

Saint Francis of Assisi Church

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021



4th SUNDAY of Advent

"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy." - Lk 1:43-44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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
Nadine Goodrich, Director for Music and Cantors
James Brantner, Director for Religious Education
Gerry Chesney, Director, Parish Women's Guild
Matt Egan, Director, Parish Outreach
Janette Ash, Administrative Assistant
Jeanette Lindish, Receptionist (Part-Time)
Jim Parent, Maintenance & Facilities
Chris Lewis, Bookkeeper
Martha Mingel, Director Homebound/Healthcare
Penny Fleming, Ministry Scheduler/Communications
Beth Hammond, Head Sacristan

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

After Easter to January 1 ... 4:00 pm
January 8 to April 9 ... 3:00 pm & 4:30 pm

SUNDAY

After Easter to January 2 - 8:00 am & 10:00 am
January 9 through Easter Sunday
7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am

WEEKDAYS

Monday - Friday 8:15 am
Holy Days 8:15 am & 6:30 pm

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Winter— September 7 through June 3
Mon - Thurs 9:00 am-12:30 pm, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am-12:30 pm

Summer - June 6 through September 2
Monday through Thursday 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday after Mass 9:00 am - 9:15 am
Saturday 3:00 pm-3:30 pm

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, DECEMBER 20

8:15 am **JOHN WHELAN** by Margaret Whelan
Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent
Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:15 am †**SABINO FAMILY** by Dora Farias
Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent
Reading: Song of Songs 2:8-14
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:15 am **SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF CHARLES FIALA**
Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Advent
Reading: 1 Samuel 1:24-28
Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:15 am †**SHERI SCOTT** by Mom
Thursday of the Fourth Week in Advent
Reading 1: Malachi 3:1-4,23-24
Gospel: Luke 1:57-66

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 pm †**JOHN MORSCA** by Daughters
†**RALPH VERDINI** by Friends
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass
Reading 1: Isaiah 62:1-5
Reading 2: Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17,22-25
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

8:00 pm †**MARLENE WOODCROFT** by Richard Woodcroft
CHESKET & JELENIEWSKI FAMILIES
by Phil and Diane Jeleniewski Families
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass
Reading 1: Isaiah 9:1-6
Reading 2: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00 am †**JIM BUSBY AND †GAIL DONAHUE**
†**DENISE BALSALMA AND †MONICA CHECK**
by Darlene Koszick
10:00 am †**CHUCK KAHLER** by Wife Jo
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Reading 1: Isaiah 52:7-10
Reading 2: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: John 1:1-18

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

SUNDAY VIGIL (SATURDAY)

4:00 pm **BILL ARAIN** by Friends

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:00 am **SAINT LUCY FOR FAVOR RECEIVED**
by Walter and Marianna Levasseur
10:00 am †**LAWRENCE IZZO** by Josephine Izzo
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Reading 1: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Reading 2: Colossians 3:2-21
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52



We know that Christmas is coming, because Mary goes in search of Elizabeth. And we know that what is the next great event in the history of that little family is they both will give birth. Two children: one, John the Baptist, and the other one, of course, Jesus the Messiah. It is almost Christmas, and a child is about to be born to us. The Child will be the Son of Mary and the Son of God. He will be named Jesus and will be the gift of a loving Father offered to us on this first Christmas Day. We reach out then with both hands and take this most precious gift into our own world, into our families, into our hearts, into our lives, with great gratitude, love and thanksgiving to God himself. As the carol goes:

Hark now hear the angels sing
A new king born today.
And man will live forever more,
Because of Christmas Day

It has often puzzled me that God should choose the weak and needy, the helpless and poor, the day-to-day-ordinary people of this world, to effect his will, to be the instruments of his concern for a world that hungers for his love, often without even realizing it. This indeed is a great mystery. It is also God's way of telling us how much he values our lives, lives that we ourselves often take for granted, and we often feel unworthy of such honor and attention that God himself should give us his only Son, to be our companion on the road of life. Mary, then, becomes our Mother and our model. The unlettered, teenaged girl-child has been chosen to be the Mother of the Messiah, the Christ, savior of the world. Mary is chosen, but not

overjoyed. In fact, she is frightened and shrinks back from the Angel's words. She knows her limitations, and she also knows that to say "yes" to his request her whole life will be changed, so much so that there will be no room left to have a life of her own. She has been asked to give herself totally and completely for the little child of Bethlehem. And yet she answers the Angel's request in all humility, driving back her fears with a childlike faith in God: "Let it be done to me according to your word." And so it happens that the child takes shape in Mary's womb. And wonder of wonders, the child to be born will be flesh of Mary's flesh, blood of her blood. He will see with Mary's eyes, touch with her hands, and love with her heart, and even his pains and sorrows, his laughter and tears, will flow from Mary's eyes and Mary's heart. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." And the Child's name is Jesus. Thirty years later, the words of Jesus to his Father from the cross: "Father, not mine, but thy will be done," will echo his Mother's reply to the Angel this day: "Let it be done to me according to thy word." Like Mother, like Son! Mary's life once vowed and given will never be taken back. Mary's faith and trust in God has made the incarnation possible. God was asking her to surrender her life in love. And Mary gave it and continues to give it, to you and to me, that we might pass it on to one another. Let this Christmas, then, touch your hearts, minds and souls. God, our Father, asks only this of us: To love each other as he has loved us and continues to love us as we continue to love him. And this is what can change the world.



