THE NEW COVENANT

When the prophet Jeremiah coined the term “new covenant” he was actually doing something quite radical. For the Jewish people, there was only one covenant, the one made between the Lord God and Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai. For Jeremiah to suggest that God would somehow supersede the covenant with a new one would have sounded audacious to Jewish ears. But in this way he is a predecessor of Jesus who, in the Gospel of John, is continually portrayed as superseding the past, establishing the reign of God in a new way. And in today’s Gospel passage, Jesus the “new covenant” speaks the language of his “new commandment” of love when he tells of the dying grain of wheat, and of our own need to die to self in order to be raised with Christ. As Lent ends and we prepare to enter into Holy Week, the dying grain of wheat serves as an excellent symbol of the kind of dying and self-sacrifice to which disciples are called, a symbol of that new covenant written deep within our hearts.
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2015

I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
~ Jeremiah 31:33

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT. MARCH 21- SUNDAY VIGIL MASS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30 †Chuck Leonard by Bob &amp; Elsie Martinelli</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 †Kitty Sliva by Bev &amp; Steve Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<th>SUN. MARCH 22 -</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 ♥†People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 †Ginny Franz by Sheila &amp; Andy Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 †Frank Perciasepe by Guy &amp; Sarah Beekman</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 †Irene Aubuchon by Tina Jacobik</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 Latin Mass</td>
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<td>5:00 †Marie Shaffer by Children</td>
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<tr>
<th>MON. MARCH 23 -</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 †John &amp; Marie Rotte</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 †Shirley Burcenski by Carole Morelli</td>
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<tr>
<th>TUE. MARCH 24 -</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 †Stephen Hally by Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 ♥Sp. Intention for Teresa Smith by Patricia &amp; Frank Smith</td>
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<th>WED. MARCH 25 -</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 †Ann Hoynos by Tom &amp; Beverly Sheehan</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 †Jean Grabosky by Charles &amp; Claire Burke</td>
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<tr>
<th>THU. MARCH 26 -</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 †Ann &amp; Howard Staples by Anne Tatler</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 †Antoinette Wellner by J. Rodas &amp; C. Ryan</td>
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<th>FRI. MARCH 27 -</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 †Bishop Untener by Bob &amp; Ruth Untener</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 †Jacob Daniel Hansen by Katherine Nagle</td>
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<tr>
<th>SAT. MARCH 28 -</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 †Sophie Gaffney by Husband James &amp; Son James Jr.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT. MARCH 28- SUNDAY VIGIL MASS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30 †Saverio Micillo by Daughter &amp; Grandson</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 †Dolores Laporta</td>
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<tr>
<th>SUN. MARCH 29 -</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 ♥†People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 †Jean Donato by Resurrection Women’s Guild</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 †Ed, Em &amp; Ralph Kobylarecz by Friedl Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 †John Savino by Mr. &amp; Mrs. Conte</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 Latin Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 NO YOUTH MASS</td>
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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — I will make a new covenant; I will write my law upon their hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34) or Ezekiel 37:12-14.

Psalm — Create a clean heart in me, O God (Psalm 51) or Psalm 130.

Second Reading — Christ learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:7-9) or Romans 8:8-11.

Gospel — If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit (John 12:20-33) or John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45].


TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

As we approach Holy Week, the creative juices of the ancient church of Jerusalem begin to shape our journey. In old Jerusalem at this season of the year, the attempt was made to recall the events leading up to Christ’s passion. Those attempts were based not only on time, with celebrations of events as close to the day and hour as possible, but also on people’s best guesses as to the actual place of these events. Vast numbers of pilgrims flooded the city during the forty days of Lent, many of them catechumens in their last stages of preparation for initiation. The fourth-century Spanish nun Egeria wrote a delightfully detailed diary of her experience of this lively and aerobic liturgy, which involved hearty singing, strong preaching, and nimble processions across vast and arduous terrain.

Much of this energy was lost over the centuries, with the procession of palms a noteworthy exception. Northern climates had to reinterpret this Jerusalem liturgy, using forsythia, willow, or olive branches, but to this day the entry into Holy Week by a community on the move accompanied by joyful song hearkens back to a venerable tradition. Egeria’s letters were rediscovered a little more than a hundred years ago, but they reveal a pattern of prayer: full, conscious, active participation, to which we have a right and a duty.

