

Welcome to  
**OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL CHURCH**



**12175 Stringfellow Road, Bokeelia, FL 33922  
(239) 283-0456**

**Rev. Jacek Mazur, Pastor**

Fr.Jacek@olmm.org

**Rev. Mr. William "Bill" Beck, Deacon**

deaconbill@comcast.net

**Parish Secretary**—Donna Wallis

donna.wallis@olmm.org

**Bookkeeper**—Diane Gleason

diane.gleason@olmm.org

**Parish Office Hours**

9:00 am—1:00 pm Monday—Friday

[www.miraculousmedalch.org](http://www.miraculousmedalch.org)

Email: [office@olmm.org](mailto:office@olmm.org)

**Knights of Columbus**-Contact Luis Ramos (239) 560-6380

\***Baptisms**-Parents must meet with the Pastor for instructions and a date for the ceremony

\***Marriages**-Couples must see the Pastor at least six months before the intended wedding date

**Visits to the Sick and Homebound**-(*Holy Communion and/or Anointing of the Sick*)-Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements

**Religious Education**-Sundays, Sept.-May from 9:30 to 11 am. Pre-K through secondary grades

**RCIA**—(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) - Please contact the Pastor for more information

**New Parishioners**-Registration forms are located in the entrance of the Church, at the Parish Office and on our website

**Prayer & Scripture Group**-Meets the First & Third Tuesday of every month

**Bereavement Group**-Meets the Second & Fourth Wednesday of every month

\***Registered parishioners only**

**MASS SCHEDULE**

- ◆ **Daily Mass** Monday—Friday 8:30 am
  - ◆ **Saturday Vigil** 4:30 pm—Year Round
  - ◆ **Sunday Masses**
    - **September through May**  
8:30 am & 10:30 am
    - **June through August**  
9:30 am
  - ◆ **Spanish Mass**  
5:00 pm Sunday—Year Round
  - ◆ **Holy Days of Obligation** 8:30 am & 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted
- + + + + + + + + + + +
- ◆ **Confessions** Fridays after the 8:30 am Mass, Saturdays 3:30 to 4:30 pm or by appointment
  - ◆ **Rosary** A half hour prior to daily Mass. Wednesdays the Rosary is dedicated for the protection of our area against disasters. Rosary begins 45 minutes before the first Sunday Mass
  - ◆ **Miraculous Medal Novena** Monday following the 8:30 am Mass
  - ◆ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** First Friday of every month beginning at 9:00 am concluding with a brief prayer service and Benediction at Noon
  - ◆ **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** First Fridays after the opening of Adoration



**FEBRUARY 23, 2020—SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

# Mass Intentions

- Mon. Feb 24** +Arlene Deschesne  
8:30 am Requested by Maurice Deschesne
- Tues. Feb 25** Donna Wallis  
8:30 am Requested by Diane & Tim Gleason
- Weds. Feb 26** Members of the Parish  
8:30 am
- 6:00 pm **Members of the Parish**
- Thrs. Feb 27** **Members of the Parish**  
8:30 am
- Fri. Feb 28** +Toni Anfinsen  
8:30 am Requested by Don & Marge Scott
- Sat. Feb 29** +Fred Schoenbaechler  
4:30 pm Requested by Marie Schoenbaechler
- Sun. Mar 1** Ed Holloway  
8:30 am Requested by Ron & Linda Nicols
- 10:30 am +Duke Schneider  
Requested by Shirley Schneider

## Time, Talent & Treasure

WEEKEND OF FEB 8-9, 2020

ATTENDANCE - 758

OFFERTORY-\$6,009.00

SECOND COLLECTION-\$N/A

*Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners through their selfless offering of time, talent and treasure. Thank you and God Bless!*

If you need a printout of your 2019 donations, please contact the Parish Office and we will send one to you in the regular mail or via email



