

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic

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THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

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OFFICE HOURS

M, T, Th, F 9:00am-3:00pm

Closed Wednesday



Last words of St. Stephen of Hungary:

“To thee, O **QUEEN** of **HEAVEN**,
and to **THY GUARDIANSHIP**,
I commend the **HOLY CHURCH**,
all the **BISHOPS** and **CLERGY**,
the **WHOLE KINGDOM**,
its rulers and inhabitants;
but **BEFORE ALL**, I commend
MY SOUL to **THY CARE**.”



SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Daily Mass: T, W, TH, F - 8:30 AM

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM & 11:15 AM

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Joseph Gates

Operations Manager: Richard Lind

Sacramental Coordinator: Chris Malone

Liturgy Coordinator: Lydia Herrera

Maintenance & IT: Ernie Nolder

Maintenance: Roger Rodriguez

Data Entry: Tom Moline

JANUARY 1, 2023



TUESDAY

8:30am

Req. By:

JANUARY 3

+POOR SOULS

Kay

WEDNESDAY

8:30am

Req. By:

JANUARY 4

+MARIA ADELAIDE SIMUES

Da CUNHA

Carnahan Family

THURSDAY

8:30am.

Req. BY:

JANUARY 5

+BARBARA FERENTINOS

A Friend

FRIDAY

8:30am

Req. By:

JANUARY 6

+RICHARD ROBINSON

Friends

SATURDAY

4:00 pm

Req. By:

2nd Int.

Req. By:

JANUARY 7

+FLORENCE GOSSELIN

Her Children

+NANCY ANN RIZZO

Husband & Children

SUNDAY

9:00am

Req. By:

2nd Int;

Req. By

11:15am

Req. By:

2nd Int.

Req. By:

JANUARY 8

+JERRY KAHN

Sharon Deitzle

BERNADETTE BORJA B-day

Mom & Dad

+ MARY BORDEN

Her Sister, Lois

+ROSALIE COHICK

Best Friend

**NOW, WHILE WE HAVE TIME,
AND THE TIME IS OURS,
LET'S GIVE OUR NEIGHBORS
OUR BEST EFFORTS,
AND GOD OUR PRAISE.
— ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading 18::Nm6:22-27

Psalms: 67:2-3,5-6,8

Second Reading: Gal 4:4-7

Gospel Reading: Lk 2:16-21

SACRAMENTS:

Contact the Office

Baptism: For registered & active parishioners: **Baptism instruction is required for Parents.**

Reconciliation:

Saturdays 2:00-3:00 PM

In the main Church Or by Appointment

Weddings: Must be arranged with the pastor at least **6 months before the date** desired.

Last Rites & Anointing of the Sick

Due to the Distance from Parrish Manatee Hospital:

St. Joseph: 941-756-3732

Sacred Heart: 941-748-2221

Lakewood Ranch Hospital:

Our Lady of the Angels: 941-752-6770

Doctor's Hospital Sarasota:

Incarnation: 941-921-6631

St. Patrick's: 941-378-1703

DO NOT WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE

Funerals: Please contact the Office for a meeting for Dates, Readings, and Music. There are certain policies in place at St. Frances Cabrini for the respectful burial of your loved ones.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



MONDAY STS. BASIL THE GREAT, & GREGORY NAZIANZEN

205: 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28

TUESDAY THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

206: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6 Ps 98:1,3c-4,5-6 Jn 1:29-34

WEDNESDAY ST. ELIZABETH SETON

207: 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1,7-9 Jn 1:35-42

THURSDAY ST. JOHN NEUMANN

208: 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1b-5 Jn 1:43-51

FRIDAY ST. ANDRE' BESSETTE

209: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15,19-20 Mk 1:7-11

Supporting our Diocese

Our Goal to support the Diocesan Offices, Missions, and Charities.

Goal: \$164,000.00

Raised So Far: **\$124,125.74**



Parish Focused Giving

Helping to relieve our Parish of St. Frances Cabrini Debt!
Debt Free by 2023

Goal: \$526,460.00

Raised So Far: **\$163,018.950**

2022 Catholic Faith Appeal

Every year, the Diocese of Venice places a goal for each parish to provide a certain amount towards an overall needs of the Diocese. For 2022, **our Parish responsibility is \$164,000.** Our hope is to fulfill our obligation early and ensure our support for these essential programs for the Southwest Florida community. We ask if you have any additional resources you wish to support Catholic organizations with, that you donate to the Catholic Faith Appeal. Your support, which is fully tax deductible, will provide assistance to thousands in our area.

