



Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church

2157 Cleveland Ave. P.O. Box 912
Fort Myers, Florida 33902
www.stfrancisfm.org

Parish Office, M-F 9 AM-4 PM
Phone: (239) 334-2161
FAX: (239) 332-4178

December 25, 2011

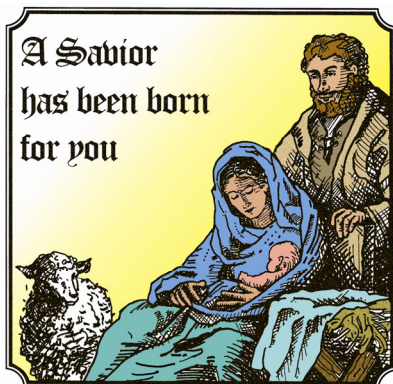
The Nativity of the Lord

Not so fast

One year during Saint Francis of Assisi's life, Christmas fell on a Friday. Knowing the holy man's love of fasting in imitation of Jesus, the brothers asked Francis if he wished them to fast even though it was Christmas. "Fast?" Francis replied. "How can we fast on the feast of the Lord's birth? Rather we should smear the walls with meat!" Obviously not a vegetarian, and perhaps prompting a little queasiness in his hearers, Francis' point was that in celebrating the God-who-becomes-flesh even the walls rejoice! Nothing is held back from the God who held nothing back from us but who embraced our whole humanity. In your joy today, in your compassion, reconciliation, forgiveness, mercy, and justice, don't hold anything back.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16)*

"[God] has spoken to us through the Son . . . who is the . . . very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word."



All the ends of the earth

have seen the saving power of God.

-Psalm 98

Weekday Masses

Mon – Thurs 6:45 and 8:15 AM; Friday 6:45 and 11:00 AM;
Sat. 8:15 AM, Summer: M-Th 6:45, Fri 6:45 & 11, Sat. 8:15
4:00 PM

Saturday Vigil

Sunday Masses

6:45, 9:30, 11:00 AM; 12:15 & 6:00 PM

Mass (In Creole)

Sundays at 4:00 PM and Tuesdays 6:30 PM

Mass (In Polish)

First Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM

Confession

Saturdays 2:45 - 3:45 PM, First Thursdays after 6:45 AM Mass

Confession (In Creole)

Tuesdays 6:00 PM

Adoration

Fridays after the 6:45 Mass until 11:00 AM

Holy Hour

First Monday of month at 6:30 (Unless a holiday)

Holy Days

No Vigil. 6:45, 10:00 AM; 6:00 PM

Religious Education

(239) 246-2635

K-9 & RCIA for Children: Wed. 6:00-7:30; RCIA: Wed. 6:30-7:45 PM

St. Francis Xavier School

(239) 334-7707

Janet Ortenzo, School Principal

Senior Services

(239) 334-0882

Linda Browning

PARISH STAFF

Administrator:

Rev. Gregg Caggianelli

Parochial Vicars:

Rev. James Simko

Rev. Tony Chermeil

Business Administrator:

Elaine Long

Parish Secretary: Janet Sushil

DRE: Michael Reardon 246-2635

Villa Francisco: 332-3229

Music Director: Brad Brown

Assistant Organist: Jack Bridges

Chairman of Parish Council:

Steve Buckley

Finance Committee:

Bill Barrett

Steve Buckley

Mary Snell

Jessie Gargano

Altar Flowers

If you would like to make a donation to cover the financial cost of altar flowers

in memory or in honor of someone, please call 334-2161. The names of those remembered each week will be displayed here.



NEXT HOLY HOUR: MONDAY, JAN. 2ND



Please join us for the next Monday Holy Hour at St. Francis Xavier, Monday, Jan. 2nd. It will be the first Monday of each month (unless there is a Monday Holiday). Holy Hour will start at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Please be sure to join us and participate in Benediction & Adoration. There is still Adoration & Benediction every Friday morning after the 6:45 Mass.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

On that first Christmas many years ago, Jesus became man. He existed before the world was made, He, in fact, has no beginning, because He is God and, therefore, has always existed, took on humanity, became one of His mere creatures and then entered into human history. His love is selfless, and it is boundless. So, as we sit and exchange gifts with one another in an effort to showcase our love for each other, as stewards, let us be sure to take the time to thank the Lord for the gifts He has given us, particularly the gift of His Son through whom we can attain salvation!