**PRAY THE  
ROSARY DAILY**

## This Week

**Monday, Feb 24, 2020**

- **Tuesday, Feb 25, 2020**
- 

**Wednesday, Feb 26, 2020**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

- **Masses at 8:30 am & 6:00 pm**

**Thursday, Feb 27, 2020**

- 

**Friday, Feb 28, 2020**

- **Stations of the Cross 5 pm**

**Saturday, Feb 29, 2020**

- **Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm**

**Sunday, March 1, 2020**

- **Masses at 8:30 & 10:30 am and 5:00 pm (Spanish)**

- **Coffee Social 9:30 am**

- **Religious Education 9:30 am-11:15 am**



## PARISH CALENDAR

Feb 25-Usher Training 10 am

Feb 26-Ash Wednesday

-Bereavement Group Meeting 10 am

**Feb 28-Stations of the Cross 5 pm**

Mar 3-Ladies' Guild Spring Luncheon/Fashion Show

-Prayer & Scripture Group Meeting 6 pm

**Mar 6-Adoration 9:00 am-Noon**

-**Stations of the Cross 5 pm**

Mar 8-Daylight Savings Time Begins

Mar 11-Bereavement Group Meeting 10 am

**Mar 13-Stations of the Cross 5 pm**

Mar 17-St. Patrick's Day

-Prayer & Scripture Group Meeting 6 pm

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Lenny Adams, Rose Adams, Tony Ambrose, Carmen & Nilsa Aponte, Glenn Armani, Nora Baker, Barbara Basgall, Jacob Basilotto, Patricia Benson, Peter & Peggy Bercik, Angela Biondello, Ami Blachowiak, James Blachowiak, Patricia Blackwell, Peggy Brick, Dolores Brown, Betty Bulifant, Tom Cabot, Chuck Cabot, Patricia Clemens, Mario Corso, Steve DiCristo, Larry DiOrio, Wendy Edwards, Kathy Elliott, Aiden Foley, Connor Foley, Michael Fontaine, Justin Fiesta, Suzie Goldberg, Carmelle Goodridge, Dave & Mary Grueser, Judy Hage, Harry Haskins, Shawn Heeter, Pete & Alice Herber, Pat Herbert, Sally Hooper, Eileen Hopwood, George & Betty Hoyt, Carol Humme, Jo-Ann Ippolito, Everette & Nancy James, Stephanie Jefferson, Diane Jezek, Anthony Joseph, Arlis Kelly, Jim Kirk, Ginny Kloiber, Eddie Knowlton, Kent Krabill, Zal Kutar, John Lambrecht, Larry Larson, Ginny LeClaire, Margaret Lines, Anne Lintner, Eric Marinelli, Catherine Mazzola, Jim & Joan McCaffrey, Cindy McClure, Kenneth McCurdy, Jim McDonnell, Patty McGlone, Rick McKenna, Jr., Gloria McKeown, Connor McKinnon, John McKinnon, Gema Moreno, Tim Moynihan, Regina Mulherin, Ruth Nayard, Elizabeth Nomorosa, Bernadette Nyka, Danny O'Herron, Max & Mila Perez, Tyler Peryea, Leslie Peterson, John Pitale, Pal Polster, Shirley Porter, Catherine Porthouse, Greg Printy, Kristin Ramsey, Tina Reichenwallner, Joe Riske, Phil & Louise Ritche, Elly Rode, Jimmy Rosso, John & Janet Rovaldi, John Rozell, Heather Sallstrom Sanchez, Malte Sallstrom, Clarence Schuetz, Paul Sepczynski, Donnie Sheetz, Ann Speitel, Colleen Sullivan, Julianne Thorstenson, Pat Tweed, Virginia Waggle, Robert Wallace, Pink Wesorick, Lynn Wickham, Mary Wilcox, Norman Willebrandt, Glenna Wolshlager, Donna Zawadski

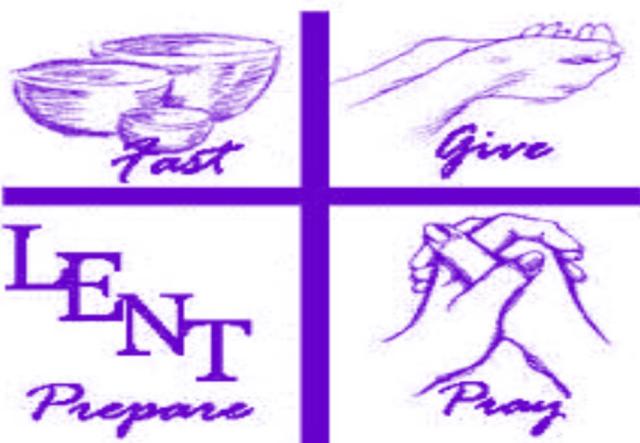
## ???QUESTION OF THE WEEK???