May your Christmas be wrapped in joy and filled with love. Best Wishes for peace, health, and happiness now and throughout the new year.

Merry Christmas!

From the Staff at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
We warmly welcome all to celebrate Mass with us.

December 24th - Christmas Eve

4:00 pm - Children's Nativity Drama & Mass

8:00 pm - Christmas Eve Mass

December 25th - Christmas Day

8:00 am

10:00 am



**Parish Office Closed for the Holidays
December 24-27, 31, January 3**

WINTER MASS SCHEDULE

(January 8/9 to Easter Sunday)

Daily Mass

8:15 AM

Sunday Vigil Mass (Saturday)

3:00 PM

4:30 PM

Sunday Morning Mass

7:30 AM

9:00 AM

10:30 AM

Weekend Reconciliation - Saturday 2:00 PM -2:30 PM

Our Parish Outreach Ministry ...

THANKS YOU

for your support with gift cards and food donations!

We wish you all the best and Merry Christmas!

Ministry Week for Saint Francis of Assisi Church

	Start	End	Event - Location
Mon Dec 20	7:50am	9:00am	Rosary/Mass/Anointing/Chaplet - Church
	9:00am	11:00am	Parish Stewardship Ministry
	9:15am	11:15am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	9:15am	11:30am	Rosary Making Ministry - Parish Center
	10:30am	11:00am	Priest Anoints at Englewood Hospice House
	11:45am	12:30pm	Lectio Divina - Gospel Prayer - Church
Tues Dec 21	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
	10:15am	12:00pm	Church Environment Preparation for Christmas - Church
	10:15am	11:15am	Parish Outreach Administrator and Coordinator Mtg - Parish Conference Room
Wed Dec 22	7:50am	8:45am	Rosary/Mass - Church
	9:00am	10:00am	Church Environment Preparation for Christmas - Church
	9:15am	11:15am	Parish Outreach Ministry - Parish Center
	1:30pm	3:00pm	Bible Study with Fr. Marcel - Parish Center
	7:00pm	8:00pm	AA - Parish Hall
Thurs Dec 23	7:50am	9:00am	Rosary/Mass/Chaplet - Church
	9:00am	9:15am	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	10:00am	12:00pm	Church Environment Preparation for Christmas - Church
	1:00pm	3:00pm	Hooks & Needles for Angels - Parish Conference Room
	5:00pm	6:30pm	Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) - Parish Conference Room
Fri Dec 24			Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord - Parish Office Closed
	4:00pm	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Mass with Children's Nativity Drama - Church
	8:00pm	9:00pm	Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Mass - Church
Sat Dec 25			The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)
	8:00am	9:00am	The Nativity of Our Lord Mass - Church
	10:00am	11:00am	The Nativity of Our Lord Mass - Church
	3:00pm	3:30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church
	4:00pm	5:00pm	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
Sun Dec 26	8:00am	9:00am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church
	10:00am	11:00am	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Church

I don't know if you have noticed, but God has a rather abrupt way of doing things. Unlike so many of us, God doesn't ask if now would be a good time; if we could talk about it; or make an appointment – when the time is right, God just acts. When the Angel appears



to Mary, there is no discussion of the plan, there is only what is about to happen. Mary then has a choice – either to accept it with grace or complain and become bitter at the circumstances before her. Of course, we all know what happens, but sometimes I wonder if I would have been just as gracious? Would I have argued, complained, or bartered? I would like to think not, but then again, sometimes we really get thrown a curve ball we didn't see coming. How many times have we looked back and realized God saw something in ourselves before we saw it on our own? God knew we were ready, even if you did not know it yourself.

It was certainly true for Mary and Joseph, and I believe it is true for each of us. Are we willing to believe in ourselves the same way God believes in us? Not one of us is perfect, but that is never what God has asked of us. We are simply asked to believe . . . that God will be faithful to the promises which have been made. . . and to be faithful in return. Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, Elizabeth, Zechariah; even the shepherds, were all ready for the task ahead of them, and so are we. Not all at once, mind you – just the next step, which is usually not as big as we think it is. May you be willing to let yourself be seen this season – the way God sees you. May you have faith – not just in God, but in yourself; and may you have a Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year.

Kenneth W. Lounders,
D.M.D., P.A.

*Caring for the
Community Since 1992*

941-475-1185
kennethwlounders.com

120 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood



HINCK

PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC

1177 S McCall Road ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223
941-474-3271 800-548-5017

Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®
Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser.

EMERY
AUTO & DIESEL REPAIR

Trusted Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs

6436 San Casa Drive Englewood, FL

(941) 548-4070 We Offer Senior Discounts

This Space is Available



Make an appointment today.
We'll give you a reason to smile.