SACRAMENTS OF OUR FAITH

Baptism:

Baptismal classes are required for Parents.

Please call the DRE at 246-2635 for an appointment.

Confession:

Saturdays from 2:45 - 3:45p.m.

First Thursdays after 6:45 Mass.

Matrimony:

Contact one of the priests of the parish at least six months before scheduling a wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick:

Is celebrated on the first Saturday of the month after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. If you are unable to attend, please call the parish office to be put in touch with a priest who will administer the Anointing of the Sick.

Priesthood or Religious life:

Talk to any of the priests of the parish.

RELIGIOUS ITEMS STORE

STORE HOURS:

Tuesday & Thursday: 1-4:00 p.m., Saturday: 3-5:00 p.m.,

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The new Sunday Yearly Missals are now for sale, complete with responses according to the new translation!

Advent candles, wreaths, Christmas Cards and calendars also available. If you don't see what you need, please ask and we may be able to order it for you! We are located on the North side of the church. Call 936-1332 with any questions.



CFA UPDATE FROM FR. GREGG

Merry Christmas! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Enclosed below you will find our Bishop's thank you letter acknowledging that we have met our Catholic Faith Appeal goal for this year! These are difficult times for our community and our families. Even in the midst of these challenging times, your faithfulness in sharing our treasures in support of the ministries serving others throughout our Diocese is so inspiring. Our St. Francis Xavier Catholic Community has been faithfully witnessing to the Gospel for over 100 years. As we celebrate Christmas and prepare to enter 2012, please realize how grateful I am for your faithfulness and generosity. May the New Year bring God's blessings to your families, and I pray that this coming year be a season of grace for our community.

Thankfully in Christ,

- Father Gregg



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Father Caggianelli and Parishioners,

It is my privilege to extend my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to all the faithful of St. Francis Xavier Parish for exceeding the 2011 Catholic Faith Appeal goal for your Parish. Your generous response to the needs of the Church reflects the words of St. Paul, "Let us not grow tired of doing good. While we have the opportunity let us do good for all."

The Catholic Faith Appeal is indispensable for the contribution of the vital programs and outreaches of the Diocese of Venice. This Annual appeal supports our parishes, provides aid to the poor and needy, and spreads the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through Southwest Florida. In achieving beyond your parish, you inspire the entire Catholic Faith community to join together and do more in caring for the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to each of you, as well as my prayers for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane

† Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

FROM FR. GREGG

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas! Today we rejoice with the angels of heaven as we sing, "Joy to the World, the Lord has come." Today we celebrate that God was born into time, so that we could be born into eternity. We are living in challenging times. Our world and economy are still very uncertain, and that causes us great anxiety and fear. However, that message of the angel to Mary, that message of the angels to the shepherds, and that message of the Lord's to us is more relevant than ever. "Do not be afraid." May you and your families be filled with every Christmas blessing, may our Lord be born anew in your hearts and lives, and may the Light of Christ guide you through the darkness with the constant assurance of His love. Merry Christmas and blessing in the New Year from Father Jim, Father Tony and our entire parish staff to you and yours!

Always in Christ,

- Father Gregg

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, December 26th due to observance of the Christmas Holiday. May you and your families have a joyous Christmas Season. Merry Christmas!



NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve. Saturday December 31, 2011:
Vigil: 4:00p.m.

New Year's Day. Sunday, January 1, 2012:

6:45, 9:30 & 11:00a.m.; 12:15 & 6:00p.m.

2:00p.m. Mass in Polish

The Mass in Creole will be at the Cathedral in Venice at 2:00p.m.

SR. ELAINE MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass for Sr. Elaine Mahoney (Principal of St. Francis Xavier School from 1979-2001) will be Wednesday, January 4th, at 6:30p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church.

