

— SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 — THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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)

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

- Jn 3:13, 17

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Parochial Vicar

Father Robert Tatman

Haitian Ministry Parish Priest

Father Fritz Ligonde

Deacon

Deacon Nicholas Jurosic

Pastoral Emergencies

239-334-2161

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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.

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John Gulley

Vice Principal

Jim Reynolds

Bishop Verot High School

239-274-6700

www.bvhs.org

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Eucharistic Ministers	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
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Villa Francisco (Senior Living)	332-3229
Jeff Schwartz	
Catholic Charities	334-4007
Office	
Hope for Troubled Marriages	800-470-2230
Retrouvaille	

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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 14

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17 Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn

19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab,

2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2,

3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9,

10/Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10,

17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2,

3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13

or 16:10-13

MASS INTENTIONS

September 13, 2025 - September 21, 2025

Deceased

k Living

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

Monday, September 15

7:30 A.M. + Remegio Rosales

Tuesday, September 16

7:30 A.M. + Gilberto Young

Wednesday, September 17

7:30 A.M. + Walter A. Wachter

Thursday, September 18

7:30 A.M. + Ernst & Milo Samedi, & Jeanne Lesperance

Friday, September 19

7:30 A.M. + Ernst & Milo Samedi, & Jeanne Lesperance

Saturday, September 20

8:00 A.M. + Henry & Helen Walter

4:00 P.M. + Cathy DeLorezo

Sunday, September 21

7:30 A.M. * Julie Biffar

9:30 A.M. S/I Special Intention

11:30 A.M. + Gerald McCarthy

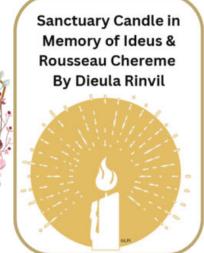
4:00 P.M. + Holy Souls in Purgatory

The 2026 Mass Book is open.

Please visit the parish office to schedule your requests.







September Parish Activities

9/14/2025	10:00-11:15 AM	Parent Orientation for Faith Formation	XH
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	MC
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

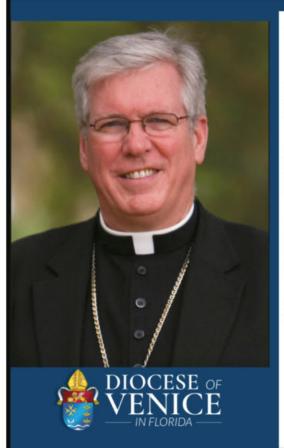
XH - Xavier Hall XHA -Xavier Hall Annex CH - Church MC - Ministry Center R - Rectory C - Chapel

LIVE THE LITURGY

God did not send his son into the world to condemn it.

The cross is not a symbol of judgment — the cross is what mercy looks like when it is lived out.

How will we bring the cross into our lives this week? How will we live the mercy which has saved us?



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the violent conflict in Gaza continues, a grave humanitarian crisis is unfolding, with many Christians and innocent people struggling to survive. With this devastating situation in mind, I write to you in appeal for our brothers and sisters in need in the midst of these destructive events.

The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has expressed his concern with the situation, saying, "I am following with great concern the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, where the civilian population is suffering from severe hunger and remains exposed to violence and death." Our Catholic Faith calls each of us to care for those in need, and, at this time in particular, for those who are suffering in the wake of this ongoing tragedy.

Recognizing the need of those who have been so severely impacted by the conflict in the region, the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked Dioceses throughout the country to take up a special collection to assist with humanitarian aid in Gaza. Within the Diocese of Venice, the collection will be taken on the weekend of September 20-21, 2025

Your generosity and your prayers for the people of Gaza are deeply appreciated. May Almighty God bless you and your families. Please continue to pray for peace throughout the world, particularly in the middle east.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

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

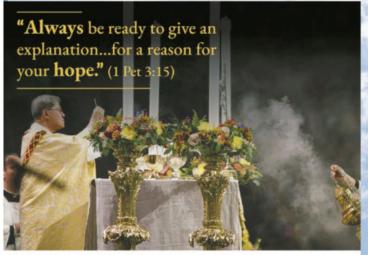
WELCOME to our parish

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

Catechetical Sunday is September 21st



Catechetical Sunday September 21, 2025 1 Pet 3:15 is our theme this year for Catechetical Sunday. We are all called to do this, especially our Catechists.

