

December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent



**St. John Will  
Create a Mission  
Garden**

see page 3

**Advent Penance  
Service at St. John  
December 20  
at 7:00 p.m.**

see page 5

**Safe Environment  
Training Classes  
Begin in January**

see page 7

**No Faith  
Formation Classes  
December 19 -  
January 3, 2017**

see page 16

**St. John Welcomes 40 New Families  
Since October 1**

*St. John welcomes all new families who have registered with our parish in recent months. From October 1 through November 30, some 40 families have registered as new members of Saint John the Evangelist. We welcome to our parish family the most recent registrants.*

Donna Armstrong  
 Evelyn Armstrong  
 Avila Family  
 Kevin & Dorothea Brenan  
 Ann Burns  
 Bustamante Family  
 Bruce Cahn & Sandra Gilbert  
 Dahlquist Family  
 Joseph & Maria Daly  
 Diaz-Osorio Family  
 Briana Edwards  
 Ellington Family  
 Emens Family  
 Maria Garcia  
 Lucia Garcia-Ribeyro  
 Betty Gildea  
 Gomez Family

Denise Jamieson  
 Karnes Family  
 Kidd & Bocwinski Family  
 Neil Krauter  
 Mario & Dorothy Lehmacher  
 Joseph & Eleanor Leitinger  
 Martin Monahan  
 Brianne Morrison  
 Susan Ostrowski  
 Patrick Family  
 Scott Patsiga & Luciana Curia  
 Michael & Susan Paxton  
 Petti Family  
 Posillipo, Giles & Amato Family  
 William & Pamela Prochaska  
 Scarantino Family  
 John & Arlene Slaboch

James & Susan Solomon  
 Carmina Vicidomini  
 Bill & Kathie Ward  
 Marcia Wineberg  
 Woessner Family  
 Zuloaga Family

*We apologize if we have left anyone out or inadvertently misspelled any names.*



625 111th Avenue North, Naples, FL 34108 • Phone 239.566.8740 • Fax 239.566.9117  
www.sjecc.com • E-mail: info@sjecc.com

Daily Mass: 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.; Wednesday Evening: 6:30 p.m.; Saturday Mass: 8:00 a.m.  
Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 3:00 & 5:00 p.m. — Sunday: 7:00, 9:00, 11:15 a.m., 1:15 & 5:00 p.m.

Scan this tag with your smartphone to view our mobile website.

**Mass for Deceased (\*) and Special Intentions (SI) Requested by**

**December 17, 2016 Saturday**

8:00 AM + Erin Britt Inez Rush Britt

**Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday**

3:00 PM + Jerome Paul VanderHorst Vicki VanderHorst  
5:00 PM + Leon Gorman Friends

**December 18, 2016 Sunday**

7:00 AM + Thelma Corsetti Thomas DeBarberi  
9:00 AM + Helen O'Connor Douglas O'Connor  
11:15 AM For Our Parishioners  
1:15 PM + Joseph Toi Phan Lan Tran  
5:00 PM + Michael Scheidemann Aunt Jenny

*Wine and Host in Memory of Raymond Leclere ~ requested by Lorraine Leclere*

**December 19, 2016 Monday**

8:00 AM + Joe Reid Kay Reid  
9:00 AM + Owen Murphy Theresa Wheeler

**December 20, 2016 Tuesday**

8:00 AM + Thomas Kasperski William & Patricia Matre  
9:00 AM SI Joshua & Maria Bernardes The Family

**December 21, 2016 Wednesday**

8:00 AM + Christine Hinchley Pauline Cataldo  
9:00 AM + Kevin Ferreira The Ferreira Family  
6:30 PM + Clara Prosis Rudolph Kulousek

**December 22, 2016 Thursday**

8:00 AM + Michael Hielscher Peter DeFrancesca  
9:00 AM + McEntee Family Barbara & Jerry McEntee

**December 23, 2016 Friday**

8:00 AM + Thomas O'Brien Mary O'Brien  
9:00 AM + The Fedeli Family Dick & Helen Fedeli

**December 24, 2016 Saturday**

8:00 AM + Steve Holden John & Maureen Wurtz

**Vigil Masses for Christmas**

3:00 PM + Ozzie D'Addario Janet D'Addario  
5:00 PM + Shea & Barrett Family Kathleen Shea  
10:00 PM + Sharon K. McCarthy Joseph McCarthy

**December 25, 2016 Sunday - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

7:00 AM + DeFrancesca/Val Peter  
9:00 AM + Mass for the Unborn Respect for Life Committee  
11:15 AM For Our Parishioners  
1:15 PM + Grandparents Douglas O'Connor

**SPECIAL OBSERVANCES  
AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday, December 17, 2016**

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Saturday, Vigil Mass for Sunday**

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**Sunday, December 18, 2016**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**Monday, December 19, 2016**

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a;  
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Tuesday, December 20, 2016**

**St. Peter Canisius; Winter Solstice**

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday, December 21, 2016**

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;  
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

**Thursday, December 22, 2016**

**St. John of Kanty**

1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

**Friday, December 23, 2016**

Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

**Saturday, December 24, 2016**

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

**Saturday, Vigil Mass for Sunday**

**The Vigil of Christmas**

*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

**Sunday, December 25, 2016**

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; n 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

**THE NURSERY WILL BE CLOSED  
ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

**FREE Nursery Care for children ages**

**1 to 5** available during the following Mass times: Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. The nursery is located in the PLC, classrooms 5 and 6. A trained childcare provider is in attendance during these nursery hours.

**Holy Communion Available for the Hospitalized and Homebound.** Any parishioner who would like to receive Holy Communion while he/she is in the hospital or unable to get to Mass from his/her home may do so by calling the parish office, 566.8740, or emailing [emministry@sjecc.com](mailto:emministry@sjecc.com). An Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist will bring Holy Communion at a mutually agreed upon time. Please note that the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist bring Holy Communion to North Naples NCH on Monday through Friday and to Landmark Hospital, North Naples on Wednesday and Sunday.

**MASS INTENTIONS...**

# Campaign Corner

December 18, 2016

*“As stewards of God’s creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family. When we destroy our forests, ravage our soil and pollute our seas, we betray that noble calling.”*

— Pope Francis



A Capital Campaign for  
Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church

## Mission Garden: Teaching Missionaries to Fish to Feed Those in Need

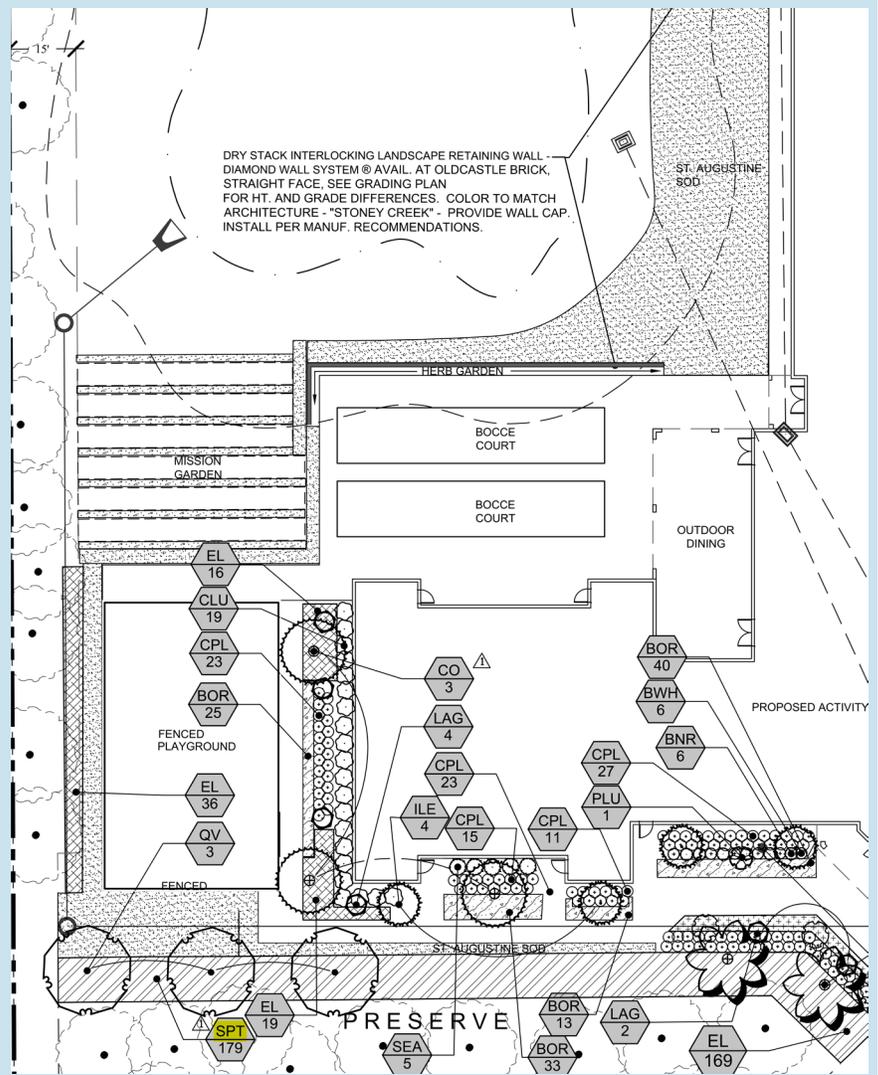
We have received the response for our Site Development Plan from Collier County. As expected, they have found some small issues, like adding 111th Avenue North to the plans, even though the building is far recessed from the main road, and referencing the proper SDP number on our cover sheet. There were a few environmental components we are going to resolve as well, which are appropriate in the focus of our Catholic Church and Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si”. We are tending the garden of earth in God’s name, and it is our responsibility to take care of the planet and leave it better than we found it. Did you know that between the Ballroom and the new Life Center is a nature preserve that is filled with endangered tortoises? If you take a walk to the back of our campus, you may be able to spot them walking around between the tortoise sanctuary and the pond.