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

NEW GIFT SHOP HOURS

Thurs. 8:20 - 10:00
Sat. 2:30 - 5:00
Sun. 8:00 - 1:00

RESURRECTION PRAYER LINE MINISTRY
For prayer requests or to sign up as a volunteer call: 481-1170.

PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS - Please join us every Thursday immediately after the 8:00 Mass to pray for priests.
Guidelines for the Reception of Holy Communion
(Promulgated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Nov. 1996)

For Catholics
As Catholics, we fully participate in this celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians
We welcome our fellow Christians to the celebration of this Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ’s prayer for us “that they may all be one” (Jn 17:21). Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires prior permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of church law.

For those not receiving Holy Communion
All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians
We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and unity of the human family.

WEEKLY OFFERING
March 15, 2015
Reg. Offertory: $27,395.66
CRS: $7,390.00
SVDP: $900.00
Latin Mass: $426.00

Thank You

2015 CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL
Our assessment for this year is $360,000.00
Pledges made thus far Total: $219,971.28
Payments made thus far Total: $147,864.62, Thank you!
We still need $212,135.38 to pay our assessment.
Please join our parish family in making a sacrificial gift to the CFA
**Lent** is the preparation for the celebration of Easter, the heart of the paschal mystery. It is a time to meditate on the passion and suffering of Christ, and to look forward to His resurrection.

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**DIOCESE OF VENICE LENTEN REGULATIONS**

All Christ’s faithful are obliged by divine law, each in his or her own way to do penance. However, so that all may be joined together in a certain common practice of penance, days of penance are prescribed. On these days, the faithful are in a special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, to fulfill their obligations more faithfully, and to deny themselves especially by observing the fast and abstinence according to the laws of the Church.

The following are the Lenten penitential regulations issued for the Diocese of Venice in Florida.

**REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE**

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, and Good Friday, April 3, are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat.

**Fasting** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 years and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

**Abstinence from meat** is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday are all days of abstinence. It should be noted that if a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self denial that are suitable to their condition.

**Fastings, almsgiving and prayer** are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

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**LENTEN PRAYER**

**To See With The Eyes of Christ**

Grant, all mighty God, through the yearly observation of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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.

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**LENTEN SCHEDULE**

Schedule for this Lenten Season (Feb. 18 - Apr. 5):

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
10:00AM - Wednesdays of Lent

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**
Each Friday of Lent - (Except Good Friday)
Adoration begins after 9:30 Mass for 1 hour

**RECONCILIATION**
Every Friday Evening 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Every Saturday Morning 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

“Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy” ~ Pope Francis

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God of times and seasons, you have brought us again to Lent - for the study of your Word, for the remembrance of the temptation of your Son, and for the contemplation of his cross.

The birds know their seasons; forbid that we be blind to our times. Grant us a Lenten blessing, and may no one miss this time of growth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
LENTEN REFLECTIONS BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

March 22nd, 2015 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

The “Hour” Comes

Our readings today are filled with anticipation. The days are coming, Jeremiah prophesies in today’s First Reading. The hour has come, Jesus says in the Gospel. The new covenant that God promised to Jeremiah is made in the “hour” of Jesus - in His death, resurrection, and ascension to the Father’s right hand.

The prophets said this new covenant would return Israel’s exiled tribes from the ends of the world (see Jeremiah 31:1,3-4,7-8). Jesus too predicted His passion would gather the dispersed children of God (see John 11:52). But today He promises to draw to himself, not only Israelites, but all men and women.

The new covenant is more than a political or national restoration. As we sing in today’s Psalm, it is a universal spiritual restoration. In the “hour” of Jesus, sinners in every nation can return to the Father - to be washed of their guilt and given new hearts to love and serve Him.

In predicting He will be “lifted up,” Jesus isn’t describing only His coming crucifixion (see John 3:14-15). Isaiah used the same word to tell how the Messiah, after suffering for Israel’s sins, would be raised high and greatly exalted (see Isaiah 52:3). Elsewhere the term describes how kings are elevated above their subjects (see 1 Maccabees 8:13).

