



HYMNS

Gathering 192 "Praise To The Lord"
Offertory 554 "Alle, Alle, Alleluia"
Communion 364 "I Am The Bread Of Life"
Sending 616 "We Are Called"

Pastor: Father Victor Ray



St. Francis' Mission is:

To live by Faith, be known by Love, and be a voice of Hope in order to give ourselves in service and better the lives of others.



From The Desk of the Pastor

In today’s reading from Leviticus, Leviticus makes it clear that in order to be holy as God is holy, there is a social dimension to it. And in the Hebrew Scriptures that social dimension involves loving, respecting and aiding our neighbor. However, the word “neighbor” in the Hebrew context is limiting. ‘Neighbors’ back then were relatives or tribesmen. The Hebrew people must care for and take their neighbor’s well-being into account.

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus does not deny that that is true, but he enlarges the concept of “neighbor”. He explains that God did not just create the world for the Jew, but the sun rises and sets on everyone – even bad people. So in the large communal scheme of things, we need to love, not just our relatives and close companions, but everyone in the world, and treat them as we would treat ourselves. If we only love those who love us, that isn’t a very large reach. But if we love those who don’t love us, who don’t know us, who in fact, may be trying to hurt us, our reward will be very great. We will be like God. We will be working to being perfect and holy. We can tell how holy and how perfect we are by examining how we treat other people. In the psalm today, Psalm 103, we see that the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love” – all qualities that relate to communal life, and all qualities that we can emulate to be like God.

**Liturgical Ministry
Schedule**

	GREETERS	ACOLYTE	1 ST READING	2 ND READING/ INTERCESSION	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
February 19	Nile Don	Barb F	Bill S	Jim H	Mike H
February 22		George R	Mary Lee	Mary Lee	George R
February 26	Terry W Deb F	Jim V	Ron L	Cheryl V	Anthony
March 1		Mike M	Jim V	Deb F	Terry W

St. Ignatius of Loyola
(Prayer after Communion)

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me. Amen

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1 = Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Responsorial Psalm = Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

Reading 2 = 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel = Matthew 5:38-48



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Meaning

Living with a perfectionist can drive us crazy! Often these “perfect” people are not only hard on themselves but also hard on everyone else around them. We tend to avoid perfectionists and perfectionism because we know we humans are anything but perfect. Quite frankly, we often drive each other crazy! And yet in today’s gospel Jesus bids us to be “perfect, just as [our] heavenly Father is perfect.” Had we been among his disciples so long ago, we might have responded to Jesus, “Get a life!”

However, Jesus’ call in today’s Gospel to “be perfect” is about relationships. To act toward others as God acts toward us takes quite a bit of readjusting in our thinking and doing. We must squelch our first impulses to strike out with hand and word.

Today, Jesus offers three examples from daily life, depicting relationships between people of unequal social, economic, and political status. The first example refers to a master striking a servant. Matthew is careful to specify that the person is struck on the right cheek: the blow was backhanded, a gesture which demeaned at least as much as it caused physical injury. The person who turns the other cheek refuses to be humiliated, indicating nonverbally that he has the same dignity as the striker.

In our treatment of one another – even those who are our enemies – we must treat each other with dignity and readjust our behavior to not “strike” another even if this is our first impulse. This does not mean that Jesus is asking for passivity, but an active love that reveals injustice for what it is without returning it in kind. It is a call to respond to evil by giving witness to God’s creative, salvific love in Jesus, a response worthy of people who are called to be God’s temple. What Jesus is asking us to do is look upon every other person, whether friend or foe, family member or stranger, as the beloved of God. Acting in this manner is being holy and perfect as God is, and is done not in dramatic ways but in simple everyday gesture of love, respect, and care.

Question: What helps me turn the other cheek when faced with injustice? How are my relationships a reflection of God’s love?



Let Us Pray for



- ✚ Leo and John's friend Terri Lynn Tausinger undergoing surgery. Prayer for Surgeon Skill and Rapid Recovery
- ✚ Christine Noonan, spouse of Lorraine Kerr, passed away peacefully at the Suncoast Hospice on Saturday, January 14, 2017. Soar with the Angels, Christine Noonan, we love you!
- ✚ Angelos McDowell 111. He was born last night but is having seizures. He is in NICU at Tampa General. His parents are Tiffany and Doc McDowell. My daughter's sister and Brother in law! Prayers for Healing.
- ✚ A dear friend of the St. Francis community, Mary Meier (spouse of Linda Ritchie), passed away on Christmas Day. Give her eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on her forever.
- ✚ Leo and John's Neighbor Joe Marek for cardiac issues. Prayers for Healing.
- ✚ Mark Talboom, dealing with health issues. Prayers for Healing
- ✚ D A and Dee dealing with health issues. Prayers for Healing.
- ✚ Ivy Villafana recuperating. Prayers for Healing.