We will need to ensure the flowers and plants around our building are native, especially near the preserve. We will also need to make sure those tortoises are safe during the construction and that will require special fencing and even potentially relocating them. Most importantly, we are creating a brand new Mission Garden. The set of vegetable and fruit trees will be irrigated and fed by the pond, which will be stocked with fish. This self-sustaining agricultural environment will feed us and the poor in the area, with the youth and experienced of our Parish Family working together to fish and pick, as well as to ensure the health of the vegetation. Additionally, missionaries will come to St. John to learn how to build and maintain this environment so it can be replicated in areas around the world where people do not have enough to eat.

As we **Build Our Future, Serve Our Past**, we still need all the prayers and support of our Parish Family to reach our Pinnacle Goals. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Lichwalla, the Campaign Coordinator at 239.495.2001 or email: [campaign@sjecc.com](mailto:campaign@sjecc.com).

You can also learn more information about our Capital Campaign at: <http://www.sjecc.com/future>.

Jean-Paul Boucher, General Manager  
[jp@sjecc.com](mailto:jp@sjecc.com)



## PARISH CLERGY



**Fr. John J. Ludden, Pastor**

Fr. Robert Murphy	Associate
Fr. Paul D'Angelo	Associate
Deacon Hal Brenner	
Deacon Forrest Wallace	
Deacon Frank Panicia	Senior Status

### Altar Servers:

Jean-Paul Boucher [jp@sjecc.com](mailto:jp@sjecc.com)

### Arts & Liturgical Environment:

Kay and Andy Sanfelippo 949.7122

### Eucharistic Ministry

Maureen Reed [EMMinistry@sjecc.com](mailto:EMMinistry@sjecc.com)

#### Homebound

Call the Office 566.8740

#### Hospital

Mary Ellen Metro [maryellen@sjecc.com](mailto:maryellen@sjecc.com)

### Lectors Ministry

[lectors@sjecc.com](mailto:lectors@sjecc.com)

### Greeters & Ushers:

Bill Fuller [wfuller1@comcast.net](mailto:wfuller1@comcast.net)  
239.280.8870

## SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH\*

**Sacrament of Baptism.** The Diocese requires that parents seeking baptism for their child attend a baptism preparation class. To schedule a baptism class, parents must be registered practicing members of St. John's for a minimum of two months. *Deborah Marsh: 566.8740*

**Sacrament of Matrimony.** Those who wish to be married in our parish must complete the Marriage Preparation Program. The Diocese requires a six month notice. *Tricia Schwarz: 566.8740*

### Anointing of the Sick/Funeral

**Arrangements.** Call the parish office 566.8740. If the office is closed the answering machine will provide an emergency phone number for you to reach a priest.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

*Business Office is located in the PLC (behind the Church)*

**All Administrative Staff**

**239.566.8740**

**General Manager**

Jean-Paul Boucher: *Ext. 3910*

**Fax:** 239.566.9117

[jp@sjecc.com](mailto:jp@sjecc.com)

**Assistant to the Pastor**

Tricia Schwarz

**Parish Secretary**

Deborah Marsh

**Front Office Manager**

Kathy Mooney

**Pastoral Musician and Liturgist**

Gary Prettyman

**Artistic Director**

Jennine Fuentes

**Sacristan & Martha's Guild**

Lan Tran

**Director of Family Mission**

Jean-Paul Boucher

**Parish Publications/Bulletin Editor**

Kathy Sims

**CYO Social and Spiritual**

**Coordinator**

Kyle VanDuser

**Memorial Garden**

Jean-Paul Boucher

**Bookkeeper**

Karen Beebe

**Religious Boutique**

Elaine deLaurentis, *Ext. 3921*

**Maintenance**

566.8740

### Education Staff

**Director of Religious Education**

Natalie Campbell: *Ext. 3904 and 3909*

**Coordinator, Adult Faith Formation & RCIA**

Jack Kindsvater: *Ext. 3918*

**email staff members at:**

[info@sjecc.com](mailto:info@sjecc.com)

### FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, etc. in your family, please notify the front office at 239.566.8740 or email: [info@sjecc.com](mailto:info@sjecc.com)

Thank you!

\*For complete information on the Sacraments, please visit our website:

[www.sjecc.com](http://www.sjecc.com)

## St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

625 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Naples, FL 34108

Phone: 239.566.8740 • Fax: 239.566.9117

[www.sjecc.com](http://www.sjecc.com)

### Administrative Office Hours are:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

(until all are heard)

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Daily Mass:

*Monday-Friday:* 8:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.

*Wednesday Evening:* 6:30 p.m.

*Saturday:* 8:00 a.m.

### Saturday Vigil Masses:

3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday Masses:

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,

11:15 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Contemporary Mass

### Choirs:

**Adult Choir of St. John the Evangelist.**

Rehearsals Wednesdays, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Residents and seasonals welcome. *Gary Prettyman: 566.8740*

**Children's Choir of St. John the Evangelist.**

Rehearsals Wednesdays, 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. Grades

1-5. *Gary Prettyman: 566.8740*

**Contemporary Choir of St. John the Evangelist.**

Rehearsals Sundays, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Grades 6-12

especially welcome. *Gary Prettyman: 566.8740*

**Hospitality.** Volunteers serve light refreshments for

parishioners who gather after the 9:00 and 11:00

a.m. Sunday Masses for sharing, communicating

and extending fellowship. If interested in helping

contact *Elida Gil: 239.592.7973* or *Darlene*

*Follese: 495.9741*

**Divine Gift Boutique** (located across from the

restrooms). **Season Hours:** Saturday from 2:00

to 5:00 p.m., Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. If

interested in volunteering, contact *Elaine: 566.8740*.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

Parish Registration Forms are available on the tables in the church narthex, in the parish office and on the website: [www.sjecc.com](http://www.sjecc.com)

**Mass Intentions.** We are now accepting 2017 intentions.

**Altar Flowers and/or Host & Wine.** We have 2016 wine and host and flowers availability. Stop by the parish office to offer the wine and host and/or the altar flowers in memory or in honor of your loved ones.

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

*To Know, To Love, and To Serve God  
in His church and our community.*

## PARISH INFORMATION... OPERATIONAL

SAINT JOHN the EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH • [WWW.SJECC.COM](http://WWW.SJECC.COM) • [INFO@SJECC.COM](mailto:INFO@SJECC.COM)

## Christmas Programs

### Christmas Eve Mass with Elementary-Age Children as angels and shepherds

Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. in the Church.

see Area Advent Penance Services below

## Mass Times ~ Christmas and New Year

### Saturday, December 24

*Christmas Eve Mass*

*Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord*

3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. is Children's Mass,  
10:00 p.m. (Music starts at 9:20 p.m.)

### Sunday, December 25

*Christmas Day Mass*

*Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord*

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m.  
(No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

### Saturday, December 31

*Vigil of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, January 1, 2017

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m.,  
1:15 p.m.; 5:00 p.m.

### Advent Penance Service at St. John

Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m.

## Local Area Advent Penance Services

*St. Elizabeth Seton* – Monday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m.  
2730 53rd Ter Sw, Naples

*Saint John the Evangelist* –  
Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m.

*St. Peter the Apostle* –  
Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.  
5130 Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples

## NURSERY CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

The nursery will NOT be open on Christmas Day, December 25, so that everyone can be with their families.

Thank you for your understanding.

The 2017 Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Calendar will be available next weekend, December 24-25.

