

# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 - 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### **MASS TIMES:**

Daily Mass: (M-F) 7:30 am Saturday Mass: 8:00 am Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Saturday Confession: 2:45 pm-3:45 pm Sunday Mass: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am; 2:00 pm (Polish First Sunday of Month)

4:00 pm (Creole Mass Weekly)

"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?

... In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

- Lk 14:28, 33

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## DIRECTORY



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2133 Heitman Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901

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Father Steven Clemente

**Parochial Vicar** 

Father Robert Tatman

**Haitian Ministry Parish Priest** 

Father Fritz Ligonde

Deacon

Deacon Nicholas Jurosic

Pastoral Emergencies

239-334-2161

#### PARISH OFFICE

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(Closed 12 - 12:30 p.m.)

239-334-2161

info@stfrancisfm.org

#### RELIGIOUS STORE

Sundays: 10:30AM to 11:30AM and 12:30PM to 1:00PM The store is closed while Mass is being celebrated.

#### **SCHOOLS**

St. Francis Xavier School

239-334-7707

www.stfrancisfortmyers.org info@stfrancisfortmyers.org

Principal

John Gulley

Vice Principal

Jim Reynolds

**Bishop Verot High School** 

239-274-6700

www.bvhs.org

#### **PARISH MINISTRIES**

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<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	334-2161
Wayne Dickie	
Lectors	872-2752
Pat Himschoot	
OCIA Coordinator	334-2161
Michael Reardon	
Knights of Columbus	673-8350
GK Terry Austin	
St. Vincent de Paul Society	334-9225
Angela Austin	
Respect Life Ministry	334-2161
Noelle Pacer	
Ministry to the Homebound	334-2161
Freda Himschoot	
Prayer Blankets	278-0791
Marilyn Pelusi	
Prayer Line	939-4287
Ruth	
Legion of Mary	565-8474
George Sahyouni	
Villa Francisco (Senior Living)	332-3229
Jeff Schwartz	
Catholic Charities	334-4007
Office	
Hope for Troubled Marriages	800-470-2230
Retrouvaille	

#### **PARISH STAFF**

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Accountant

Abby Castellanos

**Parish Secretary** 

Freda Himschoot

**Music Coordinator** 

Shana Richardson

Custodial

Roilan Gonzalez Valdez

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# SACRAMENTS OF OUR FAITH

#### Anointing of the Sick:

The Sacrament is meant for anyone who is suffering from a serious illness — physical, emotional, or spiritual. It may be received at any time during a person's illness, especially before surgery or treatment. Available the first Saturday of the month at the 8:00 A.M. Mass.

#### Confession:

Saturdays from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

#### Readings for the week of September 7

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

Monday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23 Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk

6:12-19

Wednesday: Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-

11, 12-13ab/Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-

4, 5-6/Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a

and 5, 7-8, 11/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-

4, 5a and 6-7/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

#### MASS INTENTIONS

September 6, 2025 - September

#### Saturday, September 6

8:00 A.M. + Dominga Young

4:00 P.M. \*+ Living & Deceased of Wise family

#### Sunday, September 7

7:30 A.M. + Leann Laughlin

9:30 A.M. + Miriam Madden

11:30 A.M. \* Daniel J. McArdle, Happy Birthday

2:00 P.M. + Holy Souls in Purgatory 4:00 P.M. + Holy Souls in Purgatory

#### Monday, September 8

7:30 A.M. + Robert Stepien

#### Tuesday, September 9

7:30 A.M. \* Victor & Carmen Medore, Happy Anniversary

#### Wednesday, September 10

7:30 A.M. + Ronald McTasney

#### Thursday, September 11

7:30 A.M. + Kay Phillips

#### Friday, September 12

7:30 A.M. + Phyllis Thompson

#### Saturday, September 13

8:00 A.M. + Don Atkins

4:00 P.M. + Benedetta Racaniello

#### Sunday, September 14

7:30 A.M. + Arjane Valentin

9:30 A.M. \* Barry McArdle

11:30 A.M. + Shannon & Athena Rose Tomkins

4:00 P.M. + Bob Morrissey

#### The 2026 Mass Book is open.

Please visit the parish office to schedule your requests.



Please consider sponsoring the week's Altar Flowers.
Contact 239-334-2161 for more information.

