SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL
PARISH IN CAPE CORAL, INC.

November 15, 2026 – **A Future Full of Hope: Growing Together in Faith**

Dear SKD Families:

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent parish survey. We are grateful to the 454 parishioners who took the time to complete the survey and share their preferences and hopes for the future of Saint Katharine Drexel Parish. Your responses reflect your love for our parish and your desire to see our faith community continue to grow and flourish.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the survey was the participation of both newer and longtime parishioners. Some of you have been part of our parish family for just a few years, while others have worshiped and served here for more than fifteen years. Each of you has contributed to making Saint Katharine Drexel the welcoming and faith-filled community we cherish today.

Our Worship Schedule: The survey revealed that parishioners were almost equally divided in their preferences for Sunday Mass times, with 51.3% favoring the on-the-hour schedule versus 48.7% preferring the half-hour schedule.

We recognize that changes to familiar Mass times can be difficult, especially for those who have faithfully attended the same Mass for many years. We understand and appreciate the importance of these traditions in your spiritual and family lives.

After prayerful consideration and based on the survey results, I have decided to move forward with the following Mass schedule, beginning the **First Sunday of Advent, November 28–29, 2026**:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am / 10:00 am / 5:00 pm

My decision will greatly benefit the parish. First, many neighboring Catholic parishes celebrate Mass on the half-hour. By offering our Sunday Masses on the hour, we provide additional options for parishioners and families when schedules, responsibilities, or unexpected circumstances make attendance at their usual Mass difficult.

Second, our 5:00 pm Sunday Mass will provide the only Sunday evening Mass opportunity in Cape Coral and the surrounding area. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve not only our own parishioners but also others seeking to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

While Mass times may change, the heart of our parish remains the same: Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist, drawing us together as one family of faith.

Planning for Our Parish's Future: Your survey responses also provided valuable insight into the future needs of our parish.

Nearly three-fourths of respondents (74.4%) agreed or strongly agreed that our parish has outgrown its current facilities. This is an important message. As our parish continues to grow, we

must consider how best to provide welcoming and functional spaces for worship, faith formation, fellowship, and ministry.
When asked which projects you would support, 66.7% favored renovating and expanding parish facilities to meet our growing needs. Even stronger support, 74%, was expressed for purchasing our current rectory, thereby eliminating ongoing Diocesan costs associated with rental, maintenance, and taxes.

These responses are encouraging. They demonstrate a willingness to consider both the immediate needs and long-term stewardship of our parish resources. Together, we have an opportunity to build upon the sacrifices and generosity of those who came before us while preparing for the generations who will follow.

Looking Ahead to a Capital Campaign: Perhaps one of the most hopeful findings was your response to the possibility of a capital campaign. More than half of respondents (53.1%) indicated that they would definitely consider supporting a campaign, while another 42.5% indicated that they might consider participating.

Together, 95.6% expressed at least a willingness to consider supporting these important parish projects. This is a very encouraging beginning, although we recognize that thoughtful planning, clear communication, and continued discernment with Diocese of Venice - Buildings and Construction, will be essential as we move forward.

Your responses also showed that parishioners would welcome different opportunities for giving, including one-time gifts, monthly contributions, and longer-term pledges. We recognize that every household's circumstances are different, and any future campaign must respect those differences. What matters most is our shared commitment to the mission of our parish.
Moving Forward Together

Change is seldom easy. We understand that for many of our elders and longtime parishioners' familiar traditions, relationships, and routines are deeply woven into their lives. We honor that history and the faithful commitment that has helped Saint Katharine Drexel become the parish it is today.

At the same time, the Church is always called to look forward with faith and hope. The same Holy Spirit who has guided our parish through the years continues to lead us into the future.

Our goal is not simply to change schedules, renovate buildings, or raise funds. Our goal is to strengthen our parish family, deepen our relationship with Christ, and create opportunities for future generations to encounter His love.

As we begin this new chapter, we ask for your prayers, patience, understanding, and continued support. Your willingness to walk together in faith matters.

May God bless you and your families, and may Saint Katharine Drexel continue to intercede for our parish community.

United in the holy Eucharist,

Father Ricky M. Varner