PASTOR: Rev. Msgr. Stephen E. McNamara, V.G., V.F.
Parochial Vicars: Fr. Oliver Toner, Fr. Thomas Kelly, Fr. Murchadh O’Madagain
Deacons: Rev. Mr. Michael Esper, Rev. Dr. David Reardon
Business Manager: Bonnie O’Connell
Co-Directors of Faith Formation: Deanna Latell, M.A., Joanne MacPeek, M.A.
Youth Ministry Director: Vikki Melchiorre
Organist: Connie Kish

SUNDAY MASSES & CONFESSIONS: See inside
BAPTISMS & MARRIAGE: For these Sacraments please notify the church office as soon as possible so that we may advise you of the requirements. Thank you.
NEW PARISHIONERS: Please fill out registration card and return to ushers or the church office.
RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Tel. 482-6883 or 481-7172
RELIGIOUS ARTICLES STORE: Tel. 437-9876
The Gift Shop is located in the front of the church
RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE: Tel. 482-6883
YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE: Tel. 481-5144
PARISH OFFICE: Tel. 481-7171 or 481-7172
Fax: 481-8007, www.resurrectionch.org

MARCH 6, 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

A SUNDAY FOR REJOICING

Today’s Gospel story of the prodigal son is a favorite of many. We can identify with all the major figures and their crisscross of emotions. The father’s initial grief over his young son’s avarice is turned to relief at his return. The son’s grief over his loss of fortune, family, and friends is turned to delirious joy at the sight of his father.

We understand the eldest son’s bewilderment over his father’s generosity. For the older son, virtue seems not to be its own reward. For all his honorable toil and loyalty, there seems to be no celebration. The father, however, is prodigal in his forgiveness and mercy. He expects the same generosity from his older son. He wants all to rejoice when the lost one is found.

This is a Sunday for rejoicing. It’s time to pause, consider, and encourage one another. We are the prodigal children heading home. We are the elder siblings waiting with the eager Father, who scans the horizon. In Christ Jesus we are reconciled to the Father and one another. In his death and resurrection we have passed over. We are a new creation. In this we rejoice.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 6, 2016

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.
— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Today’s Readings
First Reading — God’s people enter the promised land, observe the Passover, and eat of the produce of the land (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12) or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.
Psalm — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34) or Psalm 23.
Second Reading — We are now ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) or Ephesians 5:8-14.
Gospel — We must rejoice when our brother who was dead in sin repents and comes back to life (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we journey through the Season of Lent and continue to celebrate the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invites each of us to reflect and to respond to Christ’s call on how we concretely serve the poor and vulnerable.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is one of the programs daily responding to that call. CRS assists families suffering from war, hunger, natural disasters as well as extreme poverty. Often the families themselves are scattered due to these very factors. Further, CRS provides a broad range of services including advocating for the poor, providing humanitarian aid, resettling displaced individuals and families while always working for increased peace in our world.

In one community, CRS staff provided plans for simple houses with frames that could be collapsed. The families contributed labor and local materials. Together with the CRS staff, those affected built clean and spacious dwellings; homes which have dramatically changed their quality of life. Still, when the families will return to their villages one day, the plan is for them to take their new collapsible frame houses with them.

We all learn of many stories of human tragedy through the media and these affect us in our own personal ways. Funding allows for the good work of CRS agencies to help many of those afflicted and in need. Should you wish to learn more of how CRS assists around the world, please go to http://www.crs.org/.

The CRS Collection will take place in the Diocese of Venice the weekend of March 5 and 6, 2016. Please be generous in the CRS Collection. This is one more opportunity for each of us to express compassion and generosity in the Year of Mercy.

I take this opportunity to assure you and your family of my continued consideration as well as my prayers during this Lenten Season. Thank you for the good that you do for others!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

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CONFESSIONS - Saturdays 2:15-3:15 or 30 min. before Sunday Masses or by appointment.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS…….all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, especially Terry Reid.
WEEKLY OFFERING

February 28, 2016

Offertory: $29,090.55
Latin: $658.00
SVDP: $689.00

Thank You

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle C
March 6, 2016

First Reading
Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
The Israelites celebrate the Passover in the promised land.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 35:2-7
A prayer of praise to God.

Second Reading
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Paul preaches our reconciliation with Christ.

Gospel Reading
Jesus teaches about forgiveness in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

Background on the Gospel Reading
The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behavior of the father.

