

SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

DECEMBER 10, 2023

PARISH OFFICE

1922 SW 20th Avenue, Cape Coral, FL 33991

Office Phone: (239) 283-9501

Website: www.drexelcc.org

Monday to Friday—8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Tuesdays—9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Faith Formation: (239) 283-0525 or

rose@drexelcc.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday—9:00 am

Vigil—4:00 pm

Sunday—8:30 am, 10:30 am and 12:30 pm

Monday-Friday—9:00 am

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays—After 9:00 am Mass

Saturdays—After 9:00 am Morning Mass

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

First Fridays of the Month—After 9:00 am Mass,
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm or by Appointment



Advent

~ a time for preparation ~

2nd Sunday of Advent

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” *Mark 1:3*

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR —Father Ricky Varner (varner@drexelcc.org)

PAROCHIAL VICAR— Father Antonio Jean (Jean@drexelcc.org)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST—Alba Gibbons (office@drexelcc.org)

RECEPTIONIST—Arianna Affatigato (office@drexelcc.org)

BUSINESS MGR—Frank Newcomb (frank@drexelcc.org)

DRE—Rose Marie Talbot-Babey (rose@drexelcc.org)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC—John Hudak (hudak@drexelcc.org)

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH —Aileen Vasquez (aileen@drexelcc.org)

MAINTENANCE—Ernie Sierocinski (ernie@drexelcc.org)

HOUSEKEEPING—Gilma Avalos (gilma@drexelcc.org)

FINANCE COUNCIL

Peter Barrett, Sr., Barbara Borders, William Carty, Deborah Eppinger, Tom Feig, Kathleen Houghton, Steve Ketteler, Mark Pennington and Steve Shaw

JEREMIAH TEAM

Father Ricky Varner, Timothy Altieri, Matthew Harkness, John Hudak, Renee Marazon, Rose Talbot-Babey, and Sandy Wilkin

NEW PARISHIONERS Registration forms are available in the church narthex, parish office and on the parish website.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

BAPTISM: Please obtain a baptism registration form either at the weekend Masses, or visit our website. After reading the requirements and completing the form, return it to Religious Education. For more information please email rose@drexelcc.org. Baptisms are scheduled after consultation with a priest.

MARRIAGE: Please contact the parish office at least nine (9) months prior to the desired date of the ceremony.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: Call Faith Formation at (239) 283-0525.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Are you going for a surgery? Do you need The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick? Please see the priest after any Mass or call the parish office.

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS: If you'd like a priest to visit you with the sacraments, please call the parish office.

PARISHIONERS IN HOSPITAL: If you are in a local hospital and would like a visit from a priest, please call the parish office. If it is an emergency, please call appropriate church for that hospital.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11: Saint Damasus I, Pope
9:00 am † Barbara Miller

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe
9:00 am Angelica Celeste Gibbons

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13: Saint Lucy, Virgin/Martyr
9:00 am † Raul and Carlos Pedraja
6:30 pm † Richard Canny

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14: Saint John of the Cross Priest/Doctor
9:00 am † Ricardo A. Arzate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
9:00 am † Zoraida Delgado

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
9:00 am † Patricia Barry
4:00 pm † Anna Drucker

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent
8:30 am Vincent J. Kozel
10:30 am Tommy Lehner
12:30 pm Saint Katharine Parishioners

“Jesus taught a new sacrifice which the Church received from the Apostles and offers throughout the whole world.”-*Saint Irenaeus*

SKD PARISH CALENDAR—MINISTRY EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
9:00 am Religious Education (FFE/FFW)
2:00 pm Youth Retreat (Hall)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11
6:30 pm Bell Choir (Church)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12—NO EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
8:00 am TOPS (Hall)
9:00 am Mom’s Group (FFE)
11:00 am Bible Study (FFW)
12:00 pm Rosary for Life (Church)
5:30 pm Children’s Choir (Church)
6:30 pm Youth Group (FFE)
6:30 pm TOPS (FFW)
7:00 pm Adult Choirs (Church)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
2:00 pm Prayer Shawl Group (Library)
7:00 pm TMIY (FFE)
7:30 pm Bible Study (FFW)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
9:00 am TOPS (Hall)
10:00 am Legion of Mary (FFW)
6:00 pm Youth Group (FFE)
7:00 pm Ultreya / Cursillo (FFW)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
6:30 pm Trivia Night—Youth Group (FFE)