- ✚ Those dealing with unseen issues affecting the heart, mind and body such as grief, depression and anxiety.
- ✚ For the lonely, the dying, those who have entered God's Eternal Kingdom and those who are grieving them.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PRAYER PETITIONS, PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, REQUESTS FOR VISITATION OR MEETING WITH A PRIEST....

Prayer leaflets are available on the Community Table. Please complete and drop in the offertory plate or contact a Council Member.

Requests will remain on the Prayer List 30 days unless otherwise requested.

MASS CARDS - Sympathy Mass Cards are available by contacting the church office (727- 234- 1380)

Bulletin Guy Inquiry: Please let me know who we need to pray for! The power of prayer works, but I need to know who we can all pray for.....



Upcoming Anniversaries and Birthdays:

Nancy O'Dell Birthday 2/29
Jon Laubscher/William Schwartz Ann 3/6
Sonny Griner Birthday 3/6
Lorraine Kerr Birthday 3/8
Patrick Ellingham Birthday 3/16
Jim Villafana Birthday 3/24

Belated Birthday John Korpela had a birthday on Wednesday Feb 15th

LOOKING AHEAD:



Feb 20 – Monday – Presidents Day
Feb 22 – Wednesday – Healing Mass at 7pm
Feb 24 – Saturday – Bingo at 7:30pm
Mar 1 – Wednesday – Ash Wednesday
Mar 3 – Friday – First Friday Mass at 6:30pm
Mar 12th – Sunday – **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** – Move clocks ahead 1 hour
Mar 14 – Tuesday – Council Meeting
Mar 15 – Wednesday – Clearwater Aids Partnership Client Dinner

CHOIR PRACTICE IS NOW ON TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6PM

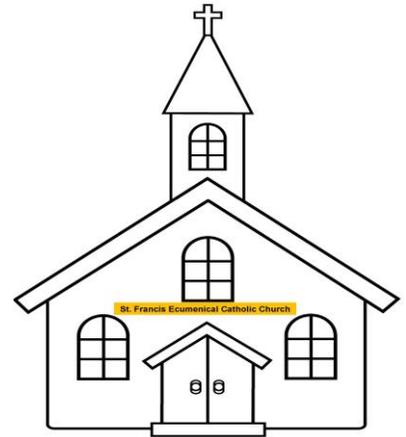
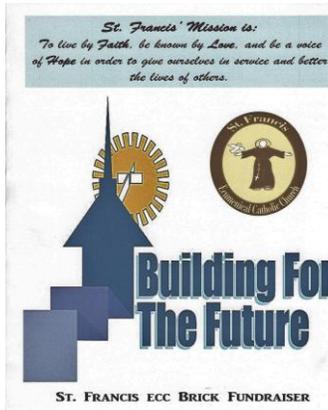
AIDS Partnership – Who We Are

- We seek to **REACH** out to those who are sick and suffering and to **TEACH** those who are under-informed how to avoid becoming infected.
- AIDS Partnership is composed of people from all faith traditions and all walks of life. Everyone is welcome to participate.
- All donations are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent allowed by law. Your gift is greatly appreciated.

SEE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE CALENDAR PAGE

REMINDER:

MOTIVATION (BUILDING AND IMPACT)
+ PRODUCT SALES (BRICK PROGRAM BI-FOLD)
= GOAL (St. Francis ECC Building)