First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honor the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honors him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.
EASTER FLOWERS

We thank the many parishioners and visitors who contribute toward our beautiful Easter flowers. Easter flower envelopes are gathered near the altar, as they represent the prayerful remembrances of our beloved living and deceased. Included in your envelope packet or at each entrance of the church there are Easter Flower donation envelopes for your convenience. Please submit prior to March 25.

TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR LENT -

Tired of giving up candy, cigarettes, desserts, etc. for Lent? How about giving up a little more time (about fifteen minutes a day) and spend it reading the Gospels? By reading three chapters a day, you can move through the four Gospels during the season of Lent. This is a perfect Lenten activity for families. For those who don’t want to carry the Bible around, there is a reading list in an APP at www.truthandlifeapp.com. This will allow anyone to carry the Gospels with them and take fifteen minutes during a work break, while exercising or while travelling. This year, don’t give up; rather give time to God.

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. 10, and Good Friday, March 25, 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 in 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.

Fasting, 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.

Schedule for this Lenten Season

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

(Feb. 12th - March 18th)
After the 9:30 a.m. Mass – Each Friday of Lent
(Except Good Friday)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

In the Chapel for quiet, private Adoration following Stations, until 12:30
Each Friday of Lent
(Except Good Friday)

RECONCILIATION

Friday March 4, 2016: noon - 11:00 p.m.
Saturday March 5, 2016: 9:00 a.m. - noon

PRAYER AND THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

LENTEN FAITH SERIES
WITH FR. O MADAGAIN

TUESDAYS: MAR. 8, 15, 22
WE WILL BEGIN WITH LIGHT HOR’S D’ŒUVRES IN THE PARISH HALL AT 6:00 PM

Lent is a time of renewal, for the whole church, for each community and for each believer. Above all, it is a time of Grace.

~ Pope Francis
MINISTRY OF THE SICK

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:

When admitted to the hospital please register as Catholic and notify the parish office immediately, 481-7171.
Resurrection priests visit the hospitals daily.
To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission.

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

* Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by St. 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

Jubilee Year of Mercy
March 6, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Lent

On Laetare Sunday, we rejoice as Luke’s Jesus proclaims that God is boundlessly merciful. The parable’s prodigal son returns home, not authentically repentant but desperate, having squandered on prostitutes (or so his older brother claims) the inheritance wrongly demanded while his father still lived. This selfish son is only spared ritual “shaming” when the father “shames” himself, running to embrace him, interrupting his prepared “act of contrition.” By doing so he challenges confessors, and all of us, to be signs, says Pope Francis, “of the primacy of mercy always, everywhere, and in every situation, no matter what.” Avoid the harshness of the elder son, Francis warns, “who stands outside, incapable of rejoicing,” his judgment “severe, unjust, and meaningless in light of the father’s boundless mercy” (Misericordiae Vultus, 17). If John’s Gospel is proclaimed, the “religiously observant” people there likewise serve to warn against harshly judging others, for the physical blindness of the man they expel from the synagogue is healed, while their own blindness of heart remains.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
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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, 8:30am.
For more information call Alouise 481-8168
Coffee & Donuts, Sundays after 10:30 Mass beginning Oct. 4
Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Men’s Club, 2nd Monday of month, 7:00p.m., Sept. - May
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, church
Prayer for Priests, Thursdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, chapel
RCIA, Sundays, 3:30p.m., call 482-6883 for information
Rel. Ed., September - May
Resurrection for Life, for info, call Judy at 287-1237
Resurrection Prayerline Ministry, call Deanna Latell 481-1170.
Rosary, before daily Masses and Tues. & Thurs., 1:30p.m., chapel
Rosary Makers, 3rd Thursdays Oct. thru May, 9-11 a.m.
St. Vincent DePaul Board Meeting, 1st Tues. every month, 7:00 pm. For SVDP assistance call 239-600-6749, or email, svdp@resurrectionch.org
Teams of Our Lady, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
Women’s Guild, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30a.m. Sept. - May
RESURRECTION MEN’S CLUB
ANNUAL ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARTY
MONDAY MARCH 14th, 2016

DOORS OPEN AT 4:30PM
SERVING AT 5:30PM

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE PARISH CENTER

$20.00 EACH IN ADVANCE

$25.00 ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT

MENU:
Corned Beef and Cabbage
Parsley Potatoes/Carrots
Bread/Rolls
Coffee
Dessert

BEER AND WINE AVAILABLE
(Refreshments may not be brought into the Hall by guests)

****** FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT PARISH CHARITIES ******
Jubilee Year of Mercy

**Year of Mercy** - December 8, 2015 marked the start of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, called by Pope Francis to spread the message of mercy throughout the world. The Year of Mercy continues until November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King. Information regarding the Year of Mercy can be found at http://dioceseofvenice.org/jubilee-year-of-mercy/.

