

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 16, 2007

A SEASON OF HOPE

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

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Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2007

Those whom the LORD has ransomed
will return and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy.

- Isaiah 35:10a

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

- SAT. DECMEBER 15 - SUNDAY VIGIL MASSES**
3:00 †Marion Haase by Lester Haase & Irene Rhodes
4:30 †Richard Russell by Gloria Russell
6:00 †James Graham by Lorraine Fleming
SUN. DECMEBER 16
6:30 †Grunkemeyer Family by Family
8:00 †Cora Mae McPherson by the McIltrots & Musials
9:30 †Rose Pizzuto by Mike & Connie Esper
11:00 †Virginia Mary Hightower by The Women's Guild
12:30 ♥People of the Parish
MON. DECMEBER 17
8:00 †Margaret Strinka by Daughter Margaret
TUE. DECMEBER 18
8:00 †Paul Jakus by Max & Kathy Mustaine
WED. DECMEBER 19
8:00 †♥Living and Deceased members of the Womens' Guild
THU. DECMEBER 20
8:00 †Joe Kenny by Kenny Family
FRI. DECMEBER 21
8:00 †Dorothy Doherty by Mr. & Mrs. Garton
SAT. DECMEBER 22
8:00 †Michael Gallina by Dee Gallina
SAT. DECMEBER 22 - SUNDAY VIGIL MASSES
3:00 †Stella Hale by Rita Casey
4:30 †Paul Forst by Mr. & Mrs. Rose Gurgone
6:00 ♥Special Intentions of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Aloia by DeWolfe Family
SUN. DECMEBER 23
6:30 †Louis Keyes by Grunkemeyer Family
8:00 ♥People of the Parish
9:30 †Lawrence Norton by Dee Gallina
11:00 ♥Mr. & Mrs. William C. Coleman, 50th Wedding Anniversary by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Devic
12:30 †Virginia Mary Hightower by Mr. & Mrs. Edward & Jeannine Baran

CONFESSIONS - Saturdays 1:45 - 2:45p.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 **Bill Coleman**.

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

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

Psalm - Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

Second Reading - Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel - Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing. The dead are raised to new life! (Matthew 11:2-11).

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.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

If you are interested in becoming a Catholic, or completing your Sacraments in the Catholic Church... please inquire 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. 18, 7:00p.m.**, Parish Center.

Focus session: *Moral Conversion, Cardinal Virtues* - with Robert & Cristina Martinez

Dismissal of Candidates preparing for Baptism will be at the 9:30a.m. Mass.

CONFESSIONS AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

CONFESSIONS:

Tues. Dec. 18, 9:00 - 11:00a.m. & 7:00 - 8:00p.m.
 Wed. Dec. 19, 9:00 - 11:00a.m. & 7:00 - 8:00p.m.
 Sat. Dec. 22, 9:00 - 11:00a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:

Mon. Dec. 24:
 3:30p.m. Youth Christmas Pageant
 4:00p.m. Mass & Children's Choir
 7:00p.m. Mass with Cantor & Congregational Singing
 9:30p.m. String Quartet
 10:00p.m. Christmas Eve Liturgy

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES:

Tues. Dec. 25:
 6:30a.m., 8:00a.m., 9:30a.m.,
 11:00a.m., 12:30p.m.



WEEKLY SUNDAY OFFERING**December 9, 2007**

Registered families with envelopes: 2450

Envelopes received: 774 (32%) **\$19,583.80**Remaining fam. & visitors: 1676 (68%) **\$4,433.70****Total offering:** **\$24,017.50****Thank you!****ST. VINCENT DePAUL OFFERING****December 9****\$1,010.00****Thank you!****RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS****OFFERING****December 9, 2007**

Registered families with envelopes: 2450

Envelopes Received: 315 (13%) **\$11,201.00**Remaining fam. & Visitors: 2135 (87%) **\$1,785.00****Total Offering:** **\$12,986.00****Thank You!****FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION****OFFERING****December 8, 2007**

Registered families with envelopes: 2450

Envelopes Received: 348 (14%) **\$3,730.00**Remaining fam. & Visitors: 2102 (86%) **\$1,205.00****Total Offering:** **\$4,935.00****Thank You!****ALERT!!!! FROM THE DIOCESE OF VENICE -****The Golden Compass**

On December 7, 2007, the movie *The Golden Compass* opened in theaters in this area. Television trailers of this film can make it seem like a C.S. Lewis or J.R.R. Tolkien children's story containing some noble Christian morals. However, it must be noted that the author of the story, Phillip Pullman, is a self-proclaimed atheist who has stated his view that Christianity is, "a very powerful and convincing mistake." he adds that his goal is to, "undermine the basis of Christian belief", and that, "my books are about killing God...I am all for the death of God." It is encouraged, especially for parents, that you review this information before going or taking your children to see the film.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Church of the Resurrection the following new parishioners:

Ronald & Joyce Bilak, Charles R. & Marcia E. Curcuru, Christine Frappier, Gary French, Azucena Gutierrez and family, Ronald & Linda McLaren, Nigel & Cumberlynn Noone, Todd & Amanda Seman and family, Patricia Walton, Alexandra Anderes, Joseph A. Sr. & Jean L. Laspina.

