Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

Luke 1:38
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2017

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

Luke 1:35

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38
The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke’s Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist’s announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary’s example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel’s message that God’s Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel’s news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God’s own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary’s response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God’s wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God’s salvation. Mary, already full of God’s grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God’s saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience.
WEEKLY OFFERING
December 17, 2017

Offertory: $21,090.18
Latin: $274.00
SVDP: $890.00

Thank you!

This week’s
Sanctuary Candle:
For Baran and Lanoue Families
by Ed Baran Family

The Priests, Deacons, and Staff of the Parish wish you every blessing this Holy and Happy Season.

NO Coffee & Donuts on 12/24 and 12/31
Will resume on Sunday, January 7th
All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Sunday, December 24th
3:30pm Children’s Christmas Pageant
4:00pm Mass and Children’s Choir
7:00pm Schola Choral Prelude
7:30pm Mass /Choir & Congregational Singing
9:30pm Schola Choral Prelude
10:00pm Mass/Choir & Congregational Singing

Monday, December 25th
7:30am Mass/Cantor & Congregational Singing
9:00am Mass/Cantor & Congregational Singing
10:30am Mass/Cantor & Congregational Singing
1:15pm Latin mass
“Jesus the Healer of Souls and Bodies”
Presenter: Dr. Mary Healy
Thursday, January 11th, 2018
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
St. Columbkille
Tickets are $15.00
Available Online December 15th

All women are invited from all parishes to join us for a light dinner and a glass of wine. For more information and to register please visit:
www.faithandwineleeounty.com

Or mail a check payable to Faith & Wine Lee County. Include attendee name(s), address, telephone number, email and parish.
Mail to: Julie Richards
6946 Pickadilly Ct, Fort Myers FL 33919

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

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.

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
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 8:00a.m. Mass, church
Prayer for Priests, Thursdays after the 8:00a.m. Mass, chapel
RCIA, Sundays, after the 9:00a.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., 1:30p.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
Music Announcement!!
Come join the "Children’s Choir" at the 10:30 Mass on the first Sunday every month!

The music will be chosen specifically with our younger parishioners in mind.
We will meet in the choir room one-half hour before Mass to warm up and review.
Anyone who would like to serve as the cantor should see Connie to sign up for a specific month.

Children's choir will take place on:
   Jan. 7, Feb. 4,
   Mar. 4, Apr. 1, and May 6.
In addition, we will also sing at the Children's Mass on Christmas Eve (4:00 pm, 12-24-17).

If you have any questions, please call Connie (239-464-3437) or the Parish Office.
Looking forward to seeing all singers this season ....
Let's make a joyful sound to the Lord!

SIX WEEKS WITH THE BIBLE
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 21
PARISH CENTER
10am - 11:30am

Begin 2018 as a “living bridge” to valuable insights into God’s purposes.

Through our readings of Scripture we can hear God speaking to us, challenging us to join him in the Fulfilling of His purposes!
Jan. 10 - Introductions - Getting the Big Picture
Jan. 17 - HUMANS: A MARVELOUS GROUP
Jan. 24 - ISRAEL - GOD’S PILOT PROJECT
Jan. 31 - AHAB & JEZIBEL: POWER ABUSERS
Feb 7 - JESUS - CENTER OF GOD’S PLAN
Feb 14 - DISCIPLES - THOSE WHO SERVE
Feb 21 - THE CHURCH: YEAST IN THE DOUGH

ALL ARE WELCOME!
JOIN US ANY WEDNESDAY
BOOK GUIDES AVAILABLE $8.00
CALL TO RESERVE YOUR GUIDE
481-7172/AdultFaith@resurrectionch.org
**Feast of the Holy Innocents**
St. John XXIII Catholic Church  
13060 Palomino Lane  
Thursday, December 28 at 6:30pm

We will honor and celebrate the children of all ages that we have lost.  
We will remember, hear their names and celebrate the life we had with them. The grief we experienced taught us how to bear our sorrow and be able to listen and comfort others that have suffered such a loss.  
This Mass is presented to parents and family members who have lost children of all ages and by any circumstances: stillbirth, miscarriage, unforeseen situations, teenagers and adult children whose lives were lost due to accidents, addictions, suicide, or violence, extending this time of healing to as many members of our Faith Community as is possible.  
Please bring an unframed picture of your child that can be pinned on a display. If no picture is available, we will have mementos that can be used.  
All are welcome! There will be a social gathering after the Liturgy, so please feel free to bring friends or family members. This Mass is planned by your Parish Nurses along with our gifted staff at St. John XXIII.

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**Calling All Catholic Moms**
SEPT. 2017 - MAY 2018
JOIN US FOR HOT COFFEE,  
BRUNCH, CHILD CARE &  
FELLOWSHIP

1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS  
9:30AM TO 11:30AM

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION PARISH HALL  
8121 CYPRESS LAKE DRIVE  
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

QUESTIONS: AMANDA GAVINI 239-222-0452  
WWW.SWFCATHOLICMOMS.COM

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JOIN US FOR LUNCH &  
BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

January 12@ NOON - Join us in Conference Room Parish Center for Lunch & Conversation  
Reserve your lunch for $1000  
Call: 481-7172 or email: AdultFaith@resurrectionch.org

*January book: “Crazy Faith - Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives” by Susan K. Williams Smith*

"It hasn't been extraordinary people who have changed the world; rather, it's been people who have been willing to act and live on faith," observes pastor and author Susan Smith. Drawing on biblical, historical, and contemporary stories of what she calls "crazy faith," this inspirational volume challenges readers to dare to step out and make a difference in the world. Faith is "vision fueled by action," Smith declares. Follow in the footsteps of those who have earned a place in the Hall of Faith, including Moses, Harriet Tubman, David, Nelson Mandela, Sarah and Abraham, Mother Teresa, Noah, and Mary McLeod Bethune. “

February 9, March 9: Choices open from participants - Bring in your favorite suggestions
What will separate us ... from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? “What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Have you considered becoming Catholic? We are here to listen to your questions...

