When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Luke 3:41-42



SAINT ISABEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

3559 Sanibel Captiva Road | 239.472.2763 | www.SAINTISABEL.org SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021



Wednesday December 22

8:30 AM **†Robert Francis**

By Patsy & Ken Gamble

Thursday December 23

8:30 AM **†Eddie Augustyn**

By Karen & Dave Paulin

Friday December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 PM **†Summer Scimeca**

By Brian Scott

Friday December 24 Christmas Eve

7:30 PM **†Neil Ostrowski**

By John & Khristy Scheer

Saturday December 25 Christmas Day

10:30 AM **†Our Faith Family**

Sunday December 26 The Holy Family

8:30 AM **†William Fannon**

By His Family

10:30 AM **†Eugene Skoczen**

By His Wife, Rita

Need a Mass Intention?

Our 2022 Mass Book is open. If you would like to get a Mass Intention for either 2021 or 2022 please call or stop by the parish office 239.472.2763.

Sacraments

Baptism - For registered and active parishioners: must be arranged with the pastor 6 months before the date desired. **Confessions** — Saturdays 4 PM — 4:45 PM in Church Confessional.

Communal Anointing of the Sick: By appointment when facing serious illness or surgery.

Weddings - For <u>registered and active</u> parishioners: must be arranged with the pastor at least 12 months before the date desired.

A priest is on call 24/7 for each of the following hospitals: Gulf Coast - St. John XXIII Parish 561-2245; Lee Memorial - St. Francis Xavier Parish 334-216; Health Park & Hospice at Health Park - St. Columbkille Parish 489-3973.

The prayer list is updated weekly. Names will remain on the list for one calendar month and may be removed sooner by request. Please call the parish office each month to continue to keep a name on the list.

Please Pray For ...

GOD IN HEAVEN, GRANT COMFORT TO OUR SICK:

Chris Dalton, Charlotte Davenport, Jean Dedouvre, Lucille Hanselman, Rocco Johanson, Bettina Larson, Joanne & Andy McKelvey, Charleen Ostrowski, George Sanker, & Annie Schreck.

Today's Scripture Readings

First Reading: Mi 5:1-4a Second Reading: Heb10: 5-10 Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 39-45

PASTOR

Fr. Edward Martin

Business Manager Khristy Scheer

Director of Faith Formation

Dr. Sue Ellen Nolan

Cantor Maria Zoltek

Contact us

Website: www.SAINTISABEL.org Email: parishoffice@saintisabl.org

The Parish office is closed

December 23-27

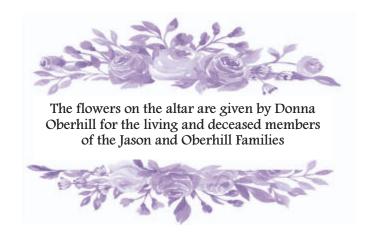
LET'S STAY CONNECTED!







Parish Membership is maintained by registration in the Parish, active participation in the Sunday Eucharistic Worship, living a positive Christian moral life, Stewardship, and Support of the Parish, the Diocese, and Universal Church. Through baptism we become God's sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters to each other in Christ. Every family in the parish is encouraged to properly register and receive numbered offertory envelopes. Registration forms for permanent members can be obtained by visiting or calling the Parish Office during regular office hours. Registered Parishioners: Changes in your household – Move, email change, Births, Deaths, Marriage? Please email us parishoffice@saintisabel.org or call the office at 239-472-2763.



Advent & Christmas Schedule

First Sunday of Advent November 28, 2021

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM

Second Sunday of Advent December 5, 2021

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM

Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2021

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ Holy Day WEDENSDAY, DECEMBER 8
8:30 AM Mass and 5:00 PM Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 24 5:00 PM, and 7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 10:30 AM Mass

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022 5:00 PM Vigil Mass SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

St. Isabel is a Stewardship Parish Stewardship Prayer

Gracious and loving God, You call us to **be stewards** of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve.

Father Ed's Stewardship Corner

Stewardship: FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship

When we speak of fellowship, we are really speaking about the Christian community of believers who gather to worship and to praise the Lord, following the example of the early Church-a faith community who were united in one heart (Acts 4:32). Fellowship is far more than the coffee and donuts after Mass or the monthly parish "potluck". True fellowship provides the space, time and atmosphere for parishioners and guests to form and nurture friendships that lead to this genuine unity.

