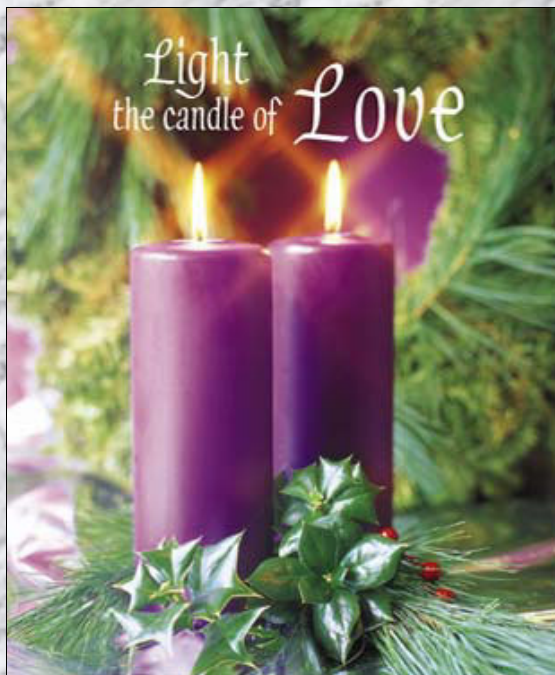


CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

8121 CYPRESS LAKE DRIVE
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33919



PASTOR: Very Rev. Stephen E. McNamara, V.F.

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Oliver Toner; **In Residence:** Fr. Ray Hughes

Deacon: Michael Esper

Administrator: Bonnie O'Connell

Director of Religious Education: Joanne MacPeck, M.A.

Organist: Connie Kish

Youth Director: Leslie Gaitens-Kopper

SUNDAY MASSES & CONFESSIONS: See Inside

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES: For these Sacraments, please notify the Church Office as soon as possible so that we may be able to accommodate you. Thank you.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please fill out registration card and return to ushers or to the church office

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:
Tel. 482-6883 or 481-7172

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES STORE: Tel. 437-9876

RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE: Tel. 482-6883

YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE: Tel. 481-5144

PARISH OFFICE: Tel. 481-7171 or 481-7172
E-mail: parishoffice@resurrectionch.org
Fax 481-8007
www.resurrectionch.org

DECEMBER 9, 2007

PREPARE THE WAY

Saint John the Baptist appears on the scene today as Advent enters its second week. The mysterious consumer of locusts and wild honey, John echoes the words of the prophet Isaiah as he calls for repentance in the face of the nearness of the kingdom of heaven. The rhythms of the Christian life are often confounding. Each year we meet the Baptist and hear his calls for repentance. Each year we see him pointing to the one who is coming after him, the Lord Jesus. Yet each year the words and actions of John the Baptist echo anew in our hearts, because we have fallen into old sinful traps again and again. Advent gives us the opportunity once again to turn away from our sinful ways and embrace the gospel way of life. John the Baptist invites us to prepare the way for the Lord, in whom we place our hope.

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Second Sunday of Advent December 9, 2007

The earth shall be filled with knowledge
of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

- Isaiah 11:9

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-10).

Psalm - Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (Psalm 72).

Second Reading - Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:4-9).

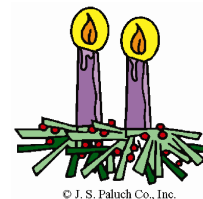
Gospel - Produce good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (Matthew 3:1-12).

ADVENT PRAYER, WEEK TWO

For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of His glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from Him. (Baruch 5:9)

Light two candles on the wreath, then pray:

Lord, as You come to us once again at Christmas, You invite us to come to You as well. Soften our hearts to recognize the areas in life where we need to grow. Smooth over the craggy peaks and deep crevasses that keep us apart from You. May we seek You above everything else and give Your Son for the season who brings us true peace. Amen.



CRAFT CLUB

Women's Guild Craft Club will not meet during the month of December. Meetings will resume on **January 8th**.