Dr. Lawrence Hale
941-475-3962
Complimentary
Xrays and Exam!

Total
Dentistry

701 South Indiana Ave.,
Suite A • Englewood
www.totaldentistryenglewoodfl.com



941-475-9800
englewoodfh.com

ENGLEWOOD
COMMUNITY
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
& PRIVATE CREMATORY

3070 S. McCall Road
Englewood, FL

*Englewood's Only Locally Owned, Operated
& Managed Funeral Home & Private Crematory*

Hazeltine Family,
Epiphany Cathedral Parishioners
mhazeltine@hazeltinenurseries.com
941.488.8820 ext. 122



P.O. Box 236, Venice, Florida 34284
2401 N. River Road, Venice, Florida 34292
F 941.488.6236

www.hazeltinenurseries.com

a naturally grown company

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.



The Mother-Daughter Team



Barbara Mooney, PA, Realtor®

barbaramooney123@gmail.com • realestate@keyrealtync.com
Bus: (941) 474-3228 • Res: (941) 474-8675 • Cell: (941) 466-5684 • barbaramooney.com

Debby Walters, PA, Realtor®

daw003@aol.com • Res: (941) 474-2780 • Cell: (561) 212-0383

FREE AD DESIGN
WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE

CALL 800.477.4574



Alan J. Knapp, M.D.

20/20 AND BEYOND
The Future of Eye Care
COMPLETE EYE CARE

From Eye Examinations to Technologically Advanced CATARACT/LASER SURGERY

Medicare Assignment Accepted
Bring this ad for 10% off glasses
Full Service Optical Dispensary

www.2020andbeyond.com

1500 Placida Rd. B-2, Englewood

474-2266

The Windsor of Venice
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE
1600 Center Road

Assisted Living & Memory Care

Donna Marino
941-408-2600
AL License #11714

LET US PLACE YOUR AD HERE.



Sales • Rentals
Service • Storage
941-698-1010
3301 Placida Rd., Englewood
www.tgcart.com



Chris Murtha
Accounting & Tax Services
2800 Placida Road
Ste. 104, Englewood

Bus: 941.828.1280 • Cell: 941.662.5344
chris@murthaaccounting.com

WWW.MURTHAACOUNTING.COM



100 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, FL 33947
941-697-4880

Serving Sunday Breakfast 7 am to 12
Starting at Only \$5.99

www.rotondagolf.com

Open to the Public

AIRPORT TRANSPORT

Sarasota or Punta Gorda \$60
Fort Myers \$90

3rd/4th Passenger + \$20 each

Darlene Benson
St. Francis Parishioner
941-468-6899



airporttransportcar@yahoo.com
Licensed & Insured



JohnMingel.Remax.com
Martha Mingel, Admin. Asst.
(Se Habla Español)
941-525-3472

"every life has a story"
Scott Daughenbaugh
Parishioner
LEMON BAY FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES
Englewood (941) 474-5575

Schillinger Insurance
Center of Venice, Inc.
Home • Auto • Business • Boat • Flood • Health
Our Homeowners Includes Wind!
Call Us Before You Renew - Low Auto Rates!
www.insurancecenter.us
555 East Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34285
941.484.1288
DON & LINDA and CHRIS SCHILLINGER, Parishioners

New Patient Special
\$79 Cleaning
Exam & X-ray



Dr. Greg Brandau D.D.S.
Comprehensive Dentistry
Affordable Fees
8501 Placida Rd., Suite A1 • Cape Haze, FL 33946
(941) 828-2684
We Treat our Patients Like Family!



We've Missed You!
Welcome Back to Mass

Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com

CAMERON LOH
Attorney At Law
1620 Placida Rd., Suite D
Englewood, FL 34223
941-475-4418
www.lohlaw.net

Living Trusts	Joint \$600
	Single \$500
Simple Will	\$125
Health Care Surrogate	\$100
Power of Attorney	\$100

WE'RE HIRING
AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE.
• Paid Training • Some Travel
• Work-Life Balance
• Full-Time with Benefits
• Serve Your Community

Contact us at careers@4lpi.com
www.4lpi.com/careers

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!
ADVERTISE HERE NOW!
Contact Scott Messner to place an ad today!
smessner@4LPi.com or (863) 875-1101

Consider it Done!



941-219-4840
abcswest.com

Owned & Operated by Parishioners:
Bryan & Renee Schroll

FL License: CFC1428156 | CAC1817380

STAND OUT
with a PREMIUM DIGITAL AD on PARISHESONLINE.COM
CONTACT US AT 800-477-4574

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust
• Burglary • Flood Detection
• Fire Safety • Carbon Monoxide
ADT Authorized Provider SafeStreets 1-855-225-4251
NEVER MISS A BULLETIN
Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin emailed to you at www.parishesonline.com

GROW YOUR BUSINESS AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY
Advertise Here!
CONTACT US AT 800.477.4574

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!