: "Life Savers: The Sisters of Life at 30, John Aidan Byrne, Nat'l Cath. Register, 6/29/21; and others.)



SAVE THE DATE

Fall Sign Up for 40 Days

For Life

Sign Up Date:

October 2-3, 2021 after all Masses

Commitment Date:

Friday, October 8, 2021 from
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA COLLECTION

Next weekend we will be taking up the National Collection for The Catholic University of America. Catholic University is a national research university with over 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 250 academic programs in the heart of Washington, D.C. By giving to the collection, you are supporting both future Catholic leaders, religious and lay, who are being formed by an exceptional, Faith-rooted education and the University's various research and training initiatives that support dioceses and parishes in responding to the most pressing needs of their faithful. The Catholic Project—an initiative that aims to heal the breach of trust many have experienced as a result of the current crisis in the Church, an online Child Protection Certificate Program, a Master's program in Ecclesial Administration and Management, and a credentialing program that prepares recent graduates to serve as campus ministers are a few examples how the University is serving the Church and nation. Please give generously. Learn more at: collection.Catholic.edu.



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

We cordially invite you to the Church Annex after the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. masses. Enjoy a delicious cup of coffee and assorted treats. Your hosts this weekend will be Melinda Alvarez. Take a moment to have a chat with your fellow parishioners.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

In your observance of the commandments of the LORD,
your God,
which I enjoin upon you,
you shall not add to what I command you nor
subtract from it. (Dt 4:2)

PSALM:

The one who does justice will live in the presence of the
Lord. (Ps 15)

SECOND READING:

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding
yourselves. (Jas 1:22)

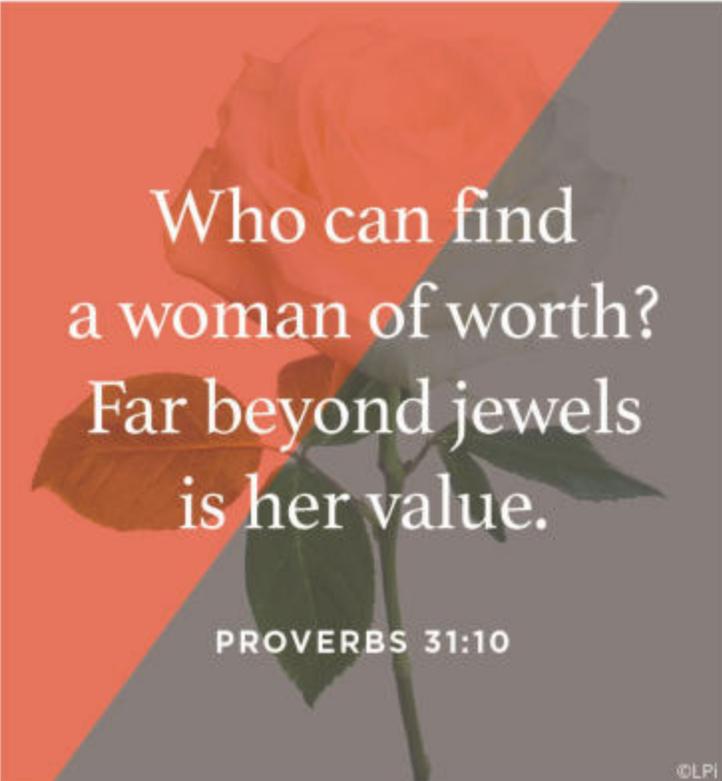
GOSPEL:

"You disregard God's commandment but cling to
human tradition." (Mk 7:8)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 2021