How can I allow the Spirit to guide me more fully?  
How will that affect how I treat both those who treat me well and those who mistreat me?

# ASH WEDNESDAY

## FEBRUARY 26, 2020

### MASS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES AT AT 8:30 AM & 6:00 PM



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, and ends prior to the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020. The Lenten Season is a time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of our Faith.

The Season of Lent has a twofold character: [1] by recalling or preparing for baptism and [2] by penance, it disposes the Faithful, who more diligently hear the word of God and devote themselves to prayer, to celebrate the paschal mystery (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium, no. 109).

#### REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

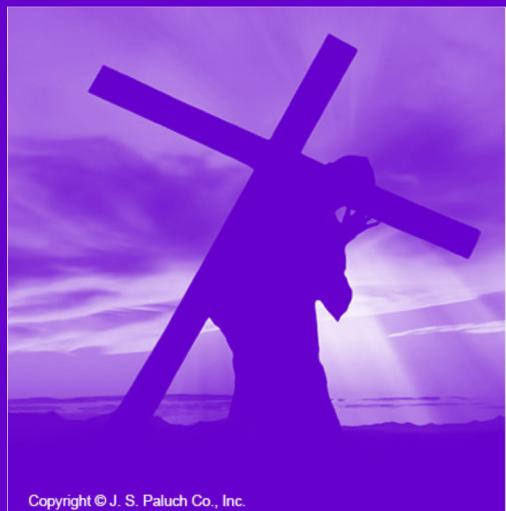
**FASTING:** To be observed on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** by all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection (USCCB).

**ABSTINENCE:** Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays during Lent.

**FASTING, ALMSGIVING AND PRAYER** are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

**NOTE:** *If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self denial that are suitable to their condition.*

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving: these disciplines, prescribed by Jesus himself in the Sermon on the Mount, along with strict instructions not to flaunt them in public to win recognition and praise (Matthew 6:1-18), have been embraced by all the saints at the beginning of every Lent for almost two thousand years. But mention Lent, and many react with a grimace or slight shudder—even now, years after official obligations have been reduced to a minimum! No wonder the Eastern Rite's "Lenten Announcement" sounds surprising: "Let us receive with joy, O faithful people, the divinely inspired announcement of Lent! The Lenten Spring shines forth! Begin the fast with joy! Let us fast from passions as well as food, taking pleasure in the good works of the Spirit, and accomplishing them in love!" Saint John Chrysostom, whose feast is September 13, elaborates: "Do you fast? Give proof by your works. If you see a poor person, take pity. An enemy, be reconciled. A friend gaining honor, don't be jealous." A positive approach! May the saints help us keep such a Lent!  
—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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## THE PROMISES MADE BY OUR LORD TO THOSE WHO HAVE DEVOTION TO THE WAY OF THE CROSS

*Jesus to Brother Estanislao*

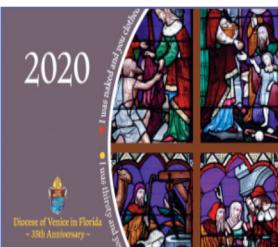
At the age of 18, a young Spaniard entered the Novitiate of The Brothers of the Christian Schools at Bugedo. He took the Vow of regularity, Perfection and Pure Love. In October, 1926, he offered himself to Jesus through Mary. Soon after this heroic donation, he fell ill and was obliged to rest. He died saintly in March, 1927. He was, according to the Master of Novices, a Privileged Soul, who received messages from heaven. Confessors and theologians recognized these supernatural facts. His director asked him to write the promises made by Our Lord to those who have devotion to The Way of the Cross.