CHRISTMAS MASS ON TELEVISION**Celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Dewane****TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25****WFXT - TV 4 (FOX)****9:00a.m.**

Comcast and Time Warner cable channel 4

Stay tuned following Mass for a special holiday program brought to you by the Diocese of Venice.

COFFEE KLATCH will start Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008 after the 8:00a.m. Mass. Coffee, French Bread and Doughnuts will be served.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Saturday, 3:00 - 5:00p.m.

Sunday, 8:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.

Tuesday, 8:30 - 10:00a.m.

Thursday, 8:30 - 10:00a.m.

Oplatki Polish Christmas Wafers are available in the Gift Shop and in the Parish Office.

SPECIAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST -

Jan. 13, 2008, the Men's Club will be having a special Pancake Breakfast after the 8:00 & 9:30a.m. Masses. **ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY.**

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.

PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS -

Please join us as we gather every Thursday immediately after the 8:00 Mass.



TIME AND TALENT NEEDED - We are seeking adult, confirmed Catholics who are registered members of the parish to serve as **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** for church Masses. *We especially have need at the 6:00p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday and the 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday.* To learn more about this ministry and/or to volunteer your time and talent, please call the parish office and ask for an information and interest form to be sent to you. You will be contacted once you have completed and returned the form to us.

USHERS ARE NEEDED!

Men and women parishioners are needed to volunteer as ushers. All Masses are available. Please consider giving some of your time to the Lord and to your Parish. A special 'THANK YOU' to the current ushers for their dedication. For information phone Dan at **768-5617**.

Continued from last week...

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 You Bake Cookies (or other things) -

In Hebrew, the name **Bethlehem** means "a house of bread." In modern English it might be called something like Bakersville or Bakerstown. Baking, therefore, is a Christmas tradition that goes way back to Bethlehem.

In later life, Jesus would Himself provide bread (with fish) for the hungry in the wilderness. He would bless bread (and wine) to give us the Lord's Supper. And, He would call Himself "**the Bread of Life come down from heaven.**"

So, the "breaking of bread" (or even a cookie) can remind us of Christ's body broken for us on the cross, His life given for the life of all.

Baking can also remind us of the hungry in the world. Is there anyone with whom you can share some of your "daily bread"?

Along with the other cookies you bake, bake a few that are "heart shaped" (you may have a cookie cutter for Valentine's Day; otherwise cut them out with a knife). As you decorate them, you might find a way to put a cross or a manger on each one.

PRAY TODAY for the hungry, that they too might be filled.

When You Play (Or Sing, Or Just Listen To) Christmas Music -

There is something about the music of Christmas that is unlike any other time of the year. It blares from loud speakers in offices and elevators as well as out of doors, and **fills our hearts and homes and churches with it's joyful sound.**

In many homes, part of Christmas preparation involves finding the tapes and CDs (and maybe even old phonograph records), dusting off carol books...perhaps even sitting down at a piano to break out the music of the season.

The Christmas story is filled with music, from the Magnificat of Mary ("My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord," Luke 1:46-55), the Benedictus of Zechariah ("Blessed be the Lord God of Israel," Luke 1:68-79) and the Nunc Dimittis of Simeon ("Lord, now you let Your servant go in peace," Luke 2:29-32), to the grand Gloria in Excelsis of the Angels ("Glory to God in the highest," Luke 2:14). The songs tell a story, and at the heart of the story is **Jesus Christ, the Heart of Christmas.** Because of His life and death for us, the songs (and the story) are not merely seasonal but go on forever. The Book of Revelation is filled with the exultant choruses of eternity.

Whenever and however the music is played, sing along!

PRAY TODAY for all who make music to the Lord. - Arden Mead



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**

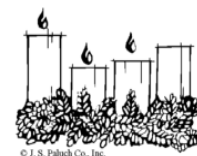
Bishop Verot, **\$48,500**

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. MacNamara
Pastor





Encountering the Living Christ Religious Education News

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.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We wish each family time to encounter the Living Christ in their families and friends during this Holy Season.

No Tuesday classes Dec. 25, Jan. 1, Jan. 8.

No Wednesday classes Dec. 26, Jan. 2, Jan. 9.