What is a Catechist?

They are teachers who pass on our Catholic Faith to children and adults.

Join us at the 11:30 Mass on Sunday, September 21st as Father Robert commissions and blesses the Faith Formation, Children's Liturgy, Youth Groups, and OCIA Catechists.

We can use your help as a Catechist Assistant this year. Please contact Michael at the Parish Office at 239-334-2161 for more information.

FAITH FORMATION, YOUTH GROUPS, AND SACRAMENTAL PREP BEGINS SOON

Faith Formation for grades K-4, Middle School (5-8), High School (9-12), and Youth Groups (which is where your child gets their Confirmation Prep) are Sundays at 10:00am in the Parish Hall. Parent Orientation is Sunday, September 14th at 10:00am (parents only, please).

Classes for all the students start Sunday, September 21st at 10:00am.

St. Francis Xavier Students in 2nd grade or old who need First Communion need to register as well for just Sacramental Prep.

Bishop Verot Students in 9th & 10th Grades need to register for High School Youth Group for their Confirmation Sacramental Prep.

If you missed the Registration weekends this summer, you are still able to register. Forms are available at the Parish Office, or fill out ALL 4 forms online at https://stfrancisfm.org/faith-formation/ at the bottom right of the page.



LESSING

OCTOBER 4, 2025

Please join us in the back of the church by the Mary grotto in St. Francis of Assisi's feast day.



ST. MICHAEL STATUE **DEDICATION**



Please join us as Father Steve dedicates the new statue of St. Michael the Archangel near the Feast of the Archangels. We will have a brief presentation at the end of the 11:30 Mass as the congregation will follow Fr. Steve and process out of the church and gather at the new St. Michael Statue on the north side of the church. Please be sure to invite other to join us for this historic event in the history of St. Francis Xavier Parish!

Join us for an engaging Bible study focused on the Book of Revelation. This fascinating text offers profound insights and thoughtprovoking 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.



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



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ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

OCIA is a gradual process of conversion that takes place in an informal setting while participants learn about the Catholic Church.

OICA offers Catholics who have not recieved Confirmation the opportunity to complete their Sacraments of Initiation to grow in faith and to learn about the beauty of the Catholic way of life.

The time to act is now! Classes will begin very soon.

Contact Michael Reardon at 239-334-2161.





Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death; one life is taken by suicide every 11 minutes in the U.S.

Suicide can result from untreated or undertreated depression, panic attacks, drug/alcohol abuse, or traumatic brain injury (TBI). Ending the stigma that keeps many people from seeking needed help is important. Journey to Hope Family Support Group offers direction and hope to family or friends searching for answers to help their loved one with a mental health condition.

Facilitators are NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) trained.

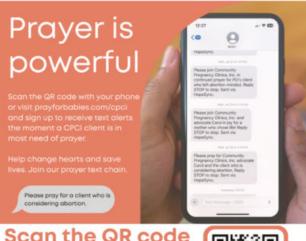
We meet on Tuesday September 23 at 6 PM in the St. Xavier Hall Annex.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

If you would like to be part of these helping hands please call the Parish Office, we are in need of your help in many areas, including, Religious Education, Children's Liturgy, Environmental and Decorating, Office help, Greeters, Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Fellowship following the 9:30 am Mass on Sundays.

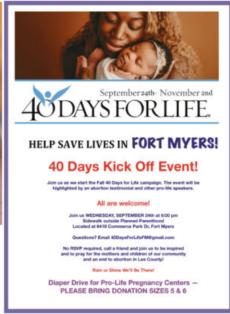
Please call the Parish office at 239-334-2161.





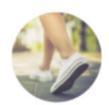
Scan the QR code to join the prayer chain











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

OR

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

Bob Reynolds at rgrcons1@gmail.com OR Cyrille Velasco at cyrillevelasco@gmail.com

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.



Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

lifted snake perish save world loved heaven desert

Moses soMes

havnee

letfid

saken

dseret

levod

wrodl

preshi

seva



When you catch yourself doing something wrong, stop. Ask Jesus to help you.





Exaltation of the Holy Cross. John 3:13-17





God created the whole universe, and God made you. When you mess up, God is there to save you. God doesn't want anyone to get hurt by sin. That's why he sent Jesus. He wants everyone to come to heaven, including you.







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