## Separated/Divorced Ministry 12-Week Healing Program Begins Wednesday, January 11; There Is No Cost to Attend

The Separated/Divorced Ministry is pleased to announce the winter session of our 12-week healing program, beginning January 11. Whether separated or divorced 10 days ago or 10 years ago, this program will offer valuable insight for everyone. The weekly sessions will include 30-minute DVD presentations followed by group discussions.

The video series topics are titled:

- Getting Your Bearings
- Finding Strength and Help
- Getting Through Your Anger
- Finding Perfect Peace
- Learning to Forgive
- Dealing with Your Family
- Handling Money Wisely

- Finding Perfect Power
- Seeing God in Romance
- Relearning How to Date
- Loving All Church Teachings
- Finding Perfect Passion

Our ministry's goal is to become a light in the life of separated/divorced Catholics by promoting a sense of inclusion in our Parish family and guidance through our shared spiritual journey.

Please join us Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Claussen Family Center. The sessions begin January 11 and run through April 5 (with no class on March 15).

There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is required. Please pre-register by January 5.

In addition to the 12-week series, we are also going to host informal meetings on Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the same room, starting January 12. There is no need to pre-register to the casual meetings, just join us for friendly fellowship in an encouraging and safe space.

For more information or to register for this healing program, please contact Lhara Echeverria at 239.293.3694 or [lhara@sjecc.com](mailto:lhara@sjecc.com) or Beth Lucci at 239.877.6254.

## #ToLove – Silence: Martin Scorsese Delves into 17th Century Japan and Catholic Missionaries

Have you ever questioned what it really means to be a martyr? What pain would you be willing to endure for your faith? Would you watch dozens of others writhing in pain or sent to their death because you were not willing to simply say you did not believe in God? What would you think of a God that allows for such torture to occur and stayed silent while you suffered these trials? These are some of the most powerful questions that are coming to life in the upcoming weeks with the movie **Silence**, directed by Martin Scorsese and starring Andrew Garfield and Adam Driver, and derived from the novel of the same name by Shūsaku Endō, one of the most respected modern Japanese authors and Catholic since the age of 11.

**Silence** tells the story of Catholic Jesuit missionaries and their quest to find their mentor, who was sent to Japan in the midst of the purge of Christianity from the country. At its peak, it was thought there were over 300,000 Catholics in Japan. But, starting 1597 and continuing until the re-opening of Japan to the Western world in 1865, hundreds, if not thousands of Catholics were systematically persecuted, tortured and forced to apostatize, meaning to renounce their religion. These Jesuits attempt to find a way into this country and are met by Catholic Japanese that are so devoted, they are willing to endure these trials for their faith, and it makes them question their own strength and devotion. They are especially concerned because their teacher was said to have apostatized and is now living with the torturers, rather than taking the path of honorable martyrdom.



One of the most important themes of this book in my mind is the universality of the Catholic Church, which truths and fullness are able to resonate to all various people of the world, no matter their cultural differences. In fact, the author Endō states:

*But after all it seems to me that Catholicism is not a solo, but a symphony... If I have trust in Catholicism, it is because I find in it much more possibility than in any other religion for presenting the full symphony of humanity.*

I hope that if we ever have to meet the silence of the questioning of our faith that Father Rodrigues deals with

by Jean-Paul Boucher  
General Manager  
[jp@sjecc.com](mailto:jp@sjecc.com)



throughout this powerful novel, we can rely on each other and see the love of Christ in the eyes of those around us. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, I hope we can all see the beautiful symphony that is both the Catholic Church and all of humanity, working together in joy, love and respect.

## #ToKnow – CFA Status Update

As we focus on our Catholic Faith Appeal Assessment Goal, I will be providing a short summary of where we stand on a weekly basis. These updates may be a week or so behind, so we will also provide them on our website, so please visit <http://sjecc.com> for the most up-to-date information.

We are blessed by the gifts of our Parish Family on a daily basis. Last weekend, we began a push to close the gap of our CFA goal. One of our leaders of our parish, in trying to think “outside the box” came up with a great suggestion. How can we give back to the parish community while still raising money for the CFA? He came up with a way. During the rush of the holiday season, everyone could use a night out without having to make dinner. So, he was able to secure thousands of dollars in gift cards from

the new restaurant, Deep Lagoon. Deep Lagoon took the place of Randy’s Fish Market on 41, and is a top-to-bottom upgrade, with the same great food: <http://www.naplesnews.com/story/news/columnists/tim-aten-in-the-know/2016/11/02/know-deep-lagoon-seafood-launches-duffers-sports-pub-tees-off/93110484/>.

The Deep Lagoon has donated these \$50 gift certificates for free. We will simply sell them for \$30 at the office of the church, either in person or over the phone. Every dollar will go to the CFA goal, and you will have the opportunity to have a wonderful meal for a significant discount. These cards would even make a great Christmas gift so I am sure they will go fast. They will be available starting on December 19.



## Several Safe Environment Training Sessions Have Been Scheduled at Area Parishes

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 trained in Safe Environment. For further information, visit the Diocesan website at [www.dioceseofvenice.org/safeenvironment](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/safeenvironment).

There are several upcoming Safe Environment Training sessions at nearby parishes starting in January. For more details or to register, call the Parish Office at the location where the class is offered. Please note that no one should attend Safe Environment Training until their fingerprints have cleared. Fingerprints must be updated every five years. If you need to be fingerprinted here at St. John, call the office at 566.8740 for an appointment.

Any employees or volunteers who need to renew their background clearance or be fingerprinted should complete the paperwork and call the office at 566.8740 for an appointment.

Thursday, January 12	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	St. Peter the Apostle, Naples	239.775-9576
Saturday, January 14	9:30-11:30 a.m.	St. Peter the Apostle, Naples	239.775.9576
Thursday, February 9	6:00-8:00 p.m.	St. Leo Bonita, Springs	239.992.0901
Saturday, February 11	9:30-11:30 a.m.	St. Leo Bonita, Springs	239.992.0901
Thursday, February 16	6:00-8:00 p.m.	St. Finbarr, Naples	239.417.2084
Saturday, February 18	9:30-11:30 a.m.	St. Finbarr, Naples	239.417.2084
Thursday, March 2	6:00-8:00 p.m.	St. Ann, Naples	239.262.4256
Saturday, March 4	9:30-11:30 a.m.	St. Ann, Naples	239.262.4256

Additional trainings will be added in February and March. For the complete list of regional trainings that will be held this winter and spring, please visit <http://dioceseofvenice.org/programs/safe-environment/training-schedule/>

The next trainings will be scheduled in the spring and summer of 2017.

## Next Marriage Encounter Weekend Is February 10-11

If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; even if you are divorced or separated, or are thinking about it; Retrouvaille can help. It has helped thousands.

Our next program begins February 10-12, at 2017 Hampton Inn & Suites, Tampa Northwest/Oldsmar.

For more information, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com), or call 813.906.7705. *Not counseling or group therapy.* All contacts and names held in strictest confidence.

## Wedding Banns

*Second announcement  
between  
Catherine Glaser  
& Ryan Goodman*

## Who Is the Beneficiary of Your Estate? The Catholic Church or Uncle Sam?

Will the beneficiaries of your estate be your family and charitable organizations such as the Catholic Church, or will it be Uncle Sam? Without a will or proper estate planning, the government will decide how your assets will be used and distributed. In many cases they will also keep a significant portion for themselves through excessive taxes.

Make sure your wishes will always be followed and the assets you worked so hard to achieve are used to support the people and causes you care most about. Creating a will creates peace of mind for you, your family and your loved ones; do you have one? Do you need a Florida will? Do you know who will make your health care decisions when you cannot speak for yourself? Do you have questions about making Florida your "Domicile"? These questions and many more can be answered by seasoned professionals at one of our free Life Planning Seminars. Please join us; refreshments will be served.

If you would like more information about an upcoming "Life Planning Seminar" in your area, please contact the Catholic Community Foundation at 941.441.1124 or email [ccf@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:ccf@dioceseofvenice.org).

## HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

The Parish Office will be closed in observance of the holidays on the following days: Friday, December 23; Monday, December 26; Friday, December 30; and Monday, January 2.

## Housing Counseling Available Through Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice Inc. is a HUD approved housing counseling agency that offers a variety of free services. A certified housing counselor can assist you with foreclosure prevention, scam awareness, budget and money management, as well as enroll you in the free Homebuyer Education Class offered every month in both English and Spanish.

To schedule an appointment with the housing counselor or register for the class, please call 941.714.7829 or visit [catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://catholiccharitiesdov.org) for more information.