Key Characteristics of a Parish that Values Fellowship:

- In addition to coffee and donuts, our parish offers opportunities for fellowship and hosts monthly or quarterly (if events are large) hospitality events.
- In our parish, there are adequate facilities for fellowship or a willingness to find creative solutions to the parish's need for space.
- Our parishioners are engaged with each other and with newcomers/visitors before and after Mass.
- Our parish regularly evaluates outreach and is intentional in its outreach to all demographics within the parish boundary, especially those who are "out of sight? (the sick and homebound, those who feel isolated and alone). Our pastor and parish show particular care for the sacramental life of the sick and homebound.
- The majority of our parishioners put fellowship with Jesus Christ and His Church above their participation in sports, media or other leisure activities encouraged by our culture.

Life Planning Seminar

My Dear Friends in Christ,

On far too many occasions we have parishioners wondering and worrying about some very important questions regarding their futures. Questions like:

- Who will make my healthcare and financial decisions when I cannot speak for myself?
- How do I make healthcare and financial decisions for a loved one?
- Who will care for my children if something happens to me?
- What will happen to my assets after I die?
- Who will manage my estate and my affairs when I am gone?
- Do I want the government making these decisions for me?

If you and your family members do not know the answers to these questions, I encourage you to attend the free Life Planning Seminar and luncheon entitled "Planning for Tomorrow," on Thursday, Jan. 20th at 10:30 AM in the Parish Hall.

Saint Isabel has partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida and local estate planning experts to provide you with the crucial information you need to make critical health, legal and financial decisions for yourself and/or a loved one.

Please know that this seminar is completely free and is not intended to sell you anything or to ask you to make a donation. It is only intended to provide you with important information and to help answer your questions. Please RSVP to the Parish Office by January 6, 2022.

Thank you and may God bless you.





SAINT ISABEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Presents:

Planning for Tomorrow

Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM in the Parish Hall Followed Immediately by Lunch

A COMPLIMENTARY LIFE PLANNING SEMINAR

St. Isabel Catholic Church has partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida and local estate planning experts to host a complimentary seminar and luncheon, which will provide participants with the knowledge they need to make critical health, legal and financial decisions for themselves and/or a loved one.

Attendees will obtain important information on:

Avoiding Guardianship, Wills vs.
Trusts, Probate, Durable Power
of Attorney, Beneficiary
Designations, Healthcare
Surrogates, Advanced
Directives, Financial Planning,
Smarter Ways to Give and more.



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OR EMAIL: CCF@DIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG

Fourth Sunday of Advent

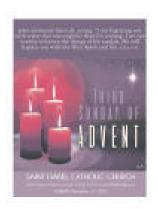


Prayer is the power behind all good that happens.

For this reason, we would like to resume the St. Isabel Women's Prayer Group. The purpose of the group is to join together as a community of women in prayer and to come before God and ask for mercy, forgiveness and peace. Beginning January 2022, this group will meet the first Thursday of each month to spend time before God in prayer. We will gather at 9:30 am in the Parish Hall. We will share our personal intentions for the month and any special prayers that we may say each day and maybe talk about experiences that we had during the month that brought us closer to God. Our personal intentions can include prayers for members of our family and friends or for anything else that is weighing heavy on our mind. We will then end with a group prayer.

Our time together will be from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. and all women in the parish are invited. Please pray about it and ask God if this is something that He would like you to do. There are no sign-up sheets or dues or requirements. You just show up to pray. We know that there is power in prayer and Jesus told us in the Gospel of Matthew, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there

among them" (Mt 18:20).



Bulletin article Submission Guidelines

Preferred Content: Recent Parish News, Upcoming Parish Events, Photos etc.

The parish bulletin is our primary means of written communication with our parishioners. There is limited space and not all submissions can be included, (your request will be considered for entry, please know that requests will

be reviewed for alignment with Diocesan and Parish priorities and are not guaranteed placement). Priority will be given to St. Isabel Church ministries and groups first.

Please submit copy digitally in a **text or Word format**. (In the body of an email is fine.) If there is artwork to be included, please attach a **jpeg** file. All copyrighted photos and images must be licensed for use in any print or online usage. Submissions are subject to edits, review and approval. Identical content may run for up to two weeks if space permits. If additional time is requested, new content may be required to be provided.