Troubled in His agony, Jesus didn’t pray to be saved. Instead, as we hear in today’s Epistle, He offered himself to the Father on the cross - as a living prayer and supplication. For this, God gave Him dominion over heaven and earth (see Acts 2:33; Philippians 2:9).

Where He has gone we can follow - if we let Him lead us. To follow Jesus means hating our lives of sin and selfishness. It means trusting in the Father’s will, the law He has written in our hearts.

Jesus’ “hour” continues in the Eucharist, where we join our sacrifices to His, giving God our lives in reverence and obedience - confident He will raise us up to bear fruits of holiness.

Permission to reprint given by Nate Roberts, St. Paul Center

www.salvationhistory.com

Sanctuary Flowers for Easter Celebration

To memorialize a loved one, in celebration of a birthday or anniversary, as a thank you, or to honor someone special in your life, Easter Flower Offering envelopes are located at the church entrances and also included in the monthly envelope packets. Write the name of the person to honor and your name on the envelope and return via the collection basket or drop off at the parish center. The envelopes will be placed on a pedestal near the sacred altar for the octave of Easter as a spiritual offering to our God. Please drop the envelopes in the collection basket or bring them to the parish office by Palm Sunday, March 29th.
PLEASE HELP FEED THE HUNGRY!

Your food donations will help St. Vincent DePaul, Catholic Charities, CCMI, Soup Kitchen, South Ft. Myers Food Pantry. Drop food in boxes at vestibules in the church or Parish Center. The following is most needed: Canned fruit & vegetables (corn/peas/carrot/green beans), Canned meat (tuna/chicken/sausages/ham/Spam), Spaghetti noodles and Sauce, Ready Macaroni and Cheese, Maseca flour (small bags), Canned diced tomatoes, Tomato sauce, Cereal, Canned soups (prefer chicken), and Dry beans (pinto/red/ kidney).

Thank you and God Bless!

Fifth Sunday of Lent


Reflecting on God’s Word

One of the earliest pictures of Jesus I can remember portrayed him at prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. I still see his hands, clasped tight. They spoke to me of an inner struggle long before I knew about his words, “Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will” (Mark 14:36). More than any other scene in the Gospels, this one brought home what it meant to say Jesus was truly man.

Today’s Gospel has been called John’s version of the agony in the garden. The word agony (agonia in Greek) means struggle, and we can hear the struggle in Jesus’ awareness that “the hour” he has spoken of before in John’s Gospel, beginning at Cana, has finally arrived. It is the hour of his being lifted up—the hour of both his glory and his crucifixion. It is why he came into the world, and yet we hear him say, “I am troubled.” We hear him wrestling with himself, asking for release from the hour, but then recognizing that it holds “the purpose for which I came.”

Hebrews affirms this when it says “he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence” (5:7). He was able to bear the suffering and become the source of eternal salvation for all who listen to him and follow in his steps.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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Living God’s Word

Loving God, give us a new heart in these final days of Lent, a heart that carries within it your loving spirit, that we may always know your will and yield to it, even when it calls for a dying of some kind. In such dying, may we trust that you will bring forth new life.

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ARE YOU NEW TO RESURRECTION PARISH?

We would like to welcome you to our parish family. In order to better serve you, please fill out a registration card which is located at the entrances of the church and leave it with an usher or put it in the collection plate. You may also register by stopping by the church office. A reminder that one needs to be a registered member of a parish in order to be a Baptismal or Confirmation sponsor.

LOVE AND DEATH

Unhappy is death without the love of the Savior; unhappy is love without the death of the Savior.

—St. Francis de Sales

RISKS

I risk being wrong if I trust too much. But I risk living in torment if I don’t trust enough.

—Anonymous

Church Of The Resurrection
Annual Lenten Fish Fry
Presented By:
Resurrection Men’s Club
March 27
Serving from 4:30PM Until it’s GONE!

