



# Saint Joseph Catholic Church

2704 33rd Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida 34205  
941.756.3732 • Email: [info@sjcfl.org](mailto:info@sjcfl.org) • Website: [sjcfl.org](http://sjcfl.org)

July 17, 2022

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Readings: 1139



The Lord said to her in reply,  
"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about  
many things. There is need of only one thing.  
Mary has chosen the better part and  
it will not be taken from her".

*Luke 10: 41-42*

**PASTOR** ..... Fr. Rafal Ligenza  
**PAROCHIAL VICAR** ..... Fr. Jim Simko

### MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Saturday ..... 8:00am  
Saturday Vigil ..... 4:00pm  
Sunday ..... 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am and 5:30pm

### RECONCILIATION

**Saturdays** - Following 8:00am Mass  
and at 3:00pm.

**Thursday - Before First Friday**  
following 8:00am Mass.

**The day before a Holy Day**  
following the 8am Mass.

**Parish Office:** Location and Mailing Address

2704 33rd Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday 8:00am-4:00pm  
 Closed Noon - 1:00pm for lunch

**Contact Information**

Phone ..... 941.756.3732  
 Email ..... info@sjcfl.org  
 Website ..... www.sjcfl.org

**Emergency - After Hours/Weekends**

..... 941.756.3644

**■ Parish Staff****Fr. Rafal Ligenza: Pastor**

941.756.3732 ..... FrRafal@sjcfl.org

**Fr. Jim Simko: Parochial Vicar**

941.756.3732 ..... FrJim@sjcfl.org

**Carol Palmer - Business Manager**

941.756.3732 ..... cpalmer@sjcfl.org

**Bridget Olson - Parish Secretary**

941.756.3732 ..... bolson@sjcfl.org

**Liliana Ronderos - Director Religious Education**

941.756.3732 ..... LRonderos@sjcfl.org

**Mary Kay Arroyo - Adult Faith Formation**

941.720.8445 ..... mkarroyo@sjcfl.org

**Timothy O'Connor - Music Ministry**

941.753.5634 ..... musicmaker@sjcfl.org

**John Owen - Maintenance**

941.755.2611 ..... jowen@sjcfl.org

**Jean Tierney - Pastoral Care**

941.756.3732 ..... jtierney@sjcfl.org

**Jim Frame - Advisory Council**

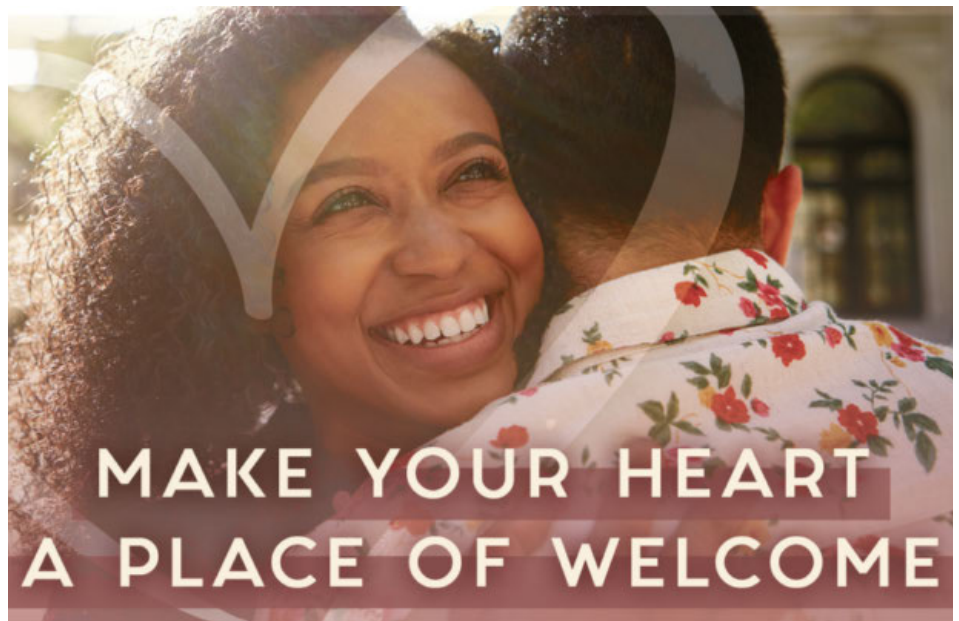
941.592.9833 ..... jimframe@earthlink.net