RESURRECTION PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

For prayer requests call Mary Lou Fitzpatrick, 454-6752. Give your first name & prayer petition. Should you reach an answering machine, please leave your phone number so that we can call you back. Petitions are prayed for 31 days. **Prayer Line volunteers are needed** to pray & answer prayer requests. Take this opportunity to help someone else and still be able to choose your own time.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation For Adults

It's not easy to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus shows us the way to live a good life and how to speak and act honorably. Through Jesus' own life, we see the courage to do the right thing. Faith makes us strong in the face of our own weakness and helps us to know that we are not alone. RCIA welcomes all who are interested in the Catholic Faith. Inquiry classes begin soon. For more information please call Joanne at **482-6883**.

RCIA SESSION (Right of Christian Initiation for Adults)
Anyone searching for a home in the Catholic Church is welcome to attend, **Tues, Dec. 11, 7:00p.m.**, Parish Center.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT. DECEMBER 8 - SUNDAY VIGIL MASSES

3:00 †Dolores Dorn by Larry Dorn Family

4:30 ♥People of the Parish

6:00 ♥Marie Amend, healing Mass, by Fred Amend

SUN. DECEMBER 9

6:30 †Holtmeier Family by, Grunkmeyer Family

8:00 †Richard Russel by Wife, Gloria

9:30 †Dorothy Kiesel by, Mike & Connie Esper

11:00 †Gerry Hunt by Carroll

12:30 ♥People of the Parish

MON. DECEMBER 10

8:00 †Father Si Gardner

TUE. DECEMBER 11

8:00 †Peter & Candy Garzetta by Dr/Mrs. Luis Garzetta

WED. DECEMBER 12

8:00 †Maryann Johnson by Gonzalez Lipschultz

THU. DECEMBER 13

8:00 †Godron Ruffing by Friends

FRI. DECEMBER 14

8:00 †Yolonda Saras by, Sarah & William Santiago

SAT. DECEMBER 15

8:00 †David Serrao by Family

SAT. DECEMBER 15 - SUNDAY VIGIL MASSES

3:00 †Marion Haase by Lester Haas & Irene Rhodes

4:30 †Richard Russell by Gloria Russell

6:00 †James Graham by Lorraine Fleming

SUN. DECEMBER 16

6:30 †Grunkemeyer Family by Family

8:00 †Cora Mae McPherson by, McIltrots & Musials

9:30 †Rose Pizzuto by Mike & Connie Esper

11:00 †Virginia Mary Hightower by, Women's Guild

12:30 ♥People of the Parish

CONFESSIONS - Saturdays 2:15 - 3:15p.m., 30 minutes before Sunday Masses or by appointment.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS All those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially the **Deceased of the Parish**

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE POOR BOXES;
THEY ARE THE BREAD BOXES OF THE
POOR!**

WEEKLY SUNDAY OFFERING**December 2, 2007**

Registered families with envelopes: 2450

Envelopes received: 808 (33%) **\$20,013.50**Remaining fam. & visitors: 1642 (67%) **\$4,343.50****Total offering:** **\$24,357.00****Thank you!****ST. VINCENT DePAUL OFFERING****December 2** **\$1,595.50****Thank you!****RESURRECTION CATHOLIC EDUCATION FUND****December 2, 2007**

Registered families with envelopes: 2450

Envelopes Received: 313 (13%) **\$5,030.75**Remaining fam. & Visitors: (87%) **\$633.25****Total Offering:** **\$5,664.00****Thank You!****ST. VINCENT DEPAUL OFFERING****November 25** **\$874.00****NO BEREAVEMENT MEETINGS ON MON. DEC. 24 OR MON. DEC. 31****BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY - Let No One Grieve Alone**

The Mission of the Bereavement Ministry at Resurrection of Our Lord is to be present to others on their journey through the challenge of grief.

**ADVENT DAY
OF RECOLLECTION**

The Women's Guild is sponsoring an *Advent Day of Recollection* for all men and women on Tuesday, **Dec 11, at 10:30a.m. and ending with Mass at 2:00p.m.** There will be a Priest moderator. Confessions will be heard after Mass. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages will be provided by the Women's Guild.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
DONATE SANCTUARY FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS**

as a thanksgiving, as a memorial to a loved one, in celebration of someone's birthday or anniversary, please use the Christmas Flower Offering envelopes located at the entrances of the church. Place the name of the person you wish to honor, your name and phone number and return via the collection basket. The loved one's name as well as the name of the donor (if wished) will be printed in the bulletin.