PARISH MINISTRIES

RCIA Coordinator &
Extraordinary Ministers
of the Eucharist

Kelli Bonner 940-0934

Altar Servers

Fr. Gregg Caggianelli

Children's Liturgy

Lisa Barrett

Lectors

Quentin Fairchild

Sacristan

Robert Little

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Walter Willigan
Phyllis DeSmet

Catholic Charities

Betty Galvano

Services to the Elderly and
Ministry to the Homebound
Bereavement Coordinator

Linda Browning

FOCCUS Couples

Shawn and Elaine Long
Pat and Freda Himschoot
Tony and Jessie Gargano

Hurricane Preparedness

Lloyd Duhon 223-9618

Prayer Line

Ann 995-3283/ Ruth 939-4287

Mass Intentions



MON.	26	6:45	John Hudgens, Jr. Family
		8:15	Rita Doubek
TUE.	27	6:45	Anthony J. Caccamise
		8:15	David Lucky Denson
WED.	28	6:45	Lorraine Cochrane
		8:15	Ralph Labadie
THURS.	29	6:45	Joan Cunningham
		8:15	Daniel Pickowitz
FRI.	30	6:45	Living & deceased members of the Virgil Himschoot Family
		11:00	Ken & Janet Sushil (Happy 50th Anniversary)
SAT.	31	8:15	Joy & Jarrett Moore (Happy Anniversary)

REMEMBER OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

If you are interested in supporting families in their time of grief due to loss of a loved one, in the next few weeks we will explore more ways for our bereavement ministry to be involved, particularly at all funerals. Please call Linda at 334-2161 for more information.



DIVORCED & WANT TO REMARRY?

The Marriage Tribunal (in association with the Evangelization Office of the Diocese of Venice) will host an information evening at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 17, at St. Paul Parish in Arcadia. The evening is for those (or family & friends) who have experienced a civil divorce/dissolution and wish to consider reestablishing their freedom for a new marriage in the Catholic Church. Also available in Spanish. No reservation is required and all are welcome. Call Betty at 941-484-9543.

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS

Safe Environment Training Volunteers who have routine contact with children or vulnerable adults are reminded that attendance of Safe Environment Training is required. You may register online at www.dioceseofvenice.org. No one should attend Safe Environment Training until their fingerprints have cleared. Due to the sensitive nature of this training, **no children are permitted to attend**. Continued volunteer status requires that you attend one of these sessions.

Blessed Pope John XXIII (Ft. Myers) 239-561-2245

January 5th, 6:00-8:00p.m.

January 7th, 9:30-11:30a.m.

NEXT \$5 CFA DINNER IS JANUARY 6TH

Join us Friday, January 6th, for the next \$5 Dinner that supports the Catholic Faith Appeal. On the Menu: **Parmesan Crusted Chicken, yellow rice, green beans and carrots, biscuit, dessert, & drink.** Dinner is at 5p.m. in Xavier Hall. Families, come early as those under 18 must be finished before the start of bingo at 6:30p.m. **TAKEOUT AVAILABLE**



PLAY SOME BINGO THIS FRIDAY NIGHT!

The next Bingo will be held **THIS Friday. Bingo will be held EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT IN DECEMBER!** Early Bird Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. There are many chances to win. Double Bingo session with your favorite games - 29 games in all. **CASH PRIZES:** Including five \$100 jackpot games! Bring some friends and enjoy the evening. Volunteers are welcomed, please call Jean at 997-1138. **Come early on Jan. 6th for the \$5 CFA Dinner. See above for Menu**



ALL PROCEEDS FROM FRIDAY NIGHT BINGO TO BENEFIT THE CFA

DON'T FORGET THURSDAY BINGO:

Thursday Bingo presented by CCW, is the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Lunch available. To volunteer, please call Carol at 656-0473.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



Please keep in your prayers those who are currently protecting our freedoms in active Military Service, especially those with family members in our St. Francis Xavier

Community:

Russell Atkinson, Ryan Baker, Jason Bramlett, MW Cook, Jason Cormier, Logan Cox, Sean Cox, Joey DeSiato, M.V. Estrada, Monica Halvick, Jonathan Hoisington, Casimir Krul, Katherine Krul Stitch, Kevin Krul, Blaise Morgan, Greg Nix, Andrew Peterson, Matthew Peterson, Tommy Ricks, William H. Roberts, Patrick Stitch, Ryan Strickland, Jacob Anthony St. Romain, Michael Paul St. Romain, Eugene E. Trelles., Jonathan Wilson, Michael Zach.