**Finance Council**.....941.756.3732**Bulletin Submissions** ..... bolson@sjcfl.org**■ Saint Joseph Catholic School**

2990 26th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34205

**Deborah Suddarth - Principal**

941.755.2611 ..... dsuddarth@sjcfl.org



“Our families need to ask for the gift of the Spirit! Through prayer, even in the busiest times, we give time back to God, we find the peace that comes from appreciating the important things, and we encounter the joy of God’s unexpected gifts. Through daily prayer may our homes become, like the house of Martha and Mary, places where Jesus always finds a warm welcome (Pope Francis).” While it is necessary to attend to the details of hospitality, learning how to be present to people, experiences, and God is sometimes more important. Creating homes that are welcoming environments requires not only organization and structure but members who truly enjoy being there and celebrating life with one another.

Details can often get the best of us. While attending to details is important to success, our obsession with them can be problematic. Whether wanting to make a good impression, fear of failure, insecurity, or emotional immaturity, throwing ourselves into the “details” of hospitality can distract us from being present to those we want to serve. Conversely, focusing exclusively on being present without any attention to detail also sets our attempts at hospitality up for disaster! We need a balance of both. But creating a truly welcoming space in our homes and within ourselves requires still more.

We have to be empty of ourselves. Becoming a welcoming, hospitable person is not possible in someone focused on their own needs and desires. If the one we serve is the one who looks back at us in the mirror, then there is no space for anyone else. While Martha and Mary had different ideas of what it means to serve, they both had the inner space and freedom to do so. They were detached from themselves. Detachment becomes the challenge to hospitality and creating a God-centered, open-hearted space in our lives. When we impulsively act out of our personal agendas, violence, abuse, pride, greed, lust, power, control, passion, and self-aggrandizement encroach upon the space needed to be present to another human being. Not only can others not find a home in us, but even God cannot find a home in us!

The LORD is close to the  
 brokenhearted and saves those  
 who are crushed in spirit.

- Psalm 34:18 -



### WEEKLY READINGS AND MASS INTENTIONS

#### Sunday

Gen. 18:1-10a • Psa. 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 • Col. 1:24-28 • Luke 10:38-42

7:30 ..... † Charles Gibson  
9:00 ..... The People of St. Joseph  
11:00 ..... † Helen & Roland Cadoret  
5:30 ..... † James Milton, Sr. & Jim Milton, Jr.

#### Monday

Mic. 6:1-4, 6-8 • Psa. 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 • Matt. 12:38-42

11:00 ..... † Anna Dunn

#### Tuesday

Mic. 7:14-15, 18-20 • Psa. 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8 • Matt. 12:46-50

11:00 ..... † Daniel Brown

#### Wednesday

Jer. 1:1, 4-10 • Psa. 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15 and 17 • Matt. 13:1-9

11:00 ..... ♡ Fr. Rafal Ligenza

#### Thursday

Jer. 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13 • Psa. 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11 • Matt. 13:10-17

11:00 ..... † Gerald Bock

#### Friday

Sgs. 3:1-4b or 2 Cor. 5:14-17 • Psa. 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 • John 20:1-2, 11-18

11:00 ..... † Barbara Ramsey

#### Saturday

Jer. 7:1-11 • Psa. 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11 • Matt. 13:24-30

8:00 ..... † Larry Sands

4:00 ..... † Dominic Casciano

#### Sunday

Gen. 18:20-32 • Psa. 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 • Col. 2:12-14 • Luke 11:1-13

7:30 ..... † Jane Restante

9:00 ..... ♡ The Lemanski Family

11:00 ..... The People of St. Joseph

5:30 ..... † Gilles Vinette



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Matthew 26:41

### Pray for our sick and home bound parishioners and friends...

especially **Mary Larson, Darcy Driscoll, Helen McHugh, Margaret Poole, Mary Gleason** and all our friends and loved ones.