**FAMILY HOLY HOURS
FOR EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL**

EVERY WEDNESDAY
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
ROSARY/ MEDITATIONS/ SILENT ADORATION

EVERY FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAY
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
CONFESSIONS/ DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Week of: December 10, 2023

SKD Church Sanctuary Lamp

is lit this week in Memory of
Ricardo A. Arzate
By Mercado Family

Adoration Chapel Sanctuary Lamp

is lit this week in Memory of
Soares Family
By Joao Soares

The red Sanctuary Lamp by the tabernacle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ.
Saint Katharine Drexel, pray for us.



Thank you for your Generosity!

Your gift to the Catholic Faith Appeal will continue to make a difference in the lives of others!

Stewardship December 3, 2023

Offertory: \$15,889.97
Online Giving: \$6,674.37

Catholic Faith Appeal 2023

Our Goal: \$221,000
Pledged to Date: \$221,807.71
Payments to Date: \$211,003.04

Want to try online giving?
Visit parish website: www.drexelcc.org
and click on the Online Giving link!

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Ministries

Adoration Chapel: Open 24 hours. Please call the parish office for more information at: (239) 283-9501.

Altar Servers: Call Rose at: (239) 283-0525.

Ark Young Adult: Third Tuesday at: 6:30 pm, Email Kerri Houghton at: kahoughton1998@gmail.com

Bereavement Schedule: First Friday at 5:30 pm and third Monday at 2:00 pm. Contact Carrie Daniels at: (239) 770-1510 or carriebereavement@hotmail.com

Bible Study: Wednesdays 11:00 am and Thursdays 7:30 pm. Call Russ at: (239) 574-4743.

Embrace Grace-Mom & Dad Support Groups: Contact Rose Talbot-Babey at: rose@drexelcc.org

Church Decorators: Contact Donna Frys at: (239) 540-7568.

Children's Rosary: 2nd Saturday of Month, Contact Gina Moreno at: gmdibagno@gmail.com

Council of Catholic Women: Meets First Thursdays September to May. Contact Vicky Parker at: (239) 219-4537 or email at: parker0496@yahoo.com

Cursillo/Ultreya: Vicki Minervini: vickiminervini@gmail.com

Gift Shop: Open Sundays 9:30 am to 11:45 am.

Holy Spirit group: First Thursday at 6:30 pm Hall. Contact Renee Marazon at: renee@marazon.com

Homebound Ministry: Contact Debbie Eppinger at: (330) 716-3108 or at: buhlcm2@gmail.com

Hospitality: Call Virginia Hinpeter at: (239) 283-3880.

Knights of Columbus: First Monday, 6:30 pm. Contact Lazaro Miel at: www.kofc11177.org or miell@bellsouth.net

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary: Contact Lizzy Paredes at: (239) 233-9050 or lizzy@lpins.org

Lay Augustinians Every 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday at 7:45 pm. Call Russ Summerton at: (239) 574-4743.

Lectors: Contact Laura Furderer at: (239) 691-2233.

Legion of Mary: Contact Patricia Crowder at: (239) 573-8318.

Mom's Group: Bethany Normoyle at: (239)980-6537 or brnormoyle@gmail.com

Music Ministry: Bell Choir, Cantors, Children's Choir, Contemporary Choir, Traditional Choir.

Contact: John Hudak at: hudak@drexelcc.org

Prayer Network: Call Jean Triplett at: (239) 699-2624

Prayer Team Ministry: Contact Renee Marazon at: renee@marazon.com

Prayer Shawls Ministry: Meeting third Thursday at: 2:00 pm Call Tessa Buechler at: (904) 583-3298

Pro-Life Commission: Jeanine Pennington-Chairperson Contact at: SKDprolife@gmail.com

Redeemer Associates: Fourth Mondays at: 6:30 pm. Contact Barbara M. at: bmeiderdrut@hotmail.com

Respect Life: Email Maria at: RespectLifeSKD@gmail.com

Rosary: After Weekday Mass and Sundays at: 12:00 Noon.

Secular Franciscans: Second Saturday, 9:30 am. Contact Doug Elliott at: (585) 370-6178.

