



SAINT ISABEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

3559 SANIBEL CAPTIVA RD, SANIBEL | 239.472.2763 | PARISHOFFICE@SAINTISABEL.ORG

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT



While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." - Lk 9:34-35

March 16, 2025



Friday, March 21

9:00 AM †**MaryAnn McGrath**
By Jack McGrath

Saturday, March 22

5:00 PM †**Sandy Andrews**
By her husband, Andy

Sunday, March 23

10:00 AM †**Robert Heidorn**
By his wife, Beverly

Mass Intentions

To have a Mass or several Masses offered for a person who is deceased is an ancient and commendable practice. A Mass is offered to pray for a person that he/she may be at peace in heaven. Since each Mass is of infinite value, requesting one or several Masses is of tremendous benefit for the person prayed for as well as for the family, knowing that their intention is joined with the prayer of the Church. The Mass book is now open for 2025. Please call the parish office at (239)472-2763 or email parishoffice@saintisabel.org to book Mass Intentions.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions: Saturdays at 4PM until 4:45 PM

St. Isabel's Parish Sacramental Policies

Sanibel is a beautiful place, and St. Isabel is a lively parish. Because of this, we often receive requests from people who are not registered members of our parish community to celebrate baptisms or "destination weddings" here on Sanibel. Sacraments are customarily meant to be celebrated in the context of an active faith community. The celebration of any sacrament presumes the practice of the faith, which, in the case of baptism, gives the church every assurance that the child to be baptized will be raised Catholic. It does a disservice to the sacrament when it is celebrated without the serious intention of practicing one's faith. Parish registration helps to insure that individuals are an active part of a faith community, and affords them the opportunity to be a support to that faith community, not only through their financial contributions but also through their active participation. It is because of this broader theological understanding of the sacraments that St. Isabel only accepts requests for baptisms and weddings from registered and active parishioners. Sacraments (baptisms and weddings) are not normally scheduled until twelve months after someone has registered.



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. Please call the parish office 472-2763 with the name of the person or family making the offering, the name of the person for whom the offering is being made, and the associated event or anniversary. The fee is \$200 which helps to support this ministry. All flower offerings are recognized each Sunday in the worship bulletins. For more information contact the parish office at 239.472.2763.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Today's Readings

First Reading: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18

Second Reading: Phil 3:17-4:-1

The Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

PASTOR

Fr. Edward Martin

Business Manager

Khristy Scheer

Cantor / Music Coordinator

Maria Zoltek

St. Isabel Parish Finance Council

John Temporiti, Colleen Bauer, Jeffrey Bonner, Dan Kuefler, Pamela Murray and Tom Senft

Contact us

Website: www.SAINTISABEL.org

Email: parishoffice@saintisabel.org



WELCOME TO ST ISABEL PARISH

We welcome

Thomas, Campbell, Tommy, and Cam Shircliff

We extend a warm welcome to parishioners, friends, and supporters of St. Isabel Catholic Church who have come to worship here. Through St. Isabel's intercession, may the Lord send down special blessings upon all of us as we turn to him today in faith and prayer.

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.

Prayer REQUESTS

GOD IN HEAVEN, GRANT COMFORT TO OUR SICK

Enna Kraus, Kathy McKelvy, Jhantel Oberhill, Ophelia Osborne, Charleen Ostrowski, Mark Swindells, and Sheila Zuhusky.

The prayer list is updated weekly. Names will remain on the list for one calendar month and may be removed sooner by request. Please email (parishoffice@saintisabel.org) each month to continue to keep a name on the list.

SAINT ISABEL, SANIBEL FL

REBUILDING OUR PARISH

Matching Funds Opportunity

Why Donate Now?

Every Dollar Doubles: Thanks to a generous matching donation from a wonderful parishioner, your donation will be matched dollar for dollar, but we need to reach our goal of \$1,500,000 to unlock this match!

Faith Community Impact: Our Worship space, fellowship hall, and home for our Pastor, all contribute to, and enhance our Faith community, as well as our surrounding community. The Parish offers a beautiful house of worship and grounds for the many visitors and tourists to Sanibel, Captiva, and the surrounding areas.

