

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

Email: 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—Please call the Parish Office

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

Bereavement Support Group—No meetings scheduled at this time

***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
+++++
- ♦ **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

DECEMBER 23, 2018—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Intentions for the Week

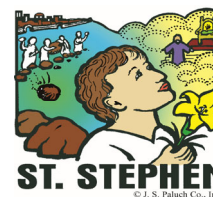
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- Mon. Dec 24** **The McKenna Family**
8:30 am *Requested by John Hone*
3:00 pm **Steve DiCristo**
Requested by Diane & Tim Gleason
6:00 pm **+Katy Boylan**
Requested by Bob & Carol Effert
- Tues. Dec 25** **The Lambrecht Family**
8:30 am *Requested by Greg & Lucy Lambrecht*
10:30 am **Brenna & Kenny Cross**
Requested by Jeannie McKenna
- Weds. Dec 26** **Members of the Parish**
8:30 am
- Thrs. Dec 27** **+Gloria Cichelero**
8:30 am *Requested by Diane Wolk*
- Fri. Dec 28** **+Chris Sabella**
8:30 am *Requested by Lorraine Sabella*
- Sat. Dec 29** **+Bill Miller**
4:30 pm *Requested by Carol Miller*
- Sun. Dec 30** **+Eugene Sittniewski**
8:30 am *Requested by Marylea Lewellyn*
10:30 am **+Fred Lethco**
Requested by Kathleen Hecksher



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- Monday, Dec 24, 2018**
- **Christmas Vigil Masses at 3:00 pm & 6:00 pm**
- Tuesday, Dec 25, 2018**
CHRISTMAS
- **Christmas Day Masses at 8:30 am & 10:30 am**
- Wednesday, Dec 26, 2018**
- **St. Stephen**
 - **NO Choir Practice**
- Thursday, Dec 27, 2018**
- **St. John, Apostle**
- Friday, Dec 28, 2018**
- **Holy Innocents**
- Saturday, Dec 29, 2018**
- **St. Thomas Becket**
 - **Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm**
- Sunday, Dec 30, 2018**
- **Masses at 8:30 & 10:30 am and 5:00 pm (Spanish)**
 - **NO Religious Education**
 - **NO Coffee Social**
- Monday, December 31, 2018**
- **Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Eve Vigil—4:00 pm (Spanish) and 6:00 pm (English)**
 - **Wine & Cheese-7:00 pm PLC**
- Tuesday, January 1, 2019**
SOLEMNITY OF MARY/NEW YEAR'S DAY
- **Mass at 9:30 am**



The Holy Innocents



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Weekly Collections

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**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OFFERTORY-\$960.00**

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 8-9, 2018

ATTENDANCE -514

OFFERTORY-\$5,045.00

SECOND COLLECTION-\$2,763.00

POOR BOX-\$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!



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PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY

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ALL IN ONE PLACE**

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ON DEMAND.

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Miraculousmedalch.formed.org