Sons of the Joseph: Mike Vasquez at: gyllr@me.com

Spiritual Direction: Rose Marie Talbot-Babey email at: Rose@drexelcc.org

SKD Family Life: Contact Rose at: skdfamily@gmail.com

Table of Plenty Food Pantry: Contact Ron Curr at: (239) 281-8833 or Kathy at: (239) 770-3551

TMI -Timothy J. Altieri, Esq. (239) 810-1093 Email: timothy.altieri@altierilawfirm.com

TOPS: Weight loss support, Wednesdays at 9:00 am, Contact Janice Gainer at: jgainer396@yahoo.com

TOPS: Weight loss support, Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, Contact Debbie Baker at: (937) 626-6247

Vocations: Call Parish Office at: (239) 283-9501

Welcoming Committee: Contact Judy Ketteler at: (816) 809-2227 or at: judydesch@gmail.com

Wedding Coordinator: Karen at: karenrn1008@gmail.com

Women Bible Study- Walking with Purpose : Connie Orr Francesca E. (239) 565-8969 or (239) 600-0470

Youth Group: Aileen Vasquez Email: aileen@drexelcc.org Wednesdays: Upper Room/High school. 1st and 3rd Fridays Middle school. Both 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Meet in the Chapel.

Pope Francis prayer intention for December 2023- *We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.*

Abuse Reporting

An allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by anyone should be reported immediately to: **Florida Department of Children and Families Child**

Abuse Hotline: 1-800-96abuse (800-962-2873) or visit <https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us>.

If the alleged abuser is a diocesan employer/clergy/volunteer,
also notify Victim Assistance Coordinator – Susan Benton at (941) 416-6114



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Advent is a beautiful time. Four weeks to prepare ourselves, four weeks of grace. To help us to get ready, every week, we have a different topic to meditate and reflect.

Last week we talked about the second coming of the Lord. And we emphasized the end of the time. And Jesus reminds us that we need to be prepared because we never know when

the Lord is coming. Today, we shift from the second coming to the first coming of the Lord. The birthday of Jesus. The coming of our savior 2000 years ago and now. For that, there is a story.

There is a story about a parishioner who wanted to know about how to become holy or to get into heaven. This person went to visit their pastor and said: Father, teach me what I need to know to have happy life. I have studied sacred Scriptures, I pray every day, I have studied theology, I have been in holy land, I was raised catholic, but I have not found the answer, please, teach me the way. At this point, the pastor served tea to this guest. He poured his visitor's cup full and then kept on pouring so that the tea began to run over the rim of the cup and across the table until tea was cascading upon the floor. This person watched this until he could no longer restrain himself, "Its full, stop, no more will go in," he cried out. Like this cup, the pastor said, you are full of your own opinions and speculations. How can I show you the way unless you first empty your cup? (Empty yourself.)

How can we welcome Christ, how can we receive God's grace? How can we enter the promised land with Him, if we have no room in our hearts for Him, if we are not prepared? This is Advent. Time to empty ourselves in order to prepare a room in our hearts for Christ. Maybe my heart is full of pride, anger, selfishness; to empty ourselves means to repent. That is why John the Baptist, the voice of Advent calls us to repent, to change direction, and to face a new way of life. My friends, to repent is a change of attitude toward life, and toward the things we think important now. To repent is not saying I am sorry over and over again; to repent is doing things in a new way, a way that allows Christ to enter more deeply into our hearts. To repent is to be more sensitive to the ways God comes into our lives all year long.

I encourage you to look at the Sacrament of Penance (Confession). When John the Baptist said, Repent and prepare the way of the Lord, people flocked to the Jordan river to be forgiven. The Sacrament of Penance can do the same thing. Review the below Advent calendar for opportunities to celebrate the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confession. If you say you are sorry for your sins, prove it, and come to the Sacraments Penance and Holy Eucharist; if you say you welcome the Christ Child this Christmas, show it by your works of charity and love. My friends, let us ask God for the grace to repent and empty ourselves in order to welcome Jesus in our hearts.

United in the holy Eucharist,

-Father Ricky

ADVENT CALENDAR [ADVENT GIVING TREE - Return all Gifts by Tuesday, December 12 to the parish hall.]