**Bereavement.** Attend funeral Masses and memorial services to provide support and compassion. Take turns serving lunch for the family and friends after a funeral Mass. Grief facilitators hold support groups as needed to give support to those suffering a loss. *For Arimatheans: Elaine: 566.8160. For Grief Support Ministry: 566.8740*

**Boy Scout Troop 226 – St. John the Evangelist.** Prepare boys to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Meets on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. *scoutmaster@troop-226.com*

**Buildings and Grounds Council.** The scope of the Buildings and Grounds Council is to provide future direction, advice, and insight for the physical plant of Saint John the Evangelist, to include all buildings, the grounds, and all utilities therein. The Council will meet quarterly to evaluate any long-term strategy planning that is required to provide such a large and complex environment with multiple purposes.

**Catholic/Jewish Dialogue.** Engage Catholics and Jews in understanding our past history and to advance the cause of mutual understanding and appreciation for our differences as well as our commonalities. *Marty Gauthier: marty@naples.net*

**Circle of Comfort.** If you have cancer, or are taking care of someone who does, you may be facing challenges that may leave you feeling overwhelmed, frightened, alone and in need of comfort. Let us share our experience of faith, strength and prayer with you. We help each other live one day at a time through encouragement, prayer, laughter or whatever it takes to bring comfort to each other. *Jim or Darlene 566.8740*

**Companion Driving Ministry.** To promote a sense of love and belonging for every member of our Parish Community by offering transportation to church services regardless of age, infirmity, marital or socioeconomic status. To sign up for a ride or to become a volunteer driver: *566.8740 or Beth Lucci at 877.6254 or sjeride@gmail.com*

**Cub Scout Pack 226 – Chartered at St. John the Evangelist.** Provide families with an opportunity to raise their young boys in the way of Jesus and through the formative values of Scouting. Meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. *pack226naples@gmail.com*

**Divorced and Separated Support Group.** Whether separated/divorced 10 days ago or 10 years ago, sign up now for our 12-week DVD series/group discussions to help you along your path to Spiritual Healing. Series runs Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Claussen Family Center starting September 7 through December 7. (No class Thanksgiving week). *Lhara Echeverria: 293.3694 or Lhara@sjecc.com or Beth Lucci: 877.6254*

**Faith and Wine.** Provide interesting and thought provoking speakers monthly with food and fellowship for women in the Diocese. *Nancy Squitieri: mamasquit@yahoo.com*

**Finance Council.** The Finance Council is an integral part of the Stewardship responsibilities of the parish. The council assists the Pastor and General Manager in their deliberation and decision-making process in order to serve the needs of the Parish in the prudent administration of its resources and funds. *President: Barbara Kuryea*

**Habitat for Humanity.** Build homes in Naples for qualifying families in need. *Nick Koullouheras: nick@hfhcollier.com*

**Jamaica Outreach Program.** JOP has been an integral part of Saint John the Evangelist since 1997. Our mission is to help the poor in Jamaica. JOP provides goods, food, medical-vision-dental services, education and basic support to improve the lives of the poor in Jamaica. We welcome new volunteers. For more info: *Jeanne Stamant (season) 514.0290 (summer 248.3248). To volunteer: Martha Mador 860.449-2105*

**Knights of Columbus St. John Council 11281.** Worldwide Catholic men's fraternal organization founded on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. St. John's Council provides regular financial support for our seminarians and our parish. Knights also conduct a wide variety of activities to enhance and strengthen family life in the parish. Meets first Monday of the month. Officers at 6:30 p.m.; business meeting at 7:15 p.m. Next social meeting is October 24. Visiting Knights are welcome. *Bill Warvel, Grand Knight: 331.7151*

**Knights of Columbus Arthur J. Corr Assembly 3308.** Meets second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Visiting Knights are invited. *S/K Jim McDonald: 947.6454*

**Knitting & Crocheting.** Knits and crochets to benefit those in need. Make baby hats booties and blankets for babies, lap robes for nursing homes, prayer shawls, baptismal blankets and sweaters for kids. Meets year-round on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. - Noon. no experience necessary. *Vicki Brenner: 498.9900*

**Ladies of Charity.** Volunteer in Immokalee schools, the Guadalupe soup kitchen and clothing bank. The Ladies also visit local nursing homes to assist residents who want to attend Mass. In addition, they are available to provide friendly visits and to perform simple errands for the elderly and homebound. Meets the second Friday of every month. *Homebound: Diane Pesce: 630.571.0707. To join: MarieElaina Mullin: 273.1702*

**Men's Club and Ladies Auxiliary.** Organizes, cooks, orders and serves food and beverages and otherwise provides staff and support for a multitude of parish and parish-related functions. It hosts the parish picnic, Children Easter Egg Hunt, and the men work closely with the Family Ministry at many of their events. Monthly meetings 2:00 p.m. on the second Thursday from October to May. *Jack Nalipinski: 412.613.3551*

**Parish Nurse Ministry.** Dedicated to the support and encouragement of wellness and health of the St. John Parish Family via monthly seminars on health topics. Illustrates how taking care of your body helps take care of your spirit and your soul. *Sue Townsend: sue@sjecc.com*

**Pastoral Stewardship Council.** The major responsibilities of St. John's stewardship program falls under the purview of the Pastoral Stewardship Council. The Council's mission is to create awareness of God's gifts of time, talent and treasure and to encourage their use to the best of one's ability for the good of the Parish. The Council has three major subcommittees: Hospitality, Sharing, and Time and Talent. *Council President: Rick Beebe: psc@sjecc.com*

**Respect Life.** Educates and informs the parish community on all aspects of respect life, which include the unborn, mothers who have had abortions, the elderly, mentally challenged, the physically challenged, the imprisoned, and the terminally ill and the poor and hungry. *Rosemary Erickson: 597.3941*

**Sewing Ministry.** Meets to sew for needy children of Collier County on Wednesdays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. from October to May. The Sewing Ministry meets in the Youth Room of the Claussen Family Center. New members welcome. We accept fabric and notions as well as monetary donations. *Phyllis Crivelli: 594.1148 or Barbara Arthur: 250.4162*

**St. Vincent de Paul.** To help the poor, specifically people in zip codes 34108, 34109 and 34110. Members work in teams making home visits to those in need. Many times it means helping individuals with rent payment, late electrical or water bills, prescription needs and food. Meets first and third Tuesdays after 8:00 a.m. Mass. *SVdP Office: 775.1667*

**Vocations Ministry.** Vocations are a calling from God and each of us has one, from single or married life to religious life. Help the Parish Family educate and identify vocations through prayer and activities. *Marty Gautier: marty@naples.net*

**Women of the Word (WoW).** We welcome any woman of any age to study our faith using the Bible and other Catholic writings in a non-judgmental, supportive community. Thursday 9:30 a.m. *Nancy Bouchard: 443.498.8452 or nancybdh@hotmail.com*

## PRAYER GROUPS

**Pray The Rosary & The Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

**Cenacle of Life Prayer Group**  
Patricia Bucalo: 248.0694

**Divine Will Prayer Group**  
Gorana Saner: 293.1765

**Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina**  
Mondays: Maria Jones: 348.5361  
Wednesday morning will resume in the fall.