Although he is not yet beatified by the Church, one may still derive benefit by his reported messages from heaven which are the following:

1. I'll grant everything that's asked of Me with faith, when making The Way of The Cross.
2. I promise eternal life to those who pray, from time to time, The Way of The Cross.
3. I'll follow them everywhere in life and I'll help them, especially at the hour of death.
4. Even if they have more sins than blades of grass in the fields and grains of sand in the sea, all of them will be erased by The Way of The Cross. (*Note: This promise doesn't eliminate the obligation to confess all mortal sins, and this, before we can receive Holy Communion.*)
5. Those who pray The Way of The Cross often will have a special glory in heaven.
6. I'll deliver them from purgatory, indeed, if they go there at all, the first Tuesday or Friday after their death.
7. I'll bless them at each Way of The Cross, and My blessing will follow them everywhere on earth and, after their death, in heaven for all eternity.
8. At the hour of death, I won't permit the devil to tempt them; I'll lift all power from him in order that they'll repose tranquilly in My Arms.
9. If they pray it with true love, I'll make of each one of them a living ciborium in which it will please Me to pour My grace.
10. I'll fix My Eyes on those who pray The Way of The Cross often. My Hands will always be open to protect them.
11. As I am nailed to the Cross, so also will I always be with those who honor me in making The Way of The Cross frequently.
12. They'll never be able to separate themselves from Me, for I'll give them the grace never again to commit a mortal sin.
13. At the hour of death, I'll console them with My Presence and we'll go together to heaven. Death will be sweet to all those who have honored Me during their lives by praying The Way of The Cross.
14. My Soul will be a protective shield for them, and will always help them, whenever they have recourse. -*The Original Pieta Prayer Book*

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD EVERY FRIDAY AT 5 PM DURING LENT

The devotional exercise of visiting and praying in front of each of the 14 stations and meditating on the Passion of Christ stems from the practice of early Christian pilgrims who visited the scenes of the events in Jerusalem and walked the traditional route from the supposed location of Pilate's house to Calvary. Tradition holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, set up stone markers at her home outside Jerusalem to prayerfully retrace the steps of her son's Passion, but the origin of the devotion in its present form is not clear. The number of stations originally observed in Jerusalem was considerably smaller than 14. In the early 16th century, Ways of the Cross were established in Europe, and the tradition of 14 stations probably derived from the best known of them, that at Leuven (1505). The Franciscans long popularized the practice, and in the 18th century they bowed to Western Christian devotional feeling and provided 14 stations in Jerusalem. The traditional stations have been recently supplemented with the Via Lucis (the Way of Light), in which the meditations focus on the resurrected Christ. Prayerful meditation through the Stations of the Cross is especially common during Lent and on Fridays throughout the year, in commemoration of Christ's Crucifixion on Good Friday. [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)



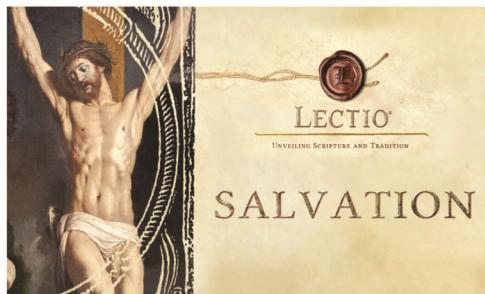
2020

**OLMM 2020 CFA STATUS**  
**Parish Goal \$ 85,000.00**  
**Pledged \$ 567.00**  
**Total Paid \$ 567.00**  
**Balance Due \$ 84,433.00**  
**a/o 02/10/20**

Thank you for your generosity.

**A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS**

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shines out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed, in their doubts never despair, in temptation never be destroyed, and in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them your Spirit and help them to praise your Heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By your same Holy Spirit put your word on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the brokenhearted. And may the gift of Mary, your Mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your spirit, to the glory of God the Father, **Amen.** Saint Teresa of Calcutta Vocation Society

**FORMED®****WHAT TO WATCH THIS LENT****Lectio: Salvation**  
with Dr. Michael Barber

At every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from heaven "for us men and for our salvation." But what does "salvation" mean?

