JESUS' MINISTRY SUMMARIZED
The story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead is the single longest story (apart from the Passion) in the Gospel of John. In it we find a summary of most of Jesus’ ministry. We see his very human nature as he is moved by Martha and Mary’s sorrows and as he himself weeps at the tomb of Lazarus. He is the wisdom of God's Word made flesh as he explains to his followers that the death of Lazarus will serve as a sign of the glory of God. He crowns the miracles he works in John’s Gospel (which began with the most “human” miracle of making new wine at Cana’s wedding) by raising Lazarus from the dead—a “preview,” if you will, of his own death and resurrection to come. This portrait of Jesus reminds us, as we near the end of our Lenten journey, that he is with us, knows us, understands us in every moment of our lives. He knows the joy of our human feasting, he knows the sorrow of our weeping. As we prepare to walk with him through the days of Holy Week, we are filled with faith that—through Christ—God's glory will be with us in every moment of our lives and—with Christ—in our life everlasting.
April 2, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice!
— Psalm 130:1

Mass Schedule

SAT. APR 01 - VIGIL MASS
3:30 †James Martin, Sr. by Mercedes Lima
5:00 †Jeanne Meyer by Bob & Rose Moffitt

SUN. APR 02 -
7:30 ♥†People of the Parish
9:00 †Mom & Dad Puccia by Larry & Val Puccia
10:30 †James Anthony Hall by John & Teresa Nicholson
2:15 Latin Mass
5:15 †Salvatore Pellitteri by Mom & Dad

MON. APR 03 -
8:00 †Ed, Em, Ralph Kobylarczyk by Paul & Darlene Friedl
9:30 †Tom Flynn by John & Connie Murphy

TUE. APR 04 -
8:00 †Ron Elliott by Wife
9:30 †Leona Frederick by Pat & Eileen Malloy

WED. APR 05 -
8:00 †James Dooley by Family
9:30 †Cecilia DeLuca by DeWolfe Family

THU. APR 06 -
8:00 †James & Mary Torella by Barbara & Thomas Ligotti
9:30 †Henry DiRusco by Ellen Show

FRI. APR 07 -
8:00 †Arthur Fleck by Family
9:30 †Jean Bonanno by Jim & Ellie Rangus

SAT. APR 08 -
8:00 †Mary Mochrie by Husband, Ken

SAT. APR 08 - VIGIL MASS
3:30 †Micheal Aronica by Wife
5:00 †Gordon Lee by Wife

SUN. APR 09 -
7:30 ♥†People of the Parish
9:00 †Claude W. Nicholson, Jr. by John & Teresa Nicholson
10:30 †Sister Patricia Redmond by Jim Redmond
2:15 Latin Mass
5:15 †George Delgrossio by Donna Cook

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

CURRENT GIFT SHOP HOURS
Thurs. 7:50 - 10:15 a.m.
Sat: 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Sun. 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
THE GIFT SHOP IS LOCATED AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH

THE GIFT SHOP IS LOCATED AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH

This Sunday’s Readings:
First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14
Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11
Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

Background on the Gospel Reading
Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A’s focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today’s Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John’s Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today’s reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders’ growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus’ obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus’s resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha’s sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus’s tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus’ death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus’ impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus’ own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus’ tomb.

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin’s power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all, and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.
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, March 1, and Good Friday, April 14, 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. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “pascal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection.

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 (Through April 16)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

(March 3rd - April 7th)

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 12:00 noon
Each Friday of Lent.
(Except Good Friday)

There will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the Reconciliation times listed below.

RECONCILIATION

Friday April 7, 2017: 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday April 8, 2017  9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Lighthouse Catholic Media Kiosk

Check out one of our newest CD’s:

The Body and Blood of Christ by Dr. Scott Hahn

In this informative presentation, Dr. Scott Hahn, a former Presbyterian minister, provides the biblical basis for the Church’s teaching on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the significance of the Feast of Corpus Christi, and gives us a greater understanding of our vocation to be the living presence of Christ in the world.

Parishioner Comments

This is an excellent tool for catechesis! I am using it in the ‘Why Catholic?’ program. ~Joe - Huntley, IL

Dr. Hahn explains the foundation and significance of the Feast of Corpus Christi and how we are all a part of the Body of Christ. ~Megan - Norwalk, CT

LOOK -
Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, faith looks up.
~Anonymous
WEEKLY OFFERING

March 26, 2017

Offertory: $27,769.40
CRS: $7,935.00
Latin Mass: $309.00
SVDP: $635.00

Thank You

CATHOLIC EDUCATION FUND

This week a Second collection will be taken up for the Church of the Resurrection Catholic Education Fund.

This fund is specifically designed to provide financial aid to needy and deserving children in our parish who otherwise would not receive a Catholic education.

Our gratitude to all who consistently and generously support this endeavor

REGISTER BY APRIL 18th!