### May the deceased of St. Joseph Parish be granted eternal rest in peace

especially **Bernardino Gonzalez, Michael Murphy and Gail Lindley.**

### Pray without Ceasing for our sick who are battling life altering conditions

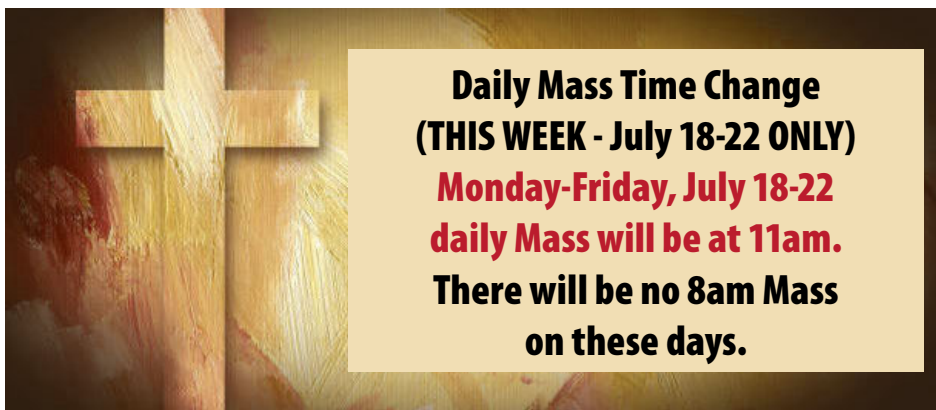
Please call the parish office at 941-756-3732 to place loved ones who are suffering or deceased on our prayer list and specify whether or not you want them placed on the “pray without ceasing” list. They will remain on this list until a request is called in to have them removed. You may view the list on our website: [www.sjcfl.org](http://www.sjcfl.org).

### Communion to The Home Bound

Are you or anyone you know unable to attend Mass? Are you convalescing? Are you unable to get to Mass because of a transportation problem? Ministers to the Sick and Home bound are ready to bring Holy Communion to you at your convenience. Please call 941-756-3732; Our clergy and parish Extraordinary Ministers of Holy communion offer this important service to you.

### Parishioners Entering Local Hospitals

When admitted to either **Blake or Manatee Memorial Hospital**, please be sure to notify hospital staff of your religious affiliation. **Inform them not only that you are Catholic but also that you are a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church.** In addition, please contact the Parish Office to advise of your hospitalization.



### Daily Mass Time Change (THIS WEEK - July 18-22 ONLY)

**Monday-Friday, July 18-22 daily Mass will be at 11am.**

**There will be no 8am Mass on these days.**



# PARISH MINISTRIES

- Adoration Chapel  
Gayle Flynn ..... gayleflynn77@gmail.com
- Altar Linen Society  
Barbara Napoli ..... 941.756.3732
- Altar Servers ..altarserverstjoe@gmail.com
- Charismatic Prayer  
Marcy Canelli ..... 941.720.7622
- Children's Memorial Garden ..... 941.756.3732
- Choirs (children, youth & adult)  
Tim O'Connor..... 941.753.5634
- Food Pantry ..... 941.756.3732
- Habitat For Humanity  
Jim Frame ..... 941.592.9833
- Joy Program ..... 941.756.3732
- Knights of Columbus  
Jim Vanderhorst ..... 941.243.6995
- Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers  
Tim O'Connor ..... 941.753.5634
- Legion of Mary  
June Beadle ..... 941.251.9806
- Prayer Chain  
Lorraine Potter..... 941.756.3732
- Religious Education  
Liliana Ronderos..... 941.756.3732
- Respect Life  
Karen Soccia..... 941.345.6833
- RCIA  
Mary Kay Arroyo ..... 941.756.3732
- St. Vincent De Paul ..... 941.755.4188
- Ushers ..... 941.756.3732
- Women of St. Joseph  
Sue Connizzo ..... 941.744.5448
- Youth Group ..... 941.756.3732
- **Life Resources**
- SOLVE (Abortion Alternatives) ..... 941.748.0094
- Project Rachel (Post Abortion Healing) .....  
..... 888.456.4673



## JULY

**28: 7:00pm** Officers & Program  
Directors Mtg. (MH)

## BOCCE BALL

**6:00pm Every Wednesday**  
**McLaughlin Hall**

### THE SJCC SENIOR

# UNCH BUNCH

*Please join us for appetizers or dinner at a very lovely spot.*

**Thursday • July 21 • 3:00pm**

**@ Riveira Dunes Dockside**  
102 Riviera Dunes Way, Palmetto

To reserve your seat...