During Advent there are no flowers in church.



Through the generosity of our parishioners this past year, The Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord has been able to make significant donations to the following schools through the Catholic Education Fund:

St. Francis, **\$210,000**St. Andrews, **\$ 35,200**Bishop Verot, **\$48,500**Fr. Anglim Academy, \$20,300**For a total of \$314,000**

Thank you for your support of the Catholic Education Fund. Please be as generous as possible to this fund at Christmas.

Fr. Stephen E. McNamara
Pastor

ADVENT QUIZ -

1. What does the word Advent mean?
2. How many weeks are there in Advent?
3. What are the "comings" of Christ we celebrate during Advent?
4. What are some of the major themes of Advent?
5. What liturgical colors are used during the Advent season?
6. What are some symbols used during Advent season?
7. What are the six seasons that make up the liturgical year?

Answers: 1. Coming or arrival. 2. Four. 3. Christ's birth & the events surrounding His coming into the world as a man, Christ's second coming at the end of time. 4. Joyful expectation, preparation and hope. 5. Violet and Rose. 6. Wreath, light, Jesse Tree, etc. 7. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter and Ordinary Time.



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA*OFFICE OF THE BISHOP*

November 2007

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our retired religious priests, sisters, and brothers have dedicated their lives to ministry, following the call of Our Lord. Their commitment is continuously carried out lovingly and unselfishly. These religious men and women only wish to serve others, never thinking about pleading for themselves.

In that regard I would like to speak for them now. Your generosity of past years in responding to the Annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection has exceeded all expectations. Even with this generosity, the annual cost of elder care continues to escalate. With the majority of their number past their sixth decade, and their projected unfunded retirement in the billions, these stewards of faith need our support.

Religious institutes continue to be challenged to meet escalating health care costs of medicine, therapy and skilled nursing care. With the wage earning capacity waning and fewer vocations to take the place of wage earners, the situation is critical. Many religious institutes have divested themselves of property and spent down the resources they had. The Annual Retirement Fund for Religious contributes mightily to the challenges faced by these institutes of men and women religious.

Thank you for contributing generously when the Annual Retirement Fund for Religious is taken up in your parish the weekend of December 15 & 16. May Almighty God bless and reward you for your generous response to this appeal.

Sincerely in Christ,

† Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of Venice in Florida

Encountering the Living Christ Religious Education News

GOSPEL SHARING QUESTION

The Gospels are meant to be lived. Join us in making them alive!
How are you called to be a prophet?

FIRST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION is **Dec. 15, 10:30a.m.** Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION: Tuesday, **Dec. 11, at 4:30p.m.** in the Chapel, Wed., **Dec. 12, 6:15p.m.** in the Chapel. **Pick up children at the Parish Center.**

CONNECTING GOSPEL TO FAITH

Families live their faith everyday and celebrate and give thanks at Sunday Mass. We recognize this effort with special reserved seating at the **9:30 Mass** on the following Sundays:

Dec. 16 - 2nd Grade parishioners and families

Jan. 20th - 1st Grade parishioners and families

Feb. 3rd - Kindergarten parishioners and families

Feb. 17th - 8th Grade parishioners and families

One Sunday during the year these families will receive special seating to bless them.

The children will pass out a remembrance from the Gospel and will receive free donuts in the Parish Center.

Please keep in prayer all families as they help their children *encounter the living Christ each day.*

PRE-K GOSPEL SHARING AT 9:30 MASS - Each Sunday three and four year olds are invited to come to the back of the church and share the Gospel with songs and pictures. The children will return for the 'Our Father'. Please consider bringing your little ones to this Gospel time.

JR. YOUTH MINISTRY

MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Dec. 16: Youth Meeting **6:00p.m.** Christmas Party.