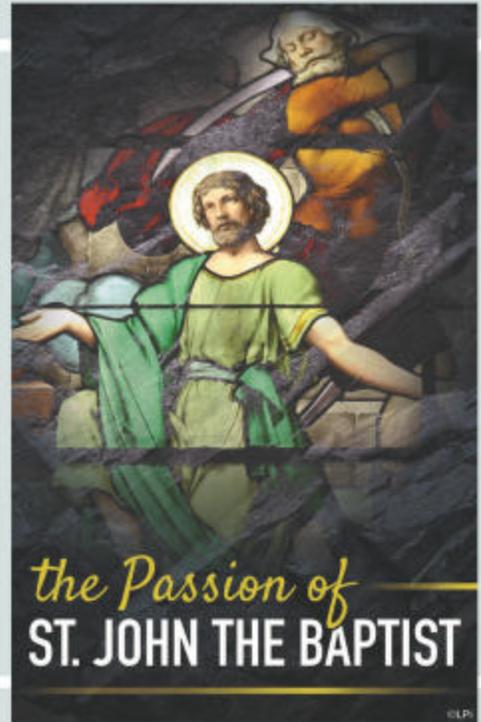
Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Friday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: BVM
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Who can find
a woman of worth?
Far beyond jewels
is her value.

PROVERBS 31:10

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REFLECT

FIRST READING

As Moses prepared the Israelites to settle and live in the Promised Land he urged them to stay close to God's commandments and statutes in order to become a "great nation." Why do you think so many nations stray from this idea?

SECOND READING

In the opening verses of his letter, James urges his readers to be "doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves." Why do you think this is wise advice?

GOSPEL READING

In returning to the Gospel of Mark, we hear today how the religious leaders from Jerusalem questioned Jesus about keeping "the tradition of the elders." Jesus responded with the importance of being clean of heart. Why is this such a challenging spiritual exercise?

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Albert Einstein said that the “true measure of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.” Being a disciple of Jesus Christ requires a great deal of imagination. It is not enough to simply attend to facts, rules and rituals and consider the job done. Quite contrarily, the Gospels demands creativity, of trying to discern how to put flesh on the Beatitudes and properly serve God’s children. Jesus never doled out a top down agenda. Not once did he ever demand conformity over conversion or sacrifice over mercy. The Gospel is always about putting people in touch with their compassionate, forgiving, and unconditionally loving God and meeting them where they are.

For Jesus, it often meant breaking a few rules. Well respected and time-honored traditions had to be set aside in order to attend to what really mattered. God’s compassion, mercy and true conversion were always the trump cards. The story of the Good Samaritan, healing on the Sabbath, and bypassing of purification rituals all display this theme. Human beings can get too hung up on protocol and tradition. This is so much so that often preserving all of these things is of greater concern than the beggar



knocking on our door or the sinner looking for mercy. It is no wonder, then, that we can easily become hypocritical. Many can see us on our knees in prayer while our true heart and actions, rooted in judgment and self-preservation, are hidden from others. It is a trap into which we can easily fall. Who cares how we live our lives as long as our hands are properly washed!

Here enters the need for imagination and the distinction of truly being a wise and intelligent person. It takes a good measure of creativity and a lot of guts to really be a doer of God’s word and not merely a hearer. Being a

person who doesn’t just tell people about God but shows people God requires courage and ingenuity. That’s why people like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Teresa of Calcutta are timeless. Their genuineness speaks volumes generation to generation. It’s risky business taking the step to allow God into our hearts. Permitting God to release us from the grip of our evil thoughts, infidelity, greed, malice, sexual improprieties, licentiousness, envy, arrogance, folly, and the like takes courage. That’s why we prefer to spend our energy rearranging the future rather than take measures to secure a foundation that is most certainly crumbling.

“Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?” He responded, “Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” - Mk 7:5b-6

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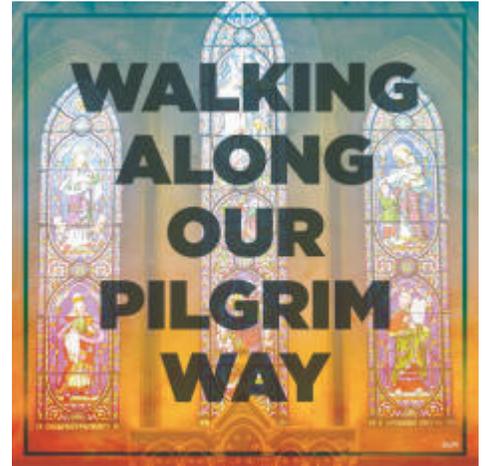
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TRUE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*The Pharisees and scribes questioned him,
“Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders
but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?”*

*Jesus responded,
“Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:
This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines human precepts.
You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.”*
Mark 7:5-7



We live in a world filled with rules and restrictions. The rules — especially the laws — that govern our day-to-day lives are ideally there for the order of society and the safety of others.