Parish Groups

Saturday's

That Man is You (Men's Group)
6:30am-8:00am

Sunday's

Faith Formation (Pre-K—5th Grade)
10:15am-11:00am

Tuesday's

Divine Mercy Cenacle
9:15am

Knights of Columbus
Every Last Tuesday of the month
7:00 pm

Wednesday's

Confirmation Prep (9th Grade)
Confirmation Classes (10th Grade)
6:30pm—7:30pm

O.C.I.A

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults
7pm-9pm

Friday's

Bible Study
9:30am

Adoration & Rosary
8-8:30am (**Tues.-Friday**) in the Church
Adoration and Divine Mercy Chaplet
9am-2:00PM Every Friday

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

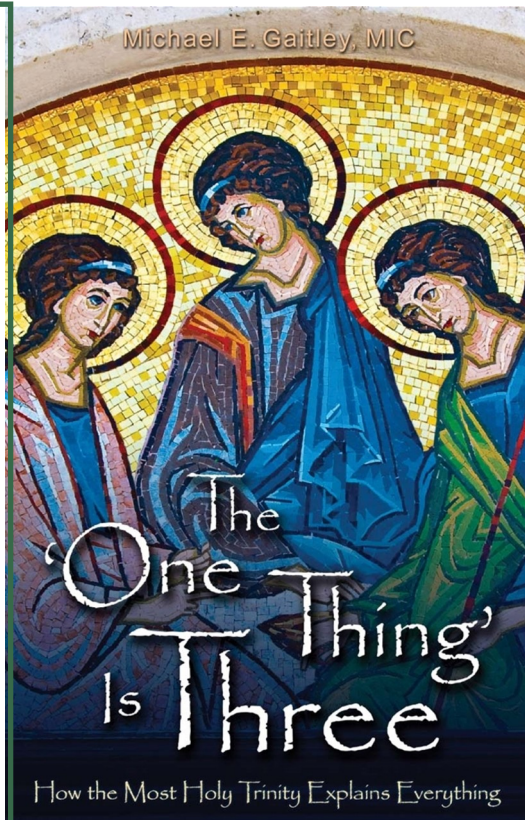
Starting

January 18th, 2023

-

April 26th, 2023

Wednesday
Evenings



12 Week
Retreat

Ongoing Adult
Faith Formation

6:30-7:30PM
In the Cabrini
Center

In this retreat we will find, “How the Most Holy Trinity Explains Everything,” and how Fr. Gaitley has made theology easy.

Registration is limited and required.
Please contact Richard Vaske (813-777-6640)

Books are available online for \$14.00

COUPLES WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS FEBRUARY 4 and FEBRUARY 18, 2023

All couples celebrating 24,30,35,40,45,50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in two locations: February 4th at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs at 11:00am, and February 18th at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, also at 11:00am. Please contact your local parish office for reservations no later than one week before the event.

JANUARY 1, 2023

Honoring Our Lady of Hungary and Saint Stephen

“Send, O Lord, Wisdom down from your glorious throne, that she may be with me and work with me, and that I may learn what is pleasing to you at all times.” – St. Stephen