Cost: $10 per person

Menu:
Fish (Fried or Baked) w/ Tartar Sauce
French Fries
Macaroni & Cheese
Cole Slaw
Homemade Clam Chowder
Dessert
Coffee or Lemonade
Dinner Roll & Butter

Fundraiser to Benefit Parish Charities
**RESURRECTION CALENDAR**

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

- **Adoration**, First Fridays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- **Bereavement & Beyond Ministry**, Every Monday, 8:30 am. Alouise 481-8168
- **Coffee & Donuts**, Sundays after 10:30 Mass
- **Craft Club**, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
- **Men’s Club**, 2nd Monday of month, 7:00 p.m., Sept. - May
- **Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena**, Saturdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, church
- **Prayer for Priests**, Thursdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, chapel
- **RCIA**, Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., call 482-6883 for information
- **Rel. Ed.**, September - May
- **Resurrection for Life**, 2nd Wednesday of Oct, Jan, Apr, 9 a.m.
- **Rosary**, before daily Masses and Tues. & Thurs., 1:30 p.m., chapel
- **Rosary Makers**, 3rd Thurs every month, 9-11 a.m.
- **St. Vincent DePaul Board Meeting**, 1st Tues. every month, 7:00 p.m. For SVDP assistance call 239-600-6749
- **Teams of Our Lady**, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
- **Women’s Guild**, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30 a.m. Sept. - May

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**MINISTRY OF THE SICK**

The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:

* Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by Blessed Pope John XXIII Parish, 561-2245
* Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
* Lee Memorial and Hospice at 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.

**TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:**

To protect your privacy, hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission. If you wish a visit from one of the Resurrection priests please notify the hospital as well as the parish office, 481-7171 as quickly as possible.

Resurrection priests visit the above hospitals daily upon request.

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**Build Community Connections**

All are invited

- Share common interests
- Books, Movies, Hobbies, Art, History....
- Find new friends in faith
- Discover, Share, Enjoy!

**Resurrection Goes to lunch**

At Olive Garden

12870 S. Cleveland Dr.

**Thursday @ Noon - April 9**

Call to reserve your space by April 7.

Dutch Treat - Separate checks

Jesus calls us to share meals with each other!

Call 481-7172 to reserve your spot!

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**MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE RESURRECTION MEN’S CLUB BY ATTENDING THE ST. PATRICK’S DAY DINNER AND DANCE. THIS YEAR’S ATTENDANCE WAS EXCELLENT!!**

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**RESURRECTION 2016 MASS BOOK OPENS WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 9:00 A.M.**
This week’s Sanctuary Candle:

In loving memory of Andrew Cariello

by Sister Doris & Family

RESURRECTION FOR LIFE

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ABORTION CLINIC AT 3900 BROADWAY, FT. MYERS EVERY 2ND SATURDAY (after the 8:00 Mass) FOR THE ROSARY. AND TUESDAYS FROM 7:30 AM AND THURSDAYS FROM 11:30 UNTIL CLOSE. WE ALSO PRAY EVERY MONDAY AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD, CORNER OF WINKLER & COLLEGE ANYTIME BETWEEN 9 AM AND 1 PM.

PREGNANT? NEED HELP? CALL 239-772-4673

Attention Men of the Parish- You are invited to attend the Wednesday Gospel Forum at 7:00AM at Webster’s Grill on Cypress Lake Dr. behind La-Te-Da Salon. We read and discuss the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday and end at 7:50AM so that you can get to work or Mass on time. We meet every Wednesday and you may attend it whenever you can. For additional data you may call Ange Ford at 216.496.0269 or email ajford@hotmail.com

PREDOMINANT NEELED

We are still in need of ushers. If you are able to volunteer please call John at 481-3456.

Catholic Chamber of Commerce News-

We look forward to seeing everyone on March 26th for our next Catholic Chamber of Commerce light lunch and networking meeting at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Ft. Myers. Time 11:30-1:00. We invite all businesses and ministries. Please join us for free refreshments. No charge to attend meetings. Non-members welcome.

ENCOURAGE MEETING - The next meeting of EnCourage, an apostolate for parents and other relatives of those who have same-sex attraction, is Wed. Mar. 25, 7:15 pm at Resurrection Parish. For more information please contact the Office of Evangelization at 941-484-9543 or evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org.