Timing! We have the next 60 days to raise the funds and unlock the match. Don't wait—your support is crucial!

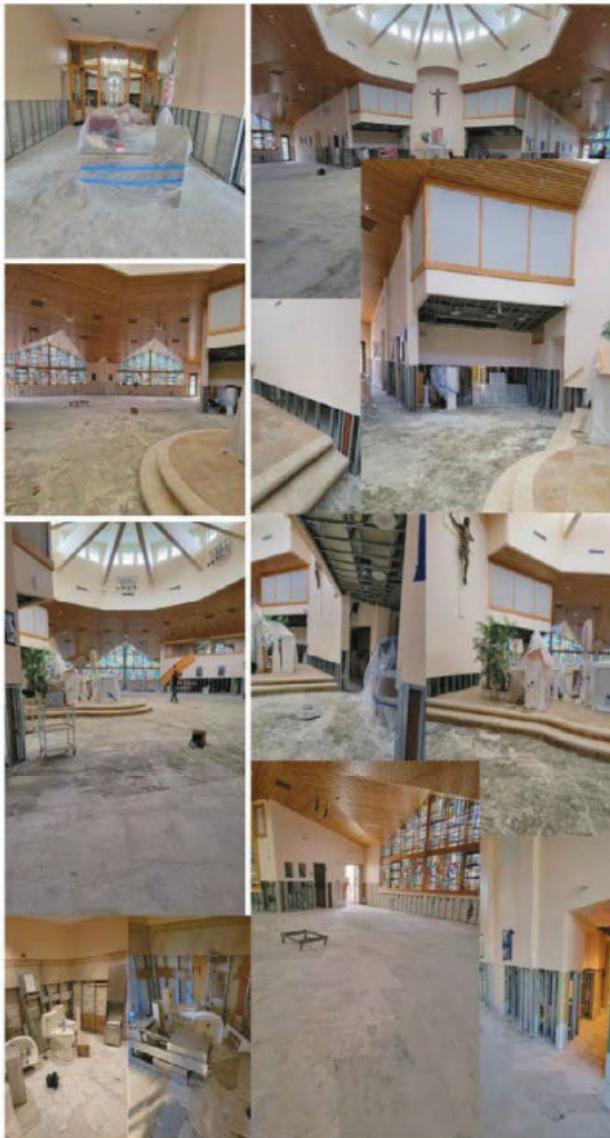
How You Can Help: Donate- Every penny counts! Whether it's a small contribution or a larger gift, your donation will help!



LET'S DO THIS!

www.saintisabel.org

Rebuilding Prayer



Lord, guide us as we restore our parish campus. Inspire generosity in our congregation and unite us towards a common goal.

May our efforts reflect Your grace and serve as a witness to our community. Create a place where all are welcomed, cared for, and loved.

Strengthen our community and bring glory to You.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.



**REBUILDING
OUR PARISH**

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



St. Isabel Parish Disaster Rebuilding Fund

Our fund was established for rebuilding and repairs to our Church, Parish Hall, Rectory & grounds that were damaged due to Hurricane Ian. You may set up a one-time or recurring donation to our church parish.

On September 28, 2022 Hurricane Ian, with 150 mph sustained winds, made landfall, battering Sanibel and much of SW FL coast. Its strong category 4 winds caused loss of life, major flooding from devastating storm surge, and major wind damage to Sanibel Island and St. Isabel Parish. We continue to pray for everyone, as we navigate the long recovery process. We are resilient; the faithful of St. Isabel have proven through many occasions that we are strong, our faith even stronger.

We have established this fund to help rebuild, restore, clean up and reopen our doors at St. Isabel Parish, so that we can once again provide for the spiritual needs of our wonderful faith community. All the funds received will go directly to the effort of rebuilding, repairing our facilities, and cleaning up our grounds.

All three of our buildings experienced flooding and wind damage and need extensive repairs and rebuilding. All donations to the Building fund are welcome and considered non-assessable by the Diocese of Venice. Every donation, any size, is helpful. We appreciate you and welcome you to our family. God Bless you.