**RSVP no later than Monday, July 18**

**to Gerri at 941-981-3518**

**or Sue at 941-744-5448**

*We look forward to seeing old and new friends!*

[WWW.DIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG](http://WWW.DIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG)

Go to the Diocese of Venice website to keep up to date on Adult Faith Formation and other Diocesan Events.

## ALL PARISHIONERS INVITED

# Parish Summer Celebration



**Tuesday, July 19 ... 5:30-7:00 pm**

**@ the Parish Center**

**The Knights of Columbus will provide  
hamburgers, hotdogs and beverages.**

**Families/parishioners bring sides, salads, and desserts for 8-10  
people to share based on the first letter of your last name:  
(A-G) sides • (H-Q) salads • (R-Z) fruit and desserts**

*There will be activities and games for children. For more information, contact Liliana Ronderos, Director of Religious Education (LRonderos@sjcfl.org or 941.756.3732).*



Reflection by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**BE READY FOR GOD TO “STOP BY”**

In my experience, most people can be divided into two groups: those who are old enough to remember when you kept food on hand for company, and those who aren't.

For those of you in the latter group, let me explain. Before text messaging and social media made us all unconditionally, mercilessly reachable, people would do this thing called “stopping by.” They would be passing by a friend’s house, maybe on the way home from work or shopping, and they would just . . . stop. With no warning. No notice whatsoever. “I was just in the neighborhood,” they would say. I remember my mother and I would do this on many a Saturday. It wasn't an everyday occurrence, but it was common enough that you had to be ready.

“Crazy,” you might exclaim. “People just appeared on your doorstep? How did you cope with the uncertainty?” Well, most of us had moms who kept a little something on hand to eat or drink that was extra nice, just in case anyone stopped by. That way, we were always ready.

Today’s readings are about a lot of things: prayer, hope, redemptive suffering. They’re about what it means to be a Christian, and not just what it means to do Christian things.

Most of all, though, they’re about readiness. If God showed up at your door, would you be ready for Him? Would you be ready for what He gives you, or what He takes away? Would you be ready for Him to interrupt the plans you have for yourself? To disrupt the idea you carry in your mind of what a servant or a steward is supposed to be?

Read your Bible. Say your rosary. Go to Mass. Get to Confession. Talk to God — every day, not just when you think you need Him. That way, you are always ready.

**BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**



**JOSE ESTIGARRIBIA, ESQ.**  
Past Grand Knight of K of C Council 5604  
Cardinal Mooney Graduate  
St. Joseph's Parishioner  
**941-746-6225**  
Jestigarribia@mackeylaw.com  
1402 Third Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205

**PLEASE PATRONIZE THE SPONSORS ON THE BACK OF THIS BULLETIN. LET THEM KNOW YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE ST. JOSEPH BULLETIN.**

**SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES**

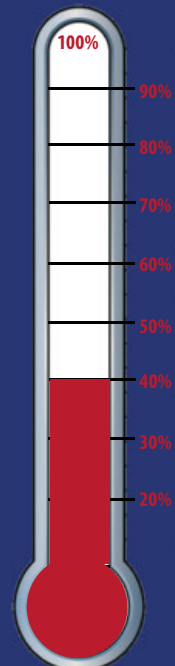


*“Share with the Lord's people who are in need.”*

—Romans 12:13

St. Joseph Church 2022 CFA Goal:	\$203,000
Total payments to date:	\$ 82,004
Percentage of families participating:	19%
Thermometer/percent of goal:	40%

*To donate to the Catholic Faith Appeal go to [www.sjcfl.org](http://www.sjcfl.org)*