Our introduction to rules comes early. It’s hard to imagine a family that didn’t have “household rules” about bedtimes, curfews, meals and snacks, and television. More recently, family rules have also come to include social networking and gaming. As we grow older, we encounter rules in school and in the workplace. In fact, while we might not think of them in this way, the policies and procedures that guide much of our academic and professional lives are, in fact, rules. This same reality holds true for the Church. Canon law and diocesan or parish policies set the course for the prayer and ministry of parishes and religious communities all over the world.

In the [Gospel we hear proclaimed this Sunday](#), we’re presented with a tense scene in which Jesus and his followers are being publicly criticized by certain religious leaders for disregarding rules of ritual washing.

Although something like ritual washings — including handwashing — might seem unimportant to us today, this act was an essential part of daily, religious observance for certain Jews at the time of Jesus. The Pharisees and scribes (two Jewish groups that prided themselves on their faithful religious observance) attacked Jesus and his disciples for not following the rules for purity that have been handed down to them.

These ritual acts of washing hands and feet go back to the [Book of Exodus](#) (cf. 30:19, 40:12) and were originally only intended for priests who were entering the Tent of Meeting. Centuries later, in the time of Jesus, some Jews who were not priests had begun to ritually wash before prayer and meals and had even extended the ritual to their cooking utensils and food. They believed that the customs they had adopted should be universal and that to be faithful meant that everyone would follow *their* religious customs and devotions.

Jesus, a poor tradesman from a poor village, would have understood that these kind of rules would have been nearly impossible for poor farmers and fishermen, especially given the scarcity of water and the frequent contact they would have had with dead fish and other things that would make them “ritually unclean.” Only a privileged few could live by the strict rules of the Pharisees and scribes, most of whom were well-off and living in cities.

In response to the criticisms hurled at him, Jesus reminded his critics of what is truly important by challenging them to change their focus: it isn't external realities that make us "unclean" or the observance of specific rules that ensures that we're in a right relationship with God. Instead, it is our intentions and the purity of our hearts that matter most to God: "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile... From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."

Rules and traditions are incredibly important, as they help us solidify our identity as Catholic-Christians. At the same time, we have to be sure that we don't become so fixated on the details of certain traditions or teachings that we risk losing sight of what is most important: The Gospel of Jesus Christ. Rules and traditions — however important and venerable they may be — can never be an end in themselves. If they are good and worthwhile, they will always lead us to a closer relationship with God and help us live out our faith in ways that also lead others to God. We also must respect the integrity of Divine Revelation, understanding that Scripture and tradition go hand-in-hand and interpret one another, recognizing that these are guideposts for us as we walk along our pilgrim way. To focus on or ignore any one teaching or value while ignoring or dismissing others that are equally important is to risk undermining the integrity of the whole.

With this in mind, Pope Francis shared this reflection in [The Joy of the Gospel](#): "Christian morality is not a form of stoicism, or self-denial, or merely a practical philosophy or a catalogue of sins and faults. Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others. Under no circumstances can this invitation be obscured! All of the virtues are at the service of this response to love."

The [second reading](#) of this Sunday's Mass reminds us of what is essential if we are to call ourselves true disciples of Jesus: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:22, 27). The invitation is for us to open our minds and hearts to look beyond the details of the "letter of the law," to find the freedom that comes from living according to the greatest commandments: love God and love one another.