DEADLINE: Bulletin content must be received in the parish office no later than Wednesday at Noon, eleven (11) days prior to publication.

Please email: parishoffice@saintisabel.org Your cooperation is greatly appreciated! Thank you!





WESHARE DONOR MATCH PROGRAM

The holiday season is one of the largest giving seasons for our church. Our online giving provider WeShare is generously providing a donor match program to help us increase recurring giving. Online gifts help reduce costs and our time spent handling other forms of payment.

For every first gift from a new recurring donor that is added between **November 1 and December 31, 2021**, WeShare will match that first gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 for our church. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be transacted by December 31, 2021.

We appreciate your generosity and your support of our church. We prayerfully ask that you consider helping us meet this goal by creating your recurring online gift today.

Visit our WeShare site or reach out to the WeShare Customer Support team at 877-316-0260 St. Isabel Parish WeShare: https://saintisabel.weshareonline.org/

Prepare for Christmas with the Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs" (USCCA). They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

The seven Corporal Works of Mercy are:

(1) Feed the hungry.
2) Give drink to the thirst

(2) Give drink to the thirsty. (3) Clothe the naked.

(4) Shelter the homeless.

(5) Visit those in prison. (6) Comfort the sick.

(7) Bury the dead.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2022 Boxed Offertory envelopes

are available in the church narthex. Please check your name off and take your boxed envelopes. Your boxed number may have



changed so check the book. If you do not have envelopes, please call the parish office at (239) 472-2763. Having offertory envelopes is a good idea, with only an account number (no name and address), so you can give anonymously. They allow our office to prepare an annual statement for tax purposes. As your donation at Mass is a "gift" to the community, your envelope serves as your donation's "gift wrap." To receive envelopes for adults, simply contact the parish office. Please help us save on the cost of postage by stopping by the church during normal operating hours, or after Mass, to pick up your envelopes. Thank you.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December
Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the
Word of God: may they be its witnesses,
with courage and creativity
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Rosary



The Rosary begins after the 8:30 AM Daily Mass (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) and is open to everyone, so please come and spend precious time with Jesus.



Altar flowers can be offered by anyone and provide a meaningful way to remember loved ones through memorials, offer thanksgivings, or recognize a birthday, baptism, wedding, anniversary, or special event. The fee is \$100. All flower offerings are recognized each Sunday in the worship bulletins. For more information contact the parish office at 239.472.2763.

St. Isabel's Men's Retreat



Our Men's
Retreat is
open to all
Men of the
Parish and our
greater faith
community.
The retreat is
at Our Lady of

Perpetual Help Retreat Center, Venice, Florida. Retreat Date: Jan 23 – 26, 2022, Sunday Noon thru Wednesday 1PM. Costs: \$360 Private Room and Bathroom

Questions: John Temporiti 314.409.3568 or email temporiticonsulting@gmail.com

Additional details will be provided to confirmed candidates. Fr. Ed Martin, our Pastor, plans to attend. Transportation provided if needed. Partial Retreat option possible if rooms available. Please send payment: By check to: St. Isabel Church (Memo) "Men's Retreat 2022" Mail check to: John Temporiti, 680 Gopher Walk Way, Sanibel, FL 33957.

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

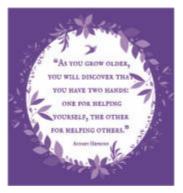
Couples Retreat

Several parishioners have asked about the availability



of a couples retreat. A couples retreat is now available on Friday to Sunday February 26, 27,28, 2022 at our Lady of Perpetual Help retreat where

our parish men have their annual retreat. The cost is \$315 which includes a private room and all meals. The retreat will be preached by Deacon Scott Little of Epiphany Parish in Venice, Florida. He is an experienced retreat master for couples retreats. There will also be two priest available for spiritual direction and confession. For more information or to register, call Denise Riley at the retreat center at 941-486-0233. Mention to her that you are from Saint Isabel's parish. Any additional information you might need just call John Temporiti at 314-409-3568.



Be the Difference That Makes a Difference - There are many ways to share your time and talent at St. Isabel Parish. We have great opportunities for volunteers from all walks of life and all age groups. Most of our ministries require no special expertise — just willing hands, a big heart, and a few hours each week or each month.

Extraordinary things

happen when ordinary people do a little extra Choose one or more of the many ministries shown below to respond to God's call to you in the Gospel to Stewardship. Don't worry that you might be signing away all your free time. We'll match your interests and available time with St. Isabel Parish ministry needs. Many volunteers are snowbirds, others have full-time, demanding careers.