**Liturgy of the Hours**  
Phyllis Gryskiewicz: 566.7307

**St. John Charismatic Prayer Group "Blazing Hearts"**  
Linda Reilly: 821.8982

### THROUGH THE DARKNESS BRING US TO THE LIGHT

*Please pray for our loved ones who are serving in the military:*

**Cpl. Francisco Alvarenga**  
U.S. Marines

**Lt. John Meyers**  
U.S. Army

**Sp. Petrus Botha**  
U.S. Army

**LCpl. Randy A. Novak**  
USMC

**S. Isaiah Brutus**  
U.S. Air Force

**LCpl. Ryan D. Novak**  
USMC

**Ensign Stuart Campbell**  
U.S. Navy

**Ryan D. Novak**  
USMC

**BM2 Charley Davidson**  
U.S. Navy (USS Samuel B. Roberts)

**Cpt. Daniel Palmer**  
U.S. Army

**Adam Decker**  
U.S. Air Force

**Cpt. John Palmer**  
U.S. Army

**Nicholas Detloff**  
U.S. Air Force

**Cpt. Martin Palmer**  
U.S. Army  
(Afghanistan)

**Joshua Emmons**  
U.S. Air Force

**Lt. Robert Pedrigi**  
U.S. Army

**LCpl. Conor Fleurant**  
USMC

**Lt. Joseph Schafer**  
U.S. Army

**Lt. Colin Flood**  
U.S. Army, Special Forces

**Pvt. 1st Class Aron Siwek**  
U.S. Army

**Lt. Bernardo Garcia**  
U.S. Marines

**Lt. Jr. Gabriella Scrudato**  
U.S. Coast Guard

**Lt. Joseph Gilig**  
1st Marine Division  
\* LAV Recon

**MidShipman Micaela Scrudato**  
U.S. Naval Academy

**Cpl. Dylan Granza**  
U.S. Army Ranger

**Spc. Andrew Smith**  
U.S. Army (Kuwait)

**Spc. Shelby Granza**  
U.S. Army

**Spc. Devin Snyder**  
U.S. Army (Ft. Drum, NY)

**Gunnery Sgt. Patrick H. Hammer**  
USMC \* Embassy Security (New Zealand)

**Houng Tran**  
U.S. Army

**Spc. Douglas Hennessy**  
U.S. Army

**IT2 Jason E. Tydingco**  
(USN)

**Staff Sgt. Brian Holmes**  
U.S. Army (Iraq)

**Staff Sgt. Brandon Waithe**  
U.S. Air Force

**Marine Colonel Brian Howlett** USMC

**Staff Sgt. Andrew Zecchino**  
U.S. Air Force

**2nd Lt. Sean Kealey**  
U.S. Army

## OUTREACH & OTHER GROUPS

**AA.** Robert: 239.287.2442

**Al-Anon.** Carol: 804.306.5323 and Juliette: Lysack

**Narcotics Anonymous.**

**Cursillistas.** Robyn DeVille: 253.6275 or robyndeville@earthlink.net

**Mah Jong.** Space Limited. Lanelle Bishop: 352.1860

**Pinochle.** Joseph DeJesus: 598.9865

**Recovering Couples Anonymous.** Britta: 348.5031 or Roger: 250.6888

## PRAYER LIST

*We remember those who have died recently, especially:*

Victorina Carpenter and Doris Heath

*May they rest in eternal peace.*

Please pray for those on our prayer list below as well as those whose names appear on our online Prayer List at <http://saintjohntheevangelist.com/ministries/prayer-list>.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by PRAYER and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. – Philippians 4:6*

Antoinette and Nicholas  
Acquiviva  
ADD  
Steve Allender  
Frank Angilella  
Rich Annunziata  
Fernando Ardila  
Thomas Ardila  
Paschal Arpaia  
Paul Arpaia  
Jean & Emmunale Balliro  
Richard Becker  
Margie Benefico  
Barbara Berg  
Gallen Boardman  
Joe Bordelon  
Teresa Brecht  
Doug Callen  
Carrie  
Susan Chiappini  
Tiffany Chill  
Eric Christensen  
Joan Ciccarelli  
Dick Clark  
Sam and Frank Comeriato  
Fr. Gerard Critch  
Kathryn Gallagan-Culp  
Anthony D'Antuono  
Mark Dabronzo  
Donald Dempski  
Florence Demski  
Sandra Demski  
Bernadette Dennis  
DF  
Carey Eliason  
Coletta Farina  
John Farrell  
John Farrow,  
Wendy Bui Fewell  
Follese/Fiedler Family  
Donna Flynn  
Anna Focht  
Fran  
Galloway Family  
Edward Gaynor  
Roberta George  
Emma Gilardi  
Carlos D. Gomez

George Gonser Jr  
Joe Goss  
Keri Grasso  
Harry Grevey  
Gerard Heyen  
Kim Hocker  
Donald Howe  
JM  
JRM  
KM  
NC  
Neil King  
Pam Kirk  
Krista Leigh Kozowyk  
Jim Krauser & Family  
John Kuryea  
Lindsay Lavery  
Estelle LeChelavier  
Rene Lacoste  
Mary Lou Leibig  
Arlene Lento  
Delk Lindaman  
Logan  
Jack Lucarelli  
Jean Lydon  
Margie Lynch  
Maria and Family  
Ron Marlow  
Ross Mart  
Kenneth J. McAvoy  
Kevin McDonagh  
Carolyn McDonald  
Paul McIntyre  
Carolyn McNichols  
James Meleo  
Jean Meleo  
Lorrie Morrison  
Maxine Newman  
Marylee Olsen  
Emma O'Rourke  
Maryla Panagos  
Charles Parente Family  
Michael Paul  
Babe Pelli  
Elizabeth Perez  
Anne Perrino  
Ann Petrillo  
Pileggi Family

Georgia Pinto  
Irene Pires  
Thad Pluc  
Bill Porter  
Renee Rake  
Norjean Ray  
John Reardon  
Aurielia Rein  
Cindy Renner  
Peter Renner  
Ruth Rechtsteiner  
Allan Ring  
RLC  
Susie Romanovich  
Jean Ruel  
Lloyd Sample  
Lisa Sanfelippo  
Shelia Scaduto  
Peter Scariati  
Darlene Scerbinski  
Mary Schell  
Eli Schneider  
Pat Schuler  
Breana Short  
Lisa Siegwarth  
Thomas Sissman  
John Smith  
Solazzo Family  
JoAnne Spehn  
Anthony Spinella  
Nancy Stewart  
Susan Stokes  
Rita Taranto  
William J. Teplica  
Domonic Terrogrossa  
Gary Tester  
John Thyen  
Logan Uzzi  
Denny VanWeelden  
Lawrence Varone  
Jothan Warner  
Vera Weinstein  
Sue and George Willis  
Nancy Wise  
Bob Wright  
Ed Zerrer  
Zoe

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you would like the name(s) you submit to be on our prayer list for longer than one month, please notify us by phone or email or the names will be removed. These names also appear on our online prayer list at: <http://saintjohntheevangelist.com/ministries/prayer-list>

**LET US PRAY...** To submit a one-month prayer request call 566.8740, or email: [prayerlist@sjecc.com](mailto:prayerlist@sjecc.com) When submitting a name for Prayer List, please make sure you have that individual's permission.

DECEMBER 18, 2016 ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**5 PM Mass Music Worship Aid**  
**Sunday, December 18, 2016: the 4th Sunday of Advent**

Opening Song                      **725    The King of Glory**

**Presentation Song                      Everlasting God**                      Brenton Brown    CCLI Song No. 4556538. © 2005  
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Strength will rise as we wait up - on the Lord, we will wait  
 up - on the Lord, we will wait up - on the Lord. Our God,  
 You reign for - ev - er. Our Hope,  
 our strong De - liv - 'rer  
 You are the ev - er - last - ing God, the ev -  
 er - last - ing God                      You do not faint, You  
 won't grow wea - ry                      You're the de - fend - er of the weak,  
 You com - fort those in need.                      You lift  
 us up on wings like ea - gles.                      ea - gles.

Communion Song                      **334    Taste and See**

Closing Song                      **56    Emmanuel**



**I want to be holy, just like you; I want  
 to go where you lead me to,  
 With reckless abandon to your Truth,  
 I want to fall deeper in love with you!**

**Emmanuel "God with Us."**

## Hymns for the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 17 & 18, 2016

Readings:	42	
Entrance Hymn:	38	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Preparation Hymn:	690	Mary's Song
Communion Hymn:	91	Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming
	374	Servant Song
Closing Hymn:	43	People, Look East

### Choral Anthems for 11:15AM Mass

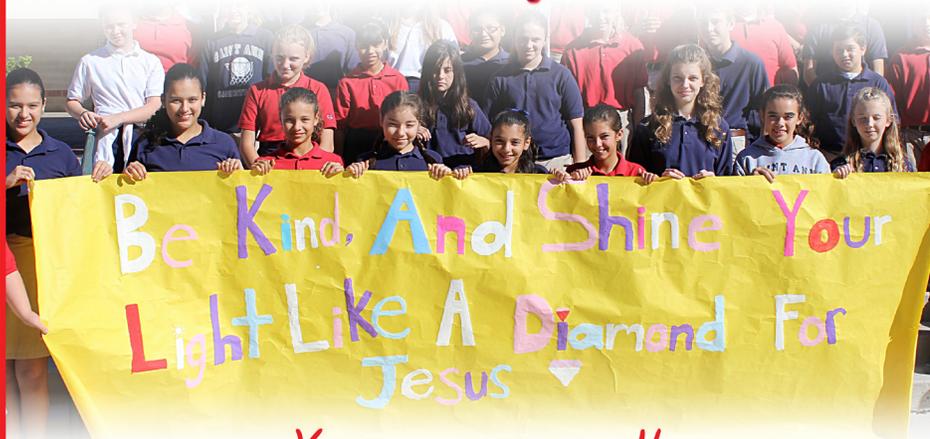
Prelude:	Every Valley (J.N. Beck)
Communion:	Air for Advent (Fettke) or And the Glory (Handel)

**The O Antiphons & Advent** Each of the seven verses of O Come, **O Come Emmanuel** is associated with a particular day of the Octave (or “eight days”) before Christmas Eve, the “Golden Nights”: December 17th through the 23rd. The “O Antiphons”, as they are known, each employ a different title for the Messiah, as foretold by the prophets Isaiah and Micah, of Jesus the Christ. The Church has used them at Vespers (Evening Prayer) for as many as 1500 years; perhaps even longer.