REBUILDING UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who is supporting our Rebuilding Fund. Your generosity is going a long way, and every bit is helping us to restore the Parish buildings & grounds. Please know that you and our faith community are in our prayers, as we all rebuild.

Our fundraising efforts continue for the many repairs and a few upgrades to our facilities. Many repairs/replacements are not covered by insurance. St. Isabel Parish is responsible for raising funds for the Insurance deductibles on each building along with other repairs and upgrades we wish to add to the buildings.

The following is a list of completed and incomplete repairs falling under the financial responsibility of the Parish and not covered by Insurance:

Insurance Deductible Claim owed for repairs to Church, Parish Hall, and Rectory Tree removal and landscape clean up
Repairs to Water Meters Replacement of Sewer Lift Stations
Repairs to all exterior and landscape electrical Exterior parking lot lighting Low Voltage landscape lighting New Irrigation panel & replace irrigation system New Landscaping New landscape lighting Repair to paved parking lots, reseal and stripe, replace wheel stops, speed signs and other signs Grade and sod grassy parking area; replace wheel stops
Replacement of Kitchen Appliances Repair paver walkways
Hearing Loop in Church.

Newly discovered repairs needed: , New Fountains in Pond, Electrical Panel on Parish Hall Building, Repair of Signage, Repair Gated Dumpster area, Repair drains for Parking Lot, Repair to Cremains Garden Plaques, Repairs to Outdoor statuary.

We had estimated (based on previous historical Rebuilding costs) that we needed to raise approximately \$1,500,000. New discovered damage may add to our goal in the future. We are on

our way to that goal through the generosity of many wonderful parishioners and visitors. We hope you prayerfully consider donating to help rebuild our beloved Parish.

Mail In Giving We are receiving mail at the office. If you would like to make a donation to our Parish Rebuilding fund effort, please send it to:

**St. Isabel Parish,
3559 Sanibel
Captiva Rd.,
Sanibel, FL 33957.**

Thank you for your generosity.

St. Isabel Rebuilding Fund

Amount raised as of February 14, 2025

\$1,475,968.00

1.5 M
1.250M
1 M
900,000
750,000
600,000
500,000
400,000

Make donations to:
St. Isabel Church
Rebuilding Fund
3559 Sanibel Captiva Rd
Sanibel, FL 33957

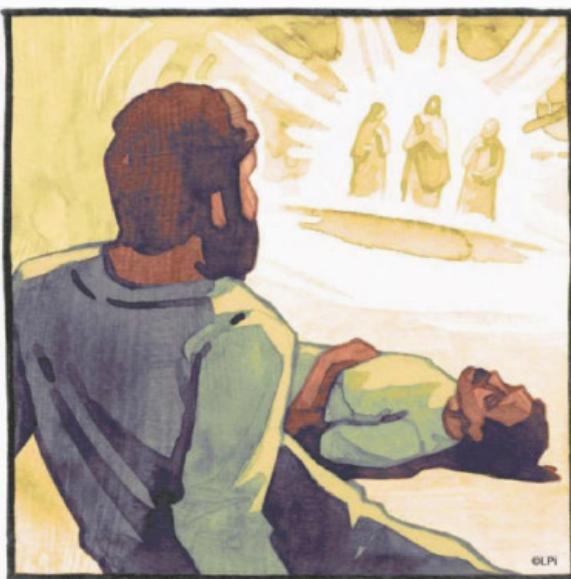
St. Isabel Parish



Electronic Giving use the QR code to access online giving or visit our WeShare portal at <https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/stisabel>



March 16, 2025



RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Divine Confidante

Mini Reflection: It's always helpful to get the opinion of someone we trust when we're facing a situation that confuses or alarms us. But we all have a divine confidante that can help us sort through anything we're dealing with. Are we taking advantage of that?

The Divine Confidante

My husband pretty much knows that if he tells me something — anything — he's also telling my sister.