Call Mary Nix at 334-7707 to add your active duty family member or you can send an email to: mary.nix@stfrancisfortmyers.org.

Respect Life

Michael and Colleen Koester

Youth Ministry

Michael Reardon 246-2635

Cantors

Mary Frances Burton

560-9914

Kathy Reed

229-2255

Parish Library

Brian Mulcahy

533-4626

School Guardian Angels Fund

Esther Kiesel

334-7707 ext.243

esther.kiesel@stfrancisfortmyers.org

Council of Catholic Women

Betty Galvano 278-0032

Knights of Columbus

Dale Thomas 258-1698

Knights Ladies Auxiliary

Fran Rossadivito 939-4287

Legion of Mary

Bob Beaulieu

470-2962

Lay Carmelites

Missy Sedgwick

997-3832

Hope for Troubled Marriages

Retrouvaille 800-470-2230


To purchase commercial ad space:

Kathy Brown 601-4317

CATHOLIC DAYS AT CAPITOL

Don't miss the **January 9 deadline to register for the 3-day bus trip to Tallahassee for Catholic Days at the Capitol.** Join fellow Catholics from around the Diocese and across the state to pray for our elected officials and share with legislators Catholic views on proposed legislation. For details and registration, call 941-441-1101 or go to www.flacathconf.org.

ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop Frank Dewane will celebrate two Masses for married couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, and 50+ years). The Masses will be celebrated on Saturday, February 11, at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice at 11:00 a.m. and on Saturday, March 3rd at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Naples at 11:00 a.m.  If you are planning on attending, please call our parish office at 334-2161 so we can give the Bishop the names of those couples from our parish.

SPAGHETTI DINNER PLANNING

There will soon be a planning meeting for adult volunteers who are able to help with the Annual St. Francis Xavier Spaghetti Dinner. Please call Lloyd for more details at 223-9618.

WELCOME-NOTICE A CHANGE?

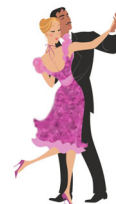
If you have not been around for a while, we want to welcome you back to the Catholic Church! In case you didn't know, this is the fifth week of the changes to the Missal. One of the blessings of the change is that it takes us out of "autopilot" and now we must actually "listen" to the language used throughout the Mass allowing us to "hear" the sacred prayers more clearly. The parish has presented numerous opportunities to learn more about the changes, but in case you missed it, there are pew cards with the changes, as well as in the Missalette for everyone to read along. **Everyone is doing great with the changes, but don't worry if you stumble with the wording a little, these changes are new to everyone in the parish—including our priests!**



VENETIAN BALL

The 12th Annual Catholic Charities Venetian Ball is March 3rd, 2012 with the theme: *Venetian Cafés*. **Why is the ball important?**

Catholic Charities in our area serves literally thousands of adults and children every year. With these distressing economic times, the need is dire. **Catholic Charities is deluged with requests for help everyday** there are many sad days when needy people have to be turned away because the resources are just not there. **The Venetian Charity Ball is the main resource that Catholic Charities depends on.** Join us with special guests Bishop Frank J. Dewane, Lois Thome of WINK News and other Ft. Myers personalities. **For more info call Patty at 239-267-7972; or send an email to: venetianball2012@aol.com**



HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLES

This Christmas, want to give a gift that keeps on giving? Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other - and your marriage! The next Marriage Encounter weekend is Feb 10-12, 2012 in Ft Myers. For more info email swflwwme@yahoo.com ; or call (239) 495-1803 or visit wwme.org

“QUO VADIS”

Fr. Cory Mayer, the Vocations Director, is hosting a special group meeting call “Quo Vadis” (“Where are you going”) **for men that may be discerning a vocation to the priesthood. The meetings will be held at St. Francis Xavier Parish from 7p.m.- 8:15p.m. on Jan. 5th.** The meeting will include spending time before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament as well as discussion with other men who are discerning God's will in their life. Food and drinks will be provided. For additional info please call 941-484-9543.