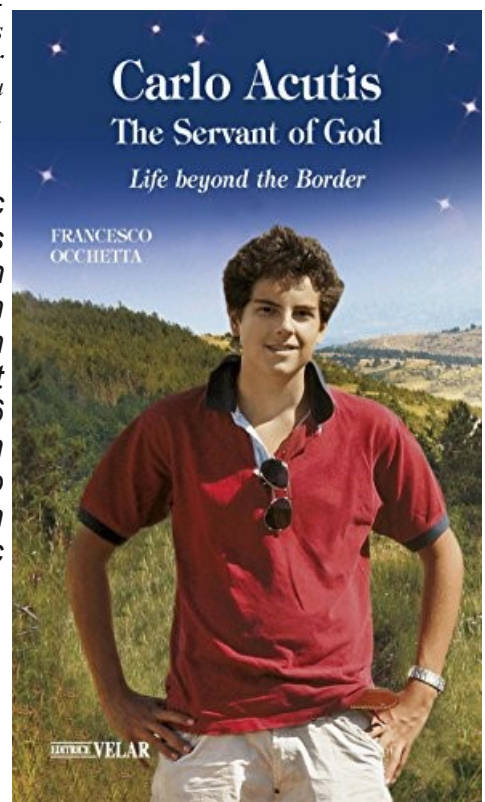
In August of 2015, the Basilica’s Chapel to Our Lady of Hungary was dedicated. Flanked by breathtaking reliefs and featuring a reredos mosaic of Our Lady, the chapel is dedicated both to the blessed Mother and Saint Stephen, the first Christian king of Hungary. This month, we not only celebrate the dedication of this chapel, but the Feast Day of Saint Stephen on August 16. Although Saint Stephen was raised by a pagan family, he decided to follow Christ at a young age. In A.D. 1001 on Christmas Day, Stephen assumed the throne as king of Hungary. Determined to unify the country under Christianity, he implemented a series of strict reforms to accomplish this goal. Under Stephen, pagan customs were outlawed. He accelerated efforts to evangelize, and built monasteries and churches across the nation. His rule was not without its difficulties; some of his nephews plotted to murder him, and his son Emeric suffered an early death from a hunting accident. In his later years, Stephen experienced excruciating health complications. Throughout his rule, Stephen offered assistance to the needy. On one occasion, he donned a disguise in order to sneak unrecognized into a dangerous district and deliver alms to the poor. Unfortunately, his attempt was foiled by a group of ruffians who attacked him and stole the money he had on hand. Saint Stephen, however, reacted graciously, and continued his support of the impoverished.

Keeping Christ at the Center

In spite of his overwhelming responsibilities as ruler, he always made time for prayer, according to historians. Writing to his son Emeric, he once said, “The observance of prayer is the greatest conquest of true salvation.... Continuous prayer is purification and the remission of sins.” Saint John Paul II in his 2002 message to the Hungarian people, called Saint Stephen and his family “the first saintly Hungarian family.” Today, Saint Stephen remains the patron saint of Hungary. Saint John Paul II adeptly described his impact: *At the dawn of the millennium, the figure of King St. Stephen stands out. He founded the State on the firm rock of Christian values, and for this reason wanted to receive the royal crown from the hands of my Predecessor, Pope Sylvester II. Thus the Hungarian nation was founded in deep unity with the Chair of Peter and bound by close ties to other European countries, which shared the same Christian culture. This culture was the vital sap flowing through the fibres of the developing plant, which assured its growth and vigour, and prepared the extraordinary flourishing that was to come.*

In 2006, Péter Cardinal Erdő, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest and President of the Hungarian Episcopal Conference, petitioned the Basilica to establish a chapel in honor of Our Lady of Hungary and Saint Stephen. That year marked the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence. The chapel, which was dedicated on August 29 in 2015, was made possible through the generosity of the Hungarian Catholic Bishops Conference, the Hungarian Government, and Hungarian-Americans. The chapel features the following prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary: *“O God, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, you have given innumerable graces to our nation. Following the decree and tradition of our first King, Saint Stephen, we honor Mary, as our Queen and Patroness on earth. Grant that we may also have eternal joy with her in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”* (Nationalshrine.org)

Eucharistic Exhibition - As part of the National Eucharistic Revival, the Vatican Exhibit of the Eucharistic Miracles is visiting St John XXIII Catholic Church, in Fort Myers from February 9 to February 12. The exhibition will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from February 9 to February 11, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 12, in the banquet room at the Parish Life Center. The exhibition contains 146 Eucharistic Miracles by country and will be available in English and Spanish. This exhibition was designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis, who dedicated years to collecting information from historical records, maps and photographs of the Eucharistic Miracles that have taken place in several parts of the world.



THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

What St. Catherine of Siena would say to today's Bishops By Kathryn Jean Lopez

If you've ever dipped into the letters of St. Catherine of Siena, you know she is forever encouraging holiness.