Wednesdays, December 6, 13 and 20 –

9:00 am Mass and Confessions afterwards
6:00 pm Family Holy Hour with Confessions
6:30 pm Mass

December 21 and 22 –

9:00 am Mass and Confessions afterwards
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Confessions in the Adoration Chapel

December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent –

8:30 am and 10:30 am Mass
NO 12:30 pm Sunday Mass because of Christmas Eve Vigil Masses.



Saint Katharine Drexel Parish – Phone: (239) 283-9501

December 8—*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary* [Holy day of Obligation]

9:00 am—Mass and Confessions afterwards

6:30 pm—Mass and Confessions afterwards

ADVENT INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS:

Wednesdays—December 6, 13 and 20

After 9:00 am Mass in Adoration Chapel

6:00 pm Family Holy Hour with Confessions

Fridays—December 1 and 15

After 9:00 am Mass in Adoration Chapel

6:00 pm Family Holy Hour with Confessions

Saturdays

After 9:00 am Mass and 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

December 21 and December 22

After 9:00 am Mass in Adoration Chapel

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Adoration Chapel



December 24—*Christmas Eve*

[1/2 Hour Sacred Music before each Mass]

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm—Confessions

4:00 pm—Children’s Mass

6:00 pm—Mass

12 Midnight—Mass



December 25—*Christmas Day*

[1/2 Hour Sacred Music before each Mass]

8:30 am—Mass

10:30 am—Mass

12:30 pm—Mass

December 31—Feast of the Holy Family

8:30 am—Mass

10:30 am—Mass

12:30 pm—Mass

4:00 pm—Vigil Mass (Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God)



January 1—Solemnity of *Mary, the Mother of God*

9:00 am—Mass

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024!

Daily Mass—Monday to Friday 9:00 am
 Wednesday Masses—9:00 am and 6:30 pm
 Saturday Masses—9:00 am and 4:00 pm (Vigil)
 Sunday Masses—8:30 am / 10:30 am / 12:30 am



24-Hour
 Eucharistic Adoration

**ADVENT MASSES
FOR EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL**



DECEMBER 6, 13, 20
**5:30 LITANY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST
 WITH SILENT ADORATION**
6:00 PM CONFESSIONS / ROSARY
6:30 PM HOLY MASS



**Children's Christmas Nativity
Presentation**

Before December 24th (4pm) Vigil Mass

We are excited to announce that we will be having a live children's nativity presentation prior to the 4:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass. All children in the SKD Religious Education Program are encouraged and invited to participate in this event celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



HOLY HOUR

**EVERY TUESDAYS WITH
THE PARISH STAFF**

8:30 am Adoration in the Chapel
9:00 am Mass

HEALING PRAYER

**THIRD WEEKEND OF EVERY MONTH
AFTER ALL MASSES**

COME EXPERIENCE

**THE
POWER
OF PRAYER**



**HELP ENSURE THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY
OF ST. KATHARINE DREXEL**

Through the vision and generosity of a few Parish families, St. Katharine Drexel has established a small general endowment fund with the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida. The endowment fund is designed to help provide long-term stability and sustainability far beyond our lifetimes, and is open to anyone wishing to contribute to the future of our Parish. It is my prayer that fellow parishioners will contribute to this fund and help it grow over time.

The endowment fund is structured so that the original gift amount (or principal) remains intact, while a portion of the investment earnings are used to support the Parish. This creates a reliable, consistent revenue stream to help provide support for Parish needs such as: capital investments, major repairs or maintenance, reduction of debt and other extraordinary expenses now and for generations to come.

Many endowment funds are supported and/or created through gifts from wills or trusts, however, a number of donors choose to fund endowments while they are still living so they can see the impact of their gifts. There are numerous ways to fund an endowment including gifts of cash, securities, property, distributions from your IRA and more.