**2022 CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL**



## SJCC Parish Schedule

### Sunday, July 17 - Reading #1139

MASS: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 and 5:30pm  
 10:30am RCIA Y  
 7:00pm Totus Tuus (HS) PC

### Monday, June 18

MASS: 11:00am  
 8:30am Exposition CH  
 9:00am Totus Tuus PC  
 7:30pm Totus Tuus PC

### Tuesday, June 19

MASS: 11:00am  
 9:00am Totus Tuus PC  
 7:30pm Totus Tuus PC

### Wednesday, June 20

MASS: 11:00am  
 9:00am Totus Tuus PC  
 7:30pm Totus Tuus PC

### Thursday, June 21

MASS: 11:00 am  
 9:00am Totus Tuus PC  
 7:30pm Totus Tuus PC

### Friday, July 22

MASS: 11:00 am  
 9:00am Totus Tuus PC

### Saturday, July 23

MASS: 8:00am and 4:00pm

### Sunday, July 24

MASS: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 & 5:30pm

**C:** Main Chapel; **CH:** Church; **CR:** Choir room; **G:** Gym; **MH:** McLaughlin Hall; **MR:** School Music Rm; **OMR:** O'Donnell Mtg. Rm and Kitchen; **PC:** Parish Center; **POC:** Parish Office Conference Rm; **R:** Rectory; **SCH/A:** School Activity Rm; **SMR:** Small Mtg Rm; **VCR:** Video Conferencing Rm; **Y:** Youth Room; **Z/C:** Zacchaeus House Chapel

## PRAY WITH THE HOLY FATHER IN 2022

### Pope Francis Prayer Intention for July:

We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.



N.220530c

Monday 5-30-2022

## Decree for Plenary Indulgence on the occasion of the Second World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly DECREE

The Apostolic Penitentiary, in order to increase the devotion of the faithful and to procure the salvation of souls, by virtue of the faculties attributed to it by the Supreme Pontiff Francis, accepting the request presented by His Eminence Cardinal Kevin Joseph Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, on the occasion of the Second World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, already instituted by the Supreme Pontiff on the fourth Sunday of July, graciously grants from the heavenly treasures of the Church the Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions (Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayer in accordance with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff) to grandparents, the elderly and all the faithful who, motivated by a true spirit of penance and charity, will participate on 24 July 2022, on the occasion of the Second World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, in the solemn celebration that the Holy Father Francis will preside over in the Vatican Papal Basilica, or in the various functions that will be held throughout the world, an Indulgence that may also be applied for the repose of souls in Purgatory.

This Court of Mercy will also grant the Plenary Indulgence on this same day to the faithful who devote adequate time to visit, in presence or virtually, through the media, their elderly brothers and sisters in need or in difficulty (such as the sick, the abandoned, the disabled).

The Plenary Indulgence may also be granted, provided that they remove themselves from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling the three usual conditions as soon as possible, to the sick elderly and to all those who, unable to leave their homes for a serious reason, will unite spiritually with the sacred services of World Youth Day, offering to the Merciful God their prayers, and the pains and sufferings of their lives, especially while the words of the Supreme Pontiff and the various celebrations are broadcast through the media.

In order, therefore, that this opportunity to attain divine grace through the power of the Keys of the Church may be more easily realized through pastoral charity, this Penitentiary firmly requests priests, equipped with the appropriate faculties to hear confessions, to make themselves available with a ready and generous spirit for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance.

This decree is valid for the Second World Day of the Grandparents and the Elderly. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary.

Given in Rome, at the Seat of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on 30 May 2022.

Mauro Card. Piacenza  
 Major Penitentiary

Krzysztof Nykiel  
 Regent



**World Day of Prayer  
for Grandparents and the Elderly**

The second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly takes place on Sunday, July 24. Instituted by Pope Francis in 2021, this Church wide celebration takes place close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Anne and Joachim, the Grandparents of Jesus. The theme chosen by the Holy Father for this World Day is “In old age they will still bear fruit” (Psalm 92:15) which is a way of expressing the living of this age to the fullest. Grandchildren and young people are called upon to be present in the lives of older people, and older people and grandparents also have the mission of evangelization, proclamation, and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their Faith. Resources and catechesis in English and Spanish can be found by visiting the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life website at <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/eventi/2022/ii-giornata-mondiale-dei-nonni-e-degli-anziani.html>.