COME LET US ADORE HIM - Christmas Pageant preparations are underway. **There are some changes so please take note of the following schedule:**

- Sign up date: **Dec. 9**, in the Parish Center following the **9:30 a.m.** Mass.
 - Costume & Role assignment: **Dec. 11 at 6:00p.m.** in the Parish Center.
 - Rehearsal: **Dec. 21 at 5:30p.m.**; pizza to follow
 - Pageant: **Dec. 24**, meet in the Parish Center at **2:30p.m.**
- For more info phone Corita at **560-6195** or Marla at **561-7312**.

JINGLE BELLS!!

Join us for our annual Christmas caroling activity! Meet at the Parish Center on Sat. **Dec. 15 at 9:30a.m.** Parents are needed to drive. For information, and to volunteer, contact Leslie at 481-5144.



A BIG 'Thank You' to Ralph Buoncore and his restaurant, Maggia Bene, for providing our Advent Night wreath-makers with a delicious dinner entrée. What a special treat!

JUNIOR YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY - Join us for fun and holiday cheer on Sunday, **Dec. 16 at 6:00p.m.** **RSVP is a must!** Call for directions to the party location! Leslie **481-5144**

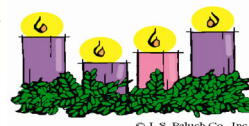
CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREES -

Anyone interested in helping sort and distribute gifts please meet in the Parish Center at **8:30a.m. on Dec 11th.** For more info phone Nancy Gardner or Diane Gislason at 481-7171.

Christ is the Heart of Christmas - The days before Christmas can be very busy ones, filled with all kinds of 'traditions' that are part of your holiday preparation - things like putting up a tree, decorating the house, sending greetings, baking, and shopping. As we busy ourselves with all of these activities we sometimes tend to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. In an effort to keep Christ in the forefront of our hearts and minds, as we are busy with these preparations, the following things to ponder and pray about might be helpful:

When Bells Ring - Bells make a happy sound. Maybe that's why there are so many of them at Christmas. **Jingle Bells** (like those on "a one horse open sleigh") *let us know that someone is coming...and Advent tells us who it is. Jesus is coming!!* **Doorbells** announce that someone is here, repeating the Advent message in a way that is up close and personal. **Church bells** ring out loudly to proclaim the same thing, inviting us to hear the good news that God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to be our Savior, Christ the Lord. Whenever you hear bells this season, lift up your head and say (or at least think), "Here comes Jesus!" And, pray for those who cannot hear and for those who live with other disabilities.

When Candles Glow - **Candles** are often visible at Christmas, in Advent wreaths and other holiday decorations. Whether or not you use a wreath, candles at holiday time can be a reminder that *Jesus is "the Light of the world,"* dispelling the darkness of our sin and death with the warm glow of His forgiving love. Since many candles are made of **beeswax**, they can also remind us that even when we are "*as busy as bees*" (as we often are this time of the year), like bees we are working together toward a common goal *"to celebrate Christ as the heart of Christmas."* Whenever you light candles this season, say out loud, "*Jesus is the Light of the world.*" Pray today that the light of His love may shine in you too...and through you...to the glory of God. - Arden W. Mead



A CONCERT featuring the music and angelic voice of **Gabriela Thomsen Martinez** will take place on Sunday, **December 30th, 3:30p.m.** at **St. Raphael Catholic Church**, 2514 Lee Blvd., Lehigh Acres. Gabriela is a senior at Franciscan University of Steubenville. She is currently studying Humanities and Catholic Culture, with minors in Philosophy and Theology. Gabriela has played the piano for thirteen years and has written the music and lyrics for over twenty songs. Her music reflects the work of the Lord in her life and has ministered to many people. **All are invited. No Charge.** Come hear this inspiring vocalist!!!

YOUNG AT HEART SINGLES

The *Young at Heart Singles 55 + Club* is specifically for people **age 55 and over**. They meet the first Thursday of every month at 6:30p.m. in the Ministry Center, Room 1, at St. Columbkille Catholic Church. The next meeting is scheduled for **Dec. 6** with a wine and cheese party (byob). Cheese, crackers and snacks will be provided. A special presentation will be made by Key-West Express for a group boat trip to the Keys. For more information phone Anita, **985-9977** or Vern, **989-0781**.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CATHOLIC SINGLES -

is for **ages 30, 40, 50's**; for single, annulled, widowed.