Inquiry Classes on Sundays Following 9:00am Mass
Please contact: Joanne MacPeek e-mail: AdultFaith@resurrectionch.org Phone: 239-481-7171

Jesus promises: “I will be with you always... yes to the end of time!”

What you did not do for one of the least ones, you did not do for me. ~ Matthew 25: 45

When ill - SVdP offers an assist to those at Salua Care. A beautiful young lady needed a prescription for an infection costing $207.00! We were blessed to assist.

When in prison - SVdP received a letter from a man in jail. We will assist him in getting clothing, housing and mental health care.

When Hungry - SVdP has food available for all in need. No questions. Food is prepared for Hispanic families, the homeless or those living in hotels.

When thirsty - SVdP provides water and juice to the poor. Prayer quenches the thirst for God’s love.

When a stranger - SVdP seeks out and finds those in need regardless of creed, ethnic background, health, gender or political background.

When naked - Clothing and diapers are provided. SVdP Thrift Shop referrals clothe those in need.

PLEASE DON’T FORGET THE POOR BOXES; THEY ARE THE BREAD BOXES OF THE POOR!

Project Rachel - Trust in the mercy of God's love. Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions? Share with them the Good News of God’s merciful love. Call Project Rachel for a confidential referral to those who can help at 888-456-4673, 239-719-7210 or e-mail Fonda.rachel@gmail.com
Catholic Charities Venetian Ball
Saturday February 3, 2018, 6:00pm
at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort,
Bonita Springs.
The evening will include a cocktail hour, auctions,
a raffle for a car and other exciting items,
dinner and dancing.
For information and tickets, visit
www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

Couples Celebrating Marriage
All couples celebrating 25, 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 Mass will be celebrated
in two locations:
11a.m. Saturday February 17, 2018
at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice and
10 a.m. Saturday March 10, 2018
at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs.
Check in parish office in January for more information.

2018 Women's Conference
Women of all ages are invited to a day filled
with the richness of our faith at the
2018 Diocese of Venice Women's Conference.
Saturday, February 3, 9-3pm
at Bishop Verot Catholic High School/Fort Myers.
Cost: $20 (pre-registration online),
students $5 pre-registration.
Cost at the door is $30, and $10 for students.
Speakers: Kimberly Hahn, Sonja Corbitt, Rosario Rodriguez.
To register go to dioceseofvenice.org/womens.

2018 Men's Conference
The Diocese of Venice extends an invitation to all men
who desire to encounter the presence of God to attend
the 2018 Men's Conference.
Saturday, February 24, 9-3pm
at Bishop Verot Catholic High School/Fort Myers.
Cost is $20 (pre-registration on line),
student preregistration $5.
Cost at the door is $30, and $10 for students.
Speakers: Dcn Harold Burke-Sivers, Patrick Coffin, Bob Rice.
To register, go to dioceseofvenice.org/mens
Advent Journey to Jesus Through Mary

Fourth Sunday in Advent

“To succeed in your intentions, entrust yourselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary always, but especially in moments of difficulty and darkness. ‘From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s will in things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God...Learn from her to be always faithful, to trust that God’s Word to you will be fulfilled, and that nothing is impossible with God.’”

-St. John Paul II

In this fourth and final Sunday in Advent, as we draw near to Christmas, the day commemorating the birth of Our Lord, we look attentively the words by a man whom entrusted his entire papacy to the Blessed Mother. St. Pope John Paul II took Totus Tuus as his Papal motto, meaning “Totally Yours” and is short for Totus Tuus Maria denoting his complete gift of self to Our Blessed Lady.

St. John Paul II was a man who had experienced great trial and tribulation brought about by extraordinary loss. By the time he was a young man he had already lost his mother, brother, and then father, yet read the words of this great Saint: “Turn your eyes incessantly to the Blessed Virgin; she, who is the Mother of Sorrows and also the Mother of Consolation, can understand you completely and help you. Looking to her, praying to her, you will obtain that your tedium will become serenity, your anguish change into hope, and your grief into love. I accompany you with my blessing, which I willingly extend to all those who assist you.”

In John Paul II we find a great model for consecration. It was he who consecrated the entire world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and he did so in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. What great an opportunity we have to welcome Christ into our hearts through the Immaculate Heart of Mary in this 100th Anniversary year of the apparitions at Fatima.

The entrustment of one’s life to Mary, which St. Pope John Paul II beautifully describes as taking her “into one’s own home,” should be understood as our following Christ’s example (He who first entrusted Himself to Mary at the Annunciation). As the Advent Season draws to a close and the final preparations are made for Christmas, we are called to imitate Christ by entrusting ourselves to the Immaculata, the Mater Misericordia, or “Mother of Mercy.” She will take us, all that we are and have, and present us lovingly to her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us conclude our Advent by journeying to Jesus through (and with) Mary as we pray: “O Mary, ...Guide them to the knowledge of true love and bless their affections. Support them in times of suffering. Make them fearless heralds of Christ's greeting...: Peace be with you! With them, I also entrust myself once again to you and with confident affection I repeat to you: Totus Tuus ego sum! I am all yours!

And each one of them cries to you, with me: Totus Tuus! Totus Tuus! Amen”