**WOMEN**  
of Saint Joseph

**Next Meeting**  
**This Tuesday, July 19, 7:00 pm**  
**McLaughlin Hall**

All women of the parish, ages 18 and over, are invited to join us at our next gathering. After a very short meeting, we will be having game night!

A reminder that there will be no gathering in August, but we will return on September 20.

Good news ... our Annual Tea Party will be held on Tuesday, October 18, so save the date and keep your eye on the bulletin for more info!



**Daily Mass Time Change  
(THIS WEEK - July 18-22 ONLY)**

**Monday-Friday, July 18-22  
daily Mass will be at 11am.**

**There will be no 8am Mass  
on these days.**

Fr. Rafal wants the entire Parish to join with the missionaries and children who will be participating in our summer program, Totus Tuus, to celebrate ... truly CELEBRATE ... daily Mass together as a faith community. **With that in mind, July 18-22 daily Mass will take place at 11am. (There will be NO 8AM MASS July 18-22 – Monday-Friday.)** Fr. Rafal is grateful for your support and cooperation as our children & youth embark on this amazing week-long experience.

It's time for  
**STILLPOINT'S ANNUAL  
 CHILDREN'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL  
 SHOE CAMPAIGN**

Your donation of \$25 gives a young child the opportunity to select the style and size of shoes he or she would like to wear for the new school year. Thank you and God Bless you for making this effort possible.



To Contribute please make your \$25.00 check payable to "Stillpoint Mission" with "SHOES" written on the memo line of your check.

**MAIL YOUR DONATION TO:  
 SHOES  
 c/o of Stillpoint Mission  
 P.O. Box 619  
 Bradenton, FL 34206**

If you prefer to use a credit card, you can make your donation at [www.stillpointmission.org](http://www.stillpointmission.org)

**\*\*Please do not make checks out to St. Joseph Parish & do not send them to the Parish Office. Donations are to be made directly to Stillpoint Mission.\*\***

*Thank you for your continued support and generosity.*

—Stillpoint House of Prayer—

7-31



**Charismatic Prayer Group**

Thursdays 7:00pm

O'Donnell Room-Parish Center

At Confirmation you received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Join us to learn more about them. All are Welcome.

For meeting dates, please call Marcy (941-720-7622) or Joe (941-773-7705).



**FOOD PANTRY  
 LOOKING FOR SUMMER HELP!**

The St. Joseph Food Pantry is in need of summer help to stock shelves and do some heavy lifting.

We are also in need of courtyard greeters and computer operators.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Carole Tiskewic ([caroletisk@gmail.com](mailto:caroletisk@gmail.com) or 910-523-2597).

**PROMISE TO  
 PROTECT**



**Safe Environment Training**

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 complete online training in Safe Environment prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please consult and visit <https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/programs/safeenvironment/>.

Report any abuse against minors to the Florida Department of Children and Families at 800-962-2873. Further, if Diocesan personnel or volunteers are involved, also notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at 941-416-6114.

**MATCHING GIFT DOUBLES  
 YOUR FOOD PANTRY DONATION**

**THE FOOD PANTRY HAS BEEN SELECTED TO RECEIVE  
 MATCHING DONATIONS FROM THE FLANZER TRUST.**

**Double your donation to the St. Joseph Food Pantry  
 UP TO \$500 per household per month!**



*The mission of the Flanzer Philanthropic Trust is to enhance the life of the people of the Suncoast through social services and healthcare initiatives.*

**To donate, go to [www.Flanzertrust.org](http://www.Flanzertrust.org), then to the red bar**

**"Donate Here." Under "Choose your recipient" select**

**"St. Joseph Food Pantry of Bradenton."**

*You can also donate by check. Make your check payable to Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, put St. Joseph Food Pantry in the memo line, and mail to 1843 Floyd St. Sarasota FL 34239.*

*Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Food Pantry.*



## FRATELLI TUTTI

### The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers



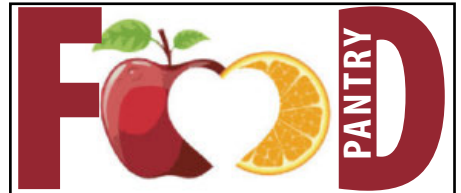
"Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. Work ... gives one the ability to maintain oneself, one's family, to contribute to the growth of one's own nation."