Please consider supporting our general endowment fund or establishing your own named endowment fund in support of our Parish, program or ministry about which you care most. Your gift can help provide a legacy to future generations seeking to grow in faith, wisdom and holiness.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Fr. Ricky

For more information on contributing to the current endowment fund, or on establishing your own named fund to benefit St. Katharine Drexel, please contact:

Michael Morse, Executive Director
Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida
941-441-1124 or morse@dioceseofvenice.org



Pray for Our Military

- SFC Ortiz-Lopez Juan Carlos USA
- SPC Joe Cecil USA
- A1C Matthew J. Clarke USAF
- Maj Michael J. Clifford ARNG
- SFC Steven J Cole USA
- 1LT Brent Cox, III, USA
- Capt. Hayes M. Cozza USMC
- Capt. Santino E. Cozza USAF
- ESN Jayden Curr USN
- A1C Hunter Daly, USAF
- ENS Tyler Dunnagan USN
- PVT Zachary Dunnagan USA
- GySgt Evan Fancher USMC
- Maj Shaun Floersch USAF
- Lt. Col. James Hannigan USA
- 1st Lt. H. Matthew Hernandez USMC
- Capt. Jesse Hudson USA
- Capt. David J. Jacobs USAF
- CAPT Barbara A. Joe, USN
- SRA Richard K. Jones USAF
- Capt Armand Kalugdan USA
- PVT Kole Kalisch USA
- SSgt Kole J. Koontz USAF
- Maj Joseph M. LaPointe USA
- SGT James Losh USA
- MSgt. Brian Lynn USMC
- SSgt Jonathan Mamott USAF
- CPT Ryan McMahon USA
- Capt. Sean McMahon USAF
- PFC Chance McQueen USA
- SGT Michael Mercer, Jr. USA
- Maj Christopher Miller USAF
- LCpl Mark Moreno, USMC
- SPC4 Quinn Ogdon USA
- Lt. David Orłowski USN
- PV2 Joseph Patton USA
- GySgt Paul L. Perez USMC
- SGT Alexander Private, USA
- TSgt Taylor M. Purvis USAF
- Lt.Col. Tim Ravas, USAF
- LtCol Christopher Richardella USMC
- Capt Patrick Riley USA
- CPL Gabriel J. Roesler USMC
- PVT Robert Theodore Rosso USMC
- SPC Iliana I. Ruiz USA
- LTJG Dean N. Rye USN
- AB Kelsey Santini USAF
- CPL Anthony Saracino, Jr. USMC
- SGT Nicholas Sbarra USA
- SGT Aaron J Seminara USMC
- Seaman Jeremy Sheppard USN
- Lt. Jeremy Sheppard
- PV2 Alexander Smith USA
- SN Andrew Tank USN
- CPT Christopher Turley USA
- SGT Madison Valdivia USA
- TSgt Erika Velasco USAF
- CPL Robert Christopher Volski USN
- CPT Garrett Alden Wadsworth USA
- SPC William A. Wallace USANG
- AB Zachary Wheeler USAF
- LT Brad Wilkin USN
- ENS Alex Wowk USN

For info, Email Rita at: skd_prayers_for_military@yahoo.com

THE ALPHA COURSE

Got life questions? Try Alpha.

Tuesday Evenings
January 16 – April 23, 2024

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
SKD Parish Hall

Dinner – Videos – Great Conversations – Childcare
To register visit the drexelcc.org website or scan this code



Where is God in all of this?

Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women | Learn more about God

Join us for **Reclaiming Friendship** to explore what it takes to stay close to friends for the long haul, what to look for in a friend, and how to navigate toxic relationships.



SKD Faith Formation Building EAST Wing
Starting Wednesday, 1/10/24 and
Thursday, 1/11/24

Wednesday Mornings 10AM
Thursday Nights 7PM

Contact Fran Eubanks 239-600-0470
Connie Orr 239-565-8969



walking with purpose

www.walkingwithpurpose.com

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Experience Healing & Hope

Are you, or is someone you know, navigating the challenging journey of a separation or divorce, seeking solace, and longing for a brighter tomorrow? Consider participating in Rose Sweet's renowned Surviving Divorce Program—a twelve week, transformative experience designed to empower, uplift, and guide individuals towards healing and renewal.



**BEGINNING JANUARY 25
FROM 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES
PARISH, 1301 CENTER ROAD,
VENICE, FL**

**CONTACT:
BOB OR CHRIS SMIALEK AT**

**BOBANDCHRISMALEK@ICLOUD.COM
OR 815-275-5305**

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- EXPERT GUIDANCE ON NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF DIVORCE
- SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT WITH DIVORCE SURVIVORS
- EMPOWERING RESOURCES
- SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: OUR LEADERS, SUPPORTED BY LOCAL CLERGY, WILL HELP YOU FIND SOLACE IN YOUR FAITH.