Contact the Faith Formation office at: 482-6883

PROCLAIM

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
10TH ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE
JULY 14-16, 2017

We are seeking an enthusiastic and knowledgeable Middle School Science teacher to join our school family and enrich our student’s love of learning. Interested candidates must be fluent in 21st Century Educational Technology, and can email their resume with a cover letter to Mr. John Gulley, school principal at john.gulley@stfrancisfortmyers.org

Players...Sponsors... SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, April 21st

THE FOREST COUNTRY CLUB
April 21st, 2017
Check-In @ 12:00-Noon
Keeping the fun in fundraiser.

For information on sponsorships and registration
Contact: Roseann Albertario
Phone: 239-461-0233, ext. 201
Email: ralbertario@afcaam.com

AFCAAM acts as a compass directing children toward the values of Leadership, Fellowship, Stewardship and Citizenship
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

A society is best judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members.

~ Anonymous

We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life - the unborn - without diminishing the value of all human life.

~ Ronald Reagan, former U.S. President

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, Mondays, 10:00 a.m. For more information call 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
Men’s Gospel Forum, Fridays 8:30 a.m.
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, Sundays, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass, for info, 482-6883
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., 1:30 p.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
Team of Our Lady, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
Women’s Guild, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30 a.m. Sept. - May

HELP SAVE LIVES IN FORT MYERS!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 725,000 volunteers!

With God’s help ... we’ve seen proven results in 19 coordinated campaigns:

• 12,668 babies saved from abortion
• 141 abortion workers converted
• 75 abortion centers closed

Here’s how to take part:

• Vigil location:
  Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood
  8595 College Parkway, #250, Fort Myers
• Vigil hours: 8 am to 8 pm daily
• Local contact: Mike Ziegler
  239-400-0090
  mike40days4LifeFM@gmail.com
• Learn more and get involved by visiting our campaign at the address below!

Visit: 40daysforlife.com/fortmyers to sign up for the vigil hours you would like to pray throughout the campaign!
JOIN US FOR THE LENTEN FISH FRY

April 7
SERVING FROM 4:30 UNTIL 6:00
(or until fish is gone)
Cost is $10.00
Baked & Fried Fish Fillets,
French Fries,
Coleslaw, Clam Chowder,
Mac & Cheese, Dessert,
Bread & Butter,
Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Calling All Moms...
You are invited to share in a new ministry for mothers!

SWF Catholic Moms: Where mothers are nourished, strengthened and cherished, and families are celebrated!

Come join fellow Moms......
Every first and third Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 in the Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall

For more information contact Amanda Gavini at:
239-222-0452 or girlyamanda@yahoo.com

PLEASE JOIN US EACH 1ST FRIDAY FOR ADORATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 8:00 MASS

A Meditation from the Diary of St. Faustina, entry 1485 -
Jesus: I am your strength, I will help you in the struggle.
Soul: Lord, I recognize your holiness, and I fear you.
Jesus: My child, do you fear the God of Mercy? My holiness does not prevent Me from being merciful. Behold, for you I have established a throne of mercy on earth - the tabernacle - and from this throne I desire to enter into your heart. I am not surrounded by a retinue or guards. You can come to me at any moment, at any time; I want to speak to you and desire to grant you grace.

JESUS IS LORD PRAYER GROUP
Please join us every Wednesday night from 7-8:30PM in the Parish Center for prayer, praise and faith sharing.
**MORNING SESSION**

**BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT & FIRE**

“Jesus came to baptize us in the Holy Spirit, the power and grace that comes from the baptism in the Holy changes lives. In this segment we discuss what the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is all about.”

**WEDNESDAY**

10:00am - 11:30am

April 5

Parish Center

Fr. Dave Pivonka,
DVD series

**EVENING SESSION**

**THE SPIRIT CONVICTS**

“The Spirit of God convicts us of our sin not to condemn us but to convert us. In this segment we will see how the Spirit draws us closer to Christ by revealing to us our sin.”

**WEDNESDAY**

7:00pm - 8:30pm

April 5

Parish Center

ALL ARE WELCOME

For Questions: Call 481-7172

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**RESURRECTION FOR LIFE**

**PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ABORTION CLINIC AT 3900 BROADWAY, FORT MYERS EVERY 2ND SATURDAY (after the 8:00 Mass) FOR THE ROSARY.**

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**Novena of Masses for Life**

Celebrate Mass on the 25th of each month from the Annunciation to Christmas for a greater respect for all human life.

See the schedule of Masses throughout the Diocese of Venice at www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife.

Diocese of Venice Respect Life
1000 Pinebrook Road
Venice, FL 34285
941-441-1101

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**relevant radio**

“Witnessing Faith with Bishop Dewane”

Listen the last Friday of every month at 10:30 a.m.

Listen anywhere online at RelevantRadio.com
“Where is God, if evil is present in our world, if there are men and women who are hungry and thirsty, homeless, exiles and refugees? Where is God, when innocent persons die as a result of violence, terrorism and war?... These are questions that humanly speaking have no answer. We can only look to Jesus and ask him. And Jesus’ answer is this: ‘God is in them.’ Jesus is in them; he suffers in them and deeply identifies with each of them.”

Pope Francis, Way of the Cross at World Youth Day 2016

When Bad Things Happen

John 11:1-45

In today’s Gospel a friend of Jesus is dying, and Jesus purposely waits before going to him in Bethany. By the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus has died, and his two sisters are distraught. If Jesus had come at once, he could have healed their brother!