Most of us have that person that we run to when we have important information. I'm not even talking about gossip; I'm talking about stuff we just *have* to discuss. We joke that I don't really know how I feel about something until I've run it by my sister first.

There's not really anything wrong with that. When we're trying to figure out how to think about something that has happened or how to react to a certain situation, it's always helpful to get the opinion of someone we trust.

But what if we ran as quickly to discuss the situation with God as we did to discuss it with our "person"? Wouldn't that be ideal?

After witnessing the transfiguration — an event that had to have been as confusing as it was astounding — we hear that the disciples "fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen."

When something profound, frightening, or confusing happens, our first confidante should be God. I'm reminded of Luke 2:19: "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." There is something to be said for taking a moment to keep that information sacred between ourselves and the One who can really help us confront it.

Sure, maybe we don't understand what just happened. Maybe we're scared by it. We don't really know how we feel about it. And that's totally okay. The divine confidante knows how to help us pray through that confusion, that fear.

If you're someone's "person" and they come to you wanting to talk, that's great. Talk it out. But remind them — and remind yourself — to pray about it as much as you talk about it.

Let the love of those things carry you through this Lent, and beyond. ©lpi

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.
- Lk 9:29-31

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

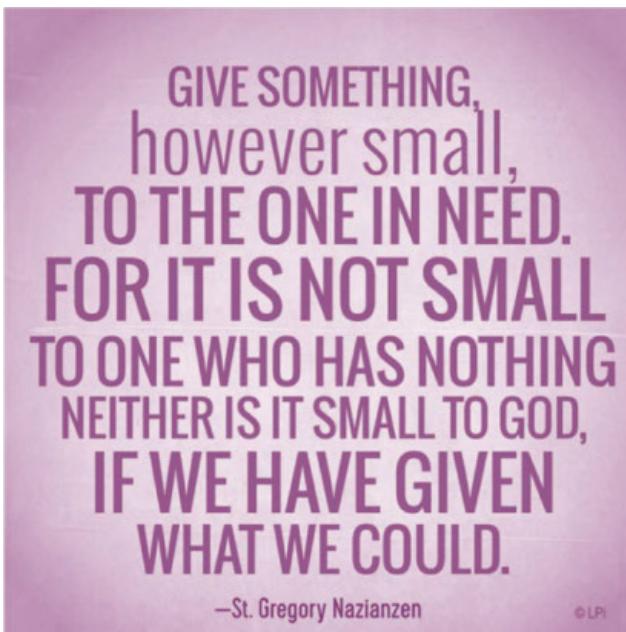


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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



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

Please contact the Parish Office to Volunteer!
(239) 472-2763 or
parishoffice@saintisabel.org

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

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.

Where do you live? I live in North Carolina. There I pay taxes, own a home, and belong to a parish. North Carolina is in the United States, so I also abide by federal laws, pay taxes, and vote for candidates in all sorts of elections. I identify as an American and try my best to meet certain expectations placed on me by the government, state, and fellow Americans. I do certain things because of my identity.

Paul wrote to the Philippians, "Our citizenship is in heaven." Being a U.S. citizen living in North Carolina places certain requirements on me. How many of us "citizens of heaven" take seriously the expectations and requirements of that citizenship? Sometimes we act like nothing is truly required of us.

Stewardship as a way of life requires us to take seriously what it means to be a citizen of heaven. We are called to follow the laws of the land we live in on this earth, but we are called to adhere to an even greater authority. Whether it be our call to act with charity and love or to follow the precepts of the Church, we must take seriously our status as citizen.

Unfortunately, many don't take seriously their citizenship on this earth either. People have given their very lives so that we may have the freedom to be citizens of our country and our state. Of course, many people have died for the citizenship of heaven as well. So it comes down to the question, who are you and to whom do you belong?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI



March 16, 2025



*Only with the sacrificial offering
of all our members and visitors,
can we ensure that Saint Isabel Parish
remains a vibrant, active faith community.*

Please Help St. Isabel Parish—

Our Parish is facing increased risk of financial shortfalls due to the hurricane devastation and its effects on our Parish families and our Island tourism. We depend on weekly financial gifts to keep our doors open, especially in this critical time of recovery. Please prayerfully consider an online donation to St. Isabel's Offertory program and our Building Fund. You

may also contribute through your usual channels (e.g., envelopes, and through the Parish online giving option). Together we will navigate through rebuilding our Parish, and our island homes, business and community. Please continue to pray for everyone affected. Thank you for your generosity.