Sanctuary Candle for Living & Deceased of Sirianni & Quintier families by Stephanie Sirianni

Deceased

Living

Page 3

#### **September Parish Activities**

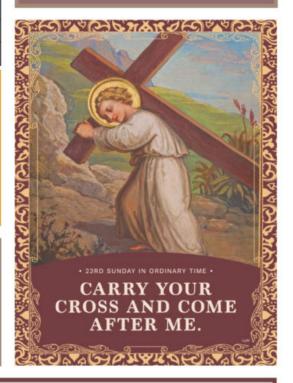
9/7/2025	8:00-11:00 AM	Knights of Columbus Breakfast	XH
9/8/2025	6:00-7:30 PM	Bible Study	XHA
9/10/2025	10:00-11:30 AM	Bible Study	МС
9/12/2025	12:00-1:00 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	СН
9/14/2025	10:00-11:15 AM	Parent Orientation for Faith Formation	хн
9/15/2025	1:00 PM	Respect Life Meeting	МС
9/15/2025	6:00-7:30 PM	Bible Study	XHA
9/17/2025	10:00-11:30 AM	Bible Study	МС
9/18/2025	10:00-11:30 AM	Prayer Blanket Ministry Meeting	МС
9/19/2025	12:00-1:00 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	СН
9/21/2025	10:00-11:15 AM	Faith Formation	XH/MC
9/22/2025	6:00-7:30 PM	Bible Study	XHA
9/23/2025	6:00-7:30 PM	NAMI Meeting (National Alliance on Mental Illness)	XHA
9/24/2025	10:00-11:30 AM	Bible Study	МС
9/26/2025	12:00-1:00 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	СН
9/28/2025	10:00-11:15 AM	Faith Formation	XH/MC
9/29/2025	6:00-7:30 PM	Bible Study	XHA

XH - Xavier Hall XHA -Xavier Hall Annex CH - Church MC - Ministry Center R - Rectory C - Chapel

#### LIVE THE LITURGY

Today, Jesus tells us the cost of true discipleship — and it turns out, it's everything. We must reject the world in order to love God.

What attachments are holding us back from the relationship we could have — we should have — with our Lord?





Life insurance policies assigned to a parish can mean substantial gifts. They are easy to assign and avoid taxes and estate complications.

Do you have an insurance policy to assign your parish?

Please call the Parish Office for more information 239-334-2161.

Are you a parent of young school-age children who have struggled to engage with the Mass? Do you find it hard for your little ones to make it through an entire liturgy?

We are excited to share that our 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Church is especially welcoming for families with children!

This joyful liturgy is beloved by school families and parents with young children. Children will be dismissed by the presider following the Gospel. Children will be engaged in prayer, and lessons related to the theme of the Sunday Gospel.

If you would like to assist in this ministry, call 239-334-2161.



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church joyfully invite you to join us for the installation of Father Steve Clemente the Pastor.

This special Mass will be presided over by Bishop Frank J. Dewane and will mark a new chapter for our parish community. Your presence will help make this a truly memorable and blessed occasion.

- iii Sunday, October 19, 2025
- 11:30 a.m. Mass
- St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

A luncheon reception will follow the Mass in the parish hall, where we can all extend warm wishes to Fr. Steve as he officially continues his ministry with us. Please come to this special mass and reception to celebrate this historical event!

□ I would like to speak with a priest about a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.



Fr. Steve Clemente

# WELCOME to our parish

If you would like to enroll, change your address, or if you simply have questions about our parish, please fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the Church Office:

2133 Heitman Street Fort Myers, FL 33901

2133 Heitman Street Fo	ort Myers, FL 33901.	
Name:		
Street Address:	City:	State:
Zip Code: Phone Number:	Email:	
<ul> <li>□ I would like to enroll as an active parishioner.</li> <li>□ Please change my address to the one shown above.</li> <li>□ I would like to learn more about school/parish activities.</li> <li>□ I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.</li> <li>□ I would like to offer the name of a homebound or seriously ill</li> </ul>	Catholic who is not being visi	ited:



Let's take time to appreciate our grandparents by coming to Mass and taking them to breakfast. Sunday breakfast is back, and the Knights are ready to cook for you! The whole family is welcome.