**Visiting the Holy Door** - During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is encouraging everyone to make a pilgrimage to a diocesan cathedral or any other designated church where there will be a Holy Door of Mercy. In the Diocese of Venice there are two such locations: Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Ave. W., Venice, and Our Lady of Mercy Parish (note the name), 240 Park Ave., Boca Grande. Epiphany Cathedral has extra hours Monday through Thursday, 6:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Fridays, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Sundays all day. At Our Lady of Mercy Parish the extra hours are Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Additional hours for pilgrimages will be available by contacting the respective parishes. For Epiphany Cathedral please call 941-484-3505, and for Our Lady of Mercy please call 941-964-2254.

**Plenary Indulgences** - During the Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis has announced that the opportunity for a plenary indulgence will be made available. The indulgence removes all the temporal punishment due to sin for those who meet the conditions of receiving the said indulgence. During this Jubilee Year, there are two ways to obtain a plenary indulgence:
* Make a pilgrimage to a Holy Door, pass through the door, and ask for God's mercy,
* Perform a Spiritual or Corporal Work of Mercy.

To obtain the Plenary Indulgence for the Jubilee Year, the following conditions must also be met. It is ideal to meet these conditions on the day of the indulged act. They can also be met within a week before or after the act:
* Receive the Holy Eucharist,
* Go to Sacramental Confession,
* Pray for the Holy Father’s intentions,
* Have the intention to be completely detached from sin.

A plenary indulgence during the Jubilee Year can be received multiple times, but a maximum of once a day.

**For the homebound, incarcerated and similar situations** - Giving the greatest amount of consideration to those who may be unable to go through a Holy Door, Pope Francis allows the granting of the indulgences for them. These individuals are encouraged to fulfill the other requirements to the best of their ability.

**Prayer from Pope Francis** - The Holy Father, Pope Francis has offered a prayer for the faithful to be recited during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. This prayer provides another opportunity for the family to pray together.

**Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year of Mercy**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!” You are the news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.
MEN’S GOSPEL FORUM -
Fridays at 7:00 a.m. at Sweet Bean Coffee Café, McGregor Blvd.. Call Ange Ford for more information, 216-496-0269.

JOIN US FOR THE LENTEN FISH FRY
March 11, 18
SERVING FROM 4:30 UNTIL GONE

MENU:
FISH WITH TARTAR SAUCE, FRENCH FRIES, COLESLAW, MACARONI & CHEESE, COFFEE OR LEMONADE, BREAD & BUTTER, DESSERT, CUP OF HOME MADE CLAM CHOWDER

COST: $10.00

ALL ARE WELCOME!!


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COST: $10.00

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

**News from the Diocese.............**

**Magnificat** - All women are invited to a breakfast sponsored by Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women. The breakfast will be held Saturday, March 19, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the Holiday Inn Airport at Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers. Our speaker is Mother Lucille Cutrone, a founding member of the Community of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal (CFR). Since the time of her final vows, in 1995, she has served as General Superior. The aim of the CFR Sisters is to live the Gospel in simplicity according to the ideals of St. Francis, as handed on by the Capuchin tradition. Under Mother Lucille’s leadership, the community has grown to three convents in the Archdiocese of New York, one mission in England and another mission in Ireland. Please send a $20 check, payable to Magnificat Fort Myers, to Joanne Tarantino, 3315 Bermuda Isle Circle, Unit 128, Naples, FL 34109, 239-631-6661, or Shirley Ruehl, 11451 Pembroke Run, Estero, FL 33928, 239-949-7015. Requests must be postmarked by Friday, March 11.

**Institute for Catholic Studies and Formation** - Wednesday Morning Adult Faith Formation Video-Conferencing Sessions are now underway. The free sessions are available simultaneously through the Institute’s centrally-located video-conferencing sites (see attached flier for the nearest location). The weekly sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue for approximately 90 minutes. Attendees can go to any location they choose and need not participate in each session. For further information about the scheduled topics and speakers please visit http://institute-dov.org.