St Francis Community Update

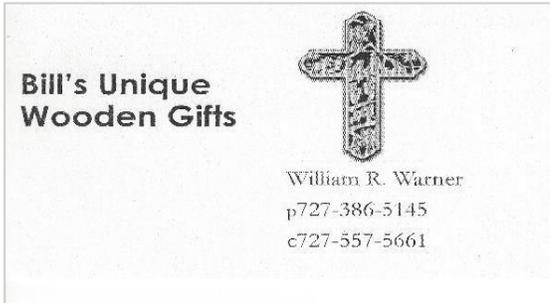
- **Housekeeping Note:** Please no food or drink in the Chapel area. Thank you for your cooperation!
- **Precious Times for a Priest:** Please be respectful of our Pastor's time before and after Mass. At the present time Father Victor does not have office hours. If you wish to meet with him, you are most welcome to email or phone him to arrange an appointment. Our Website contact page is setup for that purpose
- **Respect People's Personal Space:** During our sign of peace tradition, we at St Francis are quite zealous with our affection. Please be mindful of those that aren't as comfortable with hugs and kisses and remember, a soft-spoken word with an appropriate handshake or even an acknowledgement bow can go a long way!
- **Ministry Leaders:** Those who have volunteered for these positions are responsible for their Ministry and leading other who volunteer to assist within their ministries.
- **Prayers for Healing:** Florence Jean-Pierre will offer Prayers after Mass in the Chapel and before Mass by appointment only. Subject to her availability.
- **Choir Practice:** Every Tuesday at 6 pm. Come and Join!
- **Name Tags:** Please sign up on the Bulletin Board if you would like one.
- **Survey on Line:** Quiz – What is an Ecumenical Catholic? It's part humor, but could also help newer members to understand the "ECC Way". Go to our Website, ADS/LINKS Page, under saint-matthew.org/quiz.php
- **New Website Reality:** Clicks/Hits promotes St. Francis. Increases interest/membership. Help us with our mission to touch the lives of 5,000. Website has added a Latest Update below Father Victor's Bio on the Home Page. Check it out for quick access as to what's new.
- **PASS IT ON:** If you like something on Facebook or YouTube, **PLEASE PASS IT ON**. The more that see it, the more interest we might generate.



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**BULLETIN AND WEBSITE ADVERTISING
IS NOW AVAILABLE....
CONTACT THE BULLETIN GUY VIA CONTACT PAGE ON
THE WEBSITE UNDER MEDIA MINISTRY!**

ST. FRANCIS ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Largo, FL 33773
Phone: (727) 234-1380*

Website: www.stfrancis-eccl.org Email: info@stfrancis-eccl.org

*Father Victor Ray, Pastor
MASS Each Sunday at 10:30am
Followed by Coffee and Fellowship*

2017 Community Council

Leo Champagne, Chair 727-215-3217
Jim Villafana, Vice Chair 727-288-6177
Larry Roush, Secretary/Treasurer 727-437-7556
Jon Laubscher, Council at Large 727-350-3778
Terry Winslow, Council at Large 727-397-1709
Mike Heimsath, AdHoc 727-656-2000

*Father Victor Ray Office
Hours
Are Currently By
Appointment Only.*

*Please use Contact Page
To Email Father Victor.*

MINISTRIES

- Financial – Larry Roush – financial.stfrancis@gmail.com
- Hospitality – Ivy Villafana – hospitality.stfrancis@gmail.com
- Liturgical – Jim Villafana – liturgical.stfrancis@gmail.com
- Media – William Schwartz – media.stfrancis.ecc@gmail.com
- Music – Michael Velez – music.stfrancis.ecc@gmail.com
- Outreach – Barb Fichter – outreach.stfrancis@gmail.com
- Sick and Shut-In – Florence Jean-Pierre – healingministry.stfrancis@gmail.com
- Social – Cheryl Velez – socialministry.stfrancis@gmail.com

Bulletin Submissions due by Thursday at Midnight. Email to: media.stfrancis.ecc@gmail.com or by calling Bill Schwartz at PH: 727-350-3778

“GIVE WHAT YOU GIVE UP”

Lent begins with Ash **Wednesday** on **March 1st**. Are you praying about something that you'd like to give up for Lent? During Lent, between Ash **Wednesday** and Palm Sunday, we are offering St Francis members a way to do this.

Between **March 1st** and **April 9th**, donations to the BENEVOLENCE JAR will be offered to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Seminole. Let's say, for instance, you find that eating donuts each week is the greatest thing since sliced bread. But, for Lent, you've decided to hold back on the donuts. Those savings could be dropped into the BENEVOLENCE JAR and used to help feed those in need.

The Interfaith Food Pantry is a 100% volunteer organization that feeds, on average, 50-60 households per week and relies on cash contributions to supplement its food inventories. There are 17 participating Pinellas County churches, including St. Francis, that contribute to the Pantry's food supply. The Pantry spends at least \$1000 per week on food staples that are used to offer nutritious, balanced meal options to food recipients. “GIVE WHAT YOU GIVE UP” Lenten donations will be provided to the Food Pantry to help with their food costs. Prayers for the St. Francis community that God will extend his blessings to us all during this Lenten Season.