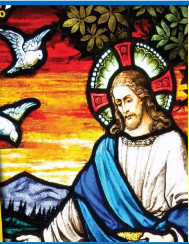


Rose Adams, Tony Ambrose, Carmen & Nilsa Aponte, Joe Arcuri, Glenn Armani, Helen Armani, Nora Baker, Barbara Basgall, Jacob Basilotto, Patricia Benson, Peter & Peggy Bercik, Angela Biondello, Ami Blachowiak, Patricia Blackwell, Rev. Jim Bok, OFM & Mary Gate of Heaven Parish, Negril; Katy Boylan, Peggy Brick, Dolores Brown, Betty Bulifant, Tom Cabot, Chuck Cabot, Patricia Clemens, Mario Corso, Steve DiCristo, Larry DiOrio, Wendy Edwards, Aiden Foley, Connor Foley, Michael Fontaine, Justin Fiesta, Suzie Goldberg, Carmelle Goodridge, Leo & Judy Hage, Harry Haskins, Shawn Heeter, Pete & Alice Herber, Pat Herbert, Eddie Holloway, Sally Hooper, George & Betty Hoyt, Carol Humme, JoAnn Ippolito, Everette & Nancy James, Stephanie Jefferson, Diane Jezek, Stan Jock, Arlis Kelly, Jim Kirk, Ken & Ginny Kloiber, Eddie Knowlton, Kent Krabill, Zal Kutar, John Lambrecht, Larry Larson, Ginny LeClaire, Margaret Lines, Anne Lintner, Edward Lodema, Eric Marinelli, Catherine Mazzola, Jim & Joan McCaffrey, Cindy McClure, Kenneth McCurdy, Jim McDonnell, Patty McGlone, Rick McKenna, Jr., Gloria McKeown, Connor McKinnon, Gema Moreno, Regina Mulherin, Rosario Munoz, Ruth Nayard, Elizabeth Nomorosa, Bernadette Nyka, Danny O'Herron, Jack O'Neill, Max & Mila Perez, Tyler Peryea, John Pitale, Pal Polster, Shirley Porter, Joe & Catherine Porthouse, Greg Printy, Kristin Ramsey, Tina Reichenwallner, Elly Rode, Jimmy Rosso, John & Janet Rovaldi, Heather Sallstrom Sanchez, Malte Sallstrom, Clarence Schuetz, Paul Sepczynski, Donnie Sheetz, Ann Speitel, Colleen Sullivan, Julianne Thorstenson, Pat Tweed, Gus Ventimiglia, Virginia Waggle, Robert Wallace, Pink Wesorick, Mary Wilcox, Norman Willebrandt, Glenna Wolshlager

???QUESTION OF THE WEEK???

Do I, like Elizabeth and her baby, realize that I am in the presence of the Lord here today? Do I react with joy?

2018 Catholic Faith Appeal



OLMM 2018 CFA STATUS

Parish Goal \$ 85,000.00
Pledged \$ 87,133.95
Total Paid \$ 84,981.99
Balance Due \$ 18.01
a/o 12/07/18

THANK YOU!!!!

†SAINTS/FEASTS OF THE WEEK†

Dec 26-St. Stephen—A deacon in the early Church at Jerusalem, he inflamed the enmity of members of the various surrounding synagogues by his Christian teachings, for which he was martyred.

Dec 27-St. John, Apostle—One of the twelve Apostles of Jesus, St. John was one of the youngest of the twelve. He and his brother James were in their fishing boat with their father and mending nets when Jesus called them. They immediately left their boat and their father and followed Jesus.

Dec 28-Holy Innocents—Patrons of choir boys and foundlings, the Holy Innocents were the first Christian Martyrs. The massacre is in the nativity narrative of the Gospel of Matthew in which Herod orders the execution of all male children two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem.

Dec 29-St. Thomas Becket—Also known as St. Thomas of Canterbury, St. Thomas Becket is said to be one of the least appealing saints due to his arrogance, combativeness and inflexibility. However, he is still a saint and martyr that is venerated by the Catholic Church and Anglican Communion.



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❄️ CHRISTMAS MASS ❄️ SCHEDULE

Monday, December 24, 2018

Christmas Vigil Masses:
3:00 pm & 6:00 pm (English)

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Christmas Day Masses:
8:30 am & 10:30 am (English)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY/NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

December 31, 2018

New Year's Eve—4:00 pm (Spanish)
& 6:00 pm (English)

Wine & Cheese—7 pm PLC

January 1, 2019

New Year's Day—9:30 am (English)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Alice Ambrose, Sal Anastasio, Ed Anderson, Pat Auge, Mary Lou Beck, Wally Bermingham, Roger Bolduc, Al Doerman, Jo Ann Grabenstetter, Gerry Green, Mary Hagan, Daniel Higgins, Helen Holfelner, Lil Honc, Dave Humme, Ed Hughes, Pat Jock, James Kennedy, Betty Licari, Sandra Marcil, Kathryn McGuineas, Vincenzo Miceli, Sr., Leo Miller, Wes Morris, Maureen Murphy, Jim O'Neill, Volker Oelze, Mark Rodgers, Fred "Fritz" Schoenbaechler, Jeanette Smith, Muriel Urrico, Melanie Voris, Victor Zawadski

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

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

CHRISTMAS DAY TELEVISION MASS FOR THE HOMBOUND

The televised Christmas Day Mass for the Homebound with Bishop Dewane will air for a full hour on Christmas Day. For viewers in northern parts of the Diocese (DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Manatee, and Sarasota counties), Mass airs at 9:30 a.m. on the CW Network. In the southern parts of the Diocese (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee counties), **Mass airs at 8:00 a.m. on WFTX-TV (FOX-4).** Please check your cable provider for channel listings.