Electronic Giving through our WeShare portal at
www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/stisabel or use the QR Code to access
online giving portal through WeShare.
Thank you for your continuing generosity!



Leaving a legacy of Faith Remember St. Isabel Parish 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 St. Isabel Church to continue our Catholic heritage through its ministries. Additionally, leaving money to St. Isabel Church 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 \$____ or ____% of the residue of my estate to Bishop Frank J. Dewane, (or his successor), Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida, a corporation sole, whose principal office is located at 1000 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34285, for the benefit of St. Isabel Parish in Sanibel, Inc." 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 khrysty.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.

Do You Have a Donor Advised Fund?



You can use your Donor Advised Fund to help the Parish! St. Isabel Catholic Church is a qualified charity eligible to receive grants from DAFs! Contact your account administrator to request a grant.

Charity: **St. Isabel Catholic Church, 3559 Sanibel-Captiva Rd, Sanibel, FL 33957**

EIN# **59-2336842**

Your DAF grant can be designated for offertory, debt reduction, capital projects, CFA, or building our parish endowment. To inform us of how you would like your grant to be used, please contact our Parish office at (239) 472-2763.

To learn more about establishing your own Catholic DAF, please scan the QR Code to the right, or visit ccfdioceseofvenice.org/giving/donor-advised-funds/ or call: (941) 441-1124



**ST. ISABEL
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

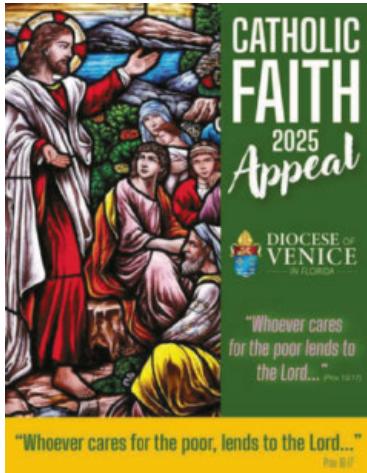
Prayer of God's Blessing

*Bless me, Lord,
mold my heart in imitation of Yours.
Bless me, Lord, help me to see people as You
do, and to hear their needs.*

*Bless me, Lord,
replace my understanding with Yours.
Amen.*

March 16, 2025

2025 St. Isabel Parish CFA Goal \$96,000



Contributions 3.01.24 **\$4,700.00** ♦ Pledged \$4,700.00 ♦ Percentage of goal reached **4.09.%**
Our Parish community prays that 100% of our registered households will respond to the 2025 Catholic Faith Appeal. With the support of our faith community, we will successfully meet and possibly exceed our goal. Every gift is important, and every gift helps! Please prayerfully consider supporting the Annual Catholic Faith Appeal.

CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO: Catholic Faith Appeal
In the memo portion of your check write: St. Isabel Parish.

Thank you for your generous support!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Catholic Faith Appeal and what are its proceeds used for?

Each year, the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) extends a heartfelt invitation for our Diocese to unite and extend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in need. It is one of the most effective ways to carry out the work of the Church, and it is a testament to our Catholic Faith in action. Contributions to the CFA play a crucial role in supporting a diverse array of programs and services, including Vocations and Seminarians, Religious Education, aid for financially challenged Parishes and Missions, Evangelization, Catholic Education, Catholic Charities, and more. On an annual basis, Parishes in the Diocese of Venice make a required contribution to financially support these efforts. The Catholic Faith Appeal empowers every parishioner to actively contribute to their Parish's financial commitment, with goals tailored to each Parish's income rather than the number of registered families. This approach accommodates the seasonal influx of northern visitors during the winter months, significantly enhancing the Appeal's success.