**NET Retreat** - The Office of Youth and Young Adults invites all 8th to 12th graders to attend the sixth annual High School NET Retreat at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center in Venice. This retreat will take place from Friday, March 11 to Sunday, March 13. The National Evangelization Teams (NET) are comprised of young adults who travel the country facilitating exciting retreats and invigorating the Catholic faith of young people. The cost is $100 and includes meals and accommodations. For information and registration please contact George L. Smith at gsmith@dioceseofvenice.org or 941-484-9543. This retreat meets the Confirmation Retreat Requirement.

**Theology on Tap** - This exciting program for young adults (18-39), allows them to learn about the faith while building community. Theology on Tap is held at various parishes throughout the Diocese. Each location hosts a series of weekly talks and discussions on relevant topics in a relaxed atmosphere. Free babysitting, icebreakers, trivia, and food and drinks are provided... BYOB. Upcoming dates are as follows:

**Naples Area** - Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at rotating Parishes: First Tuesdays at St. John the Evangelist Parish; Second Tuesdays at St. Agnes Parish; Third Tuesdays at St. Peter the Apostle Parish; Fourth Tuesdays at St. William Parish.

**Catholic Charities Tours** - During the Year of Mercy, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc., is offering bus tours to its four locations throughout Collier County. Sign up and discover the work of Catholic Charities! Tours will be held on the last Wednesday of every month. Journey from the Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center in East Naples, to Guadalupe Social Services in Immokalee, with two stops at Catholic Charities locations in Golden Gate. Those who have taken the tour in the past remarked on the difference it has made in understanding the programs and services of Catholic Charities. If you are looking for ways to practice the Corporal Works of Mercy, please contact Catholic Charities to register for a tour at maryshaughnessy@catholiccharitiescc.org or call 239-455-2665.

**Win a brand new 2016 Jeep Wrangler** - The entry donation for the car raffle is $100 per ticket. The drawing for the winner will be held during the Venetian Charity Ball on Saturday, March 12 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win. Proceeds will benefit the programs and services of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. in Lee, Hendry and Glades counties. For more information and ticket purchase, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 239-337-4193 or email VenetianBall@cslee.org.

**Silent Ignation Retreat** - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center in Venice invites those interested to an Ignatian Preached Retreat from Sunday, April 3 to Wednesday, April 6. This is a silent retreat that includes scheduled conferences each day, Mass, and an opportunity to meet with the retreat director. The topics center on Ignatian spirituality, prayer, and discernment. There will be opportunities provided for private prayer where the retreatant may bring into their own spiritual life those elements discussed within the conferences. Scripture passages will be provided for personal prayer and meditation. All rooms are single occupancy with a full size bed and private bathroom and shower. Retreat Cost is $395. For more information or to register for a retreat please call 941-486-0233 or email gazo@olph-retreat.org.

**Chriism Mass** - The Chriis Mass which takes place during Holy Week every year will be held at Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Ave. W., in Venice, Tuesday, March 22 at 10:30 a.m. During this Mass, the faithful of the Diocese join the Deacons, Priests and Bishop Frank J. Dewane for the blessing of the Holy Oils which are used in the administration of the Sacraments at each parish throughout the year. Deacons and Priests celebrating 25 and 50 years of Ordination are recognized at this Mass. All are encouraged to attend in support of our clergy and to participate in this important Holy Week celebration.
LOCAL COMMUNITY PREGNANCY CENTER IS IN NEED OF HELP

Resurrection for Life members ask you to help foster life by helping with your donation of much needed items. Community Pregnancy Clinic helps mothers with counseling and provides them with supplies for their babies that they cannot afford. The current needs are:

Disposable Diapers in Sizes 1, 3, 4, & 5 - This is the most needed item
Baby wipes (not adult wipes)
New Outfits Sizes Newborn - 6 months and used baby clothes - all sizes
New Sleepers Sizes NB - 12 months & Used all sizes thru 3T
Shampoo/Lotions
Teethers/Baby Toys
New knitted baby blankets, crib or bassinet size, gender specific pinks or blues - can be combinations of colors but should be more gender specific (i.e. pink with yellow, white, or other neutral colors), Hat/Booties
Maternity clothes, gently used are welcomed
Donations may be dropped off at the PARISH CENTER.
We thank you as do the moms, babies, and families you are aiding!

Thank you for your generous aid to this most worthy cause!