Pope Francis, *Feast of St. Joseph, 2013*

*"... some opportune remedy must be found quickly for the misery and wretchedness pressing . . . on the majority of the working class: for the ancient workingmen's guilds were abolished in the last century, and no other protective organization took their place . . . working men have been surrendered . . . to the hardheartedness of employers and the greed of unchecked competition." (RERUM NOVARUM, Paragraph 2)*

Pope Leo XIII wrote *Rerum Novarum* in 1891. Not much has changed since then or since the early 20th century when Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin published the *Catholic Worker*. Once again workers are striking for the right to organize. The minimum wage is so low that people work two jobs and stand in line at food pantries to feed their families. Instead of showing mercy, people in post-pandemic America complain that "no one wants to work" because they are "living on unemployment." Here is a fact given by Florida Unemployment and Eligibility: *As of 2021, the maximum time you can receive (unemployment) benefits is 19 weeks. Your weekly benefit amount is calculated by dividing your total earnings in the quarter in which you were paid the most by 26. You will then receive this amount per week, or the weekly maximum of \$275, whichever is lower.*

For more information concerning the **Fratelli Prayer Ministry** call Rebecca Coates (941-348-3027).



[www.stjoepantry.com](http://www.stjoepantry.com)  
<https://facebook.com/stjoesfoodpantry>

**FOOD WANTED**  
MONTHS OF MAY THROUGH JULY

#### SUMMER VACATION FOOD FOR CHILDREN

Fruit Jelly in Plastic Containers, Granola/Breakfast Bars, Canned Fruit, Snacks, Pudding Cups, Raisin/Nut Packs, Juice Boxes, Shelf Stable Milk Boxes, etc.



**BEVERAGE MAKINGS**  
Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Dry Milk, Iced Tea Mix, Fruit Drink Mix, etc.

**BREAKFAST**  
Oatmeal, Cereal, Granola, Breakfast Bars, Pop Tarts, etc.



Please help us feed the hungry of Manatee County by continuing to support the Food Pantry's mission. Your generosity is appreciated. Food bins are located at all church entrances or drop food off at food pantry Mon. - Fri., 9:00am - Noon. With your help we can fight hunger together.



*"Regardless of age we are all God's children with brothers and sisters whom He wants us to love as ourselves."*

The ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE is a 501(c)(3) charity that mediates gifts from generous donors to our sisters and brothers with short term emergency needs.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**TO DONATE GO TO**

[www.svdp-manatee.org/donate.html](http://www.svdp-manatee.org/donate.html)



## LAP ROBES

Beautiful lap robes and prayer blankets made with love and prayer for the sick and homebound are available in the Parish Office. Stop by to pick one up.

Even if she hadn't lived in times that begged for reform, St. Bridget of Sweden would have found opportunities to build a better Church and world. She was incapable of flinching from difficult realities. She was a natural contemplative and a woman of bold action who was guided by the Spirit throughout her life. She is honored as patroness of Sweden and co-patroness of Europe (along with Saints Catherine of Siena and Edith Stein).

The signs that great things were to come surfaced early. At age seven, Bridget reported a vision of an altar with a lady sitting above it, holding a crown and inviting Bridget to wear it. Throughout her life, she continued to speak of divine revelations, which usually focused on the sufferings of Jesus. These revelations made Bridget something of a celebrity to some and a controversial figure to others.

Born north of Stockholm on June 14, 1303 into a wealthy, powerful family, Bridget married at the age of 14 and bore eight children. She made it a priority to minister to the sick in her neighborhood, often with some of her children in tow.