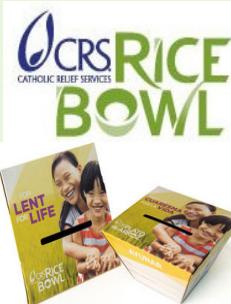
In this remarkable 10-part video series, Scripture scholar and theologian, Dr. Michael Barber provides a thorough, deeply Catholic, and deeply biblical answer.

go to: [miraculousmedalch.formed.org](http://miraculousmedalch.formed.org)  
.... sign in and start watching or listening!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED**

Alice Ambrose, Sal Anastasio, Ed Anderson, Toni Anfinsen, Joe Arcuri, Helen Armani, Pat Auge, Mary Lou Beck, Wally Birmingham, Roger Bolduc, Colleen Curtis, Al Doerman, Jo Ann Grabenstetter, Gerry Green, Mary Hagan, Leo Hage, Beverly Henderson, Daniel Higgins, Helen Holfelner, Ed Holloway, Lil Honc, Dave Humme, Ed Hughes, Pat & Stan Jock, James Kennedy, Ken Kloiber, Betty Licari, Edward Lodema, Kathryn McGuineas, Vincenzo Miceli, Sr., Leo Miller, Wes Morris, Maureen Murphy, Jim & Wilma O'Neill, John "Jack" O'Neill, Volker Oelze, Richard Peter-son, William "Joe" Porthouse, Mark Rodgers, Fred "Fritz" Schoenbaechler, Jeanette Smith, Jean Turner, Muriel Urrico, Gus Ventimiglia, Melanie Voris, Victor Zawadski

*"Eternal rest grant unto them Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they Rest in Peace."*



This Lent, we will be joining millions of Catholics across the country by participating in CRS' Operation Rice Bowl. Your family is invited to pick up a Rice Bowl packet on Ash Wednesday, February 26. With the use of the symbolic rice bowl, individuals can address these three traditional spiritual pillars of the season and make a difference in the lives of others.

**FORMED®****March 2020 Liturgical Calendar**

- 3/1 First Sunday of Lent**  
*\*Study:* Forgiven: Session 1 - Where are You?/*Perdonado:* Sesión 1 - ¿Dondé estás?  
*Read:* Meditations for Lent
- 3/7 Saints Perpetua and Felicity**  
*\*Watch:* The Passion of Saint Perpetua/*La pasión de Santa Perpetua*  
*\*Kids:* The Story of Saint Perpetua/*La historia de Santa Perpetua*
- 3/8 Second Sunday of Lent**  
*Watch:* Ready Reasons: Was Jesus' Sacrifice Enough?  
*Listen:* My Beloved Son
- 3/13 Anniversary of the Election of Pope Francis**  
*Watch:* Francis: Pope of the Renewal  
*Listen:* The Pope by Dr. Scott Hahn
- 3/15 Third Sunday of Lent**  
*Watch:* Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?  
*Listen:* The Passion of Christ in Light of the Holy Shroud of Turin
- 3/17 Saint Patrick**  
*Watch:* In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick  
*Listen:* The Trials of Saint Patrick
- 3/19 Saint Joseph**  
*\*Watch:* Joseph of Nazareth/José de Nazaret  
*Listen:* St Joseph: Patron of the Universal Church  
*Listen:* Parenting for Purity by Jason Evert
- 3/22 Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
*Read:* The Year and Our Children  
*Listen:* The Year and Our Children (Audio Version)
- 3/25 The Annunciation**  
*\*Study:* Symbolon, Knowing the Faith: Session 4: The Story of Salvation  
*\*Study:* The Bible and the Virgin Mary: Lesson 2 - The Handmaid of the Lord  
*Listen:* The History of Salvation
- 3/29 Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
*Study:* Lectio: Salvation - Not Just a Legal Transaction  
*Kids:* Brother Francis - Let's Learn about Lent

*\*available in both English and Spanish*



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## SPECIAL COLLECTION ON ASH WEDNESDAY

February 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year on Ash Wednesday, the Diocese of Venice will participate in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. "Restore the Church, Rebuild the Future" is the theme of the Collection.