CHARACTER

A simple judge of my character is how I treat a person who can do absolutely nothing for me. - Anonymous

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 10:30 UNTIL CLOSE. WE ALSO PRAY EVERY WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD, CORNER OF WINKLER & COLLEGE ANYTIME BETWEEN 9 AM AND 1 PM.

Found Alive Again: Scott Hahn

Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Lent

In today's First Reading, God forgives "the reproach" of the generations who grumbled against Him after the Exodus. On the threshold of the promised land, Israel can with a clean heart celebrate the Passover, the feast of God's first-born son (see Joshua 5:6-7; Exodus 4:22; 12:12-13). Reconciliation is also at the heart of the story Jesus tells in today's Gospel. The story of the prodigal son is the story of Israel and of the human race. But it is also the story of every believer.

In Baptism, we're given a divine birthright, made "a new creation," as Paul puts it in today's Epistle. But when we sin, we're like the prodigal, quitting our Father's house, squandering our inheritance in trying to live without Him. Lost in sin, we cut ourselves off from the grace of sonship lavished upon us in Baptism. It is still possible for us to come to our senses, make our way back to the Father, as the prodigal does. But only He can remove the reproach, restore the divine sonship we have spurned. Only He can free us from the slavery to sin that causes us - like the prodigal - to see God not as our Father but as our master, One we serve as slaves. God wants not slaves but children. Like the father in today's Gospel, He longs to call each of us "My son," to share His life with us, to tell us: "Everything I have is yours."

The Father's words of longing and compassion still come to His prodigal children in the Sacrament of Penance. This is part of what Paul today calls "the ministry of reconciliation" entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and the Church. Reconciled like Israel, we take our place at the table of the Eucharist, the homecoming banquet the Father calls for His lost sons, the new Passover we celebrate this side of heaven. We taste the goodness of the Lord, as we sing in today’s Psalm, rejoicing that we who were dead are found alive again.

~ Scott Hahn
SAVE THE DATE

2016 Venetian Charity Ball
Please mark your calendars for the 2016 Venetian Charity Ball. Tickets for the 2016 Venetian Charity Ball held on March 12, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point are now on sale. Guests will enjoy an exciting and elegant evening of dinner, cocktails, dancing, entertainment and auction of a 2016 Jeep Wrangler. Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities programs and services in Lee, Hendry and Glades counties. Tickets are $225 per person. For more information, or to purchase tickets, make a donation, volunteer, or become an event sponsor, please call (239) 337-4193 or email VenetianBall@ccslee.org.

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 become a Baptismal or Confirmation sponsor.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW PARISHIONERS:

Taylor Fitori, Jack & Mary Peachey, Alfred & Jean Bruno.

May they experience the love of Christ here at Resurrection Parish and may we all help them feel welcome in their new church home.

Vietnam POW to Speak -

All men are invited to join us on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at the Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord. Our guest speaker will be Vietnam veteran and POW survivor, Guy Gruters. The title of his message is Forgiving Your Enemies. The program begins at 6 PM with pizza and refreshments ($10 donation) and concludes at 8 PM. Reservations are required and can be made on line at www.faithandale.com or by contacting your fellow parishioner, Dan Dougherty, at 239-839-3290.

Wanted for our Gift Shop -

Volunteers for just a couple of hours once or twice a month. Help us keep the Gift Shop open. If you can volunteer please call the parish office, 481-7171.

Magnificat - All women are invited to a breakfast sponsored by Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women. The breakfast will be held Saturday, March 19, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the Holiday Inn Airport at Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers. Our speaker is Mother Lucille Cutrone, a founding member of the Community of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal (CFR). Since the time of her final vows, in 1995, she has served as General Superior. The aim of the CFR Sisters is to live the Gospel in simplicity according to the ideals of St. Francis, as handed on by the Capuchin tradition. Under Mother Lucille’s leadership, the community has grown to three convents in the Archdiocese of New York, one mission in England and another mission in Ireland. Please send a $20 check, payable to Magnificat Fort Myers, to Joanne Tarantino, 3315 Bermuda Isle Circle, Unit 128, Naples, FL 34109, 239-631-6661, or Shirley Ruehl, 11451 Pembrook Run, Estero, FL 33928, 239-949-7015. Requests must be postmarked by Friday, March 11.

Vietnam POW to Speak -

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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.

Bishop Verot Theater presents

The Sound of Music

Friday March 11th at 7:00 PM
Saturday March 12th at 7:00 PM
Sunday March 13th 2:00 PM
In the Anderson Theatre