How does the CFA benefit my Parish and me?

First, by participating in the Appeal, Parishes and their Parishioners come together to renew their commitment to evangelize, form, and care for men, women, and children beyond the confines of their Parish community. Secondly, a portion of the money that is pledged over goal will be returned to your Parish for its own programs and services. Many of the departments funded by the Appeal assist Parishes or provide services to the Parish community. Programs such as marriage enrichment, divorce support group, and Faith-based conferences are enjoyed by all. In addition, several departments in the Diocese work closely with Parishes in such areas as religious education, youth and young adult programs and the curriculum for our Catholic schools. See the brochure for more information.

Why does Catholic Charities do additional fundraising?

Approximately 13% of the Diocesan budget is given to Catholic Charities to help support its very worthwhile presence in our Diocese. However, this amount is only a percentage of the funding needed to carry out its Mission of serving those in need. In addition to what the Diocese is able to provide, further fundraising is required.

Why are the administrative services included?

The Diocese of Venice, in order to fulfill its Mission of proclaiming the Gospel, sharing the Faith, and serving others, requires facilities, employees, and volunteers throughout our ten counties. The staff, working in the departments located at the Catholic Center, serve the Catholic Faithful in Southwest Florida by providing administrative services and guidance. These professionals help ensure that all resources are utilized efficiently, effectively and responsibly.

Why are there so many mailings?

More than 3.5 million dollars of the appeal comes to us through the mailings. Once you have responded to a CFA mailing or made a gift through your Parish, solicitations will stop being sent to you. You will, however, continue to receive mailings such as an acknowledgement letter for your gift and a tax receipt in January. Tax receipts are sent to anyone who gives a gift of \$10 and more. It is always wise to keep receipts of your charitable giving for audit purposes.

How much should I give?

The practice of Catholic stewardship puts our Faith into action. God has blessed each of us in a variety of ways. We recognize that everyone has unique life circumstances. Only you can decide what gift is right for you, your family, and your budget. It is a decision made between you and God.

Should I make a pledge or a one-time gift?

Making a pledge allows you to spread your gift throughout the year, which may make it easier for you to pay, and may also allow you to give a larger gift. Pledge statements are sent out monthly unless otherwise requested. These are simply reminders and not bills. You can pay your pledge any time before the end of the year. If your situation changes, you may also adjust your pledge.

How can I make my gift?

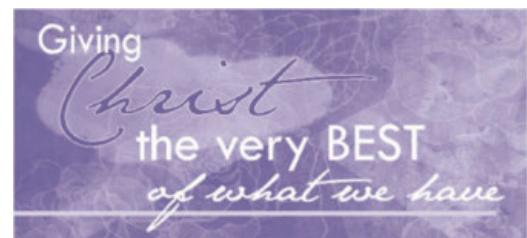
We try to make your giving as easy as possible! You can make a gift through checks, credit cards, direct debit, online giving at www.dioceseofvenice.org, bequests, charitable gift annuities, matching gift programs, and approved gifts of real estate. Please give us a call at 941-486-4719 and we'll happily answer your questions.

Will any funds from the CFA be used to settle lawsuits or for legal expenses?

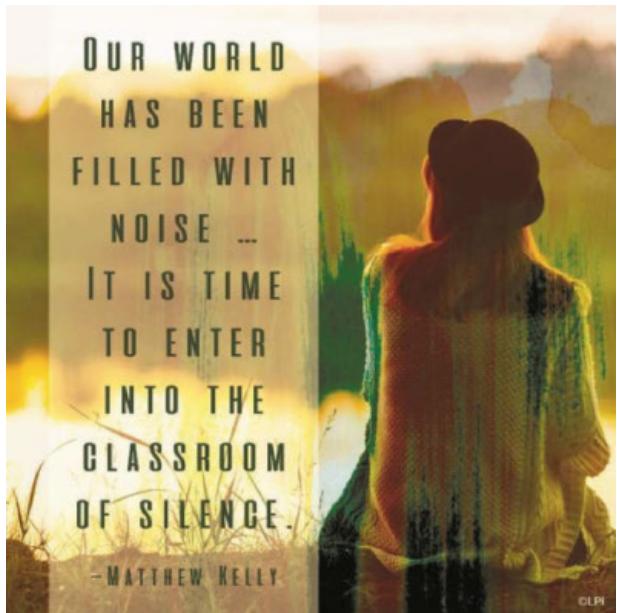
No, the Catholic Faith Appeal funds are restricted for the funding of the ministries and programs outlined in promotional materials and are not used to settle claims or pay claim related expenses.