For many years, our brothers and sisters in much of Eastern Europe, experienced displacement and persecution for practicing their Catholic Faith. Even though the fall of Communism occurred over 25 years ago, the Church still struggles to rebuild since many churches in this region have been confiscated or destroyed. This has left the Faithful without a worship site or even pastoral support in proximity. An entire generation is without the anchor of a solid formation in their Faith and families are unprepared to pass on this gift to the next generation.

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will be taken in the Diocese of Venice on February 26, 2020, Ash Wednesday. Your generous support helps rebuild churches, promotes ministries and religious education for children, and nurtures communities where the youth can grow in Faith. Thank you for sharing your blessings with the Faithful of Central and Eastern Europe and giving them the hope for a Church that we know so well!

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers as we approach our Lenten Journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

## USHERS

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The Diocese of Venice has requested that all parishes provide formal usher training. Accordingly, training for all ushers has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Church. The training will be provided by the Diocese and last approximately 2 hours. Sacristans are also invited to attend this important training session. Please contact the Parish Office to signup.



Please join the OLMM Ladies' Guild for our annual Fashion Show & Luncheon on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 beginning at noon at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church in the Parish Life Center. We will offer a catered luncheon and fabulous fashions from Razzle Dazzle of Cape Coral! Tickets are \$20 each and are available for purchase after all weekend Masses or at the Parish Office.

## From Our Hearts' 19th Annual BreastFest Walk

Saturday, March 14, 2020

8:00 am to 12:00 noon  
at Saint James City Civic Association  
3300 Fourth Ave, Saint James City, FL 33956

5K and 1 Mile Walk begins at 8:30 a.m.

Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Day of Walk

Breakfast available at SJCCA

Visit our website for Walk Registration Forms  
and more information [www.fromourheart.org](http://www.fromourheart.org)

### BreastFest BASH - A Kick Off Event

Sunday, March 8, 2020  
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

### Ragged Ass Saloon

3421 Stringfellow Road, St. James City, FL 33956  
Show Your Support and Wear Your Pink!!!

### Prizes for Best Individual and Team

PROCEEDS TO PROVIDE BREAST CANCER SCREENING AND  
TREATMENT FOR ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER  
PINE ISLAND AREA



*From Our Hearts*  
Together...we can make a difference.

BEACON OF HOPE  
United Way House

Program of Beacon of Hope  
A United Way House

Join other Christians from **February 26 through April 5**, for the spring **40 Days for Life** campaign. This campaign encompasses 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Stand and peacefully pray during vigils in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood in Naples, Fort Myers or Sarasota. For more information, go to [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com) and click on the location nearest you.



Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.

Each day during 40 Days for Life, individuals, churches, families and groups will be asked to join together in prayer for a specific request so the entire Body of Christ can unite around a common focus.

People of faith are also invited to fast throughout 40 Days for Life. We believe that when God's people fast with a broken, repentant and contrite spirit, our heavenly Father will hear from heaven and heal our lives, our churches, our communities, our nation,

AMEN A SUS ENEMIGOS,  
PARA QUE SEAN HIJOS DE SU PADRE CELESTIAL,  
QUE HACE SALIR SU SOL SÓBRE LOS BUENOS Y LOS MALOS.

MATEO 5:44-45

## SÉPTIMO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

23 DE FEBRERO DE 2020

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La primera lectura de hoy concluye con un estilo clásico del Levítico: "Yo soy el Señor". Una y otra vez el libro del Levítico marca sus párrafos con una frase sencilla: "Yo soy el Señor". Repitiendo constantemente esa frase, la palabra de Dios nos recuerda que Dios es el Señor, y no nosotros. Nosotros no hicimos el mundo, no nos creamos nosotros mismos. Recordando nuestro lugar como simples criaturas a veces nos asombra, especialmente cuando nos hacemos pasar como amos de nuestro pequeño universo. Por otro lado, sabiendo simplemente que somos los amados hijos de Dios puede liberarnos. Cuando aceptamos que Dios es el origen y cumbre de todo el conocimiento, nos enfocamos en la vida con una quietud creciente, una apertura a la poderosa acción de Dios en el mundo.