She wants people inflamed with "blazing charity" and bathing "in the blood of Christ crucified." She wants to see people be who God made them to be and she wants his Church seeking to be worthy of her identity as the bride of Christ.

So, she would urge sisters and cardinals and the pope and lay people alike to "keep living in God's holy and tender love" and go on in some detail about how that might look in their specific lives.

Her letters were written during a time when the Church was in serious trouble. While the Black Death ravaged Europe, the papacy had relocated to Avignon, France, and several of the republics and principalities of Italy, including the Papal States, were at war with one another. Many clergy had fallen into corruption.

But Catherine's letters are as relevant today as ever, exuding universally applicable wisdom that makes it easy to see why she is recognized as a Doctor of the Church. More than 380 of her letters exist today, according to Sister Suzanne Noffke, OP, who edited a four-volume translation for Arizona State University (from which all quotes from her letters that follow rely on).

"She would write, it seems, to anyone she thought she might influence, whether for their personal good or of that of the larger Church," says Sister Noffke. "Her purpose was always deeper than the merely social or informational. She was primarily interested in the eternal dimension of personal lives and societal affairs."

Take, for example, one 1379 letter to a layman who would later become king of Naples — it could apply to every soul there is — then and now. In her typically encouraging style she opens: *"Dearest brother in Christ gentle Jesus ... I long to see you a courageous knight, fighting bravely for the glory and praise of God's name and the advancement and reform of holy Church."*

She continues: *"But be aware ... that you cannot do this well — you cannot be courageous and come to the help of holy Church — unless you first fight and make war against our three chief enemies, the world, the devil, and our weak flesh. These are the three chief tyrants that kill our soul so far as grace is concerned, no matter what our position, if we use the hand of our free choice to open the gate of our will and let them in."*

It's a caution to all to never neglect a daily examination of conscience. Scandals in the Church have everything to do with succumbing to evil, taking up the temptations of the world and forgetting the way of the Lord. And it's no wonder that our culture today has not found the way of the cross — or the Catholic moral teaching — compelling when a culture within some of the Church's highest ranks wasn't buying into it. Those making war against the tyrants in this way are not as liable to make the news, no doubt. But it is becoming increasingly and brutally clear that an evil rot needs to be rooted out of the life of the Church today. Writing in 1380 to Pope Urban VI, Catherine says: *"You cannot with a single stroke wipe out all of the sins people in general are committing within the Christian religion, especially within the clerical order, over whom you should be even more watchful. But you certainly can and are obligated to do it, and if you don't, you would have it on your conscience. At least do what you can. You must cleanse the Church's womb — that is, see to it that those who surround you closely are wiped clean of filth, and put people there who are attentive to God's honor and your welfare and the good of holy Church. ..."*

"And of what should we be afraid? Our captain on this battlefield is Christ Jesus. We have discovered what we have to do. Christ has bound our enemies for us and weakened them that they cannot overcome us unless we so choose to let them. So we must fight courageously and mark ourselves with the sign of the most Holy Cross." — St. Catherine of Siena

And she warns: *"Do you know what will happen to you if you don't set things right by doing what you can? God wants you to reform his bride completely; he doesn't want her to be leprous any longer. If your holiness does not do all you can about this — because God has appointed you and given you such dignity for no other purposes — God will do it himself by using all sorts of troubles."*

Perhaps that is exactly what has happened as light is being shone on places of darkness, as hurting in the Church can begin to find healing by coming out of darkness. The reforms made some two decades ago clearly were not enough — having, among other things, not put in place accountability for bishops accused of sexual abuse or harassment. Further reform, too, of the climate within the life of



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Seminaries and Church bureaucracies was needed. People have to be motivated by love and deeper conversion to Jesus Christ, holding one another to his standard with rigor and joy for the sake of all of our souls.