Please contact the Parish Office to Volunteer!

(239) 472-2763 or parishoffice@saintisabel.org

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

ALTAR SERVERS - Parishioners from the third grade through adult may assist in the preparation and celebration of Masses.

ART AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - The Environment team decorates and enhances our Church. Tasks may include putting up and taking down of decorations and arrangements for the Liturgical church year.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - Distribute the Body of Christ during Mass. Rotating schedule.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD (LECTOR)-This ministry is for those who have a good speaking voice and are called to proclaim the Word of God in a meaningful and alive manner at Mass. Adequate preparation of the Scriptures is required. Training and coaching provided.

SACRISTANS - Prepare for the celebration of liturgies. If interested in learning about this ministry, consider being an apprentice first to learn the duties. A prayerful attitude is needed.

USHERS AND GREETERS - Greet and welcome all who come to celebrate Mass. Offer assistance and direction to any newcomers. Assist with seating people, taking up the collection, keeping good order during the Communion procession, handing out bulletins, offering aid to the disabled and the elderly, or with any emergencies that might occur.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CATECISTS – Teachers of the faith to children, youth, families, young adults, and adults

FAITH FORMATION – Family Formation, Adult Formation, Children's Liturgy of the Word, RCIA, and Sacramental Prep

Safe Environment for Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults



The Diocese of Venice is committed to protecting children, youth and vulnerable adults. Together, and with God's help, we can continue to promote a culture of openness and awareness, and a commitment to safety within our Church and in the larger community.

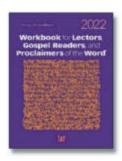
As part of the Safe Environment

Program, the Diocese of Venice requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and trained in Safe Environment. For further information, visit the Diocesan website at: https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/programs/safeenvironment/

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 (1-800-962-2873) or visit https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us. If the alleged abuser is a diocesan employee or volunteer, including clergy, also notify Victim Assistance Coordinator Susan Benton at 941-416-6114.

Christmas Day Televised Mass for the Homebound

The televised Christmas Day Mass for the Homebound with Celebrant Bishop Frank J. Dewane will air for a full hour on Christmas Day. For viewers in the southern portions of the Diocese (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee counties), the Mass will air at 6:00 a.m. on WFTX-TV (FOX-4). Please check your cable provider for channel listings. The Mass will also be available on the Diocesan website at dioceseofvenice.org/televisedmass.



The Year C, 2022 Lector Workbooks are available in the Sacristy. Please pick up your copy. Thank you!!

HAVE YOU RETURNED FOR THE WINTER?

All Volunteer Ministries – if you will be away or have returned for season, please call the office 239.472.2763 or email parishoffice@saintisabel.org so we can schedule accordingly.

Thank you.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Society of Bread & Roses

We had a very successful Advent Tree of Joy this year! Thank you to all who so generously gave to the project this year. We filled and gifted over 125 Children and youth and 50 Seniors with thoughtful and beautifully wrapped Chrismtas gifts. THANK YOU!!

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas! Please join us for our next meeting on Thursday, January 27. At 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall.

All women of the Parish are welcome.

If you would like more information, please contact Mary Aufderheide at 239-395-2975 or email at mauf86o@qmail.com.

St. Isabel's Men's Society



OUR MISSION: To offer a men's ministry that provides opportunities for spiritual growth, Christian fellowship, community service, and parish leadership.

The Board of St Isabel's Men's Society has set their meeting schedule for the coming year. All meetings will be held on Thursday evenings. They are scheduled for December 16th, January 20th, February 17th and March 17th at 6:00p.m. in the Parish Hall. Father Ed will show a video series related to Fellowship in the Catholic Faith and lead us in discussion. Pizza and beverages will be provided. This promises to be a great time of gathering and focusing on our faith as Catholics and developing deeper friendships within our Church. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Membership dues are \$25.00 again this year. You may send your check to Ed Kocourek, 644 Pyrula Ave, Sanibel.

Catholic Charities food pantry needs our help!



Some of the basic food commodities needed: rice, dry beans, pasta, cereal, macaroni and cheese, canned meats and fish, tomato sauce, cooking oil and corn flour. Baskets have

been placed in the Narthex for canned goods and nonperishable food donations.