Br. Silas Henderson, S.D.S.

lpi

PRAYER

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(from The Roman Missal)

LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

What makes a person wise and intelligent? Certainly it is not the ability to memorize facts or minute details about a situation. What makes a person wise and intelligent is when their words and actions harmoniously unite and produce virtue. A person can know many facts and even do the right actions but still have a grave flaw in their character. We sometimes want to delude ourselves into thinking that as long as we are "doing" everything correctly, we are automatically in right relationship with all. Such is sadly not the case in the kingdom of God. We are called not to be just hearers of the Word, but doers as well. That means getting to the heart of what laws and rituals are meant to signify and nurture. If we do not bring the actions home, where they belong, and allow them to speak of the goodness, mercy, compassion, and love of God, then they are simply empty worthless gestures. Welcome the Word that has been planted within you so that you can be a truly wise and intelligent disciple of Jesus Christ.

GIVE IT ALL BACK

Pop culture has given us a unique idea of the term justice. Justice, we often think, is about taking. Taking what's owed. Taking revenge. Taking what we deserve. This worldview tends to make mincemeat of our Catholic social teachings. Seeking the good of the poor, a call to community and participation, solidarity — on the face of it, in a society where everything must be earned and we are encouraged to hoard for ourselves whatever success we can achieve, these principles look a lot like highway robbery.

But when you remember the presence of an omnipotent, all-loving and all-merciful God, it turns our gunslinging sense of justice on its head. For how does justice inhabit the same universe as a God who is so quick to give and indeed to forgive?

Well, very easily, when we remember Who exactly is the source of every good and perfect thing in this world. There is no law that cannot be traced back to the Word. And the Word saves our souls.

Is that justice? No, that is a gift. It is the reckless, indulgent gift of a father whose love is greater than His anger. What is justice in the Biblical sense?

The answer is simple. Look at your life. See the hours in your day? See your spouse, your kids, your grandkids? See the house they live in, the money in your wallet, the food in your fridge, the breath in your lungs?

Calling it all your own, refusing to share any of it — that's robbery. Giving it all back to the One who gave it to you — that's justice.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

MY FRIEND HAS NEVER HEARD OF CHRIST AND I WANT TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH HER BUT I'M AFRAID TO. HOW DO I SHARE MY FAITH?

There are a lot of ways to bring up the topic of religion, without being judgmental or pushy. Begin by asking what her thoughts are about religion, or what her experience was growing up. Finding common ground is often easier than you think, because the questions and problems we have about God, the presence of evil, our purpose in life, and our relationship with God are universal concerns.

Why are you afraid? If you do not want to insult or offend someone, don't be pushy or judgmental. If you are uncertain about how to explain your own faith, do a little reading or practice with a friend. If you measure success only by this person converting, focus your attention more on beginning the conversation, not on bringing it to a perfect close! Faith is

a journey of many acts of belief, many discussions about God, and many choices about how we practice what we preach. In some we will have great success; in others we will need forgiveness and perseverance. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit is always at work and our most humble efforts can bear great fruit. Have faith in God because he has faith in you!



MEN'S CLUB SPONSORING A PARISH EVENT CONCERT



Monday, September 6, 2021

6:00 PM—8:00 PM

Acoustic, Blues, Easy Listening, Jazz



Come enjoy a Parish Event sponsored by the Men's Club featuring **Eddie Tobin**. He is a native Floridian. He has been singing and playing piano since he was eight year old. While attending a Eddie Tobin show you will hear jazz, blues, standards, ragtime, classical, pop, calypso and country music. People will enjoy his renditions of songs by Jimmy Buffett, Leon Russell, Ray Charles and Johnny Cash. The concert will be a special tribute to Engelbert Humpeinck. Eddie Tobin was Engelbert's music director and producer. Dress casual in white or seersucker for the end of summer.

Tickets can be purchased in the Parish Office, Monday-Friday between 8:30 AM—3:30 PM

\$25 per ticket prior to Friday, September 3, 2021

\$30 per ticket at door

Appetizer menu: Chicken Salad Croissant; Beef, Turkey, Ham Sliders; Veggie and Cheese Trays; Deviled Eggs; Chicken Tenders; Procuttio Skewers

Dessert Menu: Brownie Bites; Petits Fours (mini cakes); Chocolate Covered Strawberries; Mini Cannoli's; Decaf Coffee

TOM MAHONEY RETIREMENT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

TIME: 11:30 AM

Tom has been employed for **27+ years** at St. Mary, Star of the Sea. **As of September 18, 2021** Tom is retiring at his present position but will continue to work part time on the weekends.