They include, beginning on December 17, **O Sapientia** (O Wisdom), then **O Adonai** (O Lord), **O Radix Jesse** (O Root of Jesse), **O Clavis Davidica** (O Key of David), **O Oriens** (O Dawn), **O Rex gentium** (O King of nations), and **O Emmanuel** (O God with us). Fascinatingly, the first letters of each title, read backwards, also spell the Latin phrase **ERO CRAS**, “Tomorrow, I will be [there]”, a phrase completed only on Dec. 23 with the singing of the final antiphon. Thus: after we have called upon the Lord to come to us, he answers us, “ero cras!”, referring to his coming in the great Solemnity of the Nativity!



### Make a difference in your child's life!



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**Open House - Sun., January 29 from 12-2:00pm**

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# For the LOVE of the Poor

The Ladies of Charity  
are asking your support for our local food  
pantries to specifically assist them during the  
**VERY LEAN** summer months when there  
are items needed outside of what our regular  
“Simple Gesture” bags provide.

For the LOVE  
of the Poor

Thank you  
for helping us  
stock the food  
pantries.

Starting: **December 18, 2016**

Ending: **February 28, 2017**

**NO FOOD PLEASE! WE ARE REQUESTING CHECKS ONLY.**

- A tree will be in the Narthex with ornaments on it.
- Parishioners are encouraged to take an ornament and generously donate a check to St. John the Evangelist with “Food Drive” written in the memo line. Your checks can be placed in the collection baskets passed during Mass or taken to the church office.
- The Ladies of Charity will designate the money collected to be used during the summer months when food shelves are near empty.

**2017 Women’s Conference.** All women are invited to attend the 2017 Diocese of Venice Women’s Conference Saturday, February 11, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bishop Verot Catholic High School in Fort Myers. Cost in advance is \$20 (pre-registration on line), students \$5 pre-registration. Cost at the door is \$30, and \$10 for students. This year’s speakers are Dr. Ted Sri, Rachael Balducci, Susan Conroy and Lisa Cotter. This event usually sells out. For Conference details and to register beginning on December 15 go to [dioceseofvenice.org/womens](http://dioceseofvenice.org/womens).

**2017 Men’s Conference.** All men to attend the 2017 Diocese of Venice Men’s Conference on Saturday, March 4, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bishop Verot Catholic High School in Fort Myers. Cost in advance is \$20 (pre-registration on line), students \$5 pre-registration. Cost at the door is \$30, and \$10 for students. The day includes internationally renowned speakers, Jeff Cavins, EWTN regular and creator of the popular Great Adventure Bible Study and the Bible Timeline, as well as Kevin Lowry and Mike Pacer. For Conference details and to register beginning on December 15 go to [dioceseofvenice.org/mens](http://dioceseofvenice.org/mens).

## Appreciating our Volunteers



At the close of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Diocese of Venice celebrated a Mass in appreciation of its many volunteers November 19 in Venice. St. John volunteers Beth Lucci and Mary Lou Kanach pose for a keepsake photo with Bishop Frank J. Dewane. Mary Beth is involved in our Companion Driving Ministry and the Divorced and Separated Support Group. Mary Lou is also involved in the Companion Driving Ministry and St. Vincent de Paul. (photo by Bob Reddy, Diocese of Venice)



# Faith and Wine

Thursday, January 19, 2017  
6:30-8:30 PM (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

featuring  
Father Bob Kramer & Rabbi Adam Miller

**Father Bob Kantor**, Pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church, and **Rabbi Adam Miller**, Rabbi of Temple Shalom, will participate in a dialogue based on a book co-written by Pope Francis and Rabbi Abraham Skorka: "On Heaven and Earth; Pope Francis on Faith, Family, and the Church in the 21 Century." The book brings together a series of conversations between the authors - both tenacious promoters of interreligious dialogues on faith and reason - about God, fundamentalism, atheism, abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, and globalization. Father Bob and Rabbi Miller, as members of the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of Collier County, will re-create this fascinating dialogue, making it relevant to our lives and providing us with a better understanding of these religions and their responses to the issues we face today.

So, pre-register NOW at [www.faithandwine.com](http://www.faithandwine.com).

*Invite your friends, neighbors and fellow parishioners to this GREAT event!*

## "On Heaven and Earth"



**Event open to men!**

### Mediterranean Menu

#### Appetizer Display:

Pita w/ Tzatziki & Hummus  
Feta, Olive, and Tomato Display

#### Buffet:

Pork Souvlaki Skewer • Grecian Chicken (Chevre cheese, roasted peppers, braised spinach) • Salmon Tapenade • Oregano Potatoes • Greek Salad

Dessert: Baklava

**Cost: \$25 prepay • NO WALK-INS!**

**Please prepay for this event no later than noon on January 17, 2017** by going to [www.faithandwine.com](http://www.faithandwine.com) (using Paypal) or dropping off your check made payable to "Faith and Wine, Inc." to the St. John parish office. Or you can mail (**postmarked before Thursday, January 12, 2017**) your check to Kathleen Millard at 2134 Morning Sun Lane, Naples, FL 34119

**Event held at:** St. John the Evangelist PLC Ballroom  
625 111th Avenue North, Naples, FL

**SAVE THE DATES:** Mark your calendar now for the remaining Faith and Wine Dates: February 23, 2017; March 23, 2017 and April 20, 2017.

Go to [www.FaithandWine.com](http://www.FaithandWine.com) to learn more!

## Calling All Shepherds and Angels!

All Elementary School-age children are invited to participate in our annual 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass as angels and shepherds, proclaiming the joyous news of the birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ! If you are interested in being part of this wonderful celebration, please contact our Artistic Director, Jennine Fuentes, at [jennine@sjecc.com](mailto:jennine@sjecc.com), so she can provide you with the schedule of rehearsals.



photos from previous Christmas Story programs

# The Word & Life

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

## *From the Ordinary Comes the Extraordinary*

The events surrounding the story of the Incarnation challenge us to discover the extraordinary in the midst of the ordinary. Our attention is drawn to Mary and Joseph in the last Sunday of Advent. What do we know about them? The scriptures indicate that Mary was a simple virgin who said “yes” to the angel and, as a result, was found with child through the power of the Holy Spirit. God chose an ordinary girl to give witness to the extraordinary reality of God. Mary gave birth to a Son who was to be known as “Emmanuel” which means “God with us”. As we listen to the first reading today, Isaiah prophesied about this. He tells us that God will give the ultimate sign when the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and name him “Emmanuel”. God is with us in the story of Nazareth. The humble dwelling of a simple girl becomes God’s dwelling place. Mary’s womb becomes the tabernacle in which the presence of God is tangible. This ordinary girl in an ordinary little town becomes the reference point of the extraordinary point of change in the history of salvation.

We are all too familiar with the foundations of our history of faith. Such a familiarity can lose the profound significance of the Christ event. Mary and Joseph were merely simple human beings who lived in a small town. However, their response changed our world history forever – giving their lives extraordinary significance. The figure of Mary has dominated our church because of her willingness to answer God’s call to become the Mother of God. Joseph is the biblical dreamer who follows the voice of the angel in his sleep. In following his dreams, he helps fulfill the promises of scripture and becomes the foster father of Jesus.

As we enter into the fourth week of our Advent season, we have to realize that the coming of Christ involves all of us. Divinity finds its resting place in the person of Jesus. As we contemplate the meaning of our Christian faith, we constantly remind ourselves that we must clothe ourselves



in Christ. When we consciously do so, we are also clothing ourselves and participate in a divine reality. The story of the Incarnation reminds us that we must comprehend that it is to people like us that God sends his messengers to. The people who witness these events are just like you and I. Christ becomes flesh so that we may be able to comprehend how we are to live the truth in love. The message that goes forth from the manger and into the world, through the lips and actions of Jesus, is the same message that captures the hearts and imaginations of many Christians today. In our final week of preparation for Christmas, every one of us ought to be aware that it is such an event that gives us dignity as human beings, which ultimately paves the way to a destiny of resurrection and hope!

## Prayer

*Marantha, come Lord Jesus. Come enter into our lives as you did in ancient times. We know that you entered into the lives of Mary, Joseph and the prophets from of old – so enter into our lives. May you find a welcome in our homes and in our work. Let us always be aware of your presence in our world. As we approach the day of your birth – may we learn from your humanity and know your saving love. Amen.*

## Reflecting on the Sunday Readings with Fr. John J. Ludden, Pastor



## Reflection Questions

1. What is the significance of “Emmanuel” for the history of the world?
2. How is “Emmanuel” significant for you personally?
3. Why does Joseph decide to divorce Mary quietly?
4. What is the significance about Joseph’s dream and how he responds to that dream?
5. How does Joseph’s example inspire you?
6. What are the implications for Mary in this gospel account?
7. Why does God choose simple characters like Mary and Joseph to participate in the event of the Incarnation?
8. How does God call you to participate in the history of salvation?