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

"God, today we recall that the Innocent Martyrs bore witness not by words but by their death. Grant that our way of life may give witness to our Faith in You, which our lips profess. Amen."

IN LOVING MEMORY & HONOR OF

- +Marie Meuse, +Lauren Alexander, +Carey Alexander-Mr. & Mrs. Charles Alexander
+Alice Ambrose, +Beatrice Umbras, +Martha Kurpowic, +Anthony Umbras,
+Anthony Kurpowic-Tony Ambrose
+Pat Auge-Gene Auge / +Jim Benson, +Ken O'Connor, +James O'Connor,
+Mary Hauser, +George Hauser-Patricia Benson
+Larry Sanders, +Zeta Gaskins, +Mr. & Mrs. Leo Boron, +Michael Boron,
+Leo & Sandy Boron-Mr. & Mrs. Dave Boron
+Nancy & Charles Browne-Barbara Browne
+Gloria & Harold Beckloff, +Rose & Atlantic Carpinelli-Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Carpinelli
+Dennis Gruber, +Jane & Ed Gruber-Elaine Delaplane
The Denver & Allor Families-William & Frances Denver
The Barrett & Elliott Families-Doug & Kathy Elliott
+Bill & Carol Flaconer, +Ray & Annie Baranski, +Ted & Opal Ramsey, +Ray & Mary Baranski
-Scott & Julie Falconer
The Fry and DeSplinter Families-Mr. & Mrs. Willis Fry
Deceased Members of the Gerger & Dziekowski Families-Bob & Lee Gerger
+Frank & Margaret Kozma-Judy & Gary Gorman
The Drucker, Gray & Hess Families-Elyse & Donald Gray
+Willard & Rita Hardebeck, +Charles & Velma Rost, +Casey Hardebeck-Bob & Carol Hardebeck
+Tim Hayden, +Danny Nell, +James Raimondo-Mary & Jim Hayden
Deceased Members of the Healy & O'Connell Families, Katherine Jacaruso-Kevin & Sally Healy
Hoyt & Strasser Families-George & Betty Hoyt
+Edward Hughes, +Thomas Genovese-Marie Hughes
+Catherine & Louis Iannucci-Deborah Iannucci
+Lena Jacobs, +Rose Ebermard, +Maurice Jacobs, +Albert Wille-George & Rosanne Jacobs
+George Perry, +Ralph Mills-Mark & Helen Justice / +Pearl Kennedy-Patrick Kennedy
The Keeven Family / +James Kennedy Sr., +James Kennedy Jr.-Helen Kennedy
+Euphroyse Krul, +Mary Krul-Casimir & Kathy Krul / Kurowski Family-Peter & Eleanor Kurowski
Wohlers & Lester Families-David & Diane Lester / +James Lewellyn-Marylea Lewellyn
+Betty Licari-Vito Licari / +Helen Wahlrab, +Justin Duncan-Loving Family
+Amber Lundgren-Margaret Lundgren
+Ed Stress, Al Sledge, +Sam & Maryruth Marzella-Jay & Sandy Marzella
+Tony McKenna, +Richard McKenna, Sr., +Christina Tucker-Jean McKenna
+Lisa Kott-Mr. & Mrs. John Metzler / +Leo Miller, +Terry Miller-Anne Miller
+Elmer Geiger, +Aluinia Geiger, +Rosemary VonBank, +Johnny W. Turner-Carol Ann Peterson
+Mary & Jim Doyle, +James K. Doyle, +Bill & Anna Pitale-John & Doris Pitale
+Keith, Scott & Douglas Porter, +Jefferson Porter-Morgan & Shirley Porter
+Sandy Harrison, +Cathi Potter, +Jack & Betty Mullen-William & Bonnie Potter
+Hazel McCann, +Charles McCann-Nancy Pottinger
My Parents, Dr. Mauney and All Departed Souls-Diana Rader
The James Early Family-Bob & Becky Read
+Malte & Isabella Sallstrom, +Howard & Jane Smith, +Ray & Alma Tourville, +Lois Williams,
+Mark Aspinwall-Mrs. & Mrs. Malte Sallstrom
+Fred Schoenbaechler, Jr., +Fred & Elizabeth Schoenbaechler, +Mathias & Marie Hunseder,
+Fred & Lydia Hunseder, +Marjorie Knitowski-Marie Schoenbaechler
Our Deceased Family Members-Don & Marge Scott
+Ted, Sue & Gloria Steinken-Don & Helen Shanley
+Wayne Thibodeau, +Michael & Margaret Ryan, +Simon & Marie Thibodeau
-William & Margaret Thibodeau
+Tony & Thelma Zwigart, +C. Richard & Ann Thomas-Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thomas
+Matilde Carrion, +Gustavo Parada, +Margie Loaiza, +Benigno Parada, +Carlos Carrion
-Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Trelles
+Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Paolantonio; +Margaret Rutherford, +Mr. & Mrs. Frank Vadas,
+Lydia Molnar-Steve & Barb Vadas
Deceased Members of the Bolduc, Lachapelle & Wallis Families, +Wally Bermingham
-Donna Wallis
+Walter & Lydia Ellis, +Don Ward-Barbara Ward
+Robert Way, +Frank Cuomo-Edna Way
Wesorick & Lewis Families-Ron & Pink Wesorick
+Jim Wittig, +Blanche Bouchard, +Jacques Jutras, +Raymonde Lyndsay,
+Joan Wittig-Mr. & Mrs. Carl Wittig / For God's Blessings-Tom & Ellen Wolf