She lived her married life in the court of the Swedish King Magnus II. Bridget constantly strove to exert her good influence over Magnus; while never fully reforming, he did give her land and buildings to found a monastery for men and women.

### A Woman of Patience and Perseverance

When her husband died after 28 years of marriage, Bridget undertook a life of penitence and celibacy. In 1347, guided by her ongoing revelations and using the land and buildings she received from Magnus II, she began the establishment of a "double community" of women and men—nuns, priests and brothers—that came to be known as the Order of the Most Holy Savior, or the Brigettines, (still in existence today).

Members, including Bridget and her daughter Catherine (St. Catherine of Sweden), lived austere lives. Any unneeded money went to the poor. Brigettines were permitted, however, to own books, and the monastery became the literary center of Scandinavia.

Bridget's boldest mission still lay before her. In 1350, a Jubilee Year, Bridget braved a plague-stricken Europe to make a pilgrimage to Rome accompanied by her daughter, Catherine, and a small party of priests and disciples. She had a dual purpose: to obtain papal approval for her new religious foundation and to gain the Jubilee indulgence that would be granted during the



**Saint of the Week**  
**St. Bridget of Sweden**  
 FEAST DAY - JULY 23

Holy Year of 1350. Her patience and perseverance were put to the test: She waited 20 years before receiving official Church approval for her new order.

### Final Pilgrimage

A final pilgrimage to the Holy Land, marred by shipwreck and the death of her son, Charles, led to her death at the age of 70 on July 23, 1373. She was canonized in 1391 by Pope Boniface IX. On October 1, 1999 Pope John Paul II named St. Bridget a patroness Saint of Sweden and co-patroness Saint of Europe (along with Saints Catherine of Siena and Edith Stein). Her feast day is celebrated on July 23, the day of her death.

### Comments

Rome was hardly hospitable during her lifetime. Parts of the city lay in ruins while other parts were divided into armed camps headed by rival factions. For decades, the papacy had been headquartered in Avignon in southern France. Spurred by revelations, Bridget confidently launched a campaign to return the papacy to Rome, writing letters to several popes. If she'd had access to e-mails and faxes, she would have used them as well! Despite her pleading and cajoling, the change she sought didn't come until 1378, five years after her death.

If it's not indelicate to ask, when did she reach her heyday? Early, as a devoted wife and mother? Later, as an ascetic widow and leader

of a new religious community? Still later, as a struggling pilgrim in Rome? Finally, as a voice of Church reform? Or was it as a life-long beneficiary of divine revelations? In truth, Bridget displayed heroic holiness at every phase of her life. At each point along the way, she experienced joy as well as sorrow, success as well as failure, doubt as well as certainty. But she found God every time. Her life invites us to do the same.

### Historical Background

Throughout most of Bridget's life, Avignon in France, rather than Rome, was the seat of the papacy. The tumultuous period was later described as the "Babylonian Captivity of the Church." The papacy was at its lowest point in prestige and influence. Bishops and other clergy were expected to pay taxes. Nepotism was common. Indulgences were for sale. Competing political interests among European nations led to further acrimony and strife.

Into the fray stepped Bridget of Sweden. Until a few months before her death, she was pleading with Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome lest he lose his temporal and spiritual power. Upon his return, St. Catherine of Siena (Bridget's Daughter) took up her call.





## 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY THE CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

Some gifts of love are easily seen while others aren't noticed until they're pointed out. One example is the love and enthusiasm of the first and second graders from St. Joseph Catholic School and an orphanage in Haiti who drew pictures and wrote notes that are buried under the concrete sidewalk in the garden which we call the walk of life. The other was a monetary donation made by the 6-7-8th graders who grew plants in the school greenhouse, sold them to students at a school plant sale, and gave the very generous donation to the Children's Memorial Garden to help us with the garden. The very last sentence on their note was a confession, "We kept \$10 for a pizza." I wonder if any of these children who are now young adults remember what they did back then? I know we said it then, and we say it again now, thank you so much for your love and support. We will never forget you. **If you'd like to know more about the garden or the 20-year celebration planned for this fall, call Geri Wisniewski (630.319.3799) or Jennifer Sheehan (941.730.6209).**

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