We look forward to seeing you for "Breakfast with the Knights"

TODAY from 8AM until 11AM at Xavier Hall.
Enjoy a morning meal
and the chance to share some time with your family and your fellow parishioners.

Adults: \$10.00, Children under 12: \$5.00, and we'll feed any little ones under 5 for free!



- Choice of waffles or pancakes
- Eggs
- Sausage or bacon
- · Juice or coffee
- A few extras



# Baby Quilt Raffle

Three beautiful Baby Quilts, handmade with loving hands, with proceeds going to the Fort Myers Community Pregnancy Center. Tickets are available after the Saturday 4pm mass and after the 9:30. & 11:30 Sunday masses.

TICKETS \$5 each. Or 5 for \$20 There will be 3 drawings (one for each quilt) on November 1, 2025



Join us for an engaging Bible study focused on the Book of Revelation. This fascinating text offers profound insights and thought-provoking themes that are relevant today. Whether you're familiar with the scripture or new to it, our group welcomes everyone to explore its messages together in a friendly and supportive environment. Come and deepen your understanding while connecting with others who share your interest in this powerful book.

This Book of Revelation Bible study will be held on Wednesdays from 10:00AM to 11:30AM in the Ministry Center.



# LEGION OF Mary

Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve the Lord? The Legion of Mary is a lay apostle dedicated to spiritual growth and active service to the parish community. Our goal is to spread the love of Christ through prayer, devotion to Mary and apostolic Works, visiting the sick and homebound. To find out more about this rewarding ministry, and how to become an instrument of the Holy Spirit join us by attending our weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 10:30am. The meeting location is the Villa Francisco "in meeting room" address 2140 Cottage St., Fort Myers, FL 33901 (directly behind the parish office) or call George Sahyouni at 239-565-8474.

TUESDAYS AT 10:30 AM
VILLA FRANCISCO MEETING ROOM

### **Loving Catechists needed!**

Make a difference in the spiritual life of a child and join our dedicated, fun and amazing team!

If you enjoy working with children, can dedicate 1-2 hrs/week, and commit from Sept-May on Sundays, we need you! No experience necessary.

Regular meetings are held along with spiritual opportunities, retreats and conferences to broaden your theological knowledge of your faith.

If interested to answer God's call, please contact: Michael Reardon, Director of Religious Education michael.reardon@stfrancisfm.org.

You'll need to be fingerprinted and take a safety online course.

Look forward to hearing from you. All classes will begin in September.





#### CATECHIST SPOTLIGHT

My name is Stacie Kolnicki. Being a Catholic catechist for Kindergarten and 1st grade has been one of the most joyful and rewarding experience. At this age, children are so open-hearted, curious, and full of wonder—exactly the kind of hearts that Jesus spoke about when He said, "Let the little children come to me."

It wasn't just about teaching lessons—it was about planting seeds of faith, kindness, and compassion in the softest, most fertile soil. And in doing so, I found my own faith growing stronger too. Their innocent questions, sincere prayers, and joyful energy reminded me daily of the beauty and simplicity of the Gospel.

Being a catechist to these little ones wasn't just a role—it was a calling, and an incredible gift.

Please take some time in quiet prayer and ask the Lord if He is calling you to the ministry of being a catechist. No experience is needed, just a love of the Lord and your Catholic Faith. Please call the Director of Religious Education, Michael Reardon at 239-334-2161 for more information on how you can become a catechist or a catechist aide. We look forward to hearing from you!

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOLD INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AS THEY APPROACH 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Knights Council at St. Francis Xavier began their fraternal year this month with a celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass and an Installation of Officers ceremony in the Guadalupe Chapel at the church. Father Steve, the chaplain offered a special Mass which included a display of one of the Knights "traveling icons" of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. These icons, which are blessed by the Pope, visit Knights councils around the United States and internationally. Following the Mass, Father Steve assisted George Curtis, the District Director of the Knights, in the annual Installation ceremony. This year's officers include: Grand Knight: Terry Austin; Deputy Grand Knight: Nick Lesniak; Financial Secretary: Wayne Dickie; Chancellor: Cody Hoffman; Recorder: Dennis Ocampo; Treasurer: Jameson Depaola; Advocate: Ed Peres; Warden: Andrew Murray; Guards: Aldrin Rodrigues and Leo Burt; Trustees: Albert Dambrose, Jake Skinner and John Tierney; Chaplain: Father Steven Clemente.