Come congratulate Tom on his retirement after the 10:30 AM Mass on September 19, 2021!

LADIES OF THE PARISH

PLEASE JOIN US! Christmas Bazaar Workshop every Tuesday after 9:00 a.m.
Mass in Father Pick Hall. No special talent needed. Coffee, treats and joining with friends for fun activities.

We could use small Christmas Trees (4' and under), wreaths, and any Christmas decorations you would like to donate to us. Bring to Parish Hall or Parish Office and mark for Christmas Bazaar or call Clara McGonigle at 941-323-9168 or Carol Fischbein at 941-383-3412

Weekend Collection

August 21-22, 2021 \$4,597.00

Online Giving \$845.00

Thank you for your Generosity!

St. Mary, Star of the Sea received \$156,486.47 Bequest from Fr. Edward Pick.

“BE KIND TO EACH OTHER”



ROYAL RUMMAGE SALE



Collection of items will begin:

September 1, 2021 from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday (Parish Office Closed September 6, 2021)

No Furniture until after January 1-All other items can be dropped off in Parish Hall

Please check your attics, closets, cabinets, garages, storage areas and pack all those items you haven't used in a long time and no longer need nor want. We CANNOT accept hazardous materials including paint, old printers and old TV's.

We will sort and pack every Wednesday starting September 15 in Fr. Edward Pick Hall after 9:00 a.m. Mass. All are welcome to join us for work, fun, fellowship and goodies. Call Bonnie Schneider at 941-807-4499 if you can make a dessert.

Dates of Rummage Sale:

Friday, March 4, 2022-“Early Bird” Noon-4:00 PM Cost: \$5.00

Saturday, March 5, 2022—9:00 AM—1:00 PM—Free



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CELEBRATION OF LIFE COMMITTEE AND COORDINATOR

Celebration of Life Committee coordinates with the family and arranges the reception after the Mass for the deceased as well as acting as hostesses for the reception in the Parish Hall. Please call Parish Office or JoAnn Sifuentes at 310-880-1918 for information.



Commitment Date:

Friday, October 8, 2021 from
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Sign Up Date:

October 2-3, 2021 after all
Masses

Head Usher and Ushers

are needed to cover all Masses. If you are interested in volunteering as Usher or Head Usher, call Allyson Race at the Parish Office 941-383-1255. and they can answer your questions.

Calendar of

September 2021

September 6, 2021— Parish Offices Closed-Labor Day
September 6, 2021—Eddie Tobin Concert
September 19, 2021—Tom Mahoney Retirement at 11:30

October 2021

October 11, 2021—Parish Offices Closed-Columbus Day
October 15, 2021—Men's Club hosting and Women's Guild Assisting Octoberfest

November 2021

November 1, 2021—Parish Offices Closed-All Saints Day
November 2, 2021— Women's Guild hosting a Welcome Back Reception
November 13, 2021— Women's Guild hosting Christmas Bazaar
November 23, 2021—Thanksgiving Interfaith-Location TBD
November 25-26, 2021—Parish Offices Closed-Thanksgiving
Date TBD—Men's Club hosting Parish Clam Bake II

December 2021

December 5, 2021— Parish Council hosting Parish Picnic
December 8, 2021—Parish Offices Closed-Immaculate Conception
December 8, 2021—Fr. Pick Celebration
December 10, 2021—Parish Christmas Concert
December 12-14, 2021 — Parish Advent Mission
December 18, 2021—Men's Club hosting Parish Bus Trip to Wauchula—Live Nativity
December 24-27—Parish Offices Closed-Christmas
December 31, 2021—Parish Offices Closed-New Years

January 2022

January 22, 2022— Men's Club hosting and Women's Guild Assisting Italian Night with Entertainment
January 25, 2022—Respect Life Meeting

February 2022

February 8, 2022—Women's Guild Valentine Dessert Meeting
February 9, 2022— Men's event Before the Super Bowl
February 15, 2022—Women's Guild Luncheon for new members
February 17, 2022—LBK Golf Tournament—Parish Event



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