## Wisdom of the Fathers



*Mary the Blessed Virgin/www.catholic.org*

Her Amazement at Her Only Child  
Light piercing, gradually, everyday events;  
a woman’s eyes,  
hands used to them since childhood.

Then brightness flared, too huge for simple days,  
and hands clasped when the words lost their space.  
In that little town, my son, where they knew us together,  
you called me mother; but no one had eyes to see  
the astounding events as they took place day by day.

Your life became the life of the poor  
in your wish to be with them through the work of your hands.  
I knew: the light that lingered in ordinary things,  
like a spark sheltered under the skin of our days –  
the light was you; it did not come from me.

And I had more of you in that luminous silence  
Than I had of you as the fruit of my body, my blood.

— “The Place within” St. John Paul II

# Faith Formation

## 2016-2017 School Year

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

18 Sunday Faith Formation Class ~ 9:30 -10:45 a.m.  
Parent Faith Formation Class During Class in the Ballroom

**December 19 - January 3, 2017 ~ No Faith Formation Classes**

### High School Confirmation 2017 Calendar Update

Morning Classes 9:30 - 10:45 p.m. and Evening Classes 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

#### Upcoming Class Dates:

January 8	• January 22
February 12	• February 26
March 5	• March 26
April 2	• April 23
May 7	



**Confirmation Retreat Opportunity:** Friday, February 17, 4:30 p.m. - Saturday, February 18, 4:30 p.m.

**TOBYMAC Concert included.** Please register with Natalie at [natalie@sjecc.com](mailto:natalie@sjecc.com) or Kyle at [kyle@sjecc.com](mailto:kyle@sjecc.com).

**Confirmation Dates: To Be Announced Soon!**

### SAVE THE DATES:

**First Reconciliation Ceremony:** January 19, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the church.

**First Holy Communion Ceremony:** May 13, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the church.

### Faith Formation Office Hours

Mondays: 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

*(on the days of Faith Formation classes only)*

Fridays: 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Sundays: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

*(on the days of Faith Formation classes only)*

### Liturgical Calendars for the New Year: The Year of Our Lord: 2016-2017 Year A

Please stop by the Faith Formation office if you would like a Liturgical Calendar poster to put up in your home. You can follow along with the Gospel readings each Sunday, along with the important Feast Days in the church. The Faith Formation Department purchased several posters and would love to share! The calendars are a product of the Pflaum Publishing Group and are also available at [www.plaum.com](http://www.plaum.com).



Natalie Campbell • Director of Religious Education • 239.566.8740, ext. 3909 • email [natalie@sjecc.com](mailto:natalie@sjecc.com)

# CYO - YOUTH NEWS & EVENTS

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/netteam16](http://www.facebook.com/netteam16) • INSTAGRAM: [@netteam16](https://www.instagram.com/netteam16)

## ONGOING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE SEVERAL CHANGES BELOW

### ABLAZE (Note this is a name change for Praise and Worship)

Every Sunday, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Join the NET Team and give the Lord praise through song! All are welcome.

### THE ROCK (HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP) ~ 9th - 12th Grade

Every Sunday, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. Meet in the Claussen Family Center Seminar Room for food and fellowship! We will play games, watch skits, open up the Bible, hang out with friends, and more. We cannot wait to see you there to learn more about our Catholic faith.

### L.I.F.T.E.D (Replaces OPEN YOUTH ROOM) ~ 6th - 12th Grade

Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Please note the time and day change.) Hang out with the NET Team in the Claussen Family Center Youth Activity Room. We will play board games, have fun with friends, play sports, eat snacks, and more. Feel free to bring any food and games to share (no peanuts, please).

## Christmas for Everyone in Divine Gift Boutique

It is a Christmas Wonderland in the Divine Gift Boutique. From a beautiful manger set to Christmas crosses, Christmas figurines, and Christmas clocks. From an assortment of holiday candles and votive holders to baby, children and adult ornaments and Christmas magnets. There are also festive night lights and cookie cutters.

The gift shop also stocks a Christmas book by our own Maggie Gadsby. There are a variety of stocking stuffers and holiday gift bags. There is a wide range of gift items for all the favorite people on your Christmas list.

Please stop by and get lost in this wonderland right here in your own church across from the restrooms.



# Adult Faith Formation & RCIA

## Adult Faith Formation Continues; You are Invited to Participate



Here is what other St. John parishioners have said about their experience:

- “This is an eye opener for the lifelong Catholic who has merely participated in his/her religion.”
- “So many things I did not really understand are clear to me now. It has reinforced my decision to come back.”
- “I see great value for me; this program provides knowledge of God and Catholicism that cannot be envisioned or understood from brief sermons or in reading the Bible.”
- “Terrific, informative, and interesting program that helps you understand complex Catholic faith principles.”
- “It makes one look at common concepts in our religion from an entirely different perspective.”
- “You may think you know everything, but you don’t.”

Adult Faith Formation addresses your need to continue to grow in your faith.

Adult Faith Formation brings to light the rich historical significance of our Catholic faith and the relevance of its precepts in today’s world.

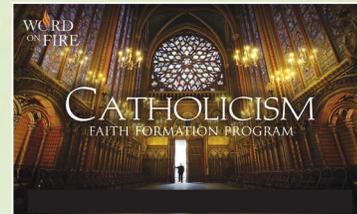
Adult Faith Formation enables you to relate your faith to the complexities of our ever changing post-modern world.

You may ask, what exactly is Adult Faith Formation? *The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation* published by the Episcopal Church describes Christian faith formation as “a lifelong journey with Christ, in Christ, and to Christ. Lifelong Christian faith formation is a lifelong growth in the knowledge, service, and love of God as followers of Christ and is informed by Scripture, tradition, and reason.”

Adult Faith Formation has not typically been the “Catholic way.” For many of us religious education and formation ended

when we were confirmed, and though we may be highly educated, we are still operating with the religion we received as a child. It’s quite difficult to address adult questions with eighth grade answers.

You may ask, what does Adult Faith Formation look like? It can take many forms, but at St. John the Evangelist we offer a number of programs based on professional DVD presentations. This winter season they include:



The award-winning documentary film series **CATHOLICISM** has been viewed by hundreds at St. John and thousands on PBS. Created and hosted by Bishop Robert Barron, these classic DVD presentations go deep into our Catholic faith to consider what Catholics believe, and why. It shows the artistic and architectural splendor of the Catholic Faith, interpreted in light of the mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

In ten sessions the entire scope of our religion is presented, including the mystery of God, arguments for the existence of God, Jesus, both God and human, the teachings of Jesus, Mary, Peter and Paul, the Church, the Mass, the Real Presence, the last things, and much more.

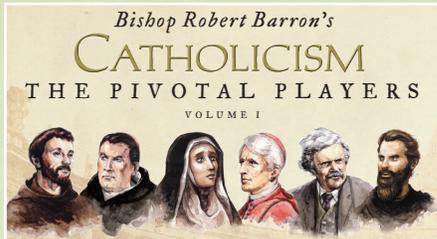
### This Week’s Complete Schedule

Enjoy your Christmas Holiday: There are No Adult Faith Formation Programs Scheduled.

Jack Kindsvater, Adult Faith Formation and RCIA Coordinator. Call 239.566.8740, ext. 3918 or email [jack@sjecc.com](mailto:jack@sjecc.com)

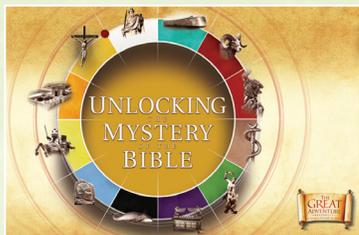
# Adult Faith Formation & RCIA

## Adult Faith Formation Continues; You are Invited to Participate



THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS, A NEW, JUST RELEASED PROGRAM by Bishop Robert Barron, unlocks the truth behind the Catholic Church's most influential people and illumines a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of civilization.

ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI, the Reformer, radically and literally lived as Jesus commanded to transform the Church. ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, the Theologian, demonstrated that faith and reason are not at odds, as they come from the same source. ST. CATHERINE of SIENA, the Mystic, gave testimony to the reality of the spiritual dimension here and beyond. BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, the Convert, left a prestigious career to seek and preach the apostolic faith. G.K. CHESTERTON, the Evangelist, publicly, humbly, and humorously announced the paradoxes and truth of Christianity. MICHELANGELO, the Artist, dramatically demonstrated that beauty and creativity are a primary route of access to God.