December 19, 2021



Online Giving Through WeShare you can make your Offertory contributions to Saint Isabel Parish via recurring automatic contributions or a one-time contribution from your checking account or on your credit card – just as you may do

now with your mortgage, household bills, and other monthly payments. To get started, visit our website at www.saintisabel.org

> Leaving a legacy of Faith Remember St. Isabel in your Will

A bequest is a wonderful way to express gratitude to God for a lifetime of blessings! The gift you give establishes a lasting legacy of love for others by helping the Church to continue our Catholic heritage through its many ministries. PLEASE NOTE: Leaving money to the Parish in your will is not assessed and 100% goes to the parish. The following is possible wording for including a bequest in your will: "I bequeath the greater of \$_ of the residue of my estate to Saint Isabel Parish in Sanibel, Inc., 3559 Sanibel Captiva Rd. Sanibel, FL 33957." The actual wording in your will should be determined by you and your attorney.

MAKING A STOCK TRANSFER When making a stock transfer to the Diocese of Venice on behalf of St. Isabel Parish, please email khristy.scheer@saintisabel.org to let us know you made the request. Sometimes a transfer comes to the Diocese with no name or no parish name. This will help us track the transaction.

To Bank Electronic Giving To set up Saint Isabel Church as a recurring donation through online banking: At your bank or bank website, set up Saint Isabel Catholic Church under "add a bill/payee". You will be asked to include the following: a. CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS: St. Isabel Church, 3559 Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel Ca number or leave blank.

Thank you for your generosity to the mission of St. Isabel Catholic Church
This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide, and should purpose only and the state of not be relied on for tax, legal or accounting advice. If you have any questions about how your giving may impact your finances, please consult a tax, legal or accounting advisor before engaging in any transaction.





Make a Tax-Free Gift with an IRA

Did you know that you may be able to give to St. Isabel Catholic Church and save money at the same time? There are different options depending on your age.

Age 70.5 or Older

If you are 70.5 years or older, you may be able to give an amount (up to \$100,000) each year from your IRA directly to St. Isabel Catholic Church without having to pay taxes on the money. This is a popular form of giving that is sometimes referred to as the IRA charitable rollover, or the qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

Additional Benefits for Those 72 or Older

When you turn 72, the transferred funds may begin counting toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) so you do not pay income taxes on the gift.

The funds transferred to charity do not qualify for a charitable deduction, but they may become exempted from taxable income whether or not you itemize deductions.

Lowering your taxable annual income level could also result in lower Medicare premiums and the amount of Social Security subject to taxes.

Your disbursement must come directly from the administrator of your IRA to the parish. You cannot receive the funds first. Please contact the administrator of your IRA with any tax or accountspecific questions.

Additional ways to use your IRA to make a gift:

Did you know that leaving your qualified retirement account may be the most expensive asset to leave your children? Unlike individuals, St. Isabel Parish does not have to pay income taxes on inherited IRA's, so the full amount that you direct to us through a beneficiary designation would further the mission of your church family. This is often a very easy way to make a substantial gift as it only takes the completion of a form that your account administrator may provide for you.

Important Step: It is critically important that you contact the parish and let us know of your gift. This is because many retirement plans do not notify the charity of a gift designation. We will monitor the situation to be sure that your plans for giving are indeed followed. Plus, we want to be able to thank you for your generous gift.

To make a gift from your IRA, please follow these steps:

- Seek the advice of your financial or legal adviser if necessary.
- Determine the gift you would like to give.
- Contact Khristy Scheer in the business office of St. Isabel Catholic Church. 239-472-2763 khristy.scheer@saintisabel.org to inform the parish of your intended gift.
- Ask your IRA administrator about making a direct transfer to the parish or have the administrator send a check from your account to the parish directly. Remember, to be tax free the donation must be made directly from your IRA account to the parish and not pass through your hands.

Your IRA Administrator will need this information:*

Legal name: St. Isabel Parish in Sanibel, Inc.

Legal address: 3559 Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL 33957

Federal Tax ID Number: 59-2336842

*This information can also be given to your IRA administrator to make St. Isabel Parish the beneficiary of your IRA or to make a gift from your estate.

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Periwinkle Place 2075 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel (239) 472–2525 Open every day from 8am - 8pm Beachview Estates 1100 Par View Drive, Sanibel (239) 558-5634 Open every day from 11am - 8pm

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