FIRST RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION-

We celebrate God's love and mercy with the families and the following children who made their First Reconciliation:

Tues. Class w/ Mrs. Hughey, Mrs. Stemle, Mrs. Dean:

Zoe Apicella, Tatiana Barone, Meredith Bucher, John Cilibrasi, Joseph Cilibrasi, Salvatore Cilibrasi III, Peyton Clark, Nate Dorwart, Gabriella Ebenger, Michael Gerwitz, Christopher Hanwacker, Webb Howard, Julia Legiec, Kinzie Luthringer, Mason Muttart, Martha Sizemore, Natalie Stemle, Megan Welsh, Kinzie Whitaker.

Wed. Class w/ Mrs. Vasquez:

Gaige Carvalho, Carlie Cross, Samantha Custer, Maggie Knox, Isabel Deguia, Jaymie Likus, Jalen Luna, Emily Martin, Tate McMenamy, Matthew Parsons, Ebenezer Queen, Tiffany Rios, Billy Schofield.

St. Francis Xavier School Children:

Martin Carrere, Matthew Cedarburg, Michael Hafele, Peyton Heben, Deanne Kyle, Emily McIltrout, Joshua Schwartz, Jack Trathen.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Did St. Francis of Assisi invent the Christmas crib? Not exactly, but his devotion to the Incarnation and his love for the poverty of the Christ Child certainly popularized this beloved custom. Long before Francis, it was a custom at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome to enshrine a rich image of Mary, gilded and bejewelled, embracing the child Jesus. This church was founded as a kind of home for the feast of Christmas in the fourth century. In 1223, Francis was ready to celebrate this feast in a new way. In the tiny city of Greccio, he asked friends to prepare a place where they could experience the poverty and suffering embraced by Christ in his birth. It was a living scene: an ox from the barn, an ass from the stable, and peasants standing in for shepherds and kings. The night of the celebration was beautiful, the weather was warm, and people came in crowds, bearing candles and singing hymns that echoed through the forest. Francis himself chanted the Gospel and preached. The custom spread quickly, and by the sixteenth century cribs were seasonal features not only in church, but in the home.

On December 17, the liturgy begins to unfold the Lord's birth before us, and it's the right time to follow this beautiful tradition. In Germany, each night throughout Advent children prepare a bedding for the manger. At bedtime prayer, a child places a single straw in the manger for each act of devotion or virtue performed during the day. If the children are good, then the Christ child will have plenty of soft bedding when he is placed in the manger on Christmas.

- Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

JR. YOUTH MINISTRY

GOSPEL SHARING QUESTION

The Gospels are meant to be lived. Join us in making them alive.

How are you called to be a prophet?

MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR:

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

COME LET US ADORE HIM - Christmas Pageant preparations are underway.

- 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**.

MID-YEAR CATECHIST VERY IMPORTANT MEETING - Jan. 9, 6:00p.m.—8:30p.m.

CULTIVATING VIRTUES—FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY
Even though faith is a personal act it is not something done alone. All catechists and assistants gather for prayer, dinner and sharing on the ways we encounter the Living Christ in the children we teach. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend.

CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL FOR THE HOMELESS -

Dec. 20, 6:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. at the Old Courthouse steps on Main Street (downtown Ft. Myers) to remember all those homeless men and women who have died in the past year.

ADVENT PRAYER, WEEK THREE -

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 three candles on the wreath, then pray:

Lord, renew us in your love, for with You we have nothing to fear. You provide light for our darkness and warmth in the cold winter air. We sing Your praises for all You have done for us. May we approach this holy Christmas season with a true spirit of joy and gratitude. Amen.





CATHOLIC CHARITIES VENETIAN BALL

You are invited to join us and enjoy a memorable evening with our special guest Bishop Frank J. Dewane. Please save the date for Lee County's *Annual Venetian Charity Ball* on **Saturday,**

February 9, 2008, Sanibel Harbor Resort and Spa.

All proceeds from the event will help support Catholic Charities programs and services in Lee County. Catholic Charities serves people of all ages, faiths and backgrounds when and where they need it most.

For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Catholic Charities of Lee County at **(239)334-4007**.

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**

FR. JERRY IN CONCERT -

This concert will be held at the Charlotte County Performing Arts Center in Punta Gorda on **Jan. 11 & 12 at 7:00p.m.** and **Jan. 13 at 3:00p.m.** This is a chance to help support the rebuilding efforts of Sacred Heart Parish in Punta Gorda (destroyed by Hurricane Charley) and enjoy an evening filled with the music and inspiration of Fr. Jerry Kaywell and his friends. For more info or tickets phone Daria Luth at **239-573-9115 or 239-443-8841.** Admission Tickets are \$20.00.

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!!!

BLESSED EDMUND RICE SCHOOL - The courses being given by the Blessed Edmund Rice School for the Spring semester are: *Liturgical Time and Prayer* at St. Leo's in Bonita, *Catholic Social Thought* at Resurrection in Ft. Myers, *Theological Methodology* at St. Cecelia's in Ft. Myers. *Call the Rice School at 941-766-7334 or www.riceschool.org for more info.*

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.**

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.

RCIA, 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.