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. & Mrs. Francisco Ajin, Toni Anfinen, Anonymous, Mr. & Mrs. Gregorio Blanquel, Chris & Tina Corbett, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Haskins, Laura Martin, Valerie Miceli, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Mullin, Luis & Ruth Ramos, Rolando & Lisa Rodriguez, Pam Stark, Mr. Michael Szemak

WHAT'S IN A CANDY CANE?



Did you know this? The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ. -Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments. -Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love. -The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. -The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of ...the Old Testament. -The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation..... -Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. -The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes. -Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. -The ten lords a-leaping are the ten commandments. -The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples. -The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed. So there is your history for today. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!** ♡ yes, I said **MERRY CHRISTmas** because Christmas is not without **CHRIST!**

Courtesy of Fr. Cedric Pisegna's FaceBook page

PARISH CALENDAR

December 25-Christmas
December 31-New Year's Eve/Wine & Cheese
January 1-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
January 8-Ladies' Guild Monthly Gathering
January 19-Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
January 25-Ladies' Guild Card Party
February 5-Ladies' Guild Monthly Gathering
February 16/17-Rummage Sale
March 5-Ladies Guild Monthly Gathering
March 6-Ash Wednesday
March 19-Ladies' Guild Spring Luncheon/
Fashion Show
April 21-Easter
April 27-Divine Mercy Sunday



The new 2019 offertory envelopes are here! They are located in the rear of the church and are in alphabetical order. If you requested envelopes, please pick them up. If you would like to start using envelopes, please contact the Parish Office. **Thank you!**



**RUMMAGE
SALE**

**WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING
DONATIONS FOR THE
RUMMAGE SALE**

That time of year has arrived ...to clean out your storage, declutter your home, go through your drawers and bring it down to the Parish Life Center during regular office hours. We will not have pick-up service available until January. **PLEASE:** NO electronics, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, computers, printers, etc., mattresses or china cabinets. **THANK YOU!**



OLMM LADIES' GUILD ANNUAL CARD PARTY

**Friday, January 25, 2019
10:00 am—3:00 pm
Parish Life Center**

Please join us for our annual Card Party. Tickets are \$20 and will be on sale from January 5th through January 20th. **ONLY 200 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!** A delicious lunch will be served along with snacks and beverages throughout the day. We'll have fabulous door prizes and wonderful raffle items too!