### SANTO Y PERFECTO

Nuestra apertura a la poderosa acción de Dios nos ayuda a entender las palabras de Jesús en el Evangelio de hoy, cuando exige que seamos "perfectos". A muchos de nosotros nos da escalofrío el pensar en ser perfectos. Francamente la idea de llegar a ser perfectos parece imposible. Pero, justo

antes que la desesperación aparezca, recordamos que somos simplemente criaturas. Si Dios quiere que seamos "santos" y "perfectos" como en lo enfatiza la lectura de hoy, entonces Dios proveerá todo lo que necesitamos para eliminar nuestras imperfecciones. Si guardamos rencor en contra de alguien y no podemos imaginar librarnos de ese resentimiento, Dios puede ayudar. Si dañamos nuestros propios cuerpos con malos hábitos, el Espíritu Santo puede fortalecer nuestra decisión y transformar nuestro comportamiento diario. Si anhelamos la ventaja sobre los demás, si nos disgusta la idea de amar a personas "indignas", si preferimos abrumadoramente la comodidad y estabilidad sobre la naturaleza de la abundante generosidad, Jesucristo, Rey de la gloria puede convertir nuestros corazones tímidos. Estas transformaciones requieren tiempo, paciencia y oración. Sentarse en silencio para meditar en las lecturas de hoy es un excelente tipo de oración, y una inspiradora forma de empezar.

Lecturas de hoy: Lv 19:1–2, 17–18; Sal 103 (102):1–2, 3–4, 8, 10, 12–13; 1 Cor 3:16–23; Mt 5:38–48

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**During the month of March, buy a reusable bag at Winn Dixie and the PI Food Pantry receives \$1**



WE WERE CHOSEN FOR THE COMMUNITY BAG PROGRAM!

**EACH BAG SOLD = \$1  
DONATION FOR US**

PINE ISLAND FOOD PANTRY



### TELEvised MASS TO THE HOMEBOUND

WFTX-TV FOX 4 – Sundays at 10:30 am  
The Mass is also available on the Diocese of Venice website, [www.dioceseofvenice.org/tvmass](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/tvmass).  
**Donations may be sent to:** TV Mass, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285  
For questions call 941-486-4714

### **Know Your Immigration Rights Conozca Sus Derechos de Inmigración**

La Conferencia Estado Unidos de Obispos Católicos (USCCB) ha proporcionado un video en español y en inglés sobre los derechos de los inmigrantes. Por favor vaya a [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org) y haga clic en el banner "Conozca Sus Derechos" para ver los videos.

### **V Encuentro, Sesiones del Decanato Norte**

La Oficina del Apostolado Hispano de la Diócesis de Venice organiza una serie de sesiones por decanatos para continuar el proceso del V Encuentro. Los fieles del Decanato Centro están invitados a participar a la siguiente reunión que se realizará en: Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue West, Venice, Martes 25 de Julio, 6:30 p.m.. La alegría de ser discípulos misioneros. Información: [pastoralhispana@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:pastoralhispana@dioceseofvenice.org).

# FEBRUARY 23, 2020

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Be holy, for I, the  
LORD, your God, am  
holy.

—Leviticus 19:2b

Sé santo, porque yo,  
el Señor, tu Dios,  
soy santo.  
—Levitico 19:2b

### FOOLISHNESS

Sometimes the idea of repentance seems old-fashioned, naïve, even foolish. But if you're looking for real foolishness, you'll find it in today's readings.

We begin with Leviticus and the admonition, "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge" (Leviticus 19:18). We've heard that message before, of course, so we might forget how far it is from the so-called "practical realities of life." Saint Paul warns us about being practical, though. Whoever considers oneself wise had better "become a fool," because "the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God" (1 Corinthians 3:18, 19).

This "foolishness" continues in the Gospel: "Offer no resistance to one who is evil" (Matthew 5:39). In fact, offer the other cheek when you've been slapped. Hand over your coat as well as your shirt. Be like God, who sends sunshine and rain on the bad as well as the good. "So be perfect," says Jesus, "just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (5:48). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Take no revenge and cherish no grudge; love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18).