MEN'S MORNING OF REFLECTION WITH ST. JOSEPH

A MINI RETREAT AND INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH



SATURDAY- JANUARY 6, 2024

**Begins w 9:00am Mass
Ends at 12:30pm
Location: Faith Formation Building West
Coffee & Breakfast will be served**

St. Joseph silently and diligently provided for the needs of the Holy Family to welcome Jesus into the world. Similarly, the job of the sacristan is to prepare for the celebration of the Mass where Jesus descends upon the altar that we might receive Him. May we prepare for consecration to St. Joseph, mirroring the same spirit of diligence, holy silence, & humility that our Lord's foster-father also had in providing for every need of the Christ Child. Through the intercession of Our Most Blessed Mother, we pray. Amen.

REGISTER  HERE

SERVE

*"Your commitment to the altar is not only a duty, but a great honor, a genuine holy service..."
St. John Paul II the Great*

For more information contact
QYLLR@me.com 

Sign Me Up

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Third Friday of Every Month - 9:00 am to 12 Noon



1922 SW 20th Avenue Cape Coral, Florida

What is Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual direction is “help given by one Christian to another which enables that person to pay attention to God’s personal communication to him or her, to respond to this personally communicating God, to grow in intimacy with this God, and to live out the consequences of the relationship.” (William A. Barry and William J. Connolly, *The Practice of Spiritual Direction*)

Spiritual direction focuses on religious experience. It is concerned with a person’s actual experience of a relationship with God.

Spiritual direction is about a relationship. The religious experience is not isolated, nor does it consist of extraordinary events. It is what happens in an ongoing relationship between the person and God. Most often this is a relationship that is experienced in prayer.

Spiritual direction is a relationship that is going somewhere. God is leading the person to deeper faith and more generous service. The spiritual director asks not just “what is happening?” but “what is moving forward?”

The real spiritual director is God. God touches the human heart directly. The human spiritual director does not “direct” in the sense of giving advice and solving problems. Rather, the director helps a person respond to God’s invitation to a deeper relationship.

Learn more by contacting: *Rose Talbot-Babey, M.A.A.T., C.S.D. 239-283-0525 or rose@drexelcc.org*



Music in the Mass

#12: "The Communion Antiphon"

While the Priest is receiving the Sacrament, the Communion Chant is begun, it's purpose being to express the spiritual union of the communicants by means of unity of their voices, to show gladness of heart and to bring out more clearly the "communitarian" character of the procession to receive the Eucharist. The singing is prolonged for as long as the Sacrament is being administered to the faithful. (G.I.R.M. #86)

In the Diocese of the United States of America there are four options for singing at Communion:

- *The Antiphon from the Missal or the antiphon with its Psalm from the Graduale Romanum.*
- *The Antiphon with Psalm from the Graduale Simplex of the liturgical time.*
- *A chant from another collection of Psalms and Antiphons arranged in responsorial metrical forms.*
- *Some other suitable liturgical chant (song) approved by the Conference of Bishops or the Diocesan Bishop. This is sung either by the choir alone or by the choir with the people. (G.I.R.M. #87)*

There are many beautiful Eucharistic songs/hymns of both traditional and contemporary style that are suitable to be sung during the Communion Rite. However, as the G.I.R.M. states: "The Communion **Chant**" meaning **one** chant/song or refrain should accompany the entire Rite of Communion and be sustained until all the faithful have received. Even if all of the verses have been sung, I will generally have the choir or cantor offer other verses but after each return to the common refrain of the Communion Hymn Antiphon.

One of the benefits of having the words projected on the Church walls is so that while in procession you can add your voice to the singing of the Communion Antiphon. I will generally conclude the Communion Antiphon/Hymn once the Priest has returned the Blessed Sacrament to the Tabernacle and the doors are shut.

You may have noticed that during Ordinary Time, unless we were celebrating a Feast, I suspended a song after communion so that the faithful may have a few moments of sacred silence to reflect/mediate and offer a silent prayer of thanksgiving for receiving the Holy Eucharist.

During certain seasons of the Liturgical Year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter) we will have that moment of silence once the Tabernacle doors are closed and then offer a Hymn of Praise by the entire assembly, again in thanksgiving for the gift of the Holy Eucharist.