Our mission is strictly to promote fellowship throughout the Southwest Florida area. The purpose of the group is to provide spiritual, social and service activities for members in a safe Christian environment, encouraging a deeper relationship with God and support for each other.

Contact Pam at pamelakaym@yahoo.com or **989-7077** for group information or to RSVP.

THE UNITED IRISH OF SW FLORIDA,

welcomes you and your family to our annual Christmas Party on **Dec. 10.** at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater. Cocktails (cash bar) are at **5:00p.m.**, dinner from 5:30 - 7:00p.m., followed by an evening of music by the Reunion Band. Gifts for needy children are welcomed.

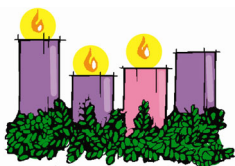
Tickets, \$30.00/person. Phone Jim Niland at **433-1827** or Jim Rogers at **481- 0586**. Slainte!

PAID POSITION AVAILABLE -

AFCAAM After-School Reading Program has a paid position available for a Teacher/Para Professional for Kindergarten. The position begins **Jan. 2008**. For more information contact Sister Lynn Welsh, O.P. or Sister Charlotte Gould, O.P. at **239-461-0233** extension 212, or e-mail: afcaam2005@yahoo.com.

ST. CECELIA'S ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE -

Looking for a quiet evening of prayer as Advent draws to a close? Come to the annual Advent Taize Service at St. Cecelia Church at **7:00p.m., Tues. Dec 18th**. The Taize Service includes readings from scripture with reflections, the sung chants of the Taize Community of France. You are especially welcome if this is a difficult season for you for any reason; especially if you are grieving. Join us for this evening of prayer and experience the peace that only God can give. For more information, phone Jill at St. Cecelia, **936-3635, x29**



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RESURRECTION CALENDAR

ALL events take place in the Parish Center, unless otherwise stated.

Beyond Bereavement, Monday, 8:30am, library, Cecilia, 437-2367

Bereavement Ministry, for the grieving, call Dona, 275-7875

Men's Club, 1st Monday of month, 7:30p.m. conference room.

Prayer Group, Tuesdays, 7:00p.m., class room 1.

Baptismal Class, 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:00p.m.

Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30a.m to 10:30a.m.

Directions For Our Times Rosary Prayer Group, 4th Tuesday of month, 8:30a.m.

RCLIA, Tuesdays, 7:00p.m., conference room.

Rel. Ed., Tues., 4:30p.m.-5:45p.m. & Wed , 6:15p.m.-7:15p.m.

Bible Sharing Group, Wednesdays, 8:30a.m. - Starting 1-9-08

Women's Guild, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 8:30a.m.

Children's Choir, Wednesdays, 5:30p.m.- 6:15p.m.

Coffee Klatch, Thursdays after the 8:00a.m Mass.

Rosary, before daily Masses; Tues. & Thurs., 2:00p.m., church.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, after 8:00a.m Mass, every 1st Friday, chapel.

Bridge Club, Thurs., 1:00p.m. - **resumes Oct. 18**

Prayer for Priests, Thursdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, chapel

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00a.m Mass, church.

Coffee & Doughnuts, Sundays, after 8:00a.m & 9:00a.m. Masses

MINISTRY OF THE SICK

When being admitted to the hospital, it is imperative that you give the name of your parish, state that you are Catholic and WISH TO BE SEEN BY A PRIEST, otherwise you might not be visited. If you go through the emergency room, 99% of the time your name and parish will not get on the Catholic list. Please be sure that the admissions office is notified.

The following hospitals are the responsibility of the parish in which they are located.

- Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by Blessed Pope John XXIII Parish, 561-224
- Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
- S.W. Regional Medical Center - visited daily by St. Cecilia's Parish, 936-3635
- Lee Memorial Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

A priest is on call 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for the above hospitals at the above telephone numbers.

Parishioners at Hospitals and Nursing Homes (within our parish boundaries) are visited by Resurrection priests as follows:

- All Hospitals: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 - Nursing Homes & Shut-ins: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
- Also, Lay Ministers visit the shut-ins Monday through Friday. Should you be missed, please call the church office, 481-7172.