**Psalm** — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103).

**Second Reading** — You are the temple of God, and holy (1 Corinthians 3:16-23).

**Gospel** — Offer no resistance; love your enemies (Matthew 5:38-48).

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

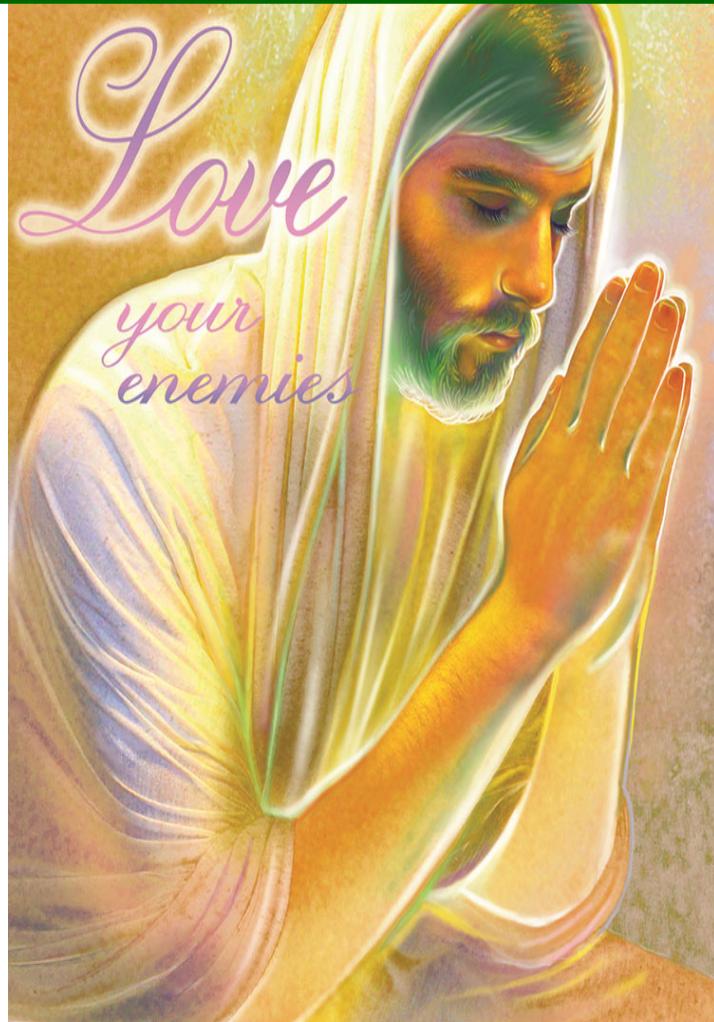
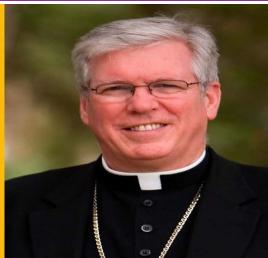
|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Monday:    | Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29                                      |
| Tuesday:   | Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37                                      |
| Wednesday: | Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17;<br>2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18     |
| Thursday:  | Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25   |
| Friday:    | Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-<br>15                               |
| Saturday:  | Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32   |
| Sunday:    | Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17;<br>Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11 |

The 2020 offertory envelopes are located in the rear of the church. If you requested envelopes, please pick them up. If you would like to start using envelopes, please contact the Parish Office. **Thank you!**

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### FORGIVENESS

People who cannot forgive others break the bridge over which they must pass if they are to reach heaven; for everyone has a need to be forgiven.

—George Herbert

### STRONG BELIEFS

Strong beliefs win strong people and make them stronger.

—Walter Bagehot

### FORGIVING AN ENEMY

Who has not forgiven an enemy has not yet tasted one of the most sublime enjoyments of life.

—Johann Kaspar Lavater

### REPENTANCE

Of all human acts, repentance is the most divine. The greatest of all faults is to be conscious of none.

—Thomas Carlyle

### OLMM BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 26th** at 10 am in the Parish Life Center Meeting Room.

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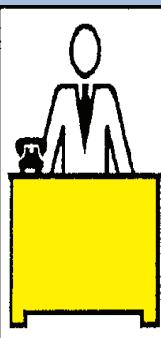
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