If I contribute to my Parish's capital campaign, does the Diocese get a portion of my gift?

Funds from approved Parish capital campaigns are not assessable. Therefore, the fully donated amount is available for use by the Parish for capital campaign purposes.



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



SACRED QUIET/SACRED SPACE

Churches can become so familiar and comfortable that we sometimes forget how we are meant to behave in this sacred space. The space inside a Church is sacred not only because we gather for the communal purpose of celebrating the Eucharist there, but also because we believe that God is present in the Eucharist reserved in the Tabernacle (Real Presence). The Church is never meant to be a Stadium or a Concert Hall, and one of the ways we remind ourselves that we are standing in sacred space is by developing a sense of what I like to call sacred quiet. Sacred quiet reminds us that we are standing in the presence of a loving God. Sacred quiet reminds us to be mindful of those who are praying in this space and not threaten their quiet with needless conversation or frivolous behavior. Sacred quiet helps us to distinguish between necessary converse and unnecessary noise. Necessary converse might be the inquiries about the health of a parishioner, the cordial greeting extended to those around us, or the offer of condolences when a loved one has died. Unnecessary noise might be the discussion of dinner plans, the scores of last night's big game, or the frivolity associated with telling a joke. It would be easy to suggest a ban on talking in Church, but such a ban would be unenforceable and not very Christian. All of us are called to have a sense of sacred quiet, particularly with regards that space that we call sacred. Please limit the ordinary and prolonged

conversations to outside of the Church. Make every effort to be respectful of the Tabernacle, and assume that those who might be in a pew inside the Church are there because they want to pray in peace and quiet. When it is absolutely necessary to speak in Church, use that subdued soft voice used for telling secrets. We all should remember that when we find ourselves standing in sacred space, we are called to a sense of sacred quiet.



Diocese of Venice Eucharistic Conference



at Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center in Punta Gorda located at 75 Taylor Street. The theme of the event is "Becoming Eucharistic Missionaries," and will include Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, inspirational talks by Dr. Scott Hahn and Kimberly Hahn, and Spanish breakout sessions featuring Mary Ann Weisinger-Puig and Andrés Arango. The Conference will include opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession. Registration is now open! Cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch. (Clergy and Consecrated Religious are free admittance, but registration is requested.) All are welcome. Embrace the opportunity to reinforce your belief in and reverence for the Most Holy Eucharistic, become a Eucharistic missionary and celebrate the Jubilee Year! Register at: dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/eucharistic-conference

In recognition and celebration of the third and final year of the National Eucharistic Revival, and the 2025 Jubilee Year, the Diocese of Venice will host a third Eucharistic Conference. The Diocesan-wide event will take place Saturday, March 29, 2025,



Dr. Tim Gray
Presents
Lent as a Model for the Spiritual Life
Thursday, March 20, 2025
6:00 PM
St. John XXIII Catholic Church
Parish Life Center
13060 Palomino Lane,
Fort Myers, FL 33912
\$25.00 Per Person
Includes wine, beer & heavy appetizers.

Guest will receive a free gift, provided by Augustine Institute and a special pre-event worship opportunity.

For more info and to Register Online go to www.faithandale.com → or Scan the QR Code

Hosted by Faith & Ale/Faith & Wine Lee County
Tickets are limited and will NOT be available at the door.





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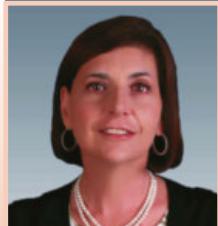
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