REBOOT

a life-changing event

FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED
SPEAKER, AUTHOR, AND TV HOST

CHRIS
STEFANICK

WEDNESDAY
February 20, 2019
7-9:30 PM

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church
1922 SW 20th Ave.
Cape Coral, FL 33991

Tickets: \$22

INFO/ PURCHASE TICKETS:
239.283.0525
RealLifeCatholic.com/reboot

Contact Bonnie LaVigne |
Or the Parish Office for
Tickets

real life
catholic

TELEVISED MASS TO THE HOMEBOUND

WFTX-TV FOX 4 – Sundays at 10:30 am

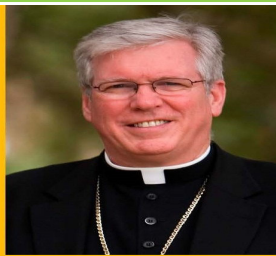
The Mass is also available on the Diocese of Venice web-
site, www.dioceseofvenice.org/tvmass.

Donations may be sent to: TV Mass, 1000 Pinebrook Road,
Venice, FL 34285 For questions call 941-486-4714

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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 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.

TAKE A STAND FOR LIFE!!



CHOOSE LIFE PLATES HELP MOTHERS
CARRY TO TERM AND MAKE AN
ADOPTION PLAN FOR THEIR BABIES!!!

Funds received from the sales of the Florida
Choose Life Plate are distributed to life affirming
pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and non-
profit adoption agencies within the state
to assist women with unplanned pregnancies.

**SWITCH TODAY AND RECEIVE A
\$50 REBATE!!!!**

NO NEED TO WAIT FOR RENEWAL TIME!!!

TO RECEIVE YOUR REBATE, MAIL A COPY OF YOUR
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PO BOX 1176, LIVE OAK, FL 32064

A CHECK WILL BE MAILED TO THE NAME AND
ADDRESS ON THE REGISTRATION. BY ENDORSING THE
REBATE CHECK, YOU AGREE TO KEEP YOUR CHOOSE
LIFE PLATE FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS. THE ANNUAL
RENEWAL COST IS JUST \$25 (IN ADDITION TO YOUR
REGULAR ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE)
OFFER EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHOOSE LIFE
LICENSE PLATE PLEASE VISIT:

www.flchoose-life.org or call 386-339-1885

REGISTRATION # CH13033 A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL
INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-
FREE (800) 435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OR VISIT www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com.
REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

"The grace which was revealed in our world
is Jesus...He has entered our history; he has
shared our journey. He came to free us from
darkness and to grant us light. In Him was
revealed the grace, the mercy, and the
tender love of the Father." *Pope Francis*



Bendita t  entre las mujeres

23 de diciembre de 2018 • Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

Cuando Mar a e Isabel se re unen, siguen una tradici n importante femenina de su cultura, se juntan para apoyarse mutuamente durante sus embarazos. Mar a muy probablemente iba cargando algo oscuro acerca de su embarazo, pues el embarazo empez  antes de su matrimonio. Isabel tambi n llevaba una carga social de desaprobaci n despu s de muchos a os sin haber tenido hijos, pero ella ve un motivo de celebraci n. Isabel ve m s all  de la verg enza social de la situaci n de Mar a para observar c mo Dios se hace presente y c mo Mar a acept  unirse al trabajo que Dios est  haciendo.

A diferencia de Zacar as, el esposo de Isabel, que pensaba que era inconcebible que Dios pudiera darles un hijo, Mar a crey  en el mensaje del  ngel. Isabel honra a Mar a, en parte, simplemente por ser capaz de imaginar que Dios pudiera hacer esta acci n extraordinaria por medio de ella. Quiz  Dios ya hab a preparado el coraz n de Mar a durante su juventud, para que pudiera estar plenamente receptiva a esta llamada espec fica de Dios cuando fuera el tiempo preciso. Mar a se abri  a un futuro incierto, confiando que Dios la acompa ar a en las alegr as y tristezas por ser la madre de Jes s.