UNLOCKING the MYSTERY of the BIBLE, developed by Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer, is an **8-week quick overview** that provides the easiest way to understand the Bible. It is an excellent introduction to Scripture from a Catholic perspective that is suitable for beginners as well as those who are experienced at Bible study. Reading the Bible should bring us closer to Christ, but many people find it hard to even begin.

This program makes the complex simple and provides a way to read the Bible and begin to understand it. It helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture so that you can get the "big picture" of the Bible and understand what it is all about. The Bible is a story about the Father's unending love for you -

a love that you are now called to share with others.

You will make sense of the Bible and see how it relates to your everyday life, discover the remarkable connections between the Old and New Testaments, and see how the sacraments, the Church and our entire Catholic Faith is rooted in Scripture.



THE BIBLE TIMELINE is an in depth **24-session study** that takes you on a journey through the entire Bible that goes deep into each period of salvation history and discovers the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. You will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith; it's like driving through the Holy Land in a Land Rover.

Most Catholics want to read the Bible, but without a guide they find it hard to begin and easy to give up. In either of these programs you will read the 14 narrative books of the Bible that keep the story moving, and discover the amazing story woven throughout Scripture. Study the Bible from a Catholic perspective and see how our faith is rooted in Sacred Scripture, see how the events in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New Testament by Christ and the Church, gain a greater appreciation for the Scripture readings you hear during Mass, see how God reveals himself to us through Scripture and learn how God's Word applies to your life today.

Adult Faith Formation combines professional presentations with lively discussions. Certainly watching the DVDs at home is good, but it is only through group discussion and reflection that information leads to Christian formation.

This weekend, and every weekend, look for complete information and details about dates and times of both the current and upcoming Adult Faith Formation events and programs on page 19 of the weekly bulletin. Make it a habit to read it regularly.

If you have not experienced Adult Faith Formation, decide this is the year you will begin. If not now – when?

Jack Kindsvater, Adult Faith Formation and RCIA Coordinator. Call 239.566.8740, ext. 3918 or email [jack@sjecc.com](mailto:jack@sjecc.com)

# BIG BAND DANCE

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**First Dance of the Season**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2017**

7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in St. John the Evangelist PLC

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

*Dance to the Music of the Big Band Era*

**Featuring the Live Southwest Florida 16-piece Orchestra  
Sounds of Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller & Stan Kenton**

*For Reservations (table of 8 or 10 only) CONTACT: 239-821-9395  
Prepayment Required*

Food available at  
reasonable prices



Big Band  
Dance  
Schedule

Tuesday,  
January 10

Tuesday,  
January 24

Tuesday,  
February 14

Tuesday,  
February 28

Tuesday,  
March 14

Tuesday,  
March 28

Tuesday,  
April 11

**Admission:**

\$10.00 cash  
only at the door  
~ includes snacks

**Cash Bar:** Water  
and Soda ~ \$1.00

• Beer ~ \$2.00  
per 12 oz. cup;  
\$7.00 per 60 oz.  
pitcher

• Wine and  
Mixed Drinks  
~ \$3.00

**Dress:** Country  
Club Casual  
(No shorts please.)

*Singles Welcome*

*Sponsored by  
the Men's Club  
and Women's  
Auxiliary*

**SOCK HOP**

**FEBRUARY 24,  
2017**

*Don't be late for a very important date!*

## MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY & PURSE BINGO

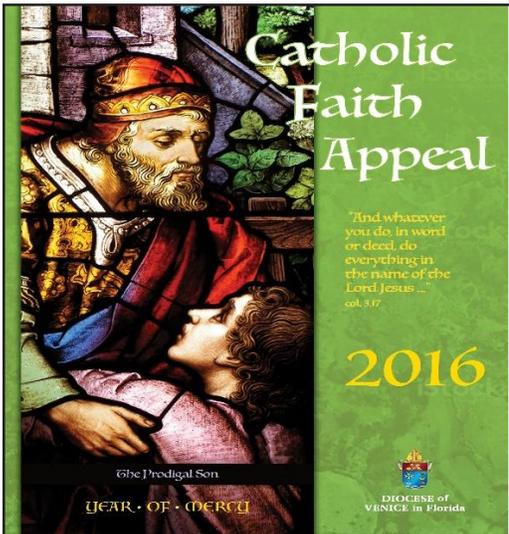
**St. John Neumann Catholic High School  
Saturday, February 11, 2017 1 - 4 PM**

\$35 per person  
\$250 for table of eight  
Contact Kim Hamilton  
239.200.7544  
kimmie9168@aol.com

**WEAR A HAT!  
SOLD OUT LAST YEAR!**



*A fun way to invest in Catholic education!*



# End of Year Giving



**As you consider your Christmas and end of year giving, remember your extended Catholic family!**

*Your gift can be designated to our parish, Catholic School, the Catholic Faith Appeal, the Catholic Community Foundation or an individual ministry. These gifts provide support for Christ's ministry and may assist you with some tax benefits. We are most grateful for your generosity to the Church!*

*Please consider a possible year end gift. Remember to consult with your financial advisor*

## **Gifts of Cash, Stock or Real Estate**

A cash contribution can be made to your parish, Catholic school, Catholic Community Foundation, or to the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) and may provide you with an income tax benefit. Please call the Development Office to facilitate a transfer of stock or to discuss a gift of real estate. Be sure to let us know if your gift is being restricted for a certain use such as a building fund, scholarship, CFA or unrestricted for the greatest need. For more information please contact: Judy Brown (941) 486-4719.

## **Contribute to an Endowment Fund**

One can give to an endowment fund through the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida to benefit a parish, school, seminarians or other Catholic institution within the Diocese of Venice. A gift or series of gifts made now, can provide a long-term income stream to benefit your selected institution, ministry or program well beyond your lifetime. At certain levels of giving, a named endowment fund can be established.

## **Charitable Gift Annuities**

Your gift to the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida can generate regular fixed payments to you or a loved one. Charitable gift annuities provide guaranteed income during your life and a residual gift to an endowment fund benefitting your parish, Catholic School or the Diocese of Venice.

The chart below indicates the sample annuity rates based on a single life annuity:



For more information, please contact:  
Michael Morse, Executive Director  
Catholic Community Foundation of SW Florida  
(941) 441-1124 / [CCF@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:CCF@dioceseofvenice.org)

AGE	*RATE
85	7.8%
80	6.8%
75	5.8%
70	5.1%
65	4.7%

Example: A \$25,000 cash contribution from a 75-year-old donor will produce an annual fixed income payment of \$1,450, that is partially tax free and provides an estimated initial income tax deduction of \$10,670.

*The minimum amount required to establish a charitable gift annuity is \$25,000*

\*Annuity rates listed are for illustration purposes only, actual rates may vary.

# Christmas Spiritual Bouquet



For the Intentions of

Living \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation will furnish the Sanctuary with flowers during the Christmas season and your loved ones will be remembered in the Christmas Spiritual Bouquet during the Christmas Masses. **DROP THE FORM AND DONATION IN THE COLLECTION BASKET OR DROP OFF AT THE PARISH OFFICE DURING BUSINESS HOURS.**

*For your convenience, envelopes are also available in the Narthex.*

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets  
(\$50 each) go on  
sale at all weekend  
Masses beginning  
Saturday,  
January 7.

*Now is the time to mark your calendars for*

## The Valentine's Day Dance Thursday, February 16, 2017

*Billy Dean and Dawn will entertain us again!*



*More  
details  
will  
follow.*

### Save the Date

#### **Catholic Charities Ball Will Be Saturday, January 28, 2017**

The Catholic Charities Ball will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Grand Ballroom in Sarasota.

All proceeds will benefit the programs and services of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. in Sarasota and Manatee counties which include Our Mother's House, St. Martha's Early Learning Center, Bethesda House, Catholic Charities Family Haven, housing counseling and foreclosure prevention, financial assistance, senior services, professional counseling, refugee services, and immigration services.

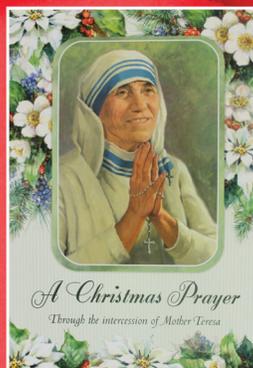
The evening will include a cocktail hour, auctions, dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$300 a person. For information and tickets visit [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org) or call 941.355.4680, ext. 305 or email [mpufta@ccdsl.org](mailto:mpufta@ccdsl.org).

### "Keep Christ in Christmas"

Help to "Keep Christ in Christmas" by sending religious Christmas cards.

The Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring an evangelization program designed to emphasize the real meaning of Christmas through the sale of Christmas cards.

There will be a large assortment of cards available after each Mass in front of the church.



**Buy early to  
get the best  
selection.**