Both women profess their faith in Jesus as Lord and their belief that they will be reunited with their brother in eternity, but they are grieving deeply. The painful question that hangs in the balance is: Why did Jesus allow this bad thing to happen to Lazarus? Jesus answers this question earlier in the passage when he said this was all part of a plan to reveal God’s glory.

The story of Lazarus is a precursor to what will happen next week when God allows Jesus to die on the cross and then raises Jesus from the dead. What seems to be a terrible tragedy will be transformed into the greatest miracle of all time. As people of faith, we understand that even in the darkest moments of our lives there is a promise of new life, new hope, new energy, and new possibilities.

For Reflection

» Do you believe that God will give you the strength you need to get through all things?

» Can you recall something bad that happened in your life that ultimately resulted in something good?

» In what ways have you grown stronger because of the trials in your life?

Lent Trivia

1. How many times does Jesus fall in the Stations of the Cross?

2. Who helped Jesus carry his cross?

3. When does Lent officially end?

Answers on reverse.
What Is Faith?

As Catholics, the essence of faith is believing in Jesus Christ, the son of God, who revealed truths about his loving and merciful Father, about life and death, about our relationships with other people, about the power of the Holy Spirit, and about eternity. But faith is more than just believing. Faith is a lifelong process of growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, making a personal commitment to follow in his footsteps, and deepening our understanding of what it means to be his disciple.

Catechism CONNECTION

“The Paschal mystery of Christ’s cross and Resurrection stands at the center of the Good News that the apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the world. God’s saving plan was accomplished ‘once for all’ by the redemptive death of his Son Jesus Christ.”
— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 571

Family Focus

It is not easy to explain to children why bad things happen. Start by acknowledging that everyone has difficulties in life but we know that God will help us. Explain that Jesus died on a cross but three days later God brought him back to life on Easter Sunday. That’s why we believe that even though something bad happens, God can make something good come from it.

Lenten Prayer

This week’s prayer, by St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, asks for help in difficult times:

“O Lord, we ask for a boundless confidence and trust in your divine mercy and the courage to accept the crosses and sufferings which bring immense goodness to our souls and that of your Church. Help us to love you with a pure and contrite heart, and to humble ourselves beneath your cross, as we climb the mountain of holiness, carrying our cross that leads to heavenly glory. Amen.”

Comforting the Sorrowful

The word “bereaved” has roots meaning “to be torn apart.” When someone dies, bereaved people experience a deep emotional wound. It is no surprise that comforting the sorrowful is a work of mercy. One of the best ways to comfort someone who is grieving is to listen. Don’t try to change the way the person is feeling. Just listen. And while you are listening, pray for the person who is grieving.

Answers: 1. Jesus falls three times. 2. Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry the cross. 3. Lent officially ends at sundown on Holy Thursday.
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. 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.

DON’T DELAY REGISTER NOW!

When: June 13-16, 2017 (Tuesday thru Friday)
Time: 9am—Noon
Where: Resurrection Parish Center
Who: Kids from Pre-K thru 5th grade
Cost: $30 for 1 child
$50 for 2 children
$65 for 3 children
(Discount applies to Siblings only)

Building Faith and Friendship!
Saint Francis Xavier School welcomes you to join our family, tradition and journey with Christ. We are a Blue Ribbon School, accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference. Established over 75 years ago, Saint Francis Xavier School provides our students with an exemplary academic education built upon a Catholic foundation of spirituality and compassionate humanity.

**Mission**
Our mission is to Be like Christ in all we think, do and say, while experiencing the joy of learning.

**Core Values**
Character, Citizenship, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service

**Education You Can Believe In**
In 1938, four Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York, courageously accepted God’s call and opened St. Francis Xavier School, the first Catholic school in Southwest Florida. Over the last 75 years, the original class of 68 students has grown to include more than 6,500 alumni. What makes St. Francis different is its dedication to academic excellence, founded on our Catholic faith, and its commitment to making a Catholic education affordable and accessible.

**Why Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School?**
- Qualified, experienced, dedicated and talented staff
- Cutting-edge technology including smart boards, iPads, laptops and computer labs
- Faith-based education connecting Catholic beliefs and values with everyday life
- Recess and specials including Art, Band, Computer, Media, Music, Physical Education, and Spanish
- Various extracurricular clubs and activities such as: American Heritage Girls, Art Club, Chess Club, Chorus, Cub Scouts, Instrument Program, National Junior Honor Society, News Crew, Performing Arts Program, Running Club, Student Council, and S.T.R.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering and Math)
- Competitive Sports for 5th - 8th grade students including basketball, cross-country, soccer, track and field, and volleyball

**The results speak for themselves!**
- Eighth grade students from Saint Francis Xavier School consistently earn 30-50% of the half-sibling scholarships offered by Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers.
- 99% of St. Francis Xavier School students go on to pursue higher education.
- Private and public school administrators agree that students from Saint Francis Xavier School are the most prepared for success entering high school.