This is what St. Catherine was writing to Pope Gregory XI in February 1376: *"I see the infernal wolf carrying off your little sheep, and there is no one to rescue them. So I am turning to you, our father and shepherd, begging you in the name of Christ crucified to learn from him who with such blazing love gave himself up to the shameful death of the most holy cross to save this little lost sheep, the human race, from the devil's hands. Because of its rebellion against God, here are the devils, holding this sheep as their own possession."*

A letter written a month later gives more clues as to what she might have to say to Pope Francis these days: *"I tell you in the name of Christ crucified that you must use your authority. ... You are in charge of the garden of the holy Church. So [first of all] uproot from that garden the stinking weeds filled of impurity and avarice, and bloated with pride (I mean the evil pastors and administrators who poison and corrupt the garden). ... Use your authority, you who are in charge of us! Uproot these weeds and throw them out where they will have nothing to administer! Tell them to tend to administering themselves by a good holy life. Plant fragrant flowers in this garden for us, pastors and administrators who will be true servants of Jesus Christ crucified, who will seek only God's honor and the salvation of souls, who will be fathers to the poor."*

One civil and canon lawyer appearing on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) in recent weeks tapped into this plea, speaking as a mother who has encouraged the priesthood as a vocation in her house, insistent that the bishops open the doors wide to transparency if the Church is ever going to have a chance at re-establishing credibility in a world that needs the truth of the gospel.

Catherine seemed to hold nothing back in a February 1376 letter to a priest: *"Where is the purity of the ministers of God's Son? Reflect that just as you demand that the chalice you carry to the altar be clean and would reject it if it were dirty, so God, supreme eternal Truth, demands that your soul be pure and clean, without stain of deadly sin, especially the sin of impurity. ... These days we are seeing the exact opposite of the purity God requires! Not only are they not God's temples carrying the fire of God's word, but they have become stalls, lodging for pigs and other animals! They carry within the house of their souls the fire of anger, hatred, animosity, and ill will. For they harbor pigs, a filthiness that is incessantly rolling about within them like a pig in the mud. ... How bewildering to see Christ's anointed ones giving themselves over to such wretchedness and immorality!"*

Writing to another priest in early 1376, she commended him to be "bathed and drowned in the blood of God's Son" for strength "to follow in the footsteps of Christ. ... My soul longs to see you a true shepherd stripped of all self-centeredness. I would have you courageously keep your wide-open eyes fixed on God's honor and the salvation of other people. And do keep a good watch, lest the devil rob you of your sheep." It's hard not to think of the people who describe themselves as having been "raised Catholics" or the heartbroken parents who pray their children will raise their grandchildren Catholic.

Men of the cloth, and any known Catholic behaving badly — and this includes indifference to men who do evil in their ranks — doesn't help and are deep wounds on the Body of Christ. Again, in the latter half of March 1376, Catherine wrote to a cardinal: *"I say you are a pillar to keep this bride's home safe. So you must be strong, not weak; for weak things topple with the slightest wind — whether that wind is difficulty, or some wrong that may be done to us, or too much of the world's abundance and prosperity, pleasure and grandeur."*

In that same letter, she seems to offer advice to Catholics tempted to give up on the Church, saying we must "invest our affection, our desire, our love in something stronger than ourselves — I mean in God, the source of all strength. He is our God who loved us without being loved."

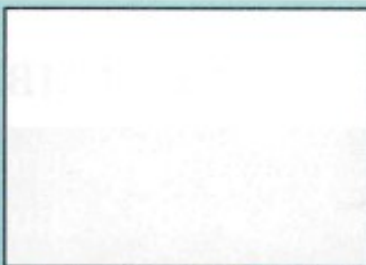
"And once we have discovered and experienced such a gentle love, strong beyond all other strength, we cannot cling to or desire any other love but him," she continues.

Today, as lay and clerical voices alike insist on thorough, independent investigations, justice and reform, we can find in St. Catherine's letter to that cardinal a powerful rallying cry to leadership for ordinary Christians.

"Shame, shame, on our human pride, our self-complacency, our self-centeredness, when we see how good God has been to us, how many gifts and graces he has given us — and not because he has to but because he wants to! Obtuse as we are, we seem not to see or feel this love so hot that, if we were made of stone, it would long ago have burst us open! ... I can see no other reason except that the eye of our understanding is not on the tree of the cross. For there is revealed such warm love, such gently persuasive teaching filled with life-giving fruits, such generosity that he has torn open his very body, has shed his life's blood, and with that blood has baptized and bathed us. We can and should make use of that baptism every day with continual remembrance and great love." Reading Catherine's letters we are reminded we are in this journey — which is about eternity — together. (Angelusnews.com) *Edited*

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