John SC Hudak Director of Music



On behalf of the entire Music Ministry of Saint Katharine Drexel Parish we'd like to thank everyone who joined us this past Friday for our Parish Christmas Concert.

It's just our gift to YOU in helping to prayerfully prepare our hearts this Advent for the celebration of our Lord Jesus at His Incarnation this Christmas!

And...we'd like to invite you to make this an annual event and hope to see you on Friday, December 6, 2024!

Hospitality Ministry

New parishioners, longtime member's Of Saint Katherine Drexel Church Would you like to meet new parishioners?

Hospitality Ministry is the fun way to go. Ministers at all Masses 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 4:00 pm meet and greet all attendees at church, assist them as needed and answer questions about our parish.

Interested in joining, contact Virginia Hinspeter at email : firstdreamteam@yahoo.com

40 DAYS FOR LIFE 365
HELP SAVE LIVES
 You can take part in 40 Days for Life 365!

WHEN
 Thursdays at Noon

WHERE
 Outside Planned Parenthood
 6418 Commerce Park Drive, Fort Myers



Marriage Troubles? 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, as it has helped tens of thousands of others. Our next program begins **January 26-28, 2024**. For more information, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com, or call (727) 343-6701. Not counseling or group therapy. All contacts and names held in strictest confidence.

Cursillo Ultreya—Christmas Cookie Exchange

Come join us as we gather as a Cursillo Community on Friday, December 15th in St Katharine Drexel Faith Formation Bldg WEST. **Bring a Dozen Christmas Cookies to Exchange.** We meet at 7 p.m. for the Stations of the Cross and the Ultreya Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share. Come support your Brothers and Sisters in Christ.



My Escape from Postwar Vietnam – by Adam Nguyen

Come and join us in fellowship on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at Church of the Resurrection parish center! Our speaker will be Adam Nguyen, Sr. Manager of Engineering & Construction at the Lee County Port Authority. Adam was born and raised in Saigon, Vietnam and immigrated to the U.S. in 1985. He is a member of St. John XXIII Parish and serves as the president of the Vietnamese Catholic Community at the parish. Adam will be speaking about *My Escape from Postwar Vietnam* where he shares his own journey to the United States.

Faith & Ale is a Catholic Men’s group. The program begins at 6 PM with pizza and refreshments for a \$10 donation and concludes at 8 PM. Reservations are required – please register online at www.faithandale.com



Rosary for Life

Saint Padre Pio said, “Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for Her Rosary is the weapon against the evil of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother.”

Please join the Respect Life Ministry on Monday, **December 13, at 12 Noon** in our beautiful Chapel to commemorate the apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima.

The intention will be for Respect for all Human Life from conception to natural death. Any questions, email Maria at RespectLifeSKD@gmail.com.

Know the facts!

**2024 Florida ballot proposal:
“Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion”**

F A C T # 2

This proposed amendment does not require a **medical doctor**, only a **healthcare provider**, to determine if an abortion is necessary to protect the mother’s health.
Women deserve better!

DECLINE TO SIGN the petition for this dangerous pro-abortion amendment!
Questions? Go to dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife.

Know the facts!

**2024 Florida ballot proposal:
“Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion”**

F A C T # 3

This proposed amendment would eliminate the current law requiring **parental consent** for minors.
It only retains parental **notification** which could be done after an abortion, leaving parents out of the decision.
Shouldn’t a parent be part of that decision for their daughter?

DECLINE TO SIGN the petition for this dangerous pro-abortion amendment!
Questions? Go to dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife.





SIMBANG GABI is a long treasured Philippine Christmas tradition that was originally a series of 'dawn masses' for nine consecutive days before Christmas Day.

Here in Cape Coral, we modified this tradition into only one day focused to the original objective of the celebration.

Join us for SIMBANG GABI on **Sunday, December 17** starting with a MASS at **4 pm** at Saint Katharine Drexel Church. The Mass will be followed by a POTLUCK reception in the Parish Hall.

For information, you may contact:

- Jeanne Isberto - 239-747-4568
- Rose Creus - 239-440-5555
- Juan Cordero - 239-989-9310
- Jun Santiago - 239-540-2634



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