EMBARAZADA CON DIOS

Adviento, un tiempo de preparaci n para la Navidad, repite el embarazo de Mar a. Algo est  conmovi ndonos dentro de nosotros, y esperamos la llegada de Jes s. A pesar de que nosotros, la Iglesia, ya tenemos celebrando el Adviento y la Navidad muchas veces, Dios siempre est  ofreci ndonos algo nuevo. Al igual que el  ngel pidi  a Mar a, Dios siempre est  pidi ndonos permitir que Cristo nazca en y por medio de nosotros. Cristo desea sentirse en casa dentro de nosotros, y fortalecer su presencia en nuestros corazones.

Al igual que el embarazo, a veces las acciones de Dios dentro de nosotros pueden ser desorientadoras y confusas. La historia de Isabel y Mar a nos recuerda que por muy poco seguros que podamos estar de lo que Dios hace en nuestras vidas, tenemos motivo de alegr a, porque Dios efectivamente es bueno, y ciertamente nos bendecir . Y por medio de dejar que Cristo nazca en nosotros, Dios traer  la bendici n al mundo.

Lecturas de hoy: Miq 5:1-4a; Sal 80 (79):2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lc 1:39-45

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DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

FEB 2, 2019

MEN'S CONFERENCE IRON SHARPENS IRON!



MARY HEALY is Professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Her work promoting Biblical Studies have greatly assisted the faithful in hearing the Word of God and living by it, with greater understanding and passionate zeal.



DCN. RALPH POYO models discipleship of Jesus with a truly relational style of evangelization. He helps Parishes become "self-evangelizing." Parishes by focusing on relational ministry and personal one-on-one encounters to build up the local Church.



HECTOR MOLINA has been speaking for over 25 years and has keynoted over 100 Diocesan events (in English and Spanish) from North America to Australia. As part of Casting Nets Ministries, he truly embodies what it means to be a "fisher of men."

TO REGISTER!

ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

✓ www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/daily-resources/calendar/

941-484-9543

evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org



LOCATION
Bishop Verot High School
5598 Sunrise Drive
Fort Myers

DATE
February 2, 2019
TIME
9 AM - 3 PM

COST
PRE-REGISTRATION
Adults \$20 | Students \$5.
AT THE DOOR
Adults \$30 | Students \$10.

SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESE OF VENICE.

DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

FEB 16, 2019

Women's Conference



JENNIFER FULWILER is the host of the Jennifer Fulwiler Show, which airs daily on the national SiriusXM network. She is the author of *Something Other than God*, as well as her new book, *One Beautiful Dream*, a humorous memoir which was a #1 bestseller at Barnes & Noble and in the Top 25 of all books on Amazon.



LEAH DARROW, drawing from her experience on American's Next Top Model and her work in fashion, exposes the lies that women encounter today regarding their self-worth. Through her engaging talks, listeners are drawn to the appreciation of their own real beauty.



MOTHER ADELA GALINDO is the foundress of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Her faithful witness and sincere presentations evidence her great love for the Mother of God, which becomes infectious to all who hear her.

TO REGISTER!

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AT THE DOOR
Adults \$30 | Students \$10.

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DECEMBER 23, 2018 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Blessed are you
among women,
and blessed is the
fruit of your womb.**

— Luke 1:42

**Bendita tu eres en-
tre las mujeres, y
bendito es el fruto
de tu vientre.**

— Lucas 1:42

MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalms — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Tues: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;

Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;

Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Weds: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc 17; Mt 10:17-22

Thurs: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Fri: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sat: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Sun: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52



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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most. —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

O COME, LONG FORETOLD

O come, Desired of nations,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Will break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold.
Dear Savior, haste; come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

—Simon J. Pellegrin (1663-1745), Tr. by Mary of St. Philip (1825-1904)

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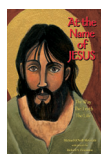
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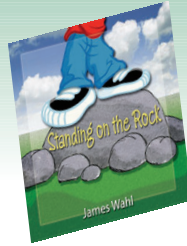


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