The Officers were joined by many of our newest members along with wives, significant others and children. The council is fortunate to have a number of new (and younger) Knights, which will be considerably important as they carry on their Catholic mission as our Council approaches the 100-year anniversary of its charter which was granted in January of 1926.

Following the service and event, the Knights and their families gathered to share a meal and some social time at Mission BBQ in Fort Myers, an evening which was enjoyed by all. Please pray that our Knights continue to uphold the tenets of our Faith by making good words into good works as they are guided by the principals of their Order: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.



#### SACRISTANS

Sacristans are behind the scenes prior to the celebration of Mass and special liturgies to make the Mass or other service meaningful, spiritual, and efficient.

Assisted by the Priest, Sacristans take care of the set up for each liturgy. They do everything from turning on the lights to finding the correct readings for the day.

#### HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

This ministry is open to individuals as well as couples. Training is provided.

Sacristans are asked to arrive to set up at least 30 minutes before Mass.

All ministers are scheduled according to their Mass preferences.

Call 239-334-2161 on how you can participate.

# Fertility Care Upcoming Opportunities Sat, Sept 20, 10am Tues, Oct 21 at 6:30pm Registration: bit.ly/SGIntroSession



Questions: call 813-421-4625 or email info@StGiannaCenter.com

stgiannacenter.com/events





#### Sidewalk Counseling Training

Learn how to help abortion-vulnerable mothers CHOOSE LIFE using the peaceful, prayerful, proven method of Sidewalk Advocates for Life

Saturday, September 20th from 9am-2pm Ave Maria University Saturday, November 8th from 9am-2pm St. John XXIII Catholic Church, Fort Myers

Training is free. Lunch and workbook provided. Online training also available!

Contact Cyrille Velasco at cyrillevelasco@gmail.com or Bob Reynolds at rgrcons1@gmail.com

SIDEWALKADVOCATES.ORG







#### HELP SAVE LIVES IN FORT MYERS!

#### 40 Days Kick Off Event!

Join us as we start the Fall 40 Days for Life campaign. The event will be highlighted by an abortion testimonial and other pro-life speakers.

#### All are welcome!

Join us WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th at 6:00 pm Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood Located at 6418 Commerce Park Dr, Fort Myers

Questions? Email 40DaysForLifeFM@gmail.com

No RSVP required, call a friend and join us to be inspired and to pray for the mothers and children of our community and an end to abortion in Lee County!

Rain or Shine We'll Be There!

Diaper Drive for Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers — PLEASE BRING DONATION SIZES 5 & 6

#### **Abuse Reporting**

An allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by anyone should be reported immediately to:
Florida Department of Children and Families Child Abuse Hotline:
1-800-96ABUSE (800-962-2873) or visit https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us.

If the alleged abuser is a diocesan employer/clergy/volunteer, also notify our diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (941) 416-6114.



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

DISCIP	PLE WIFE			SISTER				
FATHER			CHILDREN			LIFE		
MOTHER			BROTHER			CROSS		
D	0	c	c	11	1	1	E	

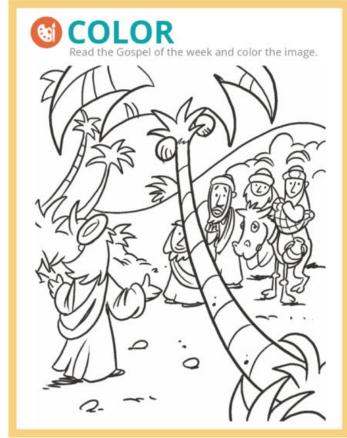
1 D S A C Н D 1 T S E Т P S R E L D Υ E



Say a special prayer to God today. Thank him for your family, your friends, and for all the things God has given you to enjoy.







23 Sunday in Ordinary Time • Luke 14:25-33



Living God's way can be very hard for some people. Name the people in your family. Can you love God more than you love your family? Name some of your friends. Can you love God more than you love your friends? Name your favorite books, movies or toys. Can you love God more than those things? It is OK to love your family, have good friends, and enjoy the gifts God has given you. Just remember to love God first.



Dear God, help